



## NURSE'S NOTES

### CHARTING ON MY LIFE IN RWANDA

August, 2018

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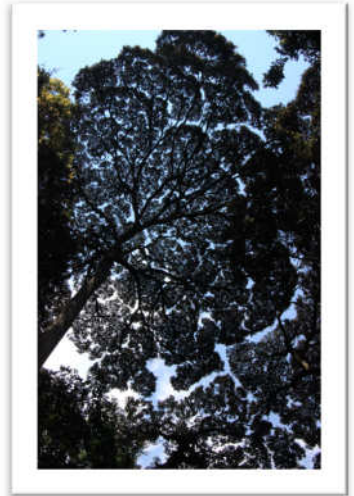
## Nursing Students

Final year nursing students come to Neonatology in September. I enjoy watching them learn, making them think. Nationally, these students are used a bit like assistants—making beds, getting charts, taking a patient to x-ray, and other tasks. But they get very little time doing patient care while someone watches and teaches them. Which is what they really need in school! When they graduate, they're expected to know everything and be fully independent! How do they learn the right way unless someone teaches them?

So when they come Kibogora's neonatology, I give them three babies each. They have to do all the care while I look over their shoulders. The students say neonatology is a lot of work, but my nurses tell them they are amazingly privileged to have an experience like this! I think my nurses are a bit jealous that someone didn't do this for them when they were students.

### 101

This July was the first month ever we admitted more than 99 babies! What a crazy month it was with some very sick babies and only two day nurses while we oriented Nancy, our new nurse to replace the two we lost who didn't have a government license. It's hard being so short staffed, knowing how to prioritize. Through all this, God protected the babies, as only three babies died in July. (That's a good number for us.) Thank you for praying; your prayers make a difference.

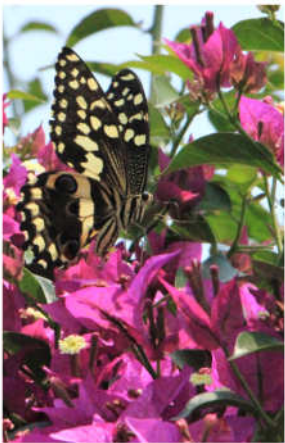


## Baby of the Month: Baby Valentine

I won't show you pictures of this month's baby. She was born with a skin disorder causing the skin all over her body to crack because it wouldn't stretch. Her tight skin kept her toes and nose from growing. The skin pulled her lips back, showing her gums. Such a sad looking little girl, and yet God put her in our department to love and care for.

Maternity patients came to stare at her, but we shooed them away. She's a human being—yes, she has problems, but she needs love. We held her—all dressed in a beautiful knitted layette set made by someone in the UK or USA. She lived just over a day and then she passed away—into heaven where she's whole and healthy again.

We were able to care for her mother—love her, talk with her about what happened to her baby, and pray with her. We didn't tell her that the next baby has a 1 out of 4 chance of having the same problem. Please pray with me for this young family. Thankfully, their firstborn has no skin problems, and I'm praying their next baby is healthy as well.





## Out of Stock

Since the middle of June the hospital's been really short on money. Multiple times we've run out of gauze, tape, syringes, pain medication, antibiotics, IV fluids, IV tubing, and other supplies. This is a first for me—we haven't had a lot, but we've usually had what we needed. Now we have to be a bit creative at times to get our job done. Please pray for wisdom for the hospital leaders, as they make choices about what is best for the hospital.



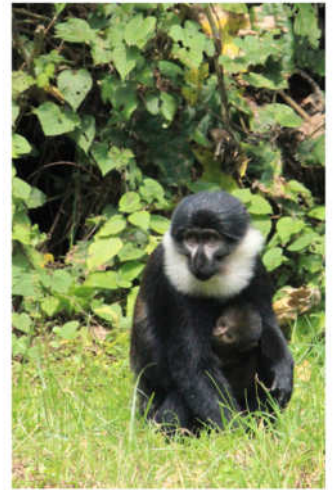
## Emotional Health

Please pray for my nurses and me. Since last year there've been decisions made here at the hospital that have resulted in a decrease in the quality of patient care. This summer has seen a

couple of more decisions made, and I can tell our team is discouraged, as we're asked to do more work with less resources. Babies are starting to be affected by it.

One of the nurses had a song playing quietly in the background this week, "God can make a way when it seems there is no way." I've been humming it ever since, as a reminder that even in the reduction of resources and the decisions that don't seem to be wise ones, that ultimately God is in control and that there's a plan in all of this somewhere. I don't understand it at the moment, but God doesn't ask me to make sense of it all. He asks me to trust him, as He "can make a way when it seems there is no way."

Please pray for us that we'll continue to trust God in this. If there are changes we need to make, that He will show us. If we need to just carry on, that He will show us how to protect ourselves emotionally.



## Prayer Requests

- Wisdom for hospital leaders
- Continued protection for the babies

## Praises

- God CAN make a way!
- God keeping babies alive!



### Contact Information

Rwanda Address: BP 861 Kigali, Rwanda Africa  
USA Address: 5004 Sheridan Dr. Lacey, WA 98503  
Email: [julieyrn@yahoo.com](mailto:julieyrn@yahoo.com)  
Blog: [www.julieyrn.org](http://www.julieyrn.org)