

December 2023



Dear Friends and Gifting Sight Donors,

I have not written in almost a year and so let me begin by first expressing my deepest appreciation for your continuous generosity! Together since 2010, we have successfully performed over **25,000** restorative cataract surgeries gifting sight to the blind! This is truly a blessing! However, this miraculous accomplishment has not been achieved without challenging strife and grave danger – particularly over the past two years. Due to the horrifying civil war in both North and West Ethiopia, Dr. Samuel was forced to not only cease conducting the much-needed eye camps but was jailed for 12 days in 2021, wrongly accused of supporting the rebels in the Wollega region.

On a more positive note, and only because of your generous funds, one of our trained nurses was able to rescue our project efforts in the absence of Dr. Samuel. Nurse Mitiku has to-date, successfully used his training skills to perform over 200 cataract surgeries in the face of Ethiopia's ongoing civil war over the past two years. AND favorable efforts also continue in South Sudan, where we have sponsored the opening of the new Wau eye clinic. There, Dr. David Malish and his staff deliver eye care services to an area otherwise bereft of eye care. Although this is a private eye clinic, I personally witnessed the team often providing many gratis emergency treatments!

Recently, I traveled to the Sudan not only to visit the Wau clinic but more importantly to visit the Nuba Mountains, a politically contested area that is part of North Sudan. While there, I visited the remote Mother of Mercy Hospital, managed by an American, Dr. Tom Catena. During my visit, I had the rewarding opportunity to work alongside Dr. Caesar – their only cataract surgeon who remarkably serves the region's million people – and who unselfishly provides his services at a fraction of the standard salary because he is passionately committed to serving the blind. The hospital's lean budget cannot properly support him and so I hope you will consider my plea of providing Dr. Caesar modest supplemental funds to continue his work in this remote region of Africa.

As a last stop in my African travels, I visited the slums of Nairobi where I connected with Solomon Odero. Over the past five years, Solomon has managed the Day Africa Project which provides job-training (cosmetology, tailoring, etc.) to young women to afford them a stable income of \$1 to \$2.50 per day. The program beneficiaries are simply thrilled to earn a very modest but steady income to independently support themselves and their children. Solomon's grant-funded program has assisted hundreds of women in the slums of Nairobi to overcome extreme poverty and escape sex trade, but unfortunately, the grant term funds have recently expired, and he desperately needs support to continue his life-changing efforts. Will you also consider this plea for assistance?

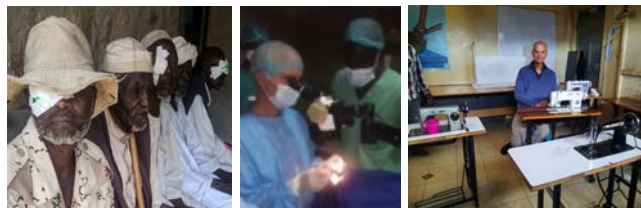
In summation, the Good Lord has placed incredibly selfless and willing "angels" in various remote and dangerous regions of Africa to perform miraculous acts of service for those most in need! So once again, I hope you can find it in your hearts to generously support these remarkable individuals! Thank you for your bountiful kindness and may you be given special blessings this Christmas and throughout Year 2024!

Your partner in service to the poor,

Dr. Jim

James Guzek

James P Guzek, MD



To learn more or donate online please visit: <http://www.giftingsight.org/>

P. O. Box 2652
Pasco, WA 99302-2657
www.giftingsight.org