



# Patricia and Peter Wyard

Link Letter no. 13 | November 2022

Contact details:  
pjwyard@gmail.com  
patricia.wyard@btinternet.com



**Location:** DR Congo



**What we do:** Patricia is a palliative care doctor teaching and supporting local medical staff. Peter teaches students preparing for ministry in Aru.

Dear friends,

As we write this letter we are in the last month here in Aru before we return finally to the UK just before Christmas. As always so much has happened that is fascinating and worth sharing, but time and space are limited.

We were pleased that we could host a farewell meal for Peter's Licence students, with whom he had just finished his last course in University Salama, "Archaeology and the Bible". This was a subject about which he knew very little in advance, and writing it was a lot of hard work. He tried to use it as a vehicle to encourage the students to think critically, as well as bringing the world of the Bible to life through concrete objects and places uncovered by archaeology. Peter hopes that in some way this course will be helpful to the future ministry of the students, whether they end up as bishops, college lecturers or pastors in the villages. The graduation ceremony at the end of October was a very joyous and extrovert occasion. We managed to say goodbye to some of the students we had grown quite close to and who were very appreciative of what we have given them. We were touched by their trust that we will meet again!

We asked for your prayers to ensure the future of Christian education and the Rooted in Jesus (RiJ) programme after Peter leaves. We are delighted that through a close working relationship with CMS-Africa, the Rev Emmanuel Etsegeri will become Peter's successor, partially funded by any balance in our budget after our return to the UK.

Patricia's palliative care work: on a micro level, our patient Piriyo, about whom we talked before, sadly died in August. He was such an example to us all in his lifestyle, his love for his family and his determination to teach Sunday school from his house. Patricia met up with his mother to express her condolences, a moving occasion.

On a macro level, the team met up with Professor Mashinda, who started the ANCSP (Association Nationale Congolaise des Soins Palliatifs), while they were in Kampala for the APCA (African Palliative Care Association) congress to present three papers and two posters. (We won the prize for best poster!)

We were also delighted to welcome Patricia's predecessor, Dr Francesca Elloway, from the UK to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our palliative care team, a service started by her.

The team won a grant for a one-year project entitled "Ne laissez personne de coté" ("Leave no one



*Enjoying a farewell meal with students.*

**Support Patricia and Peter Wyard:**  
[churchmissionsociety.org/wyard](https://churchmissionsociety.org/wyard)

**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



behind”). This team is the only rural community-based team in DRC. Please pray for generous donors to fund this important work.

In our previous newsletter we mentioned the hospital fence, which is now finished and looks amazing. Praise God for generous donors. The hospital compound is more secure and much quieter. To really keep thieves out and patients who don't want to pay in, we need guards at both entrances, but the hospital lacks the resources at the moment.

Violent conflict is a common feature of life in DRC. Here in Aru, where we live in relative safety, there have recently been a couple of violent robberies, which ended in a pregnant lady shot dead and one of the gangsters being killed by people's justice. In the south of our diocese, in Djugu Territory, people face daily insecurity from militia, and consequent hardship: you cannot tend to your field while you fear a lethal attack

at any moment. Some are forced to leave their homes and end up in refugee camps for internally displaced people, without any humanitarian aid. Some of our chapels in those places cannot even start their RiJ groups due to the insecurity; where people have most need to experience Christian fellowship they cannot get it. We ask for your ongoing prayers for people living in those very difficult circumstances.

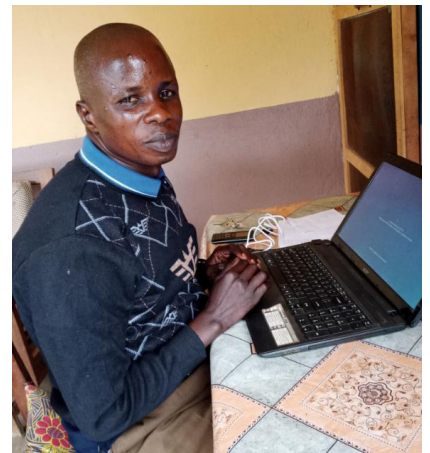
Some of Peter's students returning to their dioceses face difficult journeys either through or to areas of insecurity. Please pray for those young pastors that their ministry may be fruitful and they themselves may remain inspired and joyful.

Last weekend we heard a fascinating explanation of one of the problems of “modern life” here in Aru: the availability of electricity and light at night during the grasshopper season. Grasshoppers are a delicacy and were traditionally caught in the day time by picking them from the grass. Now, people can use strong sources of light and shiny sheets of corrugated iron to catch grasshoppers on a commercial scale, which means fewer for individuals. Worse, children can leave their compound in the middle of the night without their parents knowing (they usually sleep in separate huts from their parents), and search for grasshoppers using the light from a mobile phone. Some parents even encourage their children to do this so they sell those grasshoppers and make extra money for the family. Our colleagues call this a problem of “mondialisation” (globalisation). Sadly, some of the young people use the time away at night to indulge in *sexualité précoce*, the subject of one of Peter's student's dissertation.

Our final return to the UK is now imminent, although we shall continue to work for CMS for several months visiting our supporting churches and mentoring our Congolese colleagues in Christian education and palliative care. To use Patricia's favourite word, the prospect is “daunting”, in some ways more so than when we came out to DRC four years ago. Although we will be back in our own country, culture and language, we will have to cope with the twin challenges of finding a place to call home and beginning retirement, in the middle of winter and, by all accounts, a time of real hardship and gloom in the UK. In addition, Peter's health has not been very good for the last six months. So please pray for our reintegration, and a real trust in the Lord's provision.

Yours,

Patricia and Peter



**Photos from top to bottom:** Some of the graduating theology students; Rev Etsegeri will lead the Rooted in Jesus programme after we leave; Patricia with Piriyo's mum after he died in August; Prof Mashinda, Dr Francesca, Dr Pat and team in Kampala



## Going further with Church Mission Society

**Stories from the edges:** Find out how God is meeting people on the edges around the world through CMS people in mission. Go to [churchmissionsociety.org/stories](https://churchmissionsociety.org/stories)

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England. Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).