

P.O. Box 8585 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585

First Congregational Church of Pomfret 12488 PO Box 297 Pomfret Center, CT 06259-0297

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Dear First Congregational Church of Pomfret,

I've written to you often to describe the immense need for the gospel among the world's more than 3 billion unreached.

But I haven't always explained why that need is so urgent.

I don't know about you, but I'm not sure where I would be if it weren't for the influence of godly Christian mentors, teachers, pastors, and parents who shepherded and directed me to the Lord through the years. God used people like these in my life to bring me to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and spare me from the eternal misery of separation from him.

Imagine how hopeless your life would be without that one key person the Lord graciously used to lead you to faith in him.

Yet at least 85% of the world's Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims do not have a single Christian friend who can share the gospel with them.

This means that if they are to hear the gospel at all and have any hope of salvation, the Lord must work in extraordinary ways to reach them—by sending a missionary to them with the word of life.

#### From Despair to Discovery

Gautam was a former Buddhist monk disillusioned by rampant injustice in his South Asian city. When medical malpractice left his teenage son partially paralyzed, he searched in vain for treatments that could heal him. Gautam's anger and love for his son propelled him to stage protests campaigning for social justice and environmental reforms, but his efforts failed to enact change. With medical costs rapidly depleting his finances, Gautam sank into depression, even considering suicide. As a last resort, he remembered the good things he had heard about Christianity and decided to investigate Jesus.



#### **A Transformation Occurs**

Gautam visited a local church, where he was greeted by William, an ABWE missionary. He explained to William that he believed "Jesus gave us good teachings, and by giving his life, he proved just how good of a man he was." When William asked if he knew why Jesus died, Gautam exclaimed, "No, but that is absolutely essential for me to know!"

William grabbed a Bible and shared the gospel as Gautam eagerly listened. Gautam later told William that he couldn't hear anything else around him but William's words. He wondered if William was an angel sent by God and felt assured that what he said was certainly the truth. Gautam immediately repented of his sins and confessed Jesus as Lord. A few moments later, his wife and son also trusted Christ, and his daughter soon followed.

"His whole family changed," reported William. By God's grace, Gautam now studies at an ABWE-founded Bible college and was baptized with his wife and children. His son professed that, since believing in Jesus, he has experienced inexplicable peace. Miraculously, he began to recover from his physical disabilities. Two months after his baptism, he was able not only to walk but to run again, praising God for his healing.

#### **The Great Need**

But for more than 400 million Buddhists worldwide, there is no church nearby, no Bible on hand, and no missionary friend like William to present the way of salvation. How will they hear unless someone goes? (Romans 10:14-15).

The missionaries of ABWE are burdened by this sobering reality. That's why one of our strategic initiatives is to raise up new church planting teams among the unreached—targeting spiritually dark places where Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and others desperately need to hear the gospel for the first time.

Your generous gift to the **Global Gospel Fund** directly impacts our ability to bring the gospel to these lost people groups. It takes about **\$7,000** to help a missionary identify their calling and get the training they need to begin their ministry journey. By sending more laborers into the harvest with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we can pierce through the darkness for more unreached souls like Gautam.

You have a heart for missions. You've supported missionaries as they take the gospel to the ends of the earth. But what if we could send even more? The Global Gospel Fund equips new missionaries to go and stay on the field long-term. Would you consider making your first gift to the Global Gospel Fund today towards our spring goal of \$35,000 and help multiply the work of missions worldwide?



Every lost soul needs someone to bring them the gospel—just as someone once brought it to you. Will you help send that messenger today?

Striving for the faith,

Paul L. Davis ABWE President To give securely online, visit abwe.org/sendhope25



#### **FCCP Administrative Assistant**

From:

Olivia Braaten | Caring Families <olivia@carefamilies.com>

Sent: To: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 3:56 PM FCCP Administrative Assistant

Subject:

Our Gala Fundraiser Results Are In!

View this email in your browser



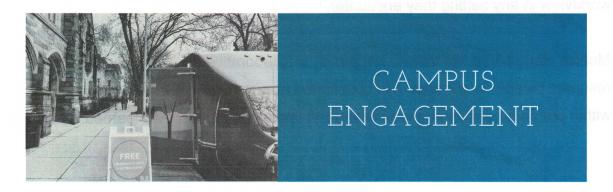
# APRIL UPDATE

What a whirlwind month! We kicked off by sponsoring presentations with Monica Snyder, executive director of Secular Pro-Life, to set the next generation of advocates at Yale and UConn up for success. As Monica put it, "Everyone should be pro-life!" and our student partners are well-equipped to articulate a compelling worldview in any setting they encounter.

Monica also shared her unique insights at a collaborative session with pregnancy resource centers in our area. We considered how to more effectively build bridges within our communities and look forward to implementing what we learned.



"A lot of changing minds happens between conversations, not during," Monica reflected, and we want to thank *you* for enabling Caring Families to stand in that gap.

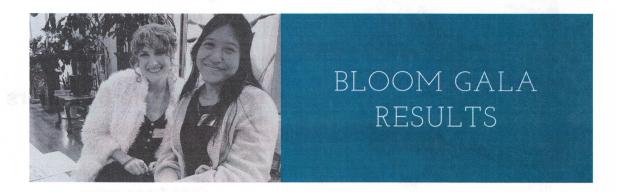


Life-changing care is on the move! Our MobileVan is on the road, providing free, confidential pregnancy tests and ultrasounds to women when and where they need it most.

We're thrilled to announce our service launch at Yale University in New Haven this month, adding to our continued support at the University of Connecticut (Storrs), Waterbury, and Cheshire. This expansion means more accessible care for women in our region. We'll be sharing more soon!

P.S. Want to "fuel" this part of the ministry? A tank of gas is \$150/weekly.

Keep the MobileVan Rolling!



## The update you've all been waiting for...

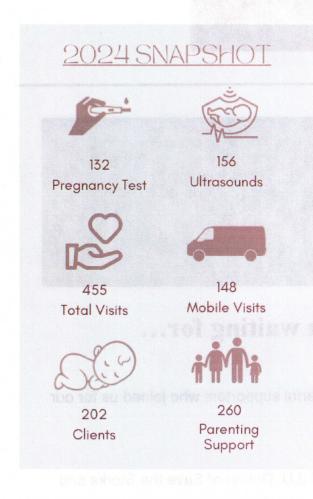
A heartfelt thank you to the nearly 250 wonderful supporters who joined us for our annual fundraising gala!

We were deeply moved by the testimonies of J.D. Dahler of Save the Storks and Megan Ferguson of Lifeline Children's Services. Their words, along with heartfelt updates by our Executive Director Jeremy Bradley and Client Services Director Bethany Masi, painted a vivid picture of the lives you help us touch.

Thanks to your remarkable generosity, we raised \$61,000. While that didn't meet our fundraising goal for the evening, this support *will* make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, and we're thankful!

If you were unable to attend the gala or feel inspired to contribute further, our gala fund will remain open this next week. Please know that every additional gift, no matter the size, will have a direct and meaningful impact on saving and changing lives in our community. Thank you!

Donate Online — Select "Bloom Gala" in Fund Dropdown



## **Defender of Life Sponsors**

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Sparks Security, LLC

### **Friends of Life Sponsors**

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#### Out of the Occult!

The 12-year-old's search for answers about the world, suffering, and spirituality led her to the occult and New Age. But her life was empty. She began to question her beliefs. Knowing little about the Bible, she wondered why parts of it made so much sense. She saw Jesus as another New Age spiritual being. She began reading C.S. Lewis, Christian philosophers, and the CANA website. What she learned warmed her heart, and she began writing letters to Jesus.

Her spiritual journey led her to trust in Christ for salvation in May 2024. She passionately shares her faith with those in spiritual darkness and she contacted FIM wanting to be a missionary. Along with counsel to get a Bible education and ministry experience, the ministry of **Marcia Montenegro** (USA) to people entrapped in the New Age and occult was mentioned. The now 21-year-old was surprised to learn that the CANA website that helped her to understand the truth about Jesus and find freedom from the occult was the website of Marcia, a FIM missionary! They are now in contact. CANA website: <a href="https://www.christiananswersnewage.com">www.christiananswersnewage.com</a>.

#### Violence Resulting in a New Church

The church plant was going well. There was even a school. Then violence struck Manipur, India, and the family of L & E had to flee. In the highly educated city where they settled, L & E met a believer who was casually meeting with a few Christians. As they helped that ministry, they began to dream of planting a new church. That



dream became a reality on February 9 when a core group officially started an English language church, targeting the unreached,

the unchurched, and those who encounter language and crosscultural barriers. They look forward to what the Lord is going to do! (Photo of first service.)

#### From "One of the Boys" to Student Leader

The 9-year-old boy was first introduced to The King's Kids ministry during VBS where he learned about God's love. It was heartwarming to see the joy and enthusiasm in his eyes.

Over the years, he came to know the Lord and he has embarked on a remarkable journey of spiritual growth. He understands that The King's Kids purpose is to serve others rather than seeking to be served. Now at age 16, he actively volunteers in the after-school program led by **Robin Sweitzer** (Dominican Republic). He has blossomed into a vital member of the Student Leadership Program, and he is eager to deepen his understanding and make a meaningful impact within the community and in the lives of his friends. It is inspiring to witness his commitment and transformation!

#### God Did It!

Following ministry to the Hmong people group in Thailand, Mike & Sonja Zeek returned to the US. But their passion for the Hmong people never faded. In addition to online discipleship, Mike produced 350+ hours of biblical instruction which is translated into the Hmong language, saved on MegaVoice players and SD cards, and distributed among the Hmong in Southeast Asia.

Thousands of Hmong believers who live in restricted areas now have access to biblical resources. On a recent trip, Mike visited a distributor of the players. He was astounded to hear that as a result of listening to God's Word on the players, 3,760 professions of faith were reported and numerous churches were started over the last few years!

#### **Encouraged and Being Encouraged**

They joined FIM as associate missionaries to facilitate their teaching ministry in Ukraine, where their daughter is also a missionary. Then the war broke out. Howard & Kay Friesen (USA) were able to return to Ukraine for three weeks during the Christmas season with a desire to encourage the believers and local pastors. They were able to do just that! The Friesens were also greatly encouraged by the zeal of the believers for the Lord and by their sense of urgency to witness.

#### Planted and Moving On!

Missionaries work themselves out of a job. That is the case with **Tim & Barbara-Lee Glessner**. They planted a church in a difficult part of the city of Puebla, Mexico, and they have now turned over the "reins" to a capable elder and a godly and wise retired pastor.

But that is not the end of the Glessners' ministry in Puebla. They have almost completed construction of a three-story community ministry center to reach out into the neighborhood. (Photo of community outreach center under construction.)



#### Change is the One Constant!

The only sure thing in a missionary kid's (MK's) life seems to be change. As they raise support, missionaries visit many people and churches, sleep in many different beds, and spend days in the car. Then the families go overseas, learn another language and culture, and may minister in different locations—all with kids in tow.

Having taught MKs for many decades, **Kathy Stucky** is presently teaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in Mexico. Her students reached out to homeschooled MKs who were forced to leave their village due to safety concerns. Another homeschooled MK began attending inclass 1<sup>st</sup> grade (a different study language) while the parents did language study. Changing teachers' aides can also complicate matters.

Pray for missionary children, their parents, and MK teachers.

#### Lord, What's Next?

After years of youth ministry in Japan, **Tomoo & Kaori Koike** are making a major change! Most Japanese pastors are elderly. Few younger men are "stepping up to the plate." Beginning April 1. Tomoo began a pastoral ministry for the first time.

The Koikes are preparing for the ministry change and are already involved in the church. In a recent sermon, Tomoo quoted Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth," saying, "today, you are younger than the rest of your life." One unsaved middle-aged lady thought about it, and she decided to take personal Bible lessons!



#### Greetings,

As we approach Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your prayers and support. While I do not always have a chance to see or talk with you, please know you are always in my thoughts and prayers. I also wanted to share with you some of the great things that are happening in the prison ministry!

Inmates come and go throughout the weeks and months and many cross my path. Some will contact me and want involvement, and others will just follow the prison routine. In this world some will come to Christ and others will keep following the wide gate as Matthew talks about in Matthew 7:13-14.

Recently there was one inmate who came to jail with many charges. He had been in other jails too. He was a Christian but fell away from the Lord. He started to come to the Bible classes, read his Bible, and pray to God again. The inmate said, "Chaplain I have never read the Bible like this before." God opened his eyes to the truth of the Gospel like never before. We would meet in class and talk about scripture and the things of the Bible. The inmate rededicated his life to Christ, did the Bible lessons, and earned himself a nice study Bible, Amen! If this inmate were not sent to jail he probably would be on the same road as before. He has since left the jail and is plugged in to a local church where he is staying focused on God's word. What a blessing this is to see someone go from dead in sin to being free in Christ even though he was in jail. He was free in Christ.

The above story is just one of the changes we get to see in the inmates, and it has been a true blessing. Some of them have really stepped up their game and wanted to dig deeper into the Bible so I now teach a Greek class that helps them further understand the Bible passages. Several of the inmates continue to run services in the units during off tours to help share the gospel of Jesus in the evenings. As we all know, peer influence is vital, and when the inmates share the Good News of Jesus with each other it makes that much more of an impact. I am reminded of Proverb 27:17 "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." What better way than to lead from the inside!

The work does not stop with the inmates as there are the staff that need support as well. Correctional work is physically, emotionally, and spiritually draining. With the increased stress of legal changes related to immigration and deportation, along with their own personal life issues, it is quite easy to become overwhelmed. Having a Chaplain to talk with can make a major difference in their life. Galatians 6:2 directs us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." I am blessed to be able to share that burden with them.

#### **GOLF MARATHON!**

The Golf Marathon will be coming up in May and we will be looking for any and all interested supporters to help us raise funds for our ministry here at PCCF. If you would like to help and/or support us, please let Chaplain Danny know! You can reach him at 508-830-6200 x 473.



#### THE SHERIFF'S PRAYER BREAKFAST!

The Sheriff's Prayer Breakfast will be held at the Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, MA on June 18, 2025, at 6:50am. Sheriff Joe McDonald will be there, as well as some Veterans, Police, Firefighters, EMT's Correctional Officers, Administrative staff and others who serve in Public Safety. This is a time to give thanks, and show appreciation to those who protect families, our communities and us. Call Chaplain Danny at 508-830-6200 x 473 or email at <a href="decree@pcsdma.org">decree@pcsdma.org</a>. He needs to let Hotel 1620 know how many are coming by June 13, 2025. You will love this! We have had a full house that last several years, and we can only seat 200!!

#### PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayer for inmates who have trusted in Jesus and will soon be released, that they will start attending a good church, find work, transportation, and a place to live.
- Praise for Tony, an IT tech with the PCSD who is helping Chaplain Danny get his website fixed!!

#### **SPECIAL THANKS!**

- Thank you to the Steeple Point ministries who continue to support us.
- We would also like to thank Steve and Sharon Semas for donating some Bibles.

#### HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

- 1. We need Study Bibles for those who complete all the Bible lessons!!
- 2. If anyone has a vehicle that they would like to donate to NHCM, let Chaplain Danny know! Some inmates after their release need a car to get back to work!
- 3. If you would like to make a contribution to our ministry, please make your check out to:

#### New Hope Correctional Ministry or NHCM and mail to:

New Hope Correctional Ministry
P.O. Box 1694
Plymouth, MA 02362
You can also Google – New Hope Correctional Ministry

I hope this Easter that you will remember we are free for what Christ did on the cross. His death set us free from our sins. Let us take the Easter story to all who do not know about the risen Savior! Let us be like Peter in Acts and tell others about the death, burial, and resurrected Christ. I pray everyone has a blessed Easter Sunday.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support. I look forward to seeing you soon!

In Christ,

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## INSIDE

- How God Used You and Angel Tree to Change Thomas' Life
- Pg3 Help Prisoners' Kids Discover Christ at Camp.
- Pg4 Special Matching Grant Will DOUBLE Your Gift Today!



Jubilee is the flagship newsletter of Prison Fellowship

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Thomas was 8 years old the first time he got to go to Camp Joy El, an Angel Tree camp in Pennsylvania. It was a struggle at first. During the

chapel service, everyone was singing joyfully and there was a lot of activity. Because Thomas has autism, he says, "I was really noise sensitive."

Feeling overwhelmed, he stayed at the back of the chapel. It wasn't long before a counselor noticed and, Thomas says, "He came and helped comfort me and then helped me get through that."

Thomas recalls that it was hard to

interact with the other kids at first, but again, support from counselors helped him feel more comfortable. And during devotional time, reading was a challenge for him so counselors would read to him. Eventually, Thomas started to connect with not only the counselors, but also fellow campers.

Even though going to camp takes Thomas out of his comfort zone, every summer he wants to go back.

Two of his favorite activities are swimming and the water slide. Also, the devotional time.

And, as far as the chapel service, Thomas says, "I wanted to participate, but I couldn't because I was getting overstimulated. And then, one year, I somehow just started enjoying it more because I was able to actually be there with everyone."

#### A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Thomas was invited to be part of the Camp's 4.12 Leadership Training Program—a discipleship opportunity for students in grades 8-12. The program helps participants grow in their faith, learn how to serve others, and build friendships with others on the same journey.

Some of the camp counselors who have played such a big role in Thomas' life also participated in the discipleship program so he was excited to be invited to join.

Thanks to all Thomas has been a part of at camp, memorizing Bible verses has become a priority for him. Thomas also brings his Bible to school with him and listens to a Bible verse each night before he goes to bed.

Last summer, Thomas got the chance to work at summer camp helping out wherever he was needed.

#### THANKFUL TO BE A JUNIOR COUNSELOR

And then, in his final week at camp,

Thanks to caring partners—like you—who made it possible for Thomas to go to Angel Tree camp, he has discovered the love of Jesus, the encouragement of counselors, and the friendship of other campers.



Thomas shared that he really wants to work for Camp Joy El full-time. The camp staff and counselors are like a second family for him. His years of being at camp mean it's a safe, uplifting environment where Thomas has been able to thrive.

Thomas got great news. He was asked to be a junior counselor! This role gave him more responsibility and more opportunities to connect with campers.

Each day that week, Thomas led a devotional time with a group of four campers. He says, "At first they didn't want to listen, and then slowly they got into it more. By the end of the week they were really excited

Thomas found it very rewarding to see how God could use him and His Word to have such a positive impact on others.

When asked about his future,

#### **HOW YOU CAN PRAY**

Please pray for Thomas and other Angel Tree camp counselors as they get the opportunity to share Jesus with children of prisoners this summer and let them know how much they are loved.



Blessings, dear sponsor Pastor Tom, it is a pleasure for me Blessings dear sponsor Tom,

I am pleased to greet you again through this beautiful letter, hoping that you are in very good health and alongside your loved ones. On this occasion, I want to share with you a beautiful topic called: My Typical Week. I would like to tell you that my daily routine begins at 6:00 in the morning. I get up, wash my face, make breakfast, help my mother weave hammocks, then I take abath, put on my uniform, have lunch, and go to school. My classes start at 1:00 in the afternoon and end at 5:00. When I get home, I rest for a while, do my homework, have dinner, watch television for a while, brush my teeth again so they are healthy, and go to bed. I also want to tell you that my best day of the week is Thursday because we have physics class at school and I like to play with my classmates. The days I go to the project are Saturday mornings. Dear sponsor, I would like to ask you, what time do you have dinner? How many people live in your house? I also want to tell you that on Saturdays, the Child Development Center offers a baking workshop. I arrived at the CDC at 9:00 a.m. They gave us a snack, prepared the dough, and let it rest for two hours. During that time, we received the class, sang the song, and learned a lot about things. Finally, we baked French bread and prayed. We read the Bible, and God taught us about us. After the workshop, we had lunch and shared our meals with everyone. Dear sponsor, I want to ask for your prayers for me so that God frees me from all illness and that God may free my family from illness and always provide for us. I bid you farewell very affectionately, Estrella

This letter was written by the participant. Translator Sorayda M.

Mi dibujo My drawing



From:	

# State-of-ine-leant Care in Africa



#### DEAR FRIEND.

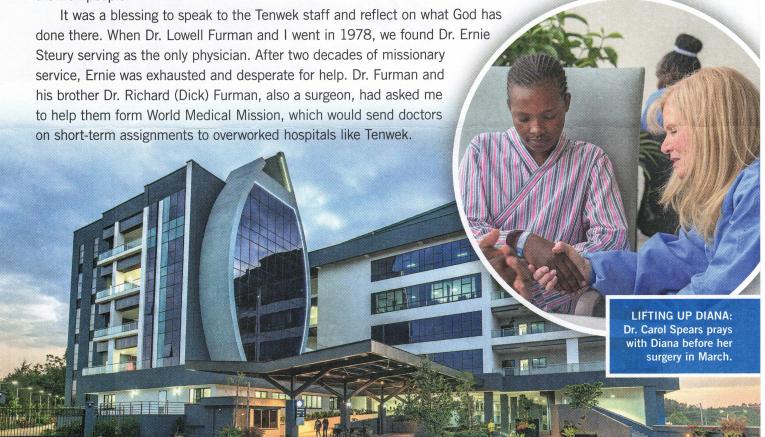
recently visited Tenwek Hospital in Kenya and met patients and staff at their brand-new cardiothoracic center built largely by Samaritan's Purse.

Tenwek does more than half of the heart surgeries in Kenya and has more than 800 patients on a waiting list. At the hospital, we met Diana, a 14-year-old girl born with a heart defect. Her condition was diagnosed after she began having convulsions and tiring easily; she

even had to quit school. Without surgery, doctors said she would most likely die young.

Her father recently died, and her mother was overwhelmed, desperate to find help for her little girl. They were blessed to find that Tenwek could do the life-saving surgery. Diana's operation took over two hours, including 45 minutes as a heart-lung bypass machine kept her alive while surgeons repaired the lesion. All went smoothly—praise God!—and she should now have many good years ahead of her. She told us she is eager to return to school and hopes to become a nurse. She looks forward to being baptized around Easter this year. Please pray for her.

The motto of Tenwek is "We Treat, Jesus Heals." That's what I saw when I first visited almost 50 years ago. I have seen since then how God has grown Tenwek from an overcrowded facility with three patients in a bed to a state-of-the-art hospital, a beacon of light for the medical world in Africa. It's the largest dedicated cardiothoracic center in sub-Saharan Africa and will serve patients throughout the region, which is home to over a billion people.



Dr. Steury pleaded with us to find another physician to come out and help him. Even though we didn't yet have a list of doctors, we prayed that God would send someone.

When I got back to my hotel in Nairobi a few hours later, I received a message saying that a doctor had made an unsolicited call to our North Carolina office that day, volunteering to go to Africa for a month. This was God's mighty hand at work! Several more doctors served over the next six months. Dr. Steury and his wife got the rest they needed and served two more decades on the mission field.

Since that first doctor, World Medical Mission has placed over 10,000 doctors, nurses, dentists, and other professionals at scores of mission hospitals around the world. That's the bread and butter of the ministry—bringing Christian medical providers overseas to support those already serving in missionary hospitals. They bring energy, expertise, and an enthusiasm to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Several World Medical Mission volunteers are serving at Tenwek now, including Dr. Stephen Girgis, a pediatric cardiologist from Florida who directs the cardiology department and assisted skilled African doctors with Diana's surgery.

He is thrilled with all the new equipment he can use to treat patients, but he is even more passionate about the Christ-centered focus of Tenwek's medical team. "Caring for the physical heart is only one aspect of our job. Woven throughout all the care is the love of Jesus," he said.

Thousands place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ each year at Tenwek through the witness of trained chaplains and staff members. Please join me in praying that a century from now, Tenwek will remain a beacon for the Gospel.

World Medical Mission also sends medical teams to provide specialized care that's beyond the scope of many missionary hospitals. We just sent a team to another Kenyan hospital, Chogoria, where our volunteers treated 183 dental patients and 42 urology patients. Each patient was prayed for and received a Bible.

Please pray for our World Medical Mission volunteers and post-residents around the globe as they follow in the footsteps of our Lord, "preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease" (Matthew 9:35).



# WAYS YOU CAN HELP

#### PRAY

Lift up the medical teams and chaplains at mission hospitals around the world, including

## WORLD MEDICAL MISSION

World Medical Mission helps Christian physicians, dentists.

#### SPECIALTY TEAMS

Many mission hospitals lack the personnel and resources to perform complex surgeries

#### WHERE MOST NEEDED

Samaritan's Purse works in Jesus' Name to help victims of disaster, disease, famine,