

Biomed for Christ Newsletter

Serving the servants for the cause of Christ

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Conviction of sin is one of the rarest things that ever strikes a man. It is the threshold of an understanding of God. Oswald Chambers

What's In This Letter?

How can you help in missions? A couple of new ideas are presented.

CHOSEN is the ministry highlighted this month. They have been around awhile and provide an awesome service to medical ministries in the third world.

This month's devotion will be a discussion of repentance.

Next month we will share a couple of testimonies from biomed techs that have been in the field.

Feel free to comment or make suggestions for future letters.

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Hearty Thank You to:

Greg Swigart for sending a halothane vaporizer for the Drager unit in response to the need we announced in the last letter.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell about the need for electrosurgical units. We need good ones for ministries in Mexico, Guatemala and Dominican Republic. Several of the ministries that we work closely with are really short of this device at this time.

How Can Biomed Techs Help in Medical Missions?

Two requests have come to Biomed for Christ Newsletter. The first is from Alex and Laurie Blackney who are missionaries in Wolaitta Soddo, Ethiopia. Alex helps maintain Dr. Harold Adolph's Soddo Christian Hospital, while Laurie provides physical and rehabilitation care to children in the region. They are getting older (don't tell them I said that) and need a break. But they want some folks to come and fill their shoes for awhile. If you are interested reply to me and I will share their contact info at that time. Their request is as follows. (is there a husband and wife team out there that are interested??)

"All persons will need to be Christians and have a good report from their church body. All will need to cover their own travel and living expenses except that housing which will be provided without

cost. (For anyone seriously interested, there is a short video available on each. Information on costs will be provided upon request.) Our needs here in Wolaitta Soddo, Ethiopia are:



For Alex at Soddo Christian General Hospital:

A qualified bio-med technician who is willing to work at Soddo Christian General Hospital for a minimum of two years to train Wolaittans in the field so they can assume the duties after this volunteer leaves.

For Laurie at Hope Renewing House:

Someone (1 person needed but a couple is welcome) who can give 4 1/2 months to overseeing all phases of the work of Hope Renewing House (HRH) while Laurie goes on furlough.

Hope Renewing House is a residential facility caring for disabled children with malnutrition, paralysis and contractures of polio, infections, burns, TB, neurological deficits, and skin diseases. (There are procedures in place to protect you from TB.) Medical training is a plus but not necessary. Your first 3 or 4 weeks will be orientation. Also, we have Supervisors who will assist you and you will have E-Mail access to Laurie throughout your stay. Some other duties are providing money for ongoing expenses (from funds provided) and arranging for doctor/hospital care when needed.



In addition to our needs there will also be many other opportunities for service such as: work at Soddo Christian General Hospital, teaching at the Christian College, preaching on Sundays at local churches. Under the same wing, Alex and Laurie"

The second request is from Tim Smith at World Medical Missions/Samaritans Purse. This would be a short term opportunity. Please note that some special skills are needed. It would really be exciting to partner one of the biomed on this list with this need. Tenwek Hospital serves several hundred thousand people. If you have ever heard Dr. David Stevens Executive Director of Christian Medical and Dental Association speak you heard a story or two about this hospital. I just returned from a conference and remember Dr. Stevens saying there are as many as 5,000 professions of faith each year from patients treated at this hospital. Let's see if one of us can help them!

"I was wondering if you might help me find biomed with medical gas experience who would be interested in installing a medical gas system at Tenwek Hospital, Kenya. Most biomed usually only deal with medical gases up to the wall with the piping and associated equipment falling under the purview of facility maintenance folk. So finding someone who can braze pipe and install med gases according to NFPA 99C may not be the easiest thing to do, but the Lord knows. We are anticipating going in March 2006."

If interested in this project please contact me at dmccutcheon@helpsintl.com

Ministry Highlight:

CHOSEN – Christian Hospitals Overseas Secure Equipment Needs.



I asked Rick King to drop me a note about the ministry of CHOSEN (Christian Hospitals Overseas Secure Equipment Needs) back in the summer months..... we both got busy. Late in October I received the following:

“In the past few months God has been watching over our work here in a fantastic way. For months we have been working with a mission organization that is doing a lot of great work in the world. They had contacted us near the first of this year. They were in need of a lot of equipment. Some of it we were not able to provide, but some of it was right up our alley. As we started to work on their equipment we found out that we were not going to have all the right materials. At first we were not sure how we were going to fill their order. That's when God stepped in. Really He was always involved. Through many events that God Himself could only do, every piece of the order was met. It was great knowing that there is no way humanly possible that we would have been able to get what we needed plus get it at the right time. I am always looking to see how God is working to meet the needs of His people. CHOSEN is nothing without God's guidance. CHOSEN kneels at the cross knowing that we are here to serve the Lord of the universe. I don't know about anybody else but there is no other way to live than to live for Christ. CHOSEN is here for one reason and that is to be a beacon of light in a world of darkness. May God continue to use us to meet the need of the sick and the hurting until He comes and takes us home.

Established in 1969 by Richard Love, after seeing the desperate equipment needs at a Korean hospital, he began collecting operating room and sterilization equipment. Since that little beginning CHOSEN has tested, repaired and shipped approximately twenty million dollars of medical equipment to over ninety countries.

Rick King is now the Executive Director. This busy ministry has three staff people. So each person gets to wear a lot o' different hats.

In medical missions we often run into unique situations. Water supply or the lack there of, effects how autoclaves function. This is not a problem in the USA. But frequently a problem in the areas that CHOSEN serves. They have developed self contained 25 gallon tank supply that mounts to standard sterilizer.

Rick and I had an interesting conversation about bench top sterilizers. The units with electronic controls are notoriously fickle in the mission field. They do not handle the brown outs and surges so common in those theatres. CHOSEN is suggesting going to the large pot type sterilizers (think of your grandmother's pressure cooker/canner on steroids) that use an external heating source. I have seen these used in the field over gas and electric stoves and have heard of open fires being used in some few cases.



CHOSEN provides surgical tables and operating room lights also. In order to properly support these they have a shop to refurbish and repair the tables, lights and sterilizers in



Packing a container

Erie PA. They also provide the appropriate accessories.

Their heart for missions is to supply these necessary pieces of equipment. They especially desire to support smaller ministries. CHOSEN is very much a partner in ministry, “working together to lighten the load of others,” as Rick said during the interview.

CHOSEN has responded rapidly to my every call for help. I came to know them when MedEquip Missions joined Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare, Inc. (TECH) about 10 years ago. When I asked Rick

what TECH membership meant to him, I couldn’t write fast enough to record all he said. TECH is a source for help with technical problems. Like me, Rick leans on fellow TECH members such as Jim Loeffler at International Aid and “the guys” at Samaritan’s Purse. TECH also puts forth their standards to which CHOSEN adheres, improving quality and appropriateness of their service.

At the time of the interview I was feeling somewhat overwhelmed and asked Rick if he ever felt that way. He confessed there were days, but he never felt totally overwhelmed because, “The God I serve is bigger than what my day holds.”

So what do you need, Rick? Recently they have filled the position in the shop. But Rick reports that *OR lights are in short supply*. Can any of you help CHOSEN by directing donations to Erie?

CHOSEN’s web site is www.chosenmissionproject.org and Rick’s email is rick@chosenmissionproject.org Elaine Hixson usually answers when you call their office at 814-833-3023 tell her you got the contact information from Biomedics for Christ Newsletter!

Devotion: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. (NASV, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

Repentance that leads to Godliness vs. repentance that leads to death.

How much time do you spend at work trying to stay out of trouble? Much of what we do in medicine today is done with the idea that some attorney some day will be hounding the doctor or hospital we work for. We spend much of our time trying not to get caught! Ha! Before you get ticked off just think about it. Haven’t we have all had times when we were “sorry we got caught?” This is NOT repentance, but rather an example of the worldly sorrow that Paul speaks of in Corinthians 7. Judas had this kind of repentance when he tells the priests with I believe great sorrow that he has betrayed an innocent man and throws the 30 pieces of silver to the floor of the temple compound. A very short time later Judas was worm food (Matthew 27:1-5). Since this is not Godly repentance, what is?

There are at least two actions or components of Godly repentance; ours and His!

On our part, repentance is ownership and hatred of our sin. We come finally to a place where our sin smells repulsive and we see our personal sin for what it is, corruption to our heart and souls. But like Judas we substitute penance, the counterfeit of repentance. We sin and enjoy it. Then struck with sorrow and fear we do something good (give to the poor, go on short term mission trip, do 20 Hail Mary's etc.) to soothe the conscience. Judas had pushed this to the point his fear of punishment out ran his conscience and despair now ruled in his heart.

Adam tried to avoid the judging eyes of God by covering his naked body with fig leaves. Penance is man's moral attempt to hide from God's judgment to come. Can't you see Adam standing there downcast, scratching because his clothes caused him to itch? Penance is a fig leaf! Penance is my attempt at covering my sin, so there is no need to shed blood and no need for the cross. Penance is a band-aid on a corpse, Jay Wegter says in "True Repentance."

False repentance exudes external sorrow, but not the brokenness of our core being. I can be truly sorry I got caught. I manipulate those around me with tears, good works, the devil or God made me do it, ultimately it is not my fault. I can always find a scapegoat, there is always an excuse. I squirm until I find a comfortable position in my Fig Leaf Suit of Flesh...til Friday night, then the process starts all over again.

True repentance, again, takes ownership of our sin. I have no excuse. I violate God's word and He is just to deal with or judge my sin. David said, "I have sinned against You and You Alone" (Psalm 51:4a) after committing adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah her husband. Achan in Joshua 7 states clearly he sinned against God. He seems truly broken, he does not offer excuses or try to escape Joshua's pronouncement of God's judgment in any way. Some will argue and I am willing to accept I may be wrong, but I would not be surprised to see Achan in Heaven.

True repentance hates sin nature (Ps 51:3-5; Rom. 3:23) and confesses specific sins (Ps 32:5; 1 John 1:9) to our Heavenly Father. Repentance cannot be divorced from the work of Christ, nor from faith in Christ. The LORD killed animals to make clothes for Adam and Eve. Set this picture in your mind. Adam had to strip of the clothes made by his hands and accept the bloody garments made by the hand of God. Adam had to meet God naked. GASP! Spiritually dead, my heart stripped bare, unable to save myself, Christ takes my burden of sin on the cross and saves me for all eternity. Penance says I can cover my own sin and denies the necessity of the cross.

This is where we come to grips with the second act of Godly repentance. Like naked Adam the repentant brings nothing that God desires except his stinking dead self. The repentant are dependent on God. Remember the prodigal son came to the end of his resources and the end of his self, returning home to ask to be allowed into the servants quarters was met by a father that RAN to meet him and lavished a second inheritance upon the boy. The prodigal son had an attitude of repentance and it led to a changed heart, changed life, and changed behavior.

Cheap grace, self esteem, and worldly sorrow is the vomitus from many of our pulpits in the churches of America today. We need true repentance, self loathing over our sin, and to recognize that grace is awesomely expensive costing God the Father His Only Begotten Son in our place.

Arthur Pink offers seven marks of true repentance in his book "Repentance" and I close with this: 1.) A hatred of sin; 2.) A deep sorrow for sin; 3.) Ongoing repentance and

confession of sin; 4.) Turning from sin to God; 5.) Restitution where applicable; 6.) Permanent fruits of a changed life; 7.) A realization that repentance is never perfect in this life.

Lord in Heaven, Convict us of our need for Your Son Jesus in each of our moments. Convict us of our sin and cause us to truly repent. Cover us, Redeem us to Your Glory and place us in Your Harvest Fields to do Your bidding. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Plugged In? ('cause I know that is yr'all's first question when the nurse calls and says, "this thing won't work!")

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!

- Share *Biomed for Christ Newsletters* with other biomed techs that may have an interest in Christian medical missions or humanitarian aid work.

Biomed for Christ Newsletter

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Share with other biomed techs particularly those interested in missions!