



INTERNATIONAL AID | WINTER 2011

On the Front Lines

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY • MARCH 24, 2011

We're in a war.

Five thousand people every day fall victim to the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic. Millions die every year, and over two billion people worldwide are infected with the microbes that cause the disease.

To make matters worse, TB—the seventh leading cause of death in the world—accelerates and is accelerated by the fourth leading cause of death: HIV/AIDS.

International Aid's partners are on the front lines against TB—and we are dedicated to sending them the weapons they need to find success on the battlefield.

We've supplied Partners in Health's outstanding sister-program Socios En Salud with medical equipment to help them treat patients

suffering from multi-drug resistant TB. We've sent doctor's kits to physicians treating TB patients in rural areas. We've also sent over 300 Labs-in-a-Suitcase to partners throughout the world that enable them to efficiently and accurately diagnose tuberculosis.

This month, the world will observe World Tuberculosis Day. As the global community pushes for the elimination of TB, we will continue to provide our partners with the tools they need to combat this deadly disease.

In this newsletter, we hope you enjoy reading about organizations we have supported in the fight against TB, and the new weapon we are offering our partners who are battling diseases of all kinds.



Serving the Servants:

IA reaches out to North Korean doctors working with TB and hepatitis patients

They treat thousands, but lack equipment. They risk their own health, but keep going back to work. These are the doctors ministering in North Korea—and these are the physicians International Aid is dedicated to serving.

Working with Christian Friends of Korea (CFK)—one of the few openly Christian organizations working in North Korea—International Aid has provided medical equipment, supplies and doctor's kits to physicians from 28 hospitals and rest homes in North Korea for over a decade.

The doctors we serve treat thousands of patients per year in their hospitals and make at-home visits to roughly 120 households each. Placing their own health on the line, the doctors spend the majority of their time treating patients suffering from tuberculosis or hepatitis—and this is no minor risk. One of the doctors has contracted TB from

his patients three times in the past 14 years, with over 40 percent of his staff also contracting the disease.

“These places are on the front lines of caring for sick patients,” said Heidi Linton, one of our contacts at CFK.

Before receiving the doctor's kits from IA and CFK, the doctors lacked the basic medical tools needed to properly diagnose their patients, including stethoscopes, thermometers, blood pressure cuffs and otoscopes.

The kits we send include these tools along with a solar-powered lantern, basic suture/wound kit, a hand-knit warm hat and a backpack.

“A kit is an individual, visible and persistent reminder of Christian love and concern by people half a world away,” Linton said. “These tools... help them carry out their calling effectively and well, and also communicates to them our respect and appreciation for the sacrifices they make in caring for their patients.”

Through God's blessing on our organization and the generosity of our donors, International Aid was able to ship another 100 doctor's kits to North Korea this past Thanksgiving season.

“With your help, we have delivered hundreds of doctor's kits in the name of Christ to physicians who, in turn, individually touch the lives of hundreds of ordinary North Koreans,” Linton said. “Your faithful assistance brings real hope and healing in the name of Christ to the people of Korea.”



Interested in receiving product donations from International Aid?

Medical Equipment Contacts

Amy Hewitt—amy@internationalaid.org
616.935.6890 (direct line)

Chuck McMillan—chuck@internationalaid.org
616.935.6886 (direct line)

Health Products Contact

Deb Null—nulld@internationalaid.org
616.935.6854 (direct line)

Now Offering: Physician Med Kits

International Aid has a quicker way to provide medicines to areas desperately seeking relief. We now assemble Physician Med Kits that enable licensed doctors and medical missions teams to carry thousands of dollars worth of medications in a small, portable container. These kits offer an alternative to large shipments of medications and supplies that can take months to assemble, ship, and get through customs. Also, their portability enables doctors to carry the medications to rural



areas. Therefore, they are perfect for short-term medical mission teams.

The Physician Med Kits are full of essential medicines that help doctors treat common ailments found in the field, including fevers, allergies, infections, lacerations and other sicknesses.

For only \$395, these kits include over \$3,000 worth of medicine and supplies that can be used to treat over 100 people. If you are interested in a Physician Med Kit, please email medkit@internationalaid.org.

Physician Med Kit: The Packing List

- Analgesic, anti-inflammatory and fever control medicines
- Skin products and anti-allergic medicines
- Supplies needed to treat minor and emergency skin lesions
- Anti-infective medicines
- Products to treat diarrhea, vomiting, and heartburn
- Ophthalmological products
- Vitamins and minerals

Countries Recently Shipped To:

- Bolivia
- Chad
- China
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- India
- Laos
- Liberia
- Nicaragua
- Papua New Guinea
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United States

Partners helping Partners

International Aid is dedicated to ensuring that our medical equipment and health products are going to relief organizations and ministries who are effectively helping those in need—people like you. In order to do this, we have every new partner submit a partner membership application and then we undergo a thorough process that establishes the validity of the organization.

That might sound like a hard process—but it's even harder when the potential partner doesn't have a U.S.-based ministry. And when we were trying to validate Heart & Hand Care Hospital of Sierra Leone last December, we were having a hard time finding information about the ministry.



That's when one of our longtime partners, Dr. Karen Asher of Ashers in Africa, stepped in.

In January, Dr. Asher made a personal visit to Heart & Hand Care Hospital on behalf of International Aid. During her visit, she spoke with medical staff and explored their new facility, taking photos to send to IA to authenticate the mission field. She then wrote a raving review of the ministry to her contact here at International Aid, praising the hospital's ministry and facilities.

Because Dr. Asher went above and beyond her calling, we were able to approve Heart & Hand Care Hospital's application. Thank you, Dr. Asher, for your dedication to our ministry and the ministries of our partners!

Upcoming Event: TECH Spring Conference, May 12-14

Blowing Rock Conference Center in Blowing Rock, North Carolina