

Training pastors in Congo

Dear Friend of World Mission,

I just returned from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Whenever I visit there, I am always impressed with the commitment of our mission personnel, the impact of the hospitals and clinics, and the increasing number of sustainable community development projects like new wells, agricultural programs, and schools. However, during this trip, I was struck by the commitment and spirit of the pastors and leaders of the Congo Covenant Church (CEUM).

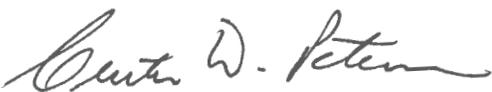
The CEUM has 1,774 pastors. These men and women provide spiritual and faith leadership to more than 250,000 church members, and not one of them is paid to serve the church. They all have other work that helps to meet their family's daily needs. Yet because of their dedication to service and a tireless sharing of the good news, the CEUM continues to grow.

Isolation is a significant challenge for Congolese pastors. The congregations these pastors serve are spread over a vast terrain. Resources are scarce and transportation is basically non-existent. Fortunately, the CEUM and Covenant missionary David Stockamp have designed the Continued Pastoral Education Initiative (CPEI) to encourage and empower Congolese Covenant pastors by providing supportive resources and conducting regular continuing education gatherings.

FOWM Project #221 seeks to raise \$40,000 to provide two years of support for the CPEI. Your gift will be a blessing to these leaders and help maintain pastoral excellence within the CEUM. Please help support these leaders by supporting FOWM #221.

On behalf of our Congolese partners and pastors, thank you for your support.

In Christ,



CURTIS D. PETERSON, *executive minister of world mission*



**Thank you for
your prayers and
financial support.**

PAYMENT INFO

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please make checks payable to the Evangelical Covenant Church, designated FOWM. See reverse side for more giving options.

Payment Type:

Check enclosed MasterCard
 Visa Discover

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

SUPPORTING PASTORS IN CONGO...

The Continued Pastoral Education Initiative (CPEI) is a series of regional retreats and gatherings designed to provide support, mentorship, and fellowship to Congolese Covenant pastors by providing supportive resources and conducting regular continuing education gatherings. These special seminars are conducted among the various regions of the CEUM in order to make these gatherings more accessible.

Six gatherings will be held each year, with goals intended to:

- Encourage pastors for effective ministry
- Grow pastors’ faith and prayer life
- Restore pastoral dignity
- Help pastors to appreciate one another
- Provide additional theological training

Each three-day retreat will include worship, intentional prayer and meditation time, practical workshops and one-on-one pastoral care. Funds raised by FOWM #221 will support travel to and from the retreats for all participants along with presentation tools including a projector.

CPEI stewards the initial investment that was poured into the formation of these leaders. Please generously support FOWM #221 so that we may continue to grow strong leaders within the Congo Covenant Church.

FIFTY YEARS OF FOWM

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Friends of World Mission. Since its beginning in 1965, more than 10,000 friends like you have raised more than \$9.5 million to provide funding for the work of Covenant missionaries and partners.

The very first FOWM project supported Karawa hospital in what was a newly independent Democratic Republic of the Congo. Wallace Thornbloom, the first doctor in Northwest Congo, made a request for funds to put a ceiling on the hospital. Response from the charter members of FOWM quickly provided the funds needed.



Today, Karawa Hospital serves more than 100,000 people. Pauline Fondole Kato, who has worked at the hospital since the 1960s, remembers, “There have been many projects that gave money and helped the hospital. We did not always understand where the money came from except that the missionaries’ connection with their churches made gifts that fixed broken machinery, bought hospital medical supplies and medicines, built new buildings, and put roofs on churches. Without the help, many people would have died because they would not get the care they need.”

Your regular gift to FOWM projects really makes a difference. You can also endow your annual support through your estate plan. Contact our partners at Covenant Trust Company, (800) 483-2177, to learn more. To make your gift today, please fill out and return the bottom portion of this letter in the enclosed return envelope, or mail to: The Evangelical Covenant Church, Attn: Friends of World Mission, 8303 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631. For more information, visit CovChurch.org/fowm.

YES! I want to help through Friends of World Mission.

- I will give generously to the Continued Pastoral Education Initiative. Enclosed is my gift of:
 - \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____
 - I would like my gift to be used where it is needed most in serving globally.
- I want to become a regular FOWM member.
- I commit to praying for our FOWM projects on a regular basis.
- I would like more information on how to make an estate gift.
- Please send me _____ FOWM brochures to share with my friends, Sunday school, or church.

WAYS TO GIVE...

- Give online at CovChurch.org/donate
- Charitable gift planning at CovenantTrust.com
- Monthly donations at CovChurch.org/resources/eft-forms