



Saving Lives and Restoring Health

United Methodists are working together to strengthen
United Methodist hospitals and clinics.

*We can respond and provide a healing balm for the hurting world in which we live.
We can Be There . . . We can Be Hope*

UMCOR ADVANCE #982168
Hospital Revitalization

HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES

The programs of Health and Welfare address the critical needs of children and adults in the US and abroad. These far-reaching programs provide improved opportunities for health and wholeness not just to individuals, but to entire communities.

The Hospital Revitalization Program assists Methodist churches in Africa and Asia to assess the needs of their health-care facilities. It then works with them to improve standards of care, always ensuring that the effort will be part of a larger strategy of community-based health education and development.

* Not her real name

Photo: Janet Bio, head midwife at Kissy Hospital, listens to a baby's heartbeat.
Michelle Scott/UMCOR

KISSY HOSPITAL

The Kissy United Methodist Hospital lies in an impoverished neighborhood on the eastern side of Freetown, Sierra Leone, located in West Africa. The country is rebuilding after 10 years of civil war, which left homes and families destroyed, electric and sewage systems shattered, and the economy very weak. For the poor in the neighborhood, Kissy United Methodist Hospital is the only free hospital in the area. Even those who can afford to go to another hospital go to Kissy Hospital because it is known for quality health care.

As a mission hospital, the staff at Kissy always responds to and provides for the patients' needs, regardless of whether they can pay.

HOLISTIC CARE

The comprehensive approach at Kissy Hospital plays a key role in identifying and treating multiple issues each patient might face. For example the Maternal and Child Health staff collaborates with the hospital's Friends Unit, an HIV/AIDS care and outreach program.

Because of this collaboration, when Helen* attended Kissy Hospital's prenatal clinic, she was encouraged to get tested for HIV/AIDS. After testing positive, the hospital provided counseling from the Friends Unit and Helen entered the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission program. This treatment program helps protect the child from being exposed to the virus during childbirth.

Through Kissy Hospital's Nutrition Program she received additional food to help her maintain a healthy weight. Today, her young child is AIDS-free. She will continue to be monitored at regular intervals to ensure she stays healthy. If needed, she also will receive food through the Nutrition Program.



Kadie, the nutritionist at Kissy Hospital, holds out a spoon of Benny Mix. This mixture consists of a variety of ingredients ground together to make a nutritious supplement for malnourished children.

Michelle Scott/UMCOR

COMMUNITY-BASED MODEL

Kissy Hospital provides care through a community-based outreach model that sends health workers and traditional birth attendants out into the community. Kissy's HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Nutrition programs have community components providing education through schools and clinics to teach good community health practices. Six rural clinics that serve up to 150 villages are also a part of the Kissy health network. These clinics provide lifesaving care to communities that are far from any other medical facility. Regular under-five check-ups and prenatal care help protect some of Sierra Leone's most vulnerable citizens.

The chief health administrator at Kissy Hospital, Dr. Dennis H. Marke stresses the need for the holistic care of the patient and believes that prayer is incredibly important in caring for the sick. He looks ahead to continuing the expansion of the hospital, staff expertise and services for his patients and the Kissy community: "They rely on our care and it makes us proud to be able to help them."

BE THERE. BE HOPE.

Patients do what they can to pay for services at Kissy United Methodist Hospital, but often the simple cost of reaching the hospital by commercial vehicles depletes their funds. As a mission hospital, the staff at Kissy always responds to and provides for the patients' needs, regardless of whether they can pay. Therefore the hospital depends upon United Methodists for critical support.

Thanks to your faithful generosity, UMCOR reaches out with love and meaningful assistance to transform lives around the world.

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