



Operating for Christ

SUMMER 2007
VOL. V
ISSUE I

BMC Celebrates 50 Years!

BMC is 50 years old this year. The Foundation's Board would like to thank all of those whose contributions both large and small have kept this hospital a living testament to Christ. The long standing team effort required to keep this hospital in operation is a source of encouragement to those living in this harsh region and a reflection of cooperative Christian spirit..



BMC in 1967



Dr. Faile II (who founded the hospital) making rounds

Testimonial of Medical Student's Experiences

This testimonial came to us from Harrison H. Hanson, a medical student who served for one month at BMC.

Thank you so much for your contribution to my journey and service at the Baptist Medical Center in Nalerigu, Ghana. My life was certainly touched and changed forever as I worked with Dr. George Faile and Dr. Earl Hewitt in treating the many very sick people that came through our door. Romans 12:6-8 was impressed on my heart in regard to the work that these servants of God do with their lives in that hard place. "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

One of the opportunities for an act of mercy that came to our doorstep during my time in at the Baptist Medical Center was a man in his mid-thirties who was bringing food on his moto (small motorcycle) to his wife in the isolation ward. She had empyema and I had put a chest tube in her two days before. He was one of the many moto accidents that I saw during my month at the hospital. It was my second day on call during the afternoon of a clinic day in which we saw 350 patients (a little bit slower than normal, but not bad for two MDs, a medical student, and a couple of medical assistants). I was told there was an accident and I walked out to see a pile of hamburger mixed with gravel where the man's nose and mouth had been. Blood covered his right eye socket, that

see Testimonial on next page

**New ceilings and lighting have
been installed in the wards!**

Testimonial *continued from previous page*

looked like it may be gone, and bubbles came up through a mixture of gelatinized and fresh blood in what looked like a grotesque newly formed cleft palate. His good eye peered up at me calmly (the people endure so much suffering and pain without the hysteria so often seen in United States at the slightest discomfort), yet longing for an act of mercy. I was overwhelmed. How could we put this back together? How much longer could he breathe as the blood dripped and clotted in his pharynx (we had no endotracheal tubes to intubate)? What could we do for this man and what would the rest of his life be like with a face so disfigured?

I looked for the Dutch surgeon who had come just that day and performed two surgeries. He had left an hour ago. I looked for Dr. Faile. I needed the reassurance of his twenty-six years in the trenches as I mustered my faculties to take on this art project; this man in need of an act of mercy. Lord, give me strength and wisdom. I'm not a plastic surgeon. I'm a fourth year medical student.

I sewed for the next three and a half hours on his face. We protected his airway with an oral airway and the minimal suction that was available. It came together and I was very pleased with the immediate result. During the repair Dr. Hewitt came to examine my progress and proudly jibbed, "Do they let fourth year medical students in the United States do this?"

We started the man on antibiotics and kept

The people [here in Nalerigu] endure so much suffering and pain without the hysteria so often seen in United States at the slightest discomfort.

--Harrison H. Hanson, medical student

him for the next six days inpatient to examine his progress. He did well. We took the superficial stitches out and were hopeful the tissues would hold. I showed to man his before and after pictures on my digital camera, and thankfully he could see them well. Both eyes were spared. Two days after discharge I saw him checking on his wife, purulence still draining from her chest tube, but there was a smile on both of their faces. His tissues were still in place with a very little pus at the edge of one of the wounds. It is tough for things not to get infected in that hard place to live, but I'm hopeful that the facial reconstruction will hold.

I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve and learn in Ghana. This is just one of many joyful and sobering memories that will always affect the way I live my life and practice medicine. I'm so glad Jesus Christ is being proclaimed to that desolate corner of the world in word and acts of service, and that I could be a small part of the Kingdom work.

Much Needed Materials Delivered!

The container sent in January arrived in Nalerigu.

The container included:

- a new autoclave
- surgical tables
- parts for the diesel generator
- industrial washing machine for linens and gowns
- miscellaneous medical supplies
- bandages
- envelopes for medications

This container was provided by the Ghana Bandage Project/Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cartersville and headed by Vicki Barnes.



Unloading the contents in Nalerigu

The George Faile Foundation, Inc.
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Cave Spring, GA 30124
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