

Subject: Tuesday Update  
Date: 7/23/2013 5:41:56 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
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One again thank you for your continued effort in prayer. Rachel Salveson arrived safely from Chicago and Dr. Ebelle arrived safely from the Ivory Coast.

Proverbs teaches that "Man plans his way, but God directs his steps." That is very visible and easy to appreciate in Africa. Today we had so many emergency trauma surgeries at Mengo Hospital that we didn't have time to do surgery on any of the patients we brought from the village. I really appreciate these people as there were no complaints. I actually think they considered it an extra day of vacation since the guest house is so much nicer than where they live. One of the patients I operated on is the grandson of dear friend of mine who cut his cornea when playing with a stick. Pray that Luke doesn't develop an infection in the injured eye.

Most of the local doctors were very interested in observing Dr. Enzenauer, my former professor and pediatric ophthalmologist, do some rare and interesting cases. I am attaching a photograph. One again I am thankful for a hard-working team that actually are pushing me to do more. Last evening about 11:30 pm I dropped a trial lens set and two of the team members graciously began playing 120 lens pick-up organizing them and putting them into their case. Dr. Enzenauer is already talking about coming back and bringing an oculoplastics colleague.

For my part I have been reflecting on changes in Uganda since first coming here in 1998 and they are many. Perhaps the most significant in my mind is changing of the guard so to speak. Untimely and unexpected death is all too common here. A neighbor of our driver was killed by a stray shot from a police officer who was trying to rescue him from a robber. Pray for Komanda as he grieves the loss of his friend in such a shocking manner. Some of the patients I did cataract surgery on in October have died, as well as one of the staff I have worked with at Mengo. While I am not naturally bent toward being very relationship oriented, this certainly gives me pause to consider the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities around me. Please pray that I will be effective in relating to the team and those here adopting children. Much of my work this week is facilitating other people working so this also begs for more time relating.

Recently I went to the Emergency Department at the teaching hospital in Chattanooga and was stunned at how young the residents appeared when one of the "older" attendings commented on my catching up to him with gray hair. I'm noticing the same in the hospital and churches here. My colleague Dr. Rose Mutumba was the youngest member of the ophthalmology staff when I met her in 2000. She helped me tremendously over the years when she became director of the department of ophthalmology, and now it has been difficult to have time to see her because she has been appointed Medical Director of the Hospital and is constantly in administrative

meetings. There are new doctors on staff now that I am growing to know more and this week we have been training amazingly young looking residents. My friends at church who were new converts or at least young or teaching the youth are now Senior Pastors and Elders. This isn't written to lament my realization of aging or to herald a mid-life crisis, but I am awakening to the reality that the most important changes in Uganda just might be the people and their roles. Sunday morning I taught Sunday School from Deuteronomy 6 and think perhaps God was speaking more to me than the rest of the class about the importance of teaching the fear of the Lord and His teachings to the next generation. Pray with me that God would raise up leaders in the upcoming generations in Uganda so the momentum of God's work here isn't lost.

Lastly thank you for those of you commenting on praying that God would help me perform well while tired. By God's grace I had no ill effects in doing surgery, but this is another late night so pray that I will be able to carve at more sleep time soon. This week it isn't such a big deal since I'm mostly coordinating the team, but next week will bring a heavy surgery schedule for me personally.

Grace and peace,

J.D.=

