

Partner Updates, 2/12/26

Children of Faith (Ginny):

Several years ago LOPC contributed funds for Children of Faith to expand their education program by building a stand alone school and opening the school to other young people in the community as well as those living at Children of Faith. These funds were used along with other contributions to acquire land for this project. The land was encumbered with restrictions that the project expected to be lifted, but due a combination of reasons, including delays during the pandemic, the title could not be cleared to allow the school's construction (It's complicated in India). Anand Thandu is in the process of "swapping this land for land adjacent to the Home. This "swap", involving several plots, is nearly complete, and once it is finished fundraising will resume for the school project. Our team at LOPC can expect to hear more about this in the coming months.

Congo (Herb):

Financial support - LOPC's last donation in late 2025 was used to purchase 290 school desks for the Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa (CPK). CPK, one of the Presbyterian Church's two mission partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), identified this as an immediate priority in education. CPK operates 432 schools in Kinshasa, the capital, and the surrounding area. We are assessing where to donate our 2026 funding, always based on what are their priorities in Education and Vulnerable Children.

Swarthmore Presbyterian church (near Philadelphia) has contacted us about wanting to work with us on support for the DRC. They had been recommended to us as someone good to work with. Their head of global mission was recently in the Bay Area and he visited us to worship and spend some time with our team to learn about our approach to mission for the DRC. Hopefully, they will decide to provide funding for the Congolese partners.

Advocacy - Sue Gibbons is working with Congo Mission Network to define some of the impact of lost USAID funding, focusing on area of health. Any data will then be shared with other African contacts and then collaborate to develop an advocacy strategy targeted for Congress.

Spiritual support - The Congo team continues to have a weekly phone call (20 mins.) to pray for the DRC. Three to six members participate.

Also, LOPC may remember Jeff and Chrisit Boyd, the former mission co-workers, who visited our church often. While the Boyds officially retired due to the elimination of their positions in PCUSA, they are still active counseling members of the Congo Mission Network and our Congolese partners.