

**Science with a Mission, Inc.**  
**"Providing Diagnostics for the Developing World"**  
**Jan/Feb/Mar 2013 Newsletter**

**Highlight on Malaria**

Some folks are skeptical about the technology we use for our diagnostics. The best case scenario when this happens is to have them use our tests alongside their current method of diagnosis – usually microscopy – so they can compare time, effort and results head-to-head. Below is an E-mail from Ted who was one of these skeptics.

"Dear Alynne,  
Just got back from West Africa - the malaria tests worked great. We did do geimsa staining as well for species- and there was good correlation between the RDT's and the stained specimens. [My note: RDT = rapid diagnostic tests; this is one way the Science with a Mission tests are described. Geimsa staining refers to using a microscope to determine which parasite has caused the malaria. Ted was noting that our tests agreed with all his microscope studies.] I am attaching photos from the trip. We took care of a little girl with cerebral malaria who had been seizing for hours before she came to us. (Jennabu is her name.) **We did a RDT (falciparum) and started malaria therapy within 20 minutes of seeing her** - miraculously, **she survived** neurologically intact. Thanks in part to our rapid test - therapy was started quickly and there was no delay. [My note: one of the great advantages our tests have over microscopy is how quickly you get results.] We saw desperately ill children many times a day with severe malaria- the **RDT's were a great help and blessing.**"

Photos to right are from West Africa

**Nigeria**

"Alynne, I was really in tears when I read your note about the orders and how your organization has covered both cost of the strips and the shipment. May God continue to bless you and your organization and to show light to others in darkness. I cannot thank you enough. Remain bless, Queen"



**Child with malaria receiving treatment**



**Jennabu on day 4 of treatment**

## More Malaria Stories

Sometimes the people who purchase our tests are not medical missionaries, but rather missionaries who simply need to be able to tell if someone in their family or village has malaria. There are Wycliffe Bible translators serving in Papua, Indonesia who purchase our tests for just this reason. Below is a story from the blog of Chase and Kelli.

### "Jesika's Dead! Jesika's Dead!"

The day David died we had an unprecedented outbreak of malaria. Sick mommas were bringing sick kids. Thankfully, **we had recently gotten some rapid malaria test kits** (but we had a limited supply). People were torn. They do not yet truly trust medicine, but they knew a kid had just died. We told everybody who came that if they wanted us to test for malaria and give medicine they had to agree to (1) take the medicine faithfully until they had finished it and (2) NOT to call a witch doctor.

We no longer felt we could depend on parents to administer the medicines to themselves or their kids. So, we began taking the medicine to houses as often as every 2 hours.

Over 4 weeks we tested 28 people for malaria – 25 were positive – 10 were positive for both types. [malaria tests shown below]



During the second week, Sion brought his daughter, Jesika, to be tested (his middle

child, Jeffron, had already been treated and recovered from malaria). While we were waiting for the test results, Jesika went into a **major seizure. Jesika had BOTH types of malaria and it had gone cerebral.**

After she was stable, Sion and his wife, Pauline, took Jesika back home.

Later that day, I heard people **wailing** from the direction of Sion's house (about 400 yards down a path) and saw people running that way. When I got close I could hear Sion's dad yelling, "Jesika sauwo! Jesika sauwo!" – **"Jesika's dead! Jesika's dead!"** I literally wanted to collapse.

As I got within sight, all I could see was a group of about 12-15 people standing in a close huddle wailing. When I finally reached them, I could see Jesika's mom holding her in the middle of the group. Everyone was crying and wailing. Sion was calling out to Jesus. Jesika was **clearly unconscious**. I tried to reach in to feel for a pulse or breath, but it was such chaos, I couldn't tell. **So I started praying.**

A few minutes later, **Jesika opened her eyes**. I finally got everybody calmed down and got them to bring her inside the house, so I could look at her. I sent a kid to run to our house for some medicine. Jesika was weak but conscious. **We prayed.**

Praise God, over the next couple of days, Jesika recovered fully."

We know not every story has a happy ending...but we are grateful for being used by God to help increase those numbers.

Blessings on you and your families in this new year.

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