

Thank you!

Dr. James Smith, Chairman

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your interest in and support of ComCare in its mission to supply solar recharge-able hearing aids to the hearing impaired. Earlier this year, the ComCare board looked at what we wanted to accomplish and we chose "Solar Powered Hearing Aids for Unreached People" as our mission goal. We looked at the WHO (World Health Organization) statistics of over 250 million hearing impaired individuals in the world, and acknowledged that well over half of them were in developing countries with little or no resources for hearing health care. It is our goal to help bring the gift of hearing to one of the largest unrecognized and unreached people groups in the world today. The need is so great that when we think of the millions who need help and the few hundred aids we can provide, our efforts seem like only a few grains of sand on the seashore. However, we have seen that providing hearing for those who are then able to communicate and hear the Gospel message is well worth the effort.

As we look back at the tragic events of September 11th, we can all be thankful in a new way for God's love, our families and our health. This newsletter will show you many of the opportunities that ComCare is participating in. As we move ahead in the New Year to reach our goals, we need and appreciate your support.

THANK YOU!



Haiti Clinic Update

Just before Christmas, Julia Roskamp, audiologist and Executive Director of CCI, traveled to Northwest Haiti. While only there for 1 week, she was able to see children in a special school for the hearing impaired. Four children and two adults were fit with the solar powered ComCare aid. Leonie (pictured below)



was SO VERY PROUD of her aid and happy to be able to hear her teacher's voice. This school is located near the audiology clinic ComCare is helping to begin. Soon more children will be able to wear the ComCare aid and will have custom-made earmolds as well. The conventional aids that Julia has previously dispensed in Haiti have lasted no more than one year. Humidity, heat, dirt and lack of access to batteries quickly make them unusable. With this rugged solar powered aid, we hope Leonie will be able to hear for a very long time!!



In addition to dispensing the aids, Julia began preparations for the earmold laboratory and testing facility to be completed in May 2002. A Haitian touch of art was added to the hearing test booth by two hearing impaired men Julia has worked with for the past 6 years. They were very excited to add their efforts to the first permanent hearing clinic in Haiti.

Won't you help us continue this work in Haiti? With your gift of \$100 you can provide a

solar powered hearing aid for a hearing impaired child who has no other way to obtain an aid. Compare this to the \$800 for an aid purchased in the US and you can see how far your gift can go!

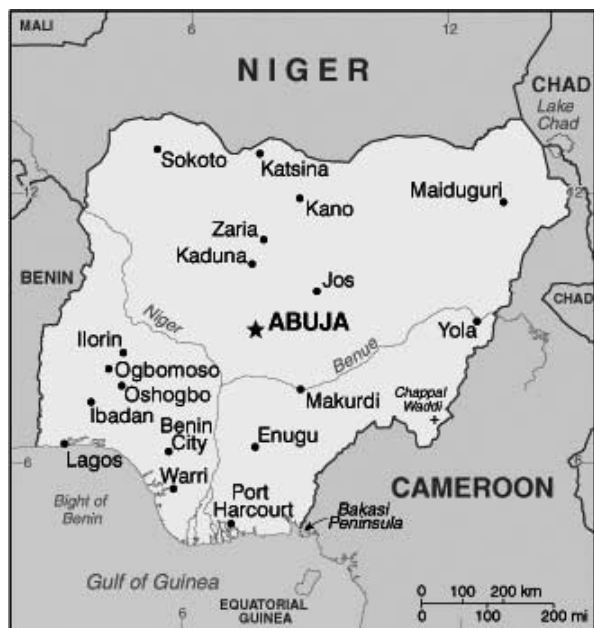
We are also looking for audiologists who can spare 2 weeks of time to help us train a Haitian technician in hearing testing/audiology. If you think you may be interested, please contact Julia Roskamp, Executive Director at the CCI office. (See contact information above.)

NIGERIA TRIP RESCHEDULED

Soon after the September 11th tragedy in the US, we were told there was fighting in Northern Nigeria between Muslims and Christians. Since so much of the world was in turmoil and many things were unknown at the time, the board of ComCare decided to postpone the October survey trip. It is now rescheduled for January 27 through February 7, 2002. Dr. James Smith, otolaryngologist, along with Claudia Walter, speech therapist and Julia Roskamp, audiologist will be traveling to Nigeria to work with the Evangelical Churches of West Africa's Evangel Hospital in Jos.

While there, they will test hearing, dispense ComCare aids, lecture to school and medical personnel and gain insight into the needs of the hearing impaired in Northern Nigeria. The World Health Organization estimates there are over 7,400,000 individuals with disabling hearing loss in Nigeria (6% of the total population) and 21,480,000 with mild or worse hearing impairment (17.9%). The major causes of hearing loss are acquired and preventable, such as high fevers, meningitis, and ototoxic drug use

As the ComCare team travels into Kano, then on to Jos please remember them in your prayers.



MEXICO CLINIC UPDATE



During the months of February and March 2002, the Ministerio Efata clinic sponsored by ComCare will be moving from Guadalajara to Amecca, Mexico. Dr. Curiel, a Christian ear, nose & throat physician in Amecca will be overseeing day to day operations once the clinic contents are moved. With this move, ComCare's goal for nationals to manage audiology clinics in their own country is realized for Mexico.

Over 1500 patients have been seen in Guadalajara and 500+ ComCare hearing aids have been dispensed since the clinic opened in 1996. Your gifts have made this possible and will continue into the years ahead.

The Johnson City, TN Rotary Club along with the Guadalajara, Mexico Rotary Club recently donated 40 ComCare hearing aids for children in Mexico. However, this is only a small percent of those who can be given the gift of better hearing through diagnosis, amplification and rehabilitation.

Please help us continue to serve the hearing impaired of Mexico with your generous gifts.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR CCI

Survey trip to Nigeria	Jan 27-Feb. 7 2002
American Academy of Audiology (AAA) Philadelphia, PA	April 18-21 2002
Christian Medical & Dental Society (CMDA) Oakbrook, IL	June 12-16 2002

During the next 6 months, ComCare will be on the move!! We will have a booth at both the AAA and CMDA meetings. If you will be there, PLEASE stop by and say hello. We always like to put a face with the names we have talked with on the phone or communicated with email and snail mail.

And speaking of communication... let us hear from you! Our mail & email addresses are located on the front page of this newsletter, as is our phone number. Tell us where and when you are going on short-term trips and we will pray for you! It is helpful to receive feedback from those of you who have fit the CCI aid – any problems, disappointments, joys, etc. This input helps us all as we take solar powered aids to unreached people!



ComCare Solar Powered Hearing Aid

