

October 2010 Team - Guinea

Hebrews 13v5

..... And be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

I never realised what this verse really meant until I had the opportunity to go to Guinea last year. The eight person team was led by David Rainey. We met up with Ron and Heather Yearwood, missionaries with New Tribes Mission who lived with the Tanda tribe in the north of Guinea



THE TEAM: PAUL, HEATHER, RON CHERITH, DAVID, VALERIE, CONNIE, JOHN, DEREK, DAVID

As a practice nurse I was very interested in the medical situation.



The medical Dr/Nurse responsible for medical help in the tribe had limited experience as a Dr/Nurse and not fully qualified. He also suffered from diabetes himself and had to be educated in its symptoms, treatment, diet and smoking cessation. He was unsure of medical equipment that has been donated to him and had to be taught how to use it.

DR/NURSE GELO WITH DAVID THE LEADER OF THE TEAM

Cleanliness was not an option and waiting times to see the Dr/nurse can be hours in the hot sunshine or coming back the next day. Some patients who are very sick do stay overnight. There is no hospital available for the tribe and outside medical help is over an 8 hours walk away.



THE MEDICAL CENTRE
BUILT BY FRIENDS IN ACTION

Cataracts are very common among the elderly tribe leaders which have resulted in poor vision which could be corrected by a simple operation but there are no experienced surgeons available to carry this out.

A few years previous children did not live over the age of 3 years old until it was discovered diphtheria was very present in the tribe. Vaccinations donated as out of date stock are now available to each child resulting in them living longer.

Because of mixed marriages Down syndrome children are also common within the tribe the chief and his wife have a Down syndrome child. There are no special needs facilities for these children and they are very vulnerable to sickness. All medication and treatment must be paid for and locums from the town charge double the price.

Malaria is another condition very ripe in the tribe where medication is available however people of the village are very poor and not all of them can afford this.



ONE OF THE HOMES
OF THE TANDA BOYS

The Christian Tanda people are very happy laidback trusting individuals their goal being to survive within such a deprived medical world. But God is present and with them and they depend on him for everything.

Why should we complain? We have a very healthy medical system which we should be thankful for and God certainly meets our every need.

Valerie Abraham