

# *Biomedics for Christ Newsletter*

*Serving the servants for the cause of Christ*

"What you (biomed techs) do is the most needed skill in medical missions in the third world!"

Dr. Ron Garst,  
Orthopedic Surgeon  
And Missionary  
(India and Bangladesh)

## **Summary:**

There is an article about some general needs for biomedics in missions. Then a couple of specific needs will be laid out. The second in a series of three devotionals on the testimony of Bezalel is included. Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare, Inc. will be this month's showcased ministry. This month we are short on personal stories from "the front lines." But there are people working on their stories in the wings. I am waiting on one that intrigues me. One of your peers went on a mission trip and somehow came back with a wife. THAT HAS TO BE A STORY!

Stay tuned to future editions for presenting of other ministries that directly need or effect biomed techs in the field. International Aid not only hires biomedics for their home office and to travel, but they also have a training program in 2 or 3 developing countries. If all works out they will be next months showcase. Another unique training program will be presented soon. Worldwide Laboratory Improvement is being innovative and there may be an opportunity for someone to help this hyperactive mission in central Michigan.

## **Showcase! NO JUNK FOR JESUS!**



*Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare, Inc. (TECH)* is a member organization of approximately one hundred evangelical medical missions and individual members. Check out their web site at [www.techmd.org](http://www.techmd.org) Some of the ministries are relatively large with long venerable histories, i.e. SIM, Samaritan's Purse with paid staff and some are young mom and pop organizations, i.e. Hurley Ministries, many others totally faith based for financial and staff support. The individual members include a nurse from Philadelphia, a doctor doing his military duty in Afghanistan, and so many more. TECH is an awesome group of some of the biggest hearted people I have ever worked with. While the word technical is in the name, the need for technical skills is great. Of the 100 ministries only three or four have biomed techs available to them. These guys and gals stretch themselves to try and cover the needs of the other ministries. As you will see in editor's note below this is an area in which you may help.

TECH was formed 16 years ago by 7 men who were concerned about the need for quality medical equipment in Christian hospitals and clinics in the developing world. There were (still are) incidences where garbage was sent to these people who often sacrificially give their lives to mission work.

As an example a ministry in Ukraine was given a container of equipment and supplies. My friend, the mission clinic doctor took a couple of 'excess' pieces, an EKG and infant incubator to the local government hospital. This would help with relationship and be able to cover the patients that needed more than the clinic setting could provide. When the EKG was plugged in ... it did not work. Four screws were quickly removed opening the back of the case where a note on a three by five card said, "We are not sure if this machine will work or not. It has been soaked in saline." Needless to say the note was not signed. My friend's anger worsened when the infant incubator was plugged in and it did not work. Opening the unit revealed NO HEATING ELEMENT! There are worse stories than this that we will share in the months ahead.

Unfortunately, this is too common. Our TECH friends are uniting in an effort to stop this kind of activity. Someone along the line came up with the mantra "NO JUNK FOR JESUS!"



Bill Teninty, biomed for International Aid was the first vice-president of TECH and has kept a running history and is the source for the following information. TECH had a small beginning, similar to what is happening with Biomed for Christ. In talking with Bill, Cal Williams (MAP International Brunswick GA) and Carl Eldred (CHOSEN Erie PA) over the years they all express pleasant surprise to what TECH has become. The emphasis from the beginning was to improve equipment donation quality and delivery of quality equipment to mission hospitals in the developing world. They hammered out Quality Standards in 1992 for equipment that the members agree to when they join. More recently, in 2004, Quality Standards for medical supplies have been adopted.

The patriarchs insisted on breaking down denominational walls and those of us who came along later have markedly benefited from the family atmosphere and networking that goes on. Dr. Ron Smith pediatrician in Georgia and missionary doctor to some of the hard places on the earth, generously set up the TECH website and a "list serve" that opened networking to a new level in 1996. Now several times a day information, equipment, supplies and staff are matched to appropriate need.

There are two conferences a year where ministry updates are shared. This is always encouraging to all. Workshops and breakout sessions cover a multitude of appropriate subjects for equipment, supplies and managing a ministry. These groups are often the best source for good timely unfiltered information for ministry and healthcare needs in crises regions. My friends in TECH have been the "first responders" in Bosnia, Rwanda and now the tsunami stricken SE Asia.

***The greatest need among these ministries remains enough biomed tech help to evaluate, test and repair medical equipment at home and abroad so we can meet the need.***

In closing on the subject of TECH quoting Bill Teninty; "*TECH has a bright and exciting future as increasing resources become available, the quality of leadership improves, meetings offer greater substance and variety, and members are encouraged to work together in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ. We continue to seek His guidance and blessing as we work together to address the needs of the world's poor in His name.*"

I am in hopes we will here more from Bill next month in regard to the schools he manages for biomed techs in third world settings in Philippines, Ghana and Honduras.

## Editor's note

In the first letter I said we would discuss ways in which biomed skills are needed and how you can help. If you do not mind I will start general and finish with one specific need that came to my attention this week.

One of the first concerns is do you have to travel? Frankly we hope some of you will have that desire, but if like me you are a homebody the answer is you can be a great help where you are or at least close by. One of the first ways biomed can help is by steering appropriate equipment into medical ministries here and abroad. You are among the first to know when a new contract is made for the electrosurgical units being replaced. There are about three ways they are going to be handled. First is third party refurbishers will give a few cents on the dollar and turn a profit. In itself that is not bad, but it takes equipment out of the small pool of resources for those we serve. Talk with the materials manager or property VP and let them know there is benefit in donating it to a ministry overseas. They can put there picture in the local paper, or in the hospital employee newsletter and reap rewards by improving esteem among their employees and the local patient population.

Second is that the equipment is simply discarded, trashed etc. If the equipment is appropriate for use in developing countries this is a crime. Donation can help with the standing in the community as mentioned above. Donation in this case keeps from filling our landfills/garbage dumps.



Third is when the OEM providing the new contract offers a discount or rebate for the old machines they are replacing. Again this is usually pennies on the dollar. They plan on getting rid of the potential competition these machines might provide. Their destiny then is usually a land fill or scrap yard. The aforementioned reasons still apply. In addition I encourage you to do your best to make the local detail person/salesman feel as guilty as you can. On the rare occasion he may be able to change the home offices plan. If he

cannot and he truly feels guilty, can't sleep at night then he may give you one or two of his machines from the back of his garage!!! Ask me how I know!

Don't be embarrassed – be a pest. Look at the choice for that machine. Garbage dump, scrap yard, or getting another 3 – 5 years use saving lives in Zimbabwe!

Now there are several other ways biomed can use your skills in medical mission work. But I have to save some of this stuff for future articles. BUT I do want to present a specific need as follows for anyone close to Lemoyne, PA (just south of Harrisburg).

CURE International, a wonderful ministry in Lemoyne PA has collected some equipment in their warehouse earmarked for a nation much in the news in last couple of years. Is there on this list a biomed tech close to that community or has a friend that could help test and repair the equipment before they send it out? Please contact me and I will put you in touch with the staff of CURE.

The other option is to ship the equipment to Boone NC Samaritan's Purse where they will get to it when they can. BUT I can tell you with the tsunami and other demands the biomed department there is swamped already. Here is a great way to step up to the plate and use the talent God gave us for the benefit of those He gave us compassion for.

## Bezaleel—God's Craftsman, part two (of three)

Bezaleel called... equipped... and to teach

**Exo 35:31** And he hath filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;

And HE (God) hath filled him (Bezalel) with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship;

In the last newsletter we discussed the calling of God on the life of Bezalel. God's calling gives purpose to our lives. As biomedical technologists I assure you that your skills are needed throughout the world and could be literally lifesaving, life changing for many in the world. Your life and work has purpose.

This month we will talk about *equipping*. God announced to the people of Israel the call of Bezalel by Moses' announcement in Ex. 35:30. Can you imagine God calling but then abandoning you? In verse 31, Moses says of God that He "filled Bezalel with His Spirit, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship." "Filled... with the Spirit of God," as are all believers in the teaching of Christ in John chapters 14-16. This filling is an act of God for the work of God through this man. In the Old Testament the Spirit seems to fill called men of God selectively. While Christ promises the Holy Spirit to all who believe in the New Testament age. It is enough for this discussion to note that God chose, God filled, God gave wisdom etc. Our God is not a Sunday only God, but the LORD of our daily lives. He is not a God that sits on a distant rock no longer caring about you, but rather the God Who redeems all areas of our life. God had a special plan for the tabernacle and He raised up instruments capable of doing the work. He fills/equips us. He has a plan for us.

What about the line "in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all manner on workmanship?" Aren't wisdom, knowledge and understanding just different ways of saying the same thing? Well these words share the thought of just how fully Bezalel is prepared by the Holy Spirit. These attributes follow the filling of the Holy Spirit and are a function of that Inspiration. 'Wisdom' is to be skillful, and prudent of mental capacity as well as the physical skill needed for the work at hand. 'Understanding' is different in that it deals with discernment at the "component level" (Something you guys and gals know about – Bezalel could change out a transistor and not have to throw out the whole board!) He was able to separate and reconnect all the aspects of the job before him. And 'knowledge' meant he had a practical experimental knowledge of the job or product. In other words when he studied the diagram, he built it, turned it on, it worked, he knew what it was used for and it performed for a long time. In other words we might say of Bezalel he knew his stuff forwards, backwards and sideways.

Now let's deal with that last phrase, "in all manner of workmanship." The word workmanship can be interpreted quite literally "machines". How do you like that? While it would be a stretch (Lie) to say that Bezalel worked on electrosurgical units, he built the tools and machines needed to construct and transport the tabernacle through all those years of wandering in the wilderness. He would have made a good biomed. God did not use him as a prophet or preacher, but the work of Bezalel's hands and mind lasted for as long as 800 years until the temple was destroyed and the articles of the temple hauled off to Babylon. There are some who believe that some of these utensils may still exist. Now that is some kind of workmanship. Do you believe the only way to serve Jesus Christ is to preach, or teach Sunday School class? Not so friend, Paul teaches (Eph. 6:5-7; 1 Co. 10:31) that in all we do we are to do it as unto the LORD.

God was glorified by the work of Bezalel's hands. It is my point in this devotion to encourage you that God can be glorified by the work of your hands, and the work of your minds. James says we have no wisdom because we ask not – seems simple! ASK!

Lord, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, and give us the gift You gave Bezalel. Give us wisdom, understanding and knowledge in all manner of workmanship/machines. Let us use the gifts You have given us for Your Glory both here in our jobs and wherever else You have a work for us to do. Give us that desire to serve Wherever You are at Work! In the powerful name of Jesus,,,  
Amen.

## **The Administrative Trash**

WANT OFF THE LIST: Simply e-mail me with a kind, brief note at dmccutcheon@helpsintl.com and it will be done.

Permission is granted to share the stories in part or as a whole with biomedical technicians, work, church, at lunch, in the bathroom, etc.

Be "Head Hunters!" Talk this up with your peers. E-mail with any additional new contacts that are interested in getting this newsletter. Since Jan. 05 newsletter we went from 22 on the list to 53 at the time of this writing Feb 16, 2005.

MISSIONS EXPERIENCED BIOMEDS—I need your stories to share. You know the ones ladies and gentlemen. Those stories where God made you look good! (and we know you ain't HA! ) God gets the glory in that story!

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*Share with other biomed techs particularly those interested in  
missions!*