



This year's devotionals will be focused on witness and testimonials to those who have chosen to take up their cross and follow Christ. We will each day have a focus scripture, a witness to a missionary who has dropped their nets and followed Christ into the fields of missionary work, and a missionary challenge for our own fields. I pray that you will find this both challenging and inspirational.

-- Yours in Christ, Pastor Don

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, February 26, 2012: Scripture: Acts 1:42-47

Missionary: Jacques Akasa Umembudi

Jacques Akasa Umembudi is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church assigned to the Wings of Caring Aviation Ministry in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. As a pilot-mechanic and program director of the Wings of Caring Aviation Ministry, Jacques flies people and supplies to various missions in the region.

"When I fly missionaries, pastors and church leaders, we carry the Good News to where the Gospel is needed," Jacques explains. "When I fly doctors or medical teams, when I fly sick persons to the hospitals where their lives are saved, when I fly seminary or college professors to teach, I think I am doing God's will. In some places if we don't fly in supplies like salt, soap or matches, there is no other way such supplies will get to the population. Many of our mission stations depend on the aviation ministry for survival. Through aviation, children can get shots for immunization. It's not just a means of transportation, but it is a whole ministry – the Gospel – that is preached in different ways."



Jacques is married to Poto Valentine Shutsha, who is also a GBGM missionary. They have three sons: Akasa Umembudi Mignon, Shamba Umembudi Gigi and Otoko Umembudi Dennis. Jacques father, Akasa Okitowa Alphonse, now deceased, was a pastor with the United Methodist Church.

Prayer Reflection: Ministry happens in many ways and in many forms. Sometimes it is preaching and sometimes it is teaching. Sometimes it is the very act of sharing what you have. Jacques flies a plane. Sometimes it is flying pastors and missionaries. Sometimes it is salt, soap, food and medicine. All the time it is ministry. Pray for Jacques, his wife, his family and his ministry.

Act of Devotion: Donate 50¢ if you have had the joy of flying in an airplane. Donate \$1.00 if you have not.

