

June 28, 2024

There is hope



I met Amadou Dicko at the end of May 2023. He was very weak, walking slowly into the Emergency Room, using a stick as an aid. His younger sister had \$27, given to him by people seeing his condition, for medical help. That amount covered his consultation (\$5) and labwork. He had been sick for a month with uncontrolled diabetes (no money for treatment), fever, and cough producing blood. It was evident that this 26-year-old Fulani man needed to be hospitalized. With no more funds, I agreed to cover his costs, using ministry money. I shared the gospel with him, explaining that Christians in the US donated money so that he could hear about God's love. He left the hospital a bit stronger, encouraged, and stated that he wanted to follow this God that provided for him. I was amazed, as this ethnic group is typically very closed to the Gospel.

Dicko had ups and downs, trials of many medications, and finally, in March 2024, it seemed that he was getting better. Hospital staff would see him for his appointments and say, "Diane, how is your Dicko? Diane, your 'son' is here for his check-up."



He went from 77 pounds to 90! His diabetes was stabilized, months of coughing up blood had stopped. Because he desired to follow Jesus. His family persecuted him for it and abandoned him. He lived with his younger sister (photo, far right), but her husband and the other in laws shunned him and provided no medical care. His parents had died a few years ago. Being too weak to work, he had no funds. Dicko told me, "Mama, I just want to be healed so that everyone can see that Jesus Christ is the way. May He be glorified."

This week, my Dicko took a turn for the worse. He was hospitalized again. He told my dear friend, Yana, his other "surrogate mama," that wanted the Lord to take him home, as he was just so tired. For over a year, he never felt very good, but he always said, "well, today, I am better." So much suffering. This morning, the Lord granted him his desire, and he passed away and woke up in heaven with Jesus.

There is hope. This Mama's heart is sad but also rejoicing that Dicko is finally completely healed.

More hope



God has brought the hospital through some dark times and serious financial difficulties. In this last year, He has provided 3 new young doctors. Dr. Justin Ouedraogo (far left) came from Burkina Faso in February, desiring to serve in a Christian hospital. Dr. Jean Pierre, next to Justin, arrived from Mali in March. And Dr. Rosalie Diassana started in January 2023! She grew up in the Baptist church here in Ferké, went to

medical school in Mali, and came back to serve the Lord in her hometown. They all have great attitudes and will help to reinforce the medical services. Dr. Michael Butati (far right), our medical director, has been with us for 16 years. After the hospital director resigned in February 2023, Dr. Butati stepped in as interim director of the hospital. The interim position has turned into full time director, as we have still not been able to find someone qualified for the director position. Being medical director and hospital director has been an extremely heavy load for Dr. Butati. However, the Lord has given him grace and wisdom. He has been able to pay off the large debts to our pharmaceutical distributors and pay staff salaries on time. Praise the Lord! We are not out of the woods, yet. There are huge debts for Social Security payments and taxes. Please pray that the Lord would increase our revenue, provide government subsidies for our electricity (the government has “promised” this for over 5 years, but never acted, even though every other private hospital in the country benefits) and give Dr. Butati great wisdom, perseverance and energy for his responsibilities.

Future hope



Yes! We finally started the new nursing class in February 2024. 15 young men and women will be studying hard for the next 3 years. Three nurses teach with me. Our hospital chaplain teaches one hour of Bible class each day. Staffing has been at an all-time low, so these students bring a new generation of nurses

and hope for the future. Please pray for me, as director of the program, for wisdom and health, and intelligence and perseverance for us all, professors and students alike! Each of us professors continue with our other responsibilities at the hospital, so it can be overwhelming at times.

As always, I am so grateful for your prayers, encouragement and financial support. May you know the hope for today and the future: Jesus.

Diane Eliason

Serving with *WorldVenture* at the Baptist Hospital of Ferkessédougou, Côte d’Ivoire.