

Staying Connected

Revisit Tenwek!

If you want to use your medical skills and specialty training to serve the people of Kenya, it's never too soon (or too late) to visit. Physicians from all specialty areas are needed and welcomed.



Short-term service trips to Tenwek Hospital for Christian physicians, dentists, and other medical professionals are arranged through World Medical Mission, a division of Samaritan's Purse. This international relief organization coordinates all details, including:

- Matching each professional's interests, abilities, and time frame
- Providing orientation and spiritual resources before and during the assignment
- Arranging international travel schedules and airline ticketing
- Assisting with necessary visas, permits, and other field requirements
- Coordinating field housing and transportation
- Assisting volunteers in handling financial details related to overseas service



For specific information about short-term assignments at Tenwek Hospital, please visit the World Medical Mission web page at www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/wmm/

Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website!

Friends of Tenwek has launched a new website: www.friendsoftenwek.org.

We're using the site to bring you the latest news from Tenwek Hospital, and keep you up-to-date on what the missionary doctors and their families, visiting physicians, and hospital staff are doing in support of Tenwek's unique medical and spiritual mission in Kenya.

The site will include links to the blogs maintained by Tenwek staff and also will offer you the opportunity to share your own Tenwek story. We expect the site to grow into a vibrant online community of Tenwek "alumni" who want to remain in touch with the hospital and with their Tenwek colleagues. We invite you to visit the site at your earliest opportunity.

How You Can Help!

As a valued member of Friends of Tenwek, we invite you to discover new opportunities for involvement with Tenwek Hospital. You can help in any of the following ways:

- **Pray** for the hospital's staff, operations, and specific needs we will bring to your attention.
- **Be an ambassador** for Tenwek to your church's mission and/or service board and leaders.
- **Encourage colleagues** to consider a volunteer service assignment at Tenwek.
- **Return to Tenwek** for a volunteer assignment in your area of medical expertise.
- **Make a financial gift** to meet critical needs at Tenwek Hospital.

Share Your Story!

In our experience, every U.S. physician who serves a short-term medical mission at Tenwek Hospital has a deeply personal experience – as evidenced by Dr. Rodney Lovitt's story in this issue (see page 3).

Your Tenwek experience is important to us – and to your colleagues. We will feature many of your stories in this newsletter and on our website – to inform and encourage others who share and value the Tenwek experience. Please visit the FOT website at www.friendsoftenwek.org to learn how to share your story. **We want to hear from you!**

Tenwek Hospital Mission

Tenwek Hospital is a Christian institution that seeks to exemplify Christ in all aspects of what we do. Our motto, We Treat – Jesus Heals, is Tenwek's guiding belief and the hope that we offer to each patient.

Friends of Tenwek is committed to fostering communication among U.S. physicians who have served at Tenwek and know first-hand how vital the hospital's medical and spiritual mission is to the people of Kenya and beyond. As an independent 501c3 non-profit charitable organization, we also solicit tax-deductible donations in support of Tenwek's mission to treat patients in the name of Jesus and its unique "teaching-sending" ministry. Gifts will become tax deductible upon IRS approval of the FOT Inc as a 501c3.

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TENWEK TODAY

A publication by Friends of Tenwek

A Message from Dr. David Hoover

When I first arrived at Kenya's Tenwek Hospital in 1994, I was a visiting medical student assigned to rotations in pediatrics and surgery. Little did I realize how profoundly that experience would impact me personally and professionally. In the years since, I have returned to Tenwek numerous times as a visiting physician and am continually awed by the physical, emotional, and spiritual healing that takes place at the hospital and in the surrounding areas that Tenwek serves through its comprehensive community health programs.



Dr. David Hoover

I have spoken with many other physicians who were similarly impacted by their Tenwek experience, but who have not yet had the opportunity to return as they once hoped to do. As we all recognize, "life gets in the way." That's why, in 2009, I gathered with a group of family and friends to found Friends of Tenwek, a U.S.-based, non-profit organization dedicated to developing key relationships and resources that can help the hospital fulfill its mission.

Through *Tenwek Today* and our web site (www.friendsoftenwek.org) we are offering physicians and others who have served at Tenwek Hospital the opportunity to reconnect with the people and mission there. We want you to be informed about and involved with what's happening at Tenwek today.

I encourage you to join other Tenwek "alumni" who cherish their experience and want to remain informed and involved. You might find yourself planning a return visit to experience, once again, the "miracle" of Tenwek!

David Hoover, M.D.



Dr. Mike Chupp and Rev. David Kilel at the wound ward consecration

Tenwek Marks 75th Anniversary with Opening of Wound Ward and Pediatric Clinic

Tenwek Hospital, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2012, has opened two new treatment areas – a sign of the hospital's continuing growth and impact in the region. Both were consecrated in May, at the beginning of a day-long commemoration attended by hundreds of area residents, special visitors, and the hospital staff.

A new, 23-bed Wound Ward was opened, featuring separate sections for male and female patients. The ward meets a pressing need to provide care for acute and chronic wounds. It is located in refurbished space that previously housed a community library (which had closed) and an adjacent small break room used by hospital staff.

A new, Pediatric Out-Patient Clinic also was opened. It contains three exam rooms and functions as an extension of Tenwek's Maternal/Child Clinic. The occasion served as a poignant reminder that maternal and infant care was a central focus of the earliest medical services provided by Tenwek to Kenya's Kipsigis people.

Following the opening and consecration of the two areas, Tenwek sponsored a community celebration in nearby Silibwet. The hospital's departments and programs conducted health screenings and educational programs to demonstrate the medical and spiritual services available to area residents.



FOT News and Notes

Dr. Russ White Receives Humanitarian Award from American College of Surgeons

Russell E. White, MD, FACS, MPH, chief of surgery and surgery residency director at Tenwek Hospital, was honored by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) on October 2, 2012, with the 2012 Surgical Humanitarian Award. Presented by the ACS and Pfizer, the award recognizes ACS Fellows who have dedicated a substantial portion of their careers to ensuring that underserved populations receive surgical care.



Dr. Russell White

Dr. White, a member of the Tenwek staff since 1997, specializes in esophageal cancer, the most common malignancy in Kenya. His expertise – which includes a caseload of approximately 2,000 patients and extensive research on the etiology, screening, and treatment of the disease – has helped Tenwek become the busiest center in Kenya for the palliative and curative treatment of esophageal cancer.

Through Dr. White's leadership, Tenwek actively collaborates with numerous academic and governmental institutions in the U.S. and Africa. He recently established a cardiac surgery program to address the high local incidence of rheumatic heart disease.

Dr. White also was instrumental in establishing Tenwek's General Surgery Residency Program in 2008 – one of the first surgical residencies in Kenya located outside Nairobi. Since 1997, Dr. White also has overseen a one-year rotating internship that accommodates another 16 surgical trainees and has helped develop the Family Practice Residency Program. He spearheaded the funding and construction of multiple hospital facilities to accommodate these training programs and to improve the hospital's surgical, endoscopy, and radiology facilities.



Friends of Tenwek Provide Support for Installation of CT Scan at Tenwek Hospital

The installation of a CT scanner at Tenwek Hospital last year was the culmination of a unique collaborative effort that will have impact for years to come. Working together, the Friends of Tenwek (FOT); Toshiba Medical Systems; Bert E. Parks, M.D., a neurosurgeon from Independence, Missouri; Bob Pagett, founding president of Assist International; local architects and contractors; and Tenwek's medical, IT, and facilities management staff were able to procure and install the CT scanner.

FOT's role in acquiring the CT scanner included securing a matching gift of \$350,000 from a private U.S. foundation to support the installation of the CT scanner in a dedicated facility. The scanner was commissioned and consecrated in September 2011.



The CT scanner will benefit patients from throughout the surrounding Bomet region and those beyond who are referred to Tenwek for specialty care. It is the only such diagnostic tool available within a three-hour drive of Tenwek Hospital. The acquisition of the scanner already has contributed to a significant improvement in the diagnosis and treatment of numerous pathologies.

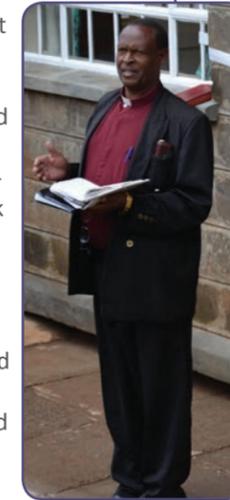
Currently, Tenwek has no full-time staff radiologist and depends upon the services provided by U.S. radiologists who visit Tenwek for short and intermediate-term assignments. Dr. Read Vaughn, a radiologist from Kalispell, Montana, has practiced and taught Tenwek medical residents during multiple visits in recent years. In addition to his ongoing service at the hospital, he is now recruiting and coordinating a schedule for visiting U.S. radiologists to ensure that the hospital has full coverage throughout the year. Radiologists interested in serving at Tenwek are encouraged to contact Dr. Vaughn at TenwekRadFriend@gmail.com.

Physicians and Chaplains Work Hand in Hand

Tenwek's motto concisely describes what sets this remarkable hospital apart. *We Treat – Jesus Heals*. The spiritual care provided by hospital chaplains goes hand in hand with the medical care provided by physicians. There is a mutual commitment that no patient ever leaves Tenwek without having had the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Just how closely the medical and spiritual care converges can be illustrated in a story told to a recent visitor to Tenwek by Rev. David Kilel, Tenwek's lead chaplain.

"A patient had tried to commit suicide. He told us that some people told him to drink poison with them, so that they could go together. But he did not know if the people were physical or spiritual in form. He was seeing these people with him throughout the time he was admitted and placed in the ICU. One of our chaplains came to see him and pray for him. He looked unconscious, so she spoke directly into his ear and also read the scriptures to him. It was during this time that the 'people' who had been with him left. At a later time, this man accepted Jesus as his Savior and realized that the 'people' must have been spirits who wanted him to die before he became a believer. He thanked God that he was brought to the hospital to save his soul. He was ministered to here physically and spiritually. He told his story to his family and to others. His witness to them is to follow the way of Christ."



Rev. David Kilel

Tabitha Ministry Impact

Tabitha is a women's Bible study ministry that was started in Bomet, Kenya by Linda Spriegel in 2005. She is the wife of John Spriegel, M.D., who currently serves as the acting medical director at Tenwek Hospital.

What began with three Kenyan women who were eager to learn more of God's word has grown into a vibrant network of women teaching other women. Today, over 2,000 women participate in small-group, weekly Bible study and prayer at 178 sites throughout the Tenwek Hospital region. As women have studied God's word, their faith and leadership ability have grown and their churches have been strengthened and empowered to care for their own poor.

In collaboration with local churches, the Tabitha ministry also builds roofs on new homes after the foundation and walls have been built; provides cows to families in need as a source of both sustenance and income; and offers seed money for small business projects.

Featured Stories

Share Your Story

*Dr. Rodney Lovett, surgeon from
Wintersprings, FL*



Dr. Rodney Lovett

Franklin Graham asked me to go to Tenwek in 1980 to fill in doing surgery for Dr. Ernie Steury who had to be in the States for awhile. I was there for six weeks with my wife, Poulletta. Dr. Richard Morse and a visiting radiologist were the only other physicians there. Electricity was available until 9 p.m. each day by diesel generator; gloves were hung on the line to dry and be reused; anesthesia was by spinal, ketamine and valium only.

I came back to Tenwek this year for three months at the request of Dr. Mike Chupp to help in surgery with the training of ten African physician-surgeons in their Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons program. (By God's grace, I had the opportunity of helping train Dr. Chupp in the 80s in Indiana during his own residency.)

God has made Tenwek Hospital into a great training center for Christian Africans to carry the message of the gospel of Christ together with His compassion to their own people. The hospital has not only continued to be a major care center for this part of Kenya, but now has become an extremely important training center for Christian African nurses, physicians, and chaplains so that they in turn can continue the work among their own people.

The most compelling experience at Tenwek is the experience of looking into faces of the Kenyans in clinic. They tell a story of neglect, disappointment, suffering, and extreme repeated sorrow. They are faces of anxiety mingled with hope – hope that here, at Tenwek, with the doctors and nurses and with the love and compassion of Jesus, they will at last find relief, comfort, freedom from fear and pain...healing.

These faces turned my heart and may they turn your heart as you too are given the great privilege, the opportunity, the reward of coming personally to Tenwek and sharing in the great ministry of love, the ministry to broken hearts! "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom...to release from darkness...to comfort all who mourn...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness."

Tenwek is a great place to serve medically and spiritually. I have a lasting gratefulness to the Lord for allowing me to participate in a small way in this great ministry. Go with much prayer, with the humility of a true servant's heart, quietness of mind, great patience and persistence, and gratefulness to our suffering Savior for the chance to minister to a very needy people and you will be greatly rewarded!