Advancing the Gospel through health care

One patient, six churches

Suan* came from a distant province in Southeast Asia. He had heart disease and had sought treatment in many places but he was poor and did not have resources for care. Someone told him about the Mercy Medical Center and he was referred there, hoping to find help. While receiving treatment at the center, a local Baptist church allowed him to stay in the church. Suan heard the story of Jesus for the very first time and became a Christ follower. The doctors sent him back to his village with medicine, and he carried with him tracts and DVDs and his own story. After three months, he came for follow up and reported that 30 families had become believers. The church went back with him to the village to assist Suan in discipling the new Christians and organizing a church. They discovered that already these villagers had gone to five neighboring villages and now there were believers in those places as well. On a glorious day, people from these six locations gathered together and 248 were baptized. Today there are six new churches because one patient heard about Jesus at the Mercy Medical Center.

Treatment for heart disease

The Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana, has been a lighthouse for Jesus throughout its history. People come from villages far and wide, even neighboring countries, to find help. Missionary and national workers share the Gospel and pray with patients throughout each and every day. Recently a Bimoba woman returned for her first follow-up visit after being treated for congestive heart failure. She had responded well to the medicines, but the doctor wanted to tell her about the Great Physician who heals all “heart” problems. Three men were with her so the doctor and the chaplain squeezed more chairs into the tiny room. When she heard about Jesus, she decided to follow Jesus as Savior. As they began to pray, the three men joined in as well. That day, four left the hospital with new hearts. And new hearts have come to thousands through the ministry of the Baptist Medical Centre.
“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV)

1 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. In a remote province, one small understaffed, ill-equipped hospital serves 500,000 people. Pray for workers who train nurses in a two-year course. Pray for students, peace in the community and good relationships with government and hospital officials.

2 ZIMBABWE. Pray for Sanyati Baptist Medical Center as volunteer teams continue the massive makeover to restore facilities. Pray for resolution of administrative and disciplinary issues so that years of service and witness will not be tarnished or destroyed.

3 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for national partners in a large megacity to commit to access slums through community health education programs. Pray for women to be trained to enter homes to share health lessons and Bible stories.

4 CAMBODIA. Many patients at a medical center have found physical and spiritual healing, and many new churches are being started. Pray for workers as their goal is to plant churches in 2,000 villages.

5 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. Pray for CL and national health project workers as they teach home health practices in four villages. Pray that they will find persons of peace who will listen to the Good News and then begin listening groups for the audio New Testament in their heart language.

6 INDIA. The Bangalore Baptist Hospital treats more than 200,000 patients annually. Pray that more Christian Indian doctors will be identified to join the medical staff to insure the ongoing vision and mission of the hospital.

7 GHANA. Pray for the Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu, as they treat patients who often come as a last resort. Pray for adequate staff. Pray for chaplains as daily they lead persons to faith in Christ.

8 TANZANIA. Pray that Christian staff, a minority at the Kigoma Baptist Hospital, will live out their faith in such a way that their Muslim colleagues will be drawn to Jesus. Pray for Chaplain Jackson as he ministers to patients and staff.

9 NORTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLES. Pray for a medical team working in the Sahara Desert. Pray that the small medical clinic will be a base from which physical and spiritual healing can spread to unengaged, unreached Muslim people groups. Pray for the team in very difficult living conditions.

10 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. A healthcare worker reports that volunteer partners did health screenings in two schools in their city. Pray that as follow up is done with children, families and teachers, they may find open doors and receptive hearts among these Muslim peoples.

11 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. Pray for countries following revolution where entire populations suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome and where fear, distrust and hopelessness reign. Pray for medical workers to go as volunteers to help and to be instruments of peace.

12 THAILAND. Pray for dozens of villages where Bangkla Baptist Clinic seeks to start new fellowships of believers by doing mobile clinics and sharing the Gospel. Pray for workers and national partners as they reach out all across Thailand.

13 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Workers at the Christian Hospital in Sahiwal are beginning a new service using house calls to better demonstrate God’s love. Pray that as they enter homes they will use opportunities effectively.

14 GUATEMALA. Pray that volunteer medical teams can be matched with needs in the churches. Pray that local health-care professionals will have a vision for reaching the underserved and unreached areas. Pray for a doctor and a dentist already involved in outreach.

15 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for workers who use their medical skills to bring physical and spiritual health to factory workers. Pray that there will continue to be new opportunities. Pray that disciples and churches will result.

16 NORTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLES. Among a Muslim people group, many walk miles seeking healing in clinics. As lame walk, blind see and wounds are healed, numbers are becoming Christ followers. Pray that workers will proclaim the Gospel at each patient encounter.

17 INDIA. Pray for almost 1,000 new believers through the witness of Bangalore Baptist Hospital in 2012. Pray for chaplains and pastors who disciple them. Pray for new groups to be formed and leaders to be trained.
**DECEMBER 2012**

**18 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for ongoing ministry among disabled children and their families. Pray that a worker — a physical therapist — can gain permanent residency. Pray that doors may open for a stroke rehabilitation project.

**19 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.** In the midst of the Arab Spring, God has been using medical ministries to reach people. Pray that these ministries may evolve in a way to promote the spread of the Gospel throughout this country. Pray for more laborers to go to this difficult place.

**20 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES.** In a country with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, any prenatal care is in a language not spoken by the women. Pray for training of Fulani women to do checkups and education in the villages. Pray that their care will reduce risk, remove fear and open hearts to Jesus’ love.

**21 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** A healthcare worker asks for prayer that the political and security situation would allow him to continue his work. Pray that the Lord would have mercy on the people there and would heal the land.

**22 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for two family medicine doctors who seek to plant churches among medical professionals in a city of 14 million. Their focus is one of the largest hospitals in the world. Pray for revival to spring forth through local doctors, residents and medical students.

**23 NORTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLES.** A health-care worker tells of spending days helping a child receive lifesaving surgery in a local facility. As a result of love shown, that child’s family became the first believers among their people group. Pray that they will in turn reach others.

**24 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for Pakistani refugees living in Bangkok — either in detention centers or crowded slums. Pray for efforts to begin simple but necessary health services. Pray that they will be introduced to Jesus and ultimately send Truth back to their home country.

**25 EAST ASIAN PEOPLES.** Pray for national health-care strategies as they travel and equip local believers in areas with people groups that are difficult to access. Pray that those trained will provide health screening and education allowing them to enter homes and have opportunities to tell families about Jesus.

**26 NORTHERN AFRICAN PEOPLES.** Pray for workers as they use health projects to gain access to Muslim people groups in new places. Pray that government officials will be favorable and will grant necessary permissions for clinics. Pray for protection for the workers.

**27 INDIA.** Pray for the community health programs of the Bangalore Baptist Hospital, including health care and education, a cardiovascular screening project, an alcohol recovery program, a rehab program and urban slum clinics. Pray that people will gain physical and spiritual health.

**28 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES.** Praise God for six national women who are teaching health-care lessons in a gateway city of Northeast India. They have trained other women who are teaching throughout the region. Pray that new churches started through this program will grow in faith and number.

**29 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES.** The incidence of tuberculosis is very high in one country, especially among...
Traveling for the Gospel

In Northern Africa there is a people group spread out among four countries — 12 million people with only 0.01 percent believing in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. There is a man among them who is traveling for the sake of the Gospel. Paul heard about Jesus through a radio program in his language. One day he came to the medical clinic and heard the full story. He was overjoyed to know and follow Jesus. Weekly he was trained to witness and disciple others and weekly he came with reports of more believers and farther places he was traveling to tell about Jesus. There are now hundreds meeting in groups because of the medical clinic and the faithfulness of one man to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This is but one story of the many people who have experienced physical and spiritual healing through the free medical clinics provided.

At this 2012 Christmas season, we want to thank each of you who partner with us in prayer to impact a lost world. Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Office of Global Prayer Strategy
International Mission Board

Don’t miss out!
The book, *Preach and Heal*, calls us to make disciples by preaching the Gospel while simultaneously demonstrating God’s love. *Preach and Heal* is available in hard copy from [imbresources.org](http://imbresources.org) or as an e-book for Amazon Kindles. Author: Charles Fielding, M.D., Publisher: International Mission Board, SBC, ISBN: 978-0-9767645-6-4

**Name changed.**

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women. Pray for the prevention, detection and treatment programs as they expand to cover a larger population. Pray that spiritual needs may also be met.

30 MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES. Pray for a clinic that meets health needs for refugees from surrounding countries. Pray for staff who provide general medical services, prenatal care and optometry exams and glasses. Pray that they can bring peace to the hearts of those they serve.

31 GLOBAL MEDICAL ALLIANCE. Pray for this network of all IMB health-care personnel, more than 250 in number. Pray that these workers will be able to use their professional skills to care for needs and make disciples. Pray that God will call and enable others to go.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING®
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