

Letter from Lubumbashi

August 06

Brrrrr. It's cold this morning. We have been hearing a about your heat wave this summer. It is even hotter with you than here! The dry season May to mid August in Lubumbashi is pleasantly cool. In fact the whole of July was cold enough for jumpers. Early morning it can be as low as 7 C. Through the day it usually goes up to a pleasant 20-25 degrees. But it is very dry now and everything is so grubby as it is very dusty, the air is so dry our heels are cracking and static is high --- Peter: "I've got power, I can make Sparks!"

The first democratic election in DRC went very peacefully throughout the country. The results are due about 20th August. We were on holiday in Zambia & felt a bit disappointed missing out on such a historic event but Bishop Isingoma (and me, Sandra) was keen for us to be away, especially with the children - just in case. We thought it was a good time to have a break as well (starting to have crabby brain after 5 months here). Went to Lake Kariba (to Peter's disappointment we didn't get to see crocs or hippos, but did get to see 2 naughty elephants on their way to raid villagers' crops). We also stayed in Lusaka a few days --- "the Big City" say's Atiyah wide-eyed--- just because we got to eat pizza and shop at a big supermarket (and got our computer and other communication essentials stolen from the car!). It was nice to be where electricity and water were there 'at our command' (here they dictate our bedtime!), and no traffic police to hassle us! It was also nice to meet up with other CMS people for a chat. It was a good break, refreshing us.

Peter and Atiyah are still on school holidays and busy having fun doing 'homemade' paint and play dough and papier-mâché. They cycle around the house like mad to get the propeller whirring (cut-out mango leaves on a stick made by our helper). The other day they excitedly announced they went to the small shop across from our house and bought sweets, using "5 of Peter's money" -- - he has stacks of it in his cupboard --- dry wrinkly mango leaves marked with lots of zeroes and a number - and they got sweets! We are blessed to be surrounded by people who have kind hearts and making P & A's experience here a positive one despite the lack

of playmates and outings. Eric paid the shop later.

Sandra: I'm reading up and putting together ideas for us (diocese) to do a pilot scheme of grassroots community development - it is a process that works directly with the people (not for the people) helping them identify and prioritise their own needs, and put into action their plans to resolve it. The church acts as a 'catalyst' of change. A possible place has been identified where a church is just starting to form.

Eric: I'm preparing for a workshop we are to hold during the last week of September to develop a vision for the Diocesan social programme and outline five to ten year action plan. At present the work of the different departments is rather fragmented, limiting the impact. Bishop Isingoma is keen for the Diocese to have a single vision and for all departments to be working as a team to achieve the vision. With the size of the Diocese and the extent of the needs there does need to be some focus to have an impact. Representatives from each Archdeaconry are coming, it will take some of them a more than a week to travel each way, so we need to make the most of everyone being together.

Praise God:

- For the peaceful election
- for a refreshing break

Pray for :

- wisdom for Sandra to get the right balance between home and work as she is finding it frustrating at moment.
- Good working electricity and water supply for our area. It is difficult to have a routine as we wait around at night to fill up our buckets and do laundry, going to bed late or getting up before dawn to catch the electricity to use computer.
- For the workshop in September (25th – 29th), that we will come up with a good vision and outline plan of action.
- Steve Burgess our regional manager is visiting in September, pray for a successful and productive visit & for safe travel around the country.