

The gift of clean water in DR Congo | Giving babies a fair shot | Goats galore and more



A Common Place

Volume 29 Number 3 Fall 2023

The life-giving joy of water

ANN GRABER HERSHBERGER
MCC U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”
(Isaiah 12:3 NIV)

It is difficult for many of us reading this issue to truly understand the joy of having enough water.

When I lived in Nicaragua, a strong, cold shower while visiting the capital was exhilarating. Tiny dribbles of water from a storage tank refreshed me at my rural home. In the remote mountain community we visited frequently, a quart oil can of water provided a bath that, along with a drink of water from a clay jar, deeply revived me from a long trek up the mountain.

Stories in this issue remind me of that feeling of the joy of water. But there is more. Contaminated water can kill just as clean water gives life. The World Health Organization estimates that over 2 billion people in the world use a drinking water source contaminated with feces. Watching the lives of young children ebb away from a preventable illness is one of the hardest things I have experienced.

One of the key images for salvation in the Bible is shalom, referring to a person being safe and whole, a multidimensional well-being that in the New Testament includes reconciliation with God. Clean water is part of that shalom.

Along with clean water, access to childhood immunizations and needed health care increases the chances for well-being. One of my greatest joys as a nurse in Nicaragua was to see parents gathered with their children for a vaccination campaign — doing all they could for the well-being of their children.

Sharing with others is a natural outcome of our own shalom, our salvation. Jacqueline Kafuti opened her home to a family displaced by violence noting, “Leaving this woman without help would be a sin for me.” She and other Mennonite Brethren in DR Congo are responding with the help of MCC.

Immerse yourselves in the stories and photos in this issue. Absorb the thoughts and feelings of being with or without enough water or health care. And consider how God works through people like Jacqueline, and through each of us, to bring shalom.

ANN GRABER HERSHBERGER'S EMAIL ADDRESS IS
ANNHERSBERGER@MCC.ORG

Editor's note: The Spring/Summer issue used an incorrect translation of the word hello on the children's Hello Ukraine page. We regret the error, and it has been corrected in the magazine pdf and Hello Ukraine page online.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation. mcc.org

Copyright ©2023 Mennonite Central Committee Canada and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. All rights reserved. ISSN 1083-818X Printed in the U.S.

Editor in chief:
Marla Pierson Lester
Assistant editor:
Sienna Malik
Designer:
Abby Dixon

A Common Place (USPS 013-937) is a publication of MCC and available free to anyone who wishes to receive it. To add, remove or change your address on our mailing list, contact: Marla Pierson Lester
A Common Place
21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500
Akron, PA 17501
717.859.1151
Email: acp@mcc.org
Online: mcc.org/acommonplace

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500.
Periodical postage paid at Akron, Pa., and additional mailing offices.
MCC offices in the United States
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
21 South 12th St., PO Box 500
Akron, PA 17501
717.859.1151
MCC Central States
121 East 30th St., PO Box 235
North Newton, KS 67117
316.283.2720

MCC East Coast
900 E. Howell Street
Philadelphia, PA 19149
215.535.3624
MCC Great Lakes
1013 Division Street
Goshen, IN 46528
574.534.4133
West Coast MCC
1010 G Street
Reedley, CA 93654
559.638.6911
Call MCC toll free 888.563.4676.

A Common Place is printed on Anthem Satin, a paper that is FSC® certified.



Cover story

4 What the gift of clean water brings

With MCC support, Mennonite Brethren in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) promote peace and public health by installing wells.

10 First person

Jacqueline Kafuti, a Mennonite Brethren elder, reflects on how faith and empathy inspire her to help displaced people.

Features

12 Giving babies a fair shot

In South Sudan, a vaccination clinic and MCC infant care kits help families defy the nation's high infant and child mortality rates.

14 Goats galore and more

Learn how hooves promote harmony and eggs create economic opportunity.

Departments

3 MCC news

18 On assignment

MCC representatives

19 Hello DR Congo

(for children)

MCC news

Find more news at mcc.org



Syria

Promoting healthy practices

In times of collective crisis, individual health needs remain. Yet the physical and emotional tolls of war make it harder for families to keep health at the forefront—especially if they also face financial struggles. “Disease accompanied by poverty,” explains community health peer educator Mirna Haddad, “constitutes a very heavy burden.” Haddad is one of 135 women who attended trainings conducted by MCC partner Middle East Council of Churches. She conducts home visits with families in her community outside of Damascus, Syria, reminding them to take care of

their physical and mental well-being and helping them find health care.



Bangladesh

Cultivating caregivers

Through a combination of hard work, eagerness to serve and funding from MCC, young adults in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, like (from left) Pinky Das, Partho Halder and Opi Sarker, are on their way to fruitful nursing careers. Halder has finished his coursework without taking out costly loans and is completing an internship, accomplishments that have made his family proud. “I finished my diploma, and they [his parents] were very happy, thanking God for this achievement.”



U.S.

Summer Service

“Through Summer Service, I’ve been able to stand in the middle ground, working with our children from both our Spanish-speaking congregation and English-speaking congregation, realizing how the dynamics are very different. Yet, we are one church in unity,” shares Jocelyn Montes (second from right) about serving with First Mennonite Church in Reedley, California. Montes is one of 30 young adults of color across the U.S. who made a difference in their home communities and honed their own leadership skills through MCC’s Summer Service program this year.

Help families stay clean and healthy

Seeking donations for hygiene kits

MCC hygiene kits give families facing disaster or war access to necessities like soap and towels that they would otherwise struggle to afford. Kits are often given to displaced people and are also distributed at schools and orphanages.

Before kits are distributed, MCC will add toothpaste that complies with the receiving country's import laws.

Go to mcc.org/hygiene-kits to learn more or find drop-off locations. Or contact your nearest MCC office (see p. 2).

Contents (NEW items only)

- 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar of bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred; approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 in)





Cover
story

What the gift of clean water brings

New wells built with the support of MCC and Congolese Mennonite Brethren save time and improve health.

STORY BY LINDA ESPENSHADE

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MAKANGARA/MCC/FAIRPICTURE

The path that teenage sisters Léonie and Channele Kingenzi used to navigate to bring water home from the Kanzombi spring is steep and uneven. Their flip-flops searched for footholds among the rocks and roots of the leaf-covered path as they each balanced a full, six-gallon, yellow container of water on their heads.

On a good morning, they would return in one hour from the spring to their home in Kanzombi, an area on the outskirts of the city of Kikwit in Kwilu Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo). The water would be enough for their mother to cook and for them and their three younger siblings to bathe before school started.

On bad mornings at the spring, fights erupted between youth who wanted water first—delaying the line, preventing the sisters from getting water for three or four hours and making them late for school. As newcomers to the area in 2017, they were sometimes beaten, and once they came home with no water, says their mother, Germaine Kambundi.

Germaine Kambundi stands along the path her eldest daughters once used to use to collect water from a contaminated spring.



Kikwit residents fill water tanks at a spring so their families can bathe and do housework. The water, while contaminated, is so needed that fights often erupt over access to it.

The CEFMC Kimpwanza Kikongophone parish in Kikwit (page 7) invites displaced families to worship alongside longtime residents, giving them a sense of belonging.

All this for water that made people sick anyway.

The spring water is contaminated by waste matter that leaches into the water supply from the soil above the spring, says Dr. Jacques Tangudiki, who treats people at the hospital in Kanzombi. It causes stomach pain and diarrhea, sometimes typhoid and, at worst, cholera, which can be deadly in 24 hours if not treated.

But people had little choice. The only potable water in this area for years was from government-operated wells that are too expensive for those who subsist on what they can grow and sell.

The lack of clean water is a long-time misery. But the problems—from the need to the tensions at springs and the illnesses—exploded as some 15,000 people fled into Kikwit in 2017.

Survivors of brutal fighting in the Kasai region, they came with burns, wounds from machetes and babies about to be born. They were exhausted from walking for weeks or months from various regions of neighboring Kasai Province without much food or water. They carried emotional wounds from watching their family members and neighbors massacred in front of them.

Channele Kingenzi (seated on right) receives tuition assistance from CEFMC. Her sister Léonie has graduated with a teaching degree.



The Communauté des Eglises de Frères Mennonites au Congo (CEFMC; Community of Mennonite Brethren Churches in Congo), which is based in Kikwit, saw their need.

Individuals responded by taking people into their homes and giving clothing and food. The CEFMC hospital staff provided medical care, and Mennonite Brethren churches became temporary shelters.

Over time, CEFMC built up a broad support system for the displaced people in the community and the host families sheltering them—including providing support for education, primary health care and fields for farming.

The church is called to meet the physical

“God takes care of us, not just spiritually, but physically, too.”

and spiritual needs of its people, says Antoine Kimbila, general secretary of CEFMC. He compares CEFMC’s work with the story of how Jesus fed the crowd, distributing fish and bread to those who had grown hungry listening to him preach.

Jesus came, Kimbila says, not just to save the soul but also the body. “Salvation is total, and salvation is holistic. God takes care of us, not just spiritually, but physically, too. For this reason, we as the church work with partners to save people holistically.” He adds, “It’s difficult to bring someone who is hungry to peace.”

Having clean water is a key component of this effort.





Schoolchildren and other community members gather beneath a nearly 800-gallon tank of safe, clean water provided through the work of MCC and CEFMC.

“We went from 38% to 9% of waterborne diseases.”

With MCC’s support, CEFMC drilled a well in Kanzombi in October 2021, a second one in another part of Kikwit in 2022 and another in a third location this past summer.

Even before the third well was completed, the results were dramatic.

“We went from 38% to 9% of waterborne diseases,” says Tangudiki, who coordinates primary health care for displaced people on behalf of CEFMC.

The wells are between 120-130 meters (or about 400 feet) deep. Two or three times a day, water is pumped from each well to fill an elevated water tank. The first tank built holds 2,000 liters (528 gallons) of water, while the second and third hold 3,000 liters (almost 800 gallons). Water flows by gravity from the tanks to two water taps where people come to fill their water containers.

At the water tap for the well built in 2022, CEFMC hired Benedicte Masamba, a displaced woman, to collect money and maintain order. She charges displaced people and host families 100 Congolese francs (four cents) for one container or jerrycan, which is half the cost of public water. Other community members pay 150 francs (six cents).



Benedicte Masamba collects fees and ensures the safety of community members at a CEFMC well.

Although Masamba has hearing loss caused by the sound of weaponry, she is able to chat with people as she helps them fill the containers and lift them onto people’s heads if needed. She makes sure that pregnant women and people with disabilities get water first. The most vulnerable are allowed to get water for free.

Having access to clean water, alongside the other support, is making a difference for Kambundi and her family.

Kambundi and her children, like others who were displaced, arrived in the area traumatized, physically ill and in need of peace. They had walked for months after escaping the people who beheaded their husband and father. Kambundi was hoping to find her own father in Kikwit, but he had died and his house had been sold.

Jacqueline Kafuti, a community organizer and a Mennonite Brethren elder, took the family into her home to live with her husband and five children.

In February, Kambundi was harvesting cassava to eat and sell. She has maize and groundnut seeds saved from a pre-

vious harvest to plant in the future and was able to rent a house using the proceeds from crops she grew and some side jobs. Her younger children get notebooks, pens and other school supplies and Channele’s tuition in secondary school is paid. Léonie has graduated.

Kambundi’s family has access to basic health care through CEFMC. When her 11-year-old daughter, Angele Kingenzi, had a fever for three days, she was tested for malaria and given medication at no cost.

And the family has clean drinking water.

Kambundi says her children are no longer getting sick with stomach ailments, and she appreciates that the well, or borehole, is just a few minutes from her house. “We have freedom of getting water any time we like since MCC has placed the borehole here.” ■

Linda Espenshade is news coordinator for MCC U.S. Justin Makangara, DR Congo freelance photographer, supplied photographs through Fairpicture.

Gifts of comfort and joy – Christmas giving through MCC

Clean water and nourishing meals. Music lessons. Economic opportunities. Find gifts that change lives in the MCC Christmas Giving Guide, mailed with this issue of the magazine. Or visit mcc.org/christmas-gifts or contact your nearest MCC office (see page 2).

Jacqueline Kafuti

A church leader talks about her work to welcome displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

AS TOLD TO LINDA ESPENSHADE



MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara

They call me Makate, a name a child gave me, which means “mother of children” to my neighbors.

I was the first woman to receive displaced people in Kanzombi. (This is an area of the city of Kikwit in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). I did it because I am a Christian and an elder in the church. The Bible teaches us that we must have love for others.

Also, I am an orphan. My suffering motivated me to consider others’ situations as if they were my own.

Among the first displaced people I received were Germaine Kambundi and her five children. When we learned that her husband was killed—they’d cut off his head with a machete—it really affected us. I said to myself, “Leaving this woman without help would be a sin for me.”

In the beginning, some people in the community were laughing at me, saying I was moneyless and asking how I would take care of all these people. I told them that God would act.

Some people came with their families. Others came one by one. As more people came, there was no way of keeping all of them in my house. So, we opened the clinic and then the church. Since the beginning we received 3,000 people. We were incapable of feeding the displaced people.

And I said to myself, “I am a child of CEFMC (Communauté des Eglises de Frères Mennonites au Congo, or, in English, the Community of Mennonite Brethren Churches in Congo). I have to tell the general secretary, Antoine Kimbila.” He sent a message to MCC. (CEFMC and other Mennonite denominations asked MCC and other Mennonite organizations for assistance.)

Until MCC came, I worked with other groups to get food, toilets and school supplies. God works one way or another.

Then MCC came to fund our work and train us as leaders. MCC provided us with education, health care, clean water and fields to farm.

We received trauma training. We ourselves were traumatized. When I heard this woman talking about her husband being killed, how they stole all her goods, I realized that this was something that could happen here as well.

During the training everyone wrote their own problems and then we burned them. The lesson was that once a problem happened, we couldn’t go back.

This is what I tell the four orphan children that my husband and I adopted: “Don’t think about the past. Be present now, here. Be positive. Follow all my advice so that tomorrow you will be responsible.”

“I no longer feel alone and abandoned. Now, when I have a problem, all the displaced people come near me.”

I tell them I was an orphan. My father passed away before I was born. All my 11 brothers and sisters also died. My mother fed me with the help of a missionary. They trained and hired my mother to work at the clinic, even though she did not attend school. They paid my school fees up to form 4 (grade 11).

Even so, I felt somehow abandoned. I was only with my mother. We didn’t have even an uncle who could advise us. It affected me, to see other children maybe kissing their fathers, hugging their fathers.

My mother advised, “Don’t look for problems, don’t fight. Don’t get pregnant because there is no one who is going to help you. So, study. Get your diploma so you can take charge of yourself.”

I got my diploma, and I got married. Really my husband has become my father, my uncle, a friend with whom I am sharing life. We have five children of our own. My husband is the one who saw the orphan children sitting beside the clinic and had pity on them. He asked me to talk with them.

But when the orphans came to live with us, they brought an imbalance to the family. Our children were not happy to live with them. They fought from time to time.

It’s thanks to training on trauma that I tried to bring peace among them. I understand they have lived through tragic events. They have lost their parents, their things, the mode of life. They have lost all

that, but I couldn’t help them forget.

At an MCC conflict resolution training, we were taught a story of a farmer who feeds his pigeons seeds. All the pigeons eat at the same time, at the same place, without any discrimination. I tell my children, “It is the same with you. You are all my children. You all need food and should eat together, like those pigeons. You are asked to love one another. Don’t fight again.”

I love our adopted children. I’m always near them. I buy them the same clothes as my own children. It is in this way that I try to treat their emotional situation. I advise them that God remains the master of all who live on Earth. That they should go to church to follow the message of God since he is the solution to all problems. These days, they are living in peace.

My faith has been growing since my childhood. My position with God is good. Death comes suddenly. If I die today, I will go to see God. This is what is pushing me to do good things.

I no longer feel alone and abandoned. Now, when I have a problem, all the displaced people come near me. When I have laundry, they tell me, “Madam, you have to stop. Let us wash your clothes.” When they go to the fields, they say, “We have to start by farming the field of the mother. Then we will do ours.” ■

Jacqueline Kafuti of Kikwit, DR Congo, is an elder in CEFMC.



Feature story

Giving babies a fair shot

A vaccination clinic and MCC infant care kits help families defy odds in South Sudan.

STORY BY JASON DUECK

PHOTOS BY DAVID LOMURIA/MCC/FAIRPICTURE

At the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre outside Rumbek, South Sudan, the piercing sound of a choir of nearly 100 crying infants is not cause for alarm. Rather, the wailing signals something amazing. Every Tuesday, local children arrive at a large tent outside the building to receive their vaccines.

The weekly vaccination clinic serves between 80 and 100 infants. Most are on a five-month regimen of immunizations

recommended by the World Health Organization, including polio, tetanus, hepatitis B, whooping cough, tuberculosis, diphtheria and rotavirus.

The clinic provides around 3,000 infant immunizations each year and serves an area of the Lakes State in South Sudan that encompasses around 24,000 people.

One out of every 10 children born in South Sudan does not survive to see their 5th birthday. This heartbreaking statistic is caused by many factors, but access to health care for new mothers is a major one. Widespread poverty means health care is inaccessible to many women, leaving South

Left, nurse Mary Alual administers a vaccine to Rebecca Yar, Mary Atheen's infant. Mothers Cholhok Maluk, from right, and Teresa Ayen look through the contents of an MCC infant care kit. Below, Kana Apanyic holds her infant, Martha Anhiak.



Sudan with some of the highest maternal, infant and child mortality rates in the world.

To help local children beat these odds and meet other community needs, the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre opened in 2020 on the grounds of MCC partner Loreto Rumbek School. Loreto provides primary school for boys and girls up to grade eight and operates a secondary boarding school for girls.

In addition to vaccines, Mary Ward offers a fully stocked pharmacy, examination rooms, a recovery unit of hospital beds and a school counselor who can address questions about mental health or puberty.

When the vaccination clinic began, staff were aware that community members had limited access to information about immunizations.

As a result, many families were unsure if the benefits of vaccines outweighed the risk of negative side effects. The clinic has raised awareness about the effectiveness of vaccines.

They also began offering MCC infant care kits to mothers whose children finished the whole program of vaccinations through 9 months of age.

And it worked. The kits provide valuable amenities for newborns, including sleepers, onesies, a blanket, safety pins, soap, socks and a cap. Even if all these items were available at local markets, which is unlikely, just one or two of them could cost as much as 3,000 South Sudanese pounds, which is around \$3 or about a month's

wages for many jobs at the state level.

Mary Atheen, who was receiving an infant care kit after her 9-month-old daughter Rebecca Yar got her last vaccine, says the kit was a huge incentive. But she's also seen the difference that vaccines have made.



“What I’m getting along with the vaccination is changing myself and the community around me.”

“Before, I didn’t know it was such an important thing concerning the health of the child,” says Atheen. “I brought my first child here as a trial to see if it would be healthy compared to other children and she was always healthy. I have seen other children with the measles or polio and my children have not had these. I’m very grateful.”

Having local people involved in giving care also has transformed perceptions, says nurse Mary Alual, who manages the program and administers vaccines. Loreto Rumbek School offers internships where students gain health care experience and have a chance to earn scholarships for nursing school. Afterward, many people, including

Alual, return to the clinic as employees, raising community confidence.

“We’ve heard their feedback, that seeing their fellow women being the one giving the services, it really made them believe in us,” says Alual. “I’ve seen mothers that have immunized their children then gave birth to more children and they bring them back, too. So, there’s already a trust, the belief that we are giving them the best, that what we have is what they are supposed to get.”

In addition to vaccines, the five-month program teaches mothers other health basics, like washing their hands and breasts before feeding and the connection between the health of the mother and the child.

Kana Apanyic found that simple health tips like washing an infant’s face each morning make a difference, helping to clear up skin problems, for instance. The training and the vaccination clinic are transforming the community for the better, she says.

“I find it so beautiful. What I’m getting along with the vaccination is changing myself and the community around me.” ■

Jason Dueck is communications specialist for MCC Canada. David Lomuria, South Sudan freelance photographer, supplied photographs through Fairpicture.



Feature story

Goats galore and more



Amid an economic crisis in Lebanon, it behooves families to raise goats. "The goat project is one of the most essential and important projects in our region," says veterinarian Bassel Debs, a consultant with MCC partner Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training. The national currency has lost more than 80% of its value and prices have soared, so goat milk and cheese offer nutrition and sorely needed income to women like this (name not provided) in the Beqaa Valley. Offspring can be sold, leading to a larger infusion of cash.

Every year, MCC's Christmas giving offers you the chance to invest in goats, chickens and other animals. But, did you ever stop to wonder why?

It's not just the furry cuddliness of a baby goat, the handsome snout of a pig or the opportunity to offer you a gift that can quack.

When people raise animals, they can shepherd their families and communities into a brighter future. This Christmas, join in celebrating the hope that a herd or flock brings.



From the Gaza Strip, where they can be raised in small spaces, to Uganda, where they help diversify farm income, rabbits can help families hop into a brighter future. Margaret Akello in Uganda added rabbits like the one on the right to her farm in addition to raising goats and cows and buying a pig. The rabbits, she says, reproduce quickly and don't cost much to feed.





It's a living piggy bank. Pigs like these at the farm of Young Yorn in Cambodia's Mesang District are slower growing — and slower to produce a return on investment — than smaller animals like chickens. But larger investments can yield larger returns. Pigs can be sold for a much higher price, providing one more step toward moving out of poverty and helping to cover unexpected costs, like a large medical bill or a failed harvest.

Scan the QR code below to read the story of Mary Ilero in Uganda.



In northwestern Bangladesh, wings and webbed feet are a winning combination. Ducks like these Mina Begum is raising are high egg producers and are resistant to disease. And they're just one part of a project of MCC and partner Association For Rural Cooperation that includes training in growing vegetables, worm composting, raising cattle and chickens, and cultivating mushrooms.

In Debre Markos, Ethiopia, cheeps and clucks are sounds of hope. Atalay Ebestu, shown with his wife Bachu Tilahun and their youngest child Zenebu Atalay, holds eggs from his family's chickens. MCC partner Migbare Senay Children and Family Support Organization provides training in conservation agriculture and helps families increase income by developing worm farms or selling eggs.





“Seeing the fruits of long-term accompaniment of our partners is a joy.”

The Lesniewski family poses in front of a scenic waterfall. (Front row, from left: Hannah, Sarah, Evangeline and Jack. Back row: Anastasia and Isaac.)

Photo provided by the Lesniewskis

Serving in Guatemala and El Salvador

Names: Jack and Sarah Lesniewski

Hometown: Oak Park, Illinois (Calvary Memorial Church)

Assignment: We are representatives for MCC’s work in Guatemala and El Salvador. We live in Guatemala City and are responsible for supporting our team and the projects our partners plan and implement.

Typical day: When we aren’t traveling, we wake up at 5 a.m. to get the kids (Hannah, Anastasia, Isaac and Evangeline) ready to catch the school bus at 6. Next, we prepare for our days with some coffee, quiet time, exercise and housecleaning. Jack usually heads to the office around 8, and Sarah at 9 if she is not working from home. We

may meet with our leadership team, have phone or Zoom conversations with church or partner leaders, work on financial reports, or meet with other staff from MCC. When the kids return from school, one of us accompanies them to soccer, swim or music lessons and helps with homework. Then, we have dinner and get ready for bed!

Joys: Seeing the fruits of long-term accompaniment of our partners is a joy, as is witnessing the development of young leaders in the church. The beautiful weather, volcanic views and constant flowers are blessings, too.

Challenges: Rising authoritarianism in both countries affects everything from visas to placements to the ability of partners to implement life-giving projects.

FIND YOUR PLACE

MCC has workers in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, as well as in Canada and in the U.S.

MCC is always looking for people to join our work of serving others in the name of Christ. Go to mcc.org/serve or [linkedin.com/company/mccpeace](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mccpeace) or contact your nearest MCC office to learn about current MCC service opportunities.

MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to Christian faith, active church membership and biblical peacemaking.

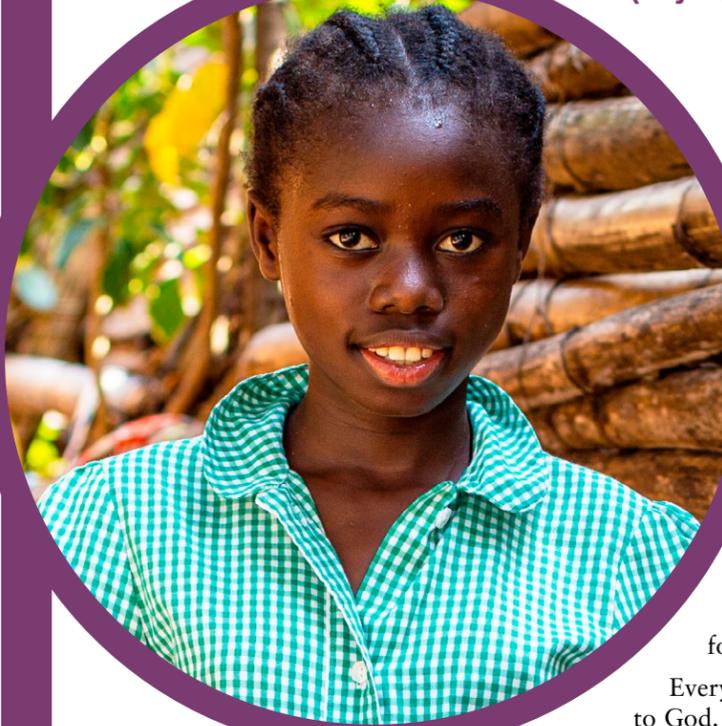
for children

hello DR CONGO

How can you greet someone in Lingala?

Mbote

(Say “um-BOAT-tay”)



My name is Angele Kingenzi.

Age: 11

Lives in: Kikwit, Kwilu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

I live with my mom, two older sisters and two younger brothers. We came to Kikwit when I was little because of fighting where we used to live.

One of my chores is to fetch water (at a well installed through MCC). This water is better than the water we used to get at the spring, which sometimes gave me stomachaches. We use the new water to drink, to clean dishes, to bathe and to cook food, like fish and cassava leaves.

Every morning when I wake up, the first thing I do is pray to God. While I am walking to school, I like to play a jumping game called *Nzango* with my brothers and sisters. (*Nzango* means “foot game” in Lingala.) I play it at recess with my friends, too.

My favorite food: fish

My favorite subject: French

What I want to be: computer scientist

Play Nzango!

Stand facing a friend.

- Decide who will be **player 1** (leader) and **player 2** (challenger) and how many jumps you will do in a round.
- Jump together, landing at the same time with one foot in front of the other. **Player 2** tries to predict what foot **player 1** will put forward.
- Player 2** wants to land with their front foot directly across from **player 1's** front foot. So, if **player 1**

lands with their right foot forward, **player 2** wants to land with their left foot forward. If **player 2** succeeds, they get a point.

- If **player 2** lands with their front foot opposite (diagonal) from **player 1's**, **player 1** gets the point.
- If the players don't land at the same time, neither gets a point.



More than two people can play at a time.





Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500
Akron, PA 17501 U.S.A.

This *Christmas* choose gifts that change lives

Sometimes the best gifts are ones that you can't simply pull off a shelf.

We invite you to explore all the ways that you can share gifts of comfort and joy for the world.



\$45

Plant a
garden

Browse more gifts online at mcc.org/christmas-gifts,
or call toll free 888.563.4676.

