



Russ & Beth White

Tenwek Hospital
14 July 2024

Finally the day!



Judy suffered a debilitating cardio embolic stroke due to severe Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) in 2010. She has been on an arduous journey since, but has been lovingly cared for by her husband David. I first met them at **Mustard Seed House**, as they had come from far. She was to have had surgery a few weeks ago, but she was found to have several infected teeth that had to be treated and healed first. She has been cleared, and tomorrow is the day they have been waiting for, when she will have her valves replaced. I got to pray with both of them today after they joined us for our church service in the hospital meeting room. Please pray for peaceful sleep for both of them and their daughter Patience and for a successful surgery and recovery.

The Final Day



Six y.o. Brenda was seen at Tenwek for cardiac issues, but the cost of surgery was prohibitive, so her grandfather took her home. When she started having pain, he brought her to Kaboson, an outlying clinic of Tenwek. She weighed 17 kg, and her heart murmur was so loud that Dr. Manchester couldn't hear anything else through the stethoscope. He and his wife Theresa arranged to get Brenda back to Tenwek, where they saw miracles start to happen. A second ultrasound revealed that she only needed two heart valves replaced instead of three. There was an opening in surgery schedule the next day. The labs all came back normal. They began immediately to raise funds for Brenda's care.

They wrote: *"We know 'we can't save everyone.' It is a regular discouragement for those of us in medical missions. **The Starfish Story** came to mind and we said to each other, "But can we help this one?" We feel like Jesus is inviting us to make a difference for Brenda..."*



This is Brenda towards the end of her 10-hour surgery. Besides the two faulty valves that had been damaged by RHD, her aorta seemed to be congenitally deformed. Despite that, she did fine throughout the day and in the recovery room, and she had stepped down to ICU. But Brenda unexpectedly arrested about 8:30 pm, and the doctors were unable to revive her.

Manchesters wrote: *"It is really hard for us to understand why all the doors seemed to open wide yesterday for Brenda to get this chance at a healthy life. She was a great surgical candidate and was expected by all her doctors to do well. But 'all the days ordained for her were written in God's book before one of them came to be.' (Psalm 139:16). We trust in the ultimate goodness of God and that He will heal her brokenhearted family and bind up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)"*

Little did Brenda or anyone know it would be her final day, but then again, none of us knows, and we are all called to be ready!

Progress!

So much is going on behind the scenes and on the grounds of the CTC as we get ready for the opening! The construction company handed the finished building over to us, and equipment is regularly being shipped in. It was amazing to watch many of the 27 trucks that came with donated hospital



furniture, and another huge one that delivered the Cath Lab. Beyond the physical plant, there are many meetings, plans, and hirings that are ongoing. This has been a very intense time for Russ and his team, and we keenly sense the need for your prayers for his and their health, strength, grace, and wisdom for each step along the way.

More Travels

We enjoyed having some of our kids and grandkids home with us here at Tenwek. Alas, they are all gone. It always helps to say good-bye when we know when we have a plan to see loved ones next! And we will see at least some of them again when we return to the States in August for some time of rest, for Russ to meet baby Eli (our newest grandson), and for time together with Russ' siblings, family, and friends who are coming together to remember his brother Wes at their family cabin in Michigan.



We are regularly reminded of the frailty of life and of our dependence on God and His timing and plan for each of His children. It is exciting to see God at work, and it is so sad for the patients' families when things go wrong and when patients die. Please continue to join us in prayer for each of the patients that comes our way, for their families and for our team who care for them.

Russ & Beth

If you would like to be added to our weekly "Prayer Updates" list for more updates like this, or if you have a different address you would prefer us to use, please send a note to Beth.White@WGM.org



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