

January 2015

Patients who stick in my mind

This month I said good-bye to one of my favorite patients, who was also a Bongolo Sunday School student. Lewis was 10 and was doing really well taking his medicine for HIV. He came into the hospital last weekend and died quickly of a non-HIV problem. I have written about Lewis before. He and I prayed together that Jesus would help him to take his medicine, go to school and obey his grandmother. Since that day several years ago, he hadn't missed any school and was second in his class last year.

René was a 38-year-old man who had been in the hospital in November and December with a lot of problems related to advanced HIV. He was well enough to walk out of the hospital, and even come in for a first follow up visit after the hospital. I thought that with his medicines he had really turned the corner. He took a turn for the worse at home this week and died on the way back to the hospital.

In the last week there were a lot of patients to praise God for- a woman is sitting up and talking and able to leave the hospital after a stroke, two men and one boy are doing even better than expected with HIV treatment, and a woman who had been very sick has finished her six month TB treatment and is officially cured. While I know that God helped all those people, Lewis and René are still the ones who stick in my mind.

Sunday school visual effects

In Sunday School we are currently learning some of the stories of the Israelites in the desert, and have used some visual effects to help illustrate the stories. One lesson was about Joshua, Caleb and the spies who scouted out Canaan and saw clusters of grapes so big they had to be carried on a pole between two men. Most of my students have never actually seen grapes. Our visual effects cluster of grapes was made of balloons and was significantly lighter than the real fruit. Another lesson was about Moses lifting up the bronze serpent on a pole so the people who chose to look at it could be healed. Our visual effects serpent, seen here, was not bronze nor a serpent.



Ebola preparedness meeting

One interesting thing I did this month was to go about two hours away to Mouila, the capital of this province for a meeting with the regional public health officials about Ebola preparedness. The first picture is what the roads look like between here and there. In addition to the official national response plan we learned things like how to put on personal protective equipment. After the meeting, I came back and presented the information to our hospital staff. The other picture is one of our doctors who has just put on personal protective equipment with my assistance to demonstrate for the rest of the hospital staff. I am very thankful there is no Ebola here.



Praises and Prayer Requests

- Pray for a visitor named Lavon who fell while putting a roof on a building. He fell backwards off scaffolding hitting the building and finally landing on his head and neck. He has broken several ribs and is in a great deal of pain. Our pilot is currently unavailable to evacuate him.
- The Bongolo Nursing school students will be taking their final exams soon. Pray for them and for wisdom for the hospital administration in filling the most needed positions with the right people.
- Much of the Bongolo team is currently traveling and away from the hospital including the Thelanders, the OConnors, the Hofmans, the Petersons, Izzi Elliot and Meladee Davis. Pray for safe travels.
- The floor is done for one of the classrooms in the Sunday School building, and work is being done on the window and door frames.

Thank you for praying.
Blessings,
Renée



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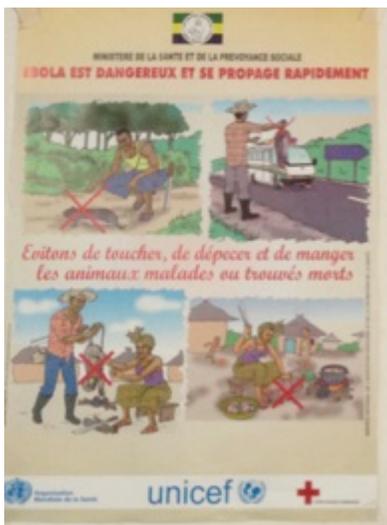
Thank you for contributing to the CMA's **Great Commission Fund**. Your gifts to the **GCF** make it possible for the Alliance to send me to Bongolo and to show God's love around the world. Here are some ways you could designate a gift: **Support of Renée Valach-** goes to the Great Commission Fund toward allowance, etc. **Work of Renée Valach-** for special work projects related to my ministry **Bongolo Hospital HIV/AIDS Treatment-** toward HIV treatment, particularly the pediatric patients

A few random pictures of life in the jungle from one day this week:



Bread delivery to the local store.

Antoine is prepared for taking out the garbage at Bongolo or chemical warfare.



One of the Ebola awareness posters up around the hospital. This one highlights the dangers of bush meat.

Two naughty kittens napping in the clean laundry

