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Praise/Prayer Requests

For Ruth Pierson. 1
She undergoing both
chemo and radiation
therapy and for
Chuck who had sur-
gery.

Praise the Lord! 2
Karen, Matt and
Carolyn and Marsha,
the nurses, made it
to Sierra Leone and
eventually so did all
their bags!

Guidance as we ad- 3
vise and assist the
youth leaders and
the agriculture pro-
ject.

The Sierra Leone 4
Wesleyan Church
and its new General
Superintendent, Pas-
tor Usman Fornah

For Mimi and Chris 5
and Marc who we
left behind.

Matt as he prepares 6
for the ACT.

- To become a financial or prayer partner in our ministry [Click Here.](#)
- Asher family fund WM04-0332 or Start Up fund WM06-1272.(solar)
- We thank all the people willing to continue to pray for us
- We currently have 98% of our support budget pledged.

Ashers In Africa

Volume 1 Issue 12

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Tom, Karen and Matt are all back in Sierra Leone!

In September, Karen and Matt and two nurses from Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio, Carolyn and Marcia, arrived in Sierra Leone. Some of the bags arrived with them. Some came a week later! Very little was missing from the bags and there were no unexpected baggage charges on this trip!

The nurses were such a blessing. I know sometimes healthcare workers from the US wonder how they will be able to help in a country where medicine is so different from what we know. Marcia and Carolyn just jumped right in. Being nurses they were able to quickly assess what our staff was struggling with. They could tell that although we are happy with the donated medical supplies that we get, they can pose a problem for staff. We have many types of IV equipment, different sizes and types of needles and catheters. We also have many types and sizes of tubing, and since we don't have IV pumps, this poses a lot of problems for the staff in calculating flow rates. Carolyn and Marcia also saw that our system for stocking supplies for starting IV's was not efficient. They set up teaching stations and did in-services for all the shifts. They helped set up an ordering system for supplies. And they helped the nurses get a locked cupboard for each ward so supplies would be at hand when they were needed. When they weren't helping solve problems, they did rounds

with the doctors. And if that didn't fill up all their time, they were willing to sort through boxes and boxes of supplies and equipment that needed organization. They will certainly be missed here at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital!

I would like to give you all an update on some of the things that I have told you in the past newsletters. The girls who had the terrible skin infections are all doing fine. We were able to see two of them recently and I have included a picture of Kadiatu on page two. She has quite a scar on her back from the infection, but as her father says, "it will heal and it is most important that she is here with us!" She is such a sweet and happy child. We recently had a man come in with the same infection and we were able to start the antibiotics right away. He is doing very well.

The solar was working so well at our house. We were able to allow a neighbor to put small bags of water in each night to sell the next day. And then all of a sudden it wouldn't charge. We had to turn off the freezer and were unable to use any fans or kitchen appliances. About the same time we finally got the repairman up from Free-town to work on the x ray machine that would not charge. He found that our generator was only putting out 160 volts, not the 220 it should. This had allowed the batteries on the machine to fade away and now



we will need a new set (about \$2000 US) to be able to do x rays. This generator problem is a very big problem. It will damage other equipment if we are not able to rectify it. Please pray that the Lord will send a work team over who has experience with diesel generators!

We received an unexpected surprise recently. Some of the items that you all have been sending to Louisiana, made it here to Kamakwie. Another shipment from World Hope was sent over and since they had some extra room they included some of the boxes for the hospital. Thank you to all who have rolled bandages, sent pill bottles, sent medications, gathered medical supplies and textbooks., sent sewing supplies for the women and baby clothes for the newborns. This hospital could not run without your donations, you are indeed very important to this hospital! Items you have for us can be mailed to :

World Hope Warehouse
C/O Dr. Asher KWH
1906 Gus Kaplan Dr.
Alexandria, LA 71301



Kadiatu, not only survived, she is well and happy!

Even though we spend many hours at the hospital there are so many other things that we are involved with. I have to tell you a funny story about bikes. When the pastors from East MI were here they saw a need for bikes for the pastors at the bible school. The student pastors travel as much as 25 miles each weekend to preach and really needed bikes. So one of the pastors raised the funds at his church and sent it to me, asking me to purchase the bikes. I thought, no problem, I have a truck and can pick them up in Freetown. Well, a bike here is a Christmas eve night-



It came in a box of 4 with all the parts mixed together and there must have been at least 600 parts per bike. Even every spoke in the wheels was unassembled. Tom said "Karen, if you want me to put these together, that infant



Marcia and Carolyn and the staff at the in-service

that I just delivered will be in college by the time I get them done!" Luckily Pastor Kamara who lives over the hill was experienced at assembling them and for a small fee he worked a full day on each one! Lesson learned, ask to see how many parts are in the box first! Below are two photos of the happy pastors doing the final construction (yes, they didn't fit in the truck without removing more parts!) and accepting them through the National Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. They are so excited to be able to ride instead of walking the whole way!

The right picture was taken at the first showing of the Jesus film at the hospital in the clinic waiting area. East Michigan District donated a projector and we can show the film in 4 languages. The first night we had about 70 attend, the next 150 and the next over 200! Pastor Jarr, our chaplain says this is a wonderful tool to open the door to discussions about Christ with our Muslim patients and their families. The clarity and sound on this little projector is incredible. Thank you East Michigan! We intend to use the projector when we do doctors clinic at our satellite clinics to show the Jesus film and also to use it with power point presentations for teaching. We have started teaching sessions for the staff on Wednesday afternoons. Some of the subjects taught have been IV drip rates, Care and treatment of victims of abuse, and re-education in universal precautions for the prevention of HIV and Hepatitis. This time allows any staff member who has attended a seminar to bring back



Jesus film showing at the hospital!

Information to the rest of the staff. This is also the time that our work teams from the US can share information with our staff.

The picture below is of our Gbendemu clinic and Joel our new Community Health Officer. He is accepting some medical text books to use as reference books at the clinic. We also share our medical supplies with them. They hold clinics there, overnight patients and



do deliveries. He was so happy to get books! Thank you to all the docs that sent medical textbooks. They are hard to find here!

Karen is again teaching Chemistry and Tom is teaching biology. We don't have many things in the way of labs, but we improvise. I taught my class about applied chemistry by showing them that some outdated Coumadin tablets made a wonderful rat poisoning. Any varmint is called a rat here, be it mouse or rat. We had some mice that were invading the hospital and our house. My husband attempted to chase them with a broom, but those critters are fast! And they were eating all the rice and benni seed that we use at the hospital to feed the malnourished. So I mixed a bit of Coumadin (complements of Little Sister of the Poor in Oregon) and some rice crispies and green food coloring and we no longer have the problem. Tom went to the market and purchased fish to dissect for biology. I suspect that they became dinner or "chop" later.

Almost daily a need is brought to our attention. This is a great strain as we don't personally have the funds to respond and our budget with Global partners is not designed to allow a discretionary fund for needs that we encounter. After much prayer and discussion with our accountant in Toledo, we decided to apply for 501 c3 status with the federal government. We applied under the name of West African Educational and Medical Mission. Recently we received confirmation that the organization was approved.

So what does this mean?. Well first, I want you to understand that it in no way changes our relationship with Global Partners. We are still missionaries with Global Partners, a division of the Wesleyan Church. Our personal support all comes through Global Partners so if you are one of our donors, please do not change that ! We like to eat, even if it is canned meat! But what WAEMM does is allow donors who feel led to help with some of the needs we have described, to contribute and get a tax deduction . Many of you have given to us and asked us to use it as we felt led. We will still be able to do this but through the small board of WAEMM, we will be able to be more accountable for the money, and give you receipts for taxes.

So what are some of the needs that WAEMM is collecting funds for at this time? Our biggest need at this time is shipping costs

to ship the container that is sitting in Louisiana over to Sierra Leone.. While we were home this summer we told you about the needs of the hospital for medications, bandages and infant layettes and you responded most generously.. We were also given much needed medical equipment like IV poles, a new wheel chair, and cautery units for the OR. Whiteford Agricultural School donated reading books for an entire primary school. Our friends from Whiteford Wesleyan Church loaded another Penske truck and drove a huge load of supplies to the warehouse in Louisiana. Many of you have been mailing boxes to the warehouse there. Now we need to raise the funds to get it all over here where it is much needed. The current costs for shipping the container are about \$9000. This includes shipping across the ocean, clearing and customs, and renting trucks to bring it up country to Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital. If you feel led to help with this need, you can send your donation to :

WAEMM c/o Arthur Allen CPA
4534 Sulgrave Dr.
Toledo, Ohio 43623

Please write in the memo what the donation is for and include an email address so that I can contact you. (Mail here is slower than snail mail, my mother in law sent us a card last March and it isn't here yet, we are still watching for it Mom!) The board of WAEMM is committed to seeing that the things you want to support are followed through. Other items recently funded by

WAEMM were educational support for a mother who returned to school after 5 children. She works full time and goes to college in accounting on Fridays and Saturdays each week. We also were able to help a small church with concrete to skim coat the building that they had constructed with their handmade bricks. And we helped the Katherine church with concrete and sand to finish their parsonage in time to get a full time pastor this year. We are thankful for you our friends and family who support the work that we have been most fortunate enough to have a part in.

The Lord has blessed us so much. Every day we see patients that we know He has hand picked us to care for. We have seen our CHO students graduate and 3 of them come to work in the Health Care Ministry of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. We were fortunate to gain a staff member from the Nigerian government in Nurse mid-wife Rita, for two years. Our own mid-wives, Marie and Fatu are both full time and really helping in the OB ward. We are even able to begin a high risk antenatal clinic and begin more work with our new mothers who are diagnosed with HIV. I can't say we like the current weather, it is hot , buggy, muggy and hard to tolerate. But like we say here in service, All the time, God is good, God is good all the time. We thank him!



Kadigidigi Church



Men's and Women's computer classes

So how is Matthew doing?

Matt came back just in time to help with the Agriculture Scholarship program. School was just about to start. All the recipients had been measured for uniforms and the tailors were hard at work. The officers of the organization had made a trip to Free-town to purchase book bags, shoes and school supplies. They were overjoyed to receive some of the US school supplies that you all shipped over in the last container!

They had a great ceremony, and 38 kids got all the supplies they needed to start school and the assurance that this year their school fees were paid. I have attached a picture of the scholarship students on the front steps of the "Mother church". Matt has been working hard on his school work also. He will take the ACT this year so he is taking chemistry, algebra 2 and calculus. Along with his other required subjects, he is preparing the letters from the scholarship students to send to their

donors. He hopes to get them out shortly!



38 ready for school! Thank you!

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! Tom, Karen, and Matt Asher