

Central **AFRICA** Healthcare Organization



Thank You!

On behalf of the CAHO Board, a big THANK YOU to each one of you who has contributed with your prayers, time, interest, and resources over the past year. Your partnership with our brothers and sisters at each of the CAHO-affiliated hospitals does make a difference as they “proclaim the glad tidings” that we celebrate in this season. We invite you to celebrate the brief updates that follow, to explore the newly-reconstructed website www.gocaho.org in early January 2014, and prayerfully consider how you might partner again in the year to come.

As we close out the year, and look forward to 2014, this is not only a time of celebration, but one of reflection. There are thoughts of family, friends, and traditions of seasons past, all of which are important. However, as I again read the accounts of the “first Christmas”, I am particularly struck with the realization that this was not the “warm and fuzzy” time that we often associate with this season. The accounts in the Gospels allude to emotions such as fear, confusion, wonder, and awe on the part of the participants in these events. I doubt that I would have responded much differently, and suspect that if a denominational committee had been tasked with arranging the coming of our Messiah, things would have looked a lot differently than they did.

Mark Galli, writing “Tidings of Chaos & Joy” in the December, 2013 issue of *Christianity Today*, speaks of unpredictability when the Holy Spirit gets involved in our lives, quoting from Matt. 1:18, “Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit”. Speaking of this passage, he goes on to say “...It’s said prosaically, as if this sort of thing happens all the time. But no matter how it is announced, the careful reader of the Bible will know that something momentous is afoot...[because] when the Holy Spirit starts something new, things get a little crazy.

It happens again at the Nativity. At one level, the Messiah came to save us from evil chaos—the chaos brought about by sin... but He’s not going to save us from holy chaos, because that would thwart the work of the Spirit, who fills Him...[and] if the Spirit has started a new work in our lives—whether we call it a new creation or a new birth—we can be sure we’ll know holy chaos.” He then says that we will be given hope and transcendent

order out of confusion, but that the work of the Holy Spirit “will also bring something else, something alarming. The Bible describes it as trials, other times as suffering. Sometimes you’ll be asked to take great risks. Some are called out of a life of suburban safety into an exotic land or job. Most are simply called to live into the radical freedom of grace wherever they are. Whatever it is, it isn’t order. It’s grounded on order, founded on the Rock of our salvation. But sometimes our lives will feel out of control. Like [Mary] getting pregnant at the most inopportune time. Like life exploding uncontrolled in the wild [of creation]. Like the joy of God falling on you so powerfully [as in Acts], you wonder if you’re drunk...That’s holy chaos. Few things are more unexpected, shocking, even troublesome—ah, but more glorious. As much as we wish each other peace and goodwill this Christmas season, if we have any sense of the way things work, we’ll wish each other a little holy chaos as well.”

Many of you know exactly what Mark Galli is talking about—a sense of personal control isn’t something that is always on our mind when God is at work. For those of you who have worked in health care overseas, you will also be able to read the same thing between the lines in the updates that follow—events sometimes happening at speeds or in ways different than we would have “planned”—but no doubt that God is at work. As we celebrate the coming of our Messiah, our Sovereign Lord, we wish each one of you a very blessed Christmas and New Year. Remember Who is the author of this all, and wish each other a little holy chaos as well!

Congo

As you may know from past newsletters, a group of Nundu Hospital supporters came together to form Champions for Congo several years ago with the goal of partnering with national friends and colleagues there to strengthen the work of the hospital. On behalf of the group, Drs. Tim Kratzer and Norm Wetterau write, “Triumph in the Face of Trials!": “The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is coming out of a period of civil war in which more lives have been lost than in any war since WWII. Despite its abundance of natural resources, the country is the poorest in the world. But God’s ways are different than our ways. The Free Methodist Church has grown so that today there are more than 150,000 church members, even in the

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face of this war which has taken the lives of many and saw others flee to neighboring countries. The hospital, known as Deaconess Hospital of Nundu, has continued to function and now is totally run by national doctors and nurses. DHN provides support to 50 outpatient health centers. These clinics often function without adequate supplies of medications.

The Nundu Nursing School (Institute Technique Medical) opened in 1988 with ten students when missionaries were present, has expanded and trains a stream of nurses who provide care in the hospital and clinics. One would have expected that the war would have prevented the school from functioning. Not so, for during this same period, the school of nursing has continued to grow, now with more than 100 nursing students in its first year class.



First year nursing student class

Because there are no full time missionaries serving the FMC of Congo and because it is difficult for mission groups to travel there, you may have not been hearing this news of growth and success. In order to help provide more American support for the Deaconess Hospital of Nundu, its health centers as well as the school of nursing, a group called Champions for Congo has been established [currently partnering with and operating under the auspices of CAHO]. Champions for Congo purposes to make the medical needs of the Congo known and is requesting individuals to invest in this thriving community of faith with their prayers, time and financial resources.

Here are some current and recent projects:

- A new X-ray machine and supplies have been purchased, and a technician is being trained.
- Last year mattresses were made locally for all the hospital beds. This may not sound like much, but most patients had been sleeping on wooden boards.
- Repair of a major retraining wall has been funded.
- Personal gifts plus a grant given by the Butterfield Foundation helped finish and furnish the Nundu Nursing School (ITM) building.
- Subsidy for medications - There are 4 national doctors and surgery is done in addition to obstetrics, medical and pediatric care. Provision of medications is an ongoing issue.
- A new pediatric building - Mothers will walk a day or two bringing their ill children for help. The current pediatric ward is one room crowded with 16 beds. The children have malaria, pneumonia, and anemia, among other things. When the beds are filled, two ill children need to share a bed. The new building will be larger and have examining rooms for outpatients as well. The total cost is under \$50,000. About \$15,000 has been raised. The foundation has been laid and the walls are over half done. \$30,000 could finish the building.
- A hydroelectric plant has been developed.



Randy Matthewson and the hydroelectric plant

Here is the current leadership team: Linda Stryker, Tom and Kathy Hadduck, Tim and Connie Kratzer, Norm and Nancy Wetterau, Jim and Barb Stillman and Alice and Randy Matthewson. The Matthewsons spend periods of 2-3 months at a time at Nundu supervising building and other development projects. Linda Stryker serves as liaison between the church and funding agencies, spending most of her time in Canada and the United States and traveling to the Congo as needed. The Kratzers, Hadducks and Wetteraus and Stillmans work in the states and contribute to Congo and visit the Congo to support various projects.

Donations can be made through CAHO, designated for "Nundu Hospital/Congo".

For questions contact Dr Norman Wetterau (normwetterau@aol.com) or 585-335-2350) or Linda Stryker (lstryker.drc@gmail.com).

Haiti

From Dan Snyder and Haiti Healthcare Advocates, with whom CAHO partners in support of the Dessalines Rural Health Project (DRHP) and Claire Heureuse Hospital in Marchand Dessalines, Haiti: "This is Joseph Sanon and he is 89 years old. He told us he likes to spend his time reading the Bible to those in the hospital who are sick and at their homes. Because he has cataracts, he

could no longer see to read. We were able to give him a strong pair of prescription glasses and he opened the Creole Bible we had and SMILED. He could see to read again. I asked him why he thought he had lived so long and he told me verbatim, 'BECAUSE OF JESUS.' He thanked us over and over for the gift of sight!" Dr. Dave Bejot, Crossroads Eye Team.



DRHP saw 23,467 patients pass through the clinic doors, 979 babies were delivered, 1,439 patients were hospitalized, the Public Health department

vaccinated 4204 patients and treated 150 patients with HIV and 287 patients with Tuberculosis. Teaching is stressed particularly at the Public Health Clinics as our Haitian friends are educated in basic health sciences (germs, nutrition, vaccinations) as we combat the street theme of "Voodoo and the spirit world" as the origin of all illness.

Each day, at 6 a.m., Hyronce Cadet, the chaplain, brings a devotional to the patients as they wait for the clinic doors to open. At 8 a.m., another devotional is held for the staff and via a speaker system the patients in the hospital are able to listen to the devotional and singing. As teams visit and daily when teams are not present, Hyronce and staff members visit and pray with the patients in the hospital and those who pass through the clinic during the day when a special need is brought to their attention.

During 2012 DRHP was able to earn nearly 50% of the needed operational expenses from patient receipts. In an economy of poverty we find this amazingly strong as the goal of DRHP is to serve those least able to pay while at the same time balancing the need for personal responsibility on the part of the same people who appear at the doors of the hospital. (Examples of cost are a general clinic visit/ \$1.25 for local patients, a baby delivery \$8.75 when patients have had at least 4 prenatal visits and \$17.50 if no prenatal care) Ultimately, your support is a subsidy for those in Haiti such as Joseph Sanon.

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Special projects

The Eye-Dental Clinic project, under the supervision of Coldwater F.M. Church, is close to being finished. The dental and optometry equipment arrived, breezed through customs and is on site. The clinic building will be ready in early January and the equipment installed. We are hopeful that the next Eye or Dental team will be seeing patients at the new location.

DRHP was named 1 of the top 8 hospitals in Haiti for 2012 and USAID, in association with the Haitian Department of Health, submitted a proposal to the hospital for a remodel of the obstetrical wing. The goal was to further improve obstetrical care delivery. HHA members met and signed a contract with DRHP and USAID. The project, under the supervision of Ian and Alice Van Norman, Burt and Sandy McDonnell along with our Haitian builders, was started. Unfortunately we subsequently received notice that USAID has put their project commitment on hold pending a new USA-USAID budget. We now have a building standing which lacks windows, door frames, doors, tile floors, fans and lights which were to be financed by USAID. Goal: \$30,000 needed to finish the construction project.

DRHP has a staff of 87 Haitian employees. We have 3 full time Generalist physicians, 2 obstetricians that share a full time position, a Pediatrician and an Internal Medicine specialist who hold clinic 2 and 3 times weekly respectively. In addition, DRHP has 11 clinics in the Artibonite Valley which are the mainstay of the Public Health-Preventative care delivery system. We are in desperate need of funds to assist hiring a surgeon. Goal: 5 individuals or churches to support for 3 years at \$250/mth. (\$1250/mth salary support) Scholarship report. Presently under scholarship are Dr Johnny Fequire (obstetrical training) and Mr Evinse (Radiology). Dr Junior Noel and Dr Bazileme, previous students receiving scholarships are now working at the hospital as full fledged physicians.

Thank You

In view of the fact that so many have supported the ministry, we are hesitant to mention any one person in particular for fear of missing others. However, we want to thank all of you who have traveled to Haiti as a team member working to support the hospital. We have had teams visit to support and minister in the areas of evangelization and discipleship, large and small building and maintenance projects, medical and optometry teams. A large part of each of the team visit is personal interaction and support of our Haitian friends and staff which is greatly appreciated. We want to thank all of our churches and individuals who have been supporters at home and have been involved in sending funds and fund raising. The economics of partnering with a hospital in Haiti is challenging and the doors literally would not be open today without your support. We all want to thank you for your support in prayer. As you pray, we and the Haitian staff feel encouraged, protected and supported knowing that we are being prayed for and that we have our Lord guiding the ministry as we also look to the Holy Spirit for continued guidance. We are greatly humbled by your support. Thank you."

Visit the HHA website for more details on how to become involved:
www.haitihealthcareadvocates.com



Tyazo, just before the entrance to Kibogora...paved road from the main highway!

Rwanda

"Change" seems to be the word to best describe Kibogora Hospital as it continues to grow, with challenges but also unbelievable opportunities brought with that growth. Well over 200 employees, 14 physicians, and an almost \$2,000,000 budget make it quite different from the place where many of us worked over the years. However, one thing remains—the desire to maintain this as a place of Christian witness to God's love, reaching out with compassionate and quality care to all who have need regardless of financial ability. Expatriate colleagues currently residing on "the hill" include Dr. Tim and Linda Berg and family, and Julie Yerger, RN, who many of you know. Many others have come throughout the year for shorter periods, making housing a premium commodity! The Bergs will be completing their second year at Kibogora in 2014, and are making plans for staying longer term. Julie returned in 2013 for her second term, and has a primary focus on development of the neonatal unit as well as overseeing station operations (a full time job in itself). Sheila Etherington continues to "commute" from the UK where she is currently based and caring for her father. Sheila fills the important role of coordinator for the many groups and ongoing projects involved, including the Better Together Partnership.



Better Together Partnership group, Kibogora, November, 2013

The Better Together Partnership was formed in 2012 and includes the Free Methodist Church-Rwanda, Free Methodist Church-UK, Kibogora Initiative-UK, CAHO, Free Methodist World Missions-US, and the hospital, with the goal of coordinating all of our efforts to support the mission of the hospital, in particular maintaining the spiritual vision that is its foundation. The group met for the second annual meeting at Kibogora in early November. Plans for 2014 include building a new maternity unit in partnership with Albert Einstein College of Medicine from New York, and rebuilding the Jeff Crandall Pediatric Building under the leadership of CAHO. As many of you know, the pediatric ward was built in 1979 in the memory of Jeff Crandall, young son of Dr. and David and Linda Crandall, who died following a brief illness that started at Kibogora. The ward has been very important for providing care to some of the most vulnerable small folks, but very much needs an upgrade to meet present and future demands. After what has been a long delay, design plans are in progress, and we are hopeful to begin construction in 2014. More details will be forthcoming, but we are currently looking to raise \$150,000, and are grateful for many who have already made contributions.



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The scholarship program also remains a CAHO priority, with support provided for hospital employees for further training, including upgrades in nursing qualifications, administration, and accounting, chaplaincy, and post-graduate training for a physician who is in the 2nd year of a 5 year surgical residency with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) in Ethiopia. All have commitments to return to Kibogora Hospital.

Current investment opportunities for 2013-2014:

- Nursing scholarships
- Jeff Crandall Pediatric Building reconstruction
- National surgical residency scholarship
- Sheila Etherington travel support
- Poor Fund and Sponsor-a-Bed

Check for more Kibogora updates at the Kibogora Initiative website (www.kibogora.org) and www.gocaho.org.

Burundi

Change is also the word in Burundi as Hope Africa University medical school moves ahead with increasing numbers of medical students requiring clinical training, and Kibuye Hope Hospital makes the transition to university training center with the arrival of the McCropder team of physicians.



Drs. Joel and Janette Miller and children will be starting their 3rd year of service in Bujumbura in 2014, where Joel is the Director of Clinical Education for the med school, and Janette assists in med student education. Joel also works at the VanNorman Clinic on campus, where they are gearing up to increase clinical services as well as initial training for both nursing and medical students. Joel and Janette are serving as extended term missionaries with Free Methodist World Missions-USA. CAHO is partnering with the Millers for resources to be used in the clinical training of the medical students.

Dr. Gerald Bates, current Rector of HAU writes "To missionaries of long experience there is no greater joy than watching a vision unfold. This is our experience, Marlene's and mine, as we watch this university bear fruit. I guess, these days, that we could say the school in 'en travail' [in labor for the non-OB non francophones!] as we get ready to 'give birth' to hundreds of graduates at the bachelors level, a good group of Masters degrees, and four medical doctors from the medical school. . .

Two major constructions, the on-campus hospitality center and the student dorm at Kibuye Hospital campus are nearly ready for the slab which constitutes the floor of the second story. The six 'McCropders' doctors (the acronym composed from their individual names—Americans all and finely trained) are on site at Kibuye and in a whirlwind of construction and planning in order to launch full-tilt into work on January 1, 2014."

Check out the new site for Kibuye at www.kibuyehope.com for detailed updates and partnership opportunities, as well as a most exciting Christmas Catalogue!

In Closing. . .

Thank you again for all of your support over the past year. It would be our privilege to partner with you again in the coming year providing support through prayer, service, and resources at each of the CAHO-affiliated hospitals.

Email Newsletters: If you are presently receiving a paper copy and would be willing to receive it in the future by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to ruthrupert@hotmail.com.

Donations can be sent to CAHO at P.O. Box 580, 8050 Spring Arbor Rd., Spring Arbor, MI 49283, or to any of our partner organizations.

PLAN NOW
TO BE AT
THE 24TH ANNUAL CAHO
CONFERENCE
IN SPRING ARBOR, MICHIGAN
APRIL 25-26, 2014 !

