

We continue to support the man (Alain) who worked as our driver & manager while we lived in Congo. He is well educated, and very reliable. We transfer funds to him and he distributes them to the intended projects. He also inspects projects for us, takes videos & photos, and keeps us informed of progress. Fidele & I are in contact with him nearly every day.

We supported three main projects in the past year:

1. the pig project in Kimbengi (near Kafumba—the Mennonite Brethren Mission Station)
2. the bread oven project (in Kikwit).
3. Women’s project in Kingabwa (Kinshasa)

1. The pig project began with the building of a large barn/pen in a safe area, with an overseer/project manager whom we trust (Nestor & his wife, Annie). When it was completed, we sent money to purchase four young pigs (a breed especially hardy in this environment). They were checked by a vet & vaccinated. When they were grown sufficiently, they were bred.



Figure 1 Nestor & wife celebrating the completion of the pig barn! Thank you UMC!!!



Figure 2: Two of the four pigs bought for breeding.

All of the pigs were successfully bred and are now close to delivery. Half of the female piglets that result will be distributed to other families in the community (2 to each family) so they can raise them & breed them. The others will remain with Nestor to either raise and increase his breeding stock, or be sold in order to purchase feed and supplies to sustain the project in the coming year. The males will be used by the families as meat or be sold in order to sustain the family. With little additional financial help, this project should sustain itself. We hope to support the construction of new barns in other areas to prepare for the new piglets.



Figure 3: Two of the four pigs successfully bred & soon to deliver.

2. The Bread oven project involved constructing an outdoor kiln/oven in a safe area. The project managers in this situation are Anas & his wife, Musuyi. TUBA provided funds for the materials and for flour, yeast, and other ingredients to get the business started. Anas used his knowledge in engineering to design & build this kiln. Musuyi and their daughter will run a small bread business in order to support their families. Other people in the area, for a small fee, can use the kiln to bake their own bread for their family if they desire. The kiln will require little maintenance.



Figure 4: Anas's daughter says THANK YOU UMC!!!

3. The women's project in Kingabwa involves small, income generating projects that support the women's group and the families of the Kingabwa Mennonite Brethren Church (where we attended). Funds were provided to purchase products (coal, cassava, etc.) that could be sold in the market directly in front of the church. The pastor's wife, Mama Mangombo, manages the project.

The church owns a small store front beside the church that is not in use at the moment due to lack of funds. We hope to provide funds for small income generating opportunities in this building. Ideas include: selling water, soda, lamp oil and phone cards.



Figure 6: Some women of Kingabwa Mennonite Brethren Church



Figure 5: Children looking out the doors of Church to the street/Market outside



Figure 7: Inside the Church with some of the congregation

Other things we are doing:

We have decided to donate the Kikwit TUBA office and office supplies & furniture--which adjoins the Mennonite Brethren Church property—to the Mennonite Brethren Church in Kikwit. Currently, the pastor has no place to meet people privately, and no secured place to store supplies. Fidele’s father was pastor of this Church for 40 years. Since we do not have any intention of using the building in the foreseeable future, we felt this was a good use.



Figure 8: The TUBA office in Kikwit