



October 2015 Africa Update and Prayer Requests

The pace of living is much slower. Between the traffic, the sheer amount of people, the difference in the culture's definition of time and the lack of infrastructure, things just take longer to accomplish. For example, I went grocery shopping last week for a few items. It took me two days of shopping to find about 85% of the items on my list. The hardest part of shopping is the travel. I must first carefully time my trips during a period with minimal traffic, but while the store is still open. One day the drive can take 10 minutes and the next time the drive takes 2 hours. Even then, it is possible my trip will be cut short by the roulage (traffic police) seeking monetary gains/gifts. Thus, the thought of running into one is enough to postpone a trip until absolutely necessary. I happened to have a large list of (sundry) items that could only be found at the larger stores that are considered to be "downtown" and I had put off my trip for over a month, so the need was great. In the end, I had to brave the traffic, beggars, red lights, lack of road rules, roulage, people, and motorcycles that all manages to weave in and out of the traffic lanes. Needless to say, after just a few hours, one is exhausted and your blood pressure is through the roof. These shopping days are luckily a once a month event, but I certainly miss the ease of Walmart instead of visiting a list of store for just a few items.



The Gift of Bibles

One evening, I (Kevin) went to wait at the N'djili airport for someone coming into Kinshasa. During that time, he had an opportunity to tour the Air Traffic Control tower. He was able to see how the tower operated and was able to meet the people he spoke to when flying. The people were eager to answer questions and in turn were quite eager to ask all about MAF. They were very pleased to learn that not only was I a follower of Christ, but so were all the other MAF staff. And they were thrilled to find out that was the purpose of MAF's existence. One controller asked me if I happened to have a Bible handy, as he had never owned one. Then another asked... and another... and so on.

Prayer Requests

Prayer:

- Kevin has begun Caravan training. This is an answer to our prayers but it does bring a lot of added stress. There is not a lot of time or a lot of opportunities for practice since we are short staffed.
- While a lot has been accomplished for the upcoming external audit, there is still much more to be done by mid-December. Please continue to be in prayer for all the mechanics and local staff who are working hard to complete the work in a minimal amount of time.
- There have been a lot of things around the house to break recently and some miscommunication with our landlord as to who is responsible for certain things. Please pray that our relationships stay strong while we sort out the situation while being good stewards of Christ.

Praise:

- Kevin has begun caravan training.
- Everyone's health seems to be on the mend after a rough dry season filled with many illnesses.
- The West DRC Internet Technology team has recently finished the installation of a 75-foot tower at the house owned by MAF. This will help our offices downtown, at the airport, as well as all the MAF houses stay more connected with consistent internet signal!

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support, and encouragement. For the latest news visit our blog www.spann-ingtheglobe.blogspot.com.