

# CAHO CHRONICLE



## THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AND COUNTING: LET'S MEET TOGETHER APRIL 26-27!

For those readers who have attended the annual CAHO spring conference in the past, you know that this is an essential time of fellowship, encouragement, and updates on the vision we share. As we discussed last year, we are called to be a "long view people", remembering the victories of the past, celebrating the surprises of the present, and looking forward to the promises of the future despite the uncertainties of today. Those who have been on this path for some time know the challenges of staying the course for the long term while living in the realities of this world. But they also understand there is strength for the journey to be found in community.

Plan now to join the CAHO community in Spring Arbor, Michigan, Friday evening, April 26, through Saturday afternoon, April 27, 2024. Whether this is your first time or your 30th time participating in the conference, each one is needed by the others. Let the reports from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Haiti that follow in this newsletter also remind you of the vital part every one of you plays in the CAHO mission.

Keeping the long view is not easy. Looking at the immediate tasks and obstacles can be discouraging in this type of work, but, I am challenged again by these words from Galatians 6:9-10:

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10, The Message)

The CAHO annual conference is a unique opportunity to "work for the benefit of all." Further Conference details will be sent out shortly. In the interim, mark your calendars and make plans to attend. You will not be disappointed!

Glenn Snyder, President

## HAITI HEALTHCARE ADVOCATES

Mwen p'at gen mot is the Kreole equivalent of "I am speechless." How many times can one say that things are terrible in Haiti? How many times can one say, "It is worse in Haiti today than it was last month"? All true but fatiguing to the ears. Mwen p'at gen mot.

Havving said that to myself for days, I was shocked out of my lethargy by a call I received this week from a friend living in Marchand Dessalines. Dessalines is the town where our hospital, Claire Heureuse Hospital, is located. My friend was calling just to hear our voices to make sure someone was still out there who cared for Haiti and for her and her family. She was distraught over how bad things have gotten and was asking for prayer. The gangs continue to grow in strength and continue to expand their governance to areas outside of Port-au-Prince and she was letting us know she was living like a prisoner not able to get to market or purchase goods which are ever harder to find. Adding insult to injury, Haiti's inflation was an average of 34 % in 2022 with 2023 on course to be calculated in the same range. How does one survive?

Mwen pa't gen mot! She agreed there is nothing to say. That is why she called to ask us to pray. For my part, I was reminded that real people with real families are living this nightmare. That is easy to forget when you are not living the nightmare yourself.

For those of you who are praying for Haiti. Thank you. For those of you who are not, please add this to your prayer list. The Claire Heureuse Hospital and Suzzane Wesley Clinic are still in operation. Real people running real medical centers in the midst of real chaos.



# FROM RWANDA

## Kibogora Hospital News

### KIBOGORA SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Scholarships are preparing Kibogora Hospital for the future. CAHO currently supports one OB/GYN resident with a full scholarship covering his training and living expenses. Etienne Nsengiyumva (whose last name means "I pray the Lord hears me") has just begun his 3rd of 4 years of training. After graduation he plans to return to Kibogora Hospital and serve as the head of the OB/GYN service there. In a recent update letter to the CAHO board he described the joy of gaining new skills, knowledge and experiences that will lead him to become an excellent maternal health physician. He ended the letter by stating "I take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge your tremendous support."

Three medical student scholars who we supported with scholarships - Solange Uwineza, Marie Grace Niyikiza, and Simplice Umuhiza - have graduated this past year and have started their internships. After completion of this final step of their training, each one plans to return to Kibogora Hospital. We look forward to these wonderful additions to the medical staff.



Solange



Simplice  
Marie Grace

### A FAMILY LEGACY

Paul and Esther Embree served as FM medical missionaries from 1955-1971, first at Chikombedzi, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and then in South Africa. Paul was part of volunteer teams which helped to rebuild Kibogora Hospital after the troubles of 1994. After they passed away (Esther in 2019, Paul in 2021), their 3 children (David, Martha, and Ruth and her husband) visited Chikombedzi in 2023, finding the hospital still providing medical care under the direction of the Free Methodist Church of Zimbabwe. However, most basic necessities were lacking, like a reliable supply of water and electricity. They spearheaded an effort to provide water from a river, 5 miles away, installing a pump powered by solar panels. The hospital once again has good running water and other efforts to help Chikombedzi are on-going.

Their Uncle Bob Corson, Esther's only brother, wanted to make a contribution in Paul's memory where Paul had served that would improve the level of healthcare. They discovered that Kibogora Hospital was considering installing a CT scanner, and Uncle Bob was delighted to provide seed money for this project. Ruth's husband, David Schale, is a radiologist and is advising Kibogora in the purchase and installation of the CT scanner. This collaboration takes on personal meaning as the family gives witness to Dr Embree's heart for Africa.



Fortunee &  
Francine

Through the generous donations of CAHO supporters we have added two nurse scholars this year who will pursue advanced degrees at the University of Rwanda. Francine Mukaneza, after 6 years at Kibogora Hospital, applied for a scholarship in Critical Care nursing. Through a rigorous process she was selected as the best candidate. In 2024, she will begin a 2-year master's program.

Fortunee Kamanayo has been a faithful nurse at Kibogora for 7 years. She applied for a scholarship to specialize in Medical-Surgical nursing. After completing the interview and testing process, she was selected as the top candidate. She is excited to begin her 2-year training program in 2024.



### CT SCANNER UPDATE

We are thrilled to be forging ahead with the Kibogora CT scanner project! In the December Chronicle, we announced that a CT scanner was coming to Kibogora. This is very important advanced technology in a country where there are only five CT scanners, three of which are in the capital city of Kigali, a six-hour drive from Kibogora. Barriers to timely medical and surgical interventions will be removed with this improved radiologic imaging.

How was the door opened to undertake this very challenging project? God provided the audacious vision for a CT scanner at Kibogora Hospital and a kickstart for the means at the same time. He has powerful ways of convincing and leading us to accomplish His plans. (See A FAMILY LEGACY.)

We have engaged a team of engineers and technical experts to finalize the site preparation plans. Lord willing, in March we begin the first phase of this project, which will include construction and remodeling - transforming the old operating and sterilization area into a new CT suite. This will be a major undertaking, requiring not only a complete redesign of the floor plan, but also a new power supply for the room, climate control, and lead lining of the walls.

We have currently raised funds for more than half of the project, which allows us to begin the first phase. With the Lord's help we look forward to completing the fundraising goal of \$400,000. We need to raise \$180,000 given most recent estimates. Please join us in helping to provide this critically important technology to enhance the medical care provided in Jesus' name at Kibogora Hospital. You can make contributions on the CAHO website, [www.gocaho.org](http://www.gocaho.org).

# FROM DR CONGO DEACONESS NUNDU HOSPITAL NEWS

## BARON SCHOLARSHIP THANKSGIVING

Thank you, Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship, for providing a scholarship for Dr. Ebuela Mtee Baron to pursue an OB/GYN residency. Dr. Baron joined the staff of Deaconess Nundu Hospital as a general practitioner in January 2020.



Tim and  
Connie Kratzer  
with Dr. Baron  
August 2023

Dr. Baron holds a bachelor's degree in medicine from Universite Officielle de Bukavu, completed in 2016. He graduated from secondary school in 2009 while he was a refugee from the conflict in his home country DR Congo. He was born at the Deaconess Nundu Hospital in 1988.

On his arrival at Nundu as a physician, he was assigned to the obstetrics-gynecologic service. While serving as a general practitioner with limited training, he attended to many patients who required referral for specialized care. These patients would have to be transferred to Bukavu, the provincial capital of South Kivu, more than 250 kilometers north of Nundu. Traveling to the city and living away from their home village was difficult and sometimes even dangerous.

Dr. Baron is happy for the opportunity to give back to his community. He is motivated by his desire to help a population which is suffering from very complex medical and surgical conditions. Seeing the need for additional training, he competed successfully with 57 doctors for one of 13 scholarships in a residency program at the University of Burundi in obstetrics-gynecology. However, he found that as a Congolese he was obliged to pay \$1500 per year tuition as well as cover his living expenses. With limited resources available, Dr. Baron began his training in Bujumbura, November 2022, leaving his wife Anne Marie and daughter Emilie at Nundu.

Emilie,  
Dr. Baron,  
Anne Marie



The need for scholarship support came to our attention in August of 2023 while on our mission to the Congo. Though Dr. Baron had received support to pay his tuition fees for one year from his brother, he was without sufficient funds to provide the basic needs of his family. Anne Marie was making a way for herself and the family at Nundu by preparing meals for special events as well as taking on sewing projects. She also learned that she was pregnant with their second baby, due in November. The opportunity to support this couple with a scholarship was presented to the Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship and approved.

Thanks to the scholarship, the Baron family is now living in Bujumbura, Burundi. Their second daughter was born November 13 and was given the name Connie Ebuela. We are blessed to be in relationship with this beautiful family. Is your heart drawn to Africa? There are other opportunities to support worthy scholarship recipients as well as continue support for the additional three years of Baron's residency. To give, go to [www.congohealth.org](http://www.congohealth.org).



Connie  
Ebuela  
November 13,  
2023