



MOST Ministries

Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions

Sewing God's Love

By Gail Hahn (MOST Ministries Team Member)

Nine members of Team 2501, Tanzania Eyeglasses, arrived in country on Sunday, January 5. Our in-country host was Next Life Foundation which provides vocational training to young people in sewing/tailoring and woodworking/furniture.

It was an experience! There were times that I felt like a conduit of God's love in situations that could have come about only by His hand.

The 17-year-old team member who worked the eye-glass dispensing station was in second grade when he told the "Kids Club" leader, who shared her experiences from a mission trip, that he planned to go with her to Africa. He has been on two trips to Africa - one at age 14 and this one. He found this trip very satisfying because he was able to contribute to the mission and saw the expression on people's faces as they got eyeglasses and as we sang with them.

My greatest joy on the trip was watching the face of each individual as we sang for/with them, gave them eyeglasses, or called them by name and gave a blessing. When I called each community member by name and said "Mungu Akubariki" (God bless you) before they moved to the next station, I got many reactions including Amen, some blessing me, some giving thanks, some giving a handshake, some with tears, and some with nods. Three times people said "Yesu," making a statement of the Christian faith. My teammate at the fitting station was able to take photos of many of the people we served. A review of the face on each precious soul provides a wonderful follow up conversation with God in prayer.

During the eyeglass clinic, we distributed 354 prescription eyeglasses, around 461 sunglasses, and 3 white



canes with an order for 2 more white canes to be provided after the team departed.

Please pray that the seeds that were sown with and in my teammates and the many people with whom we interacted will bear much fruit in Africa, America, and around the world. Thank you for your partnership!

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Building Resilience and Flexibility for Life

By Cindy Pine (MOST Ministries Mission Engager)



Many stories that filter back to MOST Ministries' offices tell of seeing God at work. "We found just the right eyeglasses for that Honduran man who couldn't see leaves on trees." "The man who was treated for a sore hip was so grateful to feel better, that he showed up at our hotel later to bring us a gift of coffee!"

Usually, it's later that we hear about the culture shock – that is, the feeling of disorientation, confusion, or anxiety that can occur when a person is suddenly immersed in a new and unfamiliar culture. There is shock at seeing the poverty; discomfort from unfamiliar foods, beds, and lizards on the walls; and just general fatigue from long hours in an airplane, in a van, or possible travel disruptions; and then sitting through team meetings each night.

For the past seven years, senior-year student nurses from Concordia University Ann Arbor have teamed with MOST to provide them with 42 hours of clinical experience. Almost 90 students have either taken part in clinical experiences held in Central America or delivered social services in Alaska.

Preparation for their 2024 trip to western Belize involved learning about traveling with MOST and being prepared to serve professionally in a different culture and language.

In Belize, the students' professor, Dr. Mihaela Zegrean, DNP, also had a list of desired outcomes for her students to satisfy as part of their Community Wellness Clinical. Briefly noted, the students would be evaluated for their work in the clinic; identifying the health teaching needs; collaborating with their peers and community professionals; and offering recommendations for health planning.

What wasn't identified in the course description, but was gained by the students in the field, was resilience and flexibility. This team gained these qualities quickly, drinking from a firehose of difficulties and changing situations.

The six days of clinic themselves were an exercise in "What new situation will we see today?" as we set up temporary clinics in new places each day. With help from translators, each patient was registered. Our students performed triage on each, checking the patient's reported symptoms and working to elicit other causes of pain or infection. Private patient exam areas had to be fashioned from hanging a sheet in a corner of the clinic. Most days, students had to be ordered to take a break for a packed lunch from our ice chest.

A calm Belizean E.R. nurse provided local context, training and assistance. Hired to work with us all week, she was invaluable at teaching us about the Mayan population and their local infections (we saw tropical viruses); giving us a tour of a public hospital; and confirming the meds usually available for HIV patients (we had one young patient in final stages of AIDS). One student has become committed to doing cross-cultural nursing and will be looking for mission work in her career.

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Evening decompression time was spent listening to each other relate what they saw that day and appreciating their efforts. Dr. Mihaela is proud of this cohort of students. She states that “in a North American culture where large numbers of young people can’t bend their ego to reality and avoid self-sacrifice, our nursing students stepped up to many challenges. They learned to have each other’s back – a closeness that is increasingly rare in developed countries.”

Another student gave us a devotion from Romans 12:2 on our final morning in Belize – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” A perfect ending to a week of testing.



Belize Medical



Guatemala Water Outreach



Panama Eyeglass

MOST Ministries sent nineteen teams in 2024:

7,905 Eyeglasses Distributed

1,184 Medical Clinic Patients

80 VBS Attendees

85 Water Filters Distributed

1 House Built

We are blessed by everyone who helped our teams impact the lives of

7,779 People



2501 Tanzania Eyeglass



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

This is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one

IN MEMORY OF

William Berlin by Patricia Berlin
 Steven Bone by Gerald & Joyce Bone
 Ross Bremer by Lutheran Luncheon Club
 Neil Finkenstadt by Barbara O'Connor
 Karl Fuhlbrigge by Mary Fuhlbrigge
 Chuck Gratz by St. John LCMS
 Lance Jennings by L & C Grubbs
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 Phyllis Kuehn by Nancy Pickens
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 Thomas Neumeyer by Gerald & Jean Christensen
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 Marilyn Wendt by Don & Dee Veitengruber

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Susan Crosbie by Lynn Federman Fund
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 MOST Volunteers by Virginia Jamieson
 MOST Staff by Dennis & Beverly Neumann
 Joel Sarrault by St. Johns LCMS
 Les & Joyce Syring by Laura Syring

Carly Hatcher by Greg & Pam Williamson
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 MOST Staff by Lillian Keller
 Cindy Pine by Fred & Laurelie Metzger
 Tom & Joyce Schroeder by Mark & Judy Pflug
 Emily Van Dusen by Beth Noffze

Gifts can be made online or mailed.

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