

NUNDU UPDATE, 2011

How many docs are there?

There are four doctors now working at Nundu Deaconess Hospital.

What are their names?

1. Dr. Bumbu Malite, graduate of Lubumbashi University in 2005
2. Dr. Hilaire Kasuku Kabungulu, graduate of Evangelic University in Africa (U.E.A-Bukavu) in 2007
3. Dr. Alengo Miambano Esther, graduate of Evangelic University in Africa (U.E.A-Bukavu) in 2009
4. Dr. Ambatobe Nyongolo Amy, graduate of Lubumbashi University in 2003

The chain of command for the medical work here is as follows:

Bishop Joshua Welongo Luheya, **Bishop of the Free Methodist Church of Congo, DRC** Dr. Sami, **Medical Coordinator FMC, DRC** Elongo Bitondo, **Administrator Nundu Deaconess Hospital** Dr. Bumbu Malite, **Medical Director Nundu Deaconess Hospital** Dr. Hilaire Kasuku Kabungulu, **Chief of Staff Nundu Deaconess Hospital** Dr. Ambatobe Nyongolo Amy, **Medical Chief of the Nundu/Fizi Zone**

What is the daily hospital census?

The daily inpatient census in January was 47 and in February it was 41. The outpatient census runs about an average of 30 patients per day.

How is the nursing school going?

With regard to the new building, it is almost finished; lots of detail work to do however. The program its self seems to be one of the best in the country. There are 17 teachers; seven are full time and 10 are part time.

How many nursing students are there?

There are 68 nursing students

What are perceived medical needs at Nundu with which folks stateside could possibly assist?

Needs are:

A fence for the hospital

Money for medicines on a regular basis

Subsidy for the nursing staff pay to keep them here

Paint for the roof of the hospital buildings

Purchase of new vents and other maintenance items for the hospital buildings

Financial support for continuing education (in-country) requested by the doctors and the hospital administrator

Equipment upgrades [Editor's note: The CAHO Nundu Support Group will be evaluating equipment needs and raising funds in 2012.]

How are you all doing?

We are doing well and feel this is just where God wants us.

What all are you doing?

I, **Randy**, am, at present, supervising the Nursing School building construction and of course the purchaser of the supplies for said building. This has been a time consuming project and has a deadline for completion by the government. So far we have made timely progress that has pleased the inspectors. The school will move into the new building in April. It still needs equipment, teaching tools and most of all medical/nursing books in French. They will use the furniture (chairs and tables) that they are using now until more can be purchased. Chalk boards are built into the walls. We would like green chalkboard paint for the chalkboards. If we could get powdered chalkboard paint in the states to bring out it would be wonderful. We do not know if it can be purchased here, but will check ASAP.

The hospital needs much maintenance; just today a worker and I repaired some persistent leaks in the roofs of two buildings (including bullet holes from the war). Another of my primary tasks is helping villages get the roof structure and roofing on an already existing shell of their FM Church. We are roofing churches within half a day's journey from Nundu. So far we have completed four (4) and have six (6) in process. We have inspected and measured more; they are on our list, but have not been funded.

I, **Alice**, have the distinction of being the household manager. I make tea for the zamu (night watchman) at the crack-of-dawn; I plan the menus and make the purchases on our monthly trips into Burundi. I send my cook to purchase a few things that are sometimes available locally. I make sure we have enough drinking water in the bottles for the day (I try to offer drinking water to any visitors and to the workers under my care) and enough water for other needs. Since we do not have running water to our home yet we fill solar shower bags to heat in the sun for a welcome shower at the end of the day.

There are many visitors throughout the day, from Randy's right-hand-man, Habibu, who comes to discuss the day's work before they go to the shop/garage for devotions, to the doctors or the hospital administrator coming to discuss matters of concern with the hospital or perhaps just a national friend who needs encouragement. As the manager of the day-to-day restoration of the duplex next door I have the workers scraping, wire brushing, and sanding metal surfaces in preparation for applying red oxide paint (to prevent rust) and to doing the same for the very dirty, graffiti covered walls. We have (on one of our trips to Bujumbura, Burundi, purchased new toilets and sinks for the duplex. They are stored and ready for installation.

How is your housing situation?

Our housing situation is so great from where we started after the war that it is almost unbelievable. Elbow grease and paint do wonders. We have glass and security bars in all our windows; we have locking doors front and back; we have a propane refrigerator and stove (one burner - we still have to fill the gas bombs in Buja); we have nice, covered clothes lines at the back of the house; we have flowers blooming at the front of the house and a garden at the south end of the house between us and the duplex (the school house is gone).

What is the state of water at your house and at the hospital?

Water has been a continual problem. We have two barrels for collecting rain water and that is great during the rainy season. Our default is a hand pump well in a great place just on the other side of the Songya River. It has clean, sweet water that we bring (by our car, Land Rover) in the nine (9) debbies we have available. Since we have the best grade of SAWYER water filters, we do not boil water ever (except for coffee/tea) – a real savings on fuel.

The hospital, at present, gets water from a new TEAR FUND reservoir (fed by three (3) high mountain springs). Nundu Deaconess Hospital and Mission will be taking a more active role in managing the reservoir so that we can fill our existing water tank, a 7,200 gallon capacity.

What is the state of electricity at your house and at the hospital?

The state of electricity at our house is that we have 5 solar panels on the roof of the house for charging a truck battery inside the house. We have 3 12-volt lights for use in the evenings and the use of the 12-volt system for the computer 24-7.

The state of electricity at the hospital is that they have a diesel generator (a Yamaha 20 KW) for emergency surgery only. Otherwise they use lanterns at night. A solar system would be wonderful. Smile!

We appreciate you, the faithful, loyal, soldiers of the Cross. Please keep us in your prayers; we know there is power in prayer and God does hear and answer.

Come over and join us in the work – for a week, a month, or maybe even several; pray about it; you can do it. Smile!

A **special prayer request** is that we are expecting to make a trip in June to an “unreached” people group – the Batwa or Pygmies. “Unreached” means - to us – that they have not been given opportunity to hear and respond to The Gospel as we think of it in the west. The team going in is made up of some of us from here at Nundu and some from the medical /evangelical team from Oklahoma City. We will do a near vision clinic; distribute Kiswahili Bibles and Song Books, cooking pots, and used clothing. We will evaluate the possibility of doing more at a future date. We are working with a national missionary (appointed by the church to the Batwa) who, along with his family, is living in the area and also with a national evangelist called to work with the Batwa. This is exciting *stuff!*

Randy and Alice Matthewson