



# CALL TO PRAYER

APRIL 2019

## BONGOLO HOSPITAL NEEDS YOU!

*ADAPTED FROM REPORTS BY RENÉE VALACH, WHO SERVES AT BONGOLO HOSPITAL IN GABON, CENTRAL AFRICA. THROUGH THIS ALLIANCE MINISTRY, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ANNUALLY HEAR JESUS' MESSAGE OF HOPE IN THEIR DARKEST HOURS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OR ABILITY TO PAY FOR TREATMENT.*

Last month, Gabon ran out of HIV medicines for the approximately 38,000 people living with HIV. If not taken, the medication is unlikely to work later, and patients will probably die slowly of infections. Our staff prayed about this one morning and then set aside most of the few bottles of the drug we had left for those with significant needs, such as pregnant women.

The waiting room was overflowing with anxious patients who had heard about the lack of medicines. We decided to divide our remaining stock and dispense it a week or two at a time. When a nurse went to the supply room to collect bottles or bags for the pills, he learned that eight boxes of HIV drugs had just arrived!

Pray for a steady supply of affordable medicines, especially as Bongolo has been blocked from ordering many standard ones—forcing us to order more expensive alternatives or go without them. Pray also for timely

payments from the Gabonese health insurance system.

In May, five international workers will be leaving for one year, two years, or indefinitely—including all our nursing instructors. Bongolo relies on graduates from its nursing school to staff the hospital. After the current students graduate next month, the next class won't finish until 2023 or later; several nurses will retire before then. Pray for another instructor—or ask God if He is calling you to this ministry! Our pediatrician is also one of those going on home assignment for a year, and another primary care physician is urgently needed. Please pray for God's provision. Beyond that, ask Him to provide for the hospital's infrastructure, including the much-needed electrical upgrade and a project manager to help coordinate this and other construction. (Could this be you?)

Sometimes it's tempting to get discouraged when focusing on the needs, but what God has done is amazing. In 2018, 1,479 people committed their lives to Jesus at Bongolo, and about 40,000 people heard the gospel as part of their outpatient visits.



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## Eyes to See

BY AN ALLIANCE WORKER COUPLE SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“What is the Trinity? How do you know the Bible is true? He has more power and authority than other prophets—I want Him in my life!”

These are the words of our local friends whom God has brought into our lives. Through our interactions with them, He has given us eyes to see Him at work in our city. As we hold teacher trainings, teach adult English classes, sit around the table with artisans making jewelry, and chat over coffee in our living room or around a bonfire in our backyard, God is making Himself known and pursuing these dear friends of ours whom He longs to bring into His family.

The more we live out this holistic ministry to which He’s called us, the more we see how multifaceted people are and how the body, mind, and spirit are all connected. God wants to redeem His creation, and that redemption flows into every area of life—affecting all segments of society. Our presence here is more than a platform to share God’s Word verbally—it is living in authentic relationship with those He came to restore to Himself.

Pray for His Kingdom to come in us, our team, and our local community to reconcile every part of this society to Himself. Pray for a great movement of God to break out.

## An Agnostic’s Invite Opens Doors to Share Jesus

BY AN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKER SERVING IN ASIA

An agnostic friend who teaches at a Christian school invited me to talk to his fourth graders. Most are from Christian backgrounds, but some are nonbelievers. In this country, the term “Christian” often means just another religion. The idea of committing their lives to Jesus is not fully grasped by many people—much like in the United States.

The students asked about life in the United States and my thoughts on hot topics and spiritual matters. One of them asked, “Was there ever a time in your life where you weren’t sure if God is real? Because that’s how I feel right now.” Another said, “I’m not a Christian, and I hate praying because I have to do it in Arabic. I feel like I can’t even tell God what I want because I don’t know how. What does it look like when you pray?”

One child asked, “If God is good, why are there natural disasters? Many people died in an earthquake here. That doesn’t seem like a good God to me. What do you think?” Yet another asked, “Why doesn’t God answer my prayers?”

As I answered their questions, I shared honestly about my own times of doubt. “Although following Jesus is hard, at the end of the day I wouldn’t trade my relationship with Him for the world,” I told them. Pray that He will move in their hearts to draw them to Himself.

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