

## Dr. Asks: Experimental Serum Given to Writebol

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A dramatic revelation was made today by Samaritan's Purse about efforts to save the lives of Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, victims of the disease they were treating in Liberia. The release said both are in stable but grave condition, with Dr. Brantly taking a slight turn for the worse overnight. But even as he battles to survive Ebola, the release says "this heroic doctor is still focused on the well-being of others."

Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse said that "Yesterday, an experimental serum arrived in the country, but there was only enough for one person. Dr. Brantly asked that it be given to Nancy Writebol,". "However, Dr. Brantly received a unit of blood from a 14-year-old boy who had survived Ebola because of Dr. Brantly's care. The young boy and his family wanted to be able to help the doctor who saved his life."

The release said "the safety of our staff is a top priority, and Samaritan's Purse is currently working to evacuate all but the most essential personnel to their home countries. The evacuation should be completed this weekend. The exact timeline and destinations are being kept confidential to respect their privacy. Samaritan's Purse is taking precautions that exceed the standards recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The release said none of the evacuating staff are ill, and the World Health Organization and CDC continue to reiterate that people are not contagious unless they begin showing symptoms. Following their evacuation, Samaritan's Purse will work with staff to monitor their health. Graham asked to "Please continue to pray for Kent and Nancy and all those who are affected by Ebola, and the tremendous group of doctors and nurses who are caring for them." The World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Liberia's Ministry of Health are investigating how the two U.S. citizens contracted the disease.

As of Wednesday, about 60 percent of those infected during this current outbreak—nearly 700 people—have died from the disease. The WHO reports that it is not uncommon for death rates nearing 90 percent of those who contract the virus.