

CAHO CHRONICLE



KIBOGORA HOSPITAL - RWANDA



DEACONESS NUNDU HOSPITAL - DRC



DESSALINES CLAIRE HEUREUSE HOSPITAL - HAITI

CALLED TO BE LONG-VIEW PEOPLE

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds..." Hebrews 10:23-24 NIV

The recent annual CAHO Conference reminded participants of their role as "catalysts for the Kingdom" and provided updates and personal stories to strengthen their individual journeys. Exciting innovations in ministry capacity were shared, such as the Central Africa hospital chaplains program led by the Free Methodist Chaplains Association and the Butterfield Foundation, the inauguration of the new maternity building at Kibogora Hospital, and upgrades in the solar energy system at Nundu Deaconess Hospital. However, Bishop Devariste of Haiti also shared the present suffering of our Haitian brothers and sisters, including those at Dessalines Claire Heureuse Hospital and Violet Suzanne Wesley Clinic, leaving the group heavy-hearted and called to prayer. Despite the paradox between the growth of other CAHO partner ministries and the present suffering of our Haitian colleagues, the participants were reminded of the call to be a "long-view people" as they shared, prayed together, and reflected on CAHO history.

Founded in 1990, CAHO faced significant challenges just four years later when the future of Kibogora Hospital and its people seemed destroyed in the horrors of the Rwandan genocide. Similarly, the conflict extended into the DRC, where Deaconess Nundu Hospital faced closure due to war, economic, and civil chaos. Despite these challenges and scars that remain, both Kibogora and Nundu hospitals are thriving once again under national leadership, energized by an underlying Hope that even great darkness could not extinguish.

As people of the Way, we must remember that throughout history there have always been times of great darkness, but never of God's abandonment. Bishop Devariste reminded us of that Hope, even when it is hard to see - hope in a Sovereign Lord which the Haitian church holds tightly today. We should continue to pray and support our Haitian brothers and sisters in their time of crisis, as well as walk alongside our brothers and sisters in Rwanda and the DRC. Let their example serve as a reminder that we are a "long-view people," called to follow Hope towards a sure future.

Glenn Snyder
CAHO President

COMMUNITY OUTREACH KIBOGORA



Aloys (R) with a community member



WORKING TOGETHER – FIRST DO NO HARM

Sheila Etherington, a longtime missionary to Kibogora, founded a community program in 2013 to assist elderly and disabled people. Currently, the program is headed by Aloys Habimana, a hospital social worker. The aim of the program is to share the love and care of God with the most vulnerable members of the community. Currently 25 people are enrolled in this program.

Aloys and two other hospital employees, make monthly visits to assess and meet each person's needs through the provision of healthcare, food, furniture, and home repairs. The program is funded by Kibogora Hospital partners including CAHO, the Kibogora Initiative, Free Methodist World Missions, and Dutch Partners.

Recently we were asking Aloys about the community program.

We are working together, along with Sheila, to assess if the program is continuing to meet the needs of the beneficiaries who are enrolled. I asked him how client needs are prioritized and met. He explained a few different ways including clients being given a chance to prioritize their needs for themselves. Then he said, “We have a saying here, **‘Whatever you do for me, without me, you do against me.’**” How relevant this saying is to our work in global health and our work as missionaries. God has given us opportunities again and again to partner, to compromise based on limited resources, to be patient, to learn, and we are always humbled to be called, along with others, into His work here. The assessment of the community program is currently ongoing, and we are excited to see how we can further this life changing program with Aloys and the rest of the team.

Rachel Nzungize,
Nurse missionary at Kibogora

Pediatrics Ward



Alabama Team at Kibogora



"New" Internal Medicine



INTERNAL MEDICINE BEDS RECLAIMED

The internal medicine department recently moved into the now refurbished old surgical building. With the construction of the new surgical building, the internal medicine building had been razed. General medicine patients were then displaced to a wing of the pediatric building, creating overcrowding for both adult and pediatric patients. We are so thankful that both internal medicine and pediatric patients now have their own space. Emmanuel, staff nurse, and I worked with hospital administration to obtain an estimate of the repairs that needed completion. In a casual conversation, before we had even reached out to partners more formally, we shared the need with one of the team leaders who comes to Kibogora yearly with a group from Alabama. He spread the word, and God amazed us by providing the funds needed, literally overnight. Thank you friends and partners of the Christian Medical Ministry of South Alabama and University of South Alabama for your generosity. You were truly a catalyst for change. With these urgently needed repairs and improvements, the bed capacity for internal medicine increased from 40 to 55. In addition, there are four private rooms. What a blessing for patients and staff!

Rachel Nzungize



DEACONESS NUNDU HOSPITAL AMBULANCE FUND



It's time for Dr. Byamungu to travel to Bujumbura, Burundi to meet with his wife Francine, a student at Hope Africa University. How do we get to the city? A common mode of transportation is by motorbike.

Though I have become accustomed to this kind of adventure, I was feeling bad our surgeon was having to face the same challenge. Even so, he did not seem to be uncomfortable as I would have thought.

On the morning of December 28 when we left Nundu it started raining. After crossing one river which was already flowing with force, the motorbike drivers decided to stop when the rain became heavy. The next river was full of water beyond its normal level, so the motorbikes could not pass with their passengers.



Raining on Dr. Marx & Dr. Byamungu.



Dr. Lwabanya Marx, Medical Director

Dr. Pahari Byamungu joined the Deaconess Nundu Hospital staff in December of 2022, after completing a surgery residency. He is the first surgeon to join the team after the missionary team left the country due to the political instability in the 1990's.

Dr. Byamungu is a blessing to the local community which sees him as an answer to the problem of referring complicated surgical cases to city hospitals. Unfortunately, the hospital does not have access to an ambulance to transport patients.



Dr. Byamungu, with his helmet and his backpack, is transported on the back of a young boy.

At the end of the day, we were able to make it to Bujumbura to meet with our families for the New Year's celebrations.

Serving in a rural hospital without reliable transportation requires sacrifice beyond what many of us could imagine.

The team at Nundu continues to pray that the hospital will be able to purchase a vehicle to help reduce challenges like this!

Lwabanya Marx



Dr. Byamungu with his wife Francine and son Mike



On the road to Nundu 1987

Thank you for your support and prayers! We will keep you informed as we raise the **\$45,000** needed.

DNH - MYCHURCH AZ PARTNERSHIP

If you were living in Arizona, known for its many retirees and golfing enthusiasts, how would you bring your community to an awareness of the needs of a people living in the Democratic Republic of Congo 9113 miles away? Who would you look to for support if you attended a church known for its mission to remove barriers, both in Southern Arizona and beyond? How would you raise the funds needed for an urgently needed ambulance for your hospital in South Kivu? Yes, we live just south of Tucson Arizona where there are many retirees and golfers. We attend a multicultural church which has a heart for removing barriers. Finally, Deaconess Nundu Hospital urgently needs a vehicle.

**UPDATE:
\$31,000
RAISED
TO DATE**



Dr. Marx on the way to town

Our goal is to raise \$45,000. We are on our way to that goal with almost \$20,000 raised. Having an ambulance will have a major impact on the healthcare services provided by Deaconess Nundu Hospital. More than raising funds, this event has created a community awareness for this important work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

You're invited to check out the Champions for Congo website, www.congohealth.org or the CAHO website, www.gocaho.org. You can make contributions online or mail checks to CAHO, PO Box 580, Spring Arbor, MI 49283. We welcome your continued interest as we partner together to serve our Congolese brothers and sisters.



Pastor Rick and Selina, Pastor Dusty and Jamie

Champions for Congo partnered with MYCHURCH of Sahuarita AZ to sponsor a first ever charity golf event to raise funds for an ambulance for Deaconess Nundu Hospital .

There were 64 golfers who competed in a four-person scramble, best ball tournament on the Haven Golf Course Saturday, May 20. With the help of twenty-six local businesses who contributed their support and generous donations, our golf tournament was a success. The prizes provided by these businesses created interest among the golfers as they competed for first, second and third place.



Toyota Landcruiser serving International Childcare Ministries in the DRC



CAHO PARTNER: HAITI HEALTHCARE ADVOCATES

"One Step Forward, 3 Steps Back..."

For the groups of church teams, missionaries, and the **Haiti Healthcare Advocates** who have been partnering with the **Claire Heureuse Hospital** and the **Suzanne Wesley Clinic**, the past years of ministry in Haiti have been years of "relatively stable instability." More recently however, Haitian history has become more difficult and more personal. Following the assassination of President Jovenal Moise in July 2021, gangs of thugs have filled the power vacuum and have risen to power and control much of Haiti.

The first personal and traumatic event which occurred for the Free Methodist church happened in October 2021 when **Bishop Eliodore Desvariste was kidnapped**. He was released, after some negotiation, without physical harm but distressed after a number of days of emotional and psychological harassment. During the kidnapping, the **HHA Toyota Hilux pickup was also taken and has not been returned**. Since this time many other church members have been kidnapped and ransom demanded.



The next event, which occurred in April of this year, was the **looting of a container of medical supplies**. The container, inside of which were the donated medical and office materials of two retiring physicians which had been sent specifically to outfit the new Suzanne Wesley clinic, had arrived in Haiti a few weeks after the president was assassinated. Because of the heightened insecurity precipitated by the assassination, the container was transported to a guarded, walled, safe location.

In April, gangs threatened and chased the guard's family out of the compound where the container was, then they knocked a large hole in the security wall and looted the container. There were exam tables, weight scales, lab equipment, otoscopes, microscopes, a table sterilizer, small surgical procedure equipment, mayo stands, an ultrasound, wheel chair, desks, chairs, file cabinets, and an operating table, which had been purchased separately, for the Claire Heureuse hospital. **The replacement of value of these items new is over \$100,000.**

Request: As you move through your day or hear news about Haiti, consider the spiritual and medical needs of the Claire Heureuse Hospital and the Suzanne Wesley clinic. The patients are waiting! Pray that Haiti will soon "take 4 steps forward"



So where is the good news? The **GOOD NEWS** as we all know is found in the **HOPE WE HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST**. Or as stated by the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:28- 39 "and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...." And for Haiti, the good news is also found in the positive, committed outlook the Haitian church leadership maintains to their ministries and the **GOSPEL MESSAGE**. In talking to the chairman of the Claire Heureuse Hospital board, Pastor Charite Noel, on WhatsApp this week about the financial and staffing difficulty the hospital is having currently, he ended by saying, " I have some other bad news!" On inquiring what this additional bad news could be, he responded by saying this year they had constructed a new building which is designated just for children's ministry. So, what's the bad news? He burst out laughing and said, "**We built it too small. It's already full for every service!**" He then went on to say, "We have to focus on the good because there are so many bad problems right now."

Dan Snyder

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CATALYST

From my chemistry days in high school and college, I remember that a catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing permanent chemical change. In real life terms, a catalyst is a person who brings about change. Who have been those who have been catalysts in Central Africa and Haiti, in the face of overwhelming obstacles and unrelenting difficulties?

In the April CAHO Chronicle we reported on how the Free Methodist Chaplains Association and the Butterfield Foundation brought together chaplains from various healthcare facilities to provide training. The Butterfield Foundation has also been there to provide resources needed for critical infrastructure projects, including a recent solar project at Nundu and completion of the maternity at Kibogora. Linda Stryker, missionary nurse midwife, encouraged and served the Church in the Congo during and after the war years, 1996 to 2008. Randy and Alice Matthewson assisted in rebuilding Deaconess Nundu Hospital after the war. Sheila Etherington laid the groundwork for a benevolent organization which serves the marginalized of the community around Kibogora. A medical group from Alabama have seen the need of the hospital and the population served, providing by their presence and with their gifts the resources to make a change. Now in our present time we have a young couple, Rachel and Emmanuel Nzungize, serving as catalysts for change. Haiti Health Advocates continue to encourage the FM Church in Haiti in a time of continuing instability.

These and many others have brought about change in remarkable and significant ways. For all those who have been engaged in giving of yourselves and resources we give you thanks. You have been people who have brought about change without being recognized or appearing in the final outcome, but your impact has been significant. You have provided hope in uncertain times and in the face of overwhelming circumstances.

You can be a catalyst. by ...

- Giving on line or sending your contributions to **CAHO**, PO BOX 580, Spring Arbor, MI 49283
- Serving as a member of an Action Group or mission team
- Praying and interceding for those in need

Tim Kratzer
Editor

The estate of Linda Stryker left a fund at her passing which was the catalyst for the Linda Stryker Academy which is now educating DR Congo's next generation.



Tim Kratzer with Linda Stryker Academy students, Dieudonne and Eangano