

# Kent & Amber Brantly

## Mukingee Mission Hospital

### Mukingee, Zambia

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We are the Brantly Family: Kent, Amber, Ruby, and Stephen. We live and serve in rural northwest Zambia at Mukingee Mission Hospital. Kent is a family physician and is part of a team of (currently) 7 doctors who share the work among different wards in our 200+ bed hospital. His passion is for the maternity and neonate patients, though his work ranges to all areas of the hospital. He also enjoys fishing, country drives, and birdwatching. Amber works as the manager of the hospital food project, which feeds every patient 3 meals a day, provides supplements for the malnutrition ward, and cultivates several hospital gardens. She is also procurement officer, household manager, and homeschool overseer for the family. When not in school lessons, Ruby (13 years old) keeps occupied with ukulele, art projects, and writing fantasy fiction. Stephen, age 12, is an adventurer, mango tree climber, lego engineer, and befriender.

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## Ministry Update

Over the past year, we saw tremendous growth in population in our district. Naturally, this increased the hospital census as well. With team members away on home assignment or leave, Kent spent several weeks as acting Executive Director or Manager of Clinical Care (sometimes as both at once). Usually, though, he works in the maternity ward which includes antepartum, postpartum, NICU, labor ward, and High Dependency Unit (HDU). He often partners with the national chaplains to comfort and minister to the patients and their families.

This year we anticipate the census to remain high. Amber is just beginning in her role as Food Project Manager and has already bought a cow for slaughter and teamed with the nutrition staff to provide

more protein to the children in the malnutrition unit. The kids continue in school, with Stephen attending one term (3 months) at the local day school for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Ruby carrying on with homeschool and online class.

In June, we hope to take some short time away in Indiana to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kent's parents.

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## **GOOD NEWS STORY**

When Dr. Friend, our surgeon and most senior doctor at the hospital, called to ask for help, I knew it was a serious situation. The patient was a 16-year-old girl, about 10 days postpartum, who had presented to the hospital critically ill. Dr. Friend called two of us to come assess the patient with him because maternal mortality (the death of a woman during pregnancy or in the 6 weeks after delivery) is a very serious issue with lots of social and institutional implications.

We determined that the girl had sepsis from an unknown cause, and we began treating her as aggressively as we could. Over the days and weeks that followed, there were many times that her survival was in doubt. I even had a meeting with her family and one of our chaplains to explain that they needed to begin preparing for a possible bad outcome, and for the future care of her newborn child. It was not good news.

Against all odds, however, her life was spared. She suffered greatly along the way, even losing one of her legs to gangrene. But she persevered. Through multiple surgeries. Through painful wound care. Through difficult physical therapy. Through months in the hospital. And I shared with her on more than one occasion the truth that it was only God who saved her life. I encouraged her that he had given her a second chance.

And thank God, she is making the most of this opportunity. Please pray that as she continues to return to the hospital for follow up care, that she would continue to see the hand of God at work in her life, and that she will continue to follow after him with all of her being.

Thank you for making it possible for us to serve people in need, like this young mother. Through our partnership together, we are participating in the coming of God's kingdom on this earth, and that is good news.