

Autumn 2021



School for
Peace Update

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1151173

Latest News from Congo

There have been a great number of deaths from Covid in Lubumbashi including the Archbishop and many prominent citizens.



Archbishop Tafunga who campaigned for the value of the individual, democracy and human rights.

Vaccination is slow due to shortages, and many do not want to be vaccinated.

The headteachers sent us a summary of the annual report in September:

The children stayed on at school in July and August to make up for lost time. They broke up for one month on 8th September and started the new school year on 4th October.

Of the 616 pupils in primary (317 girls and 299 boys), 536 passed their exams but 80 have to resit the year. There was 100% pass rate in the last year of primary school, enabling the children to go on to secondary school. There were 410 pupils in the secondary school (250 girls and 160 boys), 355 of whom passed their exams. 54 pupils will have to resit the year and one has been expelled. One final year student, Isaac, who has

been sponsored through secondary school, is awaiting his results and might need supporting through further education. The library is being well used, and we have received a copy of the timetable and rules for it. The government has backtracked on its pledge to offer free education as they are not ensuring that all teachers are being paid. Sister Virginie explained the salary problems of the secondary teachers as none of them is recognised by the government. Many have jobs elsewhere to supplement their income, others should be helped by contributions from the parents many of whom do not pay. In fact the sisters were owed \$3,750 this year from parents, and their children have had their school reports confiscated in the hope of recouping the money.

The students in the main picture, wearing their celebration outfits, are the ones who left school in the summer having majored in Pedagogy. We hope some of them will eventually teach at the primary school. A Belgian charity has donated money to buy: masks for the teachers and pupils; two infrared thermometers; two large hand basins with pedals; solar panels to provide electricity in the computer room and drilling to

have water on site permanently. These items will be a great asset to the school.

The sisters had a meeting with the chief of the area about purchasing the land for new toilets on 28th September. We will know the outcome soon.

University students

We have received messages from our four university students (See overleaf), who seem to be coping in spite of the difficulties.

Fundraising

Our efforts have been severely curtailed during the pandemic however we did manage to have a garden party in Beccles. For some, it was the first socializing since the pandemic began. Many people baked cakes and we set up a shop selling home-grown fruit and vegetables as well as bric-a-brac, books and lovely handmade items. Fabulous raffle prizes were donated, too. £910 was raised which included



involved.

online donations. A big thank you to everyone

We've also had stalls of various kinds and some online sales of donated goods throughout the year.

Future events

- The AGM will take place on **Wednesday 13th October** at Beccles library.
- Our Italian friend has agreed to organise another Italian dinner which will hopefully take place at The Old Rectory, Barsham in the new year.

Please do not forget to use **easyfundraising.org.uk** if you shop online, search for **Congo School for Peace**. Over £1000 has been raised in this way with no extra cost to the buyer.

Also, if you are using Amazon, we have now signed up with **Amazon Smile**:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1151173-0>

If you can fundraise, find sponsors or help us in any way please contact Mary Ellwood (Secretary) or Alan Williams (Treasurer):
congoschool4peace@gmail.com

Messages received from students at the University of Lubumbashi

Name: MUTEBA Musengo Jeef

Course title: Psychology at Work

Results obtained this year: 6 courses passed out of 6

Dear Sponsor,

Without you I would not know how I would be able to continue my studies in order to be useful to society.

May the Lord bless you and guide you always.

Jeef

Name: Victor Mwembo

Course title: Public Health

Dear Sponsor,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your financial help which permits me to pursue my studies and to be able to serve society later on.

May God bless you. I promise to do my best.

Victor

Name: Tshitungu Pichouna

Course title: Computer Science and Management

Results obtained this year: 12 courses passed out of 15

I want to thank you sincerely for your financial help and generosity for my studies. I am very grateful to you and I promise to do my best.

Pichouna

Name: Kamana Bikenge Madeleine

Madeleine lived with her grandmother who died this year. Her sponsor also died a while ago, but thanks to the generosity of kind people, we hope that she can stay at the Catholic University (Maria Malkia) until she completes her degree.

Course title: Peace and Governance

How can I thank you enough? I thank you sincerely for your financial help. I promise to make a big effort.

Signed, *Madeleine*

Message from Sr Euphrasie, head of educational projects for her community

Thank you very much for all you do for the children of Congo. Please thank all of our benefactors. May our prayers be with you!

SCHOOL LIBRARY RULES

Pupils are strictly prohibited from accessing or leaving the library without the authorization of the supervising teacher.

Pupils who wish to use the library when they are not timetabled, can do so before lessons begin or during breaks in order to advance their knowledge.

Thank you all for your continuing interest and support during these difficult times.

The SFP Support Group