



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN A CRUEL WORLD

## Light Shines in the Darkness

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and supporters,



Christmas is an affirmation of hope in the face of contrary evidence.

The central teaching of the Christian faith is that God's love has been revealed and made available to us in the

person of Jesus. As a favorite Christmas bible passage reads: *"In him is the light of humanity... and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."* Those of us who believe this try our best to be living examples of Jesus' light in this world. And we hope and pray that this great light of God's love will overcome the powers of darkness.

But sometimes, it doesn't look like the light is winning. Sometimes, it seems like the opposite is true.

Our clinics are located to help rural and urban people who live on less than \$2 per day. Life is often cruel and harsh and short for these people. Many women die in childbirth. Many children die

in their first year of life. Families must choose to spend their very limited funds on either food or healthcare — they cannot afford both. And the calamities of the past four years in Nigeria have made life ever more difficult for the poor. Hyperinflation is eroding the worth of their already meager resources. Many are slowly starving. Insecurity and general lawlessness make normal life impossible.

And yet, in the midst of all of the turmoil, we can also see the light of God's love shining in the darkness. Our mission has always been *"to provide simple, decent and affordable medical care to the urban and rural poor as a sign of Jesus' love for humanity."*

Your donations help us to continue this work of demonstrating this love in the midst of the hurts and brokenness and cruelty of this world. Speaking personally, I cannot think of a better way to celebrate Christmas. Every donation helps us to keep a light shining in the darkness.

Please give as generously as you can. You are making a real difference in the lives of real people.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Tom Furrer



## The Challenges of 2023

The past four years have posed more challenges for the people we serve and to our work in Nigeria than at any other time since we began twenty years ago. Many of these challenges have intensified in 2023.

### Security Problems

Banditry, kidnapping and tribal violence have plagued our communities, our clinic staff and our local partners. This has made it difficult to retain doctors at some of our clinics and more difficult to conduct medical outreach missions. One of our clinic construction projects had to be stopped for several months due to kidnapping attempts on diocesan officials supervising the work.

### Hyper-inflation and Economic Stagnation

Annual inflation levels of 25% have caused severe hardships to people who were already on the edge of starvation and have made it more difficult for our medical staff to survive on the wages we are able to pay.

### “Brain Drain”

Doctors and nurses are emigrating to the United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Australia to find a better life. This makes it more difficult for us to hire and retain young medical staff, who are the most likely to leave the country.



## The Blessings of 2023



Despite the challenges listed on page 2, we have many things for which to be grateful.

### **First, we are helping more people than ever before.**

In the face of all of the challenges, our local partners and medical staff have adapted to be able to serve more people each year. While the exact numbers are not yet in, we project that we will serve more people than any previous year.

### **Second, our strategic partnerships are paying great rewards.**

Five years ago, we began a partnership with Cornerstone Health Foundation to bring basic medical care through mobile clinics in urban and rural settings. When the Covid epidemic and subsequent security crisis hit, our clinics could no longer hold mobile clinics or outreach missions. However, Cornerstone found a way to do mobile missions in areas in which the security problems were less severe. Consequently, they were able to help people that our clinics could not reach.

We have also renewed our partnership with FaithCare which has chapters in the US and Nigeria. FaithCare helps us with a network of volunteer surgeons, which enables our medical outreach missions to help patients with much needed surgeries that our regular clinic staff are not able to provide.

### **Third, we held our first medical outreach with US team members since 2019.**

While the security problems have worsened in many areas, they have improved in others. So we conducted a small and cautious outreach at our clinic in Port Harcourt. Although we deliberately planned this to be a low key outreach, we were able to serve 941 people (see insert for story of one woman we helped).

After this “testing the waters” proved to be successful and without any security problems, we are now planning for a larger effort in 2024.

*(continued on next page)*

# The Blessings of 2023

(continued from page 3)

We will be partnering with The Diocese of Niger Delta North, St. Thomas Clinic, and FaithCare to provide a full-services medical outreach (general medical care, eye care, dental care, surgery, prayer and counseling) at multiple locations in the Port Harcourt region.

### Fourth, we are helping to educate young medical workers for the future.

Several years ago, one of our generous donors contributed to a “Human Capital Fund” to help educate young people. We are currently paying tuition for one doctor in medical school, one nurse/mid-wife, one nurse and four Community Health Extension Workers. When they have completed their studies, they will work at one of our partner clinics.



◀ **Margret David**, training to be a nurse/mid-wife

▼ **Happiness Akpan**, training to be a nurse



◀ **Yohana Iko**, training to be a doctor

## Summary: Light Shines in the Darkness

Living conditions in Nigeria have deteriorated over the last four years. This has made it more difficult than ever to run our clinics. At the same time, the services we provide are more needed than ever before. The people we serve are hurting more than ever before.

We are not giving up and we are not going away. We need your help more than ever before. Please give as generously as you can. Your donations are saving lives and making life a little more bearable for some of the most vulnerable people in the world.



## ONE WOMAN HEALED AND ONE FAMILY RESTORED

### *Joy Received Her Joy Again*

THE STORY OF ONE OF THE 941  
PEOPLE WE SERVED AT OUR MEDICAL  
OUTREACH AT ST. THOMAS CLINIC IN  
PORT HARCOURT

*Reported by Rev. Dr.  
Olaniyi Olaobaju*



On the second day of the medical outreach that took place in August, our medical assistant, Dr Alabi gave me the situation report of the case of a woman who had a large fibroid tumor. She had previously consulted with other hospitals but could not afford the price of the surgery. She had been married for 15 years and was not able to conceive a child. Her inability to conceive had caused a lot of tension in her marriage and she was now separated from her husband. Dr. Alabi pleaded that we find a way of helping her as her case was really pitiful. Since we could not do mass surgery during the outreach, we made arrangements for her to have the surgery done after the outreach. It was done at a subsidized rate as she could not afford the standard price.

Some few weeks later, the woman's pastor came to the clinic with her to show appreciation. We were also informed that she will be moving back with her husband. I had to let them know that her family was united and her joy was restored all because of the generosity and kindheartedness of some donors of Kateri Medical Services some five thousand miles away in the United States.

*Without your kindheartedness, Joy (by the way, that is her real name) would not have gotten her joy back. Thank you, once again to all donors and the board of Kateri Medical Services.*



Dr. Alabi, right



HELP US BRING SIMPLE, DECENT, AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE TO THE RURAL AND URBAN POOR IN NIGERIA.

Yes, I want to partner with Kateri Medical Services to deliver lifesaving medical care to those who need it most. I am making a tax-deductible contribution of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1,000 or \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to commit to giving a regular monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to designate my donation to the **New Horizons Fund** for staff salaries.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

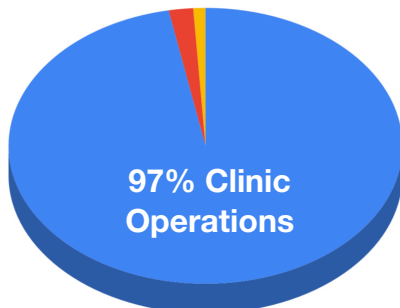
*Please mail your check in the envelope provided or give online at [www.katericlinic.org](http://www.katericlinic.org)*

## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT THIS MONTH

A generous donor will match all donations to a total of \$25,000. That means if you give \$100 to Kateri Medical Services, we'll receive a total of \$200, doubling the impact of your donation.

## HERE IS THE IMPACT YOUR DONATION MAKES

97% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO BUILD CLINICS, BUY MEDICINE AND PAY MEDICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF\*



- Clinic Operations
- Fundraising/Publicity
- Administrative

99% OF OUR DONATIONS COME FROM INDIVIDUAL DONORS



- Individual Donations
- Churches & Civic Organizations

\*Based on three-year average of administrative costs as a % of total revenues: 2.71%