

September 11, 2011

TO: Stan Herpick
FROM: Viola Bradford
RE: Ministry Report -- "Medical to the Whole Man"

The essential, practical purpose of this letter is to share my experience about the July 2011 Medical Mission enterprise in Kenya per your request.

This was my second mission trip to Kenya and it was as treasured as the first one. I was part of a medical team, which consisted of four females (three adults and a teen). When we arrived in Kenya, our team joined with the African Kajabe Medical Group (three nurses, a Physician Assistant, a Nurse Anesthetist, Pharmacist/Chemist, African interpreters, pastors and ministers for the spiritual component). We were chaperoned by James and Eunice Kariuki and family.

The theme of this mission was "Medical to the Whole Man." We approached this by providing health assessment, medical care including some medications, Biblical teaching and prayer at the four mission camps. One of the sites was an IDP (Internal Displaced People) encampment in which we donated four large bags of beans.

The medical mission had three phases of activities. The first aspect was providing health care at four different camp sites – two days at each site for a total of eight days. The target was 800 patients, but we exceeded that by approximately 600. Our patient population consisted of infants, children, adolescents, adults and the elderly. The pediatric and adolescent illnesses were mostly skin fungus and gastrointestinal worms. The adult and elderly presented with headache, backache, arthritis, hypertension, visual impairment and gastric problems. There were some acute cases, for example a 36-year-old, female presented with pain, swelling and a large lump in her left breast about the size of a lemon. She reported that one year ago a physician diagnosed her with mastitis (a breast infection), but the problem never was resolved. She was a single parent with three children. Her spouse was killed during the post-election violence. She had no money or healthcare insurance coverage. Our medical group was not equipped to help her. I referred her for follow-up at a local general hospital and to her pastor for financial aid. Hence, in Kenya the number one hindrance to healthcare is money.

I have great respect for the Kajabe Medical Team, especially the registered nurses in their scope of practice compared to RN's here in America.

In addition, we had a beautiful time of fellowship with the members of the Kajabe team.

The second phase involved a one-day student conference at New Dawn Community in addition to the two-day medical mission. Our central focus was to inform and encourage careers in healthcare, such as nursing. As the keynote speaker, I spoke to the students about "Nursing as a Career of Choice." Damaris, Kelly and Eunice conducted the practical aspects of nursing. Popcorn was served and gifts were distributed to the students in Forms 1 – 3. They enjoyed it immensely. At the end of phase two, each team member was awarded a certificate of appreciation.

During the final phase we traveled to Masai Mara for a game drive. We had a wonderful time. We also had a close encounter with a cheetah. She jumped on the hood of our van. We were blessed no one was harmed.

In His Service,

Viola Bradford

