



KATERI NEWSLETTER

Published by Kateri Medical Services, Inc.

11 Church Street, Tariffville, CT 06081

Greetings from the Venerable Thomas Furrer

Despite Many Problems, Our Best Year Ever

Dear Friends and Supporters of
Kateri Medical Clinic,

There have been many negative news reports from Nigeria during the past year: the Boko Haram insurrection, terrorism, 200 kidnapped school girls and ebola, just to name a few. The tale of woes grows longer every year. And well-meaning friends question the sanity of those who continue to serve on our medical mission each summer. While we appreciate everyone's concern, we are convinced that God has called us to this work and we will continue as long as we are able.

Despite the many problems we face in conducting our annual medical missions, every year we are able to help more people than the year before. This past summer, our two-week FaithCare medical mission brought medical care to 6,571 people. Out of these, 172 people received surgery for hernia repairs, goiter removals, reconstructive facial surgery, gynecological problems, and a host of other ailments. Approximately 1,200 people received eye care, with over 800 pairs of prescription eye glasses being distributed. (We would have given out more eye glasses but our supply ran out.) Over 300 people received dental care with fillings or tooth extractions.

Because we minister to the whole person, not just the physical ailments, 5,335 people made

spiritual commitments or renewals of faith.

In an atmosphere of bitter animosity between Christians and Muslims (as evidenced by burned out churches and mosques near our medical mission site), we brought healing of social relationships. Nearly 2,000 Muslims were served with dignity and respect by our medical teams. For the second year in a row, two Muslim doctors and one dentist worked with our Christian team members to provide care. For the first time ever, a Muslim business owner from Kaduna made a significant contribution to offset the expense of housing and feeding our medical team.

The main message from all of this is a theme that runs throughout the Bible: **"Be Not Afraid"**

When we face down our fears and move ahead with what God calls us to do, then great things happen. Despite all of the problems in Nigeria, our clinic and medical missions continue to bring healing and hope to thousands of people every year.

This is all possible because of you, our friends and contributors. Please continue to support us as generously as possible. We are entirely dependent upon your help. And remember- every penny you contribute goes directly to medicine and salaries for doctors, nurses and community health extension workers (CHEWs). None of your contribution goes to fund-raising or administration or mailing costs. There is no other

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charitable organization that can make this promise. Every penny makes a direct difference in the real lives of real people in the real world.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

Ven. Thomas J. Furrer, President

Kateri Medical Services, Inc.



Ven. Tom with Israel and his grateful mother, the last to receive care on the final clinic day—patient number 6571! (See their story on page 3!)



Muslim women wait patiently to see the doctor after having their vitals taken in triage. A greater number of Muslims began to arrive midway through the first week; word-of-mouth is often the best advertisement.

Three Teen Members Participate!

This year, we had three high school students join us for the FaithCare medical mission.

All three, Sam Carlson, Lizzy Austin and Peter Williams are members of Trinity Episcopal Church in Tariffville, and are students at Simsbury High School. Sam and Lizzy just graduated and are heading to college. Peter is a rising senior.



Lizzy Austin takes vitals of an incoming patient in the triage area.

Each of the students worked on every aspect of the medical mission, from triage to assisting in the operating room. All three had a wonderful experience and plan to return next year.



Peter Williams and Sam Carlson in surgical scrubs, ready for action with Bright, another surgical volunteer.

Peter Williams produced a video of the trip, highlighting his experiences. Please access the link below to view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN6u49NF64g>

We encourage everyone to watch this wonderful video on YouTube. It will give you a great overview of our medical mission and the work that your contributions make possible.

Satellite Clinic Construction in Iburu Underway

Due to generous contributions from three of our supporters, we are moving ahead with construction of a new clinic in the village of Iburu (approximately a one-hour drive southeast of Kaduna and about 2 hours northeast of Kateri Clinic).



The Muslim chief, who generously donated family land for the clinic construction, is clearly overjoyed. The new satellite clinic will provide the only medical care available for surrounding villagers of all faiths, who are primarily subsistence farmers.

When the clinic is complete, hopefully by this coming summer, we will be able to serve twice as many people each year as we do now.



The foundation is laid. It has taken time, as the blocks had to be brought in from another area to ensure quality.



Morning crowds...each day.



Patients waiting...



Counter-terrorism task force troops



Authentic Nigerian outfits, courtesy of out hosts! The young men wear traditional Fulani cattle herder dress.

The Last Patient #6571...a Saga From Beginning to End... by Bob Chagnon

It was the last day of the two-week clinic to provide free medical services. There was still a large crowd waiting...would we get to everyone?

Ven. Tom began handing out tickets early in the morning and patients began streaming in for treatment. As the day wore on, it was evident that there would be people left that would not be seen. This is the hardest part of offering care...when people are left that must make the journey home after waiting for very long periods of time.

Having finished up in surgery, I decided to follow the last patient from beginning to end.



I watched as a woman with a young boy clutched a yellow ticket, the color for the last day. She had just received the final ticket. As she approached, I noticed the smile on her face...she would receive the care she had been waiting for, along with needed medication, for her son. Can you even begin to imagine how she must have felt?

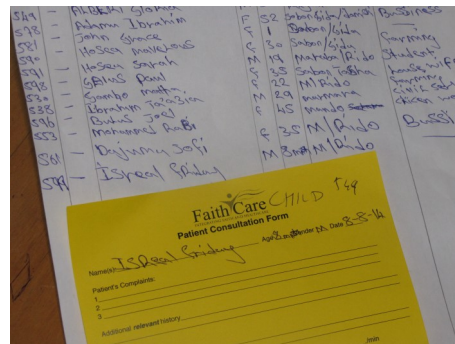


I watched as she approached the



staging area on the veranda of the conference center. She walked alone and I wondered what was running through her mind...

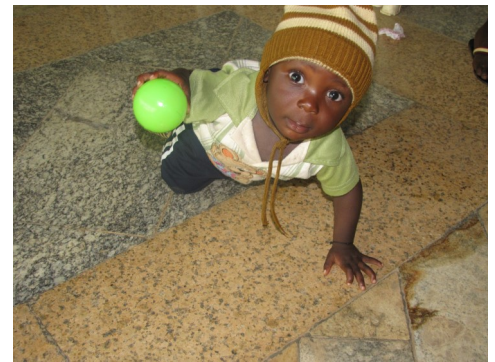
Once ushered inside, she gave



the receptionist her child's name- "Israel Friday"...and she was seated at the end of the staging line.



Although she and the child had been waiting outside the gates for two days, she smiled and expressed her gratitude. Even young Israel was in good spirits...no fussing or crying...just a happy, if not ill, little boy. He was given a small, plastic ball to entertain him as he waited to see the doctor...



Once called to the triage table, Israel had his vitals taken by Elaine Chagnon, with team leader Dr. John Nwangwu looking on.

The doctor diagnosed an upper respiratory infection and ordered antibiotics. Both mom and son were



prayed for before heading off to the pharmacy to receive the medications...a joyful way to finish!



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11 Church St.
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Kateri Newsletter
Winter 2014

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*Won't you please consider putting the Kateri
Medical Clinic in your will ?*

"Write the vision...if it seems slow, wait for it...the righteous shall live by faith."

Kateri Medical Services, Inc.— Response Form

Please return this form with your contribution

Please mail to: **Kateri Medical Services, Inc.** 11 Church Street Tariffville, CT 06081

Yes, I would like to help in one of the following ways:

_____ "Sustaining Partner" - a pledge of \$1,000 per year (\$20 per week) for _____ year(s)

_____ "Wall Builder" - a pledge of \$500 per year for _____ year(s)

_____ Regular contributor - I will pledge _____ per month/year

_____ One - time gift of _____

*Please make checks payable to "Kateri Medical Services, Inc." All donations are tax deductible in the U.S.; 100% of your gift goes directly to the clinic. **Kateri Medical Services, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.***

Name _____ Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

If you have any questions, comments, or change of address, please call: (860) 651-0201 or email

tfurrer@trinitytariffville.org or visit our website at <http://www.katericlinic.org>