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International Health Care Foundation

African Christian Hospitals

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Progress in Northern Ghana

NEW YENDI CLINIC CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

The Church of Christ Mission Clinic in Yendi, Ghana is a busy place . . . a very busy place. This clinic was founded in 1996 when our ministry came along side some other missionaries that had pioneered some works in "The North." We built our clinic on property adjacent to some of these sister efforts. Glenn Boyd, who was President of IHCF African Christian Hospitals at the time, said "I saw a lot of opportunity from the very first time I visited Yendi. When the clinic was first built the size was adequate for our patient load, but as the clinic's reputation grew, the clinic became crowded."

The clinic currently helps over 30,000 patients a year with a daily average of over 115 patients. In the rainy season the numbers climb to over 150 patients on many days. The clinic that was built back in the mid-90's is too small to serve the large number of sick Ghanaians who come for help each day.

We are currently completing a newer and much larger clinic building. In addition to the clinic itself being larger, it will have some new service areas not present in the old clinic. One of the new features is a maternity ward including labor and delivery room. A "minor theatre" or small surgical suite will



Brother Peter, clinic director, inspecting the construction progress.

also be available in the new facility along with more consultation rooms.

The whole region around Yendi is excited to have the new facility. Brother Andrews Abdulai, local evangelist said, "The new clinic will renew the vision and purpose to reach out to those who do not have Christ as their Lord and Savior. With the clinic expansion, the name of the Master Healer will grow more, as we serve under the banner of His mercy and grace."

We're so grateful for the Yendi Clinic. It has had a great past, a strong present, and a bright future.

Big Shoes

BY TOM CARR

At our medical missions seminar earlier this year, IHCF made a presentation unlike any other that's ever been made.

Grace Farrar, R.N. had contacted our office a few weeks earlier and said she wanted us to present Dr. Bob Lawrence with a pair of the late Henry Farrar's shoes. You see, Dr. Farrar, in addition to founding Nigerian Christian Hospital was a regular speaker at our medical missions seminar in Texas each year. He was always the last speaker of the whole conference. We knew not many would leave early since they wanted to hear Dr. Farrar speak.

After Dr. Farrar died, we decided to put Dr. Bob Lawrence of Nome, Alaska in that slot that had traditionally been Dr. Farrar's. The first time Bob spoke in this slot, he said "I don't think I could ever fill Dr. Farrar's shoes."

Dr. Lawrence wrote the following article for the Nome, Alaska Newspaper.



Dr. Lawrence holding the shoes given to him in a presentation at the Medical Missions Seminar.

Shoes Too Big to Fill

EXCERPT OF THE ARTICLE WRITTEN FOR THE NOME NUGGET

I had the privilege of working with Dr. Farrar for a month at NCH during my residency. Like many students and practicing physicians who have visited NCH over the years, I treasure the memories of assisting Dr. Farrar in his work. Somehow he lit a fire for service in each of us who had the privilege of assisting him in the fight for the life of his patients, patients who could never repay him. But even more than saving the patient, by his very example he was saving us. He was excising the cancerous temptations that inevitably develop in a doctor's life. In Dr. Farrar's presence, thoughts of wealth and prestige were removed. They were revealed as worthless, perhaps even fatal distractions, compared to the sheer joy of watching the steady hands of a surgeon save the life of a fellow human being.

I was hoping to see Grace Farrar at the 2013 Medical Missions Seminar. She never made it to that meeting. She died in a single car accident near her home in Tennessee a few days before that event. At the 2013 Medical Missions Seminar in Texas, I was publicly presented with a pair of Dr. Farrar's shoes sent to IHCF by Grace before her death. She wanted me to have them.

After receiving the shoes she had sent, I stood speechless. What do you say when such a personal gift is given by someone to whom you can no longer give thanks. When I began my medical training, I looked for excellent physicians to be my mentors. Dr. Farrar was one of my mentors. I know exactly where Dr. Farrar's shoes will be placed. They will be put on display in a glass curio cabinet that holds many of my family's special memories. I hope to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Farrar. Many of you know what I mean when I say, "I'm not even worthy to untie those shoes."

X-Ray & Ultrasound Help Needed

Tanzania Christian clinic needs hands-on help setting up their "imaging" department. TCC seeks someone who could visit and help between two weeks and three months.

For more info, contact Dr. Danny Smelser at smelserj@juno.com or contact the IHCF office.

FAST FACT

The village of Ikot Usen, home of Palmer Hospital, was also the home of C.A.O. Essien, first member of the Church of Christ in West Africa. There are now estimated to be about 2,850 congregations of Churches of Christ in Nigeria.

Palmer Hospital Gets a Paint Job

PROGRESS IN NIGERIA

As any weekend painter knows, any painting job requires a lot of work and effort. Painting a hospital . . . six buildings total . . . inside and out is an epic undertaking! Painting is underway at this time and is expected to take several weeks.

We are so grateful to a Christian couple, who wish to remain anonymous, for their generosity in providing the \$10,000 needed to complete this very needed project. They are giving these funds in honor of their parents.

Palmer Hospital is a 20 bed, in-patient Christian mission hospital located in Ikot Usen in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.



Pioneer Missionary Nurse Passes



Grace Farrar passed away a few weeks ago. She was a medical missionary “pioneer.” In 1964, she and her husband, Dr. Henry Farrar moved with their five young children to begin the Nigerian Christian Hospital in rural West Africa. Their work with NCH through the years is legendary. Because of the vision they had so many years ago, it is estimated that over a million patients have been cared for at Nigerian Christian Hospital through the years. In addition to their work in Nigeria, the Farrars also worked in Cameroon, Tanzania, and China.



Painters at the Palmer Hospital are making good progress for such a big project.



Prison Medical Ministry

A few weeks ago, we sponsored our second Prison Medical Outreach. It was held as part of a prison lectureship hosted in the Aba Prison, in Nigeria. Local evangelists led by Brother Friday Adima, planned this event with prison officials. The prisoners heard teaching on many relevant topics including “Who am I that God would care about me?”, “I am a person of great value”, “Going home a new person”, “In the Prison for Christ”. On the final day of the lectureship, IHCF and Nigerian Christian Hospital sponsored a free medical clinic for the prisoners.

Over 500 prisoners took advantage of the medical care being offered. Eight prisoners were baptized as part of this event. Prisoners were treated for malaria, typhoid, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, asthma, worms, eye problems, hepatitis as well as many other ailments.

Hosting the one-day free clinic for prisoners cost \$400. If interested in sponsoring a future event, please send a note with your gift stating that it is for medical outreach to prisoners.

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Mildred Groover

JUST A REMINDER

For quicker memorial or honor acknowledgements, feel free to phone in your request to IHCF to Fleta Mooney at 501.268.9511. You may use credit cards for these gifts.

2013 Seminar Report

Over 200 people, mostly health care professionals, gathered in Dallas earlier this year for the 31st annual Medical Missions Seminar. This seminar was attended by over 50 college-age young people . . . a record for student attendance. Attendees were from 14 different states and multiple countries.

Eight continuing education classes were offered for nurses. Thirty-one speakers shared with those in attendance. Medical topics such as diabetes, deadly bites, wound care and musculo-skeletal assessment were discussed as well as many others. Team building and effective communication were also among favorite topics. Arkansas cardiologist and palliative care physician, Dr. David Smith, delivered the keynote address titled "Spirituality at the Bedside."

At the Friday night banquet, Ruth Orr was presented with the Glenn and Shirley Boyd Award for International Christian Service. Ruth is a long-time World Bible School Teacher. Dr. Brian Camazine was awarded the Henry and Grace Farrar Award for Service in Medical Missions, which was accepted on his behalf by his wife, Susan. Dr. Camazine is a Texas surgeon who has given of himself immensely in service at

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Prenatal vitamins \$8/bottle
100 bottles needed

Reading glasses \$1.50/pair
500 pair needed

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Medical Outreach to Prisoners \$400
To sponsor a one day
clinic for prisoners

Tires for a Clinic truck \$575
For a set of 4

**Lens Meter for Kumasi
Eye Clinic** \$615

Nigerian Christian Hospital where his surgeries have not only saved many lives but have been used as a teaching experience in which Dr. Camazine mentors and teaches African surgeons.

The 2014 seminar will be held in the Dallas / Fort Worth area and is scheduled for January 17 and 18. Please make plans to attend.



Our Ministry Loses a Friend GENEROUS IN LIFE AND IN DEATH

Margaret Ann (Maggie) Hawkins of Austin, Texas passed from this earth a few months ago. She was a teacher who taught not only in several Texas cities, but internationally as well. She loved and supported many charitable works including our care of the sick. We are honored that she often referred to our efforts in Africa as her favorite charity. Maggie helped with many of our projects, but a strong interest of hers was our scholarship program for young African Christians going into health care fields. Her friendship to this ministry will be missed.

We were blessed that she made provision for us in her estate plans. Because of her generosity, many sick will be blessed now and in the future.

(Below) Dr. Shannon DeShazo teaching at the seminar



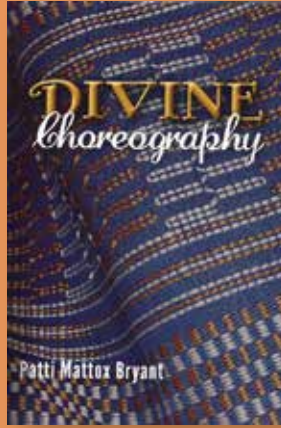
(Left) Dr. Camazine with NCH OR staff

Bibles for Patients Update

For the past 6 years we have been providing Bibles, free of charge, to patients at our clinics and hospitals. They are given to those that our chaplains identify as “seekers” or who want to participate in Bible studies with chaplains.

We provide Bibles in English and African languages, though we find that most patients prefer to receive them in their native language.

Although the cost varies widely, the average price we pay for a Bible is about \$6. Since we began this project we have distributed 8,331 Bibles to patients.



For those giving \$100 or more to the Bible for Patients Program and who request it, we will send a free copy of the recently released book, “Divine Choreography” by Patti Mattox Bryant. This book relates the Bryant’s experiences in African mission work from 1958 to 1967 and includes the founding of Nigerian Christian Hospital.

This book is also available at Amazon.com

“It is a great thing you are doing. So many of the people, especially here in the northern region, need a copy of God’s word for their very own. God bless you people for furnishing them.”

George,
Tamale Branch of
Bible Society of Ghana

“We can’t say thank you enough to the Americans who are making our dreams come true with all of these Bibles to use in our work here at Palmer.”

Eno Umoh,
Business Manager at
Palmer Hospital, Nigeria

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