

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP 2003





Courtney SeelbachEmily RandolphPat RandolphLaboratorianHigh School JuniorTim's mother

Jason Small Laboratorian

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Accomplishments of the 2003 Medical Mission Trip

Through the generous contributions of my laboratory suppliers I was able to deliver 27 boxes weighing over 300 pounds to the laboratory. Some of these supplies will only last a week while others were donated in quantities that will last the lab six months. When I arrived back home there was an additional 8 boxes of supplies that arrived while I was gone. I am planning another shipment next week that will include emergency supplies that I discovered while in country and some supplies that arrived while I was gone.

While in country I was able to evaluate the old tests and introduce three new tests. Our laboratory now performs 25 tests making it one of the most comprehensive labs in the area. In addition, the Christian organization that owns the clinic has just completed construction of a new lab that will quadruple our physical space. We can now boast one of the most comprehensive and spacious labs in the area.

My medical team grew again this year to reach a total of five. With the added manpower we were able to offer free screening to over 75 patients for sickle cell anemia and HIV.

In addition, I have received emails from four additional health professionals showing an interest in joining my team.

During this trip I was able to make two very important contacts, one before I left and one when in country. While searching online for a particular laboratory test kit I identified a researcher at Washington University who was the developer of an important test kit. Through a series of referrals, I was put in contact with the director of parasitic disease at the CDC, Dr. Davis Addiss, who informed me of a worldwide parasitic disease elimination program funded by the CDC, WHO and several other organizations in which Haiti is a target country. David put me in contact with the coordinator of Northern Haiti, Dr. Rand Carpenter, who met with me during my trip. I am proud to say that Bethesda Medical Clinic is now an official clinic site for the national program to eliminate the parasitic infection lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis. In addition, I spent one day at a remote clinic in Northern Haiti with a seasoned physician, Dr. Bibiana MacLeod, who will be very helpful to me as I develop additional testing. As a result of the increase in personnel and physical space at our laboratory, we are investigating the possibility of opening an HIV testing center for the region at Bethesda Medical Center.

The ministry continues to grow as individuals like yourselves share the vision and join in the effort. I ask that you keep my four networks in your prayers and in the forefront of your mind. It is through the growth of these networks that the ministry develops. Network #1 involved people like yourselves who share the vision and are willing to make an annual contribution to fund my trip. As this network grows total annual contributions may eventually exceed my personal expenses and can be applied toward the purchase of laboratory materials. Network #2 includes my many laboratory friends across the country. These individuals are constantly surveying the storerooms in the laboratories in which they work seeking to identify and donate usable laboratory materials that would otherwise be discarded. Not only did this network provide most of the material I delivered this year, but it also provides materials throughout the year that I ship to the lab quarterly. Network #3 includes laboratory supply companies that donate new materials and recently outdated supplies. This network has the most potential for growth and represents the best measure of success for the ministry. Network #4 involves individuals with a medical education who shows an interest in joining my team. If you know of health care professionals like nurses, PAs, OTs, PTs, laboratorians, pharmacists, RTs, RDs, physicians, etc. who feel led to get involved in part-time medical mission work, please provide them my contact information.

This ministry continues to grow because of you and in spite of me. That is a reflection of God's providence and a measure of His blessings. I thank you for the past support, ask for your ongoing prayers and hope for your continued partnership. We are the body of Christ and together, with Him as the head, we can make a difference.