



ALL EARS

Winter 2013

President's piece

Donna and I attended the Coalition for Global Hearing Health US conference in April. It was a great time of learning, networking and sharing ideas and solutions. As a result Donna is now on a new Training Committee and I am on the Technology Committee.

Just when we are seeing significant progress with the Bartlett's work in Malawi we get a reality check. EARS has been supporting deaf children in a Catholic school south of Cairo. We have just heard that the school was burnt down by Muslim extremists in the current conflict, even though most of the children we assist are Muslim. How do you put one minute's silence in a newsletter? Please pray for all those facing daily danger in Egypt.

At our AGM in May, we accepted new 'rules' to replace our old constitution, and said a sad farewell to Rosie Leslie from her position on the EARS board. Rosie has contributed enormously to the work and success of EARS over many years. We also warmly welcomed Margaret Dewberry to our board. Margaret brings considerable expertise to our board and a heart for humanitarian audiology.

Our training facility and hearing clinic will officially open in Lilongwe in October. This centre will bring a new level of service to the people of Malawi. Exciting times!

David Pither, President EARS Inc.

News from DR

By Donna Carkeet, EARS board member and International Director in Audiology for Medical Ministry International.

Since returning to the Dominican Republic in January I have been writing a lot of proposals and fundraising for a project in Leticia, a community of approximately 40,000 people in the Amazon region of Colombia. With a regional population of more than 100,000 people, this remote area has very few medical services. Leticia provides care to people in this region of Colombia and also to those in Peru and Brazil who live along the rivers.

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED

The work of EARS Inc. relies on the generosity of our supporters. We are grateful for any amount, whether one-off gifts or regular giving. How about holding a fund raising event? Maybe consider a bequest to EARS.

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the GiveNow link (type in 'Ears' in Search). Go to www.earsinc.org/donation.

Clinica Leticia began ten years ago as a maternity clinic but has expanded to include pediatric services, general surgery, CT imaging, orthopedics, and ophthalmology. It also has a local Colombian Audiologist. This year Clinica Leticia joined with Medical Ministry International (MMI) to further strengthen and extend its services and outreach, including its audiological services, along the Amazon. The plan is to train screeners in a pilot project in October and November of this year, which I will be participating in.

Just when I thought I was accustomed to the discomforts of living in a developing country, I went to Haiti.

I was there to assist Joane Dimanche, a graduate of our two-year program in the Dominican Republic. Joane hopes to restart her clinic after the medical centre she was in was sold for office space. She wants to build community knowledge about hearing health and to start an audiology clinic in a country where there are no audiologists.

We ran outreach projects in two different

Who are we?

Established in 1998, EARS Inc. is an Australian, not-for-profit, Christian association dedicated to reducing the impact of deafness and increasing access to hearing care through training and equipping health workers and teachers in developing countries.

If you would like to support our work, become a member, donate money, second-hand hearing aids or equipment, or volunteer your skills, find out more at www.earsinc.org, email admin@earsinc.org, or call **03 9654 5511 (BH)**.



areas of Port au Prince and another in St Marks, as well as screening in two schools. The children of Haiti are lively, delighted by any small game. Even with no common language, it was easy to connect with them. Kids are kids in any country.

On my next trip in August we plan to have more meetings about a clinic site and visit more Ear Nose and Throat specialists and doctors in order to raise awareness of the audiological services that Joane is hoping to provide.

May God bless Joane for her desire to serve her country. I am looking forward to continuing to help her in the future.

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News from Africa

By Peter Bartlett, Lilongwe, Malawi



In May, the AusAID-funded African Bible College (ABC) Hearing Clinic and Training Centre was finally fitted out with sound booths and equipment, funded by Hear The World Foundation. The timing was perfect as in June an audiology team of nine arrived from Arizona State University's (ASU) Hearing For Humanity program, lead by Dr Ingrid McBride.

This enthusiastic, capable team delivered some intensive training for our ABC students, assessed dozens of difficult-to-test children and travelled north to hospitals and Schools for the Deaf in Karonga and Embangweni.

The challenges of building the Hearing Clinic and Training Centre continue, but we now have a concrete floor, electrical and plumbing, a furnished training room and two audioboosts. Bec is itching to move in as soon as possible! The official opening is on 4th October but there are still much to do to bring it up to a professional standard.



News from DR ... cont

At the end of July, I tried including hearing health screening and education in an MMI medical project. With my two trainees, we conducted middle ear screening on about 110 people each day, plus wax removal and hearing tests as needed. One special moment was when an old blind man cried when he found he could hear again once I removed the wax blockage from his ears. He thought his loss was permanent.

My new role as the Director of Audiology for Medical Ministry International is stretching my faith as I trust that God has a plan when some days all I can see is lots of pieces of a very large puzzle. I appreciate the prayers and support I receive from so many people.

All our students passed their first year audiology units and are looking forward to more training and clinical experience in their final year. We received an additional grant from Hear The World for a clinical resource library, a mobile testing facility and other training and clinical equipment. A specialised clinical vehicle will soon arrive, donated by the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission through Sound Seekers (UK). God has blessed our applications for funding, and we are amazed by His ongoing provision.



Bec with ABC audiology students

Jessica, Brianna and Elouise have all had full school years and participate in a number of activities such as ballet, swimming and tennis. We are so blessed to be a part of ABC which sets the standard for school and recreational programs in the country.

We are enjoying the assistance of Rosanna Morrison, a volunteer audiologist from Brisbane Australia. She arrived in late July and will spend most of her six months in Malawi with us, as well as working in Blantyre.

Please pray for the connections we make with people, the completion of the Hearing Clinic and Training Centre, the registering of the audiology training program, the health and safety of our family and our relationship with the Lord in His service. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement.

A day in the life of an audiologist in Africa

If you want to work in developing countries, an essential trait is FLEXIBILITY!

Scenario: Three day training in Karonga (500km from Lilongwe) at the School for the Deaf.

On day of travel: Ring to check all is in readiness for the next day. School principal says he won't be there for the first day. ACTION: meet with deputy and carry on.

Day 1: No. of trainees increases without notice. ACTION: no problem, I had spare books and pens. Principal advises late afternoon that a respected Reverend has died. Funeral is tomorrow and then the Rev is to be buried next day adjacent to the School so no training is possible on Day 3. ACTION: arrange to continue training into the night on Day 2.

Day 2: Hearing an audiologist was coming, a number of patients unexpectedly arrive. ACTION: include them in the training as examples of otoscopy and audiometry. Too many visitors arrive for burial so no training possible at night. ACTION: arrange Day 3 training at another venue with some of the participants who can attend.

Final outcome: Success!! (Sort of!)

Audiologist needed in Philippines

Joshua and Louella Asuela work for Deaf Ministries International, running a dormitory for 19 children who are deaf and pastoring a church for the deaf in Cagayan de Oro, on Mindanao Island in southern Philippines. They need an audiologist to help children in their dormitory, schools and their community. Joshua has some training in testing hearing but he needs further instruction and supervision. Children tested need to be evaluated for hearing aids, and then fitted where appropriate. This is a great opportunity to be involved in some very rewarding work in a beautiful part of the world. For more information, contact admin@earsinc.org. *Did you know? A swimming pool in a Cagayan de Oro hotel was the birthplace of EARS Incorporated!*