

The Power of ONE

At least for ONE of us in HOM leadership, 2011 turned out to be quite the year for driving home the notion of, “The power of ONE”.

Early in the year, that ONE person heard a special song...the kind you like so much, you play it over and over again on your iPOD. That song was titled, what else, “The power of ONE”.

When summer rolled along, that ONE person obtained a book titled “As ONE” that throughout its 450 pages, touted the benefits of teams, while comprised of individuals, operating as if they were ONE.

And then in the fall came another evidence of the benefits of ONE. So much so that we can say with confidence, if you ever need proof that the old saying, “ONE person can make a difference” is accurate, we know where you should go.

Nigeria.

While in Nigeria, we worked each day with Dr. Bode Akintade, a physician specializing in ophthalmology and Director of the Christian Health Centre Foundation. For decades, Dr. Bode (as we referred to him) has nearly single handedly; overseen day-to-day operations at this center that functions as an outreach of the Anglican church of Nigeria. Every member of this small team (Gbola Adesogan, Carol Atkinson, Mark Atkinson, Carl Dragstedt, Sandy Frost, and Jeff West) was impressed by the abilities of ONE person to make such a difference in the lives of so many Nigerians.

We were also pleased that the ONE new HOM program that was introduced with this trip, vision care, vastly exceeded already high expectations. Indeed, the leader of that effort (Carol Atkinson) hopes to take the lessons learned and see expansion of this form of medical care to other countries and additional components providing for healthy vision.

But the notion of ONENESS in Nigeria did not stop with Dr. Bode or the vision program. Each team HOM has taken to the mission field over the years could be defined by ONE specific, single, descriptive term (e.g., most talented, funny, youngest, dedicated, diverse, etc.). For this trip, the term “ONE” is the most fitting as we cannot think of a team for which the degree of ONENESS has ever been so high. This characteristic was not expressed in ONE way but in so many ways: ONE in purpose, ONE in everyday thoughts and actions, ONE in agreement, ONE in emotions, ONE in the degree of dedication, and so on, and so on. Indeed, if the word of the day was not ONE, another term to use would be that of “relationship”. This team defined relationship and for us, showed the embodiment for the power of ONE.

Please see our Photo Gallery for images from this trip.

There, you will catch a vision of other “highlights” of this effort including:

- The provision of two chickens to the team by a local tribal king in honor of our team’s visit (note: this same community deeded land to HOM with the hope that our team would return).
- Having an extended face to face meeting with the Governor of the state of Osun (within Nigeria)
- Seeing the childhood home and meeting the father of the person providing the genesis of this trip (Gbola Adesogan – a former Nigerian that currently serves as a Professor at The University of Florida)
- Performing six medical and vision clinics over a five day period, providing much needed care to hundreds of Nigerians.