



Some Bongolo Patient Stories

Chancelle

I really hate seeing 22 and 23-year-old girls dying of AIDS. Chancelle was 19 years old and died of a combination of advanced AIDS and measles. Usually, it takes 5-6 years after catching HIV before getting sick and 8-10 years before getting deathly ill. So, she probably got HIV from someone when she was about 11, probably from an older man who gave her and her family gifts or food. It's so incredibly sad that some people here think it's normal to use their daughters this way. It's also normal for girls to sleep with the teachers to get through school. In the past, when I would get especially frustrated, our previous Medical Director would wisely tell me, "That's why we are here as missionaries, because this culture needs Jesus too."

Maryse

Maryse (below) is a 23-year-old young woman with sickle cell anemia who came with malaria and very severe anemia- a Hct of 6%. (Normal for a young woman is about 36%.) This is so low that most patients would go into shock and die. In fact, before Maryse, I've never had an adult with a blood count so low pull through, and only one child. A non-medical person from the US gave the blood, and got to be part of seeing her live.



MBigou and Etéké

One Sunday this month several of the regional Sunday School leaders went to the Alliance Church about two hours away at MBigou to encourage their Sunday School program. It had rained all night before the trip so, the normally 2 hour trip became 3 hours of sliding sideways in mud and crossing small lakes and streams where the road should normally be. The Sunday School was a lot of fun. Christine, the Regional Sunday President, and I did an impromptu skit and we gave out bracelets that tell the gospel story with colors. (Mbigou photos below by Doug Sprague.)



March 26 was my last Sunday in Gabon for now and we went to the little church deep in the rainforest in Etéké to encourage them one time before I left. One picture below is kids who decided to follow Jesus. The other is the Honorine, the pastor's wife, with the chicken she sent home with us.



Praises

- Team Time. Our team had a good time of spiritual retreat.

Prayer Requests

- I am traveling to the US on March 30th for shoulder surgery on April 6th in Rochester, NY. Pray for safe travel and successful surgery and rehabilitation. Pray for Bongolo during this time, as they will be particularly understaffed.
- The hospital continues to be very busy. The measles epidemic continues. A nationwide vaccine campaign is planned for April 6-10. Pray for an end to the epidemic.
- This week, I had to tell two more people that they have multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, an infection that the normally available medicines will not kill.
- There is a currently a waiting list for treatment about 10 times longer

- than the medicine and beds available for treatment in this country.
- The hospital has not received payments from the national health insurance company. Lack of funds has caused us to delay placing medication orders, so that we are now out of stock of some medicines, and the biggest order will not be coming for some time. Pray that we have the medicines and funds we need.
 - Continue to pray for another long-term primary care doctor for Bongolo.

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 **BHAIDS Treatment**. toward HIV treatment, particularly the pediatric patients. You can also give a gift through the CMA for the **Bongolo Electrical System Upgrade**.