

School Building Construction Continues



The first part of the slab for the second floor has been laid

other fruits and vegetables were harvested. Fish breeding continues well. As the rainy season had started, many ditches around the fishponds had to be worked on.

The construction of the school building continued despite the fact that the masons left the area for a while due to the rainy season. Building materials for the next stage have been collected – iron bars, wood, cement, bricks, stones etc. The columns have been filled, all the materials for the large second-floor slab and the bricks for raising the walls of the large multipurpose hall have already been



Metal sheets for the columns of the corners are prepared

Dear friends,

Besides the usual challenges of life in the Congo, since the summer, the farm experienced also a bush fire that burned part of the banana plantain crop. Yet in spite of it all, Joseph keeps forging ahead with the project on all fronts.

On the agricultural side, new crops have been planted such as corn, cassava, and bananas etc. Papayas, coconuts, and many



The latest development of the school building - beginning of the 2nd floor



*More materials were collected for the next stage of the construction
- cement, bricks, stones, sand, iron bars etc.*

gathered. The crown molding on top of the walls has been put in place to stabilize the building and the first part of the slab has been laid.

The goal is to construct a two-story building. The ground floor will have a larger room with space for five bunk beds, one room as an office, and another room will be a storage for food for the students. Upstairs, there will be a large multipurpose room that will serve as a dining room, a room for theoretical instruction, and for various meetings. It can also be used for sleeping and can accommodate more than six bunk beds and many mattresses. Showers and toilets for students will be located behind the building. During its training courses, the center will be able to comfortably accommodate more than thirty students from across the region.



Joseph chopped bamboo to support a structure to hold the slab in its place till the concrete dries up



Top - Wooden construction for the 2nd floor



Right - Preparation before concrete is laid

Madlen

Our long-time colleague Madlen, who lives in the Congo, visited us in Prague for the first time. She underwent a regular medical examination in Brussels due to her previous serious illness, and then had to deal with some complicated official matters at two embassies in the Czech Republic. She does a great job at her orphanage in Kinshasa, providing children with education and teaching them many things, including the most basic, such as cleanliness and proper hygiene. It was the first time in a long time she got at least a little bit of a break from her demanding work. We were able to discuss further steps concerning the construction of the training center. This year, Madlen has been instrumental in the big progress that has been made mainly thanks

to her communication with Joseph.



Some of the students from a nearby school, who completed an internship at our farm, with diplomas from Joseph.

Germany

It's the fourth year that Wolfgang visited Germany during the Christmas season, offering his first book for donations to support our Congo projects. It was not easy with the recession the country is experiencing but he has met many wonderful



*Rainy season brings its challenge.
Work on a water drainage system*



*Joseph preparing wood
for the school construction*



*Harvesting onions and other
vegetables*



*Machine for making pellets
to feed animals and fish.
The other is for grinding grass for livestock.*

people who were very happy to contribute to our projects. Many more people also had the opportunity of a lifetime to learn about the reason for the Christmas season and prayed with him to get to know Jesus.

This Year's Progress

All in all, it was a very fruitful year with big strides ahead. Our longtime dream of building

a training center for the young people in that region is finally happening. It will be a great blessing and will help with development of the whole area in agriculture with practical hands-on training. Many schools, even from as far as Kinshasa are eagerly waiting for this to become a reality so that they can finally receive practical training at the farm.



*Joseph proud of his harvest -
coconuts, bananas, papayas
and many other fruits*

Greetings,

Wolfgang, Lenka and team

Bank account: Aktive Direkt Hilfe **IBAN:** DE 92 4401 0046 0298 0004 61 **BIC:** PBNKDEFF