



# The Hurst Family

## Missionaries to the DRC



## Why Congo? Why Now?

October 2006

Many people have asked us why we're going back to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the former Zaire, where we first served as missionaries) and why we're going now.

### The Need.....

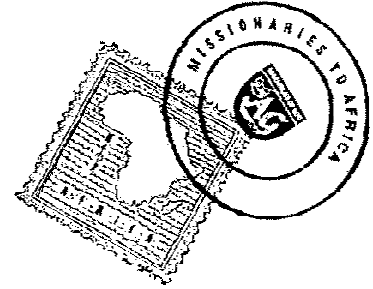
The United Nations calls the situation in the DRC  
**"one of the worlds largest, living tragedies".**

- An estimated 3.8 million people have died there, since 1998, most as indirect casualties of war.
- The DRC has a population of approximately 55 million, of which half is under the age of 18.
- One out of five children in the DRC does not reach the age of 5 years.
- 38% of children suffer from malnutrition—20% of these suffer from severe malnutrition.
- Over 2 million children have lost one or both parents to the HIV/AIDS crisis.
- Churches and bible schools have been damaged and training has suffered due to the civil war.



**With new national church leadership the Congolese Assemblies of God are ready to take action. They have prioritized their needs and asked for partnership in 3 areas:**

- **Pentecostal Renewal**
- **Bible School/pastoral training ministry**
- **Relief and development, including help in organizing a response to the HIV/AIDS crisis.**



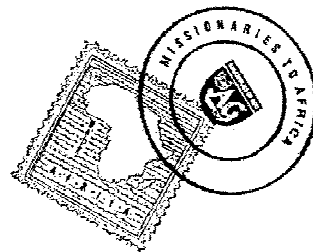
### **Our Response.....**

- **Pat will work alongside these new national church leaders to help restructure bible schools. We believe the hope for the DRC is biblically trained, Spirit empowered pastors. These pastors will plant and lead congregations that will transform their communities with the good news of the gospel.**
- **Suzanne will work in the area of relief and development, organizing ministry efforts for those who are in critical physical and economic need. She will also work with the national church in developing the church based HIV/AIDS response teams, like she did in Togo.**



## Furlough Is.....

A lot of people ask us what furlough is like and what is it that we're supposed to be doing during this year. Here are some "family" responses to "what is furlough?"



- "It means I miss Africa...."
- It means a new culture
- It means seeing family and friends
- Driving and driving and driving and.....
- Salmon fishing!!!
- SHOPPING!!

Furlough gives us a chance to re-connect with the U.S. It allows our kids to experience American culture and gives us a break from the physical and emotional stresses of where we serve. That's not to say that furlough is without stress.....it's just a different kind of stress, and we can always go to Starbucks and drown our sorrows in a latte!!



As Assembly of God missionaries, there are certain things that we **MUST** accomplish while on furlough. We need to report in to supporting churches and individuals, letting them know, face to face if possible, what we've been doing this past term. It's also a time to renew prayer and financial support, and to increase that support if necessary.

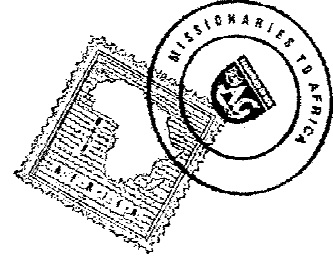
**This furlough an increase in support is necessary.** The demands of living and working in the DRC have caused our monthly pledge budget to increase significantly. If you'd like to partner with us in ministering to the DRC, please fill out the enclosed pledge form and send it in to the address at the top of the form.

Would you like us for a missionary service? Or even just to meet for a cup of coffee? If so, please contact us!!!

**Contact Information:**  
**Pat and Suzanne Hurst**  
10352 NE 141st St.  
Bothell, WA 98011  
(425) 823-3451

**Pat Email:** pat.hurst@agmd.org  
**Suzanne Email:** Suzanne.hurst@agmd.org  
**Web Site:** www.hurstsinafrica.com

## **Furlough Prayer Requests and Praise Reports....**



- We are praising God for His provision of a home and vehicles.
- We thank God that our kids seem to be adjusting to their new (albeit temporary) home and to school.
- We're thankful for friends and family—we're having some great reunions!
- Please pray for our health and protection (especially in travel) during this year.
- Please pray for continued grace for our kids as they navigate this "foreign" culture.
- Please pray that we would be able to raise the necessary financial and prayer support needed so that we can leave, as scheduled, next summer.
- Please pray for the DRC. The humanitarian crisis continues. Pray for the national church leaders as they work on formulating a response.
- Please pray for the political situation in the DRC. Run-off presidential elections are scheduled for Oct. 29th. Pray for fair and transparent elections and that the people would accept the results without violence.

**Thank you for your partnership with us!!**



Pat, Suzanne, Ben  
Abley & Emily