

April 2016

Celebrating the little victories

- A man started HIV treatment back in January with a CD4 count of 11. Back then he had an infection in his brain and a fungal infection all over his skin. This week his CD count has risen to 110, his skin has cleared up and he smiles when he talks. He will go back to work in May.
- An 80 year old man named Philippe has been in the hospital for several months needing oxygen. This week he was finally able to get off oxygen to go home.
- A little girl who is about 2 has extremely low thyroid since birth. Normally, children with this problem who are not discovered as tiny infants are profoundly retarded. She was jumping and dancing in the office and can say a few words. Her mom was able to take her to the capital city to get a follow up blood test for the first time in quite a while, and it was perfect! She takes half of an adult pill, because we don't have all the possible kid sizes and formulations.
- A muslim man from Guinea was brought to the hospital in shock with very low blood pressure. He went home this week. Before he left, we talked about how neither he nor I initially thought he would survive, but how it was God who had made him better.

CMDA Conference- This month I attended a conference for missionary health workers sponsored by the Christian Medical Association and held in Greece. There were over 700 people in attendance, mostly from Africa. I am very thankful to see friends from other missions and to learn new information which will help us to treat our patients better. We did a side trip to Corinth to the site where Paul was writing to the Corinthians. The picture is of the temple to Apollo near the meat market where they sold the meat sacrificed to idols that Paul wrote about.

Greece has a tremendous problem with immigrants arriving from the Middle East. One day, during the conference I went with people from Samaritan's Purse to distribute backpacks with blankets, soap, deodorant etc to about 5000 refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. They were in tents on the asphalt at the port. It was sad to learn that the children are at risk for trafficking. When the Bible talks about Jesus and the disciples feeding the 5000, I have a better idea of what that might have been like.



Prayer Requests

- The Thelander family leaves on May 14th so the real transition happens soon. Continue to pray for us in this time of transition as we assume new responsibilities and as we say goodbye to our friends.
- Continue to pray for another long-term doctor.
- Pray for the arrival of HIV medicines. I requested 500 vials of the main HIV medicine and received 30. This medicine should finally be available May 2nd. Pray that we can stretch our current supply until the new medicines finally arrive.

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