

Fall 2016

Tenwek Today

A publication by Friends of Tenwek



Thank You FOT Donors! You Made a Difference in 2016 with Gifts of Over \$100K

As Friends of Tenwek prepares to celebrate its fifth anniversary next year, we are looking back with deep gratitude on the many important projects that our donors have funded in 2016. Gifts totaling more than \$100,000 were raised and/or disbursed to support critical initiatives that have helped Tenwek Hospital accomplish its healing and teaching mission.

Major areas of support included:

- Emergency funding to replace the hospital's oxygen compressor (\$30,000)
- Purchase of a new Sonosite Portable Ultrasound machine for the Radiology Department (\$27,000)
- Construction of a new dining hall as part of the School of Nursing expansion project (\$20,000)
- The purchase of seven Stryker gurneys for the Gastroenterology Department (\$21,141)
- Establishing the "Faith Fund for Special Needs" (\$14,732)
- Seed money for the purchase of a facility in Bomet that will house an outpatient clinic (\$4,650)
- New roofing to provide patients with protection as they are transported between the Radiology and Surgery buildings (\$4,650)
- Payment of hospital bills for 148 orphans through the Orphan Mercy Fund (\$3,199)



Family Practice Resident Elijah Terer uses the new Ultrasound machine provided through FOT's Champions program to evaluate a patient at bedside.



This new roof, which protects patients in a waiting and transport area from the outside elements, was completed in February 2016. It is part of \$200,000 in equipment and remodeling in the Radiology Department at Tenwek that has been provided through FOT's Champions program. (See story on page 2.)

FOT to the Rescue When the Oxygen Ran Out

In August, when the oxygen compressor that services Tenwek Hospital began to screech, both the medical and the maintenance staff recognized the problem. Installed in 1994, the compressor and air concentrator system supplies all oxygen and suction throughout the hospital. Without a reliable source of oxygen, the lives of Tenwek patients who depend upon ventilators would be in jeopardy. Within two weeks, the compressor completely failed and the hospital faced a daunting emergency.

As has happened so many times in Tenwek's history, God demonstrated His faithfulness through the faith and generosity of His people. A couple heard about the equipment failure and stepped forward to provide FOT with the \$30,000 needed to purchase a new oxygen compressor. Providentially, the equipment was available in Kenya and was quickly purchased and installed.

"We are most grateful for the generous contribution that allowed us to safely continue our delivery of medical care at Tenwek Hospital," said Dr. Stephen Burgert, Tenwek's Medical Superintendent and the Director of Endoscopy Services.



Tenwek Electrical Maintenance Supervisor, Joshua Mosin, prepares to help install the new oxygen compressor.

(cont'd on page 4)

FOT News & Notes

“Champions” Step Forward for Medical Specialties



Ultrasound technician Mercy Cherono evaluates a patient with the new Ultrasound machine provided through the Champions program.

When physicians and medical personnel visit Tenwek Hospital for short-term medical mission assignments, they often leave knowing they have received far more than they gave. Many feel a call to serve again. Some are so inspired that they seek new ways to extend resources from the U.S. medical community to help Tenwek strengthen its medical specialty areas.

Recognizing this call among returning physicians, FOT stepped forward to help facilitate communications and support for these physician advocates. Dr. Read Vaughan, a radiologist, was the first Champion. Thanks to his tireless efforts to encourage and recruit his radiology colleagues, he has advanced this area at Tenwek significantly over the past several years. He developed a network of Christian radiologists to provide ongoing service and ensure full coverage at Tenwek throughout the year and has raised \$200,000 to provide essential equipment and facility remodeling.

Since Dr. Vaughan's work began in 2011, the following medical professionals have committed to champion their areas of specialty:

- Paul Jarrett, MD – Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Philip Greig, MD – Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Jeff Hallett, MD – Gastroenterology
- Tim Clavin, DDS – Dentistry
- Chase Miller, MD – ENT
- Russ Williams, MD – Oral Maxillofacial Surgery
- Penny Hage, MS, OTR/L – Special Needs Clinic/Physiotherapy

The accomplishments of the Champions are inspiring. For example, Drs. Clavin, Miller, and Williams have worked together

Meet Rev. Dean Cowles: New “Friends of Tenwek” Field Director

Rev. Dean Cowles and Dr. Cheryl Cowles returned to Tenwek in October 2015 after serving there as full-time medical missionaries with three small boys in the early 90s. God opened the door for the Cowles to come as short-term volunteers in 2014.



Dean and Cheryl Cowles

“When we were here in the 90s, it was just a few American missionary doctors,” recalls Cheryl, an OB/GYN physician. “When we came back in 2014, I was amazed and delighted to see so many wonderful Kenyan doctors in charge and being trained in advanced medical fields. It touched my heart to entertain the idea of coming back full-time to help Dr. Joy Draper start an OB/GYN residency.”

Dean adds, “On our first day in 2014 I saw Rev. David Kilel who was my co-worker 20 years earlier when we started the Tenwek Chaplaincy School. I was delighted to hear that it was still going strong. Later that day I met Rev. Elijah Bii, Spiritual Director for Tenwek and Pastor of Bethesda Church located inside the hospital. We had started that over 20 years ago as a way to offer English worship services for our non-Kipsigis staff. He remembered me while he was attending Tenwek Boys High School during those years where I served as the school chaplain, and now he is the pastor of the church we planted! I love how God does that.”

(cont'd on page 3)

to help Dr. Ben Roberts, a medical missionary specializing in Ophthalmology, and others finish and equip Tenwek's new Eye/Dental building. Dr. Clavin's home church in Minneapolis raised over \$110,000 in support of this effort.

Penny Hage, an occupational therapist, accompanied her husband Bill, an orthopedic surgeon, on a recent trip to Tenwek where she worked in the hospital's Special Needs Clinic. Penny was moved to help initiate the Faith Fund for Special Needs, which has received over \$12,000 in donations since April to help children with special needs and their families. She captured the motivation for Champions in a Bible verse that aptly describes their work: “For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

What is your passion? What needs do you see at Tenwek?

Champions are needed for other Medical Specialties, as well as for the Chaplaincy School, and Nursing education and Community Health areas. If you are interested, contact Dr. Read Vaughan at tenwekradfriend@gmail.com.

FOT is pleased to introduce you to a husband and wife team who are among the Kenyan leaders serving at Tenwek Hospital.

Philip and Annah Towett: Tenwek's Dynamic Duo in Nursing

Philip and Annah Towett share an awesome responsibility: ensuring excellence in nursing at Tenwek Hospital.

As Deputy Director of the Tenwek College of Health Sciences, (formerly the School of Nursing) as well as an instructor, Philip ensures that the school continues to graduate skilled and compassionate nurses who will provide excellent care for their patients. Many graduates remain to begin their nursing careers at Tenwek, while others are recruited by hospitals throughout Kenya.

As Tenwek's Nursing Officer-In-Charge, Annah oversees all aspects of Tenwek's nursing staff. The hospital employs over 170 nurses and uses a 12-hour, two-shift rotation.

For both Philip and Annah, Tenwek is familiar ground. They were both students in the School of Nursing, with Philip being one class year ahead of Annah. They met at the school and were married in 1998, after both graduated. Both have forged long, respected careers there – fulfilling a variety of positions through the years – and both have benefitted from the wise counsel and guidance of trusted mentors.

Philip had been active in community service during his high school years and felt called to be a nurse. He first learned about Tenwek's nursing school from his brother, who worked at the hospital. Following graduation, he worked in the neonatal unit for two years. With the encouragement of his mentor, he then pursued additional training in family health. When he returned to Tenwek, he worked in pediatrics.



Annah and Philip Towett

Meet Rev. Dean Cowles: New "Friends of Tenwek" Field Director

(cont'd from page 2)

When Dean and his son Solomon, who was born at Tenwek in 1991, came with Cheryl in 2014 as short-term, non-medical volunteers, he saw a need for helping other non-medical spouses and family members discover significant ways to help out in the hospital and community. So when they returned last October, Dean volunteered to serve as the first Field Director for Friends of Tenwek.



In 2002, Philip began teaching at the nursing school and several years later, became the Nursing Officer in-Charge for the hospital's inpatient services. In 2009, he fulfilled a long-time desire to earn a bachelor's degree and acknowledges he could never have done it without the support of his mentors and many friends. He returned to teach community health at the Tenwek School of Nursing and advanced to his current position in 2011.

Philip's goal for the Tenwek College of Health Sciences is to continue to maintain the high standards and quality reputation for nursing education by which it is known throughout Kenya, while adding new specialty classes in areas such as ophthalmology and intensive care.

Annah's desire to be a nurse formed in her during high school. Following her nursing school graduation in 1996, she worked in the hospital's newborn and maternity units. She later pursued training as a Registered Community Health Nurse. When she returned to Tenwek, she worked for several years in Critical Care, Hospital Nurse Coverage, Casualty, CCC, and later as the Assistant Nursing Officer-In-Charge. In 2007, Annah was named to her current leadership position.

Annah sees great value in Tenwek's nurses acquiring bachelor's level training. She also envisions training nurses in specialty areas and building capacity in the trauma, emergency room, and intensive care areas.

The Towetts have three children; Ezra, age 10 is in fifth grade; daughter Mercy is age 12 and in grade six. Their oldest child, Faith, is 17 and a recent high school graduate. She is attending university and studying pharmacy –returning perhaps someday to the very place where her parents met and have faithfully served for so many years.

Reflecting on her life's journey and work, Annah affirms, "I know being at Tenwek is God's assignment."

"It's been a real joy to dive into all the various ways non-medical visitors can help out around here," says Dean. "I love meeting new people and helping them match their gifts, talents, and interests with the many programs, outreaches and volunteer needs we have at the hospital and in the surrounding communities. I hope those thinking of coming will not say, 'Well I'm not a doctor so I don't have anything to offer and will just let my spouse go and I'll stay home'. We have lots of things you and your family can do to make a difference. But most of all, coming on a short-term mission trip will make a difference in you."

Tenwek Impact

Meet FOT's New Field Intern – Rebecca Denning!



Rebecca Denning is FOT's new Field Intern – serving on-site at Tenwek Hospital for the next year to help us make essential connections with visiting U.S. physicians. She also will help gather the news and information we need to keep FOT supporters informed about what's happening at Tenwek today.

Rebecca is a native of Bigfork, Montana and completed her undergraduate degree in biology at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, in 2013. Her career goal is to provide people with compassionate and comprehensive healthcare, along with appropriate education about how their bodies work and how to care for them properly. She plans to pursue education and training as a Physicians Assistant and is also interested in obtaining a public health degree.

"Since I was 14, I have had a heart for Africa, specifically, Kenya," explains Rebecca. "Since that time, I have pursued and explored that interest. I have spent over 10 years considering how my enthusiasm for medicine and my passion for Kenya may fit together. Tenwek is, I believe, God's way of helping me combine the two."

As FOT welcomes Rebecca, we also extend our deepest thanks to Joel White, who has served as the FOT intern at Tenwek for the past year. Joel left Kenya in July with plans to pursue a degree in hospital administration with an eye towards future mission work.

FOT to the Rescue...

(cont'd from page 1)

"The installation of the new oxygen compressor definitely saved lives. It is working very well and we have been able to resume full ventilator and surgical care for our patients."

Dr. Read Vaughan, a member of the FOT Board and a radiologist who has repeatedly visited and served at Tenwek for the last nine years, notes that his experience has made him acutely aware that in order for Tenwek to continue to share God's love and the Gospel with the Kenyan people through high quality medical care, there has to be a hospital building filled with both equipment and Christian personnel.

"It takes selfless, generous people like these donors to make that happen," he explains. "Like an X-ray machine, an oxygen concentrator doesn't speak and directly share the gospel – but it allows a surgeon to operate effectively or patients to be on ventilators to save their lives. These events lead to the opportunity for patients and their families to hear the good news of Christ's redeeming love for them."

Stay Connected

FOT's Mission

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.

How You Can Help

- **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 or become a Sustaining Friend – www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate

Serve at 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. For information about short-term assignments, please visit the World Medical Mission web page at www.samaritanspurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya

Share Your Story!

In our experience, every U.S. physician who serves a short-term medical mission at Tenwek has a deeply personal experience. Your Tenwek experience is important to us – and to your colleagues. Please visit the FOT website to learn how to share your story. We want to hear from you!

Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website & Facebook Page!

The Friends of Tenwek website (friendsoftenwek.org) brings you the latest news from Tenwek Hospital, and keeps 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 includes links to the blogs maintained by Tenwek staff and offers you the opportunity to share your own Tenwek story.

Visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/FriendsOfTenwek), to join a vibrant online community of Tenwek "alumni" who want to remain in touch with the hospital and with their Tenwek colleagues.

Tenwek Hospital Mission: *Tenwek Hospital is a Christian community 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.*

www.tenwekhospital.org

Friends of Tenwek, Inc.
6277-600 Carolina Common, Box 191, Indian Land, SC 29707
www.friendsoftenwek.org

