

CAHO CHRONICLE



Advent

Jesus stepped down from his place in heaven, an existence outside of time and place.

He lived and suffered with his people.

Who are his people?

Where is Jesus now?

Does he care about those he left behind?

In one sense, Jesus came to a world and culture to which he was foreign. In another sense, he came to his own people and into a world he created.

Returning to the Congo was a kind of incarnational experience. We stepped from our home culture to be one with a people we knew only from a distance.

What we experienced on returning “home” after our mission to the Congo was a feeling of wanting to be with our Congolese friends.

I can imagine that Jesus loves us and is looking forward to his return.

(Shown here is the Deaconess Nundu Hospital staff, DR Congo. See more of the Congo story following, on pages 2 & 3.)

A DECEMBER NOTE OF THANKS



For most, December is a busy time completing year-end tasks, celebrating with family and friends, and anticipating a new year only a few weeks away. This December has had the same pace for me but has been interrupted by unexpected periods of unsettledness more than usual. As I write this, I find myself uncomfortable beginning with the typical “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,” being acutely aware that for many people in Central Africa and Haiti served by CAHO-affiliated hospitals and clinics, this Christmas is anything but “merry”. Some of you reading this in the U.S. may also find yourself in less than a “merry mood” due to personal losses of family or close friends, health, or other unexpected sorrow over the past year. And then, rather suddenly, I was drawn back to the words of Dr. Michele Ashton, past CAHO Chronicle Editor and Board member, in her opening to our December newsletter four years ago (a time which turned out to be the eve of a worldwide COVID pandemic that none of us saw coming):

I pray that this season finds you marveling at the wonder of IMMANUEL. God who is WITH us. “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!”

Now on the other side of the pandemic and confronting realities of a world seemingly turned upside down, those words say it all, “IMMANUEL, God who is WITH US!” We can celebrate this with great joy as we close this year and move with hope into the next. Wherever life has taken us in the past, or the future—Christmas is the reminder of the incarnate God who goes before us and with us today and tomorrow!

Over the past year, you helped make these words “IMMANUEL, God who is WITH US” real to suffering men, women, and children who have few other options through your support of healing ministries at CAHO-affiliated hospitals and clinics. On behalf of the entire CAHO Board, thank you all! Again, borrowing from Michele, “we pray that this season finds you marveling at the wonder of Immanuel, God who is with us!”
Dr. Glenn Snyder, CAHO President

DEACONESS NUNDU HOSPITAL NEWS

A STORY OF THE LORD'S PROVISION - DR CONGO

Thank you for your support of Deaconess Nundu Hospital in 2023 which has enabled us to realize some major milestones. A Toyota Land Cruiser was purchased for the hospital, providing much needed transportation as well as serving as an ambulance. Multiple individual donors and my home church here in Arizona have made this project a reality. The expansion of the solar installation was completed, thanks to a Butterfield Foundation grant, a gift from the Melvin Spencer estate, and individual contributions. We have also seen the installation of major medical equipment. We are also making progress on the Haddock House renovation, thanks to a Haddock Family gift.

In addition to these major projects, your gifts have made a difference in the lives of many...

... mothers with newborns requiring either routine care or care in the neonatal intensive care unit.

... children with malaria and other infectious diseases requiring hospitalization.

... families struggling to provide for malnourished children.

... patients undergoing surgery provided by a qualified surgeon.

... doctors in residency training.

... hospital staff encouraged by salary supplements.

Connie and I saw and experienced the Lord's provision during our three-month mission to Deaconess Nundu Hospital in the Congo, returning to the US October 26. Along the way we met and worked with many amazing people. Meet Bubasha, a university graduate nurse, who supervises the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Saving the lives of premature infants has been the passion of Dr. Marx, DNH Medical Director. The NICU was made possible by funding from the Butterfield Foundation and the Gould Family Foundation. The lives of many infants have been saved. In August an infant born at 27 weeks and weighing 700 grams (1 lb and 9 oz) was admitted to the NICU. The baby is now 2 kg (4 lbs 6 oz). Dr. Marx reports that the NICU is exceeding expectations. "God is at work at DNH. Miracles are possible!"



Bubasha, a university graduate nurse, supervises the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

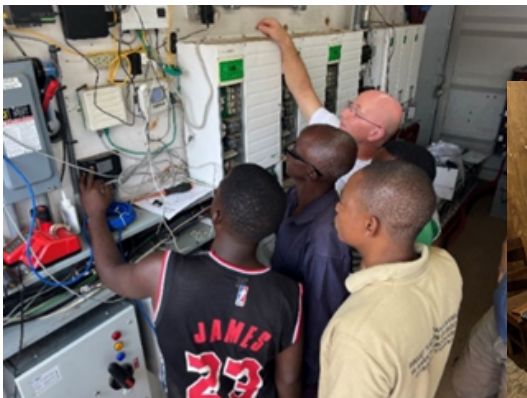
Having a fully functional NICU has been made possible only as the hospital has been supplied with electricity 24/7. The Lord provided as the hospital staff worked in collaboration with an I-TEC Team (International Technical and Electrical Construction) to expand the solar plant at Nundu. The team was on site the first two weeks of October, installing solar panels and inverters to triple the capacity of our solar installation. The impact for the Nundu station has been huge, providing for the installation of a large capacity autoclave and additional surgery lights. We were also able to provide electricity to one additional staff house (the Haddock House) as well as correct problems in the electrical grid. The overall goal was to increase our capacity to support the growing technology benefiting the hospital and at the same time decreasing our consumption of diesel fuel.





The Team completing the installation of 72 solar panels.

With technology comes increased responsibility and complexity of operation, requiring that our support staff function at a high level. Matt Aungst, an I-TEC volunteer, provides technical support remotely from Lancaster, PA. He reports he has never seen a team so committed and fully engaged as he has seen at Nundu. Night and day they are available to answer questions and solve problems- Etabu, Leon, Musa, and even the physician staff Drs Marx, Christian, and Byamungu.



Instructing the team on how to manage the system.



We are optimistic that our team will continue to learn and grow in their confidence to deal with modern technology. The lab has automated technology to do blood counts, provide blood chemistries, and determine the presence of infections. The intensive care unit and neonatal intensive care require the maintenance of oxymizers and incubators. The high-capacity autoclave needs to be operated and maintained. A digital X-ray has also been placed into service.

As we close out 2023 and look forward to 2024, we would like to finish strong. Your gifts will assist in providing medical care for people with limited resources, many living on a dollar or less a day. At Nundu we have a team which makes Deaconess Nundu Hospital what it is today. Thank you for being part of our team. You can make year-end gifts at www.congohealth.org.



Espoir, director nursing, on the extreme left.

The staff is performing at a high level as we do what we can to supplement their meager incomes. The hospital team includes doctors, nurses, administrative staff, technicians, custodians, and maintenance staff. All have been encouraged and helped along the way with the support from many sources – a family trust, a family foundation, church partnerships, and individual gifts. Thank you for your faithful and generous support.



In the Lord's time we had the vehicle when needed.



The purchase of the Land Cruiser for the hospital was also a matter of trusting the Lord to provide. We had identified a Land Cruiser meeting our needs the first week of August after arriving in Bujumbura, but it took more than two months to close the deal and finally see the vehicle arrive on the station the evening of October 13, with the I-TEC Team scheduled to leave Saturday the 14th. Why? I have no idea, but what I do know is that all our transportation needs were provided in accordance with his plan.



Concerning the house renovations, the Lord brought to us a young man, Paul Ikoca, a Congolese just out of university with an engineering degree as well as training as an electrician. It was he who partnered with the I-TEC Team to wire the Hadduck house. The house renovations will continue because the Lord is our provider.

FROM RWANDA

Kibogora Hospital News

PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER

On November 6-8, 2023, representatives of CAHO, Dr. Joel Green, Dr. Dave Fryman, and Ryan Cobb, met with local and international partners at Kibogora for our annual Better Together meetings. The Better Together group is made of the Free Methodist Church Rwanda, Kibogora Hospital, Kibogora Polytechnic University, Action Kibogora (Free Methodist Church UK), CAHO, and Free Methodist World Missions. FMWM was represented by Rev. Glenn Lorenz, Africa Area Associate Director. Missionaries Emmanuel and Rachel Ngunzize (both nurses) and Dr. Joel Miller were present as guests. It is a blessing to see the ways different agencies are working together. The new Director General of the hospital, Dr. Bernard Umutoniwase, was eager to show us the developments (including the fully-functional maternity ward with its NICU) and explain the many challenges the hospital faces, some of which are unique to its faith-based mission and rural setting.



Better Together representatives and guests

FAITH BASED INITIATIVES

With financial assistance from CAHO and other faith-based partners, Kibogora Hospital offers unique palliative care programs for patients with a variety of terminal conditions including cancer and HIV. These services include clinical visits, home visits, and support for families as well as bereavement counseling. The hospital's social services department conducts home visits to assess and support clients with significant spiritual, economic, and environmental problems. This ministry also includes a special focus on programs for the elderly and those with handicaps.

Hospital chaplains focus on spiritual care. Six hospital chaplains from Kibogora participated in training with a group of international chaplains and reported 90 conversions in 2023. There is an ongoing need for salary support for the chaplaincy program, as the government does not pay for these staff members. CAHO supports these faith-based programs thanks to your gifts.

RETAINING QUALIFIED STAFF

Although the hospital has been elevated to the status of a level 2 teaching hospital and is establishing itself as a center of excellence in patient care, including surgical and orthopedic care, it continues to serve in one of the poorest and most remote regions of Rwanda. This has made it difficult to attract and retain specialists, particularly given significant delays in receiving the full government salaries to pay for these higher-level providers. In other locations, specialists have other economic opportunities available to supplement their hospital salaries, making it difficult for Kibogora to compete for specialists. There is a current need for an emergency medicine specialist, anesthesiologist, pediatrician, obstetrician/gynecologist, and an orthopedic specialist, as well as more general practitioners, labor and delivery nurses, and other nursing staff. CAHO is attempting to address these needs by providing scholarships to train specialists and other providers who agree to remain at Kibogora for an agreed upon term after they complete their programs.



Dr. Bernard Umutoniwase, Director General, Kibogora

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

Another challenge is the government's requirement that even the neediest people must purchase government insurance. Many of these patients therefore avoid seeking care and paying for the insurance until they have a great need. Consistent with its mission, Kibogora Hospital has decided to help these patients purchase insurance when they seek care, which has come at significant cost to the hospital.



Kibogora Hospital enrolls patients in the government health insurance program. The hospital has decided to help these patients purchase their insurance .

Government insurance allows patients to receive care. However, reimbursement typically has been delayed and usually only partial. Similarly, there has been a significant lag in government reimbursements for medications, so the hospital subsidized needy patients so they could have necessary medications. Better Together partners have been able to help the hospital with these costs while the hospital awaited government reimbursements.

CT SCANNER COMING TO KIBOGORA

Advanced technology is coming to Kibogora Hospital, with seed money coming from a retired radiologist wanting to honor his missionary doctor father. On the horizon for Kibogora Hospital is the addition of a CT scanner to the radiology department. Through generous private donations as well as grant funding, we have been able to raise over 2/3 of the projected budget for the project so far. There are currently only five CT scanners in the entire country of Rwanda. Three scanners are in the capital city, Kigali, a 6-hour journey by car from Kibogora. The scarcity of this advanced radiological imaging leads to delayed disease diagnosis for many patients and to additional surgical procedures in some cases. The addition of a CT scanner at Kibogora Hospital will improve access to care for many in the Western Province. It will improve accuracy of disease diagnosis dramatically and will lead to greater efficiency in medical and surgical treatment. The total budget for this project is \$300,000. With the Lord's help, we hope to see the CT scanner installed in 2024. Thank you for your support with this critically important technology.

UNIVERSITY EXPANDS IN WESTERN RWANDA

Kibogora Polytechnic University, a Free Methodist University that offers medical, theological, development, and many other training programs, is expanding with a new campus in the southwestern province of Cyangugu. The building located in Rusizi-Kamembe is almost completed, and leadership hopes to be ready to serve incoming midwifery and nursing students in January. KP is also being asked by the government to start a medical school. They see Kibogora as a resource for much of western Rwanda. Dr. Daria Mukamasoni, Vice-Chancellor, is considering how to start this monumental task. She took us on a tour of their new building on this extension campus in Kamembe on the Rwanda/DRC border. Dr. Dave Fryman is energized by the possibility. How will the Lord direct and provide in this ambitious undertaking?



Kibogora Polytechnic University Kamembe

Even as Kibogora Hospital has seen many changes, there are still opportunities to assure that healthcare is available to all. You can make year-end gifts at www.gocaho.org.

FROM HAITI

Thank-you for being partners in these critically needed healthcare ministries. You are a part of incarnational living as you join the healthcare ministries in Haiti, DR Congo, and Rwanda by praying, giving, and going. What Connie and I experienced on our mission to DR Congo is that incarnational living is knowing and loving people. Even as each country has unique social, political, and economic needs, we are compelled to share our lives and resources for our mutual good. Have a joy filled Christmas and a blessed New Year full of hope. Dr. Tim Kratzer, Editor

HAITI HEALTHCARE ADVOCATES NEWS

The country of Haiti continues to make the world news cycle with headlines such as: "UN warns that Haiti gang violence is spreading" or "Armed gang surrounds hospital, people trapped inside." While it is true that gangs of armed young men continue to grow in strength and number and are taking over and controlling roads in and out of towns beyond the capital of Port-au-Prince, the good people of Haiti are still good people! As we continue to communicate via WhatsApp with our Haitian friends and pastors, we hear statements such as: "Glory to God, he controls all things." or "Don't worry, just pray." And so, we pray and trust. Despite the admonition not to worry, we admittedly worry at times!



Completed Susanna Wesley Clinic foundation, building for the future.

We continue to support the church and medical work in Haiti with funds in addition to our prayers. Haiti Healthcare Advocates, with your support, sent over \$60,000 for medication purchase and salary support for a general surgeon serving at the Claire Heureuse Hospital in Dessalines, \$20,000 to continue the construction of the Susanna Wesley clinic at the Violet church in south Haiti, \$10,000 for food support to the general church, and \$2000 support for the Bible school in Port-au-Prince. As we move into 2024, we have set a new budget which includes \$25,000 to continue construction of the Susanna Wesley clinic. The foundation is complete and now we plan to continue, using a local construction supervisor to put the walls up. [WE THANK ALL OF YOU WHO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR AND FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF HAITI.](#)



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