

Dear Friends,

Sept 27, 2017

This weekend Katherine, and the “medical coordination” team made a quick trip to Kikongo to do ‘routine’ supervision of the hospital there. I went along to see if I could drive the 65 miles of “all-terrain” roads without getting stuck. After six hours on a paved road we got to the turn-off heading to Kikongo.



Then for the next four hours I dealt with endless stretches of hopelessly deep sand and ...



“precision driving” to avoid ruts of unknown depth filled with pond scum.



interesting bridges made from locally hewn planks and ...



There are new sections of roads where large trucks have given up on the old and made alternative routes. In places, it's a maze of options, some seem to lead nowhere!



When we got to Kikongo, Dr. Lay took Katherine and her associate Neron (with clipboard) on a tour of the hospital.



Patients, who in their villages sleep on straw mats on the ground, find the mattresses and sheets supplied by White Cross luxurious.

Everyone appreciates the great job Dr. Lay is doing. In addition to providing excellent patient care, he has spruced up the buildings with festive colored coats of paint.

On this trip he requested we bring more paint and window screening worth several hundred dollars. We also brought three new solar controllers to replace those at the hospital that a catastrophic stroke of lightning destroyed.

I worked most of Saturday with Mr. Makila, the hospital maintenance person, replacing a bolt under my truck that the road broke. When you travel Congo's dirt roads you assume you will get to your destination, you just just can't be sure when.



Katherine and Neron spent most of their time meeting with the hospital staff, listening to problems, providing words of encouragement, trouble shooting, and checking on management practices.



Monday we headed home LOADED with provisions folks in Kikongo wanted to send to friends and family in the capital city (corn, manioc, yams). Eleven hours later we arrived safely having gotten neither stuck nor broken down. A remote breakdown or mud hole can delay you for hours or days. There is no AAA road side service in Congo!

As always we thank God for your support, making it possible for us to provide encouragement to committed Christian colleagues like Dr. Lay and his team who are providing care to the rural population in the name of Jesus.

Lord Bless you!

Wayne + Katherine



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