

Spring 2016

Tenwek Today

A publication by Friends of Tenwek



Three Generations United in Service to Tenwek Hospital

Dr. Marvin Hage and his wife Miriam first visited Tenwek Hospital in 1997 – and have returned annually since 2009. A retired Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) specialist, he is passionate about sharing his knowledge and expertise with Tenwek’s Kenyan interns, residents, nurses, and ultrasound technicians.

Each year, Miriam devotes a significant part of her time at Tenwek feeding premature infants in the NICU and bonding with and supporting their mothers, as well as the nursing staff who care for them. And over the years, all of the Hage’s three children, and two daughters-in-law have served in medical or pastoral roles at Tenwek.

Most recently, son Bill, an orthopedic surgeon and his wife, Penny, an occupational therapist, traveled to Tenwek for the first time, accompanied by their children, Mimi and Preston. Together, they served alongside Marvin and Miriam – an “intergenerational mission that was transformative and can only be characterized as a ‘worthy adventure,’” according to Marvin.

Bill and Penny are confident that God “orchestrated our journey and the work of our hands,” says Penny. Upon arrival their hearts were moved as they began helping in Tenwek’s emerging Special Needs Clinic.

They worked alongside Solomon Rop, a dedicated physical therapist at Tenwek who feels particularly called to minister to underserved children with special needs. Working together with a skilled local carpenter, they created a custom-made chair that enabled a little boy diagnosed with Athetoid Cerebral Palsy to sit independently for the first time in his seven years of life. A whole new world of school, play, and socialization opened for Enoch!

Though the Hages were first-time, short-term missionaries, they quickly found a way to get involved at Tenwek and make a significant impact at the hospital and in the community. They were instrumental in establishing the Faith Fund for Special Needs, which pays for special needs clinic visits, hospitalizations, and the wheelchairs, crutches, braces, and other equipment that make a dramatic improvement in the lives of children and families. (See article on page 2.)



Three generations of the Hage family at Tenwek (left to right): Marvin, Bill, Preston, Mimi, Miriam, and Penny

“Words cannot express the dimensionality of our experience at Tenwek,” says Penny. “Individually, it was professionally rewarding to serve and support the Tenwek community and staff. The professional relationships were highly enriching. Bill and I were very busy in Orthopedics and PhysioTherapy.

“It was such a blessing to be able to join my husband in service at Tenwek. To work as husband and wife alongside each other was so meaningful for our marriage and family.

“As a family, it was a rich educational experience that challenged our views of the world and how we can fit into God’s plans at Tenwek. Our children formed deep friendships with the mission children at Tenwek and the mission families were so warm and welcoming. Our family enjoyed Christian fellowship and service opportunities both at Tenwek and in the community.”

The multi-generational mission at Tenwek was equally meaningful to Marvin and Miriam. “Tenwek has always been great; this year it was a bigger experience,” explains Marvin. “The opportunity to share Tenwek with my son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren was a new dimension that expanded our experience.”

Like Marvin and Miriam, Bill and Penny are committed to supporting Tenwek Hospital through future professional service, involvement with Friends of Tenwek, and financial support. “We believe that God paved the way for us to Tenwek,” affirms Penny. “Ephesians 2:10 kept coming to my mind each day as I pondered just how great God’s plans are. ‘For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.’”

U.S. physicians and their families are encouraged to consider sharing the love of Christ through service at Tenwek Hospital. Proper planning and preparation to secure housing and ministry activities is essential; this usually occurs 12-15 months in advance. Most importantly, come with open eyes and hearts ready to embrace what each day brings. FOT would be pleased to connect you with colleagues who have served at Tenwek for further information and insights. Contact Don Hoover at donaldg.hoover@gmail.com.

FOT News & Notes

Nursing School Dining Hall Virtually Complete!



Friends of Tenwek extends sincere thanks to all who supported the expansion of Tenwek Hospital's Nursing School and the construction of the new dining hall through your prayers and donations. Tenwek can now enroll up to 126 nursing students in its facilities! The new dining hall allows the full class of students to eat together; the facility also can be used as a classroom area. Please pray with us for the many students who will enter the school in the years to come and leave equipped to serve the medical and spiritual needs of Kenya's people.

FOT Announces *Faith Fund for Special Needs*

Tenwek Hospital has opened a new Special Needs clinic, providing children with disabilities a dedicated place for medical evaluation, rehabilitation assessment and planning, wheelchair/ adaptive device measurements and fittings, and assistance with the transition to integrated and special unit educational programs. Since September 2014, scores of children from Bomet County and beyond have been treated; diagnoses have included autism, pervasive developmental disorder, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and other developmental disabilities.

Inspired by Faith, a little girl with spina bifida featured in our Spring 2015 newsletter, FOT has established the *Faith Fund for Special Needs* to pay for special needs clinic visits, hospitalizations, and the wheelchairs, crutches, braces, and other equipment that make a dramatic improvement in the lives of children and families. To provide life-changing help to a child and family in need, please make your online gift at: www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate. Thank you!

Dr. Jeff Hallett – FOT Champion for Tenwek's Endoscopy Services

Dr. Jeff Hallett is leading FOT's efforts to equip Tenwek Hospital with the resources it needs to treat esophageal disease. The hospital places over 300 esophageal stents annually and diagnoses some early esophageal cancers. Left unchecked, the disease devastates individuals and families throughout Kenya. Without access to the diagnostic and medical services provided by Tenwek, many are left to consult local shamans and miss the opportunity for healing and hope.

Read Dr. Hallett's moving story on the FOT website: <http://friendsoftenwek.org/a-message-from-dr-jeff-hallett/>

To continue to provide life-saving treatments, Tenwek needs seven Endoscopy/Recovery Gurneys that will be used to equip two endoscopy examination suites and a five-bed recovery room. This will allow more Kenyans to have endoscopy and allow surgical procedures to be safely performed, especially those with sedation and general anesthesia. The gurneys will serve as a comfortable endoscopy exam table, provide safe transport down the hallway to the recovery room, and be a recovery bed for the patient, eliminating bed-to-bed transfer. Just imagine how a new Stryker gurney compares to the rough wooden table now used for endoscopy and visualize a recovery room waiting to be furnished!

FOT is seeking to raise \$25,000 for the purchase of these seven stretchers. Will you be part of this life-saving initiative? Please visit www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate and select "Gastroenterology Support Fund" to make your tax deductible gift. Thank you for your support!

Thank You, Dr. Mike Chupp!

On behalf of Friends of Tenwek, I want to express our deepest thanks to Dr. Mike Chupp for the extraordinary commitment he has shown to FOT's mission. His service as a board member has enriched and inspired us to trust and serve God in many new and exciting ways.

This summer, Mike and his wife Pam will begin a new season of ministry. Mike has accepted the position of Senior Vice President at the Christian Medical and Dental Association, a respected organization that equips Christian medical workers for service in Jesus' name around the world.

We are deeply grateful for the 20 years of outstanding service that Mike and Pam have given to Tenwek Hospital. His leadership and expertise as both a doctor and administrator helped fuel the significant expansion of Tenwek's hospital and community ministries.

Please pray with me for God's richest blessing on Mike and his family as they embark on a new phase of life and ministry.

J. David Hoover, M.D.
President, Friends of Tenwek

FOT is pleased to introduce you to one of the Kenyan leaders serving at Tenwek Hospital.

Geoffrey Langat Guides Tenwek's Growth & Impact



Geoffrey Langat is the Chief Executive Officer at Tenwek Hospital. He began his career at Tenwek in 1993 as an administrative assistant. He had been working in Nairobi, following his graduation from a university in India, where he

studied accounting. He met his wife, Elizabeth, at the university where she studied economics. Following her graduation, they were married in 1994 and began their family in 1995.

Geoffrey's testimony is a powerful reminder that God has called gifted and committed individuals from near and far to invest in the ministry of healing at Tenwek Hospital. In spite of criticism from his business grad peers for considering a job at a mission hospital in 1993, Geoffrey listened to some timely, sage advice from his grandmother that Tenwek Hospital would be the right choice for his early professional life and service. He says he has not regretted listening to his godly grandmother to this very day.

Elizabeth joined the Tenwek staff in 1996, working in the Central Supply department. "I always wanted to work in a Christian institution," recalls Elizabeth. Thankfully Geoffrey took a job at Tenwek and allowed me to have an opportunity to work here. I want to serve Jesus Christ in whatever I do."

Geoffrey has played a central role in Tenwek's growth, especially in the last eight years since he took over the top leadership position at Tenwek. Under his leadership, the hospital has seen steady growth: staff now number over 750; the addition of a CT scanner in 2011; the expansion of the hydroelectric plant with a 650kVa turbine; stronger ties with multiple partners including American Schools and Hospitals Abroad, Christian Hospital Association of Kenya, and Kabarak University; and growing training programs, especially the Tenwek College of Health Sciences and multiple specialty residency programs, to name a few.

Both Geoffrey and Elizabeth believe that Tenwek's success in drawing patients is because the hospital's foundation is in Jesus Christ. "That's how we started and how we will finish," declares Elizabeth. "We always remind ourselves that we are here to be a rock for the community just like Peter was a rock for the church. And our staff – both Kenyan and expat – loves and serves Jesus Christ. This shows every time we see a patient."

The Langats have four daughters: Abby (at Kenyatta University studying engineering); Brenda (Strathmore University), Cindy (at Sacho High School), and Debbie who attends the Ernie Steury Memorial Primary School at Tenwek.

Tenwek Impact

The hospital also has had a tremendous personal impact on the Langat family. Their third child, Cindy, was born in 2001 with a congenital heart defect. She needed surgery, but there was no hospital in Kenya at that time performing cardiac surgery. Suddenly, a door was opened allowing them to travel to America for the care their daughter needed. With the help of friends and missionaries at Tenwek, the Langats raised the money for travel expenses. The surgery was successful and today their Cindy is thriving and enjoying high school.

"Every time we have a Cardiac Team here at Tenwek, they check her heart and there has never been an issue," notes Elizabeth gratefully. "If God hadn't brought us to Tenwek, we would never have had the love and support to get her surgery. I thank God every day for Tenwek and those that work here."

FOT is pleased to introduce you to a medical missionary couple whose service and leadership at Tenwek Hospital and beyond truly exemplifies the founding mission of the hospital.

Meet the Burgerts: Using Their Gifts to Administer God's Grace

In 2008, on the plane ride home from Kenya, Steve and Alene Burgert concluded together than God was calling them to full-time mission service at Tenwek Hospital. Just two years earlier, Steve had believed that his area of medical expertise – gastroenterology – wasn't needed in the mission field because of the highly specialized equipment required. However, a colleague told him about Tenwek and after their first month-long service mission in 2006, Steve felt he had fulfilled his "duty."



The unmistakable call came during their second short-term visit to the hospital – and they haven't looked back.

The Burgert's second trip occurred during a period of post-election violence and turmoil in Kenya. "It was an extremely

(cont'd on page 4)

Tenwek Impact

Burgerts' Story (cont'd from page 3)

stressful time for everyone, but we were impressed with the Christ-centered focus of the missionaries and nationals at Tenwek through those challenges," recalls Alene. "We also experienced the Lord's presence and faithfulness in ways that we never had before. We both grew spiritually during that time, and felt drawn to pursue a direction which would require developing even more trust in the Lord – and Kenya seemed to be the new direction that the Lord was showing us."

Today, as Tenwek's Director of Endoscopy Services, Steve provides direct patient care, trains Kenyan interns and residents, conducts GI tract malignancy research, and disciples his department staff. Kenya has an extremely high rate of esophageal and gastric cancers; hospital staff perform over 2,000 endoscopies each year and insert more than 300 esophageal stents annually for palliation of inoperable esophageal cancer. These allow patients to eat and swallow, prolonging and improving their lives for months to years. It would not be an exaggeration to say that during his tenure at Tenwek, Steve has treated more people with esophageal cancer than anyone else in Africa!

Though Alene had been a full-time prison chaplain employed by the State of Colorado Department of Corrections, she was not sure what her work in Kenya would be. But when she was asked by the pastor in charge of Tenwek's School of Chaplaincy if she would teach a class on prison ministry, she knew God had revealed His plan. After discovering that only one pastor – from a town two hours away – was visiting area prisons, Alene saw the need to work with him to develop a correctional ministry.

What began as initial, tentative prison visits gained miraculous momentum. Though faced with many hurdles, Alene, the School of Chaplaincy, and surrounding churches have formed the Correctional Ministry of Kenya. The ten Kenyan chaplains all have a connection with Tenwek – seven were trained at the School of Chaplaincy and three were trained by graduates. They have visited over 30 men's and women's prisons in Western Kenya and hold weekly discipleship programs in 15 prisons.

Sharing the gospel with the prisoners has transformed prisoner conduct in such a dramatic way that prison officers and administrators have become the biggest advocates of the program. National officials in Nairobi have heard of the impact and asked if the Correctional Ministry can be expanded to more prisons in Kenya.

Steve and Alene are guided by the admonition in 1Peter 4:10: *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

"It is a joy to see endoscopy team members sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and Bibles with patients and their families," says Steve. "It is a blessing to see more and more trained endoscopists as we continue to strive to have national Kenyans assume more of our responsibilities as we 'work ourselves out of a job'! Our faith continues to deepen as we witness the Lord's faithfulness and provision for advancing His kingdom. "

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.samaritanaspurse.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

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