

Science with a Mission, Inc.
"Providing Diagnostics for the Developing World"
Jul/Aug/Sep 2013 Newsletter

Overwhelmed

Ever been **overwhelmed**? It can be good or bad. There are times I fail miserably with balance in my life – I want to finish painting the outside of my house before the spring rains come, I want to have weekends with my nieces and nephews, I want to get ahead of assembly work for SMI so we can keep pace when summer comes (our busiest time of the year)...and I feel **overwhelmed**.

But you can be **overwhelmed** in other ways. Recently, my Aunt Jan chose to have donations made to SMI in lieu of flowers for my Uncle Johnnie's funeral. And I was **overwhelmed**. More than \$1,500 came in and I wanted to use the money in a special way. Since the family of one of my cousin's wives is from Colombia – I figured it would be wonderful if I could cover the cost of diagnostics for use in Colombia for someone. But there was slim chance of that. In 9 years, we have had only 1 order for use in Colombia. I figured there was no way we would get another order anytime soon for me to use this money in that way. But I was wrong. (I know, I was shocked too.) Two hours after writing a note to my aunt asking about other countries she might have a heart for and want to help – I received an order for use in Colombia. And you guessed it, I was **overwhelmed** – and I was not alone. Here is part of the E-mail I received after telling Kathryn her diagnostics would be covered from my uncle's memorial money:

"I am **overwhelmed** by your offer. Our team continues to experience so many blessings as we prepare for the trip; we see this as divine confirmation that we are walking in obedience to do God's will. I am also sorry for the loss of your uncle. What a blessing to receive donations in his name and memory.

One of our clinic sites will be the tourist fishing village of Taganga (just outside of Santa Marta) where many women earn their living "dating" the visiting foreigners (in the hopes of marriage and a brighter future). I've been told by the local church that HIV/AIDS is a big problem (as well as unplanned pregnancies). I don't know what the local resources are for testing and treatment, but am glad that we might have the opportunity to offer confidential testing and some counseling. I will check ahead of the trip to find out what the referral options are for those who are HIV positive, so that we are able to offer some options for local treatment.

I grew up in Colombia as a child (primarily Bogota and Cali) and have been working on the North Coast (Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta) since 2009.

My team and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts - please relay our sympathies and thanks to your aunt.

Take care,
Kathryn"

Volunteer from Cleveland?

Yup, in April I had a visit from a woman I had met only once – several years ago. She has been receiving our newsletter ever since. So when a conference brought her to Boston, she took the time to drive to SMI world headquarters and volunteer for a few hours – before her long drive to PA – and later back to OH. **Thanks Zoel!**

Confirmation Money

Thanks to Zac for donating a portion of the money he received upon completing Confirmation class. His money will be helping folks in **Togo** (western Africa). The photos below and on the right are from Togo.



Clinic in Togo – Justina (nurse) is on right



Training on diagnostics and logging results



Testing for malaria

Niger

There are more folks who will be receiving their diagnostics for free....

"Alyne: Thank you so much!!

The tests arrived in the mail today!

As I held the box I thought to myself....

"What is in this box will save lives!!"

Thank you so much for your gift to us in memory of your Uncle! I will send you photos when we return from Niger in October. Blessings, Amy"

My prayer for each of you reading this update is that you would be **overwhelmed** by God's goodness. I thank you for being a part of this ministry. God is doing amazing things around the world...let Him use you to be a part of it.

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