

Shane & Emily Tasker

The Democratic Republic of the Congo



Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Anyone following the Lord's call should expect opposition from Satan as he seeks to hinder and discourage them, and our family has been no exception. June was especially difficult, yet through every trial the Lord strengthened our faith and renewed our determination to press on. Even in discouragement, we saw **His hand holding us up—and helping us pick up the pieces, quite literally.**

The month began with medical testing for Emily. For years, she has struggled with severe reflux. This year it finally became unbearable, leading us to further testing. The results showed that, in addition to her hiatal hernia, most of her esophagus is now paralyzed, with only a small portion still functioning enough to swallow. Doctors are unsure of the cause, but an upcoming biopsy may provide answers. As of now, there is no treatment to reverse the paralysis, but we are praying the paralysis can be kept from progressing.

Mid-June brought another trial when Emily's mother developed stroke-like symptoms from her cancer, struggling to speak and recall words. Along with this, she started daily whole-brain radiation treatments. Emily opted to stay with her during the two weeks of treatment, allowing Pastor Haley to be in Botswana with the missions teams. We are thankful that the medication and radiation are working, and Mom Cindy has improved tremendously.

The end of June brought a tremendous answer to prayer—we received approval to ship the container! Early Saturday morning we eagerly met the transportation crew to load the container and begin the journey north together. Our excitement was quickly interrupted by mechanical failures when the first truck, lacking the correct equipment, broke down. They quickly brought in a larger truck, but the crew was unable to operate the crane. After many attempts, they called in the one man who was able to run the crane. Finally, we were on the right path...or so we thought. Within seconds, the container was secured to the crane and slowly rose into the air—bringing a whole new meaning to the phrase, "our world is up in the air." Seconds later, disaster struck. The truck began to tip, the chains snapped, and our container crashed more than five feet to the ground. For a few moments, it felt as though months of preparation had come crashing down with it.

One blessing amid the chaos was that within minutes, Shane's entire family and many from our church family in Pretoria arrived to help unpack the entire container into a storage unit. By God's grace, only about 30% of the contents were damaged. Sadly, that included most of our furniture, all of our appliances, and a few smaller items. We are still waiting to hear what the insurance company will cover. In the meantime, we have begun replacing the items that are most necessary and are working to obtain new coverage so the shipment can continue. These were all unexpected expenses, but once again we have the opportunity to watch the Lord provide.

There is much more that could be said about this past month, but one thing has become abundantly clear: **through every trial, the Lord has been faithful.** We could fill pages with the ways God has already blessed us, but for now, we simply rejoice in His goodness. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for the following requests:

- Pray that **Emily's biopsy reveals the cause of the paralysis** and that effective treatment can be found.
- Pray that the insurance company will **fairly cover our appliances in time to preserve our customs clearance.**
- Pray that we can **obtain affordable insurance** for the remainder of the shipment.
- Pray that the government continues to **honor our previously approved customs clearance.**
- Pray for the **believers in Sakania, DRC** as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.
- Pray that the Bible Societies will **grant permission to print the Swahili translation.**

We often say how important your support and prayers are to us, but this month the prayers of God's saints were especially felt as we scraped the bottom of the barrel. Thank you for standing faithfully with us. We press on, not because the road is easy, but because **God is faithful. Trusting Him to lead every step of the way,** we remain committed to pressing toward the mark as we continue taking the Good News to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Contact: taskers2africa@gmail.com | emilyvtasker@gmail.com | +1 765.705.1501

Mission Board: Baptist International Missions Inc. | **Support:** BIMi #1685 PO Box 9 Harrison, TN 37341

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