

CAHO CHRONICLE



CONGO CONNECTION 2023 KRATZERS ON A MISSION

We departed from Phoenix August 1, arriving in Bujumbura, Burundi August 2 for what we had thought would be a two-month mission. Little did we know what God had in store for us. We quickly realized that we should extend our mission to October 25.

The days in Bujumbura were ones of preparation, waiting and connecting. We had to relearn our way around this bustling city where we would have to shop for supplies and equipment. We were privileged to meet with Dr. ByaMungu, our surgeon from Nundu, and Dr. Baron, an Ob/Gyn resident, while staying at the Goodlife Guest House.



Drs. ByaMungu and Baron make time to greet us in Bujumbura,



We arrived at Nundu August 10 thanks to the driving skill of our chauffeur Alexi who did an amazing job avoiding the bumps and going where no vehicle should be able to go. There was a road hazard in the way which forced us to skirt along Lake Tanganika.



WAITING

During our first month we found ourselves waiting, waiting on some major projects to be realized. One major project was the installation of solar upgrades for the Nundu station and Deaconess Nundu Hospital. We waited as the arrival date of the container with needed solar components was rescheduled from early August to ultimately August 28, hence the need to push back our departure date into October.

Another critically important project was the purchase of a vehicle for the hospital, made possible by the generous support of our home church in Arizona and other friends. We were wanting to proceed with the purchase while here in the Congo and thought that we had identified the ideal vehicle our very first week. However, what followed was a time of discernment, checking the market, and coming to a consensus with our leadership team. We found ourselves waiting once again.

Another project has been the Hadduck House renovation. How do we purchase the supplies needed and then transport them to Nundu without having a vehicle? I had no idea how this was all going to happen. So many unknowns. When would the container arrive? When should the I-TEC team arrive to do the solar installations. When and how were we to purchase the hospital vehicle? When and how would we be able to get into Bujumbura to purchase all that was needed for the house renovation?



IN GOD'S TIME

In God's time we are seeing these projects come together. The container left the I-TEC staging site in Montoursville PA on June 5, and arrived on board ship near the Dar Es Salaam port August 28. We waited until September 17 when the container arrived at Nundu on the only truck which was willing to take on our 11,000 pound load.

The story of how Dunia, our transporting agent and self-proclaimed Mubembe son, oversaw the journey from Dar to Nundu is another story for another time. Now we find ourselves waiting for the final step in importing the Land Cruiser we have already purchased in Bujumbura.

Dunia is standing on my right. The container was escorted by two soldiers.

Finally, we are waiting in anticipation the arrival of the I-TEC solar team who will oversee the installation of the much-needed solar upgrades.

Many things to do, still some waiting, but already much accomplished as we are developing working relationships with the many people who make Nundu a center of hope. These include the directors of the School of Nursing, the administrative team of Deaconess Nundu Hospital, and church leaders. While we are doing all this, we are trying to improve our ability to communicate in Swahili.



Tim and Connie Kratzer

The deal is sealed with BONAUTO, but we are still waiting for possession.

FROM HAITI

Haiti Healthcare Advocates

Please keep Haiti Healthcare Advocates and Claire Heureuse Hospital in prayer as violent gang activity throughout Haiti continues to ravage the country and complicate meaningful development efforts.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS A BEACON OF HOPE

My name is Junior Charite NOEL, and I was born in Saint-Marc (Artibonite Department, Haiti) and am 40 years old. I am an infectious diseases physician at HCH (Hôpital Claire Heureuse) and also the hospital's medical director for more than ten years. I am happily married to my wife Kettia for 13 years who gave me two kids Chloe (12) and Olivier (9). We are a blessed family of devoted Free Methodist Christians with the goal of spreading the word of the Lord everywhere we go.



The HHA (Haiti Healthcare Advocates) scholarship program has been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for my dreams. Through its generous support, I was able to overcome financial barriers, pursue my educational desires as a physician, secure employment at HCH after completing my education, and create a brighter future for both me and my family. Thanks to the HHA scholarship, I was able to fully immerse myself in my educational journey. The financial support granted me the freedom to dedicate more resources to my studies.

The scholarship program also propelled me forward, nurturing my passion and empowering me to realize my dream of becoming a more competent healthcare professional. Thus said, the program ensured my employability by providing a pathway to launch my career and begin making a positive impact in patient care at HCH. By shouldering a significant portion of my educational expenses, it partially relieved the financial burden on my loved ones, who had always supported my dreams. The funding provided through the scholarship allowed my family to allocate their resources to other essential needs, ensuring a more stable and secure future for all of us. The program's assistance not only uplifted my aspirations but also contributed to the overall well-being of my family.

In all, the HHA scholarship program stands as a testament to the transformative power of Christian philanthropy, enabling aspiring healthcare professionals like me to fulfill their full potential and make a positive impact in Dessalines and on the world in general.



FROM RWANDA

Kibogora Hospital

A message from Dr. Ronald Tubasiime,
head of Surgery

Dear CAHO family,
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. It is my pleasure to thank you again for the support you have given to my family be it financially, spiritually, and physically for last year. I have started my 8th year servind at Kibogora and I have seen the grace and love of God working within the hospital in the midst of a lot of challenges.

I thank you for the supporting to go to the international Christian conferences. This has encouraged my spiritual life and decision making and making choices in life. During last year, I had the opportunity to train some residents and interns from the university of Rwanda where all of them appreciated our spiritual care to our patients.

Secondly, from Jan - June 2023, we have received medical students from the university of Global Health Equity (UGHE) rotating at the surgery department at Kibogora. There is a memorandum of understanding that was signed between the ministry of UGHE and Kibogora concerning training medical students from UGHE

During the feedback given to their leaders, they commented that they had an outstanding training and mentorship.

The Lord has blessed Kibogora with another new provision which was my dream- laparoscopic equipment. Thanks to CAHO and TESFA foundation, a Norway mission organization that put together to donate that laparoscopic equipment to us. We are trying to connect with the ministry of health to start installation though there are some few things that still need to be worked on.

Hebrews 6:10 NIV

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.



There is a project of teaching laparoscopy to residents and medical students and developing simulation labs centers supported by university of Rwanda. They have chosen Kibogora hospital and Butare university teaching hospital as the pilot sites of the project in the whole country. This will take 3 years and will probably start before the end of this year.

We thank God that finally a new Director General of the hospital has come and we can not wait to see great things God is going to do through him.



Prayer request:

Pray for my family that the Lord will continue to guide ahead us in His way not our way

That the Lord will give us a suitable resident to train and willing to serve at Kibogora Hospital as a surgeon in the near future.

That Kibogora hospital will continue to reflect the love of God to both patients and fellow workers.

I would like to buy a car for myself and my family in 2024. Pray that the Lord will provide.

My heart is filled with joy, my family is happy, my soul is at rest, and I am so thankful to you for such encouragement.

From DRC - Nundu

Dr. Morgan Gives Glory to God

My name is Dr. BISOMWA MULANDA Morgan. I would like to thank CAHO for supporting me in my pediatrics residency at the UNIVERSITY OF ABOMEY CALAVI in Benin. I am progressing with training and your support is essential, for otherwise I would not be able to continue. At the end of the training, I am looking forward to caring for the sick children of South Kivu and empowering and equipping others of our medical team to do the same. I was born in Makobola in the South Kivu Province / DRC in 1985. I fled with my family to the refugee camps in Tanzania in 1996 where I attended secondary school. I attended the medical school in Bukavu, the capital of the South Kivu Province and graduated in general medicine in 2015. Then I was assigned to the hospital center of Lulimba as a DOCTOR of COVERAGE for doctors who go on leave. Then I was hired by the Medical Coordination of the Free Methodist Church to be the Medical Director of Hospital Center of Mshimbakye.

Here is my story of how I was drawn to medicine. One night while we were refugees in Tanzania, my little brother fell ill during the night with a high fever of 40 ° C . As a young boy only in the 6th year of primary I felt compelled to accompany my mother to the hospital. When we arrived at the hospital, the nurse on call was not at his post and my little brother began to shiver and my mother began to cry. I told my mother, "If I were a doctor I would treat my little brother." My mother replied, "Of course." That is when I decided to go to medical school.

I became interested in pediatrics out of a desire to help those little ones who could only express their pain by crying and also because of the rarity of trained pediatricians. I believe that I will be the first pediatrician in our territory of Fizi, the most southern part of the South Kivu Province.



Dr. Morgan and family.

Now I am blessed with my own family. My wife is Ornella and I have two children, a daughter Beatrice and a son Albert. When my son was just one-month old, I left my family in order to study in Benin. Even though this is difficult, I know that I was not able to continue my training in pediatrics until Bishop Lubunga confirmed that a scholarship had been provided. My resources were limited, but I glorify God for his provision.

Be blessed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Dr. Morgan will provide care in the pediatric service of Deaconess Nundu Hospital

CITIZENS OF JERUSALEM a meditation

Several weeks after our arrival at Nundu, I found myself reflecting on Psalm 87. "On the holy mountain stands the city founded by the Lord." The Lord loves Jerusalem and all people. "When the Lord registers the nations, he will say, 'They have all become citizens of Jerusalem.'" (NLT) The church here celebrates their faith even in the face of difficult realities. Herein is our connection with the Congo. God be praised!!



Small group discussion of how to use limited resources in the face of overwhelming need.

Why should we share our experiences? Are we asking for financial support? What is our motivation for being here? What is the Lord doing? What is he calling us to do? Many questions come to mind. The Lord loves all people and wishes to be known by all people. Herein is the hope for all people. A hope which is fleshed out in living with and knowing his people here. We have no other confidence but in the Lord.



Deaconess Nundu Hospital at sunset. Why do we do what we do? Do we think we can change the social, economic and political environment in which we find ourselves? The church leadership has hopes and aspirations. In the face of all that has been done for the hospital, the medical coordination is asking for assistance on behalf of the many health centers which have limited resources. There is need on every side. Poverty is endemic. We see no significant change in terms of life in the village since our days here in the 80's. The war has had widespread impact, so much so that many have remained in the camps because of being unable to cope in their home villages here in the Congo.

Greeting the family of Dr. Baron, who is during a OB/GYN residency in the city while his family lives here at Nundu.



As I was processing these thoughts, I received a WhatsApp message from my son David:

Dad, I've been praying often for you these past few weeks. As I've been praying, I have begun to feel more deeply the huge investment you have made to missions and the people of Nundu specifically. You have given some of your best years, energy, and passion. As I have sat with this, I've wondered how your perspective has changed. How do you see the work differently now? How do you see the people of Nundu differently? What matters more? Less? Would love to hear some of your reflections on this. I love you, and know that we are praying for you often.

I responded: There are as many layers to your questions as there are to my response. The best way to start might be my reflections from Psalm 87. I'm having to put aside my desire to see change and simply accept the Lord's work among his people. Yes, I've thought about what if there had not been a team of expats (missionaries as we know them) who wanted to make a difference through health care. That said, I'm thinking about people like the nurse Asukulu and his wife Nyanguchi, both of whom died early because they lived here in primitive conditions. As I recall, Asukulu died from malaria and his wife from complications related to pregnancy. I'm still hoping for something better for Nundu but know that the Lord has a plan and purpose. I'm privileged to be a part of his will.



Welcome to Nundu! The gift of fish offered by a pastor, on behalf of a delegation of pastors. Dr. Marx on the left and Dr. ByaMungu next to Connie.

I continued my thoughts: What has changed? Nothing has changed but everything has changed. We live in a different reality. Young people are determined to make the best of the world they live in. How can I explain the difference being made by these young physicians and, yes, also nurses as well as other workers? God loves these people and has called them to be his own. You're an amazing son. Love, Dad

David replied: Thanks for sharing your heart. I know there is so much to hold...the suffering of the people there and their stubborn joy, the wealth you/we have, the promises of God, hope for a new kind of world. Maybe these are times when we trust the Holy Spirit to pray for us with words we cannot express.

And, I love your appreciation for the work the young physicians are doing there. This seems like another dimension of the legacy you've helped to create there. I love you too, Dad. I'm so glad to be having these conversations with you. It's been wonderful to share just a bit in what you and Mom are doing. Praying every day for strength and joy and hope.

I again responded: I am reflecting more on your kind words and how your questions are opening my heart to a better understanding of the Lord's purposes and will. I affirmed a group of four interns who are here for a six-month period, that they have had a profound impact. Back in my time I was called only for the most urgent cases during the night. Now we have physicians functioning as interns to take primary call. How good is that? Yes, many changes. Progress and still many things for these young physicians to learn.



Rounding in the pediatric wards with one of the interns.

What is the end of the story? Many have responded to the call to serve. Scholarships have benefitted many young people who are serving today. Others are learning and growing as they are supported with scholarships. What does it mean to be a citizen of Jerusalem? As I have been reflecting on this blessed hope, the words of a missionary song I remember from earlier days comes to mind:

We've a story to tell to the nations
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noon-day bright,
And Christ's great kingdom shall come to earth,
The Kingdom of love and light.



It is a privilege to be a part of a mission which gives hope, stands in opposition to evil and violence, and shows that God is love. The Lord reigns, having lived with us and suffered with us. The Lord's final purpose is that all of the "world's great peoples might come to the truth of God." Tim Kratzer