



Friends of Butoke, Inc., USA

UPDATE - September 2017

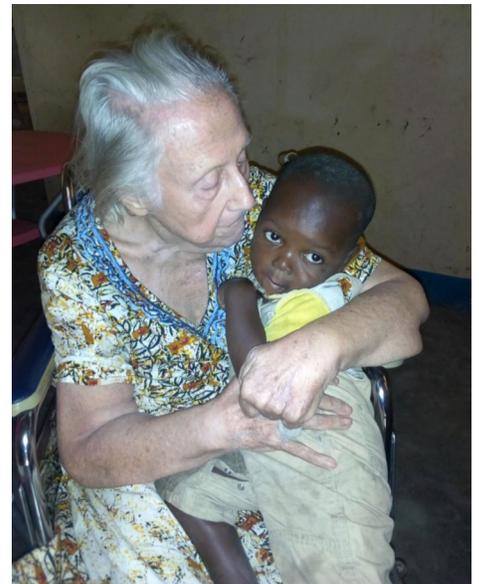


Dr. Cecile & Dr. Jean - August 2017

Dear brothers and sisters,

My physical condition is mostly determined by the fact that for the last month we have had to use a less effective drug; however Dr. Jean has just found the effective drug yesterday and bought a supply. This gives me confidence there is a good chance I will not continue to suffer sporadic periods of trembling which frighten friends as traditionally it is thought to be due to witch craft. I suffer emotionally when we run out of food, with chronic worry about the discrepancy between resources and needs at all levels - Butoke, community and government.

Dr. Jean has stayed in Kinshasa as the crises in Kasai burst with massive genocidal killings and to negotiate a major project through the government. Instability of the government and probably my involvement in the project as well as our decision to abstain from giving gifts to decision makers may have been the reason for refusal during the generalized military-political crisis with suspension of all projects. I left the village with the children in December for safety. In Kasai it was no longer safe to circulate. In February two United Nations experts were brutally murdered, politicians were imprisoned and I advised Dr. Jean not to come back to Kananga as there was no way to be active. I myself had to stay in the flat in Kananga unseen and only recently people have started moving about even if timidly. As soon as that happened we started seeking a possibility for Dr. Jean's return to the KASAI and my return to Tshikaji that seems now possible given that we have received a sizeable contribution from Friends of Butoke, USA. This will permit us to pay for Dr. Jean's and my journey and replacement of all kitchen and eating utensils that have been stolen from our center in Tshikaji as well as the restart of nutrition rehabilitation. We are unable to send photos at this time as they are being censored by the government. 1.4 million people are still in the forest without food, potable water, medical care or housing, among them are 850,000 children.



Dr. Cecile and Petit Ditekemena - 30 mos.

*"I hold Love, Hope, Faith and Forgiveness as core guides that are interdependent.
The one who is moved by love embraces God." Love ~Dr. Cecile*

REPORT ON BUTOKE ACTIVITIES - July 2017

Nutrition and Agriculture

We have developed a new proposal for the revitalization of cooperative agricultural activities. The villagers began to return to the villages. We intend to return in the beginning of August, which is the beginning of season A. For this big season, we are trying to forge a partnership with I.T.A (Technical Agricultural Institute) and CAPSA, an improved seed multiplication center.

The majority of the farmers could not cultivate in season A 2016 and B 2017. OCHA, UNHCR (High Commissioner for Refugees) continue to discover the enormity of the problems caused by the fighting and subsequent massive displacement of two million people. Small scale NGOs give some food and Butoke distributes prepared nutrition, but UN agencies do not have budgetary reserves that can meet the needs. Only DFID (Department for International Development) seems to have caught on to the fact that the basis of agricultural development is nonfunctional. I.T.A. is closed, emptied and destroyed. Our proposals hope to undertake agriculture. We plan to provide to each cooperative USD 250 and ameliorated seeds for

2 ha. (USD 100). We are trying to do this in August 2017 along with nutritional rehabilitation.

Education/Health

The Butoke school complex was closed on 09/12/2016. It opened in May 2017. At the end of June, 86% of the enrolled pupils had joined the classes and were able to catch up with the subjects. The orphans have attended school in the city, the nine academics have persevered and are in the exams. UNICEF has said almost 150,000 children in Central Kasai need emergency support to continue education.

Musue Bantu served as a clinic, as a public kitchen and as a shelter center. It was able to resume its role as a reference health center. Almost all health centers are unable to function as equipment and drugs have been stolen or even destroyed. We have been trying to renew our stock and repair some equipment. We think about USD 1,500 would suffice to function satisfactory.

(Overview of last 12 months and what we want to accomplish)

Cecile DeSweemer

Keep Butoke in your prayers for...

- *Continued courage and strength for Cecile and other workers at Butoke*
- *Reestablishment of medicine for Cecile and supplies for the clinic*
- *Provision of good seeds and plentiful harvest*
- *Safety, security, and stability in the area*

From our President:

Unless you have recently visited the DR Congo, you and I cannot possibly understand what it is like to live there today! I met with the United Methodist Conference Mission Leader, Jonathon Baker, last week. He said all necessary goods and foods are very expensive, if they are available at all. The areas are still very insecure and many persons are coming into this region escaping violence elsewhere, this makes it more difficult for the locals -- such as Cecile and her people. If you can spare any money now, your financial and prayer support are urgently needed. You will never regret helping today. John