

Hello, I'm in a small café sipping on hot tea in a shopping mall in an area of Nairobi called Parklands. Next door is a store selling charms and idols. The Hindu community comes here to buy the items for protection from evil spirits. In a few minutes I will hear the Muslim call to mid-day prayer from the Mosque nearby. Nairobi is a very diverse city with various religions and customs.

Today, I'm reflecting on a recent medical trip I was privileged to be a part of. Twice a year I team up with physicians and nurses from Kenya and the USA to provide medical services in Muslim dominated regions. This year we traveled to the coastal region of Ukunda, specifically with an unreached people group called the Digo (pronounced Deego). We traveled in a large truck for 12 hours. Our desired goal is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, by delivering compassionate medical care and to be uncommonly caring those who are suffering. Providing this medical care presents a touch point for sharing the gospel with people we would otherwise not be able to reach.

I'm not a physician, but I do speak Swahili so I helped the medical team from the USA as a translator. I also distributed reading glasses to those who needed them. We offered medical assistance in two different places to over 300 patients. One spot was actually on the premises of a mosque and the other was a church building.

Last year after the medical camp the local outreach team followed up on the contacts that had come for treatment, built relationships and eighteen were baptized into Christ. During the recent medical camp some were diagnosed with high blood pressure, malaria, wounds were treated and one man named Mwandinga was sent for a test to determine if he has a malignancy. Due to your donations, I paid for his biopsy which has determined he has cancer. Thanks to your generosity Mwandinga is now beginning his cancer treatment.

Since Islam is common in this region the local church building doesn't actually look like a church building in the USA. There is no sign advertising services, no steeple and no cross. It is just a building to provide shelter from the hot coastal sun and from rain. The brethren from the local church follow up on those who came to the camp in order to show love and be God's ambassadors. Your prayers can make an eternal difference, will you pray for more open doors for sharing the gospel with the Digo who were treated during the medical camp? You are God's people so you already know that there is joy in service and prayer makes the impossible possible.

Who can you team up with in order to be the hands and feet of Jesus? Can you assist someone who needs a relationship with the Good Shepherd? On our trips to the USA, I usually meet people from other countries working at convenience stores or in medical institutions. Maybe you can become friends with someone you meet there. I'm reminded of Paul's encouragement from 2 Corinthians 3:2, "You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts, known and read by everyone"

Until next time, The Conways