

May 2016

HIV Medicines

Andy is 12 and came for his appointment last Thursday. (It's hard to believe this picture of him is already 5 years old.) I was so happy that he passed his grade in school. He had obviously been taking his HIV medicines well because his blood tests results had gone up and he had gained weight. I went to get his medicines and found that there was only one month of one of his pills. After this month, I have no idea what to do. I gave him the month of medicine and found a special toy as a prize for passing this year of school. Afterwards, I cried. The national HIV program is not functioning to send us the medicines we need. This is not only a crisis for individual patients like Andy, but on a bigger scale for the country. When the patients aren't taking their treatment, they are much more likely to spread the virus to other people and the prevalence of HIV in the country will go up. When the prevalence of HIV goes up, so will the prevalence of other related diseases like tuberculosis. In the past, all HIV medicine had to come through the national program, and we were never allowed to order them like other medications. I recently spoke to the director of the program who gave me some special conditions under which we can order them. We are going to try to order these medicines for the pregnant women to prevent transmission to newborn babies, as well as medicines for the newborn babies and children. Pray that this is successful, that we actually receive the medicines we order, and that they arrive quickly.



Sunday School

We had two special celebrations this month. The first was to say goodbye to the Thelanders, as Joanna has been a teacher, and Luke and Sarah students in the Bongolo Sunday school. The other celebration was for the end of the school year.

Prayer Requests

- We said goodbye to the Thelander family on May 14th. Pray for them as they transition to the US and for us as we transition to our new responsibilities.
- Pasteur Serge is the Administrative Director of Bongolo Hospital. On May 17th, his young-adult daughter died suddenly while away at school in Morocco. There have been and continue to be many unexpected difficulties related to her death. Please pray for this family.
- Continue to pray for another long-term primary care doctor.

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

A multi-national meal: The other day, the mother of a child with HIV from across the border in Republic of Congo brought me a live rooster to say thank you. I tried to tell her very appreciatively, that she and her son really need the good nutrition from the rooster much more than I do, and that I just don't have any place at my house to keep him. Rather than travel with him all the way back to Congo, she sold him to the Mauritanian shopkeepers at the hospital. So in summary, that's a Congolese rooster, who traveled to Gabon, for an American doctor, to be eaten by Mauritanians.