**Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone Thanks BBF for Ebola Assistance**

**by Dr. Karen Asher**

Dear Luke Hingson and Dr. Deb McMahon,

I just felt that I should write to let you know how much of an impact Brother’s Brother has had on the health care in Sierra Leone. The government hospitals and the faith based hospitals are very separate. The government does not share with the faith-based hospitals although we do share any excess we might have with it. During the Ebola crisis all the millions of dollars and containers of supplies that were sent to the government did not ever reach the faith-based hospitals. And yet we care for one-third of the country’s population. It had not been for the fantastic effort of Brother’s Brother to find and ship soap, chlorine and protective gear, our hospitals would have had to close. In the beginning, we lost many nurses in the southern provinces to Ebola. We found that since the gowns and gloves were so dear, they were wearing them but handing them off to the next shift to use. We gave education on the proper use of protective gear and with your help sent them the supplies they needed. No more nursing deaths occurred in our institutions. Also we lost two of our doctors early on. The first, from Spain, was infected very early on before the disease was understood, and the second was infected in Connaught Hospital, a government hospital where he was moonlighting. None of our other medical personnel were infected in our institutions and we believe it is in large part because of the effort of Brother’s Brother and the shipping of supplies.

Brother’s Brother is also helping WAEMM in its effort to upgrade the hospitals, post-Ebola. We have a goal of providing basic laboratory equipment and supplies for our 12 hospitals and 40 clinics in CHASL. As we raise money for this equipment you have added this to the supplies you send over. While in Sierra Leone two weeks ago, I conducted our first four day training seminar for five of the hospitals. Now five hospitals, Kamakwe Wesleyan, Panguma Catholic, Kissy United Methodist, Nixon Methodist and St. John of God Catholic can offer their patients complete blood counts with platelet counts, BUN, creatinine, SGOT, SGPT, potassium, amylase, blood sugars and Hgb and hematocrit. These tests will enable the health care providers to give a higher level of care. We were also able to train three of the clinics, Lutheran, United Methodist and Wesleyan on their new machines to do blood sugars and hemoglobin and hematocrit. This will enable them to make some critical decisions on whether to treat a patient or transfer them for admission to a hospital.

Again, I believe many lives will be saved from these tests. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all your organization is doing to team up with WAEMM and CHASL to help the people of Sierra Leone.

Karen L. Asher, D.O.
Medical and Technical Advisor
Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL)

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**Countries Served in 2015**

In the first four months of 2015, BBF shipped requested supplies to 30 countries including Bhutan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America and Zimbabwe.
**President’s Report**

by Luke Hingson

In the first four months of 2015, product contributions totaled $65,672,734 and product shipments totaled $101,493,130. Direct shipments and mission trip support went to people in need in 30 countries.

Incoming medical donations for these first four months were valued at $64,625,411, which included more than 842,626 bottles and tubes of medicine. Fourteen medical containers were sent to countries in need during this period.

The value of incoming education donations in the first four months was $1,011,564. Outgoing education shipments during this period totaled more than 251,992 books.

BBF recently held a Spring Gala in Arlington, Virginia where BBF honored a number of exemplary people for their service in times of crisis and through continuity of service.

Bobby Smith, founder of Hope for Life in Sierra Leone received the award for Caring in Crisis for his work with Ebola relief. BBF Trustee Dr. Barry Byer was recognized for his work with the Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade and received the award for Caring in Continuity. Trustee Robert Peirce was honored for his commitment to the mission of BBF and support of work in Liberia with the Dr. Robert A. Hingson Fellow Award.

BBF Board Chair Tom Wentling

Bobby Smith receives award at BBF Spring Gala

BBF: Trustee Robert Peirce taking the podium shortly before receiving the Dr. Robert A. Hingson Fellow Award

BBF National Capital Area Welcomes David Holdsworth as New Executive Director

On May 4th, David Holdsworth joined Brother’s Brother Foundation as the Executive Director of the National Capital Area office. David comes to the position with seven years of experience in donated goods management for ADRA International. David also has a managerial background in higher education, airport management and economic development. “It is a very exciting time at Brother’s Brother Foundation,” said Mr. Holdsworth. “I am honored to be joining the team at the National Capital Area office to support the continued growth of donated medical supplies and equipment for those in the greatest need around the world.”

Global Problems

Global Solutions 2015

Brother’s Brother Foundation co-sponsored the 10th annual Global Problems, Global Solutions (GPGS) conference, held this year at LaRoche College on April 9 and 10. The conference discussed progress, plans, and initiatives related to the U.N. Millennium Development Goals.

GPGS examined a pressing issue that affects the global community. This year’s topic, “Saving Our Children: A Global Issue, A Local Response,” highlighted child refugees, lessons learned from working with children in emergency contexts and local literacy efforts.

Maureen Dunn, Chief of the Family Immigration and Victims Protection Division of the Office of Policy and Strategy for US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security delivered the keynote address. In her role, she supervises a team of subject matter experts in family immigration and visa for victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes. She oversees the drafting of immigration policy and regulations that impact vulnerable youth and families. Her talk, “Children Migrating Alone: Causes, Responses and Recommendations,” highlighted the plight of children coming from Central America to the United States and the extremely dangerous and hazardous conditions they encounter. Additionally, local experts highlighted the history and global impact of vaccinations along with safety and health concerns.

BBF History: Pushing the Rest on Immunization

Following the extraordinary success of Dr. Robert A. Hingson’s invention of the jet injector inoculation device and in wiping out smallpox in Liberia in 1962-1963, pressure began to mount on other international health organizations. The World Health Organization (WHO), for instance, rushed to verify the eradication of what had been an intractable disease.

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At the same time, recent advances in science combined with the new inoculation method painted an optimistic picture. Health professionals had determined that any lifeform—including microbes—needed to achieve a critical mass in order to propagate itself. In other words, not everyone in a region had to be inoculated in order for cases of infection to plummet exponentially (this phenomenon is known as “herd immunity”). Scientists had also developed a dry vaccine that functioned better in tropical climates. BBF’s immunization model proved infectious and in 1965-1966, the WHO and the U.S. Aid created missions to Africa and Asia to wipe out measles and smallpox. Meanwhile, Brother’s Brother was charged with sending medical missions to tropical areas in Latin America, continuing its legacy of innovative and speedy assistance to those most in need.

From left: BBF President Luke Hingson, BBF–NCA staff Richard Goddard, BBF–NCA Executive Director David Holdsworth, BBF–NCA staff Dinita Thomas, BBF–NCA staff Thad Atkins, BBF Board Member Dr. Barry Byer and BBF–NCA staff Debbie Baucom

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[Source: Cyril E. Bryant, Operation Brother’s Brother (New York: Pyramid Books, 1968).]
As of April 30, 2015, BBF supplied 161 mission trips to 24 countries.

**BBF’s Mission Trip Program in 2015**

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**BBF Spring Gala Thanks**

Thank you to all of our sponsors and auction donors for making the 2015 Gala ‘Caring Through Crisis and Continuity’ a fantastic success. Your generous support allows BBF to continue to connect people's resources with people's needs worldwide.

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Brother’s Brother Foundation’s audited financial statements are always available upon request and at no charge, by contacting BBF at 1200 Galveston Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, phone 412-321-3160 and on our website: www.brothersbrother.org. In addition, some states require us to advise you that a copy of our financial report is also available through their offices. BBF never uses the services of professional fundraisers; 100% of donations benefit the mission of BBF.

**Noteworthy**

Did you know? You can send a donation to BBF in honor or memory of a friend or loved one and BBF staff will send a personalized note at your direction. From January through April 2015, BBF received 166 gifts in honor or memory totaling $18,746. For additional information about BBF honor or memory cards, please call 412-321-3160 and ask for Donna.

**Find more Brother’s Brother Foundation news on Facebook!**

http://www.facebook.com/BrothersBrother

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