



Brian and Helen's News & Views

December 2012

National Training at the Clinic



Helen teaches students in our "treatment room" a small emergency and procedure room.

Living in the Eastern Highlands Province has been challenging. Neighboring villages continue to quarrel and the cost of living index skyrocketed at the market place due to foreign mining interests.

Pray:

- That Helen would teach well our PNG and expatriate staff the assessment and care of sick children. Also excellent overall patient care especially in a world where our infrastructure is faltering.
- That Brian would assist Norbert Wamsi to adjust well to life at our National Training Centre as he prepares to take on the role of national instructor. PNGan students are coming to train for National Bible Translation and Literacy Development (INSPIRE Project) and Norbert will help with new curriculum development.
- Certain neighboring villages continue to not get along well, and threats of violence threaten to upset a relatively peaceful Aiyura valley.

Teaching PALS

I have been certified to teach the American Heart Association course in Paediatric Advanced Life Support. This is a course that adapts easily to our lower resource environment. I have now taught the course in PNG three times, twice to different staff in our clinic and once for the medical staff at New Tribes Mission.

This training has paid off in improved quality of care for the sickest of our small patients. Several weeks after completing the PALS course, two of our PNG nurses hurriedly paged, "Dr. Helen you are needed in the UHC treatment room!" I arrived to find an infant who had stopped breathing suddenly. Appropriate emergency treatment was already underway. One of the nurses performed chest compressions when the infant's heart rate became too slow; she stopped when it improved. A second nurse was breathing for the patient with a bag and mask at the appropriate rate.

The child improved with the emergency measures, was placed on oxygen and appropriate antibiotics and transferred to the local hospital.

We saw her about a month later when she came to receive immunisations. She was robust and healthy.

Oh, and my role in this scenario was mostly that of an observer. The students had learned well and did an excellent job recognising and treating the emergency.



Here Alice, one of our PNG community health workers, is assessing "Rosie", looking at the monitor to help diagnose the reason for her extreme "illness." We practice many patient scenarios similar to ones the staff are likely to encounter in our clinic.

There are more stories about improved recognition and treatment of the sickest children, most are less dramatic, but equally effective, as early recognition and treatment of illness has prevented more serious complications and death.

What is PALS?

Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) is normally a 16 hour class with additional self study. The program is an *American Heart Association* training program. The goal of the course is to aid the paediatric health care provider in developing the knowledge and skills necessary to efficiently and effectively manage critically ill infants and children, resulting in improved outcomes. Professional health care providers use PALS during the stabilisation and transportation phases of a paediatric emergency, in or out of hospital.



Here is Rosie (our infant manniken) receiving appropriate monitoring and treatments. The pulseoxymeter is on her finger, she has oxygen going, and an ECG monitor. Not in the picture is the Intraosseous line that was "inserted".

Skills taught include recognition and treatment of infants and children at risk for cardiopulmonary arrest; a systematic approach to paediatric assessment; effective respiratory management; defibrillation and synchronized cardioversion; intraosseous access and fluid bolus administration; and effective resuscitation team dynamics.

CPR

In addition to Paediatric Advanced Life Support, Helen teaches and certifies the clinic staff in CPR every year. Everyone who works at our clinic is required to be certified. This includes the doctors, nurses, community health workers, receptionists, lab technicians, drivers, cleaners, dentist and dental assistants.

It is interesting to introduce this skill, so common in the US, to folks who may or may not have heard about CPR and who have never been taught or seen it done. But the staff is enthusiastic and unfortunate opportunities to practice the skill have shown that they learned well.



Here the clinic manager, Ron, and Maris in charge of cleaning and steralising, are practicing their CPR skills. Maris is one of our best students.

continued until her mother was able to arrive and say "good-bye" to her daughter.

The entire staff "practiced" one day last year for almost 2 hours when a local PNG high school student was brought in after attempting to hang herself. Their excellent efforts were able to help her heart recover.

Unfortunately, she had irreversible brain damage so did not survive, but CPR was

Audio Bibles?

Our friends, Mack and Doris Graham, translator's to the Kandawo people wrote:

"When Peter and John (Kandawo men) returned to the village, they each took an Audible with them. Both men have been inundated with people coming to hear Bible recordings in Kandawo. Peter says the down-and-outers are especially interested in listening. Many who have never been able to read, can now hear God's Word spoken to them. We feel this is a very special time for the Kandawo people and ask for your prayers."



Rugged and solar powered, these Audible units can have Scriptures recorded in any language. Now preliterate societies can still hear what God has to say to them in a language they understand.

These Audible units are solar powered, so the batteries never need to be replaced.

"...That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"
– Romans 10:15 (Isaiah 52:7)

Staying Connected

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