



# ComCare International

*"He who has ears, let him hear."*

Winter 2007

ComCare International, Inc. has been recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization; as such, all contributions to ComCare International may be tax deductible.

A Hearing Aid Sponsorship of \$200.00 provides the hearing aid itself AND full patient evaluation, fitting of the aid, and follow-up!

General contributions are used for general operating expenses and for reaching into new geographical areas.

Professional equipment contributions help provide the equipment needs of ComCare, such as equipment to set up clinics overseas. Please understand that we need to be selective about what equipment to send overseas. If you have audiological equipment that you think might have a "second life" overseas, please contact the office by email at [cci@comcareinternational.org](mailto:cci@comcareinternational.org) or by calling 210-317-9998.

If you would like to make a financial donation, please use the enclosed form and envelope. When sending a check or money order make it payable to ComCare International.

## Ordering Information

Each GLW includes the electronic module with attached stainless steel clip, high strength cord, normal response receiver with a universal soft ear piece, and brush for cleaning the microphone grill.

Price: U.S. \$125 plus shipping

Please specify Model GLW-1 or GLW-2. The two models may be combined for quantity discounts. (for more details, check the website)

Please specify cord length(s). Available in 22" (56 cm), 27" (69 cm), and 32" (81 cm).

A Dispenser's Toolkit, for making the internal gain and bass cut adjustments, is included with every order. Additional Dispenser's Toolkits may be ordered for U.S. \$10 each.

Acceptable payment is check or money order payable in U.S. dollars. Payment in full is required before delivery.

Custom earmolds are not provided with the instrument.

The ComCare aid is not registered for use in the United States. ComCare's GLW aids are stocked and shipped from Tennessee, U.S.A.

**Send orders to [cci@comcareinternational.org](mailto:cci@comcareinternational.org) Call 210-317-9998 for more ordering information.**

ComCare International, 3027 Split Rock Circle, Bulverde, Texas 78163  
210-317-9998 • [www.comcareinternational.org](http://www.comcareinternational.org)

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In February 2007 I had the privilege of visiting Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon, West Africa. My purpose was to work with the surgical residents, who are part of the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) surgical training program. As is my usual practice when I go somewhere new, I took a Com Care International (CCI) solar powered hearing aid with me to see if there would be any interest. When I arrived, much to my surprise there was a deaf school on the hospital compound with over 200 students. Unfortunately I did not have time to do more than a cursory visit. However, in the surgical clinic, when word got out that I had a hearing aid there was immediate interest. The first patient was a relative of one of the hospital employees, but unfortunately she had a profound hearing loss and had no benefit from the aid. The second patient also had a severe hearing loss and was probably a borderline candidate, but we sent it home with her on a trial basis. She came back a week later with the family feeling she was getting good benefit, so we left it with her.

In the meantime Clarence, our surgical clinic nurse, was excited about the possible benefits of hearing aids for people in his community. Over the next week two older men who had moderate

sensorineural hearing losses were seen and tried the hearing aid. Both had large smiles when they found they could hear again. Since I had no more aids with me I promised

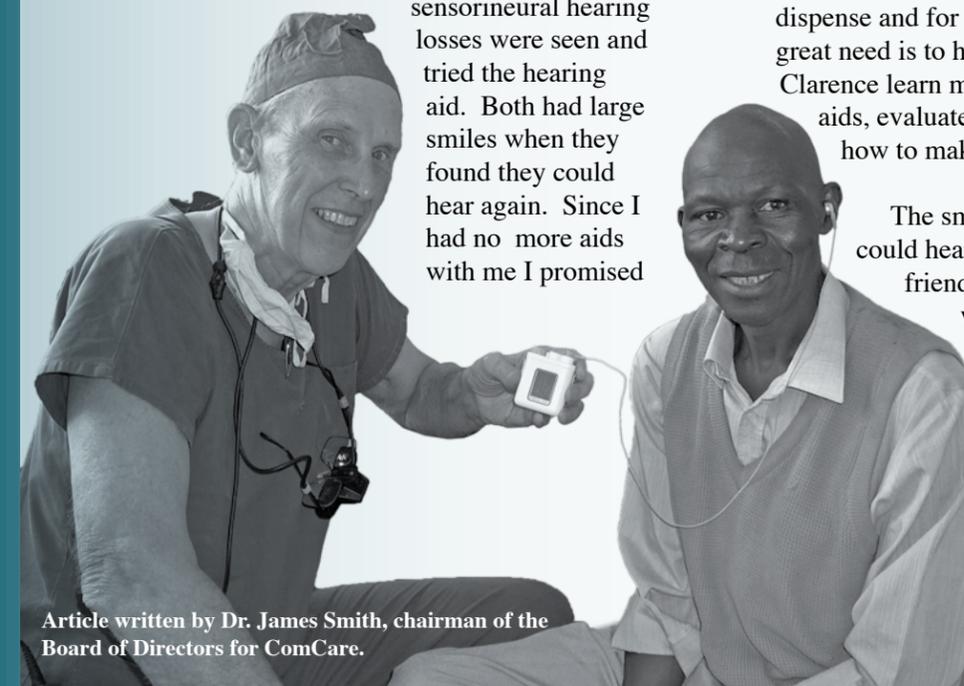
to send more. Clarence faithfully would e-mail and remind me how anxious the patients were to receive the aids. The hang up was sending the aids with a trusted courier as mail would run a high risk of theft. Finally in July, Dr. Steve Sparks, the missionary surgeon in charge of the PAACS surgical program was in the US for a month and was able to take them back with him.

Shortly thereafter Clarence wrote, "The old men were so excited when they received from me their apparatus. I really want to extend my thanks to you as concerns the hearing aids. They have changed the facial expressions of their owners and their hearing abilities has been greatly improved. THANKS ALOT."

In subsequent e-mails Clarence has said, "Once again thank you for the hearing aids which are helping the older men. One has testified of the difference it is making in his life right now. We are receiving many more patients for hearing aids and hoping that by December or January they shall benefit from your help to hear again."

Some friends have donated \$2000 for aids for Mbingo and we hope that by January we will be able to send 15 -20 more aids for Clarence to dispense and for use in the deaf school. Another great need is to have someone go and help Clarence learn more about fitting the hearing aids, evaluate the types of hearing loss and how to make custom molds.

The smiles as patients realized they could hear again and not be isolated from friends and families made the trip worthwhile. Sometimes we concentrate on hearing loss in children, but these two men reminded me how much older people also want to reconnect with others. The isolation of a hearing loss for them can result in severe depression and withdrawal.



Article written by Dr. James Smith, chairman of the Board of Directors for ComCare.

## One of a Kind!

The ComCare GLW hearing instrument is one of a kind with its reliance on sunlight instead of expendable batteries, with its durability and resistance to water damage due to the sealed ABS plastic case and stainless steel microphone grill, and with its high quality audio due to excellence in components, circuit design, and component mounting design. ComCare works diligently to maintain this quality while keeping a lid on our production costs. We have been successful in this effort largely because we have been able to find



vendors with a heart for our mission.

One such vendor is Industrial Electronics Services, Inc.

(IES) in Gray, TN. Their areas of expertise were exactly what ComCare needed when we moved our assembly operations to Tennessee in 2002. We were looking for a local company that could recommend a source for printed circuit boards and assist us with the necessary artwork. IES not only provided us with high quality artwork and printed circuit boards at an exceptionally low cost, they were able to provide skilled assembly services at very attractive rates, vastly increasing our production capacity while holding our production costs down. Through innovative engineering they have worked with us in redesign efforts that reduced the manual assembly steps capitalizing on surface mount technology (SMT). It was truly miraculous that we were able to find the skills we needed so close to home. Larry Mullins and his team are to be commended for their dedication to ComCare and its mission through their professional efforts and sense of community. For more information on IES, visit their website at "iesgray.com".

Article written by David Bagwell, Production Manager and a member of the Board of Directors.

## Evangel Hospital, Jos, Nigeria

In October, 2001 ComCare's plans for our first trip to Evangel Hospital, Jos, Nigeria had to be postponed due to the tragedy of 9-11 and the uncertainty of world travel. Northern Nigeria was also experiencing a great deal of Muslim/Christian tension, rioting and killing. Now, 5 years later this hospital has a full time trained audiometric technician, ENT nurse, sound field testing and an earmold lab. They have had a full time missionary ENT surgeon and look forward to his return next year, but in the meantime they are seeing patients with both ear and hearing problems. It has been the privilege of ComCare



International to participate with ECWA/SIM in this tremendous ministry by training, encouraging and helping them by making available the ComCare solar powered, durable hearing aid.



Article written by Julia Roskamp, Board Member.

## WENDELL WILBANKS JOINS COMCARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wendell M. Wilbanks, BC-HIS, attended the University of Southern Mississippi Jefferson Davis Campus. Wendell is a 5 year U.S. Air Force veteran with a computer hardware engineering background. He has 5 years in the field of hearing healthcare and 20 years technology related experience. Wendell is Nationally Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences and dually licensed as a Hearing Instrument Specialist in the states of Georgia and Tennessee.

Wendell has been a Christian since he was a young boy. Having found himself caught up in a metropolitan fast-paced lifestyle, his spiritual life weakened. He was unhappy and didn't know what was missing. In 1998 he decided to give up the corporate world to go "find himself". That search eventually led him to Costa Rica for about a year. Different circumstances brought him back to the USA with a stronger relationship with God. God has led him to realize he can use his knowledge of technology to help others with the gift of hearing so they too can hear about God.

Wendell's wife, Denise, has also been a Christian since childhood and has a background in corporate retail management. By the Grace of God, she is now

in full-time training to obtain her hearing aid dispenser license in the state of Georgia.

Wendell and Denise had a real heart for the hearing impaired especially in less developed countries where hearing aids are not readily available.

They were trying to find if anyone was working in this area. Thinking that they might find someone at the Global Health



Missions Conference in Louisville, which has nearly 3000 attendees, they went for the first time in 2006. As they were asking exhibitors representing different missions if they knew of anyone, someone knew about Com Care International and its solar powered hearing aid. We had a booth in 2004 and 2005, but the person knew that our board chairman, Jim Smith was attending and told Wendell to look him up. The only descriptor he had was that he was tall and balding. That made it fairly easy for Wendell to pick Jim out and he was delighted to find someone working for the benefit of the hearing impaired overseas. All of this led to a dinner together to find out more about Com Care and an invitation to attend the Com Care board meeting in May. Both Wendell and Denise felt they had found like-minded people and the Com Care board recognized two people who had a passion to help the hearing impaired. Wendell is looking forward to being on the board and helping Com Care especially in the area of technical expertise and to help David Bagwell do the final assembly on the hearing aids.

THANK YOU WENDELL FOR JOINING US and DENISE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!