Dear family and friends,

I was just looking over my last update that I sent out. The program mail chimp reports how many people opened the update I sent out. It said I had zero opens, which means nobody opened it. Now I know at least some people who always open my updates and read them so I can only assume that something went wrong with the program when it was sent out. I apologize that it did not go out right. It looks like I did not send any updates for a while but of course I did. So here is the latest news.

I have my ticket to leave on September 8. Good friends are taking me to Chicago on September 7 where I will spend the night with some family of my coworker, Dawn Baird. She is making this trip with me. For this trip, since it is just Dawn and I, I will be gone for 2 months. Some of you have expressed concern about the Ebola epidemic that was on the news. That epidemic is in West Africa and Democratic Republic of Congo is in Central Africa so there is quite a distance between the countries. There has been an outbreak of an Ebola type disease in the northern part of western DR Congo. The good news is that section of the country is a long way from where I live So far I have not heard about the epidemic reaching the city of Bukavu.

I am really in need of some additional funds to help me on this trip. I send money each month via wire transfer to keep the work going when I am not there so that was sent at the end of August. I still need about $2000 to take with me for my expenses and the additional work I will be doing while I am there.

Some of you have also expressed interest in what is happening with the sawmill project. At this point the sawmill has been shut down because there are no funds to pay for shipping the boards to the city of Bukavu to sell them or for the gas and oil needed to keep it all running. DR Congo is a very difficult country to work in because there are many hidden fees that have to be paid. These fees are often made up as we go along. It appears that I have paid all the fees that anyone can think of so we are ready to begin operation again if we have the funds to get it all going again. This will cost about $2000 as well.

If you are interested in helping with the additional funds needed for the work this trip please contact me as soon as possible. If you are interested in helping the sawmill project really get up and operating on its own please contact me. My phone number is 812-238-1826 and my e-mail is bjbuell@heartforcentralafrica.org. I feel that the Lord still has a lot of work for me to do in Congo and I am ready to get back to it. I receive phone calls almost every day from Congolese asking when I am returning. God has been with me every step of the way so I know he is with me this time as well. I find myself running ahead of him sometimes so I am praying for patience and to be able to know what God is doing as well as to know his timing. Please pray with me that I will have the needed funds for the trip and for the sawmill project. There are only a few days left until I leave so pray that I hear his answer soon.

The women of Tracy's Heart, my assistant director, and I recently celebrated the wedding of Emmanuel and Edo.  Emmanuel is the secretary and a teacher for Tracy's Heart.  All the women from Tracy's Heart made outfits from the same material design.  The women worked together to make mine.  They even chose the design from one of my other outfits they really like.  It was a very joyful and wonderful day.  God blessed our celebration and it will not soon be forgotten by all of us



Please continue to pray for the people of Democratic Republic of Congo.   The people continue to suffer from abuse, starvation, and terrorism.  Pray that God will hear their prayers and ours for peace to become real there.  God is alive and well and if we look and listen we can see him at work in the world around us.  He is asking each of us to join him in what he is doing and be his light to the hurting people of this world.  God bless each of you as you let the light of Jesus shine through you.
Love, Brenda