

Ivory Coast trip - March 2019 - Part 1

For 9 to 17 March a team of 7 went on Project C.U.R.E.'s first CURE Clinic medical mission trip to Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) in West Africa. (<https://projectcure.org/cureclinics>) During the two previous years I served on CURE Clinic teams in nearby Ghana. The country is one of the green areas on this map and is a former French colony. The economic capital is Abidjan on the coast. The political capital is Yamoussoukro in a newly developed area closer to the country center.



Except for the Abidjan area, satellite imagery shows the entire country as green with a speckle of tan at minor city and village locations. The far north has a somewhat drier climate. We were in rain only during our evening return to Abidjan on Thursday. Some days were hot with high humidity.

During our departure flight home I enjoyed visually studying the tropical clouds with the help of the air temperature readout from aircraft instruments. (In the early 1970s I was a scientist doing cloud seeding experiments on similar clouds in Queensland, Australia, trying to produce more rain. My Ph.D. specialized in cloud physics and weather modification.) In this photo the bottom of the view is slightly brownish from the tropical haze and Sahara dust. The middle clouds are near freezing (0 deg. C). The cloud tops were turning to snow (fuzzy edges). But it appeared that the tall clouds were only pumping surface moisture to the top of the troposphere, with little rain falling out of them.



We arrived and departed on direct flights between Newark, New Jersey, and Abidjan. They passed over the northern Cape Verde islands and Dakar, Senegal. We arrived Sunday afternoon. Our pleasant hotel was in the middle of Abidjan.



Loading van at the airport

Sorting our clinic supplies



Monday morning we loaded the van again and departed on the drive of several hours to reach our first clinic location, in the capital city of Yamoussoukro. The good major highway made the trip pleasant.



Team planning meeting



The first and second clinics were held in a church building. As we arrived the local people under the tents stood and applauded. The interior was spacious and comfortable with no direct heating from the sun.



Seating for those waiting for exams

Initial gathering for planning

Laura, Patti seeing supplies arrive



Registration

Vital signs measurements

Patient, translator, Sami



Don, Laura, translators, patients

Patient, Dr. Vincent, Patti-pharmacy Stacey with glasses

I was at checkout, taking pictures of the records on the registration sheets, using a smart phone. I did not take pictures of myself at such work.



Meredith, translator, patient



Family, translator, Sami



Optician checking glasses needs

As Monday evening approached we went to a lakeside rehabilitation facility that had received a shipment of equipment and supplies from Project CURE, part of the contents of a 40-foot container.



We were warmly welcomed.



We were given a good briefing.



Across the lake is the huge Basilica. Boxes from Denver warehouse



Grace demonstrating chilling pad



We were served a snack and drinks. The recycled water bottles contained locally made beverages from fruits and flowers. I liked a purple drink from Hibiscus.



This was our hotel in Yamoussoukro for two nights.

On Tuesday the clinic was similar, though some of our team worked in different positions.



Optometrist and patient



Grace, family, translator, Sami, Patti at pharmacy



Dr. Vincent and patient

African clothing can be attractively colorful.



Group photo at end of clinic.



Woodland Kingfisher



Laughing Dove



Red-eyed Dove



Bronze Mannikin



Shikra



Cattle Egret

by Dr. Ed Holroyd, 23 March 2019