

ALL EARS



EARS inc.

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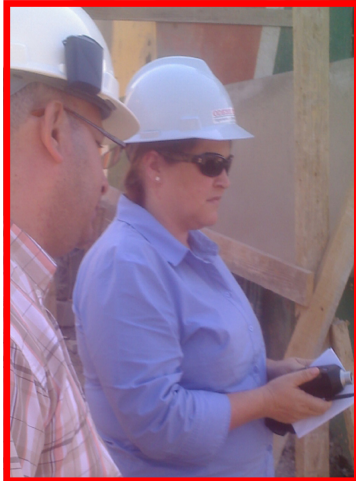
WHAT IS DONNA UP TO IN THE DR??

Life, as always, has been extremely busy for Donna Carkeet in the Dominican Republic. After returning home in the new year following her time in Australia life was chaotic from the word go. Donna was in transit in the USA when the Haiti earthquake hit. Fortunately Donna's friends, a previous student working as the only audiometrist in Haiti and a couple expecting their first child, all escaped serious injury. A serious consequence of the earthquake for Donna has been a significant increase in crime in her neighbourhood, including home invasions and people being robbed at gunpoint. Fortunately Donna, Madison and her house have been kept safe and we ask that you keep them in your prayers. Donna has started writing her own personal newsletter to

update her supporters on the social and spiritual aspects of her life. If you are interested in receiving this please contact Donna at dcarkeet@ccristiano.org.

Projects: The hearing clinic has been running projects every month, generally seeing over 300 patients in each two day project. These people are from some of the poorest areas. These projects are run with the assistance of the First Lady's Association, who provide transport, food and accommodation for the team as well as coordinating transport for the patients.

University Course: Two of the current students will soon finish their two year course. The clinic is planning to employ them both as a new clinic is to be opened soon. A new group of 4 to 5 students are due to start the course very soon and will join the 6 students who are entering their second year. All of these students require sponsorship to assist them with their course fees. Sponsorship costs AUD \$600 per year which covers 50% of the student's expenses. If you are interested in sponsoring a student please contact Rosemary Leslie at rosieleslie11@gmail.com.



DONNA DOING NOISE MEASUREMENTS ON A PROJECT

New Clinic: The new clinic is in Zona Oriental, a large suburban area on the opposite side of the capital city from where the main clinic is. This clinic will enable people in that area to receive services easily, as currently transport and time are a big burden to our patients. The clinic will be set up to serve the poor in that area but it also means that people from that side of the island can receive their services at a closer point to where they will enter the city. The clinic is in a building owned and operated by our partner organisation Centro Cristiano de Servicios Medicos. They have an ophthalmology service operating there already which sees a large volume of patients each day.

Neonatal Screening: The other major focus of our DR project has been to advance our targeted neonatal screening program and Donna will continue to develop this service in order to increase the rate of early identification of hearing loss in this country.

Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

EGYPT.....

On 19th March 2010, Carolyn Sigmund, Ian Skipworth and David Pither arrived in Egypt on a privately funded Ears Inc scoping mission. After the customary visits to the Pyramids and the Cairo Museum they travelled 250kms south to the city of El Minya.

For Egypt, El Minya is a small city, being perhaps a little bigger than Melbourne in population. The purpose of the visit was to expand on the pure tone audiometric training that David had provided in May 2009 and to determine if it is feasible to set up a long term project between the locals and Ears Inc.

As well as the original three trainees from El Minya who undertook the 2009 training, an additional two people from El Minya attended and were joined by three people from the city of Asute. One of the group is a young Deaf man, recently married, who is trying to find permanent employment. He has a temporary job which will finish soon and which currently earns him 200 Egyptian pounds or AUD \$40 per month, which is a pittance. As an indication of this, we purchased a simple stainless steel household ice-cream scoop to use in the earmould making process, which cost us 25 pounds. David taught him how to make custom acrylic earmoulds, to which he responded with immense passion and excitement. It certainly looks like this will provide an income for him as well as significantly cheapen earmoulds for the project (which at present are made in Cairo for a cost of about 50 pounds each).

Ian worked very hard supervising the pure tone air and bone conduction audiometry and tympanometry, and kept the show on the road whilst Carolyn and David acquainted themselves with "Tutts Trotts" (an experience something akin to "Bali Belly").

Amongst many other things Carolyn spent a lot of time teaching the use of noisemakers with babies and laying the groundwork for VROA. We spent time designing a sound proof room which will need to be constructed. The current "booth" was built by Michael Nasif the local project leader from pictures he saw on the internet. Though looking magnificent, it provides almost no attenuation so we discussed suitable modifications. We discovered that some people in Asute have built a recording studio to specifications from Germany and they tell us that all the necessary materials can be locally sourced.

It is only within the last 2-3 years that the parents of deaf children in Egypt have been enticed to allow their children out of their homes. Many have spent their entire lives hidden away. On the one-day weekend (Friday), the team visited the gathering of the deaf children from around El Minya. Children from small villages and farms were brought by mini buses to play games, eat and drink together and generally celebrate life.

The success of this visit was only possible due to the generosity of many people donating time and equipment. We were able to provide two clinical audiometers and a screening audiometer to be shared amongst three clinics. Donations also included a tympanometer, a new sound level meter, otoscopes, impression material and syringes, an earmould lab, a new computer and printer, 30 new Widex aids and programmer, several Starkey BTEs, a Hi-Pro, VROA puppets, noisemakers, and a Fonnix FP30 analyser. A huge thanks goes to Carolyn, Ian, David, Pro-Cal, Sonic Innovations, Widex, Starkey, Norman, Hani & Matti for their generosity (and apologies for any missed contributions). There were so many things needed to pull it all together.

During the months ahead we will consider the results of the training and begin plans for the next visit, hopefully as part of a formally constituted and AUSAID/ATO approved Ears Inc Project.



IAN TEACHING A CLASS, ASSISTED BY CAROLYN AT THE BLACKBOARD AND MARIANA (OUR INTERPRETER).

INTRODUCING MALAWI...



Peter & Rebecca Bartlett have completed many short term trips to support audiology services in developing countries. In 2004-5 Peter & Bec and their daughters lived for six months in Lae, Papua New Guinea supporting the operation of a hearing clinic. Now, some 5 years later, the Bartletts have plans to move to **Malawi, Africa**, to work in a voluntary capacity as missionaries with the African Bible Colleges (ABC) ministry in Lilongwe. At this stage they are planning to spend at least the next two years initiating a hearing service and audiology training centre in Malawi.

The What: In the Lilongwe campus of ABC in Malawi, Peter and Bec have found a place in need where the recipient organisation is well established within the community, where the EARS Inc audiology service and training model can be implemented, and where Jessica, Brianna and Elouise will be well protected and educated. They have been encouraged so far with many contacts and open doors since this opportunity presented itself, and are excited about the potential for changing the lives of people with hearing impairment in this needy country, through a model of sustainable development.

The Where: Lilongwe is the capital of Malawi, a small nation in sub-Saharan south-eastern Africa reliant on agriculture and considered to be one of the poorest countries in the world. It has no permanent audiology service or training centre.

The When: The Bartlett Family depart Melbourne on **2nd August 2010**. They intend to be committed for a period of between two to four years and will evaluate their progress and situation periodically.



The Why: The Bartletts have long been associated with **EARS Inc** in various locations in the Asia-Pacific region, using their professional knowledge, skills and the calling they have received from Jesus to help people with hearing impairment. Children with hearing impairment, or any disability, in developing countries are significantly disadvantaged. They are often seen as unintelligent, difficult, disobedient, of low worth, and even cursed. They are generally not given language, educational and employment opportunities and are more likely to live in poverty than their normal hearing peers. This affects their whole quality of life. Peter and Bec have been inspired and encouraged by the work EARS Inc volunteer audiologist **Donna Carkeet** has accomplished in the **Dominican Republic**. They hope to replicate the model Donna has used to establish a professional clinic, provide training and qualifications to locals, prioritise the needs of children with hearing impairment, and develop a sustainable operation.

The How: Peter and Bec will seek a range of options for financial support, submitting applications for funding grants to government agencies, charity organisations and commercial operations. Recently an opportunity arose to send five boxes of audiological supplies (wrapped in bed linen and towels) in a container to Malawi, provided free of charge by a Presbyterian ministry team going to Malawi in July. The Bartletts have formulated an annual budget and have been able to structure their own finances and investments to cover over 55% of their personal expenses; however they will need further support to cover their costs. Peter and Bec could not succeed, even if already fully-financed, without the interest, prayers and support of family, friends and professional colleagues. We invite you to **partner with them** in this work, in whichever way you are able. They will greatly appreciate your ongoing contact and interest via email, Skype, or other forms of communication. Please make contact with them at pandrbartlett@yahoo.com before they leave Australia in August.



**DONNA WITH
SOME OF THE
GIRLS FROM
THE LOCAL
YOUTH GROUP.**

**WANTED.....
A FINANCE
MANAGER!
Please see below for details.**

For those reading for the first time.....

EARS Inc. is an Australian based interdenominational Christian organisation comprising audiologists, audiometrists and allied health professionals. EARS Inc. is dedicated to serving, and addressing the needs of those affected by hearing impairment and deafness, who live in the developing world, irrespective of nationality, race, gender or religion.

The work of EARS Inc. aims to provide ongoing training and support to local workers or health clinics, hospitals, deaf schools and mission groups in developing countries, to empower them with the necessary skills and equipment to rehabilitate people with hearing loss. The aim is to help people help themselves and others.

THE EARS INC WEBSITE IS WWW.EARSINC.ORG

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you can assist us with any of the below needs or just want more information please phone the **EARS Inc** office on +61 3 9654 5511 or contact Rosemary Leslie at rosieleslie11@gmail.com.

- ♣ **Financial donations**, particularly to support & keep Donna in the Dominican Republic.
- ♣ **Volunteers** are needed:
 1. **Finance Manager/Accountant/Bookkeeper**: With donations now coming in for several projects we desperately need assistance in establishing a more efficient method of accountancy to allow money to be easily allocated to the designated project. Assistance in setting up accountancy software for use by EARS Inc is required.
 2. A **Web Designer** as our new website has hit a snag and we need someone willing to invest a little time into finishing it so it is ready to go online.
 3. **Audiologists, audiometrists & hearing aid technicians** who would love to travel to provide training overseas. Of particular interest are technicians with access to a mobile audiometer calibration set. We also require technicians to check equipment in Australia before sending it overseas.
 4. A **Marketing Director/Co-ordinator** to assist with fundraising.
 5. **Administrators** to man our new office in Balwyn, Melbourne.
- ♣ EARS is keen to receive **second hand hearing aids** (behind-the-ear and body-worn aids) which are still in good working order, so that they can be refitted overseas. We also take hearing aids that appear dead but have useful parts including in-the-ear hearing aids.
- ♣ Donations of **second hand equipment** (audiometers, tympanometers, insertion gain machines, ultrasonic cleaners, otoscopes etc.) in good working order are also most highly valued and appreciated.