

Back to Basics

It's been quite a while since we've provided you with the "basics" of Nuru Ya Mapendo. It's easy to see our name every few months in the newsletter, or on Facebook, or Twitter. But do you remember why we exist? And know how to find us if you need to contact us or share our information?



Our Vision/Mission:

Nuru Ya Mapendo is a ministry growing the community of faith where Jesus Christ changes lives. We welcome the Holy Spirit so all will discover their God-given gifts and delight in sharing the love of Christ in their community and in the world. Grace so pervades the atmosphere of the ministry that questions, doubts and fears can be honestly expressed and every person is loved, respected, nurtured and celebrated.

Our website: www.nuruyamapendo.com

Our 5-Minute Video: Go to www.nuruyamapendo.com. Click on the drop-down menu and select "videos".

Twitter, YouTube: "nuru ya mapendo"

Facebook: "Jane Wise" or "nuru ya mapendo"

E-mail: nuruyamapendo@yahoo.com

Address: Nuru Ya Mapendo, 4918 Woodmere Rd, Land O Lakes, FL 34639. **Phone:** 727.793.7970

So many of you support our mission and our work. Share NYM with your friends and family so they can learn about us, too!

Thank You

"the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." -2 Cor. 1:4 NIV

I arrived in the USA around the first of September 2020, after a two-month delay due to covid shutdowns. I want to thank the many people who assisted me in securing housing, moving some boxes, and providing provisions and donations. I am especially grateful to all who reached out to me in support and prayer during the death of my uncle in November due to covid and my sister-in-law to cancer in December. From September through February I also lost three friends. In this unimaginable time of isolation and loss, I am so grateful for my brothers and sisters in Christ who lifted me up to the Lord when I could not stand alone. You are a blessing and loved much. Thank you!

Prayerfully consider a pledge of monthly ongoing support; Nuru Ya Mapendo is an approved 501(3)c non-profit organization.

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Yes, We're Working!

Despite my being in the USA, Nuru Ya Mapendo is active and working. Our staff in Kasenga is doing a wonderful job of overseeing our continued work to finish the Galilee Church.

Our current project is to build seventy-two pews for the church. Lumber is not prefinished in Kasenga, therefore trees are felled, planks are cut to size, and the lumber is dried. After drying, the benches are constructed then sanded and varnished. It requires nine different sizes of lumber for each bench! Each will seat 8-9 adults.

Because the lumber has to be sourced, it is a very time-consuming project. We anticipate that the project may take as long as nine months to complete. Pray for the safety of all those who fell the trees and do the woodworking. The photo below provides an example of what the pews/benches will look like:



Future Projects?

We're determined to complete the Galilee Church! We've been diligently working on the church since 2015 and are so close to finishing. Once the benches are completed, here's what you can expect to see in 2021/ early 2022 as we finish the church. Project costs are listed after each description:

- Construction and placement of the steel second-story window frames (\$2,425)
- Placement of glass and glazing in the 26 windows (\$2,400)
- Placement of six reinforcement poles at each corner of the roof (\$1,000)
- Replacing a community home's straw roof with a sheet metal roof (\$3,250)*
- Replacing a second community home's straw roof with sheet metal (\$3,250)*

*These roofs burned in a large fire and we want to provide the materials to replace the roofs. The owners will provide all the labor.

We know that 2020-2021 is a perilous time financially for everyone because of covid. If there is anything you can provide toward these projects, we are so very grateful.

Answered Prayers/Prayer Requests

- Pray for the travel and covid restrictions to the DRC to be relaxed so Jane can return to the DRC.
- Pray for the staff (Bwalya, Papy, Kapakele and Mwakwa) as they keep NYM running during Jane's absence.
- Pray for the teachers and the students at the Jane Wise School in Kasenga.
- Pray for the 15 pastors in the District of Kasenga, that they would feel strengthened/encouraged and the work of their ministry will bear much fruit for God's Kingdom.

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Jane Wise School Updates



Schools and teachers all over Congo have been greatly affected during the time of covid-19, and our school in Kasenga is no exception. The school calendar is in disarray, and many teachers have left their posts because the government is not paying teacher salaries in many areas of the country. A new Congolese President took office in 2018, the same time that our school was applying for accreditation. Sadly, to date (3 years later), we have not received our accreditation.

During the 2019-2020 school year, NYM supplemented some teacher salaries in order to keep the school functioning properly. This school year we have not done so due to reduced operating funds. We do plan to continue awarding ten student scholarships at the end of this year. But if you would like to contribute toward the \$2,000 needed to supplement teacher salaries at the Jane Wise School in Kasenga to keep our school "stable", please send your donation to the address located on page one. The entire world has been challenged and shaken by the pandemic. We wish to lift up the children so that they can continue to learn.

When Are You Going Back?

I get asked that question about once a week. My plan was to return to the DRC around February 1, 2021; then to return in the fall of 2021 for my normal furlough time. However, just as I was delayed in traveling to the USA, covid caused unforeseeable problems in my return trip. The embassy in Washington was closed for a time. The visa office in Lubumbashi was closed. Congo issued travel requirements for covid that were impossible to meet here in the USA (timing for test results and so forth). Although my residence visa is good for several years, my travel visa expired on March 15 in the midst of trying to overcome all the obstacles! I also determined during my research that (1) Lubumbashi (place of arrival) is not currently safe and (2) due to flooding again this year, the road from Lubumbashi to Kasenga will be underwater for several weeks. The cards are not in my favor. After considering all the challenges and concerns with our Board of Directors, I made the very difficult decision to remain in the USA through the end of my normal furlough time- or February 2022. This means I will be contacting you during the summer to schedule fall visits. In the meantime, I speak to our manager weekly by phone and hold monthly staff meetings by phone (no internet) to keep our work moving ahead. The advantage in being here is that I'm able to communicate with you on our progress. I ask you to be in prayer for all these challenges and I look forward to returning to my work just as soon as possible.



Blessings, Jane

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