

**May 2014**

**Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>**

This month, I thought I'd give you the highlights of a day at work Bongolo Hospital.

The day started when I was called about 7:15 am about a 6-year-old boy with fever and vomiting blood. I find that he is actually the son of one of my adult patients who had a bad brain infection related to HIV. At the same time there is a 3-year-old boy with pneumonia on Peds who is not doing at all well, but the fact that he is still alive is quite good, considering I didn't think he'd make it through the other night.

Rounds on the "Adult" ward include a group of medically depressing teens: a 17 year old girl with chronic pancreatitis, a 17 year old boy who will die soon from heart disease from rheumatic fever, a 14 year old girl with newly diagnosed TB and HIV, and 16 year old boy- who only weighs 44 lbs., who is near the end of his life from AIDS. The nurses called me about this boy overnight to tell me about the maggots in his wounds. [At this point you can be glad I didn't include many pictures.] (He just had his birthday at the beginning of the month. Last year in May, I didn't think he'd see another birthday, so during an appointment, while he was at the lab, I went home and made birthday brownies, and the nurses and I sang happy birthday when he came back from the lab. He made it another birthday!)

After seeing the patients in the hospital I start to see outpatients. Today I'm working out of the AIDS treatment center. The computer record system isn't working, so I call Rob, the pilot in Libreville, to ask what to do and then go fix it. I see a child, but while he is waiting, the second patient, an adult man, suddenly runs away. (The next day I find out that they found him in the grass in a neighborhood near the hospital.)

Around 9:45 I went down to the ER to see some patients, and I heard wailing from pediatrics. The child with the bleeding has died. While I'm in the ER, the boy with heart problems from the hospital comes and asks for matchbox cars and food. His family has abandoned him, except for taking him to the witchdoctor lately, so he doesn't have anyone to give him food. He's really too old for matchbox cars, but I can't deprive a dying boy of a couple cars if that will make him happy. I give him about \$4 for food for the day.

Shortly thereafter, I see Izzi, the maternity doctor walking very quickly to the operating room, and several minutes later a mid-wife with the materials to resuscitate a newborn. I decide I better find out what's happening. They are doing an urgent C-section for a woman who is bleeding profusely. The baby is in distress with a very low heartbeat and the mother is in shock with very low blood pressure. After resuscitation both end up doing well.

After stabilizing the baby, I hear wailing again from Pediatrics. The other child who wasn't doing well this morning has died. After this, the boy with AIDS from the hospital asks for Matchbox cars. The nurse has told me that his IV isn't working; so I let him have 2 cars, but tell him he has to let the nurse replace the IV. He pouts, but concedes.

Back to the HIV clinic. One man is still waiting in the same place he was in before I left to resuscitate the baby etc. Two children finally have their lab tests after waiting since the morning. One 3 three year old girl here with her grandparents is doing well. A 14-year-old boy is not doing at all well. His CD4 count is 4. (The lowest I've ever seen.) I changed his medicines, and gave treatments for at least 8 problems, and realize that I'll be in the US when he comes to follow up.

Time to go home. The man who ran away this morning is still missing.

## Thanks/Praise!

- We had a great time, learned a lot, and reconnected with friends at the Christian Medical and Dental Association Conference.
- Marielle (right) went home. She is a woman who came unconscious about 2 months ago. She is now talking and is thankful to God for her recovery. She was even able to stand on the scale to see that she is up to 77lbs.



- Since I wrote the letter above, the three sickest teens have been discharged from the hospital. They are not cured, but they are better for now. The two boys know Jesus as their savior. To the left is the boy with the heart problem getting matchbox cars. (It's hard to do a really tough pose with matchbox cars.)

- Radio Bongolo is on the air. We now have a radio broadcast to for the hospital with health and bible messages.

## Prayer Requests

- Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> will be an end of the year celebration for Sunday School. There are actually 2 weeks to go, but other teachers have planned a time for the children to say goodbye to me before my trip to the US. We have planned special songs and skits. Pray for work to continue on the building. We are still waiting for the arrival of the sheets of metal for the roof.
- I will leave Bongolo for home assignment in the US on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. By the time I arrive in Rochester, NY on June 10<sup>th</sup> I will have landed in 5 countries on 3 continents. Pray for all these connections. In particular, pray that the connection on June 4<sup>th</sup> in Douala, Cameroon goes smoothly.
- Pray that the shipm
- Pray for the team here, particularly, Izzi, Bintou and Iasy while I'm away.

Thank you for your prayers.  
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

## Tentative Home Assignment Schedule

8 June- Antwerp International Protestant Church  
29 June- Lakeview Chapel, Owego, NY  
6 July- Great Commission Women Summer Renew, Delta Lake  
13 July- Trinity Alliance, Rochester, NY  
27 July- Lockport Alliance, Lockport, NY  
?6 August- American Board of Pediatrics Recertification exam