

**February 2016**

**A Malian, a Mauritanian and a Malaysian came to the ER...**

This is not the start of a joke, this was the start of the month of February in the Bongolo ER. The Malian, unfortunately had a stroke and died. The Mauritanian received some IV fluid and antibiotics and went home. The Malaysian was critically ill with cerebral malaria and renal failure. We were able to transfer him to Libreville with the military helicopter for acute dialysis and intensive care. I learned later through his daughter, that he survived. Christianity is not a predominate religion in any of these three countries. Bongolo is a beacon of God's light to people who come from places where they would not otherwise have opportunities to see.

**February 11<sup>th</sup>**

This is an idea of what my activities are like and where I may be on a work day in the hospital. These are two nurses trying to catch up with me to sign papers before I run somewhere else.

-Maternity- midnight, 2 hours at cribside of a premature baby who had been stable but had suddenly become very sick.

-Lab- 7:30 searched with technician for the right tube for a special test

-Pediatric ER- 8 am baby admitted the previous afternoon died after attempts to resuscitate him.

-Operating Room/Maternity- around 9 am emergency delivery of premature baby whose mother was bleeding profusely. The baby did not initially breath on his own and needed a lot help.

-Consultation- the priest from Mouila came with his nephew who is an 18 year old from Pennsylvania doing a gap year in Gabon. I had to speak to the surgeons in Surgery Clinic about him. Then I started a VIP adult on HIV medicines.

-Maternity- Gave a blood transfusion to the sick premature baby from the night before.

-Pediatrics- Saw a new child with cerebral malaria

- Consultation- Saw a man with active TB who had previously not completed his treatment. Looked at x-rays, answered questions from nurses and generalist doctor.

-HIV Clinic- Saw a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who had come for her appointment alone. Her family had not given her any money for the return trip home or to eat this evening, knowing that by the time the lab and the appointment are finished, she will most likely have to stay over night. Medically, she was doing well, but she was crying. This situation can end in prostitution. We went to the Chaplain's Office and then the Cashier to get money from the hospital benevolent fund for the trip, and I gave her money for food.

-HIV Clinic- Late afternoon. Saw another child with HIV and his mother who had been waiting a long time for his lab result. Mother thought she was pregnant. Sent her back to lab for confirmation. She is.

-Pediatrics- Saw child with sickle cell crisis with acute pain

-Warehouse building- Pharmacy already closed for the afternoon.

-Pediatric ER- 6 pm unsuccessfully attempted to resuscitate child with severe anemia, Hct 10%. Saw another child with heart disease.

-Maternity 7-8 pm resuscitated premature baby from C-section this morning who had suddenly stopped breathing.

-Home- super



**Etéké Church**

The church at Etéké is a small church in a very remote area three hours north of the hospital where the road ends deep in the forest. I've taken care of some patients from there who have decided to follow Jesus while in the hospital, and have been trying to encourage the church. The 21<sup>st</sup> was a rare Sunday, when neither Izzi nor I were on call, so we were able to go to Etéké and bring a gift of Bibles. I had a suspicion that the pastor would expect me to preach, and my suspicion was

correct. I preached from the Old Testament book of Habakkuk because I find it encouraging, and since we were bringing Bibles, I thought it would be nice to look at something from the Old Testament. (If you don't know the story, it only has 3 chapters.) One young woman decided to follow Jesus! This is a picture of the church from last July, just before I got sick. This month they had over 70 people, half of whom were children.

### **Praises**

- I had a week of vacation at the beach starting February 12<sup>th</sup>. I am very thankful for some time to rest.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Last month I mentioned that our team would have some big changes. After about 10 years, the Thelander family will be moving to the US. Dr. Keir Thelander has been our mission team leader, Medical Director of the hospital and the Director of the Surgery Department and PAACS Residency Program. Joanna Thelander has coordinated our visitors and home schooled their children Luke and Sarah. Keir will be continuing to work with PAACS. Pray for us as we make decisions about leadership for the missionary team and the hospital, and as we prepare to say goodbye to our friends.

- Continue to pray for another long-term doctor. Particularly now, as we pick up additional responsibilities previously done by Keir and Joanna, we really need more help.

- We will have a Prayer Retreat for our Mission Team this weekend. This comes at a particularly important time for us. Pray for the missionary team.

Thank you for praying.

Blessings,

Renée

**The Christian & Missionary Alliance, 8595 Explorer Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920** [www.cmalliance.org](http://www.cmalliance.org)  
**Hôpital de Bongolo, BP 49, Lébamba, Gabon AFRICA** [www.bongolohospital.org](http://www.bongolohospital.org)

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



All dressed up for the wedding of the head mid-wife

