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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings!

We thank God for His mercies into this ministry. I would like also to express our deepest and heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support that we have been receiving.

Work is going on well and we have the reason to celebrate. As farmers started to harvest the vegetable crops (onion, eggplant, tomato and pepper) in the month of April, we have had good times. I listened to good testimonies from my friends (farmers) from Pointe-Sarene about the wonderful harvest they had this year. With faces wearing smiles, they also reimbursed loans they got for purchase of inputs. As all of them acknowledged the love and grace of God, that is all we wanted to hear. One of my friends after harvesting his onion since the harvest was wonderful, he was able to build a house with concrete. He left his hut where he lived with his spouse and five children. All this for the glory of God!



*New house still under construction with concrete*

My wife Solange who is an accountant has been helpful to the agriculture program. Now, she combines both assisting me in the agriculture program and working with women of different local churches and children. She accompanied children to a three days camp. She has also been invited to lead bible studies, teach or preach on behalf of women or in women's group of different churches.



*First farmer's house/hut*



*My wife preaching during Sunday service*

I once said in my newsletter I sent to you on

March 31, 2014 that, as a Christian missionary I am here to serve as local people need me. Last time I mentioned activities like: training local farmers and other related work, preaching and translating and simultaneous interpretation. With time, I have noticed that I am much needed again for other activities such: making presentation or leading a seminar with different groups such: men's fellowship, youth fellowship, assist my wife in women's fellowship from different local churches, or sometimes for pastors. This has boosted again my vision of taking some theological studies online or any other kind of long distance learning.



*Leading Bible study at youth camp*

After the Annual Conference in Senegal I traveled to attend the South Congo-Zambia Annual Conference in my home country (The Democratic Republic of Congo) where I have my membership. I was humbled to present my report to the Annual Conference delegates. They were very interested to know what I have been doing here in Senegal. Delegates were amazed to hear all the things that we have been doing and accomplished so far in the agricultural sector. One thing that many people didn't know about our work is that the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Senegal is still very young. Although I am an agriculturist and my wife is an accountant by training, we have several other responsibilities

that we do to help the church.

For instance we teach, lead bible studies, and preach in some of our rural churches as I mentioned above. While do not have theological training, we humble share the love of God as we have experienced on leading small group ministries in our home Conference in the DRC.

While in the DRC I had the opportunity to travel to visit Mwajinga which is a UMC mission center, the place where I was born, grew up and where I did all my studies from primary to high school. The place where my parents had served for almost 50 years. This is the place where I first got the inspiration of serving as a missionary. The purpose of my trip to that mission center was to get an update of the mission needed by former missionaries who served there. It was a long and challenging trip due to bad road condition, for a total distance of 467 miles one way, I traveled 368 miles on bus in 15 hours. The following day I rode on a motorcycle about 99 miles in 6 hours. However, we shared the joy with my former church community and at the same time I was challenged to see the degradation and what needs to be done.



*On my way to Mwajinga mission center*

Upon my arrival back in Senegal, while my co-workers at the mission center were on vacation, before I, too went on vacation, I worked for two weeks with the community of women farmers from Sebikotane, and the community of local farmers from Point Sarene.

And I also had an opportunity to leading a bible study for our Youth Camp.



*Training local farmers at Pointe Sarene*

Friends, I have a serious challenge that we face which I would like to share with you. I should say we almost have no means of transportation at the mission (vehicle). Because we only have one old van which nowadays can't go outside of the city of Dakar due to breakdowns that can occur at any time. For us to go to the villages has become a real challenge.

We appreciate your partnership through prayers, words of encouragement and your generosity.

Yours in the Lord's service

David MAKOBO