
DARE TO HOPE



Esther, Pepe, Cilvin, and Alfred (Laboratory Personnel)

Following the trajectory of Jesus

SHOW UP, PRESS ON, ANTICIPATE, and TURN OVER are the core beliefs at Sacré Coeur Pediatric Center. They are nothing other than a practical embodiment of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Hearing our cries, God manifested Himself among us, showing up for His creation. He persevered in our midst, pressing on until his death on the cross. Rising from the dead, he launched the new creation, whereby we can anticipate His future kingdom by fighting to align the present world with what we know is to come. Ascending to the Father, he bound us to himself through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we may find the power, apart from his physical presence, to accomplish the mission that has been turned over to us, his church. It is this trajectory of Jesus' life that serves as a blueprint for our work at the center, and provides a steady compass for us all as we refuse to let the darkness of the world have the last word.

During our month-long orientation, we spent a lot of time talking about these core beliefs. Within each, we highlighted certain virtues that help us embody these beliefs to those around us: SHOW UP - presence, humble service, and courage; PRESS ON - work ethic and compassion; ANTICIPATE - beauty, joy, and learning; TURN OVER - knowledge sharing and responsibility. As a team, we imagined how we could strive to portray the gospel of Jesus Christ in our everyday work. We have been so encouraged by the examples we are seeing amongst our staff - a commitment to contribute a portion of one's salary for patients who cannot pay, a willingness to show up early to ensure our spaces are clean and organized for the day, a desire to learn and then share that knowledge with others, and a willingness to push and fight for things that allow us to better care for our patients.



Practicing malaria smears during Dr. Joel's visit

We recently had a microbiologist, Dr. Joel, from Cincinnati Children's Hospital visit Guinea to train our laboratory personnel how to do malaria smears, gram stains, and stool studies to look for parasites. During this training, he pushed our staff to be more meticulous so as not to miss important details during their exams. He also introduced new ways of reporting results that required more intense calculations than they'd ever done; in fact, we've NEVER seen results reported with this kind of detail in all of our time in Guinea. But our lab staff willingly accepted the challenge! During our first week of patient visits, we had a patient present with symptoms of malaria. We ordered a malaria smear and within a couple of hours, we had the result. Not only did our lab staff report the results like Dr. Joel had taught them, but they also recognized a rare species of malaria, ultimately impacting the

treatment the patient received. Our lab staff embodied all of our core beliefs that day - they had the courage to keep showing up even though we were asking them to do things they'd never done; they persevered through their training with Dr. Joel to ensure our lab is of the highest quality; they were able to push themselves to learn by anticipating what could be; and they assumed responsibility of their work to be excellent.

There are days when things are hard and overwhelming and we doubt if we can put a dent in the enormous health needs that exist in Guinea. But when we see our staff stepping up and committing over and over again to these core beliefs and to the vision of Sacré Coeur, we are filled with HOPE as we anticipate what is to come. Thank you for making this all possible - you are writing a new story in Guinea through the center, the chapel, and our staff that centers on the greatest story of all time, that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. May we all strive to follow Jesus' trajectory to show up, press on, anticipate, and turn over.



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