

## BBF Contributes to Liberian Hospital Equipment Repair

Myron Hartman, Program Coordinator of the Bio-Medical Engineering Technology Program at Penn State University's New Kensington campus, traveled to Liberia from January 2nd to 10th to perform repair work on medical equipment and to offer training on its use. This trip was the initial visit and assessment. Mr. Hartman visited Elwa, Phebe and Ganta Hospitals, the same hospitals that BBF President Luke Hingson visited in 2010. Two repair technicians from Phebe Hospital traveled with Mr. Hartman to Ganta Hospital and worked with him and the local technicians for several days. This provided a great deal of hands-on training for all involved. This experience also helped to



Paul Kragh repairs hospital equipment in Liberia



Myron Hartman with technicians in Liberia

build a relationship between the two hospitals for servicing the medical equipment.

Mr. Hartman also collaborated with Paul Kragh who is working on the power generation and electrical systems at the hospitals. Mr. Kragh is being supported in his work by BBF. During Mr. Hartman's stay, he worked and trained Liberian technicians on various pieces of equipment that included anesthesia gas machines, blood pressure monitors, electrosurgical units, oxygen concentrators, physiological monitors and x-ray machines. Mr. Hartman, with the help of BBF, hopes to establish a long-term training program for the Liberian technicians. Mr. Hartman was sponsored by United Methodist Community On Relief and supported by Brother's Brother Foundation. Plans are developing to bring a Liberian repair technician to the United States to stay with Mr. Hartman. This technician will be trained in medical equipment support at Penn State's New Kensington campus over the summer of 2011.

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In 2010, BBF sent supplies to 52 countries including Albania, Argentina, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, United States of America, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## President's Report

By Luke Hingson

BBF had a wonderfully productive year in 2010. The product contributions of medicines, medical supplies, textbooks, emergency hygiene kits and other supplies totaled \$272,493,713. Requested shipments went to 52 countries in need and were valued at \$274,971,555. BBF received 1,913,705 bottles and/or tubes of pharmaceuticals. BBF also received 3,557,522 textbooks and other teaching aids weighing over 1669 tons. These materials, along with our humanitarian program materials, were shipped in 236 ocean-going shipping containers. In addition, we provided donations for 241 hand-carried mission trips.

Many of the new books donated to BBF were distributed domestically at publisher request to recipient institutions in 13 states considered to be part of "Appalachia."

I am looking forward to increasing the scope of BBF's donations to African countries in 2011. BBF's Medical Director, Chip Lambert, M.D., returned from his trip to Malawi and Zimbabwe with very positive partnership reports. BBF Trustee Robert Peirce has graciously donated funds for extensive work in Liberia in 2011.

I want to thank the staff, Trustees, contributors and overseas partners of BBF for their tireless efforts to make the work of BBF efficient and responsive to needs around the world.



Hospital in Liberia

## Women for Women of Sierra Leone

Thank you very much for continuing to support Women for Women of Sierra Leone (WWSL) so that it can continue its humanitarian work, which began in the 1990s.

Some have sent us with their best wishes, others have plans to support our ongoing work, but those who feel the need to continue to make "financial" and/or "in-kind" sacrifices--we salute you, especially in these tough economic times. In particular, we thank Brother's Brother Foundation for their support of five hand-carried mission trips in 2010. This support had a value of \$203,061. Without your sacrifice, the work of WWSL would not have been possible. Thank you for sharing your wherewithal so that the poor and less fortunate will experience life's meaningfulness and hope for a better tomorrow.

If you know of anyone with team spirit, that is the key ingredient in volunteering, who is interested in sharing their talent as a teacher or as a health care provider, please share our Website (<http://wWSL-inc.org>) with them; and please ask them to contact WWSL. Also, if there are students who would like to "assist/shadow" health care professionals and/or assist professional teachers, please encourage them as well to contact WWSL. These students continue to make a big difference in our volunteer work on the field.

Can you imagine the big difference it would make if everyone volunteered for whatever time period they could afford? It would change the lives of so many, especially those who get up in the morning not knowing where their next meal will come from, but by the end of the day see WWSL as hope become reality? That is the difference those who send us to Sierra Leone, West Africa, make; continuing to bring "hope" to the lives of the "hopeless."

The best in body, in mind, and in spirit for the upcoming year,

Women for Women of Sierra Leone



Women for Women of Sierra Leone at work

## 2010 Report from Surgicorps International

In 2010, volunteers from Surgicorps International traveled to Ethiopia, Bhutan, Guatemala and Vietnam to perform nearly 300 surgeries free of charge to individuals in need. Since 1994, Surgicorps's medical missions have provided over 3,000 medical and surgical services.



Surgicorps in Guatemala

It's a rewarding and transformative partnership between the dedicated mission volunteers who give their time, expertise and financial resources to make these trips and generous individuals like you.

The supplies and medicines that organizations like Brother's Brother Foundation donated to us made a significant difference in the lives of those in need in the developing world. Surgicorps International truly appreciates the relationship it has established with these organizations over the years. The spirit of humanitarianism demonstrated by Brother's Brother is to be



Surgicorps in Vietnam

admired. On behalf of the entire Surgicorps International family, and, most importantly, on behalf of those throughout the world who have so little, thank you for that which you do to make this world a better place.

## United Methodists Deliver BBF Donations to Zimbabwe Mission Hospital

Brother's Brother Foundation, working with Trustee Drew Harvey, sent a container of requested medical equipment including hospital beds, gowns and various other supplies on December 16, 2010, for distribution in Zimbabwe. Mr. Harvey and representatives of the Nyadire Connection mission group of the United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania helped with the loading of the requested materials.

Fourteen Western Pennsylvania church leaders, including Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, returned from Zimbabwe on December 21st, 2010. They were inspired by the faith, enthusiasm and dedication of those they met in the African nation where people struggle daily to survive the challenges of poverty and disease. Team members hand carried four trays of surgical instruments donated by BBF to the Nyadire United Methodist Mission Hospital.



BBF Trustee Drew Harvey and representative of the Nyadire Connection

## Mission Trip Program 2010

In 2010, BBF supplied 241 mission trips to 36 countries.

Of these, 46 mission trips went to Haiti.

## Thank You Donors

This issue of Field News expresses our thanks to the many donors who contributed to Brother's Brother in the year 2010. Many thanks to all BBF's friends for their outstanding contributions to our work "Connecting People's Resources with People's Needs."

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