



Spring 2017

# Tenwek Today

*A publication by Friends of Tenwek*

## FOT's 2017 Priority: Support Bomet Annex to Bring Tenwek's Healing Mission and Gospel Message to a Growing City

Friends of Tenwek is stepping forward to create a unique partnership with Tenwek Hospital with a singular goal in mind – to bring Tenwek's healing mission and Gospel message to the growing city of Bomet that is home to more than 110,000 people.

Tenwek has purchased a former nursing home facility in an "ideal" location for visibility and access in the bustling city – near numerous government and business offices, a teacher's college, and several banks. The renovated building will soon be the new home of the Bomet Annex, an outpatient clinic designed to bring the same quality, compassionate care delivered at the hospital to residents in the city.

FOT previously committed \$40,000 as seed money to launch the project in 2015. In a sign of how strategically important the project is to Tenwek, the hospital has committed funds from its operational budget to restore and equip the facility. Renovations to date have included a new roof, redesigned exam rooms, floor repairs, new windows, and the widening of the access ramp. The cost to fully renovate and equip the clinic is \$280,000. **FOT's priority for 2017 is to raise \$100,000 which will be used to "match" an equal investment Tenwek is making to open the clinic.**

For some time, Tenwek's outpatient clinic has been under pressure to expand. The hospital clinic treats, on average, 430 patients each day. It often takes most of the day for patients to be registered and evaluated, undergo tests, receive care, and be discharged. As one nurse recently explained, "Our work is never

done. No matter how many people we see today, tomorrow we will be full again." Doctors have expressed frustration that opportunities to pray with patients sometimes can be limited due to the volume and pace of activity.

The outpatient clinic location is one of the few areas in the hospital that has never been renovated. As a result, today's patient load has created a significant space constraint in the facility. The conditions being treated also have become more complex. In addition to acute and sub-acute care, patients require ongoing care for chronic conditions and disease management; the most common include high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV, heart disease, and malignancies.

### Opportunity for Eternal Impact

The time and space challenges in the clinic at Tenwek have discouraged working people in Bomet from visiting the hospital for urgent or chronic care. When they experience illness or injury, they would like to receive the quality care Tenwek Hospital is known for. But they simply cannot afford to sacrifice a day's work and pay to visit the hospital clinic. They are missing the great opportunity for physical and spiritual healing that Tenwek offers.

The Bomet Annex will provide a full range of outpatient services in a convenient location – an attractive and accessible new venue for delivering compassionate care in Christ's name. The new clinic will help relieve congestion and improve efficiency at the hospital clinic. It also will attract new patients who will receive both exceptional medical care and the opportunity to hear the Gospel message. In much the same way that Tenwek's regional network of dispensaries has brought medical care and spiritual hope to people where they live, the Bomet Annex will embody Tenwek's mission and work in the city in an exciting new way.

The clinic is scheduled to open in June. The need to improve and expand the hospital's outpatient services is urgent. Your opportunity to meet that need is now. Your gift today can have eternal impact.

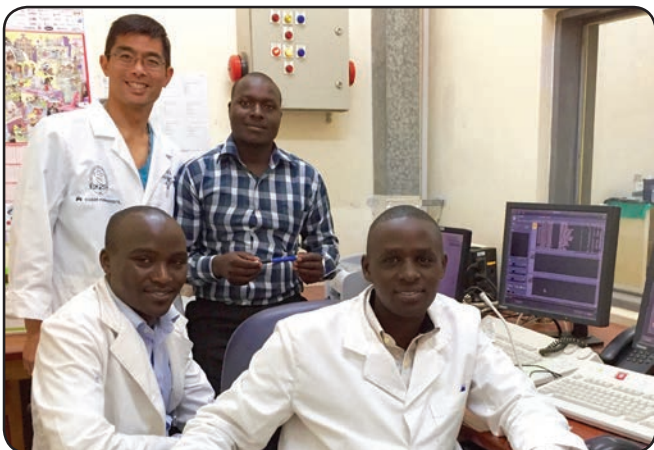
**To make a gift, please visit [www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate](http://www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate). On the donation drop down menu for "Please Use This Gift" choose Bomet Annex designate your gift.**



Repairs and renovations underway at the Bomet Annex – March 2017

# FOT News & Notes

## FOT Celebrates Five Years of Impact at Tenwek Hospital



FOT's investment in diagnostic radiology at Tenwek includes teleradiology services

This spring, Friends of Tenwek Inc (FOT) celebrated its five-year anniversary of support for the ministries of Tenwek Hospital.

As the ministries of Tenwek Hospital have grown dramatically over the past five years, the Lord has enabled FOT to expand its support. During FOT's formation phase and subsequent incorporation in March 2012, donors have made over \$1,177,000 available to support Tenwek Hospital, its Nursing and Chaplaincy Schools, Tenwek Community Health and Development, and specific missionary ministries.

FOT has worked in full collaboration with Tenwek Hospital administrators to identify funding needs. Major projects that were supported by FOT include: developing the infrastructure for the CT scanner; installation of the HMIS medical records system; construction of the Nursing School dining hall; scholarships for Surgical Residency students; purchase of radiology equipment, including two ultrasound machines; seed money for the Bomet Annex; creation of the Faith Fund for Special Needs; and purchase of an oxygen compressor, incubator, and Stryker stretches. In addition, FOT has raised critical funds to support the International Chaplaincy School and the Orphan Mercy Fund.

Each year since incorporation, FOT has reduced expenses as we endeavor to be a good steward of the resources FOT donors so generously provide. Through an all-volunteer staff and cost control measures, the expense-to-income ratio was 18% for the 5-year period and was 8.5% for 2016. Last year, more than 91 cents of every dollar was designated for ministries at Tenwek Hospital.

When FOT was formed, a priority goal was to build a community of doctors in the United States who would continue to engage

their Time, Talent, and Treasure in the ministries of Tenwek Hospital. FOT is excited that, to date, 10 healthcare professionals have stepped forward as Champions for their specific medical specialties. They are recruiting their peers through personal contact and by providing news and information on the FOT Website. Through their dedicated work, we are reaching our goal.

Today, when short-term medical staff and family members arrive at Tenwek, a volunteer FOT Intern becomes a friend to welcome them, answer questions and advise them about the many ministry opportunities. Our volunteer FOT Field Director also is available on-site to assist volunteers.

### An Exciting Future

The prospects for the future expansion of ministries at Tenwek Hospital are indeed very bright. Building on the founding principle of Tenwek Hospital, expressed in the motto "We Treat...Jesus Heals," Rev. Elijah Bii is now leading the spiritual emphasis of the entire hospital. An International Chaplaincy School is in the planning stages. The Bomet Annex, a much needed satellite expansion of Tenwek's outpatient services within the municipal area of Bomet, is now under construction and scheduled to open later this year.

The Strategic Plan for Tenwek Hospital anticipates the addition of 200 beds which will grow the hospital to 500 beds. There are 17 medical residents in training currently, with the goal of having 30 residents in training. The College of Health Sciences (formerly the School of Nursing) is now recognized as one of the top nursing schools in Kenya and is preparing for significant growth. And Tenwek Community Health and Development initiatives are transforming communities as leaders are trained in holistic ministry.

**YOU** are, and will continue to be, a vital part of the US-Tenwek Community through your continued support for FOT. **THANK YOU** for being engaged in all God is doing and has planned for the future of Tenwek Hospital..

## Faith Fund for Special Needs Helps Clinic Change Lives

The Faith Fund for Special Needs was birthed just one year ago by FOT to help support the new Special Needs Clinic at Tenwek, which is serving children age 18 and under. Since then, more than \$17,000 has been raised to help fund clinic visits, physiotherapy, and equipment distributed in the Special Needs Clinic. **Thank you – your gifts are making an impact!**

The clinic is the realization of a dream for Tenwek physical therapist Solomon Rop, who has a heart to serve the estimated 300 children with disabilities in Bomet County. Typically in Kenyan culture, children born with deformities and/or disabilities are often regarded as "cursed" and consequently hidden away in their homes without healthcare, socialization, or education. The GREAT news is that this misconception is now changing.

(cont'd on page 3)

# Faith Fund for Special Needs

(cont'd from page 2)

# Tenwek Impact



There were endless smiles on the day these four children from the Bomet Hostel for Special Needs received their new prostheses – made at Tenwek – and walked for the first time since losing limbs!

Children, left to right: Deborah, Mercy, Amos, Rose. Staff, left to right: Tanner Claridge (short-term volunteer prosthetist), Sister Emmy (children's caregiver), Solomon Rop, and Nicholas Ngeno (both physical therapy department staff)

In the past year, Tenwek's Special Needs Clinic has evaluated and started treatment for 87 children. This life changing help has included:

- Distribution of 26 wheelchairs and 8 pediatric walkers to children with spina bifida and cerebral palsy
- Providing therapy and serial casting for clubfoot deformity
- Providing 6 new prosthetic legs
- Creation and distribution of re-usable diapers to children with incontinence

## Ripples of Hope

The ripples from this compassionate care extend to the families of these children as the clinic has become a place where mothers can socialize, support, and encourage each other as they share the challenges and burdens of raising children with disabilities. Many children, equipped with assistive devices, are able to attend school now for the first time. This gives caregivers a chance to pursue work or other activities that benefit their families.

The health of the children is improving and bedsores are healing as they sit on specialized seating devices and cushions. There are fewer infections in the spina bifida population because they are no longer crawling in the dirt but ambulating independently with assistive devices. The confidence and self-esteem of these children is higher as they realize a greater sense of dignity and purpose alongside their developmental peers.

Obviously, the clinic is bursting at its seams with a flood of new patients and many more expected. There are dreams for expanding the facility, adding an occupational therapist and another prosthetist, and furnishing the prosthetic lab with new equipment. The Special Needs Clinic at Tenwek is truly a place where the staff serves as the hands

and feet of Christ to deliver compassionate care to the most vulnerable of children.

To see a 10-year-old take her first-ever steps, or watch former amputees discard their crutches and begin to race with one another brings indescribable joy. It is a privilege to see God's hand of provision to make "the lame to walk."

To make a contribution to the Faith Fund for Special Needs, please visit [www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate](http://www.friendsoftenwek.org/donate). On the drop down menu for "Please Use This Gift" choose Faith Fund for Special Needs to designate your gift.

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

## Rev. David Kilel – Training Chaplains to Serve “At the Bedside and Beyond”

For most of his life, Rev. David Kilel has been devoted to the spiritual needs of Tenwek's patients and their families. He was the hospital's first full-time chaplain, serving for many years alongside Dr. Ernie Steury, the tireless physician who grew a rural clinic into one of the world's premier mission hospitals.



Rev. David Kilel

Today, Rev. Kilel is the director of The Tenwek Hospital International School of Chaplaincy. As he looks ahead to passing on the leadership baton, he is as excited as ever by the possibilities he sees for the Gospel to be preached by trained chaplains throughout Kenya and across Africa.

He grew up about 30 kilometers from Tenwek and was just eight years old when he first heard the Gospel. After attending high school, Rev. Kilel thought about joining the army, "but the Lord said 'no,'" he recalls. Instead, he remembers the exact time and date – Wednesday, April 24, 1971 at 4 p.m. – "when

(cont'd on page 4)

# Tenwek Impact

## Rev. David Kilel (cont'd from page 3)

the Lord called me to Kenya Highlands Bible College. People from my church each gave one to five schillings to help pay for one year of school." Janitorial work and more support from a school principal prompted by God helped pay for the rest of his education.

In 1975, the Africa Gospel Church appointed Rev. Kilel as the hospital's full-time chaplain and he met Dr. Steury, who became a close mentor and friend. Together, the two men agreed that no patient would ever leave Tenwek Hospital without hearing about Jesus. They also shared a vision for establishing a school that would train men and women how to serve as chaplains "at the bedside and beyond."

The dream was nurtured through the years, even as Rev. Kilel led chapel services and staff devotionals, preached and planted churches, and trained a growing staff how to follow-up and visit the Tenwek patients and family members who were being saved every week, everywhere. Serving alongside him is his wife, Esther, who has led the women's ministry for eight local churches. The Kilel's have two sons and two daughters.

### A Vision Realized

In 1989, Rev. Kilel graduated from the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology. In 1991, the dream he shared with Dr. Steury became a reality. With some early funding provided by Samaritan's Purse, Tenwek Hospital L. Nelson Bell Chaplaincy School became first school of its kind in Kenya, focused not only on biblical training, but also ministering to the whole person and helping people through sickness and bereavement. The program expanded its scope of training so that graduates of the chaplaincy program are prepared to work in various settings including hospitals, schools, colleges, prisons, and the armed forces. Nearly 200 chaplains from more than 10 African nations have graduated from the school.

Rev. Dean Cowles, FOT Field Director, helped Rev. Kilel open the school when Dean and his wife, Dr. Cheryl Cowles, first served at Tenwek. "Rev. Kilel pioneered the work of hospital chaplaincy in Kenya and much of Africa. In addition to starting many churches, he has been a mentor to hundreds of pastors and church leaders over the years," notes Dean.

After four decades of service and preparing to retire, Rev. Kilel is not a man to rest on his accomplishments. The need, he believes, is greater than ever. FOT funds are supporting a team of academic consultants who are currently restructuring the curriculum. Rev. Kilel has prayed often over a piece of land adjacent to Tenwek where he envisions the construction of a spacious new school – a blessed training ground for many more students from across Africa in the years to come.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](https://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](http://www.tenwekhospital.org)

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