Special Issue

"Committed to sharing God's gifts among all peoples of the world"

Africa 2007

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"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me..." --Mark 9:37



# From the President

Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord for another successful mission trip to Kenya! In January five team members made the long trip to Africa, this time with five extra suitcases containing donated eyeglasses. Our sincere thanks to the Manheim Township Sunrise Lions Club who made our eye clinics possible.

Over 1,200 people received the gift of clear vision due to their generosity. Eyeglasses which many of us take for granted, literally created miracles in Kenya.

Once again over 4,400 people received free medical care and spiritual counseling. Thousands of dollars of medicine were administered to those who had no opportunity to receive them elsewhere. Everywhere our team went the Word of God was preached by the members of the InterContinental Christian Ministry (ICCM) - our partner in Africa.

But don't take my word for it - read on! These stories are from the hearts of our team members. Enjoy!

In His peace, Carol Soull.\* Carol Fanelli

## WAITING... by Bradley Northcote

Hour after hour, day after day, people of all ages - men, women, and children - stand waiting in long lines. Waiting for what? Waiting for a chance, no matter how small, to see a doctor. Waiting ever so patiently, one day, two days, maybe even three days just to see a doctor. If you don't have money to put food on the table, how can you pay for your child to see the doctor? The fact of the matter is you don't. In the USA people would walk out after an hour because they are too impatient. In Kenya you have no choice.

Four doctors sit inside a large, white tent in the middle of a dirt and grass pasture sharing an old table and chairs. This is where We're All

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### SUMMARY OF SUCCESS

by Dennis Mitterer

Our 2007 trip proved to be as successful as our 2006 trip to Kenya.

As you may have read in past articles, WAGC's medical team traveled to Kenya in January 2006. While there, the team treated 4,757 villagers medically. Our specialty last year was dental care. We treated 193 patients with a variety of dental needs from minor tooth fillings to extractions.

On our second trip to Africa in January of 2007 we treated 4,467 villagers medically and this year's specialty was eye care. We distributed 1,228 pairs of glasses at three different villages throughout the Great Rift Valley area of Kenya.

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2007trip highlights:

There was a lot of work behind this trip's success. The Manheim Township Sunrise Lion's club contacted a Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling facility in New Jersey and asked if they could donate 2,500 pairs of recycled glasses. They were happy to assist. Each pair of glasses was cleaned and ready to wear and packed in a protective plastic bag, with each eyeglass' unique prescription written on the package. Once the pairs of glasses were received by the WAGC team they were meticulously separated into plastic shopping bags by their "family". Bifocals and reading glasses were also separated between their negative and positive prescriptions to try to eliminate down time in Kenya while trying to match up glasses to patients.

Two members of the team were trained by an eye doctor on how to use the battery powered refractor that was also donated by the Lions. The refractory measures the eye and provides a numerical representation of the inside of the eye which then was matched to the glasses.

All 2,500 glasses were packed up in five suitcases and taken with the team members to Kenya. The airline allows each person three personal suitcases. Any additional bags would cost, but fortunately, the extra bags were all funded by donations from various organizations.

Even though we served several different areas in Kenya, the camps were all set up the same way. The medical camp would run simultaneously with the eye clinics at the same locations.



In the medical camps the physicians examined patients with many complaints. Most villagers were evaluated and treated for common maladies: malaria, gastrointestinal worms, headaches and skin rashes. One notable case included an eleven year old with osteomylitis (infection of the bone) as a result of a human bite. Without the clinic this young man would

have, at a minimum, lost his leg and possibly his life.

The eve clinic began with the patient being registered and their basic information recorded. They would then go into a room where a translator would test them on a standard eye chart (Snelling chart) to determine the severity of their vision problem. Based on these



findings the person would either be turned away because their vision was too good for glasses, or they would be sent on to the next phase. The next part of the process was examination with the auto refractor, which determined the degree of vision impairment. Each person's specific eye measurement (prescription) would be written down and taken to the eyeglass room where the prescription would be matched with the best possible glasses for their eye condition. Once the best match was found the patient would be re-checked on an eye chart to insure improvement of their vision.

### STASTICS THAT SHOW THE SUCCESS:

	Ages			
	6 to 15 year olds		104 patients	
	16 to 20 year olds 21 to 30 year olds 31 to 40 year olds 41 to 50 year olds 51 to 60 year olds 61 to 70 years olds 71 to 101 year olds		86 patients	
			126 patients	
			98 patients	
			212 patients	
			172 patients	
			104 patients	
			81 patients	
	Degree of	Number of	Degree of	Number of
	initial vision	patients	improvement	patients
	20/25	3	20/20	3
	20/40	9	20/20	4

20/25

2

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SUMMARY OF SUCCESS Con't.				
Degree of	Number of	Degree of	Number of	
initial vision	patients	improvement		
20/50	418	20/20	256	
		20/25	86	
		20/30	40	
		20/40	12	
20/70	232	20/20	115	
		20/25	55	
		20/30	26	
		20/40	12	
		20/50	10	
20/100	176	20/20	68	
	-, -	20/25	41	
		20/30	22	
		20/40	17	
		20/50	9	
		20/70	5	
20/200	123	20/20	39	
20/200	123	20/25	27	
		20/30	26	
		20/40	13	
		20/50	4	
		20/70	7	
		20100	2	
20/400	46	20/20	10	
20, 100	.0	20/25	6	
		20/30	10	
		20/50	5	
		20/70	5	
		20/100	1	
20/800	17	20/20	1	
20/800	1 /	20/20	3	
		20/23	3 1	
		20/30	1	
		20/40	2	
		20/30	2	
		20/70	1	
		20/200	1	

Wrapping these numbers up – we saw over 1,800 patients, provided glasses to over 1,200 and we improved the vision of many people and gave about 880 patients better than 20/40 vision, an amazing 73%. This is making a difference in people's lives.

God's Children held a free medical camp in the rural area outside of town. A local villager helped us by giving up her cow pasture for two days so we had a place to work.

After standing in line for a lengthy time you get to register yourself and whoever came with you that needs to be seen. Then it's off to the nurse for your blood pressure and vital signs to be taken. Oh, and by the way, that's another fairly long line too.

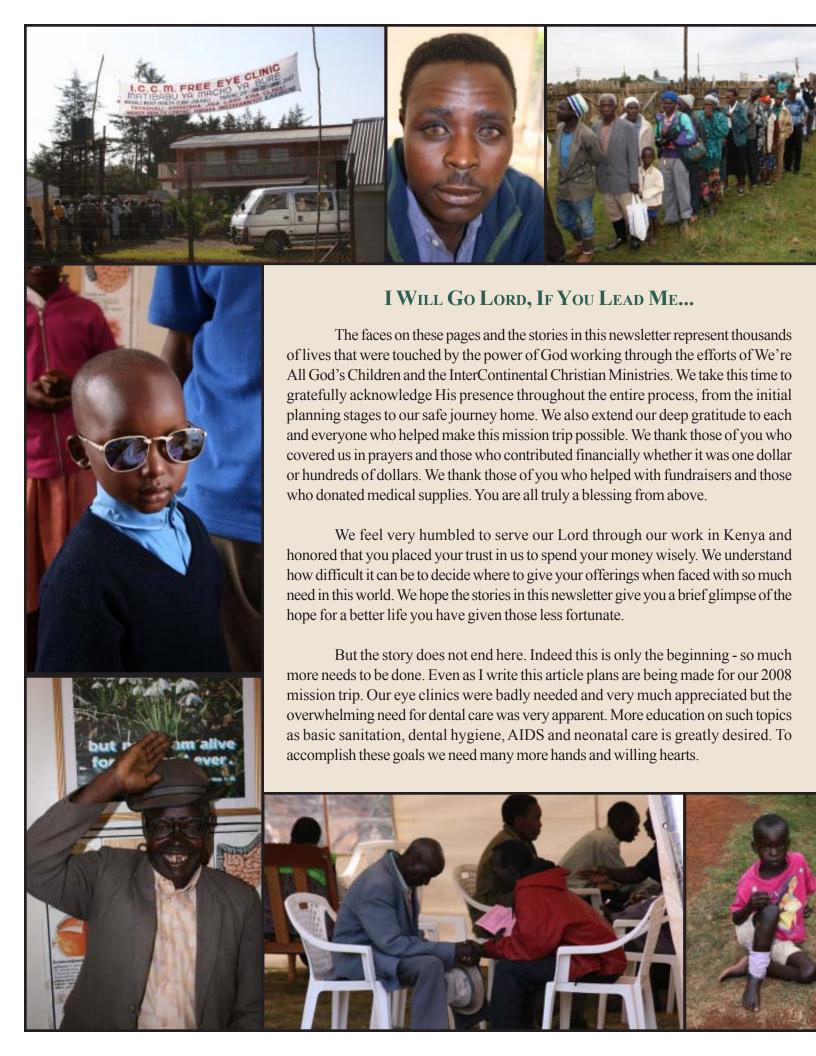
Then finally it's time to see the doctor. Patient after patient, doctors diagnose a number of problems that we here in the USA very rarely experience anymore. Imagine having an infection from a small cut in your leg that just needs some antibiotic cream for a few days. But you can't get any because there is no money to buy it. So the infection gets worse and worse. This is how people are surviving in Kenya in these remote villages. Malaria, stomach infections, bacteria infested water, dirt, dust, lack of education and poor living conditions are the way of life for most of the people in these villages.



After seeing this with my own eyes and remembering that I, myself, am from Africa; I think it's time I start doing instead of sitting around waiting for other people to do... "Do what?" you might ask. How about educating people here in the USA on how they can help us to help others locally, and in Kenya. We *can* make a difference, if we pull together and work as a team.

I'm sure a difference can be made. How? Well, if you are interested contact us. Introduce us to people and organizations to talk to about the work of the foundation. It could be a school or a church or even you personally. We would love to show you how valuable you can be in making a difference in the life of someone less fortunate than you. Let's work together to help where medical care is so badly needed and people never have the opportunity to visit a dentist or obtain eyeglasses.

Let us come together to help where help is needed.





by Carol Fanelli

Perhaps you have felt a tugging on your heart to serve the Lord as a team member but felt unqualified or nervous at the prospect of such a grave undertaking. Pray about it and ask the Lord for direction. He will not give you a mission without giving you the strength to carry it out. Contact me if you want further information.

Maybe your strength lies in networking. Who do you know that we can speak to about the foundation and the people we serve? Who do you know in the dental field that would be interested in joining us? Who could help with donations or fundraisers? Can you help collect used eyeglasses?

It takes thousands of dollars to purchase the necessary medicine and supplies to hold these free medical camps. Every dollar is spent wisely. Last year we were able to treat the villagers at a cost of \$1.57 per person and eyeglasses were distributed at the low cost of 73¢ per pair! We work very had to make your dollars count.

Finally we covet your prayers. We have faced many obstacles in the past few months. Our work has not gone unnoticed by the power of evil that exists in this world. Ours has not been an easy path. Through every trial our faith has been strengthened. Continue to pray for our board, our volunteers and the people we serve. We thank you for what you have done and will do in the future; and ask God to bless you for your generosity. All of us are equal in God's eyes and because of His love and mercy *We're All God's Children*.









The Lord shows us many different ways in life that He is always with us. He showed us this when we arrived at our first camp, Mercy Medical Clinic, Jua Kali, Eldoret. The sign for the clinic was the same scripture my friend gave me the day before we left for Africa.

Isaiah 61:1-2 The translation in Luke 4:18 says it all:

"The spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."

This verse describes the entire six days serving at the camps. There were people who walked as many as eight miles, some without shoes. One lady wanted to give me her child so he would have a better life in America; another woman crawled in on her hands and feet as she was unable to walk. We saw many with cataracts, who could not be helped without surgery, but many were helped in other ways.



As the villagers waited in line or went into the tents for prayer, they would hear the gospel and the love of Jesus through the pastors at ICCM. Over 300 were saved!

The Lord used the hands of the doctors, nurses and volunteers to help with malaria, typhoid and fungus infections. They prescribed and administered antibiotics, anti-worm medication and a variety of injections. A total of 4,467 people were treated.

Finally, the Lord used the team from We're all Gods Children to help give sight to the young and old with the help of wonderful interpreters. It was the greatest joy to put a pair of glasses on someone's face and see the biggest smile come across their face like it was the first time they were able to see in their

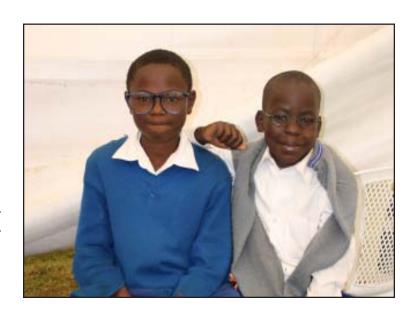


lives! The people were so grateful. One man even said "We thank you guys for bringing light in this dark area". We came to bless them but we were the ones abundantly blessed!

There were so many times people would come in with 20/50, 20/200 or even 20/800 vision and walk out with better than 20/40 vision due to their "new" eyeglasses. We gave out 1,228 pair of eyeglasses. The glory all goes to God!

My favorite memory was of a man who received glasses and was still blind in one eye. He wanted to know what to do. I took him to the prayer tent for healing. The pastor prayed over him and he could see a little bit more light through his blind eye. At that time the pastor asked him if he was born again and knew Jesus as his personal savior, he did not. He then accepted Jesus in his heart and was saved!

That goes to show the Lord always does more than we can imagine! Through the help of the team from We're All God's Children and the eyeglass clinic, recipients could not only see physically but spiritually!



This was my second year as a team member with We're All God's Children (WAGC). Both years contained incredible blessings, but this year had such a comfort associated with it. It was just like going to my other home with my other friends. Last year I formed so many bonds with the ICCM team and it was wonderful to see them again.

The first night we arrived in Eldoret, we were greeted by over 40 of the ICCM staff and their families at one of their homes. The first person I was excited to see was Minnieh, a pastor's wife that I worked with last year. I remembered her as such a friendly, sweet person. Nothing had changed. She came running off the porch the second I got out of our car, wrapped her arms around me and we cried happy tears to see one another again. As we got into the house, there were a lot of hugs and some tears. The women on the WAGC team were given bouquets of roses, and the men were given leis. Some songs were sung and a wonderful meal was prepared. We visited for a few hours and then left for our hotel, knowing that we would see all of our friends tomorrow.



Each morning would open with breakfast at a small restaurant next to our hotel. From there we would be escorted to that day's camp. The first three days we were at the medical clinic in Jua Kali. The next two days we went to a cattle pasture in Langus. The very last day we were about two hours away from Eldoret, in Kopkaben, a small village near a tea plantation. Everyday we were greeted with long lines of people waiting to have their eyes examined. People from the age of five to 101 stood for hours in heat that topped the high 90's and sometimes torrential rain storms. They were all excited at the opportunity that these glasses might bring to them. Something as simple as looking at a chalkboard or studying for a test was near impossible for some of the younger people. Others had difficulty just seeing where they were walking because their sight was so blurry.



Some of my patients were very memorable, like a women in her fifty's who came in very upset because she couldn't see people as she talked with them. She told me she couldn't even see me when I was in front of her. I found her the best match of glasses we had available and put them on her face. Her smile was instantaneous. The translator asked her "Can you see her?" She reached a finger out toward me. As I leaned in, she touched the cross necklace I was wearing and then put her hands together. "She can see you and your cross. She is thrilled," the translator told me. I also remember in Langus, on the first day, I found the perfect pair of glasses for an elderly man. Like a miracle, these glasses matched his prescription and improved his sight dramatically. Once the man was tested, one last time, and was getting ready to leave the tent, he grabbed ahold of my hand. He then looked up and started saying several things in Swahili. Andrew, one of the Pastors and our translator for that day, said "This man is thanking God for you, the glasses and what you are all doing in Africa. God bless you all." There was a shop keeper who couldn't see to count out change and a Pastor that came in with a special request for reading glasses because he could no longer read the Bible to his church. There are so many success stories and the blessings were endless for both the patients and us.

We left on a Sunday after church with the ICCM team. I don't think there were many dry eyes. Leaving was the hardest part of our entire trip. We had just spent seven days with this group. We rode around together, ate together, worked together, prayed together and spent a lot of time laughing together. Now we had to leave the people that had become our friends and hope that they would know we will pray for them often and think of them always.



Lancaster, PA 17601

"Committed to sharing God's gifts among all peoples of the world"



# Our Mission

To provide needed medical care, educate people in usable life skills, and transfer unused resources to areas of essential need both in and out of the United States.