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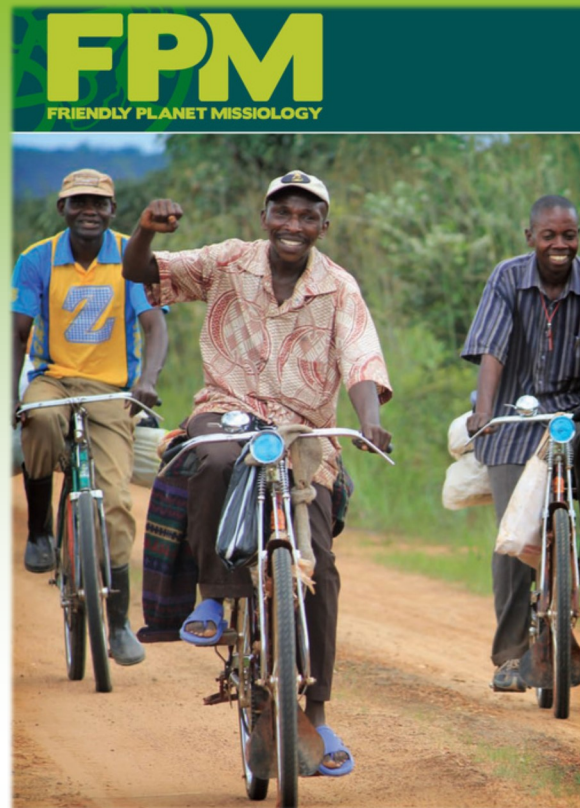
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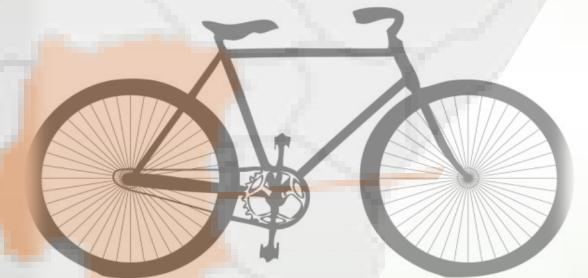


Missiology

is the science of examining mission models and offering a more appropriate model. The tools we use include a robust practical theology and the best of community development practices. At times, therefore, we boldly critique many of the ways in which those who are comfortable try to help those who are struggling. Friendly Planet invites you to join us in asking the difficult questions while faithfully seeking alternatives.



Friendly Planet Missiology



**Small Footprint
Big Change**

Democratic Republic of

CONGO

Why DRC? Who was Bob?

In the late 1990s the genocide that began in Rwanda spilled over into Katanga and resulted in a regional world war leaving millions dead. Many more people were raped, mutilated and displaced, resulting in impoverishment, malnourishment, and countless orphaned children.

What few Americans realize is that, for many Katangans, the war never really ended. Ongoing political instability leads to continued violence, plundering, and destruction of infrastructure. Precious minerals continue to be forcibly mined by hand, including by children, often illegally smuggled out to enrich others around the world, including Americans. All this has left the people of North Katanga and Tanganyika feeling abandoned and forgotten, including by The United Methodist Church.

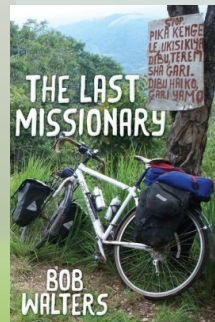
Friendly Planet Missiology listens deeply and responds. The villages with which we partner are struggling to rebuild their communities. With crippling poverty, typical African diseases that already challenge Congo are taking an even greater toll. The death rate from malnutrition, premature labor, malaria, AIDS, cholera, and typhoid could be prevented or at least diminished with food and medical treatment. FPM works with community leaders as they create unique solutions to local problems. Each community and church has different experiences, personality, and assets, and all find hope in the creative wisdom it takes to rebuild.

Our co-founder, the Rev. Dr. Robert Walters (aka Biking Bob) was one of the last Methodist missionaries to leave Katanga in the 1990s and among the few foreigners to dare to return when the fighting subsided. He toured on his bicycle with other Congolese pastors like

Rev. Joseph Mulongo;

listening to and being with the people was his primary mission. Building partnerships to empower their recovery and rebuilding of their churches was the next. He envisioned a mission of mutual partnership that takes an adventurous and optimistic approach to very serious issues. This is why he, his daughter, and Rev. Mulongo co-founded FPM in 2009.

Bob had just published his book, *The Last Missionary*, and was in the process of rolling out a new conversation series on missiology and finishing the sequel to his first book, when to the shock of all of us, he had a fatal heart attack while on his daily bike ride near his home in Plainfield, IN. We know he is cycling on!



Read
Bob's Book



See how you have helped!

Below are some of the noteworthy things done in 2017 thanks to your contributions.

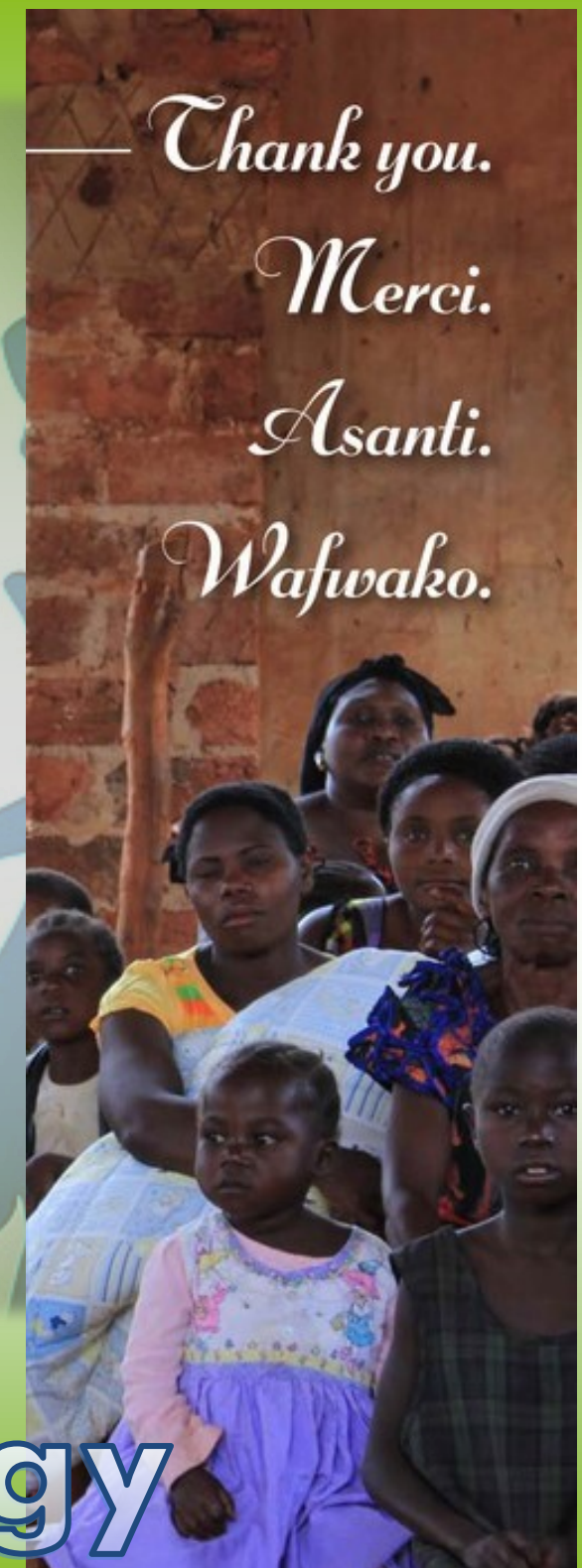
Education

- Scholarships to women and orphaned youth: 37 female nursing students (11 graduated this year); 4 youth studying in Kamina; 3 youth at Africa U. (1 graduated this year)
- Restoration of the Nyunzu Nursing School. (roof had been destroyed in storm)
- Near completion on the construction of the midwife training wing of the El Dorado Nursing school. The building is already in use.
- Near completion on the UMW vocational training center in Mulongo. The building is already in use and some equipment (sewing machines) has been acquired.

Equipping/Support

- Bicycles and Bibles distribution to church leaders in the Tanganyika conference.
- Our boat delivered cholera medicines during the outbreak to health centers along the Congo river as well as provided emergency assistance for those in communities along the river.
- The birthing kit creation/distribution program continues to be life-saving.
- Completion of construction on the Mpemba church.
- The grain mill initiative to support clergy salaries in the Mulongo District remains successful.

Friendly Planet Missiology



How can I help? Bike With Us!

Ways to Give:

- 1) Visit our website and click donate.
- 2) Write a check and send it to:

Friendly Planet Missiology
402 East Main Street
Plainfield, IN 46168

- 3) You can give through any Indiana United Methodist congregation offering and designate it for Friendly Planet Missiology. Your church treasurer will send it to the conference office, and your church will receive Advance Special recognition.

FPM is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible as charitable donations. Consult your tax advisor for details.



*Your generosity makes this work possible.
Thanks so much for your prayers and every gift,
big or small, and God bless your efforts to
make this a friendlier planet.*

Bicycle in Your Conference!

Be like Circuit Riders of old and ride to different churches to do deep listening. Riding together bonds people together and takes you places you might miss otherwise.

Journey up the Red Road!

In summer 2016, members of the Purdue University Wesley Foundation and Congolese FPM team followed in Bobs tracks: they traveled together by bicycle up the Red Road all the way to Mulongo to visit communities where FPM works. The bicycles were then donated to pastors. The friendships built on the road promise to lead to further collaborations in future years. Watch for plans to ride in Congo in the future!

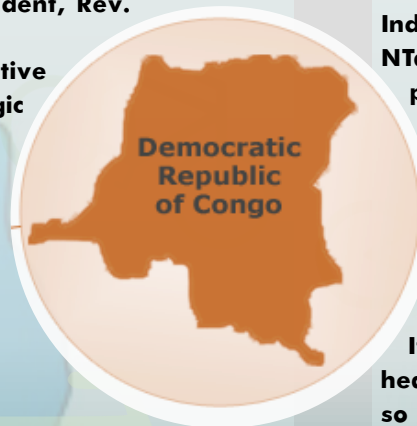


Turning Point for FPM, North Katanga and Tanganyika

2017 will be remembered as a turning point for FPM and the United Methodist Conferences of North Katanga-Tanganyika -Tanzania.

Throughout the winter and spring of 2017 we anxiously awaited the election of the new bishop, the first change of bishops for the area since 1996. In the end, our board member the Rev. Dr. Mande Muyombo was selected. We give thanks for his vision for the church and all that he has already accomplished.

With his election, FPM and conference leadership started working even more closely together on our shared objectives. FPM Director, Rev. Joseph Mulongo, was appointed the Director of Connectional Ministries; FPM President, Rev. Taylor Denyer, was appointed the Executive Assistant for Strategic Partnership and Engagement for the bishop. Other FPM members were appointed to posts that utilize their passion and skills.



What Next?

Our plans for the future are still developing, but fundraising assistance for many worthy initiatives have been put to good work. As for our core team members, Taylor aims to complete her ThD in Missiology and transition into more actively teaching on the topic through writings and workshops. Joseph also plans to continue his studies. He, Lana, and other team members are organizing a 2019 bike tour in DRC and others around Indiana. Willy and Joseph are in conversations about how to leverage FPM assets (the truck, boat, our network of friends, etc.) to create income-generating FPM-owned businesses. Teri is taking over the admin tasks in the Indiana office. With the help of Faustin NTala and Dr. Kate Koppy, we hope to publish a French translation of *The Last Missionary* by the summer and an English version of its sequel soon after. Joseph and others have decided to build a Bob memorial chapel, and an elementary school to honor Teri in her recent retirement from teaching.

If God has placed an issue on your heart, we encourage you to reach out to us so we can introduce you to friends in Katanga with the same calling.

Democratic Republic of CONGO

Goals:

(Re)Construction

All over the region we have found communities including children baking bricks and volunteering to rebuild their churches, clinics, schools, parsonages, etc. Their efforts often get mired down when facing the expenses of cement, lumber, and metal roofing sheets. This is where FPM steps in with your financial assistance. Along the river, our boat The Indiana delivers supplies to remote locations.

Roofing Sheet: \$20

Cement: \$26 per bag

Doors: \$150

Window: \$80

Women Leaders

From rape recovery to education, girls in school to female-led businesses, women have remained at the top of the needs list in every village. We train and equip women as church and community leaders, including providing scholarships.



Bicycles for Pastors



Lack of good roads or safe public transportation make travel for pastors in North Katanga and Tanganyika very difficult. Bicycles are one of the most reliable forms of transportation, not only for travel but to deliver supplies. Since 1995, our team members have been helping the local church purchase African-made bicycles for church and local community leaders. Motorbikes are even more helpful for District Superintendents in rural areas who have a much greater area to cover. Boats are also still a key form of transportation on lakes and rivers. 2011 marked the building of our first river boat, The Indiana. It has delivered vital medical supplies to remote villages. We bought a truck in 2013 to help transport medicines and cover other costs. Countless testimonies about the benefits of such kinds of transportation keep this initiative a top priority.

Nursing School



The El Dorado Nursing School began as the dream of Dr. Ivan Mulongo, hospital director in Mulongo, DR Congo. He was grieved at the overwhelming medical needs he saw and responded by establishing the region's only nursing school there at the hospital. In 2008, Dr. Ivan was a delegate at The United Methodist Church's General Conference in Texas when he met Denver and Robin Thornton of El Dorado, Arkansas. He shared with them the important work of the young school and the urgent problem they faced: in order to maintain its accreditation, the school needed to comply with the new law that every school have its own campus. Did they know anyone who would like to help build a nursing school?

The Rev. Joseph Mulongo organized the students and local community in making bricks and volunteering labor to build the nursing school. Through sweat equity, approx. 80% of the cost of construction has been contributed by the local community.

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Dr. Ivan, now a congressman, is working to leverage both regional and national assets within Congo to support the school and create a network of health centers staffed by its graduates.

In July 2013, we formally celebrated the completion of first wing (three large classrooms). The second building, the maternity/midwife training center is nearly complete. We thank the Thornton family for taking the lead in seeking funds for construction supplies and women's scholarships.

Community Health FPM partners with medical professionals to develop a better community health delivery system. From training nurses to providing safe sources of water to transporting medicines, we are combatting malaria, cholera, and typhoid.

Nursing School Scholarship: \$500
Support of Village Clinics: \$10,000

