

August 2013
Republic of Congo



Reality TV Edition

New Sight * New Life

WELCOME! Our Reality TV show features a dramatic makeover, a match made in heaven, an exclusive visit to New Sight's new home in Congo, as well as an honest chat behind the scenes with the Samoutous. We hope you enjoy the show!

REALITY TV: The 'Cosmetic' Makeover Show

Can this be the same man?



Fig 1. Marcel 3 days before his cataract operation



Fig 2. Marcel 3 days after his cataract operation

'Where is Papa Marcel?' Joyce wondered, 'We only operated on him three days ago. Where could he have gone?' She looked all around the ward but he was nowhere to be found!

'Does anyone know where Papa Marcel is?'
'Doctor! Doctor! I am here! It's me... Marcel!'

Joyce could not believe it! He looked absolutely nothing like the man she met before the operation! Before the operation, he was quiet and downcast. (Fig 1) After the operation, he was glowing and full of life. (Fig 2)

Our eye centre is like the ultimate make-over reality show for so many of our patients. Patients often say to us, 'Thank you for giving my life back.' Their confidence, independence and dignity are restored. Many of them even look younger! The transformation extends to their families. Patients become breadwinners again. Family members can be released from care to work and to study. It really is very humbling to think that we can play a part in making a lasting difference to people in a country where living is by no means easy to start with. The joy and hope of our patients and families are contagious. They never cease to touch and amaze us!

REALITY TV: The 'Matchmaking' Show

Personal Ad: CHARITY SEEKING PARTNERS

Genuine non-profit hospital in remote Congo seeks fun-loving partners.

We are passionate about making a difference. We are looking for like-minded people to join our team here in Congo or support us through long-distance relationships. If you have specific skills in fields such as graphics, construction, IT, media, accounting, teaching, electrics, plumbing, health care, administration, it will be a bonus. However, all that we are after is a willing heart! To answer this personal ad, email: info@samoutou.com

REALITY TV: The Home Makeover Show

WE HAVE MOVED!

Our old clinic was too small and dark for us to examine eyes properly. (Fig 3) We had to go outdoors to test for visual acuity. (Fig 4) We had no space for medicine and glasses. With increasing number of patients) (Fig 5), it was time to move!



Fig 3. Our former Eye Clinic



Fig 4. Outdoor consultation



Fig 5. Our Former Waiting Room

We decided to convert an old Sunday school building into our new eye clinic until we can build our own dedicated eye centre. We built an extension to it, created a water supply, and gave it a make-over! After several weeks of hard work, **we moved in and are loving our new home!**

Right: Fig 11. After Renovation!



Left: Fig 6. Henri building the new extension
Right: Fig 7. The finished product!
The new extension / waiting room



Fig 8. Before renovation



Figs 9 & 10 The Samoutou children came to help!



www.newsightcongo.com
Email: info@samoutou.com
FB: www.facebook.com/newsightcongo

Prayer Requests:

1. Logistics & Finances for the Construction of our eye centre
2. Volunteers on and off the field
3. Our plans for next year

Up Close and Personal

So what is the reality of living and serving in Congo? Here are the words that came to the Samoutous' mind: Steep learning curve / **EXCITING!** / Very different culture / Can be frustrating / **HOT!** / People are *really* poor / Puts Life into perspective / **We are always killing** or getting rid of mosquitoes, ants and termites / Things take much longer to do - develop **Patience** / Way of life is unpredictable - develop **Flexibility** / Limited Resources - develop **Creativity and Problem-solving skills** / **REWARDING** / Miss family & friends / Miss **food** / Miss civilisation / **FUN** family life / Always keep a list of what we need the next visitor to bring for us / Thankful for support but wish we could have more practical help / **HUMBLING** / Slow pace of life yet we are always busy running around! / **NO MATTER WHAT, IT IS WORTH IT!**

For more glimpses into the Samoutous' lives, more photos of our Renovation, and the latest newspaper articles featuring New Sight, please visit: www.samoutou.com/blog