

CAHO 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“The Christian and Disaster: Human Reaction or Prayerful Response?”

April 23-25, 2010

Spring Arbor FMC and Spring Arbor University

Spring Arbor, Michigan

Join together with old and new friends for a time of fellowship, challenge, and renewal at the 20th annual CAHO conference! CAHO is about people. Each one who attends makes the conference even better. Make sure to be there and invite a friend!

To register, please contact Ruth Rupert at The Free Methodist Foundation either by phone (800-325-8975) or email (rrupert@fmfoundation.org). A block of rooms at discounted rates has been reserved at the Jackson Hampton Inn. **Even if you do not need housing or transportation, we do need to know if you will be participating in the conference meal times because we pay the caterer for the number of meals we reserve. The deadline for reserving housing and/or meals is April 1.** If you will not require housing or meals, you may register at the conference when you arrive.

The conference will start with a time of fellowship Friday evening (April 23) at 7:30 p.m., and conclude after lunch together on Sunday (April 25). Check the CAHO website for further details in April: www.gocaho.org

A PREVIEW OF REPORTS FROM THE FIELD...COME TO THE CAHO CONFERENCE FOR “*the rest of the story*”!

From Haiti...

.... Dan Snyder, Dessalines Hospital (Dan and DeeDee, along with other members of the Haiti group will be at the CAHO conference):



“The relief effort is going well. Our goal was to initially treat all earthquake victims for free for a 3 month period. The initial 3 weeks we saw predominantly trauma victims. As of the middle of February we are seeing mainly displaced persons and delayed injuries. In addition, we quickly realized that the emotional and spiritual trauma these victims faced was probably of more significance than their physical injuries. To that end we immediately set up a counseling center and have had national and expatriate pastoral teams on the ground meeting this need.

As a poignant example, today our administrator and family are having a funeral, led by Willie Kirchofer who is a visiting pastor-counselor from New Jersey, for their eldest daughter who died in the earthquake. The family found it necessary, after finding their daughter’s body 10 days after the earthquake, to simply bury her quickly without any formal good-bye. The closure the family will obtain from a funeral service is immense. Later today we will also be meeting with Miquel, our Public Health assistant director, whose young daughter sustained a crush injury to her leg and has been left with nerve damage and is unable to walk yet. Our pharmacist lost 16 extended family members and our accountant lost 6 family members. These examples are everyday occurrences presently as almost all that we work with or know had someone living in Port-au-Prince at the time of the earthquake.

With respect to the finances, we have been offering free care to earthquake victims and hope to do so for at least a 3 month period. After this period, we will re-assess the need again... As a special note, in 2004 the hospital attempted to assist the Gonaives hurricane-flood victims and went bankrupt attempting to do so. We are trying to assure that this same thing does not happen at this time...”

From the Congo...



... Linda Stryker, RN, returns to Bukavu in March. Randy and Alice Matthewson returned to Congo in November to continue the Nundu Hospital reconstruction project. From the Matthewsons:

“...Fellow missionary friend, Melli, likes to start her New Year with the choice of a word to ponder and use during the whole New Year. Thinking this a good thing we chose to do the same; our word is **THRIVE!**

Because Randy and I used **thrive** several times since our arrival back in Africa we both felt it apropos’ and challenging for our New Year. Once we had made the decision of **our word** it came up in our daily Bible reading. I felt confirmation.

Strange as it would seem – seeing our remote location (Nundu, CONGO - DRC) here in AFRICA – we seem to be **thriving**. Our health is great, we are content, work is being accomplished, and we’ve had a visit from two of our children, Paul and Diana, Diana’s husband, Kevin, and their nine (9) children (9 of 16 grandchildren). How’s that for **thriving**?

In the medical realm there is a **failure-to-thrive syndrome**. It applies to infants (without any *apparent* physical cause), causing delayed development. My thought process flew to the other end of the spectrum; I thought I might coin a new term, **succeeding-to-thrive syndrome**. This newly coined syndrome, however, has known causes - trust, faith, obedience, patience, etc.

Take heart, seniors; life is not over until God calls us home and then we have all eternity. I am again reminded of the verse in Psalm 139:16b that says, “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before (ever) one of them came to be.” To know that God knows is a great security for a saved sinner!





From Burundi...

...the Ogdens returned to Kibuye Hospital in February. They will be back in the U.S., along with Elaine Williamson, in time to attend CAHO in April:

“We are off to Africa once again, flying early next Tuesday to serve at Kibuye Hospital in Burundi for 2 months. Frank will work alongside a full-time Congolese doctor named Faustin and a part-time Burundian doctor, Eric. Though we have not met these men we hear good things about their medical work and Christian character. New this year at Kibuye are medical students who have completed their 4 years of pre-med studies at the Bujumbura campus of Hope Africa University (HAU). Last year a small dorm was constructed to accommodate these students at Kibuye. Frank is eager to help them in their clinical work—physical diagnosis, sterile technique, surgery, etc.

Other special events include:

- Dedication of the admin-classroom building on the HAU campus
- Ceremony of turning over Kibuye Hospital to HAU as a teaching hospital
- Hosting an architect who will look at long-range site planning of the hospital
- Seeing the beginning stages of construction for the HAU clinic

...Once again we'll be using a satellite phone to send e-mail while in Burundi—very slow connection, so please avoid sending forwards, photos or attachments until our return April 29. We're stopping over in MI for the Central Africa Healthcare Organization meeting” ...Ogden@UUPlus.com

From Rwanda...

... Numerous volunteers have been to Kibogora Hospital over the past months, including Gene Mogg (CAHO Treasurer) and grand-daughter Kishanda Lockhart, RN. From Roy (CAHO Board Chairman) and Bev Winslow, as they prepared to leave for the U.S. in December:

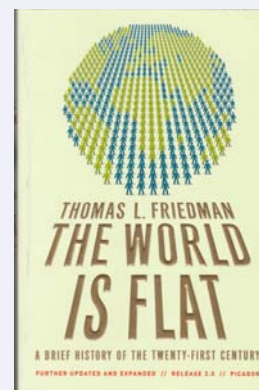
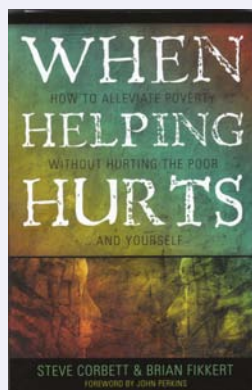


“As we say our goodbyes, to new friends and old at Kibogora, we also gaze over the mountainous horizon one more time. We love our Lake Michigan sunsets, and enjoy a good snowfall, but we will miss the lofty elevation, the clear skies, devoid of pollution, and the breathtaking constellations, vivid in jet-black skies. Having just reflected on the shepherds on their hillside on THAT NIGHT, we can only imagine the heavens ablaze with the glory of God. The closest we come to a heavenly host is the local army regiment, singing heartily in unison at 5:30 AM, each morning, as they run up the road outside our window.

Bev and I are eager to head home, but still feel that strong tug of emotion, from our long relationship here with the Rwandans, since 1979. The men's English class enjoyed a final class, with an outdoor party, complete with Fantas, Cokes, and cookies. My last day brought 2 emergencies, in the afternoon, on the traditional day for goodbyes and photos. I had to drain a nasty infection of the neck, of unknown origin, in a young lady who had just arrived. An elbow dislocation also could not wait. Earlier in the week, I had a man with leakage from the small intestine, due to typhoid fever, and an older lady with leakage from an advanced cancer of the colon. Severe fractures (of the knee joint and shin, and another in the forearm bones) were again managed with an open textbook nearby, for guidance on techniques I have only read about. This is my version of a “textbook case.” If you know anyone with some sharp drill bits, and a full array of bone screws, send them my way. It is tricky to piece bones together with dull instruments and sets of screws with several lengths missing.

We will soon depart, on Saturday, from Kigali, the capital, for our flights to Entebbe, Uganda, then Brussels, Belgium. From there, we fly to Chicago, landing this Sunday at 1pm CST.

Theme books for CAHO 2010 (Special thanks to Dr. Art Brown, Executive Director, Free Methodist World Missions, for bringing these to our attention.)



CAHO is a 501(c) 3 volunteer organization bringing together individuals interested in supporting medical outreach in the name of Christ to all who have need, at Kibogora Hospital, Rwanda; Nundu Hospital, Democratic Republic of Congo; Kibuye Hospital, Burundi; and Dessalines Hospital, Haiti. Donations and inquiries are gratefully received at:

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