



News from the Field



Special Issue

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

Africa 2006

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*“The real measure
of your wealth is
how much you’d
be worth if you lost
all your money.”
- Bernard Meltzer*



From the President

Wow - what an awesome experience! God has proved to me many times how faithful he is to the promises he makes to his people. Concerning this trip to Africa, I was asked again and again, “Why do you want to do such a thing and how will you accomplish it?” My answer to the first question was because I felt in my heart the Spirit was leading me there. And my answer to the second, as a friend once told me, “If it’s God’s will, it’s God’s bill.” As you’ll see when you read Alicia’s story, he more than provided. We were able to treat over 4,700 villagers with medications provided by our generous supporters. Thank you!

In the pages that follow you’ll read personal accounts from our team members about their experiences. We were all blessed in so many ways and words could never really express what we learned from this experience. Not only did God answer our prayers but we were humbled to learn the ICCM Team had been praying for our safety and success for over a year.

I urge you if you hear the still small voice of God calling you in the night - say, “Yes, Lord I will go.” Alone we can do nothing but with God all things are possible. I know. To Him be the glory!



Carol Fanelli

PATIENTS, PATIENTS AND MORE

PATIENTS by Alicia Fanelli

From the moment we arrived in Africa, it was clear that we would be very busy. There were five different medical camps scheduled during our stay including the dental clinic. The first of the camps was closing for the day when we arrived Tuesday in Turbo where a local church allowed ICCM to set up a clinic. The Turbo clinic was an interesting place with its one room dirt floor and stained glass windows. There were wooden benches along the back wall for patients to wait their turn. The other wall consisted of make-shift rooms separated by plastic charcoal sacks cut open to afford some privacy. These rooms served as doctor’s offices and nurse’s stations. We were informed that the Turbo clinic treated 637 people that day.

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COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

by Dennis Mitterer, R.N.

Can you imagine, getting up before sunrise and walking for miles over hills and through chest high weeds, on dusty roads in dry hot sun just to stand in line with the hopes of seeing a doctor? Is it possible to think that a person could be 50 years old and has never had a doctor evaluate a persistent cough? Not in America. We are so fortunate to be capable of calling our physicians and requesting an appointment or discussing our health problems and then receiving a prescription over the phone. We complain if our doctor runs 15 minutes behind because of an emergency. We have access to immediate care through an emergency room if something serious happens to us or a family member.

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Alicia greets a tribal elder from one of the rural villages.

(Patients Continued)

The clinics were all set up very similarly. A patient would first visit the nurse's station where they would have their blood pressure and pulse checked. They would then visit the doctor's station. After an evaluation, they would either get in line to receive medication at the pharmacy or visit a final nurse's station for an injection. Every camp had an HIV testing/counseling

room and a prayer room.

The next two days we visited a camp in Kamagut held in a local primary school. The brick building was L-shaped and the medical staff made use of each classroom. The ICCM medical team treated 496 people the first day and 605 the next. The line for those two days in Kamagut seemed never-ending, filled with people waiting patiently in the heat.

On Friday, we traveled further out into the country for a camp in Kapkeben. This clinic was held in a much smaller church than

Turbo. Nevertheless, the people came from miles away. The pastor of the church was female and she happily welcomed us. We were able to assist in the pharmacy, packaging pills for the patients. 856 people were helped that day.

The rest of our time in Africa, we assisted at the ICCM clinic in Jua Kali for the dental and medical camps. Within those three days, 1537 people received medical treatment along with 193 people visiting the dental clinic. The real miracle occurred on Tuesday before we left for our long journey back to America. Ravi, the medical

director, informed us that there was enough medication to hold another medical camp on Wednesday! They treated an additional 433 people. ***This brought the total number of villagers treated to an amazing high of 4,757!***

The time we spent traveling to these camps gave us the opportunity to discover what medical needs existed and how we

can help in the future. We found the dental camp to be extremely useful. However, an oral surgeon should accompany the dentist for the next trip. This would allow more patients to be seen by the dentist as well as providing a means for much needed dental surgery.

Another discovery made was the much overdue need for an eye clinic. There were many complaints of vision problems and headaches which were very likely due to poor vision. It would be beneficial to have an eye doctor visiting the camps to administer eye exams and dispense prescription glasses. The glasses would be donated by the International Lions Club. There is also the need for an EENT Specialist to be stationed at the ICCM clinic. We are hoping to recruit the assistance of a local Lions Club in Eldoret to transport people who may need minor surgery from the camps to the ICCM clinic.



Carol and Alicia prepare two week supplies of antibiotics.

The dental seminars held at the ICCM clinic were successful and

much attended by both patients and staff. We realized that other seminars would be beneficial for people waiting in line to receive treatment. Some topics include HIV education, neonatal care and sanitation. These seminars would cover issues like boiling water for drinking and thoroughly cooking food for safe consumption.

The time went by so quickly but we learned so much. We have many plans for the next journey to Africa. In order to do this, we need assistance to make these plans a reality. The people of Kenya were so appreciative and deserving of this help. Perhaps the biggest lesson is that if you put your faith in Him, the Lord will provide.



A line of villagers await their turn at the Taurus Primary School in Kamagut.

(Blessings Continued)

Count your blessings as you are in the minority of people who can actually do this. Our medical team had the opportunity to witness first hand how medicine is delivered to over 70% of the world's population. The ICCM team organized four health clinics in the rural areas around the city of Eldoret for people that in many situations had never seen a physician. Many of the patients lived with diseases that could be cured with one or two visits with a physician and two weeks worth of antibiotics. Diseases we as Americans, do not hear about such as malaria, typhoid, dysentery and tuberculosis.



A pharmacist administers medication.

Childhood immunizations are not available to many parents for their children so the rate of curable disease in the population is high. Unfortunately, many of the people who could be cured of their diseases often become seriously sick and die. I asked a few of the people who traveled

to the clinics about how they treated the more obvious things, like broken bones or bad burns. The response: they use natural remedies handed down from generation to generation or they just deal with it. If they do have to go to a hospital they will put the patient on the back of a bike or a cow and travel for hours to the closest facility.



A table full of the precious medication purchased with your support. Thank you!



Dennis assists with patients before they visit the doctor.

Amazingly, they are very patient and very thankful for whatever care they receive. It is amazing how far donated money can go in these health clinics. We raised approximately \$7,000 dollars and purchased enough antibiotics to last 8 days and treat over 4,700 people, some of which would never have been seen by a healthcare provider. No worry about co-pays or submitting claims to insurance companies – just good old fashioned medicine. Not one patient complained because their problem was more serious.



Everywhere we went curious children with bright smiles watched us.

They stood there through lunch and well into the evening just waiting their turn. Sadly, at the end of the day, we turned many people away knowing if they were seen we could have helped them. Hopefully, with the grace of God and the kindness of donations we can return and help those who were not seen, hold even more clinics and help prevent illnesses we have eliminated here in the states.



ICCM and clinic staff join foundation board members for a farewell photo.

ONE DENTIST, ONE CHAIR, 193 SMILES *by: Kathleen J. Brown, D.D.S., M.S.*

From 1 Corinthians 3:9, may I quote: “We are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” How perfectly this verse describes the Mercy Health Center in Jua Kali, Kenya, January 2006. The dental health component to the health services offered, evolved in six busy days, from “rooms” into a dental operatory and a dental hygiene classroom. The Health Center building is secure, off the main highway, functional and pleasant with a lovely verandah (complete with natural breezes through the many windows). A second-floor room is the dental office with a stationary dental chair, instrument table, sterilization area and dispensing desk. Adjacent to this office, with a separate entrance, is a classroom for dental hygiene education. A staff room can also become a second operatory in the future. Waiting areas for patients are sheltered and provide seating for many. The ground-floor rooms are designated as examination and treatment rooms, pharmacy dispensary, storage and business rooms.

My personal role as a dentist kept me very busy in the operatory, but I managed to observe great cooperation, friendliness and genuine goodwill among all the staff throughout the center. Ms. Dotsy Baiza, the dental hygienist, provided classroom instruction for dental education; Heather McAndrews kept our office, reception and dispensing desk running smoothly. We enjoyed “chai (tea) breaks” and lunches with Minnie, Janet and Evelyn, our assistants. I am very grateful to these kind women who assisted me. Thank you for your excellent work.

One dentist, one dental hygienist, one chair-side assistant and one operatory assistant performed 340 procedures (extractions (178); denture services (2); IRM fillings (69) and evaluations (14); and treated 193 patients (137 adults age 19+ and 56 children ages 4-18).



Minnie, Rebecca, Janet and Evelyn pause for a moment to pose for the camera.



Dr. Kathy and her assistant worked for hours everyday to provide much needed dental care.



Every day long lines of people waited patiently in the hot sun to see the dentist.



Heather and Dr. Kathy prepare for the next patient.

DENTAL EDUCATION AFRICAN STYLE *by Dorothy Baiza, RDH*

My main mission in going to Kenya was to teach dental health education. I am a firm believer in education to improve health. If a person knows WHY tooth decay and gum disease occur and HOW to use the tools to prevent it, they will have a healthier mouth and be a healthier person.

I stressed that it was important for the adults in the class to teach their children and grandchildren so that they will start healthy habits young and keep them for a lifetime.

There was a large room on the second floor of the clinic that was great for my presentations. I brought a dry-erase board and markers with me and we made a makeshift table out of a low bench and a suitcase. Each day I would give 1-3 classes to 25-30 patients registered to be seen by the dentist. I tried to keep the language and the concepts at a level I felt most could understand. While I wanted to teach them about using a toothbrush and floss, I knew that was unrealistic. After all, how many could afford to buy a toothbrush or floss, or even find floss in this country?

One of my resources was the book, “*Where There Is No Dentist*,” designed for healthcare workers in third-world countries. In the book, they showed how you could chew the end of a twig or piece of bamboo to make a brush and how to whittle a pick out of a twig to clean between their teeth. First, I taught them the correct way to use the toothbrush and then showed them how to use a twig. Our first laugh came when someone asked what kind of twig to use. Embarrassed, I said, “I don’t know. I just picked a twig off a bush outside the hotel and chewed it as an example. I don’t even know if it is POISONOUS!”

Rebecca was a delightful young Kenyan woman who served as my translator. After the 5th or 6th presentation, she had it memorized. One time I knew I had forgotten something but I just couldn’t remember what it was so I continued on. She came over and in a low voice, said, “You forgot to tell them to brush each section 10 times.”

I was impressed by how attentive they were. They were very involved in the presentation, answering questions I posed and asking their own questions. We laughed a lot and enjoyed ourselves. Many thanked me afterward for the information I had presented.

On the last evening we were to be there, I said I would give a presentation after the clinic closed to any staff that were interested in attending. I was very pleased that they all came and filled the classroom. I got a little more involved with my explanations because they were educated professionals and I wanted to show them how to floss. I passed out floss and they were busily engrossed in learning the proper technique when they all started to laugh. They had just realized the TV camerawoman was filming their awkward efforts.

When I was not teaching, I was helping in the dental clinic. On the last morning, our next-to-the-last patient presented his registration paper. On it, carefully written in tiny letters, were notes that he had taken during my class. It made me feel wonderful because I knew that I had reached at least one young man and hopefully many more.



Dental hygiene classes being taught by Dorothy

TEETH, TOYS AND TRUTH *by Heather McAndrews, EMT*



Heather with one of the happy recipients of our donated dolls.

I was blessed to take part in both the dental and medical camps while in Africa. I never knew how lucky I was to have the availability to go for a regular six-month check up and cleaning at my dentist. If any cavities are found, I schedule another appointment and get it filled when convenient. In most cases my insurance covers some of the cost. At a dental clinic, I asked a Mercy Health Center staff member, how much it would cost to get a tooth pulled in the city. She told me that there is no insurance for these procedures so it would be about \$20.00 cash. That might not seem like much money to you or I, however, the average Kenyan only makes \$3.00 a day. So to get one tooth pulled, it would cost them over a weeks pay. Generally, people have no choice, and their dental or medical needs go unattended.

There are many moments that really touched me, but a few stuck in my heart. I remember, at the end of one long day at the dental clinic, we were told a woman was sitting outside crying from the pain she was in. She said she hadn't eaten for a week and was in obvious distress. Even though the clinic was closed, we could not turn her away and asked the staff to bring her up. The moment she walked in the room, you could see this young woman's severely swollen jaw. Her glands were hard from all the infection and she had extreme difficulty getting her mouth open enough for Kathy, the dentist, to examine her. Once we numbed her jaw, Kathy found a tooth had broken off, probably a few months previous. As time passed, her gum had healed over the root, which was left behind from the break. This caused a severe infection. Kathy performed minor oral surgery to remove the root tip and relieve the infection. We stitched her up and sent her on her way with some antibiotics and painkillers. We were very happy this woman made the journey to come to the clinic.

One extraordinary gift was given to an ICCM staff member named Minnie. She was missing two of her front teeth and was very insecure about her look. Being a very friendly and outgoing person she smiled often, but with her mouth closed. Kathy fitted her with a partial denture to fill in the holes. Minnie was thrilled. In all of our goodbye pictures she has the biggest, fullest smile.

Our presence mesmerized the children and they loved being around us. I had an opportunity to hand out some toys to the kids at the medical and dental clinics. You would think I was handing them gold. Many children played with bags on sticks, like kites, or pushed a plastic container like a car. I guess being

given a cloth doll or a rubber ball was a true joy. I also loved the hugs around my waist from all the little kids which I received in return. It was such a great feeling.

Throughout our travels, we got to see a lot of the African landscape. The land was very different from America. Most areas were arid and dusty. Aside from three larger cities, there were several small towns. There was a lot of produce for sale along the roadside. Fabric, clothing and shoes could also be purchased within the towns. Between each town there were many mud huts and small homes dithered throughout the clay, dirt landscape. Mostly people traveled by bike or foot. Women carried items on their heads as they walked and men would push large loads of materials on their bikes. We saw some of the most beautiful blue skies during the day, sunsets in the late afternoon and star filled nights.



Alicia with Minnie sporting her bright new smile.

Going to Africa was a life changing and wonderful experience for me. Here I was, an American, and their lifestyle could never compare to mine. I have so many things at my disposal, that they couldn't even dream of. Yet, I have never seen such spirit and faith so openly displayed in America as I did in Africa. The power in their belief in the Lord just radiated everywhere we went. Everyone was extremely friendly to us. We couldn't walk far in a crowd without hands reaching out to us, just to say thank you and God bless you. Going into this, I thought I was going to go over there and give everything I had to these people. I was going to emotionally uplift them. Well, I got it completely backwards. I was the one blessed to get to work so closely with them and be a part of their country for those ten days.



A typical group of homes outside the camp at Kamagut.

DON'T FORGET THE FACES YOU MET... by Carol Fanelli

“You’ll come back, won’t you?” That’s the phrase we heard from the pastors and clinic staff continually. “Please don’t forget the faces you met - you gave them hope



in life.” Everywhere we traveled we were told no one had ever brought medical treatment such as this to their people. And so we watched and listened and learned.

The team sat with Ravi, the director of the Mercy Health Center and discussed strategy and plans for a visit in January 2007. More equipment such as microscopes and blood pressure monitors were needed. A generator would make their work so much easier.

And then two days before we were scheduled to leave a plea was made. The land adjoining the clinic had become available for sale. The staff had long been praying for the opportunity to build a maternity clinic.



Currently women have to give birth to their babies in their mud-walled, grass thatched huts and most mothers develop infections while many babies die during the process for lack of professional help. Now a solution was in sight - if only they had the money!

As usual we prayed about it, “Lord, if this is your will how will we raise the necessary funds?” After discussion the foundation board members present came up with a plan and agreed to undertake this new task. Our goal - \$5,000 to purchase the property. After

reading this newsletter, if you feel touched to help support this program, please read on.

Our team brought back with us authentic pieces of African artwork. If you would like to donate funds toward the purchase of the maternity clinic property, we will send you one of these hand-crafted items. This will be a tangible reminder of



the people you are helping. Please keep in mind that these items are extremely limited in number and no two items are alike, as they are hand-crafted.

Please review the enclosed Donation Form and open your hearts to these people in need. As you display one of these lovely items in your home it will be a symbol of the hope for a better life we are bringing to those in need so far away. Your tax-deductible donation will go directly towards the purchase of the adjoining property. Our foundation members are all volunteers keeping our administrative costs to a bare minimum. Remember

also that these items were purchased from the villagers themselves supplementing their meager incomes.

I hope you will have enjoyed this newsletter. It was our privilege and honor to take your message of peace, love and hope across the ocean. In this world, we truly are *All God’s Children*.





118 Parklawn Ct.
Lancaster, PA 17601

“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.



The first **six** people to donate **\$25** will receive one of the following items:
 Hand painted leather animal keychain approx. 3” h- quantity available: 4
 Hand stitched leather drum keychain approx. 1 1/4” h- quantity available: 2

The first **five** people to donate **\$50** will receive a small hand-painted soapstone egg approx. 1 1/4” h.

The first **two** people to donate **\$100** will receive one of the following items:
 Hand-painted soapstone egg approx. 2” h
 Hand-painted soapstone heart approx. 2 1/4” h

The first **seven** people to donate **\$150** will receive a large hand-painted soapstone egg approx. 3” h.

The first **seven** people to donate **\$200** will receive a small hand-painted soapstone bowl approx. 4” in diameter.



The **first** person to donate **\$250** will receive a large hand-painted soapstone bowl approx. 6” in diameter.



The first **five** people to donate **\$300** will receive a hand-carved soapstone statue depicting people working together approx. 4” h.

The **first** person to donate **\$350** will receive one pair of hand-carved soapstone candle holders approx. 6.5” h.

The first **six** people to donate **\$400** will receive a rare hand-carved Masai Mt. Kilimanjaro red stone elephant approx. 5”w x 4” h.



The first **two** people to donate **\$350** will receive a single-flower hand-painted soapstone vase. Small approx. 6.5”h; Large approx. 8 1/4” h.



The **first** person to donate **\$500** will receive a large hand-painted engraved soapstone plate w/ wooden stand. Plate approx. 7” x 10” oval.

Please make checks payable to: **“We’re All God’s Children”**
 Remit this portion of form and check to: 118 Parklawn Ct., Lancaster, PA 17601

All donations are tax-deductible.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____ Donation Amount: _____
 Item(s) Requested: _____