

2007 STATS

Patients seen at
clinic and eye camps
24,775

Major eye surgeries
performed
1,252

Number of
glasses dispensed
2,281

Number of eye camps
43

Salvations
1,537

Number of unreached
accepting Christ
164

Number of churches
and preaching points
47

New Testaments
given out
598

BEACON

LIGHTHOUSE
FOR CHRIST
MISSION

2008-01

Corneal Doctor Gets More Excitement Than He Bargained For During Volunteer Trip

by Jimmy Brooks, MD, Volunteer Ophthalmologist

In late 2007 I learned from Linda Ellis that the Lighthouse did make exception to the usual Christmas Holiday schedule in which the clinic is closed, and allowed corneal surgeons to bring tissue which is more readily available from US eye banks (American ophthalmologists are taking vacation). It seemed a great way to spend the Christmas season, focusing on giving rather than the receiving that seems to now dominate the American Christmas celebration.

Thus plans were made and my daughter Meghan (19), son Drew (17) and I set out for Mombasa, departing Atlanta late Christmas afternoon. It was an easy process, as the Lighthouse has ushered many physicians through visa acquisition, education regarding life in Mombasa, etc., and we were deposited there safely care of KLM and Kenyan Air. It was while sitting at the gate in the Nairobi airport that we first really understood that something was different about our trip however, as the Kenyan news reported on the delivery of ballots around the country in preparation for presidential and parliamentary elections the next day. We had learned about the election a couple of weeks before our departure, however didn't fully grasp the implications—for Kenya is a young democracy, and as even we in the "developed" world know, democracy can be messy at times.



The differences in our trip compared to other volunteer docs also stemmed in part from the fact that only a skeleton crew is brought in to assist with the corneal surgeries. The rest of the staff, including missionaries, are usually enjoying well deserved holidays with their

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WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Ephesians 3:19 NCV

PRAY

For calm to return to the country of Kenya following the national elections. Pray for our missionaries, doctors, staff, pastors, students, families and patients. Pray as we set our focus on reaching the physically and spiritually blind in 2008.

GIVE

Thank you for your tremendous response of over \$80,000 that was given towards to the Operational Fund Year End appeal. These funds keep the Kenya Mission going day-to-day and allow us the capability to fulfill our mission.

GO

Have you been putting it off? It's now 2008 and plenty of opportunity awaits you in the great country of Kenya. Come share your skills with our eager and excellent Kenya eye surgeons, patients and clinic staff. Bring your family! Take a safari and see the Big 5 in the wild! Walk the white, sandy beaches on the beautiful tropical coast on the Indian Ocean. Call or email Linda Ellis today to schedule!

IN HONOR OF & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Thank you to all who honored or memorialized loved ones and friends with a Capital Gift in 2007. When you give one of these gifts, your friends or loved ones will receive a beautiful card from Lighthouse informing them of your gift.

Thank you to the Foundations and Endowment Funds who gave so generously and partnered with us in 2007.

Tears of Joy 2007

By Albert Liao, OD

On December 21, the last working day of 2007 at the Lighthouse, all the staff gathered before work to give thanks to the Lord. At least one person was brought to tears during the prayers (my own eyes) because God has been good.



Being in Kenya during the Kenyan presidential elections was a difficult time, especially for some of our staff whose homes were in the conflict areas. Millions of people feel greatly disappointed and concerned about the future, but many are overcoming evil with good with God's help. You can be sure that Lighthouse will continue to be a beacon of God's hope for East Africa in 2008.

Malindi camp with Dr Bert Souryal and countryside eye camp

The heart of Lighthouse is Jesus Christ and God's love was shared with over 25,000 patients this past year. Here are some examples:

In November 2007, a 1-day mobile eye camp took place in the countryside about 3 hours outside of Mombasa. It was raining, so very few patients came. However, the team chose to use the extra free time to evangelize to people who would just be walking by—believe it or not, more people got saved that day than were found to have cataracts. The following week another mobile eye camp took place in a different village, and this time over 100 patients were examined that day. The visiting ophthalmologist was shocked at how drastically different the eye camps could be.

Back at the Eye Clinic, there was a mother this year who brought her teenage daughter for an eye exam. The daughter was found to need high-prescription glasses, which without it was causing her many headaches and poor school performance. A proper pair of glasses was the simple solution, yet months after the eye exam the mother called to thank the staff member who helped her daughter so much. Every patient is important, and the staff members and volunteers really do take time to give each patient quality care.



To those who visited Mombasa in 2007, "Asante" and "Karibu Kenya":

Brad Bowman, MD, TX
Judith Bradley, MD & Team, MS
Jimmy Brooks, MD, & family, GA
Charlie Calhoun, MD, Clifton Fay,
Thomas Freeman, GA
Jocelyn Cherry, MD, England
Mark Cichowski, MD, & wife, WA
Bret Crumpton, DO, & family, GA
Dave Doka, MD, TX
Joshua Ghrist & family, TX
Rev. Tim & Toni Ghrist, TX
Grace Community Church, TX
Jerry Harrell, MD, GA
Bill Hof, MD, AR
Carol Johnston, MD, & family, NC
Steve Ku, MD, & daughter, TX
John Kwedar, MD, IL
Albert Liao, OD, TX
Mike Liu, MD, & wife, CA
Patricia Morris, COE, VA
Bert Souryal, MD, VA
R. Walter- Finke, MD, Germany
Kenneth Westbrook, MD, CA

Corneal Doctor Excitement

Continued from first page

families. Usually is the operative word, because there was really nothing unusual about this time in the life of Kenya. Even as I write this article, there is still no clear political solution to a contested election.

Despite the late hour we were greeted warmly by Emmanuel and Dennis, who transported us to the Lighthouse and got us settled. We did see a knot of people at a polling station, apparently concerned about the ballots, and playing toss with a couple of rocks to pass the time...We settled in at the Chui House with its great views overlooking the harbor, and tried to acclimate to the new time zone. The following day was election day with all businesses, etc. closed so we had time to get oriented, see a couple of emergency patients, and prepare for surgery the next day. Dec. 28 brought in the OR staff and Dr.'s Inoti and Matende, who guided us through the clinic and OR process. Our cornea patients were primarily younger individuals with keratoconus, though there were also a couple of older patients with combined cataracts and/or glaucoma. One of the most difficult emotionally was Dennis, a teenage Kenyan boy who with his father had traveled 12 to 14 hours by bus to come for surgery. Dennis had a scar in one cornea and acute swelling in the other, thus recently becoming functionally blind, while trying to finish school and gain entrance to university. Dennis' father provided a wonderful picture of love, unselfishly devoted to finding a way to help his son.

Surgery was smooth and efficient thanks to the well trained staff, with background provided by the 24/7 election coverage on the radio. In just a couple of days we were able to complete all of the surgeries, and most of the patients were able to get home after their one day post op visits. Dennis and his father stayed at the Lighthouse because of election related transportation difficulties as well as desire to be checked again in a few days. We took off for safari while the clinic was closed for the New Year Holiday, and though election results were still not in and people were beginning to simmer we set off! There was a short delay getting out of Mombasa due to a roadblock set up by unhappy election protestors, and we got to see the good work of the local police who cleared the way without incident. We also saw a few guys tossing around some rocks

again, though how they expected that bus to throw it back was really unclear...

Safari was great, with a wonderful experience provided by Southern Cross Safaris (a "must" if you go) and soon we were back in Mombasa checking one week post-ops. Dennis father proudly told me on entering the compound that Dennis could read part of the newspaper, which he had not been able to do for some time. Before departing he made me promise to send another cornea in a few months for Dennis' other eye, a promise I'll happily do my best to fulfill. Unfortunately, election simmering turned into a low boil and there were major riots in Nairobi because of likely rigging of results. We never felt threatened in Mombasa, and were well protected by our hosts. Given the potential for problems Dr. Matende prudently closed the clinic for a few more days to protect staff and patients who would have to travel. Thus we did leave for home a couple of days early, also likely providing some peace of mind for the staff who were concerned for us as well.

Though there were differences in our experience as noted above, the most important and lasting impressions are likely no more different than those experienced by so many volunteers over the years. Despite the difficult times with often personal implications for the Lighthouse staff, we were received with joy. Even in the face of pressing and necessary concerns for their own families' safety, their community's welfare, and their country's stability, the staff exuded a true spirit of gratitude and hope for the gift of sight to a handful of patients. Dr. Matende drove a long way through the night to be there for patient care when I am sure he would rather have spent more time with extended family. Albert Liao shepherded us around Mombasa, acting as administrative assistant, chauffer, and host. Emmanuel and Jackson kept us company on a slow day when leaving the compound was not advisable and we spent time purging old medical records. Though we felt as though we contributed only a little, we were made to feel loved and appreciated by this handful of dedicated people, and we can only imagine the depth and breadth of this hospitality when the clinic is at full capacity. It's a thought that has me looking at the calendar again!



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New DVD coming Spring '08!



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FACT: Today, there are an estimated **180 million people** worldwide who are visually disabled. Of these, **40-45 million persons are blind** and, by definition, cannot walk about unaided. Around 60% of the world's blind reside in sub-Saharan Africa, China and India.

Get a better view
of the Lighthouse at:
www.LighthouseForChrist.org
On-line donations are now available
for your convenience.

Upcoming Lighthouse Events

ASCRS ASOA Symposium & Congress-Chicago, IL
April 4-9
Booth # 139-Stop by and meet us!

Swing for Sight-Dallas
5th Annual Charity Golf Classic
April 27
The Tribute Golf Club-The Colony, TX



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2008 U.S. Board of Directors met in Grapevine, TX on December 1, 2007 for their annual meeting. L to R: Rajiv Anand, Steve Ku, Tom Nisbett, Steve Rumpf, Patricia Morris, Mike Breedlove, Toni Ghrist, John Rothwell, Tim Ghrist, Brad Bowman, Linda Ellis, Larry Kenney, Rick Allen, Dave Doka, Scott Calvin, Charlie Calhoun and Dave Stager, Jr. Not pictured are Brian Bowe, A.D. Harms and Tim Schneider.