



"The day I was kidnapped, all five raped me and I was taken to the camp. Every day I was raped, sometimes up to ten times a day. They cut me and I bled for weeks, then they left me in the bush."

-Tumani

"We were raped by twenty men at the same time. They have taken their guns and put them inside of us"

- Honorata Kizende



"I think if people see this footage, they'll say, 'Oh, my God, that's horrible.' And then they'll go on eating their dinners." – Quote from Hotel Rwanda

"Is there any hope for our country? Yes, it is Jesus. He is a spirit of peace and not of war. . . ." - Pastor Jean Sampson

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has seen war and disease like no other country on this earth. Within the last twenty years, war has claimed more lives than all of World War II. As the third richest country in mineral wealth, the DRC finds itself in the top three worst places to live. As the heart of Africa, bordering nine countries, this country is absolutely strategic in spreading the Gospel to all of Africa.

In 1994, the Rwandan genocide ended when rebel groups were pushed over the border into the DRC. Today, the same battle troubles the DRC's North-East provinces. In November 2008, Tutsi militias ravaged thousands of rural villages, creating a "humanitarian crises" leaving millions of displaced people fleeing to Goma, a city of 300,000. Entire villages were burnt to the ground, child soldiers were recruited, women were raped, families decimated. The United Nations' largest peacekeeping effort in the world is based in the DRC, with around 20,000 soldiers. Despite their efforts, the warring continues and refugee camps are continually flooded with internally displaced people. Poor sanitation results in common outbreaks of Cholera and other preventable diseases.

DRC's government has made obvious pleas for help, but after one-hundred years of war and corruption, their cries have grown faint. News channels have stopped spending time on their stories and greater nations continue to help themselves to the DRC's rich mineral resources such as cobalt (used to make cell phones and computer microchips), gold, diamonds -- you name it. Millions of donated dollars have fallen into corrupt hands, spent on everything but what it was "intended" for.

In the meantime, generations of Congolese young people are swept into a river of tears and darkness. Their talents and ingenuities are left without chance. For too long the west has adopted a deadly form of altruism that causes empathy with no action. "Pray for the Democratic Republic of Congo," I have often mentioned to people. "What's going on in the Congo?" are some replies. How can it be that while technology is knitting the world

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ANY ROAD... ANY LOAD... ANY TIME

closer and closer together, political affairs pull humanity farther and farther apart? It is the consequence of man fixing man rather than God fixing man...

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete." –The Apostle Paul

Andrew and I will embark on a journey to the Congo this summer. It's been a dream that Andrew has turned into a vision and a vision God is making into a reality. The rubber hits the road more dramatically with every phone call, handshake, e-mail; it's been hitting more violently with every new pronunciation, piece of research, every new partner and every new critic. The sobering reality, "the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and violent men take it by force," has become so real over the past months. We've shared repeatedly a message of adopting a wartime mentality, "The weapons that we fight with are not carnal," and we are fighting a spiritual battle against darkness and principalities.

What we see in the physical has direct correlation to what is going on in the spiritual. Man cannot be changed by man, only by God. That's why Congo needs the Gospel. They need to understand love and the only way to understand love is by understanding Christ. This is at the forefront of a three pronged strategy to reaching the DRC. Our first job as the Church is to teach Jesus Christ and feed them spiritually. By doing this we are opening the doors of enablement. Enablement is the only way we can change this world. Giving money is only a fraction of enabling because money doesn't shape a heart, it doesn't save a soul, it doesn't teach people how to live. The Church needs to contribute their time, prayer, money and talents to our world. We function as body for no other purpose than to reach a dying world with a message of hope and worship unto Christ. Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments but out of love. Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions.

Our tentative travel dates are July 1 through mid-August. We covet your prayers and financial backing. Please visit our website, www.the-roths.weebly.com frequently so you can know what to pray for. We have specific prayer points, intimate journals and extra information on the Democratic Republic of Congo. We encourage you to research this country; we have posted links and videos as help tools for understanding the Congo's situation. We also show the methodology of how to reach the DRC explained in Overland Missions' sector management video. Please know that if you are invested in us, then you are invested in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Our prayer is that you would also develop a Christ-like compassion for the country.

We are the first missionaries from Overland Missions to work in the DRC. We will be one of the only evangelistic organizations working in the North-Kivu province, the most unstable area in the entire country. This is our contribution to the war for the kingdom.

What if every Christian adopted a wartime mentality? If during WWII countries could forge together, everyone giving up a little to contribute a lot, couldn't the church do it? Can you give \$25 a month? Can you set up regular prayer meetings? Can you raise awareness? Can you connect people within your own social network to this vision? What can you do? Maybe you can even participate in a future mission trip to the DRC? What can you do to wage war?

In Christ,



Andrew & Amethyst Roth

