



# Ashers In Africa

Medical and Technical Advisors to Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone

June 2016

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## Prayer Requests:

- Donations of \$57,000 by the end of June to meet our 50% goal for solar.
- Safety for the team of 11 coming from Dueber UMC in September.
- Wisdom as we develop a training program for the "Pastors" in the Community Churches.
- Wisdom and healing for our patients seeking treatment at our CHASL hospitals and clinics.

## Immediate need for Solar Power!

I am writing this to you as we reach the midway point of our four year solar project. Praise the Lord, with your help we have collected \$143,000 of the \$400,000 needed for our contribution to the grant. As you may remember this will provide 24 hour electricity to three hospitals and 15 clinics. We partnered with this grant because we realize that our hospitals and clinics could not provide better care or expand in anyway to serve more patients with only two to four hours of expensive diesel generator electricity per day. Below you see stories of people who were helped by the solar that we have already installed and what is happening without solar power. Please help us continue this work to save more lives,



In 2014, the European Union awarded WAEMM a four to one matching grant for \$1,600,000 to put solar at 3 hospitals and 15 clinics. WAEMM is responsible for raising \$400,000 over a four year period. We are SO THANKFUL for your donations... so far \$143,000 has been raised!

Dr. Karen trains the lab techs within the CHASL facilities. Everyone wants to give better care and is willing to learn how to use new equipment, but the lack of consistent power prevents progress from occurring. Even though the lab testing done in the facilities is very basic, the ones with generator –powered lab equipment can only test during the 2-4 hours while the very expensive diesel-powered

generators are running, and many machines are ruined from the power fluctuations. Many stories were told around this table of lives saved because of the lab equipment, but also of lives that couldn't be saved because of the fuel shortage for the generators needed to power the lab machines. The facilities where solar power has been installed from this grant do not have to watch patients die while waiting for generator to come on the next day. It is a blessing to help improve healthcare and save more lives in Sierra Leone, but a curse to have to stand by helplessly and watch patients die without power to use equipment we take for granted in the US.



This very happy grandmother told us her daughter had previously lost three babies during delivery, and two other daughters had died during childbirth. This time, when her daughter had trouble delivering, they saw the light on at the hospital and came for help. Because solar power has now been installed in this hospital, we were able to do an ultrasound and an immediate C-section, which saved both the mother and the baby! The grandmother thanked the hospital staff over and over for saving her daughter and the baby.



This child is recovering from pneumonia. In the U.S. children rarely die of pneumonia, but in Sierra Leone, it is a common killer of children. The hospitals can only use oxygen and nebulizers while the generator is on: 2-4 hours a day. Because of your generous donations, this hospital was the first to receive solar power from the WAEMM grant, so children are not dying from lack of treatment here! Since the grant is a matching grant, if we do not raise our match, we lose the rest of the matching fund. Could you pray and consider giving so we can complete the solar power in the other hospitals and clinics in the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL) group? This is such a wonderful opportunity and we need your help!



## New Address for supplies

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

Kate Weslowski  
419-283-0168  
419-476-1260  
5459 Goodwood Ave.  
Toledo, Ohio 43612

[Kate.weso56@gmail.com](mailto:Kate.weso56@gmail.com)



This child was unfortunately born at a hospital that did not have solar power. The generator had been turned on to do the mother's C-section, which was necessary because she was having seizures and had very high blood pressure. She had been given medication to suppress her seizures in a rural clinic and brought to the hospital. The child looked completely healthy. However the medication given to the mother had passed to the baby. With an Oxygen concentrator, we could keep the child's oxygen concentration high enough to keep the child alive until the medications wore off. But at this time, there was a diesel powered generator running the oxygen concentrator. The hospital administrator insisted the generator must be turned off, as there was only enough diesel fuel for one more surgery. If a pregnant mother came in for an emergency surgery, and we were out of diesel fuel, the

mother and baby would both die. The generator was turned off. Our only option was to "bag" the baby to keep the oxygen concentration as high as possible, but slowly it dropped and the child's heart rate went slower and slower until it stopped. When that mother awoke from anesthesia, I had to show her a perfectly healthy looking baby who had died because of her seizure and because we couldn't run the generator long enough for the medication in the baby to wear off. I remember sobbing on my way back to the house that day, begging the Lord to help us find a way to stop this senseless loss of life. This child was the beginning of our quest for solar power in Sierra Leone.

Our next payment of \$57,000 is due at the end of June. You have a wonderful opportunity to improve the quality of healthcare in Sierra Leone and save lives daily by donating! Donations can be made by mailing a payment to the address for WAEMM on the front of this newsletter or through our website at [www.waemm.com](http://www.waemm.com)

**CHALLENGE:** Try experiencing life as a healthcare worker in Sierra Leone. We only have 2-4 hours per day of electricity. We are not asking you to turn off your refrigerators or water heaters, but turn off everything else! No phone chargers, TV, computer, hair dryer, clothes washer, light bulbs! If you participate, write to us at [ka-sher@waemm.com](mailto:ka-sher@waemm.com) and we will include your experiences in our next newsletter! Pastors with youth groups that want to raise funds for this project: you may find a weekend campout without electricity is a wonderful fund raising event!

