

## Bits & Bytes for Bagley Backers



In the early days of missionary ministry in Africa the preaching of the gospel frequently went together with medical ministry. Clinics were established and several hospitals were built. Often it consisted of little more than a trained missionary doctor with the medicines and equipment he/she could carry in his/her black bag.

Although much has changed, the commitment to minister to bodies as well as souls has not changed. So, what has changed?

- As the African church has grown and matured the job of running its ministries has passed from the mission to the church - including educational and medical ministries. All Wesleyan medical ministries in Africa are now under the direct control of the African church and the mission and missionaries help support the church to run their medical programs.



- Great advances have been made in the medical field since the early missionary days and the supplies in a little black bag are no longer adequate. Extensive medical equipment and facilities are needed to aid in diagnosing and treating patients, and a wide variety of medicines are now available for what were once untreatable conditions. The cost of providing basic medical services has grown astronomically in comparison with early missionary medical practice.
- Although malaria is now treatable, it remains a major killer across the continent. But in recent years two additional medical crises have emerged in Africa - HIV/AIDS and Ebola - both of which are being addressed by our medical ministries.



So, what is happening with Wesleyan medical ministry in Africa?

- **Hospitals:** Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital in Sierra Leone and Zimba Mission Hospital in Zambia serve as major centers for medical care in the communities where they are located. Both hospitals place a strong emphasis on maternal and infant health and provide basic

medical and surgical services. Ambulances provide transport for patients who need to be transferred to larger centers for treatment.

- **Clinics:** Clinics providing primary health services are run by the church in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Zambia, and Swaziland and are frequently the only health facility in the community where they are found.
- **Medical missionaries:** The number of Global Partners missionaries serving in medical ministry has declined significantly in recent years. Currently GP has two missionaries at Zimba - Robin Crowell, a physician assistant and Ashley Paulhamus, a phlebotomist. Carrie Jo Cain, a nurse, who works with World Hope International running the "Helping Babies Breath" program, also serves Kamakwie in areas of management and strategic planning. Both hospitals regularly welcome short-term medical missionaries who come for a couple of weeks or months to serve.

- **Community Health**

**Evangelism:** CHE is a program by which communities are trained in preventative health measures and guided in developing projects to enhance conditions within their community. Global Partners Health Network (GPHN) in partnership with Kentwood



Community Church have recently been involved in launching a CHE program among Wesleyans in northern Mozambique. Dreams are to expand this ministry elsewhere.

What can you do to help Wesleyan medical ministry in Africa?

- **Pray:** Medical ministry is "ministry" and we need God's help and provision for it just as much as for any other ministry we do. Pray for those who serve tirelessly. Pray for more to commit to medical ministry. Pray for financial and material provision.
- **Volunteer:** If you are a trained medical practitioner, just a few weeks spent at one of our hospitals can make an immeasurable impact - not just in the lives of patients you treat, but also in the encouragement and boost in morale in African staff. Contact Global Partners Health Network - [GPHN@gponline.org](mailto:GPHN@gponline.org)
- **Career missionary service:** The day for full-time long-term medical missionaries has not ended. In some ways it's needed more now than ever. What has changed, is that instead of going to be in charge of the medical ministry you would be going to serve under African leadership to help empower them to be successful in their medical ministry. Contact GP's mobilization department - [mobilization@gponline.org](mailto:mobilization@gponline.org)
- **Financial support:** Our medical facilities are located in areas where patients are the least able to pay for the services they need - and the cost of providing those services keeps rising. Your help is needed. Global Partners is currently seeking donations for the following projects:
  - [GPHN Doctor for Kamakwie](#) - helps pay a doctor's salary
  - [GPHN Indigent Fund - Sierra Leone](#) - provides funds to help the hospital treat patients who are unable to pay for services



- [Zambia Medical Ministries](#) - helps provide medicines and supplies for the hospital and clinics
- [ZMH Replacement Batteries](#) - provides funds to replace the large batteries for the solar power system that supplies the hospital.

## **PRAISE & PRAYER NOTES**

1. Thank God for the dedicated medical workers touching lives through our medical ministries across Africa. Join us in praying for God to provide the personnel and resources needed for these ministries to continue to demonstrate the love of Christ as they minister to physical needs.

2. Praise God for His help at the national conference of the Wesleyan Church of eSwatini (Swaziland). Rev. Thabsile Thwala was reelected to serve as National Superintendent. Please pray that God will guide the church and its leaders in the days to come.

3. Brenda is grateful for recent opportunities to teach at Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary here in South Africa. Please pray for her this weekend as she leads the final class sessions in the Understanding Other Faiths course.

4. The Wesleyan Church of Ghana will be holding it's national conference December 7-9. Rev. Joe Ocran, the pioneer of this work, will be retiring from his role as National Superintendent. Please pray that God will guide clearly as new leaders are chosen.

5. Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College in eSwatini (Swaziland) has begun the process of searching for a new Principal. Please ask God to lead them to the right person and to help for Rev. Randal Cheney as he gives leadership for a six-month interim period.

6. In the past few months several key members of Global Partners' leadership team have completed their service with GP. Please pray for Dr. Dennis Jackson as he seeks to find the right people to fill these important roles.

7. Early next year Fred & Carol Cromer will be retiring from a long career of effective missionary service. Please pray that God will call a missionary to replace them in Uganda.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

God's continued provision through people like you for the financial resources needed for us to serve continues to bless us. Thank you so much for your generosity and faithfulness!

Donations and new faith promises can be sent to: Global Partners, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

**Bob & Brenda Bagley**  
**PO Box 3457, Dalview, South Africa, 1544**  
**Bob.Bagley@gponline.org**                      **Brenda.Bagley@gponline.org**