

# REACH INTERNATIONAL HEALTHCARE AND TRAINING, INC.

*Reaching the Isolated and Impoverished with Medical Care*

Sharing Christ's love through sacrificial service



Please note the Reach address at the bottom of this page

Sep - Oct 2011

## Reports from the Philippines

While Sam & I are in the U.S., our Philippine staff sends us a lengthy report each week, detailing the outreaches and training classes that they provided the previous week (scheduled months in advance), along with meaningful stories about people who are very grateful that the **Reach Team continues to come**. Sam and I are looking forward to being back with them in the Philippines the first week of January.

**Thanks to your continued support, hundreds of people continue to be reached each week bringing Hope and Healing as the Reach Team shares God's love through words and deeds.**

**Here are the latest stories about lives being touched - just received from**

**Our Reach Philippine Staff - Hard at Work**



### Update from Dr. Sam & Sherri

Since our last Newsletter, much has happened. Sherri's grandmother, in Kansas, has gone on to be with the Lord - her funeral was Sept. 17. The week prior to that, Sam's mom went into the hospital suddenly for surgery for a blocked bowel - and remains in the hospital currently in Springfield, MO. Your prayers are appreciated, as her recovery is going much more slowly than expected. It is God's blessings that we are in the U.S. during this time.

Sam is doing MUCH better and continues to gain strength, as he follows Dr's orders (from Mayo Clinic). He still needs surgery on his right shoulder for a rotator cuff tear, which will be done on Nov. 2. This will give him time to recover from it before we return to the Philippines, the first of January. We are so thankful for your prayers!



We were gifted with 10 days, in Sept., at a Retreat Center in Colorado especially for missionaries and pastors (strongly recommended by Mayo Drs).



It was hugely restorative and healing and we are very grateful.



### With Health Education as our Tool and Jesus as our light...

By: Jordan Levi Boado, R.N., Team Leader

**The team worked in partnership** last week with CBAP (Conservative Baptist Association of the Philippines), going to villages in the Municipality of Talaingond, Davao Del Norte. They asked for our aid in serving the impoverished and needy tribal people where they are building their tribal churches in Talaingond.

CBAP started its ministry in these rural villages about a year ago and has built a relationship with the tribal people there. Their villages are truly primitive and we are humbled by their condition in comparison to us.

Cont...

### Community Out-Based First-Aid Training

By: Jordan Levi Boado, R.N., Team Leader

**The second Monday of every month** the Reach Team has been partnering with the Vice-Governor's office of Sarangani Province, going to remote places to teach people specifically about First-Aid and Basic Cardiac Life-Support in a practical and very applicable manner.

We have been doing this for some time and have taught more than one hundred communities already. As a Teaching Program, Reach aims to teach and train people about healthcare in any setting we



Cont ...

### Reach International Healthcare and Training

**Donations:** Reach International Healthcare and Training, P.O. Box 152, Caulfield, MO. 65626, USA / Donations also accepted via our website

Other Contact Info - Until Dec. 31, 2011: Sam's U.S. Cell phone: (417) 372-0857; Sherri's Cell phone: (620) 755-5880

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## With Health Education and Jesus as the Light - Cont...

At the first village, Salawao, we saw 127 patients, 112 of which received Christ as personal savior. In the afternoon it rained hard and the clinic was slightly damaged by the wind and rain through the unfinished roof. Nevertheless we were able to meet the needs of all who came. We were so glad that we were able to minister to their health needs and issues, with health education as our tool and Jesus as our light.



In the afternoon, we moved on to the next village which was deep in the jungle - over mountains and across a river. There we spent the night in a small hut and some of us slept in the truck. Before we slept, we had the chance to teach a little about reading to some children and we shared some children's stories with them. They were so happy to be given such personal attention.

The next day of clinic was bright and sunny and a lot of people came to avail of our services. It was the first time ever that any group had conducted a medical

clinic in that area. We are written down in their history now as the first medical team to enter their tribal village. They were so amazed that we cared enough to really go inside their territory to serve them, because in their past experiences with some medical missions they had to walk for 2-3 hours just to get to the site.

We were able to see 164 patients there at Naseco, Talaingod. Many of them also received Christ as their personal Savior. We were so privileged to be there, sharing about the Lord as we served the least of our brethren.



To God be the Glory.



## CHARCOAL is NOT a TOPICAL MEDICINE!

By: Leo Rommel Cambell, Reach Staff nurse

When the team arrived at 8 a.m. in the small village of Pananag, Maasim, Sarangani Prov., many participants were there, ready and excited for this kind of training, however one of them was acting very strange. When the team approached him to ask how he was doing, he answered "ok" but his left foot was inflamed and had a very dirty, open wound. Immediately, as health workers, we responded!

I went to get the first aid kit from the truck and gathered the necessary info from him. His name was Omar, he was 29 years old, a farmer/fisherman, father of 2 daughters, and a former member of the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front). When I asked what happened to his foot, I discovered that he had applied charcoal to the wound. In hopes to get rid of any infection, he had instead made it much worse.

His wound was already 10 days old and very serious, because he had a high fever, pitting edema on his left foot, and enlarged lymph nodes in his groin.

We knew that without medical care very soon, he would very likely die. The team discussed the situation and decided to do an I & D (Incision and Drainage). While Omar struggled against us from the pain, we injected local anesthesia, then I went deep to his bone to drain the pus out. We were finished within 10 minutes and I thank God for the wisdom and knowledge to do this procedure, and that we were there in time.

This first aid training is very memorable for me because I learned more about people with different customs, such as using charcoal for disinfecting wounds. What happened to Omar was very timely as we had just arrived there and were able to use it as a clear example in teaching the people how to properly clean wounds and protect them from infection – and what could happen if they don't.



## Out-Based First-Aid Training cont...

can, specifically the people from the mountains, outskirts and faraway villages, far from the nearest equipped medical facility. We simplify our teaching materials and our way of teaching to be so easy that any layman can understand, as well as making it practical to each community's set-up.



Accidents happen all the time and we, Filipinos, are very susceptible to both natural and man-made calamities. This is why the medical teaching ministry of Reach International is such a BIG need and our people are very, very grateful. At the same time, it opens up many doors to share the love of Christ with people as we teach and serve them.



We just returned from first-aid class outreaches in Maasim, Sarangani Prov. The training was benefitted by 2 Barangays (small villages) in the area. The participants were mostly Muslim people and minority tribes. We were happy to join them hand-in-hand in their development of knowledge, skills, health, risk reduction and peace. It is also our chance as a Christian group to be able to show the love of Jesus to them. It is said that these communities were once a war-scarred area and there are still some rumors of threats and Rebel activities there. We rejoice that this week, God's love prevailed, giving both care for the people whom we are teaching and for us as well.

We appreciate your understanding if you've tried to contact us and we were slow to respond. Our own health issues, and that of our families, has been at the top of our priority list, but thankfully we're making good progress!

As Sam is doing much better, we're hoping to see many of you while we're still in the U.S. If you'd like us to visit your church, please give us a call at: 417-372-0857.

Again, thank you so much for your continued prayers and support for both us and our Team in the Philippines!

*Dr. Sam & Shari Evans*

