

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



July 2014

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Dear Friends and Partners,

Rob and I send greetings from a cool and comfortable Gabon! We are going into the dry season now and, in contrast to other places in Africa, dry season is cool here. Plus, have you ever heard of "Bifudu"? I'm sure you haven't. They are little insects that bite you all day long from the time you leave your house. They are especially aggressive in the rainy season and are much less of a nuisance in the dry season. So it is definitively the best season of the year that we are entering - no Bifudu and no heat!

We celebrated July 4th with other missionaries living here in Bongolo. It was the first time for me to be part of that celebration and I enjoyed learning more about Rob's culture and traditions. I was surprised to learn that some US presidents were born on July 4th and others died on July 4th. And I learned about the food that is usually prepared that day. I even made chocolate chip cookies for the first time in my life and people LIKED THEM! I also came to appreciate the godly foundation of the US constitution.



At the hospital, we recently compiled the statistics from June 2013 to June 2014. The hospital received about 40,000 patients. They all heard the Gospel and many gave their lives to Jesus. There are numerous stories of God's faithfulness but I have to tell you just one about a patient that I tended to three months ago named Jeanne.

When Jeanne was brought into the hospital by her husband and family, she could not move, speak, or control her urination. According to her family, this happened suddenly, just the night before. Based on the symptoms she was presenting, the medical team thought she had suffered a stroke. But a little while later, the family disclosed that she was a member of a secret society known as the “Mbweti” and had been participating in a very secretive witchcraft ritual that night. According to the family member who told us the story, while they were doing incantations and dancing for the spirits, some spirits came and knocked her down. She stood up and acted like a crazy lady for a moment, then fell and could no longer move. After trying everything they could to make her move, they decided to bring her to Bongolo hospital as a last resort.

Upon hearing this, we immediately began to pray for her and shared the Gospel with her husband. At that moment, he accepted the Lord and decided to follow Him at all costs. Slowly, Jeanne began to move again and to speak a bit. At a level she could understand, we shared the Gospel with her and she, too, accepted Christ.

On Tuesday this week, Jeanne and her husband came to my office. They were so different that I hardly recognized them. Jeanne was speaking, clearly; she was alive again! I performed the mini-mental state examination on her and she scored 25/30! The last time we did that test on her, she hardly made a 9/30! They told me that they have totally abandoned witchcraft and are following the Lord Jesus now. Hallelujah! This was a great encouragement to me!!



Jeanne in my office

Bintou and the medical team.

In this picture of Jeanne, she is wearing a black and white headscarf. This is a big testimony to the people here because before, as a member of that secret society, she was only allowed to wear a black scarf. But now that she is free, she can wear any color scarf on her head!

Over the last few months, we have seen some new and exciting developments in the area of Bible translation as well! We look forward to sharing more about that in our next update.

Thank you for your partnership, prayers and support!

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- Jeanne, her husband and others who gave their life to the Lord.
- Air Calvary, the Bongolo aviation program that Rob is flying for. The hospital relies heavily on air transport to replenish its supplies and medications.
- Promising connections with Bible translation initiatives in Gabon.

Prayer:

- Rob and I would abide in God's presence and that His joy would be our strength
- We are out of drugs that are required for treatment of resistant tuberculosis and yet we continue to receive patients from all over Gabon and Congo that are in desperate need of treatment. Please pray that we can find a source for these drugs.
- For my protection as many of the people that I tend to have resistant tuberculosis which is highly contagious.
- Wisdom and clarity for Rob amidst many maintenance, flight standard and shop equipment projects.

By His Strength,
Bintou & Rob

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