

Structuring Efficient Short-term Overseas Medical Missionary Trips

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Let's Pray

AMEN – Adventist Medical Evangelism Network
What's is all about?



**This lecture is designed to help one
answer the “Call to Serve” in an
overseas mission clinic.**

Many thanks to **Dr. Dennis Benedict!** who encouraged me for years to step out of my comfort zone and go on an overseas mission trip...

He taught me HOW to structure an efficient clinic when we went together with Quiet Hour in 2014 to San Jose, Costa Rica.

It will include tips I've learned on my trips to:

Costa Rica

Peru

Mongolia

Moldova

& soon to Kenya!

**How many have gone on an overseas
mission medical mission trip?**

Learning Objectives:

1. *To encourage attendees to participate in short-term overseas medical mission trips.*
2. *To show examples of how to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.*
3. *To show the value of a vision clinic to break down barriers in overseas medical missionary work.*

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It also allows for those who are serving at their normal positions to help finance those who are called to serve full-time.

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WHY...short term?

WHY...overseas?

Why...overseas?

Why...overseas?

- No matter what your profession, whether you are a doctor, nurse, dentist, minister, teacher, etc. YOU are called to serve those people God puts in your path right where you are!*
- That might be in Greeneville, TN like me, or Indian Wells, CA or Iquitos, Peru!*

Why...overseas?

Benefits of going on overseas mission trips include:

- 1. See the world!***





If you would have told me...

...I would have thought you were crazy!











Why...overseas?

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4. ***Make new friends!***











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3. *It forces you to learn at least part of a new language!*
4. *Make new friends!*
5. ***Broadens your overall knowledge!***









Why...overseas?

Benefits of going on overseas mission trips include: (cont.)

6. Far more poverty in other countries than the USA

*“Never does the gospel put on an aspect of greater loveliness than when it is brought **to the most needy and destitute regions**. Then it is that **its light shines forth with the clearest radiance and the greatest power.**”*

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p.226

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Greater the need = greater the impact!

Why...overseas?

Benefits of going on overseas mission trips include: (cont.)

7. INCREASES YOUR FAITH!...MAKES YOU RELY ON GOD *for the things you CAN'T do!...we are so self-sufficient at home...God performs miracles for us every day! BUT, you are more likely to realize blatant miracles God does for you overseas because of your own need of help!*

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FAITH = believing that God will do what He says He will do.

When you see it first hand, your faith grows!



Starting to run low on plus powers...trying to figure out what powers we still had available from the ~1,200 pairs in ~60 different powers we brought.

We pray that we will have more minus patients that morning, which we did!!!



I saw a lady (not necessarily the one pictured) who had a bad pterygium and needed full time sun protection if possible outside especially in the snow! The problem was that she was a +2.00 in the distance, so she needed the power in the whole lens! I knew we had only brought a few sunglasses, and those were only bifocals with the power in the bottom part, so I almost didn't even ask Kezia & Karyn, but then I thought, it doesn't hurt to ask...after all, we prayed we would have what we needed.



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...and it was a +2.00!



Why...overseas?

Benefits of going on overseas mission trips include: (cont.)

8. *Faith is contagious!* *It encourages believers and church members in that part of the world to do the same thing!*

Every clinic started with prayer...

...that God would use us as tools in His hands that the people would see the love of God through us...



He said he was given a book on salvation, but he said, **“We have seen salvation today in these people...these people are specialists in their field, but every one of us is a specialist in our own field...we should be using our talents to serve others like these people who have served us today!”** *(Praise God! He got it!!!!)*



Why...overseas?

Benefits of going on overseas mission trips include: (cont.)

9. *People are watching you!*

Patients constantly ask me..."so where are you going next?"

...they donate their old glasses for my trips

...they tell me they are so glad I go serve the poor in other countries

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Why...medical mission?

Jesus says:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Why...medical mission?

“Precious light has been given me concerning our sanitarium workers. These workers are to stand in moral dignity before God. Physicians make a mistake when they confine themselves exclusively to the routine of sanitarium work, because they consider their presence essential to the welfare of the institution. **Every physician should see the necessity of exerting all the influence the Lord has given him in as wide a sphere as possible; he is required to let his light shine before men, that they may see his good works and glorify the Father who is in heaven.**”

Counsels on Health p. 337.1

Why...medical mission?

Why...medical mission?

There is no question that strictly humanitarian aid is greatly needed all over the world...even here in the United States!

*But true complete health involves more than **physical** well-being.*

*It involves **emotional** well-being, AND **spiritual** well-being!*

*Many times organizations go on humanitarian aid trips, but they neglect the emotional and especially **the spiritual** aspects of health. Going on a medical MISSION trips involves all three aspects of health!*

Why...medical mission?

The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.

The salvation of sinners requires earnest, personal labor. We are to bear to them the word of life, not to wait for them to come to us. Oh, that I could speak words to men and women that would arouse them to diligent action! The moments now granted to us are few. We are standing upon the very borders of the eternal world. We have no time to lose. **Every moment is golden and altogether too precious to be devoted merely to self-serving.** Who will seek God earnestly and from Him draw strength and grace to be His faithful workers in the missionary field? *9T 117.1*

Why...medical mission?

*“Many have **no faith in God** and have **lost confidence in man**. But they appreciate acts of sympathy and helpfulness. **As they see one** with no inducement of earthly praise or compensation coming to their homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sad, and tenderly pointing all to Him of whose love and pity the human worker is but the messenger- as they see this, their hearts are touched. **Gratitude springs up, faith is kindled**. They see that God cares for them, and as His Word is opened they are prepared to listen.”*

—The Review and Herald, May 9, 1912. – {CME 29.2}

Why...medical mission?

“The world must have an antidote for sin. As the medical missionary works intelligently to relieve suffering and save life, hearts are softened. Those who are helped are filled with **gratitude**. As the medical missionary works upon the **body**, God works upon the **heart**.”

Manuscript 58, 1901

Heart = mind

A spirit of gratitude improves not only mental health, but physical health...remember Joy vs. Resentment study...

Why...medical mission?

*“Medical missionary work brings to humanity the gospel of **release from suffering**. It is the pioneer work of the gospel. **It is the gospel practiced, the compassion of Christ revealed.** Of this work there is great need, and the world is open for it. God grant that the importance of medical missionary work shall be understood, and that new fields may be immediately entered.”*

Medical Ministry, 239

Why...medical mission?

“...The mission of Christ was to heal the sick, encourage the hopeless, bind up the **brokenhearted**. This work of restoration is to be carried on among the needy, suffering ones of humanity. God calls not only for your benevolence, but your cheerful countenance, your hopeful words, the grasp of your hand. Relieve some of God’s afflicted ones. **Some are sick, and hope has departed. Bring back the sunlight to them.** There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. **There is a soul sickness no balm can reach, no medicine heal.** Pray for these, and **bring them to Jesus Christ.** And in all your work, Christ will be present to make impressions upon human hearts.

This is the kind of medical missionary work to be done. Bring the sunshine of the Sun of Righteousness into the room of the sick and suffering.

Manuscript 105, 1898

Education, p. 309

In our life here, earthly, sin-restricted though it is, **the greatest joy and the highest education are in service**. And in the future state, untrammelled by the limitations of sinful humanity, **it is in service that our greatest joy and our highest education will be found**—witnessing, and ever as we witness learning anew “the riches of the glory of this mystery; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27.

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How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

Mark Finley tells of a friend who told him this fantastic beatitude which applies to every day, but especially on overseas mission trips:

How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

Mark Finley tells of a friend who told him this fantastic beatitude which applies to every day, but especially on overseas mission trips:

***“Blessed is he who is flexible,
for he shall not break!”***

How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

We want to help people physically, emotionally, AND spiritually!

Examples:

PHYSICAL NEEDS:

-- *The actual medical, dental, or vision clinic addressing physical needs.*







Dr. Svendsen & Dr. Stiles treating patients.









Ш 400
Е 250
Ш 200
Е 150
М 125
Е 100
Ш 80
М 60
М 50
М 40
М 30
М 25
М 20

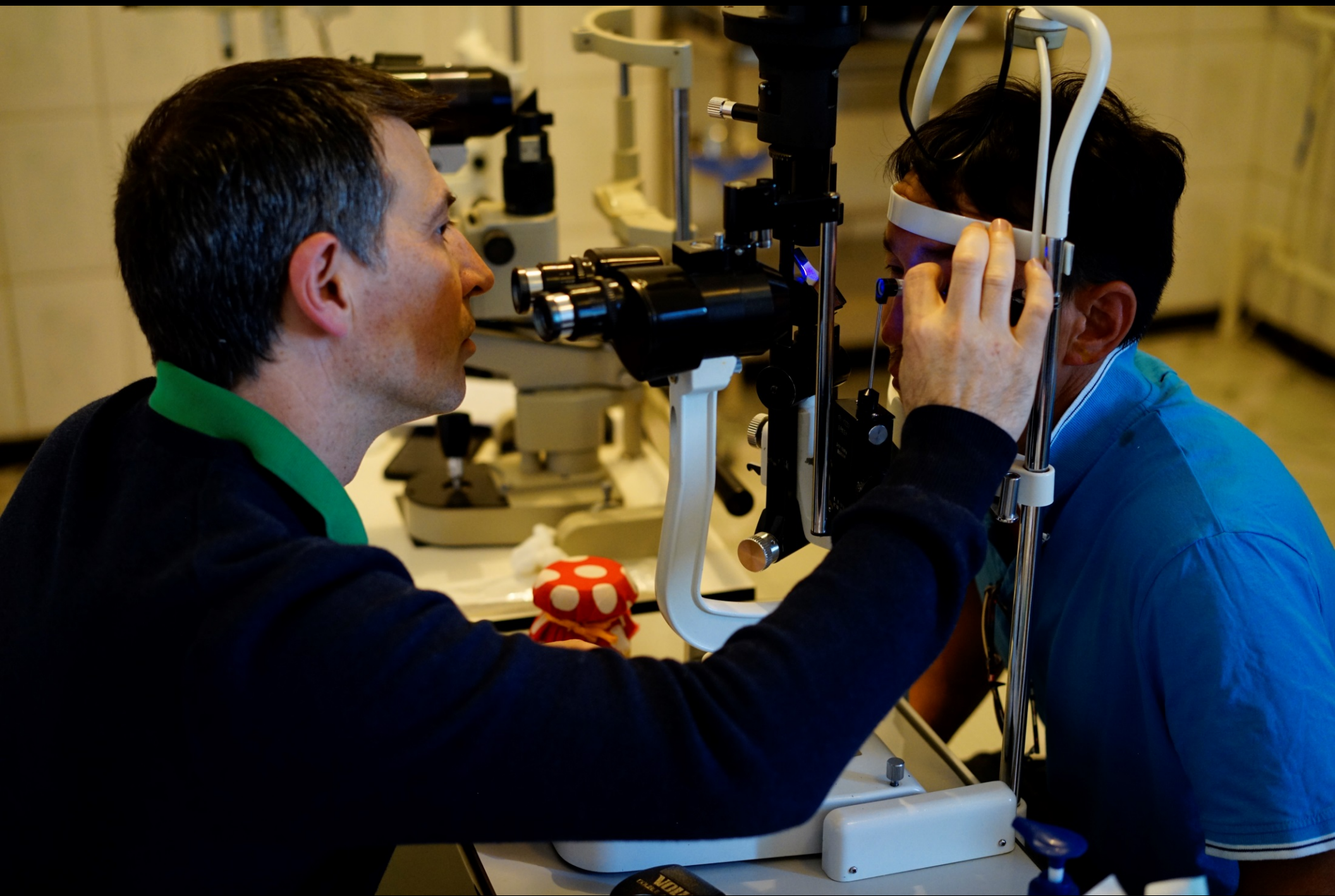
ЮУН
ИЛТГЭЖ
БОЛНО ГЭЖ ҮҮ!

Бурхан байхгүй байсан ч, байгаа юм шиг амьдрах нь хамгийн зөв
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How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

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PHYSICAL NEEDS:

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MENTAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS:

-- *Formal mental counseling*

-- *Local church members mingling with people in line bringing them joy and just talking to them.*



Tolgoit SDA Church







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SPIRITUAL NEEDS:

- *Bible workers talking and praying for people as they are in line.*
- *VBS programs for children & youth*
- *Evangelistic programs for children, youth, & adults*
- *Community help bands: visiting shut-ins, delivering food, cleaning apartments, shoveling snow, splitting wood, painting, building projects*









ING: SABBATH COMES ON THE 7TH DAY—
GOD'S ACCOMPLISHED EVERYTHING & BEFORE
HUMANS CAN REAL
STOP, WORSHIP, REST
...LISH ANYTHING.
(PR. JAPHET)





















How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

It is very helpful if you team up with organizations who have done it before and have contacts in that country.

Examples are:

It Is Written, Maranatha, Quiet Hour and many more

A MUST! Is to have local contacts and an organization that **you can trust** to make the necessary arrangements for you.

- where it is safe to stay
- which churches or community centers you will be located
- provide necessary transportation, food arrangements, etc.

How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

Examples of how we structured a vision clinic in various countries:

Costa Rica – 2 eye doctors

Peru – 1 eye doctor, 2 family practice physicians

Mongolia – 120 volunteers...multi-disciplinary team of psychiatry, physical therapy, OB/GYN, primary care, general surgeons, vascular surgeons, a retinal specialist, a cataract surgeon, an optometrist, an optician, a pharmacist, dentists, oral surgeons

Moldova – 1 eye doctor

How to structure a short-term overseas medical missionary clinic.

EXAMPLE:

how we set up our clinic in Moldova – 1 eye doctor

NAME:

Elena Kanyun Age: 58

CC:

VISION: trouble with: FAR NEAR
for example:
Other eye problems?:

Exam Rec
☒ Yes ☐ No

AR: OD (R)

+2.75 - 0.75 @ 28°

OS (L)

+2.75 - 0.25 @ 28°

VA: **Far:**

R 20/ 50
L 20/ 40

PH 20/ 25 (if no AR) L 20/ 20

FAR NEAR

Dispensed: _____

FULL TIME

AS NEEDED

to be used for:

FAR NEAR

Dispensed: _____

to be worn:

FULL TIME

AS NEEDED

to be used for:

FAR NEAR

Dispensed: _____

to be worn:

FULL TIME

AS NEEDED













**Optional...Near visual acuity....if we have enough volunteers & time
It creates another contact point to see our smiles!**

To “bring the sunshine of the Sun of Righteousness into the room...”

Manuscript 105, 1898









Long lines of people...

The line went all the way upstairs where the sanctuary was filled with people hoping to be seen...

The doctor is always the bottleneck...



2 exam lanes with 2 interpreters!





**Karyn Singh working in the
optical dispensary.**

**Sabrina Kennedy (Lab Manager
at EVEC),
Kristine Ferguson (Lead
Technician at EVEC),
and myself prayed in the
basement of my building that
we would pack the exact
powers that we would need.**







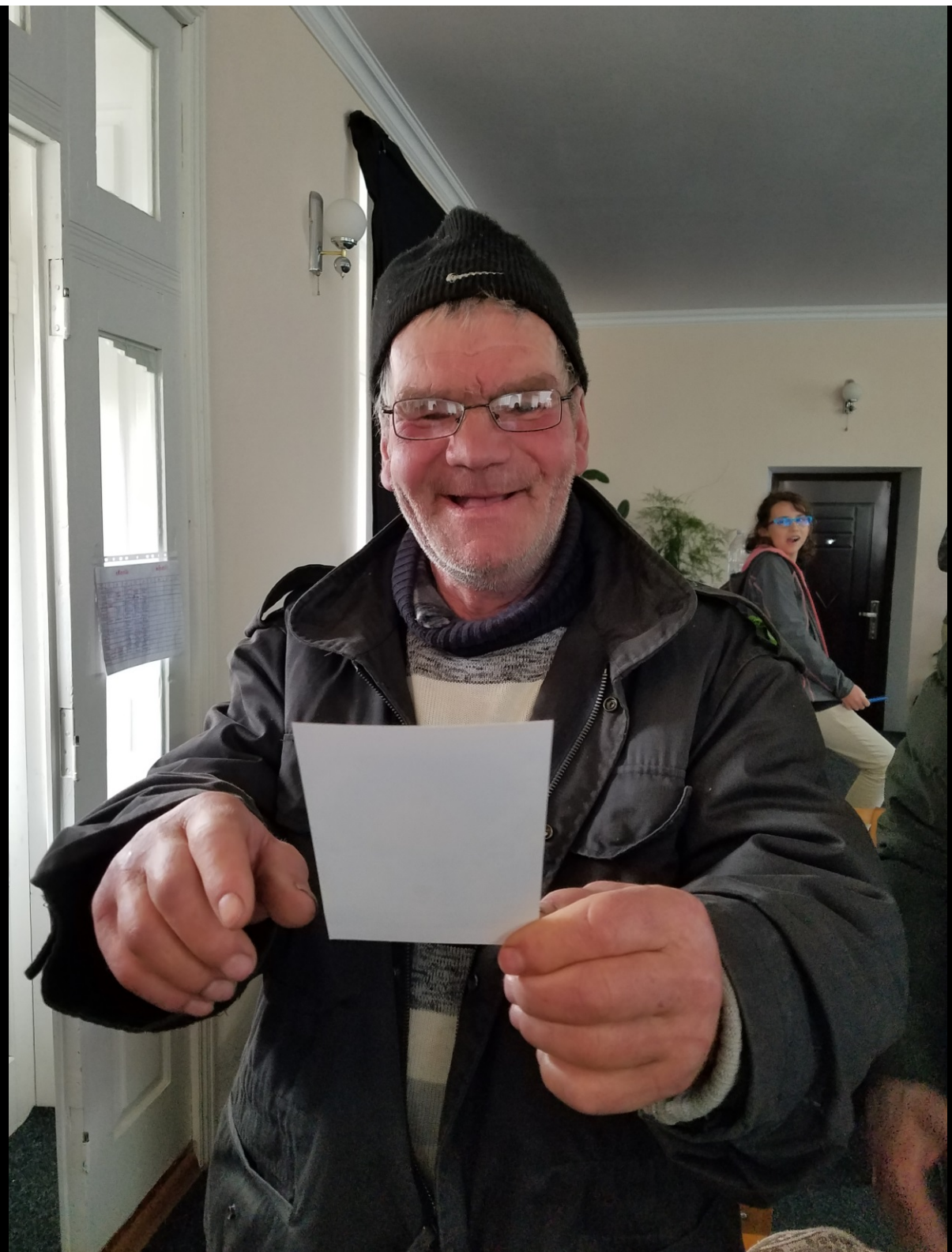






**This 63 year old man's
vision was 20/800!**

**...now he was so
happy he could see!!!!**



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The value of a vision clinic to break down barriers in overseas medical missionary work.

Largest needs anywhere in the world:

#1 – almost always **dental** needs

#2 – usually **vision** needs

usually lack of quality access & cost...

The value of a vision clinic to break down barriers in overseas medical missionary work.

Dental – can give **long-term benefit** of pain relief & better smiles

Vision – can give them something they may be able to use long-term (possibly for years) and even share with other family members
(especially reading glasses)

The value of a vision clinic to break down barriers in overseas medical missionary work.

*“As a means of **overcoming prejudice** and gaining access to minds, medical missionary work must be done, not in one or two places only, but in many places where the truth has not yet been proclaimed. We are to work as gospel medical missionaries, to heal the sin-sick souls by giving them the message of salvation. **This work will break down prejudice as nothing else can.**”*

—Testimonies for the Church 9:211

(Example of two Moldovan men that wouldn't step foot into the church because they were superstitious...)

At the end of the clinic...after seeing 153 patients and having to turn probably another 50 away, the pastor asked us if we could just see 2 more men...they had invited these men to their church many times, but because the men were superstitious they would never step foot inside the church. The pastor said it would be a disgrace to turn them away today, so we saw them.

That's the power of medical missionary work to break down barriers of prejudice so we can demonstrate the love of God!!!!



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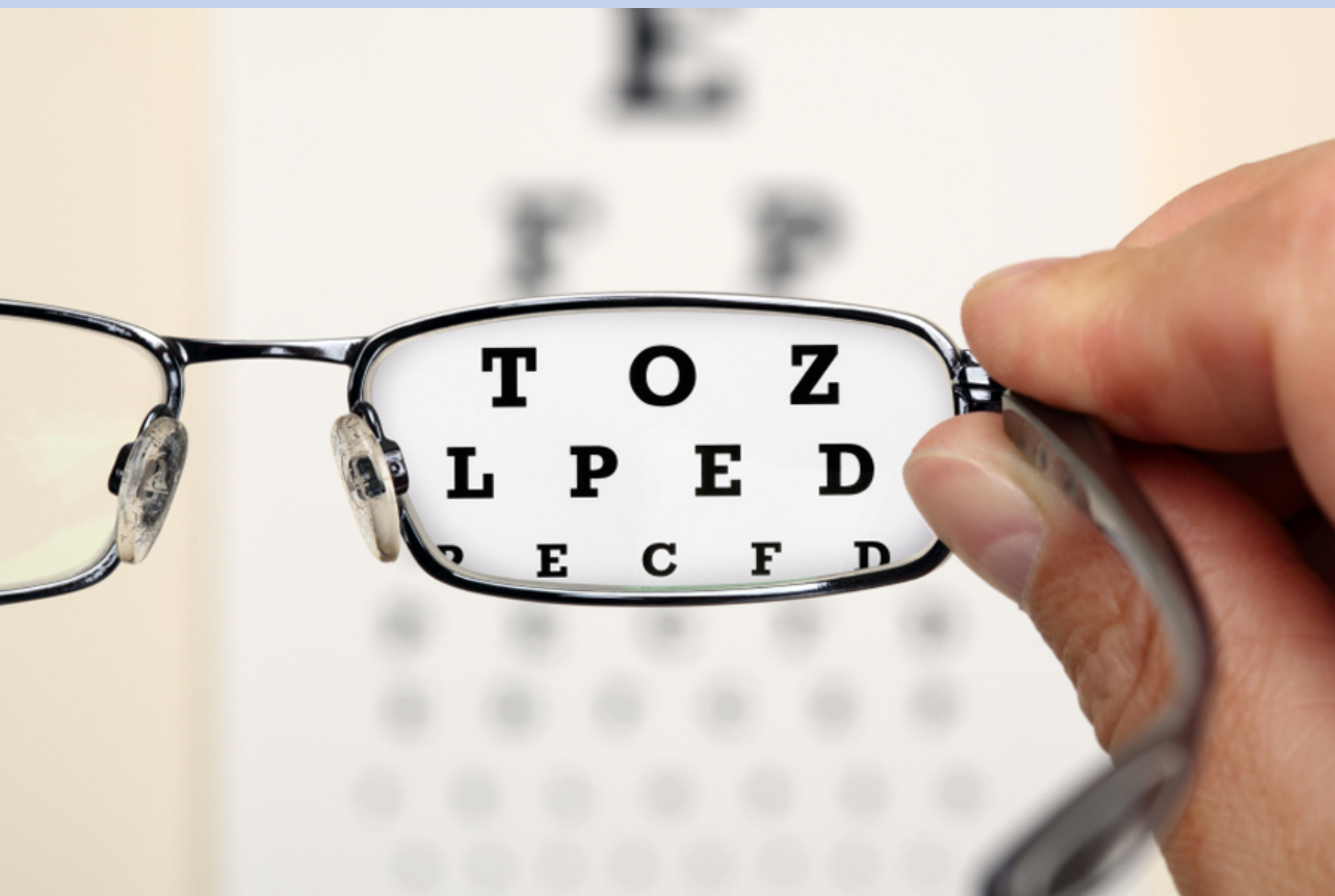
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***“Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law.”***

Psalm 119:18 NIV



CALL TO SERVICE



....Thank you!

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