



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE REV. THOMAS FURRER



Dear friends and supporters,

This year has been a difficult year for everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdowns, and the subsequent economic crisis has wreaked havoc all over the world. As bad as it has been here at home, it has been even more difficult for our six clinics and the thousands of people they serve in Nigeria.

The good news is that, at least until now, the virus has not spread as rapidly nor caused as many deaths on a per-capita basis as it has in the

wealthier countries of the world. No one is sure why this is so, but we hope and pray that the trend continues.

The bad news is that the Nigerian economy (which was already in a deep recession due to the worldwide drop in oil prices) has now become much worse. The urban and rural poor have suffered the worst and many are starving. Also, because of scarce resources, various forms of lawlessness including kidnapping, armed robbery and ethnic genocide have increased dramatically. Three of our clinics in Kaduna state (Kateri, Iburu and

Gidan Waya) have been most severely affected by all of these trends. It has become much more difficult to attract and retain doctors under these circumstances. Two of our doctors have left for fear of being killed in the ethnic violence. One of our clinics is now being run by a senior nurse until we can find another doctor.

And yet, in spite of all of these challenges, we persevere. We are not giving up and we are not going away. God has called us to this ministry of love and mercy and we trust that God will sustain us. More than ever, the people we serve need simple, decent and affordable medical care.

And more than ever, we need your prayers and your financial support. Please pray for our work every day. And please keep supporting us as generously as you are able.

Sincerely yours,
The Rev. Tom Furrer

Why rural clinics are so important: A story of one life saved



By Dr. Arome Okeme

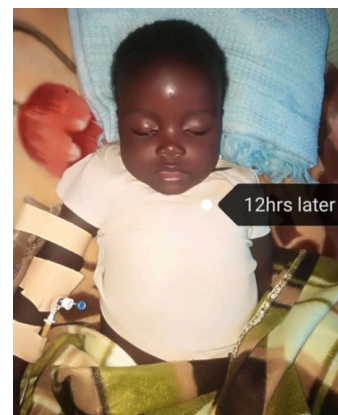
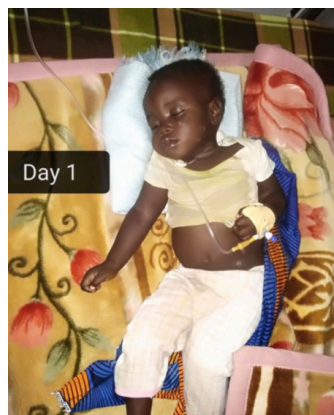
It was about 10:20 pm when they came in. The mother was looking distraught and shaken while the father, a young man in probably his mid-20s, concealed his emotions although beneath the veneer of his calmness, I could sense he was frightened. He held the little raggedy looking child in his arms passionately. The two were a beauty to behold. This was their only child and judging from their countenance, they were terrified of the possibility of losing her.

I was wasted, exhausted, drained, famished and fagged out. All I wanted was a shower, something to eat, and the warmth of my bed. I had just finished a long stretch of resuscitating a head-injured young man from a road accident.

The child had had a fever five days ago and they decided to manage her themselves locally. Well, that didn't work out as her condition got worse that she convulsed severely (the locals call

it "chiwon sunsu", loosely interpreted as bird's illness). They smoked her in the steam of some local herbs and tried forcing some of the extract from the herbs into her mouth. Fortunately, they didn't succeed. God has a way of saving little helpless children.

Sensing that all their efforts proved abortive, they rushed her to some chemist where quacks operated. After experimenting on their lab rat, she grew even worse. Then came a good Samaritan that directed them to the only hospital with medical doctors and nurses in some rural area quite a distance from where they lived, and without hesitation they hopped on to a bike and headed here.



They bumped into me just as I was about to leave the hospital. I nearly cried when I saw them because I knew it would be a while before I got the rest I badly yearned for. The child was breathing noisily, her eyeballs were rolled to one corner of her eyes, limbs were stiff and body hot! Luckily, my colleague was around and we got to work. I was lucky to have accessed her vein quite easily. I took some blood samples, aborted the seizures, calmed the temperature spike and hit the lab for some quick tests. After about an hour, the child was on some IV meds and lying dazed with relaxants. Twelve hours later, she was better and breathing normally. The next day, she was struggling, had removed her IV access and screaming to be discharged home.

You know the thing about kids and God's wonderful love for them? It is simply inexplicable how He watches and cares for them. The parents stood marveled at her improvement, so much so that, the father approached me to inquire about the probability of being discharged today. I told him we would need to keep her until we were sure that she had fully recovered. And he agreed.

God loves little children and we must ensure we do our utmost best to show them this in our little ways.

Dr. Okeme is the head doctor at our Arthur and Esther Bradley Memorial Anglican Hospital in Gidan Waya. Before coming here, he served as the assistant doctor at Kateri Medical Clinic for five years. This little girl is one of the more than 20,000 patients our clinics serve every year. Without our rural clinics, many of these children die very young. Your contributions help us to serve even more.

New Doctor's Residence Dedicated at Graceland Hospital in Gusau



On August 8, 2020 Bishop John Danbinta dedicated the newly completed doctor's residence at Graceland Hospital in Gusau. The construction of this house was made possible by the generous gift of one of our donor families. We are very grateful.

Since we opened Graceland Hospital in October of 2018, we have not had a house for the doctor. Up until now, Dr. Walla has been living in one of the back rooms of the hospital. He did not want to rent because he would not always be available when needed at the hospital. Dr. Walla is getting married in September and we got the house finished so he and his wife can have a decent place to begin their family.

Personal Protective Equipment for Clinic Staff and Patients

We were not able to do our annual medical outreach missions this year, so we took the money that we would have spent for medicine for the missions and gave funds to each clinic to buy Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for the staff.



In Kaduna Diocese, we also funded PPEs for many of the churches to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Food for Starving People

In Kaduna, we also used the medical mission funds to buy food for people in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camps. People in these refugee centers are fleeing ethnic violence in which their villages were burned and many members of their families killed.

These are truly the poorest of the poor in a very difficult crisis in rural Nigeria.



Jesus says "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink... Then the righteous will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink... ? And the King replied, "As you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." Matthew 25:31-45

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These are difficult times for people here in the US and all over the world. We, at Kateri Medical Services, have been called by God to serve the poorest of the poor in Nigeria. We seek to show the love of Jesus through simple, decent and affordable medical care.

We run on a very frugal budget. All of our American team members serve as volunteers. No one receives a salary. For that reason, 96.7% of every donated dollar goes directly to build clinics, buy medicine and pay local medical workers in Nigeria.

And our team members are also some of our most generous donors. We put our money and our energy where our faith is. We ask you to join us in this great mission of mercy. We are Jesus people. We strive to show Jesus' love to hurting people by continuing His work of healing the broken.

Please give as generously as you can. You can send a check in the enclosed envelope or contribute electronically on our website katericlinic.org
