

Pauline's Pages

MISSIONGO

MissionGO, PO Box 2010, Buffalo, NY 14231

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O come, O come,
Immanuel

Still here!!

Advent has arrived and I'm still in England! This was not expected. A variety of factors have contributed to this happening but issues with my house in Burnley have been the primary cause. The last tenant moved out in July and I subsequently discovered that quite a lot of work needed doing before it could be re-let. Initially I tried to find contractors to do the work but couldn't find anyone available until well into 2022 so in late September decided I would need to do most of the work myself. The more I did the more new issues came to light culminating in, amongst other things, having to have the house completely re-roofed. Most of the essential work is now done though a few issues, including serious damp problems caused by the neighbour's guttering remain to be resolved. I hope they can be handled at a distance or by a friend or two.

Holiday



Before the house problems came to light I enjoyed a great holiday in the Lake District attending and volunteering at the Keswick Convention and running and walking over the fells around Derwentwater, Clough Head and Coniston. The weather was mixed, varying from the clearest days I've ever experienced in this area to fog so thick I walked straight past the wide path from Goat's Hawse to Coniston Old Man without spotting it. Happily I wasn't intending using it that day but it would have been a nice way-marker.

The Convention provided excellent Bible teaching and good times of sung worship despite the covid restrictions still in place at the time.

Catching up

Since then I've enjoyed continuing to catch up with friends and supporters in places as geographically diverse as Suffolk, the Midlands, Bucks, Teeside, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Wales where I was also able to tag on two days camping to run over Cadair Idris and the Aran Fawddwy ridge. It's been wonderful to catch up with so many people after the slow start to furlough visiting due to covid restrictions earlier.



Lese

In between these various activities it was a privilege to help with ironing out the final checks on the Gospel of Mark in the Lese language and arranging for its typesetting. It has since been printed and the Lese community is preparing to celebrate its dedication. This is the very first published Scripture in Lese, a cause for much rejoicing.

Comprendre pour traduire

One beneficiary of my extended stay in England in the much neglected French translation commentary on Malachi. I've finally been able to dedicate a moderate junk of time to it between visits to Burnley. There's still considerable work to do but at least I have been to revive the process for a while.

I've also just managed to get a covid booster jab which wouldn't have been possible if I'd returned to the DR Congo a couple of months ago.

Return to DR Congo!! Now I am finally set to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lord willing, on 7th December. Working out how exactly to get to my new location in Kisangani has been more complex than any previous journey back to Africa. That's partly due to added logistical challenges of timing required covid tests before leaving England and before travelling on from Kinshasa to Kisangani and the very fact that I am now scheduled to travel through Kinshasa (national capital in the west of the DRC) instead of through Goma in the east and logistically easier to negotiate.

Within hours of booking my flights to Kinshasa on Air France news of the Omicron variant of covid was announced bringing new travel restrictions. So far these don't affect me but obviously add yet another layer of uncertainty. Key for me at this time is whether France and/or the DR Congo will introduce restrictions which will force changes to my plans. Other arrangements for a two night (or more) stay in Kinshasa, on-ward flight to Kisangani, etc. are coming together though it's tricky to commit to non-refundable reservations with the current uncertainty.

As mentioned above, when I fly back to the DR Congo I will be setting up home in Kisangani not Bunia as before. Kisangani is a large city with a population greater than Birmingham but infrastructure of a much smaller place. It lies around 350 miles SSW of Bunia, almost on the equator and on the banks of the Congo river at the upper end of its navigable section. (Kisangani has a long (by Congolese standards) and varied history so you can find plenty of articles online if you are interested to know more.) The obvious first task will be to find a home to rent. I've no idea if this will be easy or hard. There's a good chance that whatever I find will need some work to install or upgrade a solar electric system (the city power network is very limited and for long periods non-existent), install a water reservoir and pump, security upgrades and more. Another month or two pre-occupied by house issues? Or perhaps the Lord has a surprise in line and my Congolese friends in Kisangani will be able to find somewhere 'ready-to-go'.

I'll be the only MissionGo/Wycliffe missionary based in Kisangani and part of my remit will be to continue translation consulting with the Mba team who are also based in the city. This reduces the need to travel for consulting sessions for both them and me. I'll also will continue to work of the *Comprendre pour traduire* commentary and I'm waiting expectantly to see what else the Lord may have in store whether that is to be available to consult with other teams based closer to Kisangani than Bunia or new developments we haven't foreseen yet.

Praise God for:

- ◆ For the publication of the Gospel of Mark in Lese
- ◆ Good times of contact with friends and supporters and relaxing holidays.
- ◆ Progress on needed work on my house in Burnley and that it is now back on the rental market.
- ◆ Some progress on French translation commentary on Malachi.

Pray for:

- ◆ The logistics for my returning to the DRC - six days before and there are still quite a few pieces of the puzzle to fall into place.
- ◆ Finding and setting up home in Kisangani.
- ◆ God's direction for my time and activities in the year ahead.
- ◆ An awareness of God's presence at all times and in all circumstances

*Thank you for your
interest and support,*

Pauline



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