



Russ & Beth White

Tenwek Hospital
February 8, 2024



This week we have a congenital heart team (they fix complex pediatric hearts) here from Vanderbilt. They have been coming for years and have been such a blessing not only to the patients they care for and their families, but also to our large team of caregivers who they have worked alongside and helped to train.

Post Op

Yakhoub has been discharged, but since he comes all the way from Chad, he and his father are staying at the local **Mustard Seed House**, where he can rest and recover and be nearby for follow-up to be cleared to go home. We are grateful for this ministry to people who have come from far, whether within Kenya from a distant tribe or from an entirely different country.



I met **Harold's** wife in church, which is on the grounds of the hospital partly so patients and their families can join us when able. She stood up to ask for prayer and to praise God for the way He has been at work in Harold's healing from receiving a CABG (coronary artery bypass graft), a surgery more common in the western world than here.



Blacksen, though resting here, is already up and walking after his surgery on his weak heart. He is pictured here with Russ and one of our cardiac medical officers (MO), Brenda. She has finished medical school and internship and is in her first year of working in the cardiac department. We hire four MO's to help with the busy service. They take long nights of call and handle all aspects of patient care.



Margaret, who had a rough postop course from her aneurysm, is doing much better. I keep catching her at nap time, but I am told she has been up walking and is much encouraged!

COARCTATION

Our third son, Peter, now 28 y.o., had emergency surgery at 11-days-old for a coarctation (severe narrowing) of his aorta. It would make a good story to say that Russ chose cardiothoracic surgery as a result of the experience, but really he chose it because esophageal cancer is so prevalent here. However, God has used that to expand his and Tenwek's capacity for caring for all sorts of thoracic issues over the years. So when this 15-day-old, **Shawn**, was transferred here, I was moved to see the team preparing him for surgery as I remembered the dire drama of Peter's situation years ago. And I felt so grateful that as always, God has mobilized the right people at the right time to provide care for His glory. Sean was in very bad shape on arrival and was immediately placed on artificial ventilation. It took a day to stabilize him, and then they took him to surgery. He had major issues post-op but has now stabilized and was taken off the ventilator and even has begun feeding!



Heart Camp

When a visiting team like the Vanderbilt group comes to help with complex cases, we bring in patients that we have saved for outside help and training, and we call it *Heart Camp*.



Joy 5 years old, has Tetralogy of Fallot (a combination of 4 congenital cardiac abnormalities). She weighs 28 pounds, which puts her at the zero percentile of growth for her age! She has frequent "Tet spells," which means oxygen levels dip dangerously low, cardiac output drops, and she loses consciousness. Her usual oxygen level in her blood is very low, causing her fingers, lips, and tongue to be very blue.



Here she is post-op!



Melodious has multiple holes between the right and left sides of her heart. Her symptoms are those of heart failure.



Chantelle has 'complete AV canal,' meaning that she has incomplete formation of both valves between the upper and lower chambers of the heart. She also has Down's syndrome.



Davis is 20 months old with a variant of Tetralogy of Fallot and has very abnormal pulmonary arteries (the vessels which carry blood from the right side of the heart to the lungs). He also has Down's Syndrome. Here he is post-op.



Precious is a five-year-old with a very complicated Tetralogy of Fallot.

Please pray for Joy, Melodious, Chantelle, Davis, and Precious--all such sweet names!--as they await and recover from their complex surgeries! Please pray for all those involved in their care as well.

Amen...



Again we say thank you for joining us in prayer for these patients, who are universally heartened to know that our friends would join us in praying for them.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
My love to all of you in Christ Jesus... *Amen*

1 Corinthians 16:23-24

Russ & Beth

Little **Amen** has healed from her viral gastroenteritis and will soon be ready to have surgery. We are glad for our Ethiopian trainees and co-workers who make her mom feel at ease and understood as they care together for Amen.

Cardiac Compassionate Fund Campaign - give here

Cardiothoracic Center Equipment Fund - give here

Cardiothoracic Training - give here

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Visit our Website, Tenwek Hearts



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