



Volume 4, Issue 1

Beauty for Ashes

Children's Medical Ministries

Many Benefit from Dental Ministry

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion,

to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,

the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

that they might be called trees of righteousness,

the planting of the Lord,

that he might be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3

Children's Medical Ministries' dental program began a few years ago when **Bill Collins** traveled to the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria, to meet with their Minister of Health. From that initial contact came requests for dental instruments and supplies. About that time, **Drs. Steve Henley and Jim Jespersen** came along and they were God-sent. Their commitment and zeal for missions helped the dental ministry accelerate and we thank the Lord for them.

Since then, dental supplies, instruments and equipment have been sent to Peru, Romania, Thailand, Ethiopia, Algeria, Vietnam, Haiti and Cambodia. The longest dental project was initiated at the request of Vietnamese government officials which allowed Dr. Henley to provide dental care for 300 "street kids" living in a government center for deserted and abandoned children. He also taught them how to brush their teeth properly and gave them a supply of toothbrushes and toothpaste.



Dr. Henley examines a dental patient who has Mossy Foot disease, a form of Elephantiasis.



Dr. Jim Jespersen prepares to pull a tooth aboard the Amazon Hope.

In addition, CMM furnishes the *Amazon Hope* with a dentist and supplies on six mission trips per year, and with **King's Kids Good Life Guides** which include primary health care and the plan of salvation. The dental teams serve the people living in villages along the Amazon River who are in desperate need of dental care. Dr. Jespersen was assisted by his favorite dental techs, his wife **Kathleen** and daughter **Emily**, on two trips and is planning a third trip in January, 2005.

Steve and Jim hope to take 2 to 3 dentists with them on each trip so more people with dental needs can be seen. If you are willing to serve the Lord in dental missions, contact **Dr. Dan Jones** at 256-534-9222 or **Bill Collins** at 301-261-3211.

Scholarship Fund Helps Many Serve the Lord

Established in June, 1999, the Margaret Coles Memorial Scholarship Fund has been responsible for helping to send many excited and energetic young “missionaries” on mission trips all around the world. One young man writes to share his trip.

MY EXPERIENCE ON THE AMAZON

by Caleb Cook

The main reason I wanted to go on a trip to Peru was because I felt God needed me to do something for his people who had probably never heard of him, and I wanted to do something about it. The Margaret Coles Memorial Scholarship Fund helped me to achieve this goal along with many other contributions by my church family, as well as my own family.

While I was there, I was able to work in sports ministry with the village children along the Amazon River. We had soccer balls that were sponsored by several individuals, families, and Sunday school classes. We also brought along Spanish New Testaments that were sponsored by many people to give to the people of the Amazon. My junior high youth group and other youth groups made salvation bracelet kits for the village children to put together while learning about Jesus. We distributed over 600 bracelet kits and helped the kids put them together while talking about the love of Jesus that is for them.



Another thing I got to do was to help the doctors by working in the pharmacy and handing out medicine and vitamins. I learned a little Spanish while doing this so I could communicate how to take the vitamins and medicine.



I had a lot of fun playing games like volleyball, soccer, and tag with the village children. I even had a little time for fishing and caught an Amazon catfish much like the ones I catch in Illinois.



I was first inspired to go on a mission trip by my grandma, Mary Tieken. By listening to her stories and looking at her many pictures of her trips, I knew I wanted to be a part of that somehow. I was blessed to be able to go with my grandma on this trip and I hope to go again sometime soon.

Caleb Cook is 13 years old and the grandson of CMM's trustee, Mary Tieken. Mary and Caleb appear in the photo on the right.

Compassionate Stewardship

Caleb Cook is just one of many persons who has benefited from the generous gift that **Margaret Coles** left to CMM five years ago.

The **Margaret Coles Memorial Scholarship Fund** has enabled service-minded individuals to make extraordinary contributions to the work of CMM.

CMM is committed to continuing the tradition of being a means of support to those who have a heart to serve the Lord and who give so generously of their time. To do that we must add to the Fund by asking our supporters to give as generously as they can.

In future issues of *Beauty for Ashes*, we will highlight scholarship recipients and share how your donation made a difference in their lives.

Note: Margaret Coles passed away June 12, 1999.



Kamaya Outreach

Keeping the Nepalise warm through CMM’s Blanket Ministry

The Kamaya’s are a group of ex-slaves set free by the Nepali government in the year 2000. After generations of slavery to landlords, this people group was released, but having no land, education, or skills, they now live in extreme poverty in refugee camps throughout Western Nepal.



Humanitarian aid in these camps includes food, water pumps, and the distribution of blankets to over 200 families. The blankets are donated by U.S. corporations, churches, and individuals. CMM received their first donation of blankets from **Standard Textile** of Augusta, Georgia.



*CMM wishes to thank **Wanda Swisher** and **Alvin Miller**, who have made this blanket project possible for the glory of God. They used their talents and resources to make so many blankets for the poor and needy around the world, and we say, THANK YOU!*

Who Got the Blankets?

- Flood victims in a poor section south of Bogota, Colombia. (Blankets were taken in by Bill Collins and Alvin Miller and delivered directly to the families by an American missionary.)
- Refugees trying to escape the war and living in slum areas. Many come with only the clothes on their backs . . . their homes burned down by the Communist guerillas.
- The “School for the Deaf” in Bogota. They have approx. 500 needy children from the poorest of the poor families.
- Orphanages that also deliver special educational care for mentally and physically disabled children were supplied single, double, crib and delivery blankets.
- Earthquake victims in Armenia, Colombia. 1,000 people lost their homes and are living in small temporary facilities.
- A homeless shelter in Kingman, Arizona.
- An abandoned baby ministry in Quito, Ecuador.
- A Bible school located in a mountain region of Guatemala where it gets cold at night.
- Chippawa Orphanage & Christian Children’s Home in Eldama Ravine, Kenya, where 50 children will receive blankets and vitamins.



Wanda Swisher



by Penny Henderson

Dr. Scott Ecklund, a CMM trustee, plans a yearly vacation to a warm exotic spot - sometimes a cruise. This year he just returned from the Amazon River on a CMM-sponsored team with a dentist, some teenagers and a couple of crates of live chickens. A devout Christian, and father of four, this Sioux Falls physician is committed to giving his time and talent where they are most needed. “I have always felt called to ministry of some kind,” he said.

In college, as president of the student arm of the Christian Medical Association, he had a chance to talk with a missionary doctor. It was a turning point in his life. His college allowed him to receive credit for a two-month mission internship to Africa.

Asking his wife, **Alison**, then his girlfriend, to marry him, he said, “Before you say yes, know you’ll be spending some time in a foreign mission field.” It wasn’t long until he was on his way to Ecuador with his church.

When he hooked up with Hope Haven, based in Rock Valley, Iowa, he knew the wheelchairs he was helping deliver were making a long term difference in the lives of some of the world’s neediest people. In Vietnam alone, there are 7,000 people on the waiting list for a chair.

On his first trip to Vietnam, he met Xuan, a five-year-old who had broken his leg. It had been poorly set and failed to heal properly. Knowing that in the States Xuan could be *fixed* so that he would not need a wheelchair, and realizing that his farm-worker parents could never make that happen, Dr. Ecklund started a personal campaign. One year later, Xuan arrived in Sioux Falls. After 3 months, he went back, walking with just a brace.

Ecklund says, “There is just something about helping other people, and I really want to instill that in our kids.” He tries to take his children with him on the mission field as often as possible. His latest ‘cruise’ down the Amazon was his second mission trip with CMM. “We saw an average of 130 patients a day. We’d pull into a village and the youth group would set up a Sunday school for the kids while we saw patients.”

What lies ahead for Dr. Ecklund? He is tentatively scheduled to sail the *Amazon Hope* again in January, 2005.

Condensed from an *M.D. News* article, Vol.4, No. 4

Note: A reflection of their zeal for missions, Dr. Ecklund and his wife take the time to welcome returning mission teams at the Sioux Falls airport.

Highlights from our Mailbox

Dear CMM,

The Good Life Guides in Creole that you sent us were really appreciated and being used right now by children in a Christian school in Haiti. The parents and teachers really seem to like them, too!



We also used the plan of salvation in the back of the books for reading material while giving eye exams. With their new glasses, they are so tickled that they were reading everything in the books.

Again, thank you for sending them to us. We plan on asking for another box of them in Spanish, as we are going to Nicaragua and Guatemala this year.

May God continue to bless your ministry.

Greg and Vickie Stout

P.S. These go along so well with our giving safe water to the poorest of the poor, to share the “Living Water” Jesus Christ!



Many thanks to you for your precious support and assistance to our hospital in the previous year(s). We believe that we are surely to make even greater achievements in the new year with your unceasing care and help and our own efforts.

With best regards,

Sincerely Yours,

Yin Chuangui

Superintendent of Linyi

People’s Hospital, Shandong, China

Treasured Friends in the Lord,

Thank you very much for the Vol. 2, Issue 5 of *Beauty for Ashes* newsletter, which was received about a month ago. In reading, I realised how the Lord has been using your outfit to reach other needy people of the world.

Over here the Lord is still working in the rural areas. Though resources had been very hard to come by, the Lord still blesses his faithful children.

We continue to remain faithful in the vineyard.

Rev. J. A. Mante

Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission

Accra, Ghana

Wheelchair Distribution Opportunities

Children's Medical Ministries and Hope Haven have some exciting trips for those interested in joining one of our wheelchair distribution teams. Please keep in mind that the dates, length of trip, size of team, etc. are still tentative* at this time. Airfare and in-country expenses are estimates and can vary.

Colombia - October, 2004*

Status: Limited team needed. 7-to-9-day trip. Distribution at a rehab center or hospital. About 150 to 170 wheelchairs. Airfare: \$800 to \$1,000 per person. In-country expenses: Approx. \$30 to \$40 per day. [This is the first of three distributions in response to the First Lady's request for 1,000 wheelchairs. Second trip in Nov./Dec.* Third trip in Feb. 2005*.]

Dominican Republic - Fall, 2004*

Status: Team needed. 7-to-9-day trip. Distribution at a rehab center with

opportunity to go out to the barrios (villages) to distribute chairs in individual homes. Airfare: \$700 to \$900 per person. In-country expenses: Approx. \$30 per day.

Guatemala - August, 2004*

Status: Team needed. Distribution will only be 2 to 3 days during this week-long trip. Airfare: \$700 to \$900 range. In-country expenses: Minimal.

Peru - Summer 2004*

Status: Team needed. 7-to-9-day trip distributing about 150 to 170 wheelchairs at one or more rehab centers or hospitals. Airfare: \$800 to \$1,000 per person. In-country expenses: Approx. \$30 to \$40 per day.

Vietnam - Summer 2004*

Status: Team needed. 2-day trip. Distribution will take place in the city of My Tho, located in the Mekong Delta region. Over 500 wheelchairs. Airfare: \$900 to \$1,100 range. In-country expenses: \$30 to

\$50 per day.

Belize - Summer 2004*

Status: Team needed.

One-week trip, distributing approximately 150 to 170 wheelchairs. Airfare: \$600 to \$800 per person. In-country expenses to be determined.

American Samoa or Marshall Islands - Jan./Feb., 2005*

Currently in planning phase - details to follow.

Contact information:

Val Brummel

712-476-3160

vbrummel@hopehaven.org

or **Bill Collins**

301-261-3211

COPCMM@olg.com.

Make sure we have your e-mail address for updates.

Doctors "On Board"

by Mary Tieken, Ph.D.

Recently the CMM web site lived up to our hopes for it. Two physicians, **Dr. Lisa Flora** and **Dr. Jackie Souza**, one in Chicago and one in Seattle, each did a search using the words "children" and "medical." Each was looking for an adventurous way to serve children in the developing world by sharing both her medical skills and her faith. What came up on the two geographically distant

computer screens was the *Amazon Hope* mission trip from CMM's web site. Both doctors called **Dr. Dan Jones**, CMM's liaison to Scripture Union's *Amazon Hope*, and they quickly signed up for the hospital ship's May voyage.

They were part of a team of nine, who worked in impressive coordination with a Peruvian team to bring medical help and the truth of the gospel to people in villages along the Amazon River.

Dr. Flora, an emergency room physician, brought her mother along. Since both women are fluent in Spanish, they were invaluable to the team. **Delores Flora**, Dr. Flora's mother acted as the official translator for the trip, while her daughter was able to provide much needed treatment one on one, needing no interpreter.

Dr. Souza is a pediatrician finishing her residency and was a wonderful asset to the



Dr. Lisa and her mother, Delores

team.

If you haven't visited the web site that brought these three women on board with CMM, do it soon (www.childmed.org).



Dr. Jackie

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Collins Comments

Erma and I are quite often asked the question, "How does CMM/COP do all of the projects and activities without a paid staff?" The answer is obvious . . . our daily co-laborers work for the Lord! The paychecks are nil but the benefit package is "out of this world." *1 Timothy 6:18-19*

Here are a few examples of commitment and dedication regarding our Share Partners:

Mary Tieken - She cancelled by-pass surgery to go on an Amazon mission trip. She does everything from public speaking and grant writing to wheelchair collection and distribution.

Merle Tieken - He is the owner of a bank. In his "spare" time, he collects and stores wheelchairs in Florida and Illinois, and works as a wheelchair technician on wheelchair distribution mission trips.

Chris Santo - She gives up her vacation and weekend time to work on developing and updating our newsletter and web site and to go on mission trips.

Lynn Stephens - Only God knows how many late nights and weekends he has spent reproducing orthopaedic surgery videos for mission hospitals and general surgeons, in addition to many other time-consuming responsibilities for CMM/COP.

Rachel Brunk - For 15 years, she has done the executive secretarial duties for CMM/COP, in addition to her full-time job.

Dale Brunk - He rises in the wee hours of the morning, before work, to process CMM/COP e-mail.

Alvin Miller - He has a willing heart and servant's hands and does any task that is asked of him.

Fred Woolard, Jerry Nelson & John Hurd - They meet at 6:30 a.m. to pray and discuss CMM resource development projects.

Randy Owens - He is the maker of large movie screens to be used to show the *Jesus Film* and *God's Plan for Man* videos in third-world countries.

Cliff Jenkins - He has done everything from computer work and truck driving to preparing financial reports for the past 15 years.

Retired pastor **Ronald MacDonald & his wife, Millie** - They collect new and used wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers for CMM distribution.

Theresa Schroeder - She collects medical supplies and ministers to many employed Romanian families at *Heartland, The City of Refuge*, for men, women, and children in Missouri.

Wanda Swisher - She is a professional seamstress who makes youth, crib, and delivery blankets for distribution in the mission field. She also encourages other women in her church to make or donate material for the blankets.

Leave a Legacy of Love.

Remember Children's Medical Ministries in your will.

Mission Statement

Children's Medical Ministries is a compassionate ministry of 700 health-care professionals who have the common objective of sharing God's love with those whose lives are in "ashes" and who only need the "Beauty of Christ" to make them whole again. Our primary objective is to exalt Jesus Christ through the God-given "gifts" that we each possess.

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Christian Orthopaedic Partners (COP) is an affiliate of Children's Medical Ministries.