

Falbio 2022



On July 28, 2014, God brought together in marriage two people of very diverse backgrounds and life-experiences, yet having common goals and core values. Fidele, born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo--his father a first-generation Mennonite pastor--acquired degrees in business, then a M.A in Peace and Conflict Studies at Eastern Mennonite University. Fidele worked for several organizations throughout Africa, Central America, and the US.

He observed the consequences of war and genocides in Rwanda and Darfur, and he debriefed the United Nations Security Council; consulted the US Senate Subcommittee on Africa; advised the US State Department, Human Rights Division; the European Union Civil Society Office in Brussels--about the Plague of Refugees and Internally Displaced People in Africa (NY, Washington DC, Brussels). It was while living and working in Washington DC that he met Leah.

Leah was born into a military family. Her father worked for NASA as a communications expert and her family moved often throughout the US. As a very young adult she set roots in her ancestral home of Central Pennsylvania and began exploring many interests. Over two decades she started a family with two children, then developed two small businesses, managed an organic farm, was elected Township Supervisor, and fostered 30+ children—adopting seven of them. The family attended and was very active at a Christian & Missionary Church where Leah taught women's Bible study, and was elected Alliance Women's President, then Area President. All of these life experiences led her, at age 45 years, to pursue degrees in Social Work (BSW & MSW), and an eventual post-grad specialty in Traumatic Stress Studies which opened opportunities to many occupations: adjunct professor/lecturer; behavior support specialist; community organizer; clinical supervisor; trauma specialist. A life-long interest and pull to missions led her to pursue possible opportunities through non-profit organizations in Washington DC, which led her to meeting Fidele.

With their combined interests and expertise Leah and Fidele determined to follow God's call to the Democratic Republic of Congo where they have lived since September 2019. Working as consultants, they influence missions of peace and development through governmental entities, civil society, and religious institutions.

Both enjoy writing. Fidele has published many articles, three books, and has co-authored two others. He is also a musician/songwriter, recording several CDs played on Christian radio throughout DRC. Leah enjoys photography, and creates digital and acrylic art pieces. A first book and a photo journal are in the works for publishing in 2022.