

Science with a Mission, Inc.
“Providing Diagnostics for the Developing World”
Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 Newsletter

Greetings and response to need

Greetings from Science with a Mission world headquarters in Massachusetts! I hope you and your family are healthy – in every sense of that word.

In late March, SMI donated supplies (latex gloves, alcohol, cleaning supplies, etc.) to a local hospital. For those that live out of state, you may not realize that early on, personal protective equipment was in short supply in MA; leaving frontline workers in danger. This donation left us short on material we absolutely need for our work. However, with the slowdown in international flights and accompanying decrease in orders for our tests...we didn't miss a beat and were able to restock in a timely fashion before the orders picked back up.

Poorest places around our planet

I don't recall what brought me to the website...but I sat amazed as I looked over the latest Human Development Index Ranking. (HDI basically considers life expectancy, anticipated years of schooling, and what a decent standard of living is for any given country.) From there, they ranked 189 countries. What I found amazing, was the number of countries where SMI tests have been used. Below are the 25 lowest HDI ranked countries: the poorest of the poor, if you will. You have helped us reach out and help people in all but 4 of those countries. Wow! To God be the glory.

189	Niger
188	Central African Republic
187	Chad
186	South Sudan
185	Burundi
184	Mali
182	Burkina Faso
182	Eritrea
181	Sierra Leone
180	Mozambique
179	Congo (Democratic Republic)
178	Guinea-Bissau

177	Yemen
176	Liberia
174	Gambia
174	Guinea
173	Ethiopia
172	Malawi
171	Djibouti
170	Afghanistan
169	Haiti
168	Sudan
167	Togo
166	Senegal
165	Côte d'Ivoire

What life is like...

So what does life look like in these places? Well, let's not choose one of the 25 poorest. Let's pick another country, Angola (#149). (By the way, our tests have been used there as well.) Some stats I did not know:

- 1 in 350 Angolans is a victim of landmines
- 70-90% of the population live in poverty
- the length of roads destroyed or damaged amounts to nearly twice the circumference of the planet
- Greater than the physical damage are the psychological, social and spiritual wounds, which will require years to overcome

Diagnostic update

Orders have definitely picked up in the past few months. Some missionaries who came stateside at the beginning of the pandemic are now heading back to the countries where they serve. And some will be bringing tests back with them – like Matt who is bringing Typhoid and Hepatitis B strips to Bangladesh. However, the majority of our orders are still for use in Haiti. Even though most people are not flying to Haiti for mission trips – we can get tests into the country. We ship to one of several companies located in FL, and they are then flown to Haiti as cargo.

It is helping to keep clinics and hospitals supplied during this tough time.

Benin

And since we all love photos...here are some photos from Benin. These were taken earlier this year before the novel coronavirus had spread very far. Thanks for sharing, Dr. Lindsay!



Waiting to be seen by the doctor



I nearly missed the adorable baby (in green)



Dr. Lindsay makes a new friend

By the time you receive this update, November will be upon us with Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner.

I know many are tired of wearing masks, not hugging friends, cancelled events, etc. But I'd like to echo Paul's words to the early church in Galatia: "Let us not become weary in doing good..." So as we travel through the upcoming holiday season, may we focus on all for which we have to be grateful.

And may we:
"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thess 5:16-18

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