



A Light in a Dark Place

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Reaching Hearts for Kids is a non-profit humanitarian organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Countries Where We Work:

- Bolivia
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Haiti
- India
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

Our first e-Newsletter!

Reaching Hearts for Kids is expanding both our organization and the work we do. We want to keep you, our caring community, informed about the projects we are undertaking and the issues around the world that need all of our commitment and support.

Recently Dr. Erling Oksenholt, the head of an organization which sends out medical mission trips every year, sent us a report from one of his colleagues, Joy Butler. Joy writes of their recent trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they visited the "forgotten hospital" in Songa. Reaching Hearts for Kids is planning to raise \$25,000 to provide running water for the hospital and \$10,000 to put in bathrooms. Read below for more information and contact us to help make this possible.

Dr. Oksenholt and his team will also be joining Reaching Hearts for Kids on a medical mission trip to Medan, Indonesia in February of 2010.

The Forgotten Hospital

We have just returned to Nairobi from the 'forgotten hospital' – Songa Hospital situated in a remote part of southern Democratic Republic of Congo. The hospital was opened in 1927 by pioneer missionaries Christopher Robinson and Gilbert Willmore.



Through the years this hospital has been famous for its care, schooling and outreach in a wide radius. Even today patients walk or cycle hundreds of kilometers to seek help and healing that describe what they need to know to get technology into their schools. But in recent times this hospital has ceased to be efficient and now has no electricity, no phone or internet, no running water, no bathrooms, no bedding, no maintenance, no farm, no industries but it does have a group of committed, faithful people earnestly desiring to help. Two doctors manage to perform essential surgery a few times per week with the aid of solar panels which are in need of upgrading and repair. Staff are paid a pittance and a faithful secretary types out

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budgets and forms on a rusty old typewriter. The patients bring their own cloth to lie on ripped old mattresses, their own curtains for privacy, their own food and their families cook for and wash them. Nurses give medicines and laboratory staff do what they can in a spotlessly kept room but no taps with water.

There are many leaks in the roof. The only working toilet is a single pit toilet 50+ meters from the wards. It has no roof or door. The truck has not worked for 5 years and the Land cruiser has a limited useful life. Other machinery and tractors sit rusting. This forgotten hospital is dying from neglect, under funding and isolation.

Plans are being drawn up to help this hospital – it cannot die – there are too many people dependent on this place – over 1,000 people live on this vast mission station of approximately 2,000 acres. So much sacrifice has been made for this isolated hospital and despite political unrest and turmoil in the region, it has remained open to serve as a light in a dark place.

Giving communities a source of clean water



Reaching Hearts for Kids is currently digging a well for a school of 1200 students in Kinshasa, Congo. In addition we are planning to dig wells for communities in Zimbabwe and in Tanzania. These wells will benefit both children and their communities.

The Reaching Hearts for Kids Tax Identification # is 62-1813479.