



## Morning Prayer Session at NDH

*Photo by Dr. Demoule*

## Restoring Hope Through Specialized Surgical Care in Eastern Congo

**By Dr. Marx Lwabanya**

In the heart of South Kivu, where decades of conflict have left communities fractured and health systems fragile, **Nundu Deaconess Hospital (NDH)** stands as a beacon of resilience and healing. On **July 17, 2025**, the arrival of **Dr. McGee, Dr. Pahari**, and their surgical team marked more than a medical mission—it reignited hope for thousands in Nundu and surrounding villages.

### 💡 The Power of Presence

For years, NDH has served as a missionary hospital offering quality care in a region scarred by displacement, violence, and loss. During the darkest periods of unrest, staff risked their lives to safeguard essential medical supplies—carrying microscopes, medications, and surgical tools to safety each night. Their courage laid the foundation for the hospital's revival. Until very recently, NDH is experiencing a renaissance:

- New infrastructure and equipment
- Expanded staff capacity
- Arrival of specialist physicians
- Growing trust from the community

Dr. McGee's initial visit in **January 2025** revealed the overwhelming need for advanced surgical care. Patients continued arriving until the final day of his mission, many expressing deep gratitude for life-saving interventions. Despite escalating violence in North Kivu, Dr. McGee returned—guided not by headlines, but by faith and compassion.

### 💡 Impact of Surgical Care

Since the team's return in July:

- **6+ major surgeries** are performed daily
- Consultations extended into evenings to meet demand
- Critical surgical skills introduced for complex cases
- Community trust and morale uplifted

*"This visit is a symbol of hope," says **Espoir Basunga**, NDH's Director of Nursing. "We are witnessing a surge in patients with surgical conditions who previously had no access to care."* Dr Demoule the acting medical director at NDH, also expressed himself regarding the ongoing mission:

*"This surgical mission has illuminated a painful truth—many individuals in our community are silently enduring critical health conditions at home, unable to seek care due to financial barriers. I am deeply grateful to the surgical team and all those who made this outreach possible. Their compassion and commitment have brought healing and hope to those who need it most."* – Dr. Demoule, Nundu Deaconess Hospital

### **Urgent Need: Safe Housing for Visiting Teams**

During this mission, a falling tree severely damaged the **Matthewson House**, the primary residence for visiting medical teams. Though no one was injured, the team was forced to relocate to **Hadduck House**, which remains under renovation and lacks basic amenities.

#### **Why housing matters:**

- Visiting specialists are essential to NDH's surgical capacity
- Safe, functional housing ensures continuity of care
- Hospitality reflects dignity and respect for those serving in crisis zones
- Poor housing conditions risk deterring future missions

### **Call to Action**

We are grateful for your continued support and wish to share more opportunities to make impact with us by inviting you as a partners, brother and sister in to support:

- **Refurbishment of Matthewson House** for safe accommodation
- **Completion of Hadduck House** to expand hosting capacity
- **Surgical equipment and supplies** to meet growing demand
- **Sponsorship of future missions** to sustain specialist care

Together, we can strengthen NDH's role as a sanctuary of healing in eastern Congo—where faith, medicine, and community converge to restore lives.



The Matthewson House after the incident, with Dr. McGee thankful that he is safe



Surveying the damage

SPARK 30C

• 27mm f/1.6 1/30s ISO1447