



**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

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Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

—Luke 12:32-34

Marie and Jean surveyed their new banana grove, bunches of ripening fruit all around. Their neighbors were impressed too—and eager to learn the new cultivation techniques. Here was hope—reclaiming their land in Eastern Congo, ravaged by years of conflict—and sustainable hope too, as the bananas would feed all their children, with enough left over to sell.

Marie and Jean are part of a movement in the Anglican Church of Congo called *Ensemble Nous Pouvons* (Together We Can). This approach involves local churches and their communities thinking about the gifts God has given them in their skills, in their environment, in their “togetherness.” It asks them to consider where their true treasure lies—and how that treasure can bring hope to others. Supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, church leaders and community members visit other communities to learn and be inspired, and then, helped by a facilitator, they decide their own priorities. Some communities identify health, others education. In Marie and Jean's community, the priority was growing enough food to feed themselves and to sell. Discovering what it means to be “good news” to each other, they are also creating a wealth of relationships and trust. Together this local church and community are building the kingdom, here and now.

—Rachel Carnegie