



# News

## Three Pillars. One Mission.

Medical Missions    Evangelical and Family Missions  
Christian Summer Camp Scholarships



By Dr. Joe Pecoraro and Dr. Vilma Vega

## Hearts Afire touches hearts in Kenya and Uganda Africa

### ***New legs and a new life for Seid from Kenya***

**S**in her mid-twenties and born with polio, life in Kenya was not easy for Seid. She woke up every morning with pain and knew she would have to stand all day in order to avoid the pain of sitting or lying down. She had hoped in her heart that today might be different, but she didn't know how. "Maybe the American missionaries could do something to help her. Make yourself look good," she thought, "today may be special."

After a painful walk to the IVC Church in her hometown of Eldoret, she would willingly wait in line with the 200 or more others for the free medical clinic provided by the Hearts Afire (HAF) team. First stop, was Triage, and only God could have orchestrated the chain of events leading to the upcoming meeting.

While Pauline Hill had been studying for her Nurse Practitioner degree, she was required to teach students how to size and appropriate crutches. Pauline was at Triage when Seid arrived with an eight-year-old pair of crutches that were still too big!



Pauline's heart was moved and arrangements were made for Seid to receive new adjustable crutches that day! Meanwhile, when asked if there were any spiritual issues that could be addressed Seid simply said, "I need to get saved." She had known who Jesus was, but until that moment no one had ever shown her enough love to break down the barrier of her heart that was keeping her from saying "yes" to Jesus, so she received Him into her heart that day.

### ***AIDS orphan Sophia from Uganda moves us***

Sophia is a 12-year-old girl with HIV whose parents both died of the disease. Since her parents' passing, she has been raised by her grandmother. While we were there, we noticed the other children refused to play with her, since they all know she has HIV. She would not even look up because she was so ashamed.

HAF doctors diagnosed her with malaria and she was given treatment. When she was given psychological counseling, she finally told someone she was HIV



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## *Fourth Annual Benefit*

FOR HEARTS AFIRE

Friday, March 5, 2010 at 6:30 PM

International Bazaar and Silent Auction  
with items from around the world  
and gourmet cuisine by Michael's On East

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Rhonda Pecoraro presents check to Suzette Volcy of Hope International Haitian church to provide camp scholarships for 25 children

## Christian Summer Camp Scholarship Program Making a Difference

Christian summer camps are an excellent way of providing young people with an opportunity to connect with God and others their age. A healthy relationship with God is critical with the many trials our youth face on a daily basis. Through the Hearts Afire scholarship program, we hope to allow families with financial needs to be able to send their youth to a local Christian summer camp.

In 2009, Hearts Afire provided 63 scholarships to young people from the following local ministries: Christ the Rock Community Church, Church of the Holy Spirit, Hope International, The Bridge Church, First Church of the Nazarene, and Youth for Christ. For more information about the Hearts Afire camp scholarship program, visit [www.HeartsAfire.us](http://www.HeartsAfire.us).

*What I learned about Jesus from camp is... "Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus."*

- Corbin, 11

*How my walk with God has changed me... "I am drawing closer to God and feel like I can communicate with Him again."*

- Brittany, 15

*"Thank you very much for letting me and my church group come to camp. We all had lots of fun."*

- Noel, 13

## 2009 Hearts Afire Mission Trips

# Providing Health Care and Hope

Hearts Afire Mission Team members (110 total in 2009) are the backbone of what we do. At their own expense and time, these team members become the hands, feet, and heart of God in caring for those in need.

### INDIA

Working with Gospel Crusade, the team was able to help break down caste barriers and create an avenue of interaction to help improve healthcare:

- Treated 820 patients
- Distributed 31,500 vitamins and 300 reading glasses
- 420 attended educational lectures
- 8 committed their lives to Christ
- 12 team members participated

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (2 Trips)

The teams were able to work with Corazon del Siervo for our fifth year:

- Treated 630 patients
- Distributed 61,200 vitamins, 500 tracts, 13 J316 soccer balls and 2,200 seed packets
- 59 committed their lives to Christ
- 19 team members combined participated on these trips

### KENYA

We were able to serve with the International Vision Center for our third year:

- Treated 1610 patients

- Conducted 87 ultrasounds
- Distributed 79,500 vitamins, 2,000 tracts, 300 reading glasses, 300 sunglasses and 10 J316 soccer balls
- 22 committed their lives to Christ
- 10 team members participated

### Peru

For our sixth year, we were able to minister alongside Amazon Medical Missions:

- Treated 692 patients
- Conducted 27 ultrasounds
- Distributed 48,900 vitamins, 1,050 tracts, 300 reading glasses, 150 sunglasses, 10 J316 soccer balls, 800 sandals and 2,200 seed packets
- 26 committed their lives to Christ
- 36 team members participated
- Built one church and drilled two wells

### Uganda

This was our second year serving with Watoto Ministries in Uganda:

- Treated 1749 patients
- Conducted 74 ultrasounds and 281 lab tests
- Distributed 93,000 vitamins, 2,000 tracts, 300 reading glasses, 300 sunglasses, 10 J316 soccer balls and 5,510 seed packets
- 37 attended educational lectures
- Two viewings of the Jesus Film
- 66 committed their lives to Christ
- 33 team members participated

# Thank You

- Dr. Wayne and Lori Andersen as well as Dan and Mary Bell for fund-raising over \$10,000 for Hearts Afire.
- To an anonymous donor who gave a matching grant at the 2009 Benefit of \$7,700.
- Kim Ruby for auctioning her all-expense paid trip to the British Virgin Islands trip to generate over \$7000 for Hearts Afire.
- All who participated and helped in the production of the inaugural Hearts Afire CME/CEU

- International Medical Missions Conference at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- Mrs. Kinsch's Sarasota Christian fourth graders for raising close to \$4,000 with their "Swing-a-thon".
- Jorge Zuniga for holding a Peruvian cuisine night to generate funds for Hearts Afire.
- Joy FM for their gracious media support.
- To our monthly supporters, donors and volunteers!

# HEARTS AFIRE: *Serving the World!*



Sharing the Gospel in a practical way in Peru by church-building with our international brothers in Christ



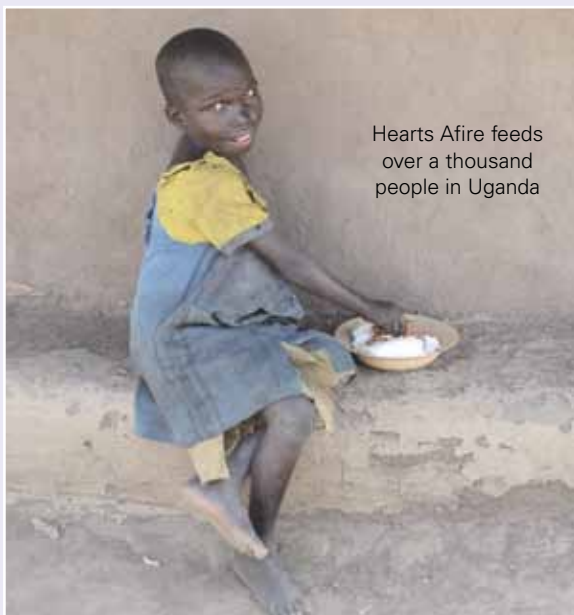
Lepers worshipping in India during Hearts Afire church service at Leper Colony



Kim Ruby showing God's love through puppet ministry with children in the Dominican Republic



Hearts Afire provides public health education to locals and medical education to health care workers in India



Hearts Afire feeds over a thousand people in Uganda



Dr. Jacqueline Kelly providing pediatric care at Hearts Afire rural clinic in Peru

## HEARTS AFIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Pecoraro, MD.,  
Founder, Chairman

Vilma M. Vega, MD.,  
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Rhonda Pecoraro,  
Founder, Co-Director  
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positive. She received medication and then went to the children's group where she gave her life to Christ. Suddenly Sophia came to life! The rest of the day she played with all the other children that came into the clinic, and by the

end of the day, she had a smile on her face that lit up the room. Her grandmother approached us in tears telling us how happy she was to see her grandchild play like the other children. It was the first time in years.

# News

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**HEARTS AFIRE** – Transforming lives on the mission field through the promotion of health care, education and evangelical outreach.



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www.HeartsAfire.us  
Not-For-Profit: 501(c)3  
Tax ID #22-3927470

**Or Current Resident**

## MISSION TRIP *Calendar*

We invite you to join us on a Hearts Afire mission trip. Health care workers as well as children and adult ministry workers are needed.

Here's where we are going:

March 14-21, 2010	Dominican Republic
June 19-27, 2010	Peru
August 2010	Ghana
December 1-11, 2010	India
June 25-July 3, 2011	Peru

## *Can you help?*

*Our ministry needs the following:*

- Volunteers to host an informal evening in their homes to introduce Hearts Afire to family and friends
- Volunteers with organizational fund-raising, marketing and/or IT experience
- Storage space

**Please call Administrative Liaison Barb Fager at 941-552-1584.**

## *2009 Year in Review*

Medical Patients Seen _____	5,501
Dental Patients Seen _____	148
Medicines Distributed _____	\$500,000+
Vitamins Distributed _____	314,100
Reading Glasses Distributed _____	1,200
Sun Glasses Distributed _____	750
Churches Built _____	1
New School Roof Built _____	1
Wells Built _____	2
Packets of Seeds Distributed _____	9,910
Lab Tests _____	281
Ultrasounds _____	188
In-country Feeding Program _____	1,060
Sandals Distributed _____	800
Commitments to Christ _____	181
National Healthcare Professionals Taught _____	457