



Fall 2019

# Tenwek Today

*A publication by Friends of Tenwek*

## Tenwek Opens Renal & Oncology Unit

*New services provide much-needed care for underserved patients*

Tenwek Hospital's ability to serve the needs of patients presenting with kidney disease and cancer was immeasurably strengthened with the September opening of a new Renal and Oncology Unit (ROU). FOT raised more than half of the \$190,000 cost to renovate and equip an existing building in the first phase of a longer-term plan to house these services permanently in a dedicated facility. This support includes contracting for the provision of five dialysis machines which are scheduled to be operating on-site early next year.

According to John Spriegel, M.D., a long-time missionary doctor at Tenwek, the hospital has become an important referral hospital for much of Western Kenya, but previously was unable to treat patients needing dialysis and renal replacement therapy or chemotherapy. While these patients were referred to services in Nairobi, Dr. Spriegel acknowledges that some could not manage the travel and expense and simply went home to die. "We also know that, like many of our patients, those who come to us with renal disease and cancer need the spiritual touch of Christ's healing ministry and not just the medicines that we have to offer."

The new facility was renovated to provide comfort, dignity, and privacy for patients who need dialysis and chemotherapy treatments. It features examination and administration rooms for dialysis and chemotherapy, equipment for telemedicine consults, offices for clinicians, and specialized areas for water processing and the storage and preparation of chemotherapeutic agents. The medical equipment and furnishings purchased to launch this new service – including dialysis and water purification machines and the chemotherapy preparation hood – will be moved to the ROU's permanent location when that project is completed in several years.



Rev. Elijah Bii, Director of Spiritual Ministries at Tenwek Hospital, leads the staff in prayer at the dedication of the ROU.

A detailed financial and staffing plan will ensure the ROU's sustainability. For example, Kenya's National Health Insurance Fund covers the cost of twice-weekly dialysis. A training program for five renal medicine staff members has been developed with colleagues at another Kenyan teaching and referral hospital and two nurses have been hired. Two clinical officers with higher diplomas in oncology care are on staff at Tenwek and the hospital's head pharmacist has advanced training in chemotherapy medications.

Moses Tanui, a Clinical Officer/Medical Oncologist with a decade of service at Tenwek, will work in the ROU. "We are all very excited to begin this service which has never before been available here," he explains. "We are excited for our donors' support and now, as patients are being touched, even God will be excited with what we are doing."

**Thank you to the generous and faithful  
FOT donors who helped make this vital  
project a reality in record time!**



Dr. John Spriegel leads guests on a tour of the new ROU.



# FOT News & Notes



## Visit FOT's **NEW Website!**

FOT has launched an all-new website! It's a great source for updated images and information on the people and programs that FOT is involved with at Tenwek. You can explore medical specialty areas that FOT supports, learn more about current fundraising initiatives, and make an online gift. Visit us at:

<http://friendsoftenwek.org>



## FOT's New Mailing Address

Please direct all donations by check and other correspondence to FOT to the following NEW address:

**FRIENDS OF TENWEK INC**  
1132 Greenbridge Drive  
Matthews, NC 28105



## Are you Holiday shopping on Amazon?

Every time you place an order with Amazon, a portion of your purchase can be donated to FOT through the **Amazon Smile** program – and it's all done at no extra cost to you! To date, FOT has received \$422 in donations from the program.

Simply sign up once through your Amazon account and donations will be sent directly to FOT.

Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4817136> for details - and kindly spread the word to family, colleagues, and friends! Thank you!

## FOT's New Fundraising Focus

*Fundraising will support Tenwek's medical and spiritual education initiatives*

During its recent annual meeting, the FOT Board of Directors and a number of its medical specialty "Champions" engaged in a robust discussion about what draws physicians to serve and support the mission and work of Tenwek Hospital.

FOT Board President, Dr. David Hoover, summed up the conversation this way. "As a rule, we physicians enjoy training others and passing our knowledge on to the next generation – to create a multiplying effect of education and experience."

Tenwek provides exceptional training to the physicians, nurses, and clinical officers (physician assistants) who are enrolled in a range of educational programs offered there, including Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) residency training in the areas of general surgery, orthopedics, cardiac surgery, and soon, OB/GYN. A significant expansion of the scope and facilities for Tenwek's International School of Chaplaincy also is underway.

Visiting physicians add a vital dimension of training to Tenwek's medical staff, interns, clinical officers, and nursing students as they bring their expertise and experience to short-term mission assignments arranged through World Medical Mission.

This focus on sharing medical education and clinical expertise to empower and equip the next generation of African physicians will guide FOT's ongoing support for Tenwek Hospital. **The goals for future fundraising projects will be to support medical and spiritual education needs as identified in partnership with Tenwek Hospital leaders.**

FOT will create a catalog that details the many ways this new focus on medical and spiritual education can be supported by donors. This could include, for example, sponsorships for resident' training, housing for residents, scholarships for medical and chaplaincy students, and construction of new facilities for the School of Chaplaincy, as well as other needs that are identified.

This new focus for FOT fundraising affirms its longstanding commitment to Tenwek Hospital's status as a Christian community with a unique medical and spiritual mission to heal, train, and send for the glory of God. "We are committed to this work because of its profound spiritual dimension," says Dr. Hoover. "It's not just humanitarian work – the love of God and the redeeming hope of life in Christ is being extended to patients and families throughout Kenya and all of Africa."



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## A Fresh Focus – An Enduring Commitment

Since 2012, FOT has been committed to developing the relationships and resources that will help Tenwek Hospital fulfill its mission. This powerful network of physicians and donors has provided vital support to a wide range of needs and initiatives at Tenwek.

To date, FOT has invested nearly \$1.3 million of financial assistance to advance Tenwek's medical and spiritual care. Fifteen medical specialty "Champions" have worked diligently to recruit their colleagues for short-term medical mission visits to Tenwek where they share their knowledge and expertise with Tenwek staff while caring for patients.

FOT's fresh focus on supporting Tenwek's medical and spiritual education initiatives aligns with its foundational purpose and positions FOT to continue as a valuable partner to and participant in Tenwek's mission.



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Dr David Hoover, President, Friends of Tenwek



# FOT News & Notes

## Meet the FOT Ambassador

Janie Leland was appointed the new FOT Ambassador and arrived at Tenwek in June. She serves on-site at Tenwek Hospital to help us make essential connections with U.S. physicians, welcoming visitors into the FOT family. She hosts visiting staff and families at the guest house and provides information and insights about ministry opportunities within the Tenwek community. She also gathers news and stories to keep the Friends of Tenwek informed about what's happening at Tenwek today.



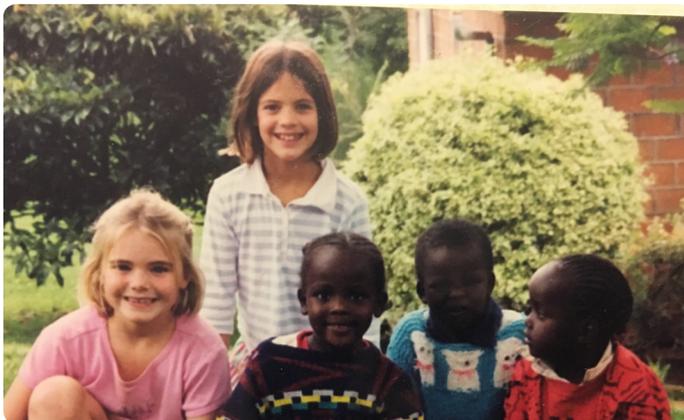
Janie Leland, FOT Ambassador

Originally from Tarboro, North Carolina, Janie graduated from the University of Texas at Austin last year with a degree in Community Education. In 1990, Janie's parents lived and worked at Tenwek Hospital as newlyweds, then returned with their five children in 2002 for a short-term trip, so she's especially thrilled to return to a place formative in her childhood.

Janie has loved her first months as the FOT Ambassador. *"It has been a joy and delight to live and work at Tenwek Hospital. My favorite part of the job is meeting YOU - long conversations at mealtimes, spending time together volunteering at the hospital, town trips to Bomet ... and the list continues! It's been an honor and privilege to get to know some of the most amazing folks in the world. As the supporters of Tenwek Hospital, you truly are the heartbeat of FOT. Thank you for your generosity and eagerness to connect to the work of the hospital and the greater Tenwek community, because you are blessing more people than you know. Feel welcome to come join us at Tenwek - there's always more room at the table!"*

You can keep up with Janie and her Tenwek adventures on her blog: [totalcutegirl.wordpress.com](http://totalcutegirl.wordpress.com).

We are thrilled to have Janie working at Tenwek to enhance and expand the FOT community!



Janie and her sister, Caroline, at Tenwek in 2002

## Stay Connected

### FOT's Mission

Friends of Tenwek is committed to advancing Tenwek Hospital's mission of providing excellence in compassionate healthcare, spiritual ministry, and training for service to the glory of God. It does this by developing relationships and resources among U.S. physicians and supporters who understand 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 Friends of Tenwek that will be used to support Tenwek Hospital

[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.samaritanaspurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/medical/mission-hospitals-tenwek-hospital-bomet-kenya)

### Visit the Friends of Tenwek Website & Facebook Page!

The Friends of Tenwek website ([www.friendsoftenwek.org](http://www.friendsoftenwek.org)) brings you the latest news from Tenwek Hospital and includes links to the blog postings of missionary doctors and their families

FOT's on-site Ambassador and Field Director maintain FOT's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/friendsoftenwek](http://www.facebook.com/friendsoftenwek)) and regularly post news, photos, and videos highlighting Tenwek's mission and work. Please LIKE our page and share the good news with others!

### Amazon Smile – Make Every Purchase Count!

Every time you place an order with Amazon, a portion of your purchase can be donated to FOT through the Amazon Smile program – and it's all done at no cost to you! Sign up once through your Amazon account and donations will be sent directly to FOT. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4817136> for details - and kindly spread the word to family, colleagues, and friends.

**Tenwek Hospital Mission:** *Tenwek Hospital is a Christian community committed to excellence in compassionate healthcare, spiritual ministry, and training for service to the glory of God.*

[www.tenwekhospital.org](http://www.tenwekhospital.org)

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