



Butoke Beacon

June 2018

Message from our President

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Dr. Cecile has struggled with the effects of her Parkinson's disease for years, but sadly it has now progressed to the point that she is no longer able to take care of herself and continue to lead Butoke.

This is essentially what both FOB Board members Adrienne Scott and Jeannine White stated, after returning from visiting Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean last month. Their separate reports are the main parts of this June Newsletter.

Dr. Jean has made certain that Cecile is getting the proper medical and long-term health support in Kinshasa, the capital of DR Congo. Dr. Jean's skills as a doctor and surgeon and his deep passion for the Orphanage children in Kananga are now upper-most in his mind. He plans to continue the programs that effect the children's basic need for **food, health care, education** and **personal security**. These are also the concerns and hopes of the Friends of Butoke's Board as we ask you to continue your prayerful and financial support at this critical time.

John Mossel

Visit to Butoke

Reflections by Jeannine White

Our visit actually started in Kinshasa where Dr. Cecile has been living for the past several months. Parkinson's has taken its toll on Cecile. She is very frail and is wheelchair bound. I know she will not return to the Kananga/Tshikaji area. Only in Kinshasa can she receive the therapy and medicines she requires.

Cecile is attended by Manny at all times. She is unable to manage even the most basic functions for herself. It is obvious that she is well-loved and well-cared for. She attempted to answer most of our questions, unfortunately she has very little volume to her voice, and slips back and forth between languages – sometimes within the same sentence. It took some doing to get her to agree to allow Dr. Jean to do the talking.

Dr. Jean (President of Butoke) told us that he is often

traveling back and forth to Kananga. All of the following aspects of Butoke are still functioning and valid provided the finances are available for these: the school, the nutrition center, the medical clinic, the orphanage, the fishery, the agriculture projects, and community education.

Butoke currently has more than 100 high school students taking the state exams. The headmaster of the school and the director together take care of all education-related items.

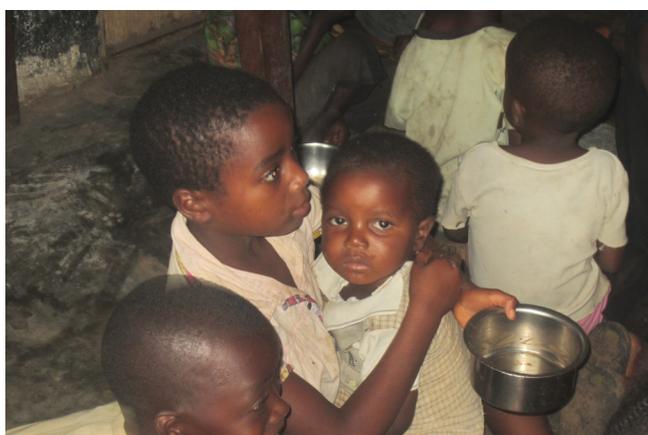
There is no electricity in Kananga where Butoke's children live. This is in stark contrast to our last visit six



Dr. Jean, Jeannine, Manny, Adrienne & Dr. Cecile

years ago, in 2012. Gasoline is now \$8 a gallon. Who can keep a generator running at those prices? Internet cafes, which were fairly prevalent six years ago, are now few and far between.

The nutrition center in Tshikaji in close proximity to Kananga was packed with children. We were told there are 26 orphans living at the nutrition center; as always, the rest come just for meals. We saw sacks of grain/beans in a storeroom, fewer than in past years, evidence of the on-going work of the center. Several Butoke staff were distributing beans to the children. It is the same scene we see each time we visit. The children are extremely well-behaved. They sit patiently raising their empty bowls until one of the adults fills and returns it to them; older siblings assist younger siblings.



Your financial support is very welcome and can be sent to Friends of Butoke.

Reflections by Adrienne Scott

It is hard for me to sum up everything I feel right now regarding Butoke....it was wonderful to see Cecile and Jean but sad to see the deterioration of Cecile due to end-stage Parkinson's. She is blessed by the care Jean and his family give her as well as Manny, her fulltime caretaker. It is clear why she needs to stay in Kinshasa where she can be well-cared for and obtain necessary medicines. She does not appear to be suffering in any way. Cecile goes back and forth between French and English. Jean appears very dedicated to making sure Cecile is well-cared for and that her dreams of Butoke are continued now that it is time to pass Cecile's long-time devotion of Butoke to Dr. Jean; that was her plan from the beginning.

Jean is doing his best considering the circumstances. It is obvious to us that Jean does love what he is doing. I believe him when he reports he has people overseeing the projects, his clinic and the orphans but I am sure it is hard for exact record keeping. It is all dependent on the finances he has at any given time. The people he has working for him are less likely to be able to email and report except face-to-face meetings due to travel distances. Though some have the capability on their phones in Congo, this is not the case with his group. Jean did not have it himself. Jeannine bought two phones for him while in the country. He said his first one was stolen the next day.

Keep Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean in your prayers as they continue to face Dr. Cecile's declining health and the enormity of caring for orphans and children with the daily struggle brought on by lack of food, poverty and lack of security.

