

July 18, 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with great joy that we report on another successful time of outreach in Cameroon! This year we went with our largest team thus far of seven people and were able to expand our work to cover multiple venues on the same day! Patty, Kathleen, Kevin, Melissa, and Andrea were there from May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 26<sup>th</sup>. Raphia and Abiba stayed through June 11<sup>th</sup> for follow-up.



Kathleen Mahoney, Abiba Noubissie, Kevin Vuernick, Moubarak Njilie, Sodetou Mfounjou, Melissa Hewson, Patty Hewson, Andrea Sobolowski



Raphia Noubissie, Dr Ngomsu, Dr. Serge Tima

So what did we manage to accomplish while there you might ask?

#### **Medical Outreach:**

We held four days of free medical consultations, seeing 1038 patients in three different locations. The first two days were in a government clinic in Mbain on the outskirts of Foumban where we saw 535 patients with the help of two local physicians and medical students. Our care included screening for diabetes, HIV, typhoid and malaria. In addition to medication from Americares, we distributed twenty reading glasses. We were fortunate enough to have a local dentist join our efforts treating 36 patients.



Later in the week, we spent one afternoon at the Central Hospital in Foumban and saw 45 patients.

Finally, we traveled to a town called Mbouda (about 1.5 hours outside of Foumban) and along with the help of the local physicians, saw 375 patients at the Protestant Hospital.

During these 4 days of Medical Outreach, One hundred eighty seven HIV tests were done. Seven positives were identified and linked to follow-up care. One hundred fifty three people were tested for diabetes and of these 33 people were referred for the proper care.

#### **Prison Outreach:**

The entire team spent a day at the prison in Foumban that houses 168 inmates. We gave several HIV educational seminars and offered HIV testing that was accepted by 111 inmates. Five inmates were identified to be HIV positive



and were linked into care utilizing local resources for follow-up. Eighty-three inmates were seen and treated by our three medical providers. In addition, our younger team members held a much-appreciated seminar about goal setting for the youth in the prison aged 15-18.

### **High School Outreach:**

A majority of the team spent a day at the Lycee Classique de Foumban, a large high school of 3000 students. Here, we held HIV educational seminars which were received with much curiosity and appreciation. About 150 students were tested for HIV and there were no positive results.



### **Orphan Outreach:**

We had planned to double the number of orphans that we sponsor this year, but somehow managed to triple the number instead! New children were identified during the medical outreach as well as through local connections. Abiba, Andrea, and Melissa spent three days with the children carrying out planned activities such as arts and crafts, games and education with the orphans and vulnerable children. Raphia and Abiba met with the parents and caregivers of each of these children to solidify the program and set up a natural, local support network for the adults who care for each child.



We are now committed to the sponsorship of 16 children over this coming year covering school fees, uniforms, and supplies. We have three sponsors identified and now are looking for 13 more people who are willing to commit \$100 per year to sponsor each of the new children we have identified.

We thank you for your support on behalf of each child and adult whose lives we were able to impact while we were there! Most of those we served could not afford healthcare. The work continues by our local partners who continue reaching out on a daily basis in new and different ways. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity, prayers, and support of our outreach that made it all possible. You have truly made a difference.

For those so interested, we have posted some of our pictures for your enjoyment at the web address provided in the email. We would also be glad to come share our stories and pictures with groups that you may be able to assemble. Feel free to also call or write us if you have any questions or suggestions for our team as we plan for our next visit.

Sincerely on behalf of the team,

Patty Hewson  
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[http://picasaweb.google.com/mhewson524/Cameroon2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCP3\\_zquoiK2RJQ&feat=directlink](http://picasaweb.google.com/mhewson524/Cameroon2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCP3_zquoiK2RJQ&feat=directlink)

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