

November 2014 Happy Thanksgiving!

Some things I'm thankful for this month- Not in any particular order

Tuberculosis meeting

On Thanksgiving Day and the day before, I was at a meeting on tuberculosis in the capital city, Libreville. The meeting took place in the Senate building for the purpose of getting input for forming the TB policy for the country for the next few years. I'm thankful that Gabon now has a machine, which can tell if someone has multi-drug resistant TB in two hours, rather than two months. Also, that Gabon will be receiving some funding from the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria specifically for TB control.



Celebrating Thanksgiving

I'm thankful that this year I got to celebrate twice. While in Libreville, twelve of us representing five different countries thanked God together. When I arrived back in Bongolo, we celebrated together on Saturday. Last year on Thanksgiving, I was in a remote mountain village in Morocco, and my friend and I celebrated with some Oreos and M&Ms. I'm really thankful to be with the team this year for the real meal with turkey.

Elephants

The week before Thanksgiving I had some time to relax at Panga, on the coast of Gabon, where we saw a family of three elephants. (There's just one in the picture.)



Sunday School

Next week is the Sunday we celebrate the national day for Sunday School, so today was our last day of preparation. We will be responsible for the entire church service, and will do skits, verses, songs and dances. We started the year with stories of Moses, and one of the skits is crossing the Red Sea. I'm thankful for a skit where all the children can participate. Most of the children are the Red Sea, and will be moving their arms like waves and separating for Moses and the Israelites and closing in on Pharaoh and the soldiers. I'm thankful that children in the hospital can come hear about Jesus. This boy is doing our Sunday school coloring sheet. He had a bad fracture of his leg and saw the visiting orthopedic specialist.

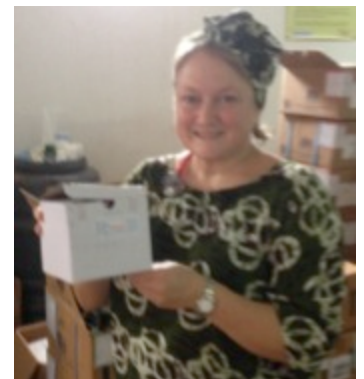


Streptomycin

An important medicine for tuberculosis, which has been lacking for months, finally arrived.

Carolyn's Farewell

Carolyn Thorson has been a nurse at Bongolo for 37 years, and is retiring. I'm thankful that we honored her with a time at the church with the whole





hospital staff and another evening for the missionary team. The ceremony at the hospital also honored hospital staff who have worked here 10, 20 or 30 years.

Ebola equipment

When the protective equipment for Ebola arrived, we put together several complete sets so they will be ready, although we hope they will never be needed. You may have heard on the news about a surgeon from Sierra Leone who contracted Ebola and was treated in Nebraska, but died. He was trained in surgery through the PAACS program, which originally started at Bongolo. Recent estimates indicate that Sierra Leone, a country of over 6 million people, has only about 10 surgeons and about 120 doctors. Lack of doctors and surgeons like that is why we train surgeons with the PAACS program, and why I hope to train primary care doctors in the future.



Thank you for praying.
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

Kitten Surprise! Evidently, I should stick with medicine for humans and not for cats. Both the kittens, who I thought were female, are now fairly clearly male. They are no longer Iris and Lily, but now Calvin and Lucky. Calvin, after the theologian, because when I saw him he was "predestined for adoption," and Lucky just happened to be there at the right time, so he came too, making him the luckiest cat in Gabon.

