



News from the Field



Issue 1 Volume 3

"Committed to sharing God's gifts among all peoples of the world"

Spring 2007

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"The smallest good deed is better than the greatest good intention."



From the President

Dear Friends,

A new year is upon us with all of the promises of great expectations to come. What a great time to thank God for all He has done to open doors that have enabled us to serve His people. We offer many thanks to all of you who have helped us in our mission to bring God's love to those in need. Your financial support, time and prayers have been most appreciated and well used.



In October we shipped 18 sets of clean new sheets to the Lakota children on Pine Ridge Reservation. In November we sent boxes and boxes of new shoes, hats, gloves, toiletries and toys to Kentucky and South Dakota to brighten the holidays for those in need. The medical team has recently returned from a two week stay in Africa where over 4400 people received medical treatment and 1228 villagers received the gift of vision with donated eyeglasses from the Lions Club.

We look forward to working with you in 2007 as we discover what further miracles God has in store for us!

In His peace,

Carol Fanelli
Carol Fanelli

THE GIFT OF SIGHT

Well, another successful mission trip is under our belt. On Friday January 26th five very excited people left Philadelphia Airport with over 2500 glasses, bound for Kenya. The energy level was high and our spirits good. After a seven-hour flight to London, a short layover at Heathrow, and an eight-hour flight to Nairobi, we were finally there.

Upon landing, we were greeted by some of the friendly faces of Intercontinental Christian Ministries (ICCM), the organization that we work with in Kenya. After passing through immigration, we proceeded to pick up our luggage containing the valuable medical supplies and eye glasses, and thankfully were blessed with an easy

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THE BLESSINGS OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP by Matt Angello

In the second chapter of Philippians, the Apostle Paul exhorted the early Christians at Philippi to model the servant leadership of Jesus—"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." (Philippians 2:4-7). After completing one year of service on the Board of Directors of We're All God's Children (WAGC), I have experienced the blessings of the servant leadership model of Jesus Christ.

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(The Gift of Sight Continued)

transition through customs. Fortunately we were able to stay in a quiet hotel for some much needed rest, after making the short trip into Nairobi. Sunday we rose to a good breakfast, church services with Pastor Andrew and then an eight-hour ride to Eldoret, our base camp. Arriving late, we were greeted by a large representation of ICCM team members at one of their homes. We were treated to a very nice dinner and then were whisked to the White Highlands hotel, our home for the next week.

Bright and early Monday morning we set out for Mercy Health Clinic for a long day of examining eyes and fitting people with glasses. Some of us were able to rekindle friendships we made last year while others were able to create new ones. When we arrived there were over 400 villagers waiting to be seen – this was just the eye clinic. It was double that for the medical camp. Getting a system down for the flow of patients took a little planning but in no time we were moving patients through at a quick pace.



The villagers were registered to be evaluated, received a sight test (reading a Snelling Eye Chart) and if they met the eyeglass criteria were directed to Dennis. There they had their eyes measured using an Auto Refractor, which was donated by the Manheim Township Sunrise Lion's Club. Once the measurements were determined the patient would go into the "eye glass room". Heather used her organizational skills to streamline the process for sorting and matching glasses to patients and re-evaluating their vision for improvement. Cathleen and Deb worked as if they had fitted glasses for years. Bradley, who spent a lot of time interviewing and photographing the process, pitched in like a seasoned veteran and kept the process flowing.

Six days and three separate areas later we examined over 1800 people and handed out over 1200 pair of eyeglasses. There were many notable cases like the 11-year-old boy with 20/200 vision who was crossed-eyed. After fitting him, he was able to see 20/50 and left with a huge smile, excited that he could see clearly. Or a gentleman who broke his glasses several

years back and now had only one side of the glasses left. He fitted them to his face with a piece of string. When he left, we not only gave him a new pair of "complete" eyeglasses but also dramatically improved his vision. Add to that the number of children who were having difficulty studying or reading the blackboard whose lives will be changed because they now have that ability.



We dealt with torrential rains, cow patties, heat and long lines; but nothing we dealt with diminished the wonderful feelings of watching people walk away with a new set of glasses and a better way to see the world. The gratitude by so many people for what we provided truly blessed the team. Glasses that were of no use to someone in the USA, were transferred to Kenya and ultimately changed the life of someone else. We are so grateful to God for allowing us to do his work and guiding us throughout this mission.

Look for more eye clinic successes plus personal accounts and stories from each of the five team members in the upcoming Special Africa Report published in late April.



(Servant Leadership Continued)

I was attracted to WAGC by what I believed was a small group of "difference makers," people who cared about others and wanted to do something in focused areas of need. I had been part of other boards which were largely ceremonial and required little more than filling up a chair; they demanded little, and as a result, gave little back. This is not the case at WAGC.

Consider these facts:

- In February of 2007, WAGC funded and sponsored a second trip to Kenya, as part of the Africa ministry that provided medical treatment to 4,467 patients, and supplied 1,228 pairs of eye glasses. Serious illnesses were diagnosed, one of which led to an immediate and likely life-saving hospitalization.
- In July of 2006, WAGC made a second trip to Hindman, Kentucky as part of the Appalachia ministry. Over 150 household objects were donated to 29 needy families in the area. Items such as a complete set up of kitchen cabinets, several large appliances, indoor and outdoor furniture, and adult and children's bicycles were distributed.

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A JOURNEY HOME by Carolyn Rittenhouse



Hello (hau), my name is Carolyn Rittenhouse and my Lakota name is Howaste Winyan, a name that I inherited from a Grandmother (Unci) that translates: “Good Voice Woman”. I am a Lakota woman, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota where I grew up. I have lived in Lancaster, PA for the past 18 years with my husband where we are raising our family.

I was asked to share some of my story in this newsletter to give you some insight to life on a Native American Indian reservation. I will share parts of my experiences during my many treks or journeys back to the rez. I pray that what I share (a four-part series) will enlighten and touch your soul. Mitakiyase (we are all related).

A Journey Home – Part I

The humming engine of the plane usually lulls me to sleep but the anticipation of my visit home to South Dakota keeps me awake. I am tired and could use a nap after staying up into the early morning hours checking and re-checking my to-do and packing lists. When I close my eyes, the butterflies in my stomach are flurrying, so I begin to journal. I have been making this annual trek to South Dakota for the past 18 years and the excitement of seeing family, overseeing service projects and re-connecting with my Lakota roots keeps me awake.

The flight captain announces that we will soon be landing in Rapid City, we are finally here! As I look out the window, I can see parts of the Badlands, flat squared-off farm lands and in the distance the beautiful rolling hills of the Great Plains. There are patches of yellow and green; it is going to be a dry summer. The bright blue sky seems so close and the big cumulus nimbus clouds still remind me of big white cotton candy.

We enter the airport and I see my Mother, Sister, and niece. Their smiles and big hugs are so welcoming. As we walk to the parking lot, the warm summer wind nearly blows me over! The wind tells me that I am home as it flows through my hair and over my skin with a warming sensation. It’s almost as if it too, is welcoming me home. We load up the car and begin the three hour drive from Rapid City to Eagle Butte. Along the way, we catch up on family news as we drive away from the city, from the many resources that are not available on Cheyenne River (www.sioux.org), Pine Ridge, or any of the other 6 reservations in the state. Rapid City and Sioux Falls are the only two industrial areas in the state and they sit on opposite borders.

We are heading northeast to Eagle Butte, a small town where the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal headquarters are located and I notice the landscape begins to change. We are nearing Bear Butte State Park (www.matopaha.org) - Mato Paha, a sacred site to the Lakota Sioux as well as other neighboring plains tribes. As a young girl, we would often stop here on the way to Rapid City to hike up the butte, rest and picnic. Today, you can see a buffalo herd feeding on the south side; they look so powerful and majestic. Many Lakota, Nakota & Dakota Sioux throughout the year come to Mato Paha to do their sweat/purification ceremonies in a sweatlodge or the Hambleca (vision quest) or just come to pray to Tunkasila (Creator) to give thanks.

I am saddened when my Mother tells me that Mato Paha is being threatened by non-Native people who plan to build an indoor/outdoor biker bar that will accommodate 50,000 bikers. Just four miles west is Sturgis where the largest biker rally in the world is held every summer. Oftentimes, large numbers of drunk and obnoxious bikers with their loud engines find their way to Bear Butte creating a disturbance during ceremonies, usually leaving their trash & bottles behind. I say a prayer to Creator, “Please bless my people and give them strength”.

*Look for Part 2 of Carolyn’s “Journey Home”
in the Summer 2007 newsletter.*

(Servant Leadership Continued)

- In both of these examples, all of the money raised by WAGC went to the direct benefit of the recipients. Not a cent was used to cover administrative cost of the foundation. Talk about efficiency!
- Various Board Directors participated in all four trips associated with these ministries and have received countless blessings associated with serving others.

Opportunities continue for board leadership and involvement in these ministries, as well as the nascent Native American ministry, focused on alleviating the suffering of the residents of the Pine Ridge reservation located in South Dakota.

If you are interested in an opportunity to serve on the board of an action-oriented organization that embraces the servant leader model, then you owe it yourself to give us a call. We need people to serve on the board who are strategic, focused and have administrative talent. But most importantly, we need people who care about people, want to make a difference and are tired of standing on the sideline.

Come and experience the blessings of living the servant leadership model of Jesus Christ.



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“Committed to sharing God’s gifts among all peoples of the world”

Our Mission

To provide needed medical care, educate people in usable life skills and transfer unused resources to areas of essential need both in and out of the United States.

Special Thanks To:

Leonard and Barbara Campanaro • Kimberli and Mark Alexander • Petra Financial Services, Inc. Joseph Olivacz • Calvary Chapel of A.A. County • Diane and Timo Mahonen • MCN, Inc. Tracy and William Stansbury • Manheim Township Lions Club • Lois and Jay King Susan and Douglas Sorrentino • Deborah and Stephen Fala • Cynthia Renna • Noel Hinton Donna Gangelosi • Henry Rohrer • Gerald C. Mitterer • Lions Club of Quarryville • John Frey Barbara Schultz William Buehler • Debra & Matthew Angello • Lisa Ann Hill • C. Daniel Otte Christine Skiles • Artemis Heiselman • William & Doris Braun • Robert & Deborah Durling Trinity Group Construction, Inc. • Donald Knox • Timothy & Sherri Lynn Marzola Manheim Township Sunrise Lions Club