

In His Hands



(Isaiah 49:16)

May 2014

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Dear Friends and Partners,

Greetings from a beautiful, cool and comfortable Greece! Our trip from Bongolo to the Eretria Conference Center went smoothly. Thank you for your prayers!

This is the first Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) Conference we have attended and although it is a technical medical conference, we have quickly discovered it is also far more. Each day begins at 7:50 with a time of worship and preaching led by George Murray from CIU (Columbia International University) and then medical sessions continue throughout the day until around 4:30. Bintou spends many of her evenings attending additional hands-on classes or practicing with the choir until dinner time.

The first day of the conference, she attended a training event for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification, took the exam and passed! She was the only person taking the class for the first time so this is a significant accomplishment! Well done, Bintou! Heart problems are one of the most common interventions at Bongolo so this training will both increase her experience and confidence as she shares God's love with many patients through medicine.

This conference is organized into four tracks: Medicine, Surgery, Community Health and Dental. With the variety of topics, I am finding a surprising number of sessions that are applicable to my work in aviation including decision making processes, risk management principles and elements of healthy organizations. I have also enjoyed unhurried hearty breakfasts consisting of Greek yogurt, lots of fresh fruit and a daily run.

We've also enjoyed meeting many of the 751 attendees coming from 75 countries! A particular highlight of the conference has been hearing field reports from many of these individuals sharing what God is doing through medical missions. Since arriving, I've come to understand that medical missions are especially active in closed countries and are often the only gospel witness in a region.



Dr. Anatole (Bongolo PAACS resident), Bintou and myself

It has been a tremendous blessing being under the teaching of George Murray these past two weeks. He has spoken God's Word's to us with compelling passion and clarity. The theme he has been teaching from is "Jesus is God...so what?" He has reminded us that because Jesus is God:

- 1) He is worthy of our worship and true worship is *costly* worship.
- 2) by His death on Calvary's cross, He has provided the *only* way of salvation for the whole world.
- 3) He has *absolute* right over our lives.
- 4) He gives us *everything* we need for *anything* He asks us to do.

In the course of these sessions, he has reminded us and challenged us to be absolutely surrendered to the Lord -- because He is God! Yes, even missionaries have to be challenged and encouraged to total surrender and dependence on God's strength every day!

The conference concludes on Thursday evening. Please continue to pray for health and endurance as Bintou and I will be participating in a marriage retreat Friday and Saturday morning. Lord willing, we will arrive back in Libreville on Sunday evening.

Thank you for your partnership, prayers and support!

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- Opportunity for Bintou and I to travel to Greece for a change of pace.
- The excellent medical training Bintou is receiving at the CMDA conference.
- The opportunity to be encouraged and to encourage others working around the world. Several new missionary families leave from here and go directly to their new country of ministry.

Prayer:

- Bintou and I would learn to abide in God's presence and that His joy would be our strength.
- Strength for Bintou during an intense conference.
- The work God wants to do in us through the marriage retreat.
- The Lord's ministry through Bintou and me at the hospital and in our community.
- Wisdom and clarity amidst many maintenance, flight standards and shop equipment projects.

Rob & Bintou

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