



CHARTING ON MY LIFE IN RWANDA

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MONTH IN REVIEW

This month has gone so fast! I took a week's vacation, picked my parents up at the airport, then headed to Kenya for a safari at the Maasai Mara National Game Reserve. What an amazing experience to see these African animals in their own environment! I'll let the pictures speak for themselves!



Coming back from vacation, I found the nurses quite busy with four babies weighing less than 3 lbs. and some pretty sick ones.

One little girl came in at three weeks with seizures. It turned out she had hydrocephaly and needed a shunt. Praying that she'd do well, we sent her to another hospital that can do this procedure.

We also admitted "Ladybug." Because babies aren't named until they go home, sometimes we give them nicknames, so we know which baby we're talking about. This little guy is "Ladybug" because his mama brought him in, dressed in a Halloween ladybug costume. He's a pretty cute ladybug but has a significant heart defect.



Baby of the Month: Marianne

Marianne delivered twin boys at home. She kept them there, hoping to avoid hospital costs. One baby died the first day; the second one she brought to the hospital when he was three days old. He weighed only 2.5 lbs. but was born at 40 weeks, so it seems his twin brother got all the food before they were born!

Marianne struggles to care for her tiny baby. She can't count to 12 so doesn't read a clock. Many times she feeds her baby 2-4 hours late, which makes a big difference when he's only 2.5 lbs.! Other mothers have pitched in to help remind her to feed him on time, and slowly he's growing and almost ready to go home!

Now we're coordinating with the community health workers to make sure Marianne feeds her baby correctly once she's home. This little guy has been a team effort; the other mothers, my nurses, and I all want to see him do well! Pray for Marianne that she'll be able to give proper care to this little guy.





ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE IS HARD!

After coming back from the USA, I told my nurses I wouldn't be doing as much patient care as before. They need to do the work; I'm the advisor. I do help out when they're busy with a new admission or by doing vital signs on the stable babies while the nurse cares for the sick ones. But most of the time I check the babies in the morning to see how they are, and if any problems, the nurses and I talk about them.

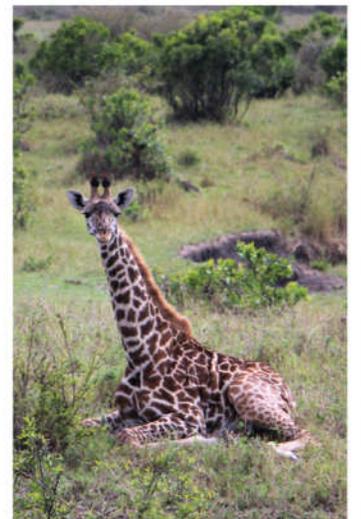
It's hard sometimes, as I could so easily turn the oxygen down or change the IV, but now I wait until the nurse is ready to see the patient. I'm learning patience! This is better, as little by little the nurses are learning what to look for, what to do when they find a problem, and how to work independently of me. However, I have to admit, it's hard to work myself out of the job I love! 😊



HOSPITAL MATERNITY PLANS

An engineer is here from England to work with the Rwandan team we've hired to plan and design the new maternity building. It's exciting to see the numbers coming together—the hills aren't as high as originally thought, so retaining walls don't have to be quite as high, the building will be bigger in some places, smaller in others. We already have about \$150,000 donated, and we haven't even started officially raising funds. We're trusting that when God's timing is right, the money will be available!

I love doing the planning for building projects!



Contact Information

Rwanda Address: BP 861 Kigali, Rwanda Africa
USA Address: 5004 Sheridan Dr. Lacey, WA 98503
Email: julieyrn@yahoo.com
Blog: www.julieyrn.org