

Update from Brenda Buell

November 5, 2013

The First to Graduate from Tracy's Heart!

On Saturday October 26, 2013 we had the first ever graduation ceremony at Tracy's Heart Center. Over 115 people came. It was invitation only because there was not much room at the center. Our first 20 graduates were thrilled and very excited to be at the special ceremony and feast. Only 18 actually made it to the graduation. Two of the women had deaths in their families and were out of town. Each woman was given a certificate naming all the things she had studied and the programs she had finished. Then each woman was given two rolls of basket making material and a few other small gifts. We had the number one choir in the three country area there to sing for us. I was told that I would not be able to get that choir because they are so sought after. They did not know that Sopo, the choir director, is a very good friend of mine. I called him and he simply asked me the date, time, and place and said of course they would be there. The graduates were surprised but very pleased to tell everyone that the best ever choir had come to sing for their graduation! God is very good about blessing us with the little special things. We all sang and we had four speakers, including me. We praised and congratulated our mamas for all they had accomplished. After the ceremony we showed off some of their baskets, flowers, and nativity scenes. Then we all feasted until everyone was full. I wish each of you could have been there to see the joy on everyone's faces and to experience the sharing and celebration.

After almost everyone had left I called the mamas back into the conference room where I asked them to come back on Tuesday morning to get their \$100 to begin their businesses. They started singing a song they wrote that asked God to please keep on working through Brenda and keep Tracy's Heart going to help more and more mamas. Then I started dancing so they kept on singing and danced with me. For those of you who doubt that I can really dance I invite you to come visit and see for yourself!

Thank you all for your encouragement, prayer, and financial support. Now you know what God is doing in DR Congo through the programs at Tracy's Heart Center. The reports are that the graduates have begun their businesses and are moving ahead. We have plans, God willing, to get some of the graduates to teach some of the programs in their churches. This kind of program will

get more women into the churches where they will have a chance to hear about our Savior, Jesus Christ. There were six women in this group that graduated that were not Christians and did not attend church. At this point they have either accepted Jesus as Savior and are attending church or have begun attending church on a regular basis. They will now be hearing God's Word each Sunday and we have hopes they will soon accept Christ. God is working in ways only He can do and it is exciting to see the results in the lives of the women here.

I have inserted some pictures of the graduation ceremony. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

Our Graduates!



Dancing and Singing after Graduation!



Final day of teaching by Mary Medsker and me!



Praising God for their first \$100!

