

# CAHO CHRONICLE



## THE ROAD TO NUNDU

We depart from Phoenix Sky Harbor August 1 and arrive in Bujumbura August 2. We arrive at Nundu August 5 after shopping for necessities in town and visiting Hope Africa University in Bujumbura.



## WHO NOT WHAT: THE KRATZER'S MISSION TO DR CONGO

Connie and I will be on a two-month mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Why are we going to the DRC and what do we hope to accomplish? Having seen Deaconess Nundu Hospital survive the war years 1996 to 2004 and now thrive, we could focus on projects successfully completed and those planned. We could identify programs which have had an impact and what the future might hold. But in thinking about our years as career missionaries when the hospital was built in the 1980's, we have come to understand that it is about relationships not programs, people not projects.

Many changes have taken place over the years. War uprooted the lives of the people in South Kivu. Many have fled to refugee camps and have found their way to countries not their own. Many others have returned or remained to rebuild their lives. Doctors and support staff have been added. Who are the key players we have yet to meet? What do we know about the personal lives of those we have been communicating with in recent years. What is the future for the DRC? Is it about projects and programs? Or is it about the twenty-one doctors and a cadre of medical staff serving in 53 healthcare ministries throughout South Kivu?

## SOLAR EXPANSION

We will be supervising final preparations for the installation of solar upgrades and additional panels as well as the transportation of the container to Nundu. Here is where people and projects intersect. The container, which includes the components for solar upgrades as well as urgently needed medical equipment, originated in Montoursville PA, the home of International Technical and Electrical Construction. A team of volunteers assembled the solar components and a variety of folks helped in identifying the medical equipment needed.



The container with solar components and medical equipment loading in Montoursville PA

## THE CONTAINER IS SHIPPED

The container shipped out of Newark June 15, with a projected arrival in Mundra, India July 14, and Dar Es Salaam August 7. A later report has the container arriving in Mundra July 23. Dunia, who is a family friend and now manager of an exporting business out of Buffalo NY, is responsible for its transport from Dar to Nundu. Pray for the safe and timely arrival of the container so that the I-TEC team will be able to complete the project in September. We now expect the date of arrival in Dar Es Salaam to be more like August 16, which means a late August Nundu arrival is most likely. Many other folks in the DRC are of course assisting with this major project. Connie will be preparing to host an I-TEC team of nine volunteers. It is who not what that matters.



Dunia (on the R with Kratzer) will receive the container shipped by I-TEC, as pictured above.



## DNH TO PURCHASE LANDCRUISER

We will also be traveling to Bukavu, the provincial capital of South Kivu, where we hope to purchase the urgently needed hospital ambulance. To date we have raised more than \$34,000 for this project, close to our goal of \$45,000. We will need an additional \$5,000 for taxes and importation fees.

Please consider making a gift to this project by giving through our website,

[www.congohealth.org](http://www.congohealth.org) or [www.gocaho.org](http://www.gocaho.org).

You may also send your contributions by check to CAHO, PO BOX 580, Spring Arbor MI, 49283-9991.

Blessings, Tim and Connie Kratzer

Dr. Kratzer meeting with Medical Coordinator Samuel on previous DRC visit June 2022.



Your prayers are appreciated as we prepare for this mission to the Congo. We see our mission as building relationships and encouragement. We will keep you informed through the CAHO CHRONICLE, the Champions for Congo group, as well as Facebook and WhatsApp.

In this July CAHO Chronicle and a soon to follow Chronicle you will read the testimonies of those who have benefited from scholarships which have enabled them to pursue their calling in medical ministry. Through the Central Africa Healthcare Organization we found ourselves in a relationship with healthcare professionals who are doing Kingdom work, giving hope to those in need.



# ICMDA WORLD CONGRESS ARUSHA 20 – 25 June 2023

REPORT By Dr. Marx Lwabanya &  
Dr. ByaMungu Pahari

## THANKFUL

Glory be to the Lord who keeps us and offered us the opportunity to attend the 17th World Congress of Medical and Dental Associations. We would like to convey our heartfelt appreciation to the Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship for their support which enabled us to attend this spiritually and medically important conference.

## INTRODUCTION

From Ecclesiastes 3:11: “He [GOD] has made everything right in its time.” In reflecting on this verse, it has never been an easy exercise to recognize the time of God unless He Himself reveals that to us. “Serving with Love in a Hurting World” was the theme for this conference, and it surely resonated with our lives in various ways.

## TRAVEL

We left Nundu on the 17th of June and joined folks in Uvira and Burundi who rented a bus for this trip to Arusha. We traveled together from Bujumbura on Sunday morning June 18th and arrived to Arusha, Tanzania on Monday June 19th 2023 by 1pm. Our travel was a total of 22 hours 58min and 50 seconds! The atmosphere in our vehicle was similar to a traveling church service with songs and prayers until the destination.



## PROGRAM

More than 1,000 people from 106 countries participated in this world congress of healthcare professionals. Every day started with Bible reading and plenary sessions. The Bible readings and topics included: Serving with Endurance, Serving with Joy, Serving with Faith, and were presented by Dr. Mamusha Fenta based on 2 Tim 2:1-3, 5.-11.



Dr. ByaMungu  
and Dr. Marx

We are called to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. “Life is a choice between losing eternal life for temporary pleasure or gaining eternal life against temporary pains” according to Dr. Fenta.. I (Dr. Marx) understand from Bible reading that temporary pains are to be accepted as part of the journey.

Dr ByaMungu; describes his takeaway like this; “The main Idea I got from the sermons was that the medical work of a Christian doctor is just one of the main ways to spread the gospel, making others come to Jesus by showing them his great love. In another way, a Christian doctor is like a shepherd, whose church is the hospital, and his sheep are patients. He should treat them with love so that they might see Christ through him.”

Plenary teachings which followed the sermon focused on bridging the generation gap, limits to compassion, justice in health care, and future medical missions. These topics were explained, and we got an idea of how to fill the gap between different generations that may affect work and decision-making in different aspects of life.

## CHRISTIAN HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

Different tracks were offered based on individual interests. Dr Marx Lwabanya participated in a Christian Healthcare Leadership track, which included:

- An introduction to servant leadership
- The inner life of the leader
- Kingdom values in Christian leadership
- Second chair leadership
- Coaching in conflict and difficult questions
- Team dynamics and leading a team
- Passing the baton—keys to successful succession
- Leadership in a broken culture.

He describes his experience in this leadership session as providing answers to multiple challenges he has recently experienced in his leadership.

Marx was assigned to spend time with a member of a facilitators team, Dr Mike Chup, a US Board certified and surgeon, who served as a medical missionary with World Gospel Mission at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya for 20 years. They discussed in depth Dr Marx's leadership challenges, Dr. Chup provided coaching and they prayed together. Dr Marx continues to highlight that this is something he needed most in that particular time of his career in Nundu.

A number of other breakout sessions were organized but one of particular interest to Marx was "The Saline Process Taster", ways to equip healthcare workers to be witnesses for Christ in their clinical settings.

## BECOMING A SURGICAL EDUCATOR

Dr ByaMungu participated in the track on "Becoming A Surgical Educator" and shares his experience in this way: "I participated in three different sessions. I spent four days at the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons. It was a great pleasure to meet with surgeons from different continents, learning from their experience and strengthening one another while facing challenges. I learned a lot about supervising (by sharing the Gospel) the student in the hospital, helping an underperforming student, surviving medical school with your faith, and also being a surgeon as a leader in the surgical department."

## THE MAIN CONFERENCE THEME

The primary conference theme "Serving with love in a hurting world" was developed by the primary speaker Dr. Voddie Bauchman based on Matthew 4:23 and Ephesian 5:25,26, 6:1. Marx's take way is that God calls us for Himself.

Everything else is secondary. As Dr Baucham proclaimed, "We belong to GOD."

ByaMungu focused his attention on the following breakout sessions

- Opportunities for mission work
- Sharing faith with patients,
- Balancing personal ambitions and organizational goals
- Balancing family and medicine.

## CONCLUSION

We extend gratitude to those who supported our scholarship to attend this ICMDA World Congress. It was a transforming experience and we are looking forward to bringing light to Deaconess Nundu Hospital, its patients and staff. Challenges are part of the journey, but failing to cope and lead comes when energy is low and needing to be recharged. What happened at the conference? We are feeling that energy which will have a positive impact.





## DR TUBASIIME GIVES THANKS

Dear CAHO, grace and peace to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with great joy that I would like to express my gratitude for your generous support for me and my family, all the time I have been working at Kibogora Hospital.

I have been working as a general surgeon encountering many different challenging cases and times, but CAHO has been there supporting me both financially and spiritually. This has made me the person I am today, continuing to focus on what God requires of me. Thank you so much for the support you have given me to go to the ICMDA conferences. During these conferences I am always encouraged, refreshed, and empowered.

## FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN PROFESSIONALS

I left Kibogora on 18th June 2023 for the congress by road transport with a delegation of 14 health professionals with a private bus hired through the Rwanda Christian Medical and Dental organization. We spent the night at Kahama. At Kahama, we had an overnight fellowship and prayer where I shared about the grace of God in my life and service at Kibogora. We started our journey to Arusha on 19th June. The accommodation and meals were also organized through the Rwanda Christian Medical and Dental Organization.



DRS BYAMUNGU, TUBASIIME & MARX

## ICMDA ARUSHA CONFERENCE FROM TUBASIIME'S PERSPECTIVE

We started the pre-conference workshops on the 20th, and I joined the breakout session on surgical education which was presented by different experts from the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons for the 3 days. The conference sessions started on 23rd with themes such as: serving with calling, serving with compassion, and serving with hope. There were also breakout sessions on different topics. I enjoyed these topics as I was reminded that it was not by accident that I am serving at Kibogora, but I am called to serve. I was reminded that whatever I do, I do it for the Lord and that is why I should serve with compassion and hope regardless of what challenges I encounter. The Congress ended on 25th June 2023.

## EMPOWERED FOR SERVICE

At the end of the congress, I was empowered, refreshed, and my faith was renewed by the Word of God that was shared daily. It was so good to connect with people from different parts of the world and share experiences from different people.

We had time to do Bible studies in different teams that were applicable to our everyday lives as health professionals. We understood the value of teaching, evaluation and mentorship of medical students and residents.

I wish every Christian medical doctor could attend such conferences in the future because they are refreshing and reshaping both mentally and spiritually. Going to such conferences is a precious gift that is life changing and renews our faith and hope. It is like all the stresses I had were left in the conference and I came back fully renewed.

Thank you once again CAHO for your support, both in pray and giving. You have blessed my life and in return I have blessed many lives because of your support.

God be with you all,  
Ronald Tubasiime MD, FCS, FACS