
Mamy & Ruth's CHAT

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Dear friends,

Farewell celebration at SIL-Congo

I've come home!

It was an emotional moment for me (Ruth) as my flight touched down at Heathrow on 6th August. Mamy landed a few hours later in Sweden.

I first visited Congo in 1992, and moved there in 1994, to assist in the task of making God's Word more widely available in the languages of Congo.

Mamy first lived in Congo in the 1990s also. He has spent many years training pastors for the Evangelical Church of Congo, and serving the church in various ways. It's been a journey of learning and discovery for both of us, and in many ways, the past few years have been the best!

We are grateful to God for many Congolese friends and colleagues who have blessed us over the years. We've witnessed a **major transformation at SIL-Congo** – from being an expatriate organization when I joined, SIL-Congo is now made up of Congolese staff and Congolese leaders, which is great to see.

At the end of July SIL-Congo held a **special good-bye ceremony** for us, presenting us with certificates and presents to remind us of them and of Congo.

We were touched by **visits, gifts and surprises** from many other friends also – from the young people at the church hostel who arrived at our house laden with food for a **surprise party**, to the



friends who helped us clear our apartment and who accompanied us to the airport for a final good-bye. Several young couples who we mentored during the marriage course came to visit with their children. It felt almost **like being grandparents!**





With Serge & Ruth Locko – Serge took over from Mamy as Rector of the Protestant University in 2016

Mamy and I will be continuing our work, albeit remotely, as **translation and linguistic consultants for Bible translation in Congo**, until Mamy's retirement in October 2023. Mamy has finished teaching at the Protestant University of Brazzaville, but he will spend 75% of his time doing remote translation checking for the Old Testament in Kituba and the New Testament in Gangulu – work which he really enjoys. For the rest of his time he'll work for his mission in Sweden, visiting churches, etc.

For Ruth, there is linguistic research still to write up, remote orthography checking to do with translators, and most importantly, mentoring **Chris Mfouhou**, the linguistics student from the university in Brazzaville who is now in training at SIL-Congo to take over some of her tasks. In July, Chris accompanied Ruth to Ouesso in the north of Congo where they spent four days working with the Bekwyl translators on revisions to the orthography guide. **Please pray for Chris** as he grows into his role!

Chris Mfouhou by the Sangha River in Ouesso



For now **we are adjusting back to life in the UK and Sweden**. Ruth is in the UK to obtain a new passport, and Mamy will join her there in September for medical check-ups and some vacation time. We plan to spend November and December together in Sweden, and to move into our house in Prestatyn, North Wales in March 2023. In the meantime, we are grateful to Ruth's brother Chris in Worthing, and our friend Tomas in Gislaved, for sharing their homes with us!

We can say that **God answered our prayers for finishing well in Congo!** We now need to find **a good balance** between continuing to engage with Congo via WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom, etc. and investing in life where we are! We want to be open to **God's leading for our future**, especially for Ruth who has a few more years before retirement. **A big thanks** to those who have been supporting us with your finances and prayers over many years (Ruth via Wycliffe UK, and Mamy via the Uniting Church of Sweden). We still need your support for one more year...



Wishing you a good end of summer! Warm greetings,

Ruth & Mamy

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