



Rod & Valerie Hochstetler

MAF – Kinshasa, DRC

Rod and Valerie Hochstetler have served as missionaries with Mission Aviation Fellowship since 1990. The Hochstetler's live in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Rod has worked as the West DRC program's chief pilot for several years. Recently the program changed its leadership format, and Rod's new title is Program Quality Manager.

In September 2014, the Kinshasa program welcomed a Pilatus PC-12, and Rod flew it from Europe, down the Nile and into Congo. He enjoys flying to assist mission and development work throughout the country and working as a mechanic in the hangar when time permits. Rod also serves as the treasurer on the leadership team of their church in DRC.

Ephesians 2:10 is a meaningful Scripture to Rod. He shares, "God thought about me long before I came to be. He gave me a purpose (to do good works), and handpicked the good works I was created to do. I do them, not because I need to prove anything to Him, but as a way of showing my thankfulness for all He has done for me."

Valerie loves to teach. She oversees Sunday school at their church and has been on the school board of Lydia's school. Valerie teaches at Kinshasa Christian School and is working toward her Master of Arts in Teaching with a Special Education emphasis. Additionally, she loves to host people in their home, whether for a meal, overnight, or in large groups on holidays. The Hochstetler's record is 72 people for Thanksgiving! She also leads and hosts a women's Bible Study.

Currently, Valerie's favorite verse is Romans 5:8. She shares, "This verse reminds me continuously that God loved me first even before He sent Jesus to die for me and even though I was a sinner. His grace continues to be an amazing gift even years after accepting Him as my Savior."

Rod and Valerie plan to return to MAF's West DRC program in January 2017. Rod will continue to serve as the Program Quality Manager. He will also continue to fly the PC-12, the Cessna Caravan, and the Cessna 206. Valerie will return with her MAT completed and plans to continue teaching children in Congo.

With Lydia graduating this year, all the Hochstetler kids have flown the nest and are following God's direction in their lives. Although they miss them deeply, the Hochstetler's believe God has reconfirmed their call to continue serving Him in Congo. They love to partner with Congolese believers to see Christ's church grow in Congo. MAF's specialty is reaching out to people in isolated places for His Church. Please join them in praying for a spiritual revival for the city of Kinshasa and Congo as a whole.