

Vanga visitors in the era of COVID-19

Dear FRIEND,

Dr. Shannon Potter, an OB/GYN and an experienced fistula surgeon, continues to come to Vanga to help care for women with obstetrical fistula along with Dr. Paulin Kapaya, a Congolese urologist who has extensive experience in this surgery. This is a link for more information about this campaign. <http://www.congohealthconnection.org/fistula/>

Traveling in the era of COVID-19 is difficult because of the requirement to have a negative COVID test. Dr. Shannon Potter was tested as required prior to coming to Vanga to participate in the 2021 Fistula repair campaign. Her test was positive (groan!) even though she is fully vaccinated and has had the actual COVID disease a couple of months prior. (A test can be positive for a long time after people recover from the disease and any test has a certain false positive level no matter how carefully the test has been performed.)

Our team went into prayer and consultation mode. Many options were explored, but thanks be to God, the repeat test was negative, and she was able to travel to Kinshasa. On arrival in Kinshasa, Shannon was required to have a repeat COVID-19 test, and this third test was also negative.

The team traveling to Vanga were also required to have negative testing, including the MAF pilot. Unfortunately, the MAF pilot tested positive, even though he too had had COVID several months prior. The initial flight from Kinshasa to Vanga had to be cancelled. Again, our team went into prayer and consultation mode. God again opened the door, and the MAF pilot's repeat test was negative; the team was able to fly with only one day delay.

On arrival on Saturday the team went directly to work evaluating all 44 patients that have arrived for fistula surgery. They are evaluating and prioritizing the patients for surgery this week.

- Please pray that the surgeries will successfully eliminate the suffering of these women.

- Pray that God will continue to raise up financial supporters for this important work.
- Pray that people will see the love and the power of God to change the lives of those in the most difficult circumstances.

The MAF pilot Jonathan interviews the visiting team about the Fistula campaign.

Fistula patients waiting instructions on the enrollment steps for their fistula surgery this week.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is an invaluable partner in bring patients and team members to Vanga. Many of the roads have been washed out due to heavy rains.

Saying goodbye to the President of the Hospital Board of Directors, Dr. Jacques Katele and Vice President, Dr. Anicet Kipasa, as they return to their homes after a three day hospital board meeting.

Kathy leading the hospital team working to improve hospital supplies of medications.

Kathy looking over the work of one of the four residents in their course on the Biblical foundation of hospital administration.

How many COVID-19 tests does it take to get to Vanga? Well it takes a lot of COVID-19 tests to get to Vanga. It also takes a lot of answered prayer so thanks for praying.

From the banks of the Kwilu River,
Tim and Kathy Rice

[Link with information on how to donate](#)

CongoHealthConnection.org/home/donation/

Printable version of this Newsletter:

**This is the link to the video about the work in
Vanga.**

<https://bit.ly/toservevanga>