

November 2013

Republic of Congo



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT EDITION

New Sight * New Life

2014 Tour announced for the Samoutous!

Samoutou family will be touring Hong Kong, Greece and the UK in 2014!

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 10 Jan – 31 Mar 14 | Hong Kong | (Joyce and children) |
| 1 Apr – 26 Apr 14 | UK | (Joyce and children) |
| 27 Apr – 13 May 14 | Greece | (Joyce, Henri and children) |
| 14 May – 7 June 14 | UK | (Joyce, Henri and children) |

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Henri says, 'The purpose of this trip is to develop New Sight so that we can help more people. We need to explore, prepare and ship medical supplies and materials needed for the construction of our eye centre. We also need to raise funds, partners and volunteers. We are looking forward to updating our clinical knowledge and skills through the Christian Medical and Dental Association Conference for international health workers in Greece. But most of all, we can't wait to connect with our family, friends and supporters! **We'd love to share with you the wonderful things that we are doing together in Congo, and thank you face to face for your support!** 'Naturally, we are also excited about the sashimi and hot showers!' Joyce laughs, 'Seriously though, this is a huge trip for us. To be honest, we feel rather nervous. Still, we believe that it is necessary. Without knowing our plans to travel, an anonymous donor gave our family a gift specifically for air-tickets to Hong Kong! Isn't God amazing!'

Please would you:

- Get in touch if you'd like to meet up and / or invite us to share e.g. at your church, work, school; You may even want to organise a fundraising event
- Let us know if you can help us with the use of a car especially in the UK
- See if you may have unwanted second hand books and toys that you can help us occupy our children with

The Basket Weaver, The Little Sister, and The Mexican Nun

concentrating on weaving baskets for people to use at the plantations. But over the last few years, he had gradually become blind. He was now forced to face and feel the impact of his blindness day in day out. **Papa Simon had lost his sight, and with it, his independence, livelihood and in his own words, his 'joy'.**



He was a widower. He did not like thinking about his worsening vision, and he certainly did not like thinking about what that might mean for the future. He preferred

concentrating on weaving baskets for people to use at the plantations. But over the last few years, he had gradually become blind. He was now forced to face and feel the impact of his blindness day in day out. **Papa Simon had lost his sight, and with it, his independence, livelihood and in his own words, his 'joy'.** In a country where social services simply do not exist, he knew he was fortunate to have help from his little sister and Sister Ventura, the wonderful Mexican nun. Still, he would rather not



have these ladies running around trying to look after him. He had never been rich but now he was really struggling. He sometimes got so frustrated that he even lost his temper. Afterwards, he always felt very embarrassed and apologetic, before returning to this unshakable sense of despair. Last month, **he came to our clinic blind and dependent on others.** After we operated on his cataracts, **he left our clinic with new sight, and with it, his independence, and livelihood!** In his own words, **'I have the joy to see again!'**

Left Fig 1. Simon could not walk on his own; Fig 2. Henri operating; Right. Fig 3. Simon after his cataract operation

Empowering the Local Community

Training and empowering the local community is at the very heart of New Sight. We are humbled to be blessed with the privilege of sharing our skills and knowledge with the Congolese so that one day, they will be able to take over our eye centre. Henri enjoys teaching Ophthalmology at the Nursing School every Thursday, as well as one-on-one on-the-job training in the hospital throughout the week. Joyce also enjoys teaching computer and administrative skills at the eye centre. **None of the staff has ever even touched a keyboard before!** We are delighted with the progress that all the students and staff are making. They have come a long way! **We have just been granted permission by the government to start training in the community. This will enable us to provide better preventative care and treatment.** We are very excited about this new door of opportunity!



Left: Fig 4: First time on the computer! Fig 5: One-to-one teaching;
Right: Fig 6, 7 & 8: Ophthalmology class in Nursing School



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Prayer Requests:

1. 2014 Tour for the Samoutou family
2. Logistics & Finances for the Construction of our eye centre
3. Our new Community Eye Health and Screening Program

Visit our Store for the Perfect Christmas Gift!

If you like unique meaningful gifts, then please visit our

Priceless Gift Store

at

www.newsightcongo.com/priceless

The Priceless Gift Store is a simple online gift list service, where instead of wrapping up chocolates and CDs, you purchase gifts in someone's name from our eye charity to give to real people in the Republic of Congo.

These gifts *never sit on shelves*. They are always wanted, needed and *make a real difference in people's lives*.

If you are looking to buy a meaningful gift for someone,

1. With just a few simple clicks, Choose and Buy a Gift e.g. Life-transforming Glasses, Blindness-preventing Vitamin A, Sight-restoring Operations
2. You will receive a Certificate via email that you can pass onto your loved ones. It explains that you have purchased this gift to our charity in their honour
3. Someone in Congo will see and live a very different life as a result!

If you decide that you'd rather not get more socks or perfume for Christmas,

1. Choose the Priceless Gift you'd prefer instead
2. Let everyone know to buy a gift for you here!

HAPPY SHOPPING!