



BRINGING THE LOVE OF JESUS
AND QUALITY MEDICAL CARE TO
THE PEOPLE OF LIBERIA



AFTER ANGRY EEL ATTACKS
FISHERMAN, JEN CAREFULLY
SUTURES THE BITE WOUNDS



STEVE INTRODUCES ROBERT
AND DENNIS TO GOLF... AND
SAND TRAPS :)



MOTHERS BRAVE FLOODED
RIVERS TO BRING CHILDREN TO
CLINIC FOR VACCINES

NORA THANKS YOU



Jen checks Nora's blood pressure in front of her home

The first Friday of every month is the day of our clinic outreach. During this outreach Jen travels through the district doing follow-up care for many of our patients with Hypertension and Diabetes. Currently there are around 15 elderly patients she sees every month to check their blood-pressure, blood sugar, and restock their meds.

One of the biggest barriers we've found with keeping our patients consistent with their medications was their ability to regularly come to the clinic for follow-up appointments and medicine refills. For many of these patients motorbike transportation to the clinic was too expensive and walking for several hours was too difficult, so they would hoard their medicine, taking it every few days so it would last longer, or only come to the clinic when their blood-pressure or blood sugar became so high it caused them to actually feel sick. Allowing their blood-pressure or blood-sugar to yo-yo is putting our patients at even greater risk for complications like nerve damage or stroke which can have devastating consequences for the entire family. So, we decided bring their care closer to home.

Though there was a small adjustment period, now that our patients know they can rely on seeing someone from the clinic every month they've become much more compliant with their medicines, and their chronic illnesses have become much more controlled.

After getting her pressure checked this month, Nora spoke just about the only English words she knows, "Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you!" Nora is a widow with no living children to provide for her. We take care of Nora and love her very much. She was extremely happy to see Jen and have her blood pressure checked, and she was over-the-moon to have her picture go Stateside!



Partnership for Safe Deliveries

Traditionally Trained Midwife, or TTM, is a woman who works in the community delivering babies. Her training has come through years of “watch and learn” experience traditionally passed down from her mother or grandmother. Though her education may be limited she is well-versed in the basics of Labor and Delivery.

Until recently in Liberia, most all deliveries in rural areas were done at the hands of TTMs. Caring for pregnant women throughout the prenatal and postnatal period has been their role in the community, and served as their means of supporting their families. However, with high Neonatal and Maternal Death Rates, the government is putting a stop to home deliveries throughout the country. Unlike the US where, under the care of a skilled Nurse Midwife, home deliveries can be quite safe, here in the bush they often have poor outcomes. With the lack of 911 and an ambulance company around the corner, it may take several hours of carrying mother and baby in a hammock through rough terrain to get the woman to a health facility for life-saving care when a delivery gets complicated. Any lapse in time from the onset of a problem to the intervention puts the mother and baby at great risk.

At Po River we are working to increase the number of clinic deliveries, while also supporting the work of our community’s TTMs. Though the TTM role is changing, their ability to support their families doesn’t have to. This month we’ve started a new policy, we are paying an incentive to all our TTMs for each delivery they refer. Normally the clinic charges 700LD (about \$7USD) for delivery. Now we are giving 500LD of that cost to the referring TTM. We’re pretty sure our new policy is catching on... we’ve already done 4 deliveries this week!!

OSU’s Urban Meyer Motivates Clinic Staff

The Ohio State University head football coach sent over a special picture thanking Jen, Steve and the entire Po River Clinic staff for all they do. Love it... GO BUCKS!!!



Water Tower Construction

Despite delays from Ebola which shut down Liberia’s ports, and the muddy roads of rainy-season that frustrated transportation of construction supplies, the rain water harvesting system project moves on. Another milestone was reached with the completion of the concrete water tower. When the rain water system is finished in December of this year, the Po River Clinic will become the first healthcare facility in the entire Rivercess County with running water. This will mark a major improvement from having to haul barrels of water about 300 yards from the nearest hand-pump well to just turning on a faucet. Delivering babies, wound care, hand washing, mopping the floor, and laundry take a lot of water and everyone on the clinic staff is excited to see the day when water can come out of the wall! Soon... very soon!



ALL DONATIONS TO THE PO RIVER MEDICAL CLINIC ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. Commission To Every Nation (CTEN) is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the IRS.

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