

# Conggo

## Restoration Network

*A coalition of churches committed to advancing the work of the kingdom of God in Congo. Partner churches profess their faith in Jesus Christ and affirm the Apostle's Creed.*

The mission of this network is to partner churches from around the world with network-affiliated Congolese churches to practically advance the expression of the kingdom of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a mutually growing understanding of the Word, and by practically implementing humble, Spirit-led deeds of justice and mercy.



# OVERVIEW



Congo has been a war torn country over the past 15+ years which has resulted in the death of millions of Congolese citizens and the complete collapse of the infrastructure of the country. It has left a series of ruthless dictators in place who have continued to plunder the natural resources of their country while leaving the vastly poor and unemployed people of Congo (90%) to fend for themselves. However, there has also, by the Sovereign Kingship of Christ, been an amazing movement of people coming to faith in Christ, literally by the millions.

Since 2002, NCF has been working in Kinshasa, Congo building a network of relationships with a small group of pastors who have faithfully been ministering the love of God to orphans, widows and the poorest of the poor in their communities. We have worked together with them to build and operate a medical clinic and engage in medical training, including establishing a health care fund for orphans; we've supported several hundred orphans and their care-taker families with food and school fees; we have helped theologically train pastors in a more grace- and kingdom-centered theology; and we have worked together to help several micro-business owners with low-interest and forgivable loans. This has been hard, rewarding and gloriously mutually beneficial for our churches on both continents, and is *so good* — all to the glory of God. We have simply been (and are) willing to keep moving forward step-by-step with mustard seed growth while we continue to groan for the redemption and restoration of Congo to become a nation that is more deeply impacted by the presence of the kingdom of God where righteousness and justice flourish more freely.

During our last trip (June 2013) it became evident to all of the national pastors meeting together in Congo that both the need and opportunity are clearly emerging to engage a network of churches from the U.S. and Europe with a network of churches in Kinshasa that could very practically work together toward those goals of seeing the manifestation of the kingdom of God grow in deeper and fuller ways that could impact the country for the next generation.

# OPPORTUNITY

## Specific goals:

- Increase biblical knowledge and theological development of pastors and church leaders through intensive two-week seminars offered in Kinshasa at a central training facility
- Develop a Christian school network to help meet the educational needs of the children in Congo through the establishment of church-based schools that serve the poor in the community
- Aid in the continued work and development of the regional medical training center for doctors and nurses at the Vanga Evangelical Hospital
- Establish a nurse-led church-based health care network to provide basic health care for the developing Christian schools, churches and the poor in their local communities
- Assist believers in developing or increasing current micro-business opportunities through providing technical training programs, teaching culturally relevant, solid business practices and offering small, low-no interest loans within church communities that provide accountability
- Assist families and churches to care for fatherless and abandoned children in their homes
- Support healthy orphanages to care for the mounting number of orphaned and abandoned children



# EDUCATION

## Developing a series of church-based Christian schools

- NCF has been supporting orphans to attend the public school system in Kinshasa which is very expensive (by African standards). The government provides no assistance to the schools and public education is about US \$25/month per student. Many families live on \$80-100/month income, and as a result the U.N. estimates **65%** of children in Kinshasa are not in school. An entire generation of children is being lost in terms of the development of their God-given skills and abilities.
- One of our Congolese network pastors, David Tshiyoyo, has started 3 Christian schools over the past 4-5 years with an enrollment of 566 students (2 elementary, 1 high school). The basic cost for tuition, food and medical care is \$21/month. At that amount, the teachers would receive a salary of \$100/month; the children would be fed a daily, nutritious meal that includes soy bean and peanut butter; and basic health care would be provided to all three schools by traveling nurses treating common, threatening diseases like Malaria, yellow fever, worms, etc.



# EDUCATION

- The opportunities for educators (teachers, principals, special education and child development workers) to travel to Congo and connect with specific churches/schools — as well as engage classrooms and students from the U.S. in cross-cultural, global experience — are wide open.



# HEALTH CARE

Aiding in the continued work and development of Vanga Hospital, a regional teaching hospital just east of Kinshasa, as well as the development of local, nurse-run clinics in Kinshasa

- Basic life-and-death health care issues continue to be a serious need throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa, and Congo is certainly among those with the greatest need. According to the IMA World Health organization:

***“In much of DRC, living conditions are dismal, access to health care is minimal and violence still erupts in unstable areas. With a population of over 57.5 million people, of these:***

- ***75% live below the poverty line***
  - ***More than half have no access to drinking water or to basic healthcare***
  - ***Three out of every 10 children are poorly nourished***
  - ***Up to 20% of children won't live past the age of 5, and nearly half will die before their 40th birthday.***
- Dr. Tim Rice, a teaching physician at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and an elder at New City Fellowship, has been leading the way for us in working on health-related issues in Congo for the past 6 years. He has overseen the building and development of a clinic and has led teams of doctors and health care providers to give both care and medical training on several levels.



# HEALTH CARE

- A new venue for teaching and directing health care initiatives in the region has opened up with the Vanga Evangelical Hospital, a ministry run by the American Baptists. Dr. Rice has the opportunity to assist and further develop the medical teaching program at the hospital and would still be available to assist with the development of local clinics in Kinshasa. Part of our desire would be to tie the development of the nurse-run clinics directly to the new Christian schools we help open.
- The opportunities for medical practitioners from all fields to engage in helping address the long-term health care needs of Congo are, again, a wide open door.



# ORPHAN CARE

**Assisting families and churches to care for fatherless and abandoned children in their homes and providing healthy orphanages to assist with the mounting number of orphaned and abandoned children**



- The actual number of orphans in Congo is very hard to determine. However, estimates from a variety of groups predict 15% of the population under age 18 are orphans, or about 5 million children throughout Congo. In Kinshasa, we have seen and heard of countless thousands of orphans, and

over the past ten years we have been able to assist both families who were already in the practice of taking orphaned and abandoned children into their homes, as well as some of these larger group homes. There is not a single church we know of where the orphaned and widowed community is not a significant portion of the congregation. AIDS, the collateral damage of war, and the abandonment of infants by young mothers trapped in sexual bondage all continue to add to the growing number of orphans.

- The plea for help from our brothers and sisters is to come alongside and assist them in any way with can with the care of these children. Obviously, the other ministry opportunities already presented include as a major component of the care of orphans. In addition to helping the churches in a variety of ways, the pastors have asked us to consider opening an orphanage at the CEFORCA compound. While adoption or some kind of foster care is most preferable, the sheer number of orphans constantly pushes in the direction of needing larger group homes.
- Social workers, counselors and willing moms and dads can have a part in helping to meet this great need.



# THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

- The growth of churches literally by the thousands throughout Congo is a well-documented missional reality, and there is a deep need for biblical and theological education for the pastors. We have held conferences with as many as 240 pastors in attendance, but decided several years ago to limit the focus to 40 pastors. With the start-up of a regular training program, we can effectively engage a larger number of interested pastors.
- The use of the CEFOREA compound would enable us to run several two-week, intensive study programs throughout the year and invite pastors from a broad spectrum of churches to come and study the Scriptures together. In addition, we will be starting a church planting center for churches that want to be under the New City Network or the Justice-Reconciliation Network.
- Pastors and other church leaders who are interested in sharing theological training and developing long-term relationships with Congolese churches will be greatly needed.



# MICRO-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

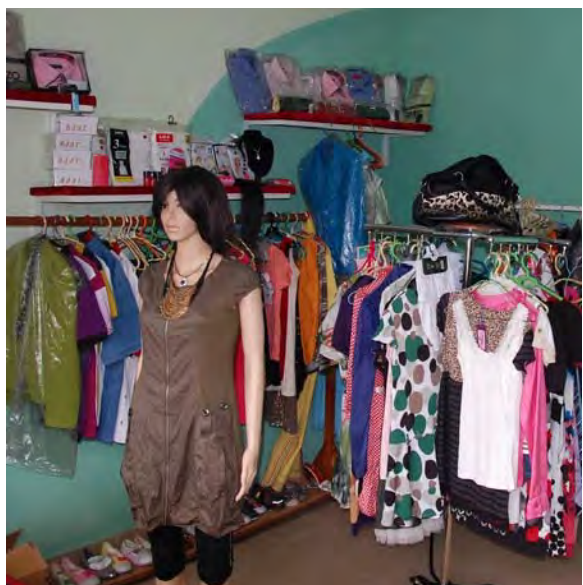
Assisting believers in developing or increasing current micro-business opportunities through providing technical training programs, teaching solid business practices and offering small, low-no interest loans, all within a church community that provides accountability.



- With 90% unemployment, the need for basic, culturally-relevant micro-business development is a constant demand. Many organizations are working on these issues in poverty-stricken areas of the world, but there is so much more to do. We have begun offering low-interest and forgivable loans over the past

couple of years, and have recently provided electric/electronics training by a highly qualified electrician.

- Business people, entrepreneurs and skilled tradesmen have opportunities to help advance kingdom-centered business in Congo.



# GET INVOLVED

## Come ~

Consider coming on a field visit to Congo - we send a team yearly, typically in June or July, connecting around the 5 key areas outlined in this brochure. Pastors are encouraged to come preach, share and build relationships with the Congolese congregations. Lay people from all realms are encouraged to come be a part of what God is doing in Congo.

## Pledge~

The cost to provide basic education, food and medical care for one orphan or destitute child is \$21/month. Funds are also needed for micro-business development. Consider giving toward Congo Restoration Network by pledging any amount. See pledge card on back of this brochure for details.



***For more information on pledging or trip specifics,  
contact Lisa St. Pierre ~ [lisa@ncfstl.org](mailto:lisa@ncfstl.org) ~ (314) 726-2302 ext 229***

# Conggo Restoration Network



## Pledge Card

As God enables me, I pledge to support **CRN** at the following level:

**Orphan Support:**

Food ..... \$10/month

**OR**

Full Support .....\$21/month

**General Support:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please specify if gifts will be given monthly, one-time, etc.)*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed form to:**

New City Fellowship, 1142 Hodiadmont Ave, St. Louis, MO 63112

*Make checks out to New City Fellowship with "CONGO RESTORATION NETWORK" in memo*

For more info contact Lisa St. Pierre — (314) 726-2302 x 229; [lisa@ncfstl.org](mailto:lisa@ncfstl.org)