

March 2016

Saying goodbye to Lesley

I've taken care of Lesley for the past several years. She is a young woman, in her 20s, who I first saw several years ago with tuberculosis. During the time I've known her, she was pregnant, and was so sick we weren't sure if either she or her baby would survive. We prayed, and both left the hospital alive. The baby girl died at a few months of age of another problem. On Wednesday, when I saw Lesley it was obvious that things weren't going well. She was down to 66 pounds, and very short of breath. It was clear that despite all the treatment over the past several years, the tuberculosis has won and it's just matter of time. I gave her some medicine to hopefully help her feel less short of breath, and tried not to cry too much when I prayed with her before sending her back to her family in the village. She decided to follow Jesus while in the hospital. I expect the next time I see her will be in heaven.

Praises

- We had an exceptional prayer retreat early in the month. We are all very thankful for the way the Holy Spirit worked among us.
- I had to have local carpenters construct even more benches for the Sunday school building, because there were still children sitting on the floor! We usually manage to squeeze 10 little kids per bench.
- Several of us will go to the Christian Medical and Dental Association continuing medical education conference the first two weeks in April. (As I finish writing this, I have already started the trip.) This is a great opportunity to keep up to date on medical topics and is designed specifically for missionary doctors. Pray for the doctors at Bongolo while we are gone.

Prayer Requests

- Last month I mentioned that after about 10 years, the Thelander family will be moving to the US. In preparation for their departure, we have already elected a new Team Leader- Eric Hofman, named a new Director of Surgery/PAACS- Zach O'Connor, selected a new Medical Director for the hospital- me, and revamped the way we coordinate visitors. Continue to pray for us in the transition as we assume new responsibilities and as we say goodbye to our friends.
- Continue to pray for another long-term doctor. As we reassign responsibilities, we could use more help.
- Pray for the arrival of HIV medicines. There has been a significant delay in receiving important medicines from the national program, which will affect the majority of our HIV patients.
- Siko the head of the lab, will be going back to Congo for several months to visit his aging parents. It's not yet certain when he will return. Pray for the lab during this time.

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