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Solicitation of Church Support for Further Education

To UMC Community and Leadership Team

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Ndunge Aimé Sefu. I am married to Ayitoma Micheline Ilonga and we both have David (14) and Eviella (12). Most of my life, I was known as Aimé Sefu, but in the past seven years, I have come to prefer my first name as it comes from my great, great grand uncle and bear a big meaning but also putting an end to bearing a name of colonial background. Many people still call me Aimé, I am not mad at them.

I was born in Mukedi Mennonite mission station (South of DRC), and raised in Kikwit by both my parents (Joao Sefu Katoy et Mukhena Mazela Josephine), I am the first born of a family of seven. Five boys and two girls. I elected to switch to Angolan citizenship 25 years ago as it is my father's cultural heritage.

For the past 21 years I have been living in Cape Town, South Africa, a place my family and I call home. We attend Table View Baptist Church where I serve as elder, overseeing the French immigrants' ministry, music and elderly people care ministry.

Six years ago, I felt the conviction to finally respond to the call to serve in full time ministry. Our local church was generous to support my studies at Cape Town Baptist Seminary so I can complete my Bachelor degree in Theology last November, UMC came in to intervene financially at the final semester when TVBC didn't have sufficient financial support to see me through.

Micheline and I have a heart for social, restorative Justice and peace building: in the past ten years we have worked in our own way (informally and without any structure) in trying to help people (Christians) integrate each other's and social space, hoping to see them live the image of the church as Jesus prays for His disciples in John 17:11.

This is one reason which pushes us to pursue further studies in the area of peace and social justice. We hope to serve local communities, churches locally and internationally (as God will open doors) bringing the message of hope to the hopeless, and encouraging those in the position of strength to consider and reach out to those less fortunate. The Ubuntu peace building Center and the Centre Universitaire de Missiologie in Congo are places where we intend to join hands after AMBS.

In March this year, AMBS awarded me a full tuition scholarship to complete a three-year Master of Art and peace studies on campus beginning this fall 2021. We praise God for opening this door which we hope will enable us to further get equipped in order to serve our Lord in the field as he has called us.

Registering to further study at AMBS was step we took by faith, we hope and believe that if it is God Will He will continue opening doors for us to follow this venture.

In order to be considered for visa at US consulate, we need to prove that we have sufficient fund or have sponsor to cover our living expenses in the US.

An amount of approximately \$15,422/Year is needed for us as a family to cover living expenses.

We are approaching you as church family and friends, that you pray with us as we trust God for funds, and partner with us in a practical and financial way in as much as God can allow you. This will be an investment in the kingdom, which we trust will bring forth fruit in ministry in years to come.

Let me end with this note, ideally, I wouldn't need to have my family come with me, but our reality is that Micheline is in Kinshasa currently, and we don't feel it's safe yet for us to consider that the kids go study there, and I can't leave them alone in Cape Town. So We think, it will be better for the four of us to be united there as Micheline also might take up some studies as well if doors open for her.

A work placement will be available on campus which will make me earn \$5000/year , this will help immensely with living expenses. We also may raise up to \$10000/year by renting out our house in Cape Town (from next year).

Thank you for taking the time to ponder on this, and please do let us know if there are questions or details we can supply. May God bless you all.

Shalom

Ndunge

