In 1995 I joined the missionary community as the first native and local bush pilot of Wings of the Morning flight ministry in the North Katanga conference in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For 26 years I have waited and waited for change in my Country, I have had my hopes go up then down and then shattered. We have had so many government leadership changes, but unfortunately looking back, I feel like we have been going around the same roundabout for the past 26 years. The infrastructure has not improved much, and you can only drive 300 km on a good road in the area I fly in Katanga which is about 200,000 square miles.

Two weeks ago, I flew 1 ton of medicine to the towns of Lubudi and Luena for the two government hospitals. The roads have been washed away, and the hospitals would have had to wait 6 months for the rain to stop before they could get supplies or close their doors.

I was filled with mixed emotions during the flight. I was frustrated to see that really nothing has changed for the past 26 years, but also glad that the Wings of the Morning flight ministry is still around to make a difference.

The challenges of COVID 19 have made life very difficult for all of us. For Wings of the Morning, as long as the two airplanes continue to be well maintained, and there is fuel in their tanks, we will continue to fly. With God’s strength we will fill the gnawing hole of life’s injustice, relieve the pain of those who cannot afford to fly to get treatment and be there to support the bishop, the church and conference needs.

We are motivated to never stop even during COVID challenges because of all the support and prayers of many. Mostly because of the investment and sacrifices made a few years ago by so many people of the United Methodist Church to purchase a wonderful airplane, you have made sure that your brothers and sisters in Africa will continue to receive the help they need on Wings of the Morning. This tool reminds us every day of you, and we are eternally grateful, and we will continue to stand in the gap as long as we have the breath and good health to do so.

Our small clinic and the 20-bed guest house for patients run by my wife Jeanne Ntambé, continues to help those that come from the bush that do not have a home to go to in the big city. It is free and they receive one meal a day. The goal is to make sure that the patient is free from worry and has only one thing in mind, giving thanks to God. Next week Jeanne will be moving into her new office at the guest house so she can be present and able to assist every day.

Maybe our grandchildren will see change one day, but we have to continue to occupy and fill the gap.

Thank you for your unchanged commitment to pray and support the North Katanga Wings of the morning Flight Ministry.

Together in the Ministry for Christ, Gaston and Jeanne Ntambé
U.M.C. Global Ministries missionaries