Congo Family:

Everyone is watching the news and following the intensity of the COVID-19 virus that is sweeping the globe. This map from Johns Hopkins tracks the daily numbers and is continually updated. All you have to do is refresh your browser to see the latest numbers. <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6> Note, as of the writing of this message the number of cases worldwide is 407,485. It may be interesting to you to see if the number is still at that level by the time you read this message.

As of right now, Congo has 45 cases. I believe all but one are in Kinshasa.

As we all know, medical supplies are in short supply here in the States. As of yesterday there were some masks still available in Kananga but I have no idea how many. Local funding is always tight, so I authorized Simon Ntumba to utilize the small amount of Mission: Hope – Congo funds on hand there ($500) to purchase the available masks. I also transferred a few thousand more dollars for supplies to make more once the vendors run out. The doctors will begin having local tailors sew masks. (Note: Just had a message from Larry Sthreshley and he says that his organization just bought the last supplies of masks available in Kinshasa. He sent a table on the effectiveness of various fabrics and suggested that cotton blend is probably the best way to go. See below.)

As for in the United States, I suspect many of you sew.

* There are now appeals from local hospitals here in the states for people to sew homemade masks.
* There are patterns available on the Internet. And Joann’s Fabrics is actually willing to donate supplies: <https://totallythebomb.com/joann-fabrics-will-give-you-supplies-to-make-face-masks-for-nurses-and-doctors>.
* And, here is a tutorial on how to make the masks:  <https://whdh.com/news/joann-fabrics-shares-tutorial-on-how-to-make-face-masks/>



I’ve been in contact with Pastor Mboyamba, Dr. Serge MAKOLO at Tshikaji, Dr. Joel Bilolo in Lubondai, and Dr. Christophe Bakamubia in Moma and have encouraged that supplies and funds be shared based on need among the Presbyterian hospitals in the Kasai.

Let us all stay safe and let us all pray.

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***Act Justly. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.***

***Micah 6:8***