

FACT: WHO reports that of the estimated 1.4 million children worldwide who are blind, 320,000 of them live in sub-Saharan Africa. Not only is the economic burden of global blindness high, but eye diseases such as cataracts, trachoma, glaucoma and onchocerciasis can result in death. In many cases, eye disease, blindness and the resulting fatalities could be prevented.

Dr. Dean Larson - A Life of Service to the Poor by Tim Ghrist

Dean Larson M.D. went home to be with the Lord on December 6, 2010. He will be greatly missed by his wife Carol and son Brandt as well as all of us at the Lighthouse! I first met Dean in 1983, that was the year my dad, the founder and first medical director of the eye clinic, became ill with terminal cancer and I as a young pastor took over as mission director and missionary with the Lighthouse. Dean had been a close friend of my dad and been out as a volunteer a number of times when my dad needed to return to the US for leave and continuing education. Dean became an "uncle" a counselor, a helper and friend to me. Shortly after my father's passing, Dean agreed to be the volunteer coordinator and tried to keep the Lighthouse for Christ Eye Centre staffed every month with American volunteer eye doctors. Then after limping along for about a year the Kenya Medical Society told us that we had to have a full time doctor or the clinic would lose its registration. Shortly thereafter, Dean called to let me know that he had sold his practice in Glendora, California and was coming out to be the Medical Director. For most of the next 15 years Dean served as our Medical Director of the Lighthouse for Christ Eye Centre. Dean was known for his unstoppable energy and commitment to his patients. Many were the days that began before 7am and ended after 9pm. Shortly after finishing his residency in ophthalmology he began to take a month off a year from his private practice to serve in the 3rd world. He served many years in Pakistan, and even after becoming medical director of the Lighthouse would spend Januarys helping in a month long eye camp in Northern Pakistan. His greatest joy was to take a group of the staff on a week long eye camp. To drive 500 miles to get there and then be the first up to see the patients, and the last to bed cooking up a lintel curry for the staff. He loved doing cataract surgery at a bush location and having the satisfaction of helping those who were the poorest of the poor and giving sight to those who without him would have spent a lifetime in darkness. Dean's life motto was "service", that is how he lived every day of his life and I am sure the first words he heard upon his arrival into heaven were "well done thou good and faithful servant!"

****Editor's Note: Contributions may be made in Memory of Dr. Dean Larson Memorial Fund.**



The Loving Gift

by Dr. Ibrahim Matende, Lighthouse Medical Director

Work at the clinic can get very crowding yet very fulfilling. Each new day at the clinic you will meet patients who needed your passionate yet loving care.

This experience however was a little different in October 2010. I had a group of loving people make a choice to love on me.

I had the long desire to ever attend the prestigious American Academy of Ophthalmology in the United States of America. This is a huge academic conference of many ophthalmologists from the U.S. and the rest of the world. It occurs in the fall of every year. Simply put, it is a significant and prestigious fete to attend such a function as an ophthalmologist.

In April, I got a recommendation from my national ophthalmological society as an eye doctor in a developing country for the Academy to consider offering me an opportunity to attend the conference. As much as I desired to attend the academy, I needed significant financial support. In order for me to attend, a joint effort between the Academy and a Rotary Club in the U.S. was necessary to meet the costs of the whole activity. A few correspondences between the Academy contact person, Ms. Wendy Ovaitt and I, soon established the Academy's willingness to support if only they identify or find a willing partner Rotary Club. The willing Rotary Club would have to match the Academy's grant to make this work. The Rotary Club would be referred to as the hosting club.

Lighthouse for Christ Eye Center, in Mombasa, where I work is an excellent ministry to the needy- both children and adults. Most patients I attend to

can't afford to meet the cost of their treatment. I have served here for over 6 years and I know the good work we do here. The team of lovely dedicated staff is always available to go that extra mile. However, all that lovely work's cost is met to the last penny and made possible by support from our generous donors. Without that donated penny or dollar we would not have a ministry with staff to attend that needy child. The situation is often so bad that even that child, whom we find in the village though blind, is not even aware that something could be done for him or her. Every week we conduct community mobile outreach clinics to take services to the very needy of our society in distances of more than 400 miles on some occasions. The patients identified in these outreaches are transported to our Mombasa campus, housed, fed, treated and transported back to their homes. The joy in their faces after successful treatment is overwhelming.

con't inside



Dr. Matende speaking at Metroport Rotary Club-Southlake, TX



Attending Retina session at Academy, Chicago

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Pray for all people, asking God for what they need and being thankful to him.
I Timothy 2:1

PRAISE

We thank God for:

- Answered prayer in providing a 2nd ophthalmologist.
- A very busy year in patients seen and treated.
- Hundreds coming to Christ, with many from the Unreached people groups.
- Last year's volunteers who gave so graciously-making a huge impact on lives.
- New churches planted & new pastor serving.
- 13 men and women trained in the Bible Institute.
- Our missionaries who serve faithfully.

GIVE

We thank all our faithful donors who give sacrificially. The Year End Appeal yielded over \$70,000 towards 2011 operational costs!

GO

It's a New Year! Commit to coming this year. You can serve in so many ways. Eye Center, Church work or construction, evangelism, teaching in the Bible Institute.

Contact us today to find out more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Swing for Sight Golf Marathons
Columbus, GA & Dallas, TX
April, 2011

ASCRS/ASOA Synposium
San Diego, March 26-29
Booth 2924
Stop by and say hello!

Climb for Sight 2011
Mt. Kilimanjaro-Tanzania
Fall 2011 - 10 day trip
Contact us for a brochure!

"The Loving Gift" continued

The greatest reward is the joy of meeting such a child a few years later in a school classroom performing well and loudly expressing his dream to become a doctor to also get other children out of darkness as he was. Therefore, as a charitable organization, our resources are targeted there and we do not have a surplus fit to meet the expenses of a doctor to attend the Academy. In fact, we would consider it a luxury beyond expectation. However, this particular time, God had a different surprise for me.



Dr. Matende observing Dr. Bowman in surgery

When I expressed the challenge to Dr. Bowman, one of our regular volunteer doctors and an excellent Dallas cornea surgeon, he somehow connected with a local Rotary Club contact person Mr. Barry Smith. God did his miracle through the interaction of Linda Ellis, Dr. Bowman and Barry Smith. I yet cannot comprehend how it all came to be--- its better to ask them! It is a great act of love in my sight. What I know is that I got a host Rotary Club and a miracle was happened. At last, the dream of attending the Academy were unfolding real before me. The sweeter part was that I also had an opportunity to go and learn from some of the best eye surgeons in Texas. I did expect the additional bonus of learning and appreciating American baseball (Texas Rangers) and football (TCU) at the same time. That should be for another time.

The trip finally matured and I travelled to the U.S. for the first time on 29th September 2010 via Amsterdam and landed at St. Paul international airport before heading to Dallas Fort Worth International airport. In my stay in Dallas, I did share some the experiences from my workplace with several great hosting Rotary Clubs. I got the opportunity to personally appreciate them for the generous gesture.

I learned that they are great people who gave out of love and I was greatly touched. I cannot appreciate them enough for I know it cost them a lot. I got the opportunity to let them know that at the moment I was the only ophthalmologist at the clinic and was looking for a second doctor to help with the work. Our various challenges including equipment and resources to meet the cost of attending to our patients came up in our discussions. They were very compassionate and considered ways they could help. I was, however, glad that in their making it possible for me to visit the states, I was getting trained and attend the Academy. This would and has impacted positively my practice of medicine providing sustained better eye care to the needy visiting our clinic.

On the trip from Dallas to Chicago for the academy conference on the 14th October 2010, I was very excited. Dr. Brad Bowman, my 'guardian angel' was always at hand to help me decipher to complex that was the American Academy of Ophthalmologists Conference. It was a huge thing and hope some day in the near future to attend the academic fete again.

I can fail to note that I had the rare privilege of meeting some of the long time donors from Texas who have selflessly supported the work I do at the Lighthouse for Christ Mission.



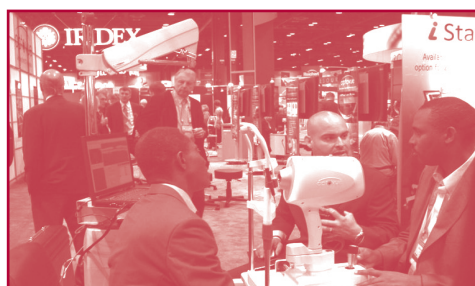
Sharing Lighthouse story with donors Louis & Peaches Owen and Family-Tyler, TX



Dr. Brad Bowman & Dr. Matende taking in a Rangers game



Heading to a TCU football game with Mike Breedlove and Family



At Iridex Exhibit Hall Booth-Chicago



2010 US BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Front:
Charles Speakman MD, Steve Rumpf, Toni & Tim Ghrist,
Row 2:
Linda Ellis, Tom Nisbett, Larry Kenney MD, Mike Breedlove, Steve Ku MD, John Rothwell
Back:
Pat Morris, Dave Stager Jr MD, Joel Estes, Brad Bowman MD, Ibrahim Matende MD, Scott Calvin, MD
Not Pictured: AD Harms, Bill Wylie

2010 VOLUNTEERS

Mark Kosko-Tennessee	John Cox MD+ Anne-Alabama
Rick Neumeister MD + family-Montana	Brad Bowman MD+family-Texas
Scott Follmer-Arizona	Norm & Jennifer Ferguson-Texas
Albert Liao OD-Texas	Elliot Werner MD-Pennsylvania
Linda Ellis & Sarah Polley-Texas & Oklahoma	Larry Kenney MD- Pennsylvania
Barbara Janssen-Belgium	Richard & Carol McElroy-Arizona
Mark Cichowski MD + Jan-Washington	Grace Community Church (Lindale)-Texas
Jud Martin MD+family-Nebraska	Bert Souryal MD-Virginia
Delphic Huang-Canada	Bret Crumpton DO-Georgia

2010 STATISTICS

Number of patients seen-base, satellite & mobiles – 23,034
 Number of major eye surgeries -1,493
 Number of Children's surgeries -185
 Eye glasses dispensed -2,976
 Number of eye camp outreach days -78
 Number of full-time Kenyan Employees-(including doctors) -37
 Number of patients to receive Christ -918
 Number of Bible school students -13
 Number of Lighthouse fellowship churches -60

DONOR'S GIFT



New Toyota Mobile Eye Camp Truck made possible by Mr. Sam Van Voorhis



Some of the Lighthouse staff thanking our generous donor



Sponsors of:
Lighthouse for Christ
Eye Centre

Evangelism to
Unreached People

Lighthouse for Christ
Fellowship of Churches

Lighthouse for Christ
Institute of Biblical
Studies

Send donations to:

Lighthouse for Christ Mission
P.O. Box 8318
Tyler, TX 75711-8318

Phone: 903-593-2157
Fax: 903-849-3504



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

www.LighthouseFor Christ.org
E-mail: info@lighthouseFor Christ.org

Kenya Mission:

Lighthouse for Christ Mission
P.O. Box 81465
Mombasa, Kenya 80100
E-mail:
lighthouse@lighteyecentre.org
www.lighteyecentre.org

Remember:

Lighthouse for Christ
Endowment fund
is now available.

Contact us today for more
information.

IN HONOR OF & MEMORIAL GIFTS

When you give one of these gifts, your friends or loved ones will receive a beautiful card from Lighthouse informing them of your special gift.

FIND US ON:



myspace.

twitter

bing