

Partner Updates, 8/14/25

Children of Faith (Ginny): The new Kitchen/Dining Hall at Children of Faith is very close to completion. Flooring is being installed, and the rooms are being painted. Anand is in the process of purchasing tables, chairs, utensils, dishes etc. The project should be completed by the end of August and in use during the first week of September. This is a wonderful addition to the COF campus, and COF is grateful for the many ways LOPC made this possible. Anand will be visiting the US to thank everyone for their contributions to this project. His tentative dates are September 22 through October 15.

Congo (Herb): The team's focus at the moment is restructuring ourselves as we respond to PCUSA's reorganization of global mission, which has resulted in the elimination of mission co-workers. PCUSA still supports mission activities worldwide, but the changes place more responsibility on local congregations. The Congo team will be corresponding directly with our Congolese partners - the Congolese Church of the Congo (CPC), the Congolese Church of Kinshasa (CPK), and other Congolese contacts. More on this situation is in the annual Partner Review.

Regarding Congolese education, the Education Coordinators of CPC meet annually to develop a report describing the educational environment, including the priorities for assistance. We will receive their report this fall and will use it to help guide LOPC's funding of education.

Finally, I want to mention the two new peace agreements for eastern DRC. One is between the DRC and Rwanda, and the other is between the DRC and M-23 Rwandan rebels, who now occupy parts of the mineral-rich DRC. The never-ending violence in the region has resulted in one of the world's gravest humanitarian situations. While this part of the DRC is not where our partners' congregations are located, the situation in the east has profound impacts on the government and its budgeting for health, education, etc. Truly effective agreements are still very far off—there have been attempts in the past—so our prayers for peace in the area are always needed.

Primera Iglesia (Mary Kay): Primera has a lease out for the Sunday School wing. The facility has been vacant for three years, so this would truly be a *miracle*! We started the food bank at Primera with 35 families in 2020. Today, Primera is serving 148 families. Sign-ups have begun for a new semester of elementary English. This Sunday, 40 students will graduate from the beginning English class.