

A Nurse's Notes

Charting on my Year in the United States

November, 2011

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CHILE

The first two weeks of November, thirteen of us went to Chile to work on Casa Grande, one of seven Free Methodist churches in Santiago, the capital city. I've been on a number of mission trips, but compare this two-week trip with my 3½-year "trip" to Rwanda. :-) I must say the two weeks flew by!

I enjoyed visiting three other Free Methodist churches in Santiago and meeting so many of the church members. They were so hospitable! We almost had to tell them to stop inviting us over, as we were getting so many invitations! A good problem!

For me it was so different being in the capital city with a great mass transit system, huge grocery stores with escalators, and even a Ronald McDonald type house for children with cancer and their families. So different from my isolated Kibogora! I like small towns but enjoyed comparing Kibogora to Santiago.

Kristy and I had a variety of jobs. We "destroyed" a room by tearing out walls and floor tile to



make it into a bathroom. After painting and putting a new roof on the children's big toy playhouse, we named it "Casa Pequeña" in contrast to the church name "Casa Grande."

Little House—Big House. I helped with the sheetrock by cutting the pieces to size. Kind of like quilting, only no sewing, just all cutting.



HANDS AND FEET

I spoke at the Marysville Free Methodist church on November 20th. As the second service ended, we sang the song, Hands and Feet: "I wanna be your hands, I wanna be your feet, I'll go where you send me." Some days during my home assignment, I'm tempted to settle into my comfy life in the USA and not return to Africa. But that song refreshed God's challenge to follow Christ where he wants me to go. Even though it isn't an easy road to follow sometimes, I know it's the right one for me. I truly do want to be Jesus' hands and feet, going wherever he sends me.

OBSTETRICS CLASS

We got home from Chile November 13th, and by the 15th I was headed out of town again. First, to Newberg, Oregon to visit the Edingers, a family moving to Rwanda to coordinate a Free Methodist pastors' training program. It was great to meet them and talk about Rwanda. I'll see them again in February when I visit Rwanda for a month. The next day I drove to Klamath Falls in south central Oregon. There I took a two-day class for family practice doctors on how to handle common emergencies in obstetrics in small rural hospitals. Although



I'm not a doctor, I really wanted to take the class, as I felt it might be useful for teaching in Rwanda. It was a great class! I learned a lot and got to practice doing deliveries using forceps and vacuums on mannikins, deal with a postpartum hemorrhage, and other things I don't do here in the USA as a nurse. I think I can now better help the doctors by anticipating what they're going to need because I've had the chance to practice thinking through what I would need if I were the doctor. (Pictures from my drive home from Klamath Falls)

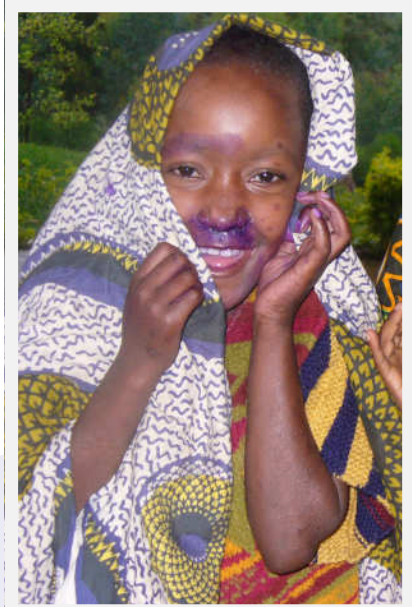


A YEAR AGO

A year ago at Kibogora Hospital, my little friend Delicia passed away on Thanksgiving Day. I spent the day at a friend's house, enjoying Thanksgiving dinner, but I have to admit, I'd rather have stayed home and cried. I



was thankful Delicia was no longer suffering...and happy I no longer had to worry about her—if she was sick or if she was getting enough love. I knew she was in heaven, soaking up love while sitting on Christ's lap. But sad for me because I could no longer tickle her or snuggle up with her when she was desperately seeking love.



Praises

- ◆ Spending the holidays with family this year
- ◆ New friends in Chile
- ◆ The beauty of snow (but pray I don't freeze!)

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Hospital chaplains as they share with the patients during the Christmas season
- ◆ Hospital management team to make wise decisions for the upcoming year
- ◆ The Edinger family as they move to Rwanda on January 5th

Speaking Schedule:

November 27, Bellingham, WA
December 4, Indiana
December 11, Dayton Ohio
January 1st. North Haven, Seattle, WA