

# Drs. Daniel and Priscila Cummings

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Winter  
2016

Dear friends and family,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We are back in Kalukembe, glad for rainy season, frogs, grasshoppers, small children who love to run, colleagues with a love for teaching, and portable ultrasounds machines we can carry around to save lives (like the old lady Daniel just did an ultrasound-guided paracentesis for, and immediately took her to a laparotomy where our friend unwound her ischemic bowel). Horrah! But it has been a discouraging couple months: waves of theft (hospital pharmacy robbed, public lights stolen, lots of material from the OR stolen, decorations on pediatrics stolen, hospital curtains stolen, our house broken into and electronic materials stolen, our chickens stolen), projects falling apart (internal phone system broken, public latrines covered in feces, hospital benches unused, water project stagnant until foreman fired), and relational struggles (a student who steals, lies, nearly kills patient intent on graduating; caring for children sexually abused and kidnapped by a church leader).

I don't think there is a way to humanly bounce back after that long list, but as hopeful "plodders" we keep moving and looking up. Maybe we are like slow, awkward beasts of burden, like a donkey carrying Mary and the unborn Jesus to Bethlehem! If so, that would be an honor! In the meantime, we continue here and celebrate stories like that of VC (picture #1) who came in labor with a history of one prior uterine rupture, followed by two c-sections. Daniel and I did a tag-team surgery: he delivered the baby (I was at home with the kids) then we switched and I came and pieced back her total bladder rupture/explosion and uterine rupture (which then became a hysterectomy). She and baby did well and were discharged last week! We've also had opportunities to encourage and enable our colleagues: the new Public Health nurse's initiative to begin hospital-wide teaching lectures; medical refreshment course and practical lab classes for our staff given by Dr. Ken Foster from Canada; and small hospital improvement projects by the maintenance managers.

We continue to have opportunities to share about what an amazing God we serve. Who made Himself nothing, to be with us, to suffer and die for us, and gives us hope for complete healing and forgiveness. Emmanuel!

**PRaise:** Kids who've survived many bouts of diarrhea, vomiting, fevers... Joy of letting go of our homeschooling curriculum with "Charlotte Mason" and discovering that Zeke is starting to read (with Eiel and Naomi pretending to as well).

**PRayer:** Water project nearing completion: that it be well done. A culture of stealing would be replaced by a culture of accountability. We would be encouraged by the Wonderful Counselor.

**PHOTO INDEX:** 1. VC recovering well 2. Rainy season 3. Solar panels being tested 4. Fistula patient with caring nurse Edimira 5. "Latrines are beautiful" 6. Dr. Ken Foster with amazing colleague (breast feeding and learning!) 6. Passion fruit flower 7. Health talks at church 8. Zeke with a crazy unidentified insect 9. By the irrigation ditches 10. Kids bumming dinner off students 11. Naomi and her chicken!



If interested in financially supporting us, here's the info:

**Christian Health Service Corps** Account #0129  
Website: [www.healthservicecorps.org](http://www.healthservicecorps.org)  
Address: CHSC, PO Box 132, Fruitvale, TX 75127  
To donate online go to "Africa Staff" and we are there!



## Electric project for Hospital 2017

Our hospital depends on a rotation of 3 old generators for electricity. This means unstable electricity; surges in power that have destroyed medical equipment; and blackouts that have spoiled blood units and reagents. We would like to raise \$50,000 for modest changes and likely solar alternative power to stabilize our supply.

Main-frame of hospital electrical grid! ->

