

October 2014

Some observations from the jungle

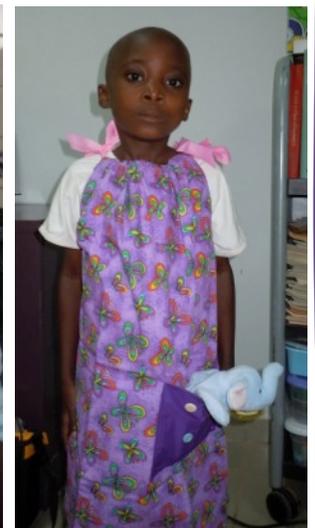
Plastic bottle therapy

Sometimes we don't have the same equipment in the jungle as in the US. This month I used plastic bottles to treat some children. This baby (left) didn't initially breathe by himself. To help him breathe, we used CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure), where the level of water in the bottle helps to make sure he gets the right pressure of air. This month there were also



several children with asthma. In America, they could get a spacer to help use their inhaler medicine at almost any pharmacy. Here we can make one from a bottle.

Yasmine and Grace- I hadn't seen either Grace or Yasmine since last year at this time when I took these pictures. Yasmine, now 7, pictured with the rabbit, was doing fairly well, but hadn't been taking medicines. Grace, on the other hand was supposed to come back to the hospital to start tuberculosis treatment. After a year without treatment, she had fallen to 22 pounds, much too small for a 9 year old. Sadly, Grace died. Yasmine's mom promises to come back this time.



Mercy- Mercy was the infant, twin daughter of one of the surgical residents. She died this month because of complications of some congenital malformations. We've had a lot of celebrations as a hospital family, but not a funeral. It was a time for us to join together. We sang together all night. (although, I didn't make it all night.) Sometimes small babies are not highly valued by the local culture, but our celebration of Mercy's life was a testimony that we value her and God loves her.



Sunday School- has started up for this school year. We are waiting for the men building the new outpatient consultation building to finish the part they are currently working on, so they can complete the Sunday School building. For now, the youngest children are meeting in the hospital conference room. The main door of this room is right next to where they've dug a 12-foot deep pit for the septic system. (In the picture there is a full size man with an orange hat at the bottom.) The pit may be a good object lesson, for example, how Joseph's brothers threw him in a pit, but in America, I've never needed to be concerned that Sunday school students might fall in a deep pit. I'll be so thankful when we are finally using the new building!

Thanks/Praise!

- I'm very thankful that most of the HIV medicines have arrived. We still do not have the lab supplies and one of the special medicines for tuberculosis.
- Unlike some places in America, we don't have Ebola in Gabon. I'm thankful that Samaritan's Purse sent us a shipment of protective equipment just in case.
- I'm not sure why plugging the clothes dryer in another outlet causes all the appliances at my place and the neighbor's to shock us, but I am thankful not to be shocked.
- The rainy season has started and washed away the red dust.
- I'm thankful for our team Prayer retreat this month. It's really nice to sing in English. One verse of *Jesus Paid it All* says, "Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone, Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone." Despite the fact that I am the leprosy doctor, I realized that I had been singing about the **leopard's spots**. I think I should sing in English more often.

Thank you for praying.
Renée

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Kittens! Iris and Lily, the new additions to my family, came home from the hospital on October 16th. (By "came home from the hospital," I mean that they were strays living by the HIV building, and I took them home.) Soon, they will be big enough to protect me from snakes, but for now they are super cute and love to play together.

