



## NURSE'S NOTES

### CHARTING ON MY LIFE IN RWANDA

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## Baby of the Month: Baby Amanda

Baby Amanda is the daughter of one of my nurses. I had to trust God hugely when I thought I'd be the one to have to tell the family there was nothing we could do, that Baby Amanda would die. Her story is still in progress. I can't tell you yet how it ends, but it's amazing to watch God work at each step!

When she was born in October, she was in Neonatal for a couple of days, but other than a rough transition, she did quite well and went home. Because of her time with us, she was scheduled for a two-week follow-up visit. At that time I found her breathing and heart rate were a little fast.

A chest x-ray showed her heart was on the right side of her chest, not the left. I sent the x-ray to two friends with much more experience than I. She has a rare malformation in one part of the lung called Congenital Lobular Emphysema, allowing air to enter the lobe, but some becomes trapped and can't get back out. So the lung has been slowly getting bigger and bigger, pushing the heart over to the right side of the chest. If Baby Amanda doesn't have that one lobe removed, she'll eventually die.

From November on, we've been working to get her the medical care she needs. There's nothing in Rwanda and with a very slow moving system, she finally on Wednesday of this week has an appointment to see about having the lobe removed at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya.

If God hadn't helped us see the problem early on, we wouldn't have had the time needed to figure out where Amanda could have her surgery. God has provided wonderful friends to cover the cost of the out of country surgery.

Please pray with me as Baby Amanda and her mother Gloriose take their first ever plane ride this week, navigate a new country, and go through her first appointment and the surgery that follows. Amanda is in God's hands!



## Improvising Again

In Neonatology, we've had oxygen tubes snaking all over the floor, going from the machines to the babies. The nurses got tired of it so started stringing the oxygen tubing from IV pole to IV pole which was a good idea—except not quite high enough. We had to remember to duck or get hit in the face with the tubing.

So this week we hooked everything to the walls or across the ceiling. It's so much better! Now each tube is numbered to connect with the proper baby requiring oxygen. It's almost like an American hospital with oxygen coming out of the wall—well, okay, maybe not quite!

I also added a doorbell. If maternity needs help with a bad baby, they push the button which rings in our department to alert us there's a problem. Our first doorbell ring alerted us to surprise 34 week twin girls! (an aerial view of neonatal from the ladder as we hung oxygen tubing.)



## Hospital Doctors

Please pray with me about the Neonatal two doctor situation at Kibogora. Doctor #2 covering pediatrics and neonatal left the end of November and hasn't been replaced. It's been challenging the past two months because when Doctor #1 is off, the substitute Doctor #2 is not oriented to the special protocols and treatments of our babies. This means my nurses and I have to advocate on a regular basis to ensure that the orders are appropriate for a neonate.

I'm very excited that in February we have an American neonatologist working with us—who will hopefully help train up a second doctor with the skills needed for these special babies.



## Volunteers

We have three doctors' families joining us from January to June. That brings our count of volunteers to 3 family practice doctors, 1 surgeon, 1 dentist, 1 nurse (me), and the mission managers. Among all those doctors are 8 kids running around the mission having a wonderful time living at Kibogora! Too bad we adults

can't have the same carefree fun! I am called Miss Julie by the children and my male cat is called Miss Woody.



## Maternity Building

We finally got approval from the engineer on the plans for the ground space where the maternity building will go—retaining walls and all, so now the architect is drawing up the official plans. We already have the draft layout of the floor plans, but we can now move toward the final floor plan and estimate for the building.

## Praises

- How God has provided for Amanda
- New volunteers to help at the hospital
- A season of many flowers and the beauty God has created

## Prayer Requests

- Amanda and her mother
- A second doctor for neonatal
- Medical students coming to learn at Kibogora in February



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