

## And the Work Goes On..

We're so pleased that our work in Kasenga at the church property is going well and ahead of schedule! Our current project is building benches/pews for the interior of the Galilee church. The lumber has been sourced, cut, stacked and dried. The carpenters have assembled and varnished 34 of 50 pews. One of our security dogs, Tigger, likes to keep watch over (and jump on top of) the lumber pile. Aren't the pews beautiful (center photo)?



## Work at NYM

Africa is no different than the USA when it comes to having more projects than time. While our manager is overseeing the project for church pews, the rest of the staff has been repairing our lawn mower and replacing brakes on the Tundra. Sounds fairly easy, but those who have followed us for a while know that this is never the case. Parts are not always available, so we had to wait while our brake discs were fabricated in Lubumbashi.



Our dogs needed work as well. Rex hurt his leg while running and needed pain medication for a while. And Tigger had a few sores which needed antibiotics. Life is never dull in Kasenga!

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

Visit [www.nuruyamapendo.com](http://www.nuruyamapendo.com) or e-mail: [nuruyamapendo@yahoo.com](mailto:nuruyamapendo@yahoo.com).

**Our mailing address: Nuru Ya Mapendo, 4918 Woodmere Rd, Land O Lakes, FL 34639.**

# Agriculture Focus: Red Lady Papaya



The papaya is actually believed to have originated in Southern Mexico and neighboring parts of Central America. Early Spanish traders are believed to have introduced the fruit through established trade routes to the Philippines in the late-16<sup>th</sup> century. From there the papaya made its way to Asia and eventually the rest of the world.

Today, papayas are grown in pretty much every part of the world featuring tropical or subtropical climates. The papaya tree is extremely sensitive to cold weather, will only thrive in well-drained loose, sandy soil, and even small amounts of standing water over the roots will often kill the tree within a day. Kasenga, with its subtropical climate and sandy soil (which quickly percolates water) is the perfect home for Red Lady papayas! NYM carried papaya seeds from ECHO in our container, from which all the papaya trees in Kasenga are propagated to this day (nearly eight years later). The seeds germinate very quickly and we distribute the seedling bags to anyone needing fruit as a food source.

Why was this variety one of our choices? Probably the most important reason is that the tree matures and bears fruit very quickly. Even a tree seven to nine months old will begin bearing fruit. When people are hungry, they don't want to wait years for results! And of course, there are many health benefits. Papaya is rich in fiber, vitamin C and antioxidants. It carries anti-inflammatory properties which protects those with arthritis. It can boost the immune system, protects eyes from degeneration, aids digestion, prevents cancer (especially colon and prostate), and can even help reduce stress due to the large quantity of vitamin C it carries. Best of all, it tastes good, and is great for diabetics because it tastes sweet without spiking blood sugar. Who wouldn't want to partake of this luscious treat?

## Answered Prayers/Prayer Requests

- Pray for the covid restrictions to the DRC to be relaxed so Jane can return to the DRC. Pray for a favorable outcome in obtaining a replacement visa from the embassy.
- Pray for a favorable response from our partners to build a well on the church and school property in 2022.
- Pray for the staff (Bwalya, Papy, Kapakele and Mwakwa) as they keep NYM running during Jane's absence.
- Praise for new arrivals within the families of our staff! Mwakwa and his wife welcomed twins just after our last newsletter, and Papy and his wife welcomed a baby girl this week.
- 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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# Connections 2021

Since my stay is longer than usual this year, speaking engagements and church visits have already begun. This week I spoke to a combined unit of UMW in my home church in Dayton, OH (below, left).

I also made a special visit to a vacation Bible school (VBS) in Cincinnati, OH. The children are collecting money this week to provide shoes for children at the Jane Wise School who can't afford them. In addition to speaking to them about Congo and shoes, we spent a few minutes learning a little Swahili, such as basic greetings. They also learned the chorus to "Jesus Loves Me" in Swahili and they wrote greetings on paper banners to send to the school. It's so important to establish cross-cultural relationships at a young age. Who knows which child may remember their experience and one day serve as a missionary?

My thanks to all who have hosted me thus far in 2021. Your interest and generosity encourage us in our work and help to grow the Kingdom of God. Even the little ones have a part to play in missions.



# Travel Update

I have been verifying travel conditions monthly in order to return to the DRC by the end of this year. To date, conditions are not favorable. Although everything is normal and safe in Kasenga, travel through the airport and the city of Lubumbashi would be perilous at best during the required two-to-three-day stay for covid testing. The DRC is currently rated as "Level 4- Do Not Travel", along with 80% of the world which is still affected by COVID-19. But an entire string of code letters followed the H for health/covid under the advisory, such as: U (civil unrest), R (riots), T (terrorism), K (kidnapping), C (crime/armed conflict)! Most of these things occur in isolated areas throughout the country, but I think you can understand the need for caution while contemplating travel. In addition, one waits weeks and weeks for a response from the DRC Embassy in Washington to replace an expired travel visa. Assist me by praying for this process, and God will open a door when it is time. Thank you!



*Blessings, Jane*

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