



## NURSE'S NOTES

### CHARTING ON MY LIFE IN RWANDA

November, 2019

Volume 14 Issue 11

My early Christmas present from my parents was fourteen wonderful days traveling around China. I thought living in Africa would make it so I'd be used to lots of people. But I quickly learned that China has *so* many more people! Our tour guide said that a small town in China has under four million people. And although we traveled to a number of large cities, 16-34 million people in size, I was amazed at how many tree lined streets, parks and gardens there are in these huge metropolises, making them not feel like megacities closed in by cement and high-rises. My favorite sites were the Great Wall of China and the views along the Three Gorges as we cruised down the Yangtze River. For me, personally, an interesting observation was the influence China has had on Rwanda. Observing how things are done in China, made me notice similarities in Rwanda. I'm wondering if these originated with Rwandans studying in China and returning home to work...or...with Chinese diplomats, advisors, road construction teams, IT staff, and other Chinese working in Rwanda.



December 3<sup>rd</sup> I fly back to Rwanda to close out my time at Kibogora Hospital. I'll be there one to four months, depending on what I have to accomplish in the handover process to the hospital and the church. I'm sad to be saying good-bye. But when looking at the neonatal unit, it's a good time to be moving on, as the team is giving such good care. I love that I went into the job to improve neonatal care, decreased the infant mortality rate, and worked myself out of a job. Is there more to improve? Yes, there's always more. But for now, with the level of equipment, staffing, and medications that we have, the neonatal unit is in a good place.

Thank you for all the years of support, prayers, and encouragement that you've given to me and Kibogora Hospital. I've loved working with the babies then sharing with you. At the same time I wish you could've been there to see the babies and mothers whose lives we touched.

After I spoke at Cooks Hill Community Church, the pastor made the comment that in heaven, everyone at his church is going to meet the babies we took care of. That comment really touched my heart. I don't have to "transport" all of you to Kibogora to meet the babies because a reunion is already planned. All of you will someday meet the mothers and babies I've told you about, whom you've prayed over and supported with gifts of clothes, blankets, hats, diaper covers, baby warmers, IV pumps, saturation monitors, and other supplies. So although my path is leaving Kibogora, the best is yet to come—a Kibogora reunion in heaven someday!





## Maternity Building Project

As I leave Kibogora, the one unfinished project I'd love to see completed is the new maternity building. At the moment we have \$513,000 already donated and partners in England continue to look for more funding. Negotiations are going on with the local government and road construction crew, as the road to Kibogora is going to be paved in the next few months. We're hoping the district and the road construction company will do the excavation work for the new maternity building foundation at a greatly reduced rate or free, as their contribution to the community. Pray that they'll agree! Depending on this, we still need around \$700,000.



I'd love for the mothers in maternity to have enough space to labor in privacy so their family can join them, for the mother's not to have to share a bed with other women, and for the mother's to have a place to sleep near their babies that's not a hard tile floor. I'd love for the babies to not have to share a crib with non-siblings. I'd love for space between the cribs and incubators, so my staff could work easily and safely as they care for the babies. I'd love to have space to store equipment and supplies that isn't cardboard boxes under cribs. And we'd love to get some temperature control in the room because in the dry season, all our babies all have afternoon fevers just because the room is so hot! So if you're looking at your end of year giving, please consider the Kibogora Maternity Project! Online giving:

<https://give.fmcusa.org/donation/df-eprwkibmater>

Checks made out to the Free Methodist Church - USA should be designated for the Kibogora Maternity Project and mailed to Free Methodist Church - USA  
770 N. High School Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46214

### My Plans?

Now the big question—do I know what is next for me? I thought I had that figured out, and then last week a door opened I hadn't even seen. So at the moment I'm following that, praying if this is where God wants me. So, no, I still don't know where I'm headed next. But I have to say, I have peace that I will know...at the right time.



### 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)