



We're All God's Children

News from the Field

Issue 3 Volume 1

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

Winter 2008

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WAGC is a 501 (c)(3)
tax-exempt foundation.
All donations are tax
deductible.

My message to
you is:

Be courageous!...

Be as brave as your
fathers before you.

Have faith!

Go forward.

~ Thomas A. Edison

From the President

Dear Friends,

As I sit to write this message to you I am filled with a mixture of emotions. It is with much sadness that I report our mission trip to Kenya is postponed indefinitely because of the violence that has gripped that nation. The extreme need for your prayers will become evident as you read the article below. On the other hand, our Appalachian and Native American programs are really progressing and we are constantly amazed at what God has enabled us to accomplish in His name. My heart is gladdened because so many people are being touched due to your generosity.

We have a wonderful Power Point presentation ready and would love to speak to your church, service club, or other organization. Please contact me if you are interested in this opportunity. Improvements have also been made to our website and we can now accept secure donations using your credit card or through Pay Pal. I look forward to working with you in 2008 as we share our blessings - in giving we truly receive.

In His peace,

Carol Fanelli



VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN KENYA

As you are probably aware, after the presidential election in Kenya on the 27th of December 2007 the country has been beset with violence. The safety of our team members has always been a main concern of the foundation and we have, therefore, postponed our medical mission trip to Kenya indefinitely.

Although the public has been led to believe the elections are the reason for the violence, the truth of the matter is it was just the spark that lit the fuse to a long simmering animosity between tribes. In Kenya, there are gross inequalities in terms of sharing the scarce opportunities and resources. This violence is as much about class struggles as tribal warfare.

(Continued on Page 2)

LIFE ON PINE RIDGE

Our Native American team, with Carol, Max, Tom & Jean at the helm flew into Rapid City, South Dakota on October 4th expecting to meet our hostess, Bobby, at the airport. Bobby lives on Pine Ridge Reservation and had opened her home to us. When we called to tell her we had arrived we were informed by her grandson that she *was* in Rapid City, but was in the hospital in the Intensive Care Unit.

Hence the journey began, Bobby was able to relay to us that she still wanted us to stay at her home, and arranged for her nephew, Robbie, to guide us throughout the reservation. He was a fantastic guide; we plied and pried him with questions about their lives on the reservation.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Violence Erupts in Kenya Continued)

Eldoret and its surrounding villages, where we work with the InterContinental Christian Ministry (ICCM), has been one of the hardest hit areas. Currently there are more than 20,000 refugees in the Eldoret refugee camp alone. "Discouragement, depression, fear, anxiety, hopelessness - this is what we see on the faces of the refugees" says Reverend OM Panicker, the director of ICCM. We have been asked by ICCM to assist with financial support so that they may provide food, clothing, blankets and other basic supplies to those who have lost everything.

We have set up an Emergency Relief Fund to specifically address these needs. Please consider sending a financial contribution for this cause. Combined, our dollars can make a real difference in the lives of these displaced people. You may mail a check to WAGC marked Africa Relief Fund or take advantage of the ease of contributing via our website: www.wereallgodchildren.org.

And please do not forget the power of prayer.

- 1) Pray for an end to the violence and the light of God's truth and righteousness to enter the country.
- 2) Pray that hearts may be touched and financial assistance may be obtained.
- 3) Pray for the ICCM team and all of those who are working so tirelessly to support those affected by this violence.
- 4) Pray that the needs of the people are met and they receive hope for a better future.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will update our website regularly. If you would like more specific information please feel free to contact Carol Fanelli at 717-278-0979 or info@wereallgodchildren.org.

YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD!

In October of last year on a bleak, rainy Friday afternoon two members of our Appalachian team left Lancaster with our volunteer truck driver, Jim Meck of Meck Family Transport, following behind at 2 AM. After a quick night's rest in Charleston, WV they headed off for their final destination – Knott, Kentucky.

There, they were greeted by staff members of the LKLP Community Action Council (our partners in KY) and various members of the 35 families eagerly awaiting the team's arrival. There were the usual items such as sofas, beds and TVs along with refrigerators, microwaves and even a freezer. The recipients were very grateful and helped each other load and deliver the items to their homes. They were encouraged to learn that people far away cared enough about them in their time of need. Every family was given information on how they could learn about the saving power of Jesus and the hope that He brings.

On this trip the truck also contained two rather unusual donations. The first was a small organ which the donor hoped could be used to bring happiness to others. It was gratefully accepted by a small church with a woman who had played the instrument years ago and could not wait to get her fingers on a keyboard again. Now it would be used to praise God! The second donation would turn out to be the most memorable moment and was a touching gift from the heart of one of our donors.

We had been approached by a gentleman to see if there was a need for his late daughter's electric wheelchair. We made the call to LKLP and we were told to bring it on down – it was indeed needed. When we arrived, an older woman waited with a 16 year old girl with Cerebral Palsy. Tori was placed in the chair which seemed just the perfect size for her. We were happy for the match but not prepared for her reaction a few moments later. Tears of joy streamed down her face.

In order for you to understand the depth of her emotion you need to know the rest of the story. It seems this young lady was cared for by her grandmother on very limited resources. They had been renting an electric wheelchair which gave her some sense of independence but could no longer afford it. They looked at purchasing a chair but quickly realized the cost was well above their means. This meant Tori's grandmother would have to push her everywhere in their old regular wheelchair. Her tears came when she realized this chair was not on loan but actually hers to keep! Not only was it an answer to a prayer – it was an answer to a specific prayer. You see this chair was not only the right size, but it was the exact color and model Tori had picked out when looking at wheelchairs! Only God in His infinite wisdom could have orchestrated this event. A young girl maintains her freedom and independence and a beloved daughter's legacy lives on.



Above: Tori with her Grandmother

Left: A heartfelt thanks

We wanted to let you people know that it is so appreciated Thank you so much for taking the time to think of one very special young lady. I couldn't believe it when I got the call that someone actually wanted to give us something so use to having to fight and hunt for resources to meet Tori's needs Thank you Mary H. Graham

(Life on Pine Ridge Continued)

The unemployment rate on the reservation is 80%. Rapid City is the nearest city and it is 120 miles away. The average age of death is 45 due to diabetes, tuberculosis, and alcoholism. Homes (mainly trailers) are few and far apart. Many are burnt out due to using kerosene heaters and even open fires in desperate conditions for heat. We visited one 2 bedroom home that housed 14 children and 7 adults. We asked if they were all from the residing parents, they weren't. Four of the children were theirs; the rest had been taken in when they lost their home due to fire or their parent's death.

While the effects of poverty were everywhere one of the most striking things we noticed was the **lack** of everything. There were no businesses, stores, pharmacies or doctor's offices. There were no playgrounds, libraries, theaters or sports arenas. There were no gas stations, convenience stores, restaurants or hotels. In other words, the things we take for granted are not even in existence.

We met with the director of the organization Re-Member. They have been building bunk beds for the last 8 years for the people on the reservation. We toured their facility and he shared with us that they would be hosting many groups from all over the country next year to build wheel chair ramps and make general home repairs for the elderly. The director said that this year, they were hoping to build two – 1 bedroom homes. He also said that the groups coming in would be working directly with the people whose homes they would be repairing, so that they could get to know them, as well as their traditions and culture. We hope to become a liaison between Re-Member and youth groups and organizations in this area wishing to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.



We met with Stella White Eyes and her father Floyd, who is the director of the Porcupine Clinic. They showed us the clinic which was very nice, clean and empty. They have no physician, as there isn't money to pay for one. They showed us with pride their new ambulance donated by a lawyer from Italy. The ambulance was also very nice, no equipment in it yet, but very nice. They have a Dialysis Clinic in a separate building with seven new dialysis machines. No patients, as the clinic has run out of money for fuel to drive their van out to pick up the patients that need dialysis. Almost no one has a car or the means to pay for transport to the clinic. Therefore, no one is coming in for dialysis, which means the patients are facing certain death.

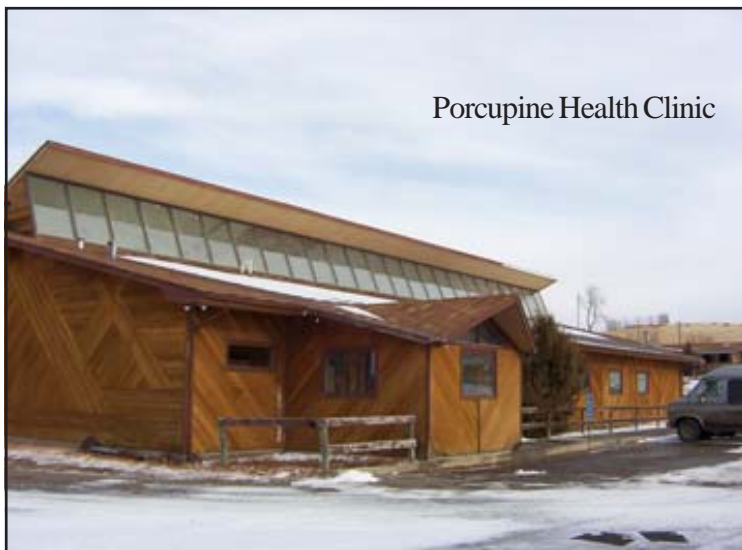


They expressed a need for two Automatic Defibrillator Units since there are none

available for their use. We contacted the American Heart Association and provided the clinic with information on how they can apply for a grant for this need. Due to the high rate of diabetes the need for eyeglasses is great but most patients cannot afford either the transportation to Rapid City for an eye exam or the cost of eyeglasses. We determined that a Vision Clinic like the one held in Africa would be greatly appreciated. We offered donations of used medical equipment such as crutches, canes and walkers which they gratefully accepted.

Plans are currently underway for a return visit to Pine Ridge in June of this year. We have already received the support of the Manheim Township Sunrise Lions Club who have generously donated several thousand pairs of eyeglasses and vision testing equipment which will enable us to provide a free Vision Screening Clinic. Please contact WAGC if you would like more information about joining the team. Our mission trips are always provided free of charge to the recipients and team members raise all monies needed. If you cannot travel to South Dakota with us but would like to help perhaps you should consider joining the fundraising committee or supporting us in our fundraising efforts. Many hands help lighten the load!

Porcupine Health Clinic





118 Parklawn Ct.
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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:

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