



NURSE'S NOTES

CHARTING ON MY LIFE IN RWANDA

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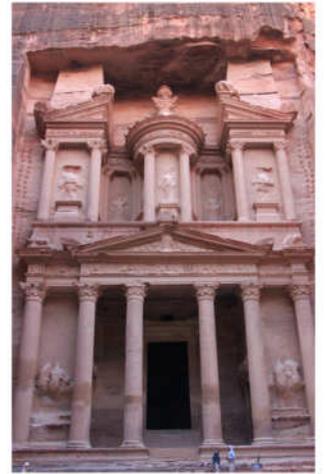
Merry Christmas to Me!

I had Christmas early this year. My gift from my parents was our trip to Israel. We walked over 80 miles and got to see so much! Highlights for me were the old town of Akko, Nimrod's Fortress, En Gedi, the Jericho Road (which is NOT a road!!—rather a trail), and spending time with family and friends. What a fun trip!



Free Indeed

The Airbnb we rented in Jerusalem was set up to cook kosher—different drawers and cupboards with dishes for meat and dishes for dairy. I tried to be respectful. Breakfast was okay—bowl of cereal with milk. No problem. Dinner was spaghetti with a green salad. Yikes...what about the milk based dressing I just poured all over my salad? Looking at all those dishes and silverware showed me in a tiny new way what Jesus Christ freed us from on the cross.



Baby of the Month: Baby Jacqueline

I met Baby Jacqueline's big brother today. He's six, and his newborn sister looks just like him. They're the only living children their parents have out of 23 pregnancies! (At some point the Rwandan healthcare system let this family down.) Please pray with me that God will protect this little one, so her parents can go home with a live baby.





International Neonatal Conference

In October in Kigali, Rwanda’s capital city, there was a conference for neonatal nurses. It was exciting to be in a room of many others who are working across the African continent as we are, trying to improve the quality of care and decrease the infant mortality rate.

Maternity Building

Finally, it seems like we’re almost done with the planning phase for the new maternity building. The plans should be done by the end of December, ready to get approval from the government engineers in January. The next step: fund raising! Some of you have already contributed to this project, so we have about \$320,000 in the bank. We don’t have the final budget yet but are anticipating a cost of about \$1.5 million. Please be praying with us that when the timing is right, God will provide the needed funds.



Mental Health

In September I asked for prayer for the mental health of my team of nurses. We’ve lost some experienced staff, changes in scheduling have given us less nurses during the day, and each year we’re admitting more and more babies. I’m starting to see a toll on my staff—working on the edge for months now. Please keep praying with me, that something will change soon, providing some relief.

Someone left a stuffed elephant at Kibogora, and since we name our tiny babies “Inzovu” (which means elephant), here is a before and after picture of one of our babies—born Oct 6th and going home soon!

Prayer Requests

- Baby Jacqueline
- Strength for my team
- That patients and staff will see the real reason for Christmas

Praises

- Touring Israel, experiencing the Bible in a new way
- God’s protection on the babies at the hospital
- The Joy of Christmas



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