

REACH INTERNATIONAL HEALTHCARE AND TRAINING, INC.

Reaching the Isolated and Impoverished with Medical Care

Sharing Christ's love through sacrificial service



October 2010

Lives that have been touched...



“Wound Dressing” Became Complex Emergency Surgery

*Do you believe in coincidence
or God's perfect timing?*

By Reach staff, Jordan Boado, R.N.



Another trip to the outskirts, another journey to the mountains, to serve the people of Mindanao who are far from the reach of medical care.

At this particular place, surgery patient #5 was a farmer named Ainil Kido. He lined-up with the other people for surgery and so we thought it wasn't that urgent. The people on triage had written on his card "Assessment: Struck by water buffalo's horn Plan: For wound dressing".

Upon exam we soon learned that his injury was much bigger than it had first appeared to the triage person. It was very difficult to understand him because he was Maguindanaon, a Muslim tribe, and none of us in that room could understand him. We asked him again and again, using our hands - with action just to get the right information, until we found out that he had been struck by his carabao (water buffalo). The man had sustained serious pelvic injuries as a result of a 6-8 inch penetration caused by the water-buffalo's horn and he was really in agony. He was reluctant to undergo the needed surgery to clean and repair the deep wound, but was persuaded upon further explanation.

We successfully accomplished the surprise complex emergency surgery that was supposed to be just a "wound cleaning" case. Following the surgery, Ainil Kido's Muslim brothers carried him to rest outside. The family members were so glad that we were there to help them because if he hadn't received care so quickly, he may not have survived. They were really thankful to us and to Allah (God) and they told us we are heaven sent that day. Do you believe in coincidence or God's perfect timing?

The family was so happy that Ainil was now stable and recovering. They extended their endless thanks to us and we could really feel and see it from their faces. Ainil's 70 yr. old father (a Muslim Elder) was there crying in tears of joy.

That time, it seemed like the atmosphere was filled with happiness. I'm happy that, at that moment, the "Muslim-Christian barrier" seemed not to exist.

The Comfort of a Friend

A woman comforts her friend during surgery in the village of Santo Nino, S. Cotabato Prov. where Dr. Sam and our team held 1 day of surgeries - on Sept. 30, following a 3 day outreach 2 hours from there.



The Thankfulness of a Community

The community was so thankful that our team went there to do the surgeries, that they held a small ceremony to say thank you and give gifts to our team. Here Dr. Sam shows off the hat this community leader gave to him - from right off his OWN head.



A Man with Big Faith

*Arrival of Reach Surgery team
Is a huge answer to prayer*



By Reach staff,
Rev. Ian Otbot



Our Grace Clinic at Kihan village in Sarangani Province, is being managed by one of the Reach Staff, Earl Vaporoso R.N., and is open every day, but of course patients are only scheduled for surgeries when Dr. Sam and our surgery team will be at the clinic during their monthly visit. One of the surgery patients during the team's visit there in September, Alfredo Pandian, touched my heart as he told me about his life. He is 43 years old and lives in another village - 3 hours by motorcycle from the clinic. Due to rain and severe weather problems, our team had to re-schedule our trip there in August and the beginning of September.

Communication between these remote villages is difficult and Alfredo had visited the clinic already three times, looking for Dr. Sam. Now in his fourth visit, he was very happy because Dr. Sam & the team were there to conduct surgery.

Continued on reverse side...

"Big Faith" Continued...

Manong Alfredo, as I called him in respect, was very happy – with tears in his eyes - telling me about his story. He came to the clinic because of the growing mass on his neck – near his thyroid gland, which was about 7x9 cm. in size. He was very thankful for the surgery because he had been really worried about that mass.



As he continued telling me his story, he said he is a Christian & had been an active member of his church for almost 10 years. He had a good job as a member of the Tribal Counsel at the provincial level, but lost it two months ago because of the change in administration in the government. He started to worry what will happen to his family – and even more because of the mass on his neck, as his children are still in school - 1 in college and 3 in high school. He's the only bread winner in the family & now that he lost his job, he's just relying on the small piece of land he has left – to farm it.

But what I can see about this man is... He is very brave & had a big faith. He told me that this was now his third life given by God to him. God already spared his life for two times from accidents that happened when he almost died, and now he considered this surgery the third one and another life for him. He believed that even though he had so many problems, still God loves him very much, he still has so many blessings from above.

After we prayed, he said that he is very happy because he can be a living testimony to others about how God works in his life.

Staff Development Seminar

On Oct. 14-16, another missionary team, along with Dr. Idar Rommen, joined us and our staff for a 3-day seminar at our house, conducted by Jeff Smith and his team from Well of



Life Community Development Org. They taught us how to use the methods and resources of CHE - "Community Health Education" - a wonderful tool for teaching people who have had little traditional education.



CHE utilizes Participatory Learning in which trainers facilitate a process that helps people analyze problems, discover solutions, and define positive action steps. We believe these methods will be an aid in the way we teach, as well as to add many additional resources to help the communities we serve.



Excited Students - T-shirts for the whole class

These eager healthcare worker students, from the village of Tantangan, S. Cotabato, showed up for their 3rd week of class - the 1st week of October, (classes are one week each month for 10-12 months) wearing brand-new powder blue T-shirts. They said the T-shirts are their "uniform" for whenever they have their class and outreaches with the Reach team. The shirts proudly say "Bethel Assembly of God and Reach International Healthcare and Training, Inc." Our team goes wherever they are invited – to teach and equip, and this particular group was from the local Assemblies of God Church. The people in the photo who are wearing white or blue 'scrub' shirts are our own Reach Team, posing with the students.

Nine Hour Surgery to Restore Use of Hand



Hand malformed since infancy



At this same location (Tantangan) during the outreach clinics that followed the full day of classroom teaching, this 15 year old girl was one of the many patients who came to be seen. Her hand had been badly burned (accidentally) when she was 6 mo. old. Her hand was completely grown together into a fist, due to scar tissue, and her parents had never had the resources to have it fixed. Dr. Sam and our team repaired her hand, during a 9 hour surgery, to enable her to have use of it again.

We've had many people ask how Sam's shoulder is doing by now, and while it still causes a small restriction of movement occasionally, and he can't lay on his left side for an extended period of time, overall he is doing very well. It was a long time of healing and recovery, and we're so thankful that he's past that now – and of course still rejoicing because it could have been so much worse!

Our many, many thanks to you for standing with us in support – personally and for this work..

May you be richly blessed!

Dr. Sam & Shari Evans

