



designing a world of hope

A month ago, we were en route to Niger, en route to one of the very poorest countries in Africa, a country where much of the population lives on less than 50¢ a day . . . and we didn't know what to expect. We knew we were heading to a leprosy hospital, where patients could be suffering from resulting deformities . . .and we were going to design a fistula clinic knowing that about 100,000 Hausa women suffer from obstetric fistula and that the lifetime maternal mortality rate is about 1 in 7 . . . How do you cope in the face of such extreme poverty? The numbers boggled our minds.

But in Danja, it wasn't the poverty and the suffering that stood out . . . it was the hope. The leprosy patients, for the first time, had hope . . . Hope that they would beat this disease, hope that they would regain a somewhat normal life, hope that they weren't an isolated case, ostracized and shunned, but rather part of a community who knew what they were going through and stood with them. The women who were in the wards . . . their eyes shone whenever we came by. They shared smiles and an infectious joy, and we didn't see the bandages or the scars, we saw hope.

The doctor who gave us the run down about fistula shared how the clinic that the eMi team was designing will provide the same kind of hope to women with fistula. These women—girls, really, often only 14 or 15 years old— feel like their life has come to an end. Instead of the joys of motherhood that they were anticipating, they have a stillborn baby and a condition that makes them “unclean” and unfit to be with their family. When they come to a fistula clinic, for the first time they realize there are others who have the same condition—they aren't alone. And they are offered a relatively simple, but life-changing, operation . . . they can be restored to health.

These patients—both the leprosy patients and the fistula patients— know about restoration. They know about life-changing events. They know about hope. Pray with us that through their time at the hospital in Danja , they will also discover the reason for the hope that they have . . . the true hope.

Thanks for standing with us as we design a world of hope . . .

blessings,

Kevin, Michele, Talia & Kaisa

Kevin & Michele Wiens

<http://wienswanderings.wordpress.com/>

Wiens Wanderings

June/July 2008



IMPORTANT DATES

June

- 14th Kevin's Marathon
- 20th D.R. Congo Trip leaves
- 22nd Homestay student arrives
- 27th Trip to Armstrong, BC

July

- 13th Speaking in Linden, AB

August

- TBA Trip to Kaleden, BC

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the team to take the time out of their lives to fulfill their commitments to this project

For the women in the wards, that they would find true hope



Discussing the design



Spending time in the ward

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