



## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

An author once wrote, "in many different traditions, lighting candles is a sacred action. It expresses more than words can express. From time immemorial, people have lit candles in sacred places for many reasons." After a decade and a half



People patiently wait to register outside of the mission venue in Tagum, Davao del Norte.

of serving the less fortunate in rural Philippines, the Carolina Medical Mission has once more lit the candle of HOPE for many Filipinos.

The CMM Davao Mission of 2009 served two venues; Tagum, Davao del Norte and the Barangay Buda, Marilog District, Davao City. Sixty seven volunteers, both from the US and the Philippines joined this Mission. We thank all the long-time CMM participants and the following new addition to our roster of volunteers :

From the United States: Ben Abeleda of VA Beach; Cindy Binanay, RN; Ed Binanay & Ben Carr, of Raleigh, NC; Elena & Sarah Brim of NY; Mario Eleno Cordero, RN of AZ; Minda Domingo, RN & Norma Hearn of Texas; Helen Grinstead of Durham, NC & Rene Vega, MD of San Diego, CA .

From the Philippines: Myriam Chavez, RN; Niña Gallego, RN; Mignone Ng, MD; Irene Tan; Ma. Rosario Villacorta, DMD & Hans Villanueva, DMD.

For 2010, we are tentatively scheduled to go to Danao, Cebu. Our very own dedicated and loyal volunteer, Estrella Ventura, CRNA, along with her daughter Cita Garcia and mother-in-law Lourdes Garcia will lead the Cebu Mission. Details of this Mission will be announced as they become available.

Emma Dempsey  
CMM General Coordinator

## IN PERSPECTIVE

by Edward Binanay

The look...

His eyes were sunken. He stares at you longing to be healed. He stares at you looking for hope. He stares at you asking for a better life.

I did not get his full name. He told me, everybody calls him Doling. He walked 6 hours accompanied by his cousin and a friend to see us. He doesn't have an immediate family support. He stared at me and I asked God for guidance to help Doling of his pain and suffering.

My wife Cindy, a nurse and I went to the Philippines to volunteer and help with the Carolina Medical Mission (CMM). The Carolina Medical Mission is a project of the non- profit Philippine-American Association of North Carolina, Inc. CMM was founded by Dr. Art de Leon and Dr. Fred Ng, two distinguished Filipino Medical doctors in Raleigh North Carolina. For the past 16 years, CMM group has been traveling to the Philippines with the mission of giving medical care to indigent people in the island. To date, up to 105,000+ patients have been seen and cared for by the volunteers of CMM.

Doctors, nurses, dentists and volunteers from the US and the Philippines have been dedicating their time to doing this medical work since 1993, handing out medicines, performing surgeries, and touching patient's lives throughout the Philippines.



Rene Vega, MD examines a patient in Tagum while Ed Binanay acts as an interpreter.

Our medical mission in January of 2009 brought us to two places in Mindanao: Tagum, Davao del Norte and Buda, Marilog District, Davao City, at the border of Bukidnon and Davao provinces. Tagum was an hour bus ride away from the center of Davao.

In a span of two days in Tagum, our volunteer doctors performed dental services, pediatric care, major and minor surgeries, and medical consultation for 1,500 patients. It was hectic but very rewarding to see patients who don't have access to good medical care be seen, diagnosed, and given medicine by our volunteers.

I remember a patient in Tagum who showed our doctors a self made drainage bag to collect bile from a previous gall bladder procedure done by local



The improvised water bottle as a drainage bag.

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CMM Joint Mission 2009	
Jesse Pasion, RN, Coordinator	
Total Patients: 3,796	
Date/Location	Statistics
<b>January 24, 2009</b> Carmelite Convent Davao City, Davao	Medical: 40 Dental: 25
<b>January 23-26</b> Tagum, Davao del Norte Davao Regional Hospital	Medical: 1421 Pediatric: 497 Dental : 386 Major Surgery: 45 Minor: 93
<b>January 27-30</b> German Doctor's Hospital Buda, Marilog District, Davao City Cataract Surgery: sponsored by SEE International	Medical : 466 Pediatric: 369 Dental : 353 Minor Surgery: 32 Cataract & Pterygium: 29
Robillo Memorial Hospital Calinan, Davao City	General Surgery: 20

doctor months before. His doctor put a temporary drain planning to take it out after a week. This patient did not have the money to pay the doctor to remove the drainage, and has been carrying this "homemade" drainage bag for the past 4 months. CMM surgeons examined the patient and referred him to the Chief of Surgery at Davao Regional Hospital for further work prior to performing any procedure.

Cataract surgeries are considered routine here in the United States. Our eye surgeons performed 29 cataract cases in the course of 2 days. Patients who had the cataract surgery have smiles on their faces that just make you proud to be part of the mission. Just imagine the delight and happiness of these patients. One day they were blind and now they can see.



These young girls walked several miles unaccompanied by their parents to Buda's German Doctor's Hospital for their pediatric check up with CMM doctors.

Barangay Buda, Marilog District is two hours away from Davao. With the cooperation of the German Doctors hospital in Buda, the mission was able to see 1,500 patients. This area is the home of the indigenous people called *Lumads* and *Dumagats*. Unfortunately, this indigenous population does not have access to good quality healthcare. The German Doctor's Hospital is a privately run non-profit institution. All patient care and services in the hospital are free. Our presence complemented the mission of the hospitals, which is, to give free medical care and medicine to the whole populace.

I was not sure whether Doling was a *Lumad* or a *Dumagat*. He needed care. Our doctors wanted an X-ray done which the hospital did not provide. So we asked Doling to stay overnight so that an X-ray can be done in another hospital two hours away from Buda. Unfortunately he did not have relatives in the area to stay. We asked the hospital to have a bed for him together with his relatives which they happily obliged. One of our volunteers gave them money for food. The next day, the X-ray was done and the diagnosis was that Doling might have complication

from TB. We were able to arrange with the local doctor for a follow-up. Now Doling has hope; hope for a better health and life.

For the past 16 years, CMM American and Filipino doctors, and volunteers have spent considerable time helping the needy in the Philippines. I truly believe that without CMM, some of the patients might not have made it. Providing quality medical care is CMM's goal and mission. I asked one of the doctors why she volunteers year after year. She smiled and simply said "Because our *kabayan* (fellow Filipino) needs help." I am glad that I made this trip. I am proud of CMM and I hope to be able to help and volunteer in the years to come.



Michael Sison, MD and Anita C. Ng pose with post cataract surgery patients in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, January 6-9, 2009. Thanks to SEE International for their continued sponsorship of our cataract missions.



Robert Turner, MD examines a patient in Mabini, Western Pangasinan during CMM's mission in memory of his wife Melinda, February 3-5, 2009.



CMM Surgical Team operating during a mission at Taguig City Hospital, Taguig, Metro Manila, March 4-5, 2009.



This three month old baby boy underwent harelip repair during CMM's surgical mission in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, March 12-14, 2009.

## Other Mission Venues:

### January 6-9, 2009

Vigan, Ilocos Sur  
CMM Cataract Surgery Mission  
Sponsored by SEE International  
Gabriela Silang Provincial Hospital  
Michael Sison, MD, CMM Ophthalmologist  
Eva Jover-Catedral, MD, CMM Ophthalmologist

### January 15-19, 2009

UP Medicine, Class 1962  
CMM Surgical Volunteers Fred & Anita Ng  
Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, Northern Mindanao  
Bukidnon Provincial Hospital  
Vermen Verallo, MD, Coordinator

### February 3-5, 2009

Medical Mission in memory of Melinda Turner  
Mabini, Western Pangasinan  
Tambobong, Western Pangasinan  
Rob Turner, MD, Coordinator

### February 15-21, 2009

Operation We Care, Rotary International  
CMM Surgical Volunteers Fred & Anita Ng  
Pasig City General Hospital  
Pasig City, Metro-Manila  
Mel Simon, MD- Coordinator

### February 26-March 1, 2009

National Kidney & Transplant Institute  
CMM Surgical Volunteers Fred & Anita Ng  
Zamboanga Del Sur Medical Center  
Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur  
Enrique Ona, MD, Coordinator

### March 3, 2009

CMM Surgical for Bacoor, Cavite patients  
Las Piñas District Hospital  
Las Piñas, Metro-Manila

### March 4-5, 2009

CMM Surgical  
Taguig City Hospital  
Taguig, Metro-Manila

### March 10, 2009

CMM Surgical  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Cabanatuan City, N.E.

### March 12-14, 2009

CMM Surgical  
Pinamalayan Doctors Hospital  
Pinamalayan, Or. Mindoro

### March 16-19, 2009

CMM Surgical, Carolina Foundation  
E. Joson District Hospital  
Bitas, Nueva Ecija

In addition to rendering medical/surgical service, the following hospital venues received donation of medical and/or surgical supplies.

- Candelaria, Quezon Medical Mission
- Davao Regional Hospital
- Gabriela Silang Provincial Hospital
- German Hospital, Buda, Marilog District
- E. Joson District Hospital, Nueva Ecija
- National Kidney & Transplant Institute
- Pasig City General Hospital
- Philippine General Hospital-UP Medical Foundation
- Pinamalayan Doctors Hospital
- Quezon City Church Mission
- Robillo Memorial Hospital
- Taguig City Hospital
- University of the Philippines Med Class 1962 Bukidnon Mission
- Western Pangasinan Outreach

## Summer 2009 CMM Surgical Team Involvement

June 16-23, 2009: Dongxiang, NW China with Bridge to the Nations  
July 2009 (TBA): Iloilo City (Western Visayas)  
July 2009 (TBA): Bitas, Nueva Ecija (Central Luzon)

## 2010 Tentative Mission

CMM Joint Medical Mission to Danao, Cebu (Central Visayas)- subject to change



## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED



Buda, Davao City.



Tagum, Davao del Norte.

# “There is no expiration date on Hope!”

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