Meet Your FOT Ambassador

Jonathan Freije has completed his first year of service as FOT’s on-site Ambassador at Tenwek Hospital and we are delighted that he will remain in this post through June 30, 2019. He and his wife Anna are excited by the opportunity to continue to serve at Tenwek.

For many of you who have visited Tenwek recently, Jonathan needs no introduction. Those of you planning a trip this year will find him eager to make your visit meaningful as you become part of the continuing “Miracle at Tenwek.”

Jonathan is a 2011 graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, where he pursued a double major in Business Administration and Economics. He holds a Master’s Degree in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University, as well as a certificate in Nonprofit Management.

Jonathan has applied his considerable talents and experience in the nonprofit sector at Tenwek, providing visiting staff and families with information and insights about ministry opportunities at Tenwek and welcoming them into the FOT family. We are thrilled to have him working at Tenwek to enhance and expand the FOT community.

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. Opportunities 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 Hospital 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.

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

Calling all Amazon shoppers!

Did you know... that every time you make a purchase at Amazon, a portion of your purchase can be donated to FOT through the Amazon Smile program? It’s easy for anyone who orders from Amazon to do and is available to all Amazon Prime members too! It’s all done at no extra cost to you.

You sign up once through your Amazon account and the donation is reserved for FOT every time you make a purchase. To date, FOT has received over $150 in donations from the program. Learn more about this option by visiting Amazon at https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4817136.

And kindly spread the word to family, colleagues, and friends! Thank you!

FOT News & Notes

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Calling all Amazon shoppers!

Tenwek Today

Spring/Summer 2018

A publication by Friends of Tenwek

Bomet Annex Will Transform Medical Care in County Capital

Tenwek Hospital leaders are poised to open the Bomet Annex early this summer, expanding outpatient care and compassion to the city’s more than 310,000 residents. Tenwek CEO Mr. Geoffrey Langat is excited by this new opportunity to transform how people receive urgent and routine care in a new setting. “We are bringing health care closer to the people who need it,” he explains. “And we are expanding the ministry of Tenwek Hospital.”

The Bomet Annex property was purchased by Tenwek Hospital in late 2014 with assistance from Friends of Tenwek. It is the ideal location for an outpatient clinic, close to government and private industry offices, a teacher’s college, and several banks. The main goal of the new service is to attract and serve area business and professional workers who want to benefit from Tenwek’s expertise in patient care but are unable to utilize the hospital’s existing clinic because of the lengthy wait times. The hospital’s current outpatient clinic treats an average of 430 patients each day, with treatment times from registration to discharge often spanning five to six hours or more. This makes it difficult for people who cannot leave work, school, and business activities to be seen by a doctor.

The new clinic will help relieve congestion and improve efficiency at the hospital clinic. It also will attract new patients who will receive both excellent 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.

“Excellent workmanship” evident in renovations

The former nursing home facility has been completely restored to meet the requirements of a hospital-managed outpatient clinic. Building renovations have included the installation of a new waiting area, private exam and treatment rooms, and areas for diagnostic x-ray and laboratory services. Exterior improvements include the widening of the access ramp, a new parking area, stone paths, entrance portico, and landscaping.

Continued on page 2
Impact

Tenwek

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Mr. Langat. “The workmanship has been excellent.” Medical

Superintendent Dr. Steve Burgert agrees, adding, “The Bomet

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For the fire recovery fund for Tenwek Hospital!

Your generosity is making a difference!

FOT Donors Lead Fire Recovery Efforts

On the evening of February 9, 2018, a fast-spreading fire destroyed a

multi-purpose building at Tenwek Hospital. By God’s grace, the

patients sleeping in the building’s Wound Ward were safely

evacuated while Tenwek staff and community members heroically

fought and contained the blaze. There were no serious injuries but

the building was destroyed and all of the ancillary services housed in

the building were displaced.

FOT quickly sprung into action, raising $65,000 to support immediate needs within days of sending an email appeal. That support has since grown to more than $231,000, representing gifts from 214 donors worldwide. Included in these gifts was $26,000 donated by 29 South Korean medical students and professors from Yonsei University Health System, many of whom had served at Tenwek Hospital. As one student who is now a doctor reported, “My experience at Tenwek was precious and taught me what kind of doctor I should be. The role of doctors is to treat physical problems, of course. I learned that doctors should be able to not only treat physical illnesses but also comfort and help with spiritual illnesses. And I have been thinking intensively about how to become such a doctor since my time at Tenwek. I have decided to pray with my patients when I enter my hospital clerkship in Korea.”

“True friends” of Tenwek in a time of need

Following the fire, Tenwek Hospital leaders developed a plan to maintain essential services that were displaced by the fire and promptly begin recovery efforts. The infusion of FOT’s “first responder” funds have helped administrators immediately and efficiently manage the crisis and thoughtfully assess and address both temporary and long-term needs.

FOT funds have enabled the hospital to maintain key services that were disrupted by the fire, including operations for patient food services, sterilization, and laundry. Other operations related to statistics, cancer registry, research coordination, social work, and visiting staff have been relocated and restored.

Specifically, FOT funds are being used to rebuild the roof of the burned building and repair those on adjacent structures that sustained damage, relocate displaced offices, repair steam pipes, rewire sterile supply rooms, clear rubble, screed and waterproof facilities, and establish a temporary kitchen to serve patients. The only service that has not been restored yet is the canteen/restaurant that was used by staff and visitors.

The rebuilding effort will focus on locating support services in areas that are separate from patient care wards. The fire prompted a thorough review of the hospital’s emergency plans and administrators are evaluating how to install a fire loop hydrant system that would improve safety throughout the hospital campus.

Even in the midst of the fire and its continuing impact, Tenwek CEO Mr. Geoffrey Langat has seen God’s hand at work. “I saw some people kneeling and praying while others did everything they could to keep the fire from spreading,” he recalls. “It was a sign of great community. People see this place as a gift God has given us and that we must protect. I learned that there are friends of this place that respond. It could have been a disaster, but it was a blessing.”

Mr. Langat continues, “I see God’s blessing to Tenwek through FOT. We have walked a long way together and have accomplished a lot. And in this moment they came through. They are true friends and true partners who are there in times of need. I thank God for them from my heart.”

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the fire recovery fund for Tenwek Hospital!

Your generosity is making a difference!
“It has been a lot of work to renovate an old building and do the work necessary to get it to this new condition,” observes Mr. Langat. “The workmanship has been excellent.” Medical Superintendent Dr. Steve Burgert agrees, adding, “The Bomet Annex is a very beautiful and inviting facility for our patients and their families.”

The Bomet Annex will open with a staff of 10-11 medical professionals, including physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, and receptionists. As the service expands in numbers and scope, the hospital expects staffing to grow as well. At the time of this writing, there are several more administrative steps with the local government that need to be taken prior to opening. This includes a tie-in to the city’s wastewater system and issuing a license for the facility. The hospital is awaiting delivery and installation of the x-ray equipment and also needs to integrate with the hospital’s electronic medical records system.

The cost to purchase, renovate, and equip the Bomet Annex has been approximately $300,000. FOT donors have provided more than half of the funds needed for the project. “We are so grateful to all of the Friends of Tenwek,” says Mr. Langat as he reflects on the partnership that made the project possible. “They have stood with us both in times of expansion and progress and in times of need. God is using them to bless Tenwek.”

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And kindly spread the word to family, friends, and friends! Thank you!