

NEWSLETTER

*Glenn and Esther
Vantiegghem*

Dear Friends,

FROM THE RAINY SEASON TO WINTER, FROM LEADING KIDSClUBS TO GIVING PRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE WORK WE ARE DOING, FROM THE AIRCO TO THE STOVE, FROM THE EQUATOR TO THE NORTH SEA. LAST MONTH WE DID NOT MANAGE TO WRITE A NEWSLETTER TO YOU. WE ARE THEREFORE BUNDLING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER TOGETHER IN THIS EDITION. IN OCTOBER WE SAW THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE FIRST KIDSClUB. IN NOVEMBER WE ARE SITTING IN FRONT OF THE STOVE ON BELGIAN SOIL. LOTS TO TELL THEREFORE ... HERE WE GO!



A WANTED VISITOR

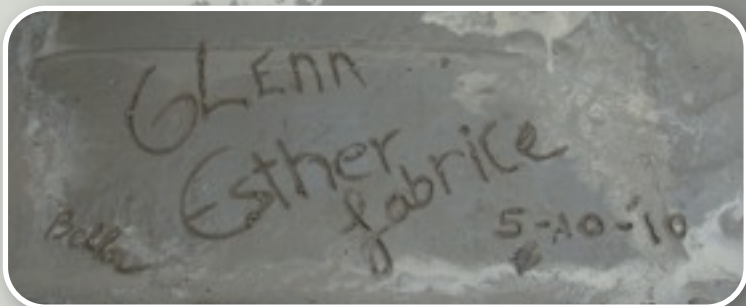
It made us very happy to meet the international director for Christ's Hope off the plane at N'Djili Kinshasa airport at the end of September. We know this man very well and we had been inviting him to come and visit us since last year. It seemed to us that it would be a good idea for him to visit us so that he would be able to understand what we are doing in Congo, where we are at and what difficulties we face. One of the reasons why we invited Mr. Jos Holtzhausen to Congo was also to help our new board to understand how we work and why we are in Congo. We were happy when he finally arrived on 29th September, to spend the following 5 days with us. As well as advice, direction and encouragement, he was also a "guest" at our quarterly board meeting, to everyone's joy. The conclusion was simple. 3 years ago we also drove through the streets of Kinshasa with this man, as his interpreters. Now he was our guest and we can only praise and worship God for everything that has changed in the past 3 years.



OUTSIDE TOILET

The problem made itself felt before: we needed a toilet in the garden. What?? An outside toilet? Yes, it seems a strange idea to us Flemings or Belgians but in Congo it is a must. The only toilet we possess is next to our living room and many people who cross the threshold of our office cannot simply be allowed to use this toilet. It sounds strange, perhaps, but this is a simple security measure.

After much discussion and reflection as to whether we could or could not build this ourselves, we took the bull by the horns. We purchased the necessary materials and started on the job – an impossible one for Glenn. With Esther's expert advice and the necessary counsel from the continent of Europe, the result is visible on the photos. We are very happy with what has become of it and we have once again learned a lot of new things.)



EXTRA SECURITY

Many of you heard the news that we were twice visited by uninvited visitors – i.e. thieves - during the month of September. Yes, the yard is walled-in but we had no barbed wire on the walls. We absolutely did not want this because of the even stronger feeling it gives of being cloistered to the people around us. But we had always said we would install barbed wire as soon as we had problems with thieves. We did what we said we would do. At the beginning of October we received several gifts from different countries where Christ's

Hope is active and we were thus able to install better security for our compound. We would have preferred to avoid this but it appears to be a necessity. We are not an exception, in fact; we are simply following the practice of most of the houses in the area.)



PREPARING FOR BELGIUM

A visit to Belgium is necessary, however, for our family, friends and partners, and for the work in Congo. Moreover, leaving Congo entails much more than quickly packing cases. The Kidsclubs have to go on, the volunteers need to be prepared, Fabrice has to keep the office running, ...

All kinds of things have to be provided in advance, necessary meetings need to be held with "key people", ... In short, all that is humanly possible has to be done to ensure that everything continues to run as smoothly as possible during our absence. The

time finally arrived and we left Congo on 29th October. We stepped onto the plane with mixed feelings. However, once we landed in Zaventem we were happy to see so many well-known faces and our stay here has been a great blessing up to now.



DEEPFREEZE

One of the most striking things for us in Belgium could be described as "deepfreeze". Deepfreeze? Yes, that is how the Belgian climate felt to us in the month of November. From our arrival at Zaventem until today we keep saying how cold it is here – several times a day no doubt. Our hosts are understanding, fortunately, and they do all they can to ensure their heating is turned up as high as possible. Now it appears it is going to get colder in the coming weeks, we do not know how we shall feel, but one thing is certain: one needs to be able to withstand the cold to live in Europe.



CHRIST'S HOPE CONGO

One of the reasons for our visit to Belgium is to meet people – not only friends and families, but also churches. Churches invite us to explain who we are and what we are doing in Congo, whether they know us or not. We always consider it a privilege to stand before a church or another group of people and to tell them about what we are doing. It encourages us enormously to frequently get positive reactions from people who are interested, touched or want to know more. Some promise to support us; others request our newsletter; yet others keep in touch through mail. All this is a great encouragement to us and our deepest desire is for it all to contribute to the continued working of the Kidsclubs and the further expansion of this work.



OUR DIARY

Would you like to attend a presentation of the work in Congo? You can! Here is a list of the last places and dates of our presentations of the work in Congo:

Tuesday 7 December 20u Elim gemeente Gent

Acaciastraat 2, 9000 Gent

Sunday 12 December 9u30 Op de rots

Oudenaardsesteenweg 111
8580 Avelgem

Sunday 12 December 13u30 Jésus-Christ la vie

St. John's International School
Drève Richelle 146, 1410-Waterloo

Sunday 19 December 10u00 Pinkstergemeente De Bron

Bronstraat 8
8400 Oostende

Would you like to meet us at a different time, please contact us via one of the means shown at the end of this newsletter.



Greetings from the very cold Belgium

Glenn & Esther

INTERNET

Have a look at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/GlennenEsther>

<http://www.familyvantieghem.blogspot.com>

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We as well as the work we're doing are fully depending on gifts. You can contribute to this by sending us your donation to this international bank account number:

BE53 7785 9673 4153 mentioning Glenn and Esther. Do you want to support the Ministry, mention 'Christ's Hope DRC'. Thank you so much for your contributions!