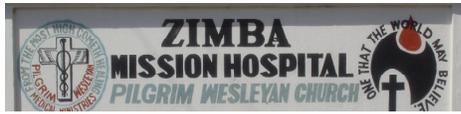


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News From the Field

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Dan and Joan Jones Medical Missionaries in Zambia



March 2014

Prayer Item: Approval for release of surplus funds from our Global Partners ministry fund (WM04-0315) for new radiology building project at Zimba Mission Hospital.
Praise Item: Faithful financial donor support



Dorcas with her preterm baby boy in the NICU at ZMH maternity ward.

Mwabonwa! Greetings from Zambia! We wanted to share this inspirational story of a patient named Dorcas. She comes from a village that is 3 hours away from Zimba Mission Hospital (ZMH) by vehicle. She was 29 weeks pregnant when she first came to the hospital. Her first visit was actually because of an eye problem. In October 2013, a team of visiting eye doctors from the USA with International Vision Volunteers (IVV) had come to volunteer at the Zimba Eye Clinic. Dorcas was experiencing severe pain and reduced vision in her left eye for more than a year. After being examined, she received the bad news that a tumor was growing inside of her eye. Dr. Mike Kaplan made the diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma. Because the cancer was already quite advanced, his recommendation was to perform an operation to remove the eye under general anesthesia. Due to her pregnancy, Dr. Mike instead performed a tumor debulking procedure under local anesthesia.



Dr. Sam Amstutz with Dorcas, her husband, and her baby in the female ward 2 days after the 4 hour eye operation.

Near the end of the surgery, Dorcas suddenly began to experience severe abdominal pains. She was going into pre-term labor. The staff at the eye clinic rushed her to the main hospital. She reached the maternity ward just in time to deliver a baby boy. Because of the prematurity, he weighed barely 2 pounds. He was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and placed inside of the incubator to help prevent hypothermia. A nasogastric tube was inserted so that expressed breast milk could be used to feed him since he was not able to suck. With this supportive care being provided on a daily basis, Dorcas' baby was able to survive despite his low birth weight and extreme prematurity. After 6 weeks in the NICU, he had gained enough weight to be able to go home. At discharge, his weight had doubled to 4 pounds. At home, Dorcas continued to use mitomycin chemotherapy eye drops to treat her tumor.

Dorcas returned to ZMH in January 2014. Her baby now weighed 6 pounds. We had another group of IVV eye doctors from the USA come to volunteer at the Zimba Eye Clinic. Dr. Sam Amstutz was the eye surgeon who took up the assignment of operating on Dorcas' eye tumor. On January 23, Dr. Sam performed an invasive surgery to remove her eye to prevent the cancer from spreading further. Because of the need for airway intubation and general anesthesia, the case was done in the main operating room at ZMH. The operation took 4 hours to complete. Dorcas was admitted to the female ward for post-op recovery. After a few days, she had improved enough to be discharged from the ward. The following week, she was reviewed in the eye clinic. The surgical site was healing well and her pain was reduced. Her final check-up will be when the next IVV eye team arrives in Zimba in April 1.

Dorcas and her husband were quite pleased with the comprehensive treatment she had received at ZMH. The high quality care provided by the ZMH staff members and the IVV eye team produced a favorable outcome for her and for her baby. Because of this compassionate medical care, Dorcas had experienced the love of Christ through her physical healing.



Dr. Jeff Colquhoun examines a patient who came for treatment at IVV Zimba Eye Clinic.

The IVV eye team visited us in Zimba from January 17 to 26. Dr. Jeff Colquhoun is from Battle Creek, Michigan. It was his 10th visit to Zimba. Dr. Douglas F. Buxton is from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in NYC. He is a cornea specialist. It was his fourth time to visit Zimba. Dr. Sam Amstutz is from Wichita, Kansas. It was his first time to visit Africa. He is a specialist for plastic surgery involving the eyelids. During their visit, the IVV team saw 750 patients in clinic. 100 eye surgeries were done including 65 cataracts, 6 corneal transplants and 3 enucleations. Thanks again to the IVV team for their tremendous efforts to treat the high volume of eye patients during their visit.



Dr. Douglas F. Buxton is the only eye surgeon in Zambia performing corneal transplants.