



# WAEMM

WEST AFRICAN EDUCATION AND MEDICAL MISSION  
Medical Missionaries to Sierra Leone

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Volume 5 Issue 1

## 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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## Praise the Lord! You did it!

Tom and I came home from Sierra Leone in late November with a heavy burden on our hearts. While in Sierra Leone we learned that one of our friends, a very qualified OB nurse in Kamakwie, Agnes Fatu, died earlier in the year. Nursing is a very strenuous field with long hours and heavy work. But we found out that the nurses in Sierra Leone are taking their lives, and the lives of their families in their hands every day when they go to work. They have not been immunized against Hepatitis B, a blood born disease with no treatment available in Sierra Leone. Many die from this disease within only a few years of contracting it. If a nurse were exposed to the disease she/he runs the risk of not only dying themselves but also of putting their close family members at risk.

On finding that the Panguma Hospital employees were not immunized Dr. Karen did some research and found that the serum is nearly non-existent in the country. She also found that the retail price is about \$100 per dose and each employee (all 80 of them) would need three doses if it were to be purchased in the U.S. Together with WAEMM board members, we began to seriously pray for a way to raise the money to take back the serum that these people so desperately needed when the Ashers return to Sierra Leone in January 2017. We challenged our churches and put out the request on the web page and Praise the Lord you responded! A medical supply house agreed to sell us the serum for their cost and the 240 doses have been purchased and have been hand carried to Panguma Hospital! The staff have all been immunized! Thank you!



Precious Hep B vaccine to protect Panguma Hospital's faithful workers.



## Praise the Lord! They did it!

As you know we have been working with Panguma Hospital to help the employees there make the hospital a sustainable project. For over 50 years they have depended on outside donations to keep the doors open, even for monthly payroll. Although they are very busy with patient care, the small amount the patients were able to pay were not covering monthly expenses. With the installation of the solar electricity and their ingenuity in starting small business at the hospital, for the month of January 2017, for the first time in many years, the hospital generated enough funds to pay all its own expenses for the month! This has taken a huge amount of work from the staff, starting a fish and chicken business, a computer and copy lab, a guest house and a water purifying and bagging plant. Although we offered assistance in these start ups, they provided the man power and knowledge of what the community wanted and needed. They have set three rules to help govern these Panguama Enterprises. First that it is a God honoring endeavor and in some way will make the lives of the community better. Second that it will not hurt a current business or community member. And third, that it will make sustainable income for the hospital. We praise the Lord for their hard work and diligence in saving their community hospital so all could have healthcare in their district!

Pictures of the fish and chicken, computer class and water treatment business on page 2.



## Praise the Lord! We know He will do it!

The solar project continues. The meters have begun being installed on the houses in Panguma. When the project is completed this will give the hospital a continuous stream of income. The people from the community will pay the hospital for their electric, using a credit card they will "load" units of electricity on the card which they then slide through the meter at their home and have use of electricity until the units run out. Before this generators were their only option, with expensive fuel that often wasn't even available and frequent breakdowns with parts eight hours away. This will enable many small businesses to develop in Panguma, internet cafes, restaurants and perhaps even grocery stores. All these things will indirectly help the hospital as people who are working are more likely to pay their hospital bills! Their biggest request is a truck to deliver the water. They could make and sell three times as much water if they had a truck to deliver it. This could generate enough income to pay 40% of their employees. This is a sustainable source of income to support this hospital that serves over 500,000 people, saving lives every day. Please pray about how you can help this project. Currently we have raised \$8000 towards the \$28,000 that is needed.

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

[www.waemm.org](http://www.waemm.org)

## On a personal note

We wanted to thank all of you for your prayers and out pouring of caring. After we came back from Africa in March, I had a cardiac catheterization. For most of last year, I had been experiencing more and more symptoms. I was so tired and needed to nap every day. I had trouble walking to the hospital and wasn't dealing well with the heat. It was determined that I needed cardiac bypass surgery. In early April we traveled to Toledo, Ohio and I had the surgery at The Toledo Hospital. We had practiced with these physicians for many years and felt confident that if I needed the surgery, this was where I should have it. After the surgery we were welcomed into Genesis Village where friends and family helped me recuperate. Sometimes it is good for medical people to experience the medical system first hand. This surgery really takes a lot out of a person. Just now, I am starting to feel like myself again. But through all this, I can't be more thankful for the Lord's provisions for my family and me. Tom started a job at urgent care two years ago that provided very good insurance for us. Sometimes when he has to work in another state and we have to be apart it seemed that this was not a good thing. Even when we had to make the decision to limit our time in Sierra Leone so Tom could work the required number of shifts to keep the insurance we questioned if this was what God wanted for us. We may question due to our limited knowledge but God always knows best. He knew we would need health insurance. When I was about to be released from the hospital and couldn't travel, He brought forth some friends who outfitted a one bedroom apartment at Genesis Village so I could stay there until I was released to travel. I am in cardiac rehab now and getting stronger every day. Thank you for your prayers. It has been a great time to get closer to the Lord. We feel that He still wants us to work in Sierra Leone so we hope you will continue to pray for us. We will be returning to Sierra Leone in September.



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](http://www.waemm.com)

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

(Address on page one)