



Ashers In Africa

Medical and Technical Advisors to Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone

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Volume 2 Issue 2

Prayer Requests:

- Safety as we travel and speak this summer.
- Continued strength and insight and compassions for those working in the CHASL hospitals
- Safe travel and productive time for the medical students, physicians and church teams coming this year
- Patience and wisdom as we learn our new role as the advisors to CHASL.

Medical Supplies, layettes, sewing cards and bandages can be mailed to :

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There is an oar on the shore!

Tom and I came back to the US in late spring to attend the Christian Medical and Dental Association meeting in WI. We then traveled to visit our families, settling in Toledo, Ohio where Tom is doing some locum tenens work. After a few weeks there we decided to take a vacation! Everyone in Africa thinks we are on vacation while we are in the US and everyone in the US thinks we are on vacation while we are in Sierra Leone. But regardless, we seldom get to take some time for ourselves. Friends of our family asked us to join them on their family vacation fishing in Canada. Tom has been fishing before, but Karen is a true novice. The first night Dan, Tom and Karen went out. It was cool but only rained for a few minutes. The men caught plenty, but Karen never had a bite. She just enjoyed the scenery! The next 36 hours was just hard rain, so finally when it lightened up a bit we decided to try the fishing again. We took out a small john boat because the big boat had a problem (later we found out the lake we were going to was swollen and fishermen couldn't get back out after they got in). Tom and I were joking about having to get out of the boat, which is something we speak about when we speak at churches, never thinking it could happen. We left the shore, it was 44 degrees and drizzling. About a half mile out the engine quit. Try as he would, Dan couldn't get it started. There was a swift current, due to the heavy rains we had and we moved farther away from the shore. We had only one oar and it was very small. Tom was working very hard to row us back to shore, but the current was moving us farther away. We rowed to the edge of the lake and pulled on branches to keep from losing ground. So what does a missionary do who is floating out to the middle of the lake while it is raining and cold. Pray, of course. But it still never ceases to amaze me when the God of the universe takes the time to listen to such a minor request. We looked up ahead and saw a natural slope to the water. We pulled up there and just lying in the grass was an old row boat oar. We asked for divine help and He gave us an oar on the shore! After a bit of rowing we made it back to the boat launch and many further hours of fishing.



The first night's big catch Tom and

Shipping Containers



Tom, Dr. White and Jeff Fitch

Since we have been home most of our time has been spent working on sending shipments to Sierra Leone. Recently we packed a semi ,donated by Bolt Express, and packed by many volunteers from Whiteford Wesleyan Church and friends of WAEMM. Coleen and Mike Szyskowski had worked hard while we were in Sierra Leone to collect a large amount of medical supplies and medical equipment. They had them stored in four locations so we had no trouble filling the semi truck. The semi met us in Mechanicsburg, Pa where Arms Around Africa and Christian Relief volunteers transferred all the items to two 40 ft. shipping containers. The items set sail later that week and will arrive in Sierra Leone in July or August. WAEMM will pay to clear them through customs with the help of CHASL, who will separate all the items and dispense them to the 12 hospitals and 40 clinics. There are never enough supplies!

Education - The Key to Our New Position with CHASL

When we started this new position with CHASL we really weren't sure of the job description. We were clear that the goals set by WAEMM were to give scholarships, send medical supplies, assist the clinics and hospitals with improvements, host mission teams and send the Ashers to work with CHASL in Sierra Leone, all to demonstrate in a tangible way the love of Jesus Christ for the people of Sierra Leone. But what did it mean to "send the Ashers"? What were we to do in Sierra Leone? We discussed this with Walter Carew, the Exec. Director of CHASL and determined that our first action would be visiting as many of the hospitals as possible to find out what they wanted from us. It was an eye opening experience as they explained the problems with lack of money, lack of trained personnel and lack of supplies. We made lists and lists of the needs at each institution and our hearts went out to them and we could understand their struggles to provide care for so many with so little. Many of the institutions told us they wanted our help in providing medical care for patients as the number of doctors is so limited. We love to care for patients so it is tempting to settle in at one or two places but then how would we help the others? All of them expressed gratitude for the supplies we had sent the previous year and explained that without the supplies they may not have been able to keep their doors open. And finally all of them expressed the need for more trained personnel and more training for the personnel they had. So our duties unfolded. We covered at four hospitals that had one or no physicians. We took our medical students with us and they learned and taught so much. We continued working with Coleen and Mike back home working toward sending more supplies. We continued to give and oversee more scholarship students (see recent graduates below) but will now limit our new scholarships to only students who will continue to work at CHASL institutions after graduation. We hosted mission teams who taught at the Theological College, worked in the hospitals with us, built privacy screens for the wards and set up indigent funds for caring for those who can not pay for their care. And we taught. We taught while rounding. Karen taught in the labs. We taught in the CHO surgical training program. And we went to six of the ten general medical hospitals and taught emergency OB and trauma ultrasound to the doctors and midlevel providers. We were able to see that each of these institutions had working ultrasounds and were thrilled when they would call and tell us that they found a serious problem and saved a patient's life from their newly gained knowledge. When we return to Sierra Leone after the rainy season, we will continue teaching ultrasound at the other four general medical hospitals and then begin teaching a quality laboratory medicine course to all the hospitals and clinics.

Scholarship Graduates

During 2014 we had many WAEMM scholarship students graduate. Jane graduated with her SECHN nursing degree and is working at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital. Marie Turay graduated with her nurse midwife degree and is working at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital. Albert Kargo graduated with his teaching certificate and is working at a Kakamba school. Pricilla Bangura graduated from Makeni University with her Bachelors in Accounting and is working for Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital. Daniel Kamara graduated with his Bachelors in Accounting and is the new Financial Officer for a Christian NGO in Jui. He continues to administer the scholarship program for WAEMM in Sierra Leone. We are so proud of each and everyone of these graduates. They have worked hard and all expressed their gratitude to God and to the donors of WAEMM who made their dreams a possibility. We have 5 students who are nearing graduation and two new students, Sallay Kamara (entering SECHN nursing school) and Wallie Samura (entering CHO, similar to physician assistant, college). Although we have limited all new students to those in health care fields, there are many who are waiting for money to be available. Please mark your donations as "scholarship" if you can help. Two doctors can do a little, many graduates can do a lot!



New privacy curtains by Dueber UMC



Dueberites gave "until it hurts"

Check out the website. It has all been recently redone. Including the blog.

www.waemm.com



You can take the WV Doc out of WV but you can't take the WV out of the Doc!



New Ultrasound for the ultrasound class grads at Matru Hospital



Nurse Jane



Midwife Marie



Teacher Albert



Accountants Daniel and Priscilla

Every day we pray for you, our prayer and financial supporters. We are very aware that none of this would be possible without you and we are so very thankful. God bless you! Drs. Thomas and Karen Asher

We're on the Web!

www.waemm.com

Donations can be made through the web site or by mailing contributions to WAEMM

(Address on page one)