

# MISSION CONNECTION



*Inspiring News from PC (USA) Medical Missions Around the World*

Late Summer 2002 Volume 9, Issue 3

## GILMORES FACE CHALLENGES ON RETURN TO NEPAL

*"Safety is relative. More important is being in the center of God's will"* DR. TAD GILMORE

Most people would reconsider returning to a country where rebel factions are free to roam the hills, demanding money even from hospital employees, and threatening lives and limbs. But, in spite of the political unrest, Dr. Tad and Jane Gilmore recently returned to Tansen Hospital in Nepal as PC(USA) medical missionaries. In an interview with MBF before the couple left, Tad Gilmore said, "Safety is relative. You can be unsafe in your own home. More important is being in the center of God's will."

In 1997, only a year after they first arrived in Nepal, Tad suffered a heart attack that sent the couple home for his surgery. He sees that heart attack as one of his greatest blessings. "The people in Nepal didn't think we'd be back," he says. So many times missionaries have come and gone and never returned or communicated again. "Once I realized I was going to live, I knew I wasn't meant to be in the U.S." Jane remembers the reaction of the Nepalis at Tansen Hospital when they returned. "They would take my husband's hand and say, 'We just want to see your face.'"

Tansen Hospital, located in the hills of western Nepal, is one of the many mission hospitals benefiting from MBF-raised support. It has 131 beds and a clinic that serves 400 people a day, five days a week. Dr. Tad Gilmore is one of two to four

surgeons on staff (depending on the number of short-term doctors). Together, they perform 12 to 15 surgeries a day.

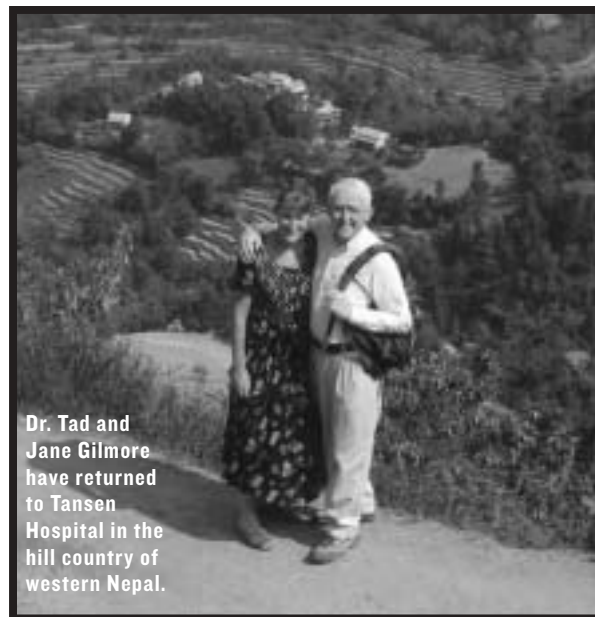
Burn victims make up a shocking 11% of Tansen's daily admissions. Tad explains why. "First, the pressurized kerosene cooking stoves people use here often explode. Second, in this culture fire is a means of punishment or death. For example, a married woman is set on fire because she produces only baby girls. And third, suicide. This is a very fatalistic society. When a young person is thwarted in some opportunity, he may become despondent and burn himself to death."

Jane, trained as a teacher, has had a successful ministry in her home. Learning the language has been difficult, she says, but it has helped develop leadership in the Nepalis. "We see that we can only be successful in the context of our Nepali relationships. They are our interpreters and we depend on them to help us."

Since Tansen is a teaching hospital, Tad Gilmore is hoping to eventually work himself out of a job. "Rarely does a missionary really want to do that," says

Jane, "but having been in so many different countries (they've worked in Swaziland, Kenya, Dominican Republic, and Croatia), we've realized that working yourself out of a job is the only way."

They've also realized the power of Jesus Christ through medical ministry. "Jesus Christ is the only answer," says Dr. Tad Gilmore.



Dr. Tad and Jane Gilmore have returned to Tansen Hospital in the hill country of western Nepal.

## The Envelope

**F**or the past year, colleagues in various nonprofit organizations (including some Presbyterian congregations) have shared that they were in financial difficulty due to the economic downturn in the US economy. Until now, MBF has not had the experience described by others. As the Vice President of MBF said last night during the monthly Executive Committee meeting, the PBS program featuring MBF brought unexpected financial support that helped us through 2001.

As friends and supporters of this ministry, I believe you need to know that the US economic situation has now found



MBF. For the period January to June (as I write to you) compared to the same period in 2001, MBF is down \$758,338, which is 38%.

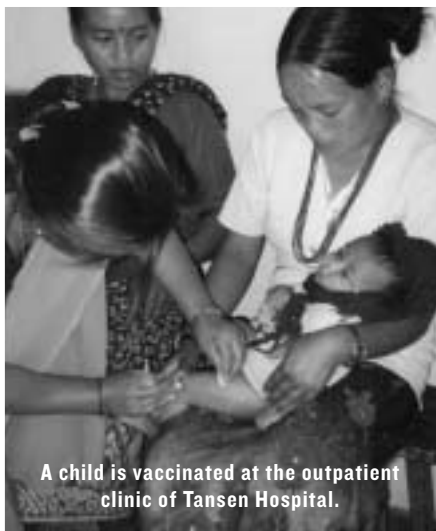
If you know of persons or organizations who would be interested in supporting this ministry, please let a Regional Director, or me, know.

Sometime back, donors suggested that we enclose an envelope with each Mission Connection. Perhaps you would consider using it today. It goes without saying, any help you can offer at this time would be deeply appreciated. I know you will keep the foundation in your prayers.

*Daniel L. Force*

## You Can Help Tansen Hospital and Others

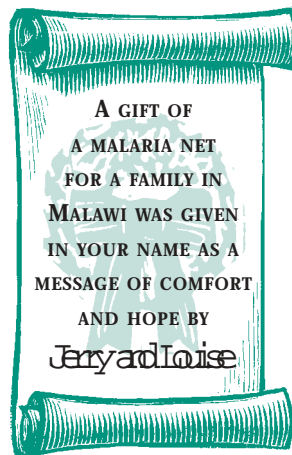
MBF continues to raise support for the Gilmores and other PC(USA) mission co-workers. During 2001, MBF donors provided for the shipment of supplies, general operating support, and charity care at Tansen Hospital. MBF continues to raise support for mission hospitals and clinics and their general operating costs, equipment and vehicle replacements, medicine, fuel and capital improvements. Your gifts are used for the most urgent needs at Tansen and other partner health facilities.



A child is vaccinated at the outpatient clinic of Tansen Hospital.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET

### HAS YOUR CHURCH TRIED IT?



**M**any of us would rather receive a gift like the one shown here than one more knickknack to dust, or a box of candy we shouldn't be eating anyway. With the help of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, Presbyterian (USA) Church congregations all across the country have discovered a way to make Advent an event of giving that brings unusual satisfaction and joy to both giver and receiver. During the Sundays of Advent, these churches have set up a Christmas Bazaar in the Fellowship Hall, displaying alternative gifts (see below) that may be given in the name of a friend or relative. Some congregations have used a catalog rather than a bazaar. All gifts benefit people in developing countries who are too poor to pay for health care needs.

### SAMPLES OF ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

- For \$1 A doctor consultation for a person unable to afford one.
- For \$2 HIV testing
- For \$5 Vaccinate 20 children against Polio
- For \$15 Run a rural health clinic for a day
- For \$18 Treatment during labor to prevent HIV to be passed on to newborn
- For \$20 Removal of cataract
- For \$25 Treat a TB patient for six months
- For \$40 Purchase an artificial limb
- For \$100 Supply annual vaccination needs for an entire village

MBF makes it easy to plan and execute a Christmas Gift Market. A "How To" booklet with simple instructions and ideas, plus a list of alternative gifts, is available from your MBF Regional Director or from the Houston office.

# AIDS: THE GROWING CRISIS

*"It is clear that we must get involved."*

REV. JANET GUYER,

WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES AIDS TASK TEAM

**T**he statistics are too overwhelming. We can't even imagine the enormity of 40 million people of the world living with HIV/AIDS. But visit a country in Africa, where the AIDS crisis has escalated at an alarming rate, and you see the face of AIDS everywhere: children who have lost one or both parents (one hospital in Malawi had 6000 orphans in their catchment area), hospitals unable to cope with the crisis, most women afraid to ask that their husbands use condoms, men who have bought into ridiculous myths about condoms, many ignorant of the nature of HIV/AIDS. One in four people are infected in some parts of

Sub-Saharan Africa. But the infection rate threatens to also rise dramatically in parts of Asia and Central and South America.

The crisis is so great that the International Health Ministries Office of the PC(USA) has established an AIDS Task Team to work with partners overseas. As AIDS Consultants in Africa, Caryl Weinberg in Central and West Africa, and Rev. Janet Guyer in Southern and East Africa will monitor the situation, helping the PC(USA) make the best use of resources to support our partners fighting the pandemic.

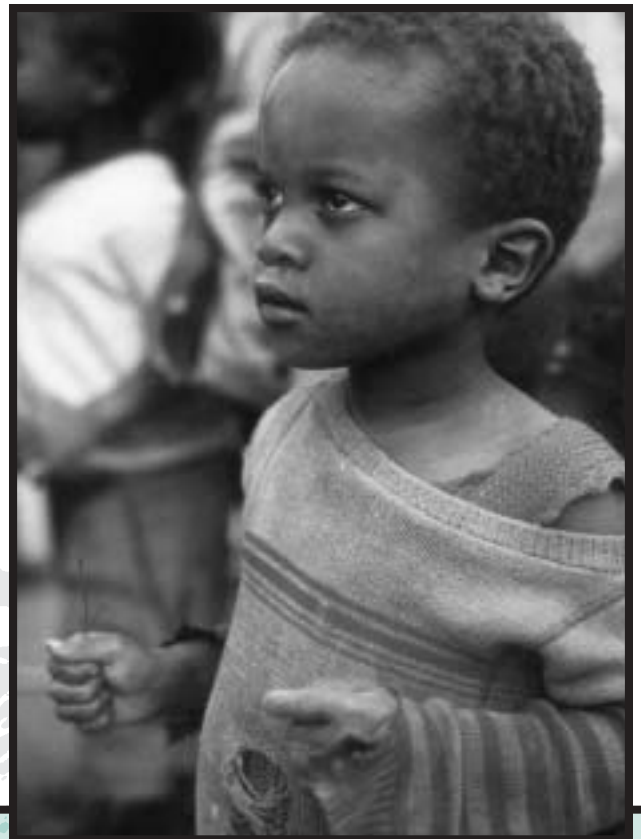
The need is staggering, and we, as Presbyterians, can make a difference. MBF and International Health Ministries of the PC(USA) are supporting international pro-

jects for the care of children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, congregational-based projects helping AIDS patients and providing preventive education, and the work of AIDS consultants based in Africa. Your gifts help us continue to support these AIDS programs, as well as those fighting the other "Diseases of Poverty," Malaria and TB.

**The AIDS crisis in Africa has produced thousands of orphans needing food, shelter, medicine, and love.**

## Breaking News

The 214th General Assembly has approved a "Plan of Christian Compassion to Ameliorate the HIV/AIDS Crisis in Africa," which would call for increases in PC(USA) and U.S. government support for international development programs, especially those providing HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and care.



## DISTURBING STATISTICS FOR AIDS WORLDWIDE

*(As of end of 2001, according to the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)*

- Today, 40 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. The overwhelming majority are in Africa. Half of new infections are occurring among young people (15-24).
- Women are becoming increasingly affected by HIV. Approximately 48%, or 17.6 million, of the 37.2 million adults living with HIV or AIDS worldwide are women.
- During 2001, AIDS caused the deaths of an estimated 3 million people, including 1.1 million women and 580,000 children under 15. Another 5 million were newly infected.
- Last year, an estimated 800,000 children under 15 acquired HIV. Over 90% were newborns infected through mother-to-child transmission.

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## AIDS: The Growing World Crisis



### SAVE THE DATE

April 25 and 26, 2003

International Health  
Mission Conference 2003

*"Healing Ministries  
in a Changing World"*

Indianola Presbyterian Church  
Columbus, Ohio

### PC(USA) CHURCHES ENDORSE CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET

*"It's been one of our most  
popular events."*

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

*"One man did all his Christmas  
shopping at the Holiday Mission  
Market. He said, 'Every year I  
send this person another  
sweater and I know they don't  
need another sweater . . .'"*

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
TIGARD, OREGON

*Share this copy  
of MBF Mission Connection  
with others in your church who  
are interested in medical mis-  
sion. Additional copies available  
from MBF regional offices.*

*Note: We'll be happy to add  
names to our MBF Mission  
Connection mailing list. Just  
contact your Regional Director  
or the Houston office.*

**Administrative Charge Continues** Restricted donations increasingly outstrip unrestricted donations coming to MBF. The Foundation is dependent on unrestricted gifts, not only to send overseas, but to continue the ministry of mission interpretation to Presbyterian congregations and to collect and ship medical supplies and equipment. Due to the shortage of unrestricted funds, the MBF Executive Committee continues to place a 5% administrative charge on restricted cash donations. In other words, out of every restricted dollar, five cents will be used for mission interpretation and administration.

The mission of Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) is to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through a healing ministry. In partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA), MBF provides mission education in congregations, solicits financial support, medical supplies, and equipment, and recruits brief-term volunteers for overseas service in health care.

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