



GLOBAL MISSIONS

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GLOBAL IMPACT

His Hand is Always on Us

By Sherry Moore, missionary to Guinea, West Africa

As the date was quickly approaching for Tom and me to return to our beloved Guinea, West Africa, we learned that we would not be able to leave the U.S. any time soon.



Tom had a checkup following a cataract surgery in his right eye. We were happy that everything was as it should be. However, for two weeks leading up to this appointment he had been experiencing discomfort and vision problems with his left eye. During the appointment Tom discussed those issues. The doctor took a scan of the back of Tom's left eye to determine the cause. The scan revealed a macular hole in Tom's eye. A macular hole is a small break in the macula in the center of the eye's light-sensitive tissue called the retina. The eye doctor said that the hole could only be repaired by a retina specialist. It needed to be repaired immediately or Tom could lose the vision in his right eye. He was scheduled to meet with the specialist the following Monday to discuss the surgery. We asked hundreds of people to pray knowing that God could miraculously heal Tom or provide a way for him to have surgery in time.



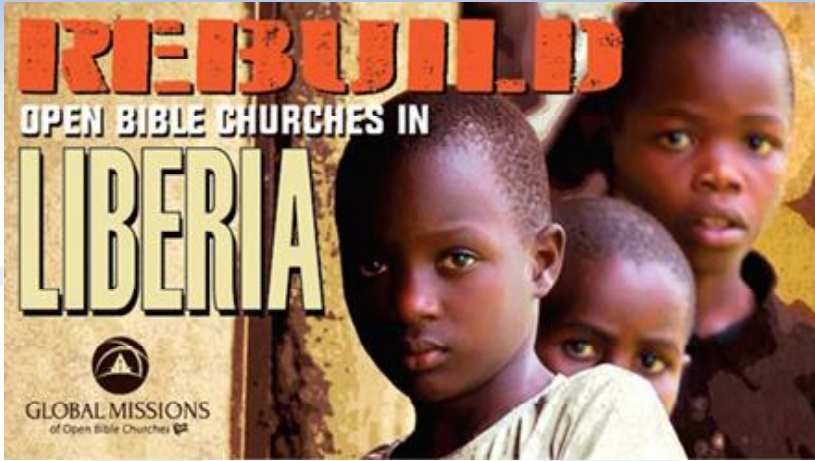
On the Friday prior to our scheduled meeting with the specialist we received word that there had been a cancellation and the specialist wanted Tom to come in to the office to meet with him. God had His hand all over this! The specialist was scheduled to be out that day but when he heard we were missionaries he made

a special trip in just to see Tom. At the appointment we were told the waiting time for the surgery Tom needed is normally several months due to the amount of people waiting to have one; however, due to the recent cancellation, Tom was able to have the surgery on Monday, three days later!

The surgeon explained that a gas bubble would be placed inside Tom's eye following the procedure to help bring the macular tissue back together. While at the appointment the retina specialist shared that he was a believer and asked us about our work in Africa. When we were about to leave his office the specialist said, "It is my privilege to serve you so you can go back to Africa." (continued on back)



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Monday morning finally came. Time for the surgery! As Tom was being prepped for surgery the specialist said: "I always like to pray for my patients." He prayed that God would guide his hands as he worked on Tom's eye so that Tom would be able to go back to Africa and continue bringing Jesus to the people.

The surgery went well but recovery was challenging. Tom had to spend the first five days following the surgery with his head down for 45 minutes of each hour. This would help the gas bubble seal the hole. We were able to get a chair to aid in this part of his recovery during the day and another apparatus for sleeping. Tom had to sleep with his head face down hanging off the side of the bed.

We went back to see the specialist a week after the surgery and he was pleased with how Tom's eye was healing. The macular hole was 45 percent closed and Tom was starting to see color again in that eye. The recovery process will be long, as Tom's vision will continue to improve over the next year. The gas bubble will take around six to eight weeks to completely disappear. Tom's next appointment is January 8, 2018 where we hope to get the "all clear" from the specialist to return to Guinea. Thank you for all of your prayers and ask you to continue to pray for Tom's complete healing. We are so thankful that we were in the States when the macular hole was discovered and that we were near expert doctors who could operate. We are grateful for all God has done and continues to do for Tom's vision!

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

January

- 3 Grace Obot
- 4 Andy* (Last Name Withheld)
- 5 Fayth McConnell
- 14 Tirsa Gaitan

February

- 24 Nancy Juntunen
- 25 Travis Hunsaker

March

- 19 Tammy Swailles
- 20 Drew Welch