



Ashers In Africa

Medical and Technical Advisors to Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone

March 2016

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Prayer Requests:

- Comfort and wisdom for the family as decisions are being made after the loss of cousin Deb.
- Donations to come in for the matching solar funds.
- Training and perseverance for the volunteer pastors of the Community Churches.
- Wisdom and healing for our patients seeking treatment at our CHASL hospitals and clinics.

New Address

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

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Toledo, Ohio 43612

Kate.weso56@gmail.com

News from Sierra Leone

Karen and I have returned home and are excited to share how the work is continuing in the hospitals, clinics and churches. But first, we want to thank you all for your prayers and condolences after the unexpected passing of Karen's cousin Deb Define. It was comforting to both of us during these difficult days. In the following newsletter we will go through the progress in Sierra Leone in the main components of our work through West African Education and Medical Mission.

Education at the Christian Health Association (CHASL) Hospitals and Clinics

While in Africa, Karen and I stayed busy teaching Lab techniques and Ultrasound Classes. She taught the lab employees from several hospitals how to run and maintain different laboratory machines. These included QBC, Reflotron, Hematastat and Side Kick Glucometers. At the conclusion of the week long training, each hospital returned to their institution with the machines and enough reagents to perform the tests. The money generated from doing these tests would allow the hospitals to purchase more reagents and supplies to continue using the equipment. All the supplies are stocked at the CHASL office. The machines and initial supplies were provided by the generous WAEMM donors. Karen will conclude the remaining hospitals and clinics lab training and machines when she returns to Sierra Leone in the fall.



Lab Techs learning about the QBC and Ultrasound classes

Tom, Karen and a visiting physician, Tom Adamski, MD, taught abdominal and obstetric courses to several of our CHASL hospitals and the CHO and SRN students at Njala University in Bo. This training will be very beneficial to our midwives and community health officers (CHO) as they care for maternity cases and trauma cases. WAEMM donors donated one ultrasound machine to Bo Mercy UMC hospital and one to Pendembu clinic at the conclusion of the course at the university. It is WAEMM's prayer to raise enough enough money so all our institutions can have this life saving technology.



Hosting Physicians and Church team

In February we hosted a team from Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church. This church donated for the building of the Kakamba church, well and parsonage. The team taught leadership and discipleship classes to the pastors and lay leaders of the 13 Community Churches from the local villages. They also worked with some Sierra Leonean pastors to baptize 250 recent converts from the Community Church. We praise the Lord for this!





Abdule Mansaray, Panguma's new electrician for solar.

Dr. Adamski joined us again, but without WVU students this time. The universities still have not released the students to come to Sierra Leone since the ebola epidemic. We hope they will soon. Dr. Adamski helped with the ultrasound courses and was very excited about the enthusiasm showed by the students who told him how valuable this training would be as they treat patients. Many of the students had seen these machines but did not know how to use them. Although this course is not comprehensive, it is a beginning basic course that can save the lives of patients.

Providing Solar Power for (CHASL) Hospitals and Clinics

Solar power is adding an exciting new dimension to the institutions that have been included in the European Union grant. So far we have raised funds to match 25 % of the available grant money. This is such an exceptional opportunity because for every dollar we raise the grant puts in 4 more. Electricity is the most important need of the medical institutions in Sierral Leone. It allows for better medical care, revenue generating businesses to gain sustainability, and a better quality of life for the hospital employees. As donations come in we will be able to continue installing solar in the three hospitals and 15 clinics.

Panguma Hospital Management as an Example of What Can Be

Panguma Hospital has it's first phase solar expansion completed. The hospital property now has 24 hour electricity. The hospital has formed Panguma Hospital Enterprises. Small businesses have been developed to make the hospitals more sustainable. In October a internet café and copy center was started. The internet is from a satellite connection and the copiers are very busy with the school children and teachers in a county wide area. The hospital hopes to offer classes in Microsoft office in the near future. Any visitors with these skills would be very helpful in training the café staff. Another business developed is the selling of frozen fish and chicken. This has been met with enthusiasm by the community which up until now have not had access to meat and thus have had a very protein deficient diet. The hospital buys the frozen fish and chicken in Kenema which is about 40 miles away and stores it in freezers powered with solar. Finally, with donations from WAEMM and Germany a machine that purifies and bags water is being installed. The hospital will have to be inspected to become a "pure water" manufacturing site. People in the community buy these water packets now but the producer is again in Kenema and can't always supply Panguma and the more distant villages. The cost of transport also adds an additional charge. The hospital will be able to produce the bagged water in a more consistent and more cost effective manner while again generating income to keep the hospital charges down. Better nutrition will help the people stay healthy, and clean water will help prevent outbreaks of cholera. The ability to make copies and access the internet will improve the educational programs in the existing schools. This keeps in line with the goals of Panguma Hospital Enterprises, to improve the living conditions of the community while bringing in revenue to sustain the hospital.



Internet café in Panguma

Scholarship Students

The students have been doing well in spite of the school closings for ebola. Schools are now open and they are currently in the second semester of this school year. Sheka Bangura graduated with a Bachelors degree in Accounting. Mansu Turay graduated with his Teachers Certificate. Pastor Kadiatu Barrie is in her last year of the catering Teaching Certificate. This will allow her to offer a full catering degree at Kamakwie SVOC. Jacob Sillah is in his last year of computer training. He and some of his friends came and helped set up the computers in the Panguma Hospital Internet Café. Wallie Samura is in his second year of CHO training and is very high in his class ranking. Sallay Kamara has passed her first entrance testing to nurses training and will soon start at the St. John of God community nursing program. Our previous scholarship students are all working and contributing to their communities and their families. Many are helping other students to attend college. We encourage them to give back by serving in our CHASL hospitals and helping other students to also get an education. Marie Turey is working as a midwife at Kamakwie Wesleyan hospital. Jane is working as a nurse at KWH. And Daniel is helping Panguma hospital with accounting.

We're on the Web!

www.waemm.com

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



Sheka graduates.



Wallie Samura CHO student



Sallay Kamara nursing student