

# NEWSLETTER

NEWS OF THE POLIO HOME PROJECT - DOMINGHIA, GUINEA, WEST AFRICA



In our January newsletter we shared the happy news that a new building was underway at Dominghia to become our new health center/hospital/diagnostic center/clinic. The patient load arriving each day at the clinic has been astonishing to say the least. Adama and Jonas are pulling way more than their weight and treating up to thirty patients a day! This has been helped so much by Jonas bringing intravenous capability and thus being able to handle a broader spectrum of diseases and conditions. As we go to press with this issue, our capable team of employees and volunteers has finished the elevation of the walls, and are now poised to install rafters and roofing materials. This will allow us to forge ahead with the finish work inside and move in as soon as the paint is dry! The existing small clinic will then be converted to house a new laboratory for badly needed diagnostic testing.

Patients are making their often arduous way to *The Noreen and Ryan Home* by walking body-numbing miles along bush roads, arriving by bicycle and motorbike, or being driven by whatever means they can harness. The reputation of the health center has travelled like wildfire, attracting people from many miles away in search of professional help. Adama and Jonas do their best to treat every case, but where necessary, they refer patients to centers in Conakry.

Your continued support and help has made a huge difference and provided hope. We cannot thank you enough for helping to provide the 15,000 inhabitants of the Boffa District with health services that we take for granted in the developed West. Vitamins and minerals, wheelchairs, and now medical intervention is making Dominghia a Mecca of hope as we adjust to the reality of the patient load.

## ***The Doctors Are In ~ edie mullen***

It was a joyous reunion with friends and ‘family’ upon my arrival in Guinea last February and I’d have to say the highlight of my visit this year was the privilege of working with Adama in the health clinic. And to think that it is ONE YEAR this May since we’ve had the doors of the clinic open to receive patients. What a blessing! And the blessing was compounded when Dr. Jonas joined our LGL team in March. I can only refer to Dr. Jonas as ‘the happy doctor’ (though if you could hear some of the wailing going on in the clinic as he attends to the cleaning of infected wounds, you’d wonder!). I’m sure at that moment his patients certainly don’t view him as ‘the happy doctor’! That aside, I don’t think a day went by that I didn’t hear him emit a few chuckles, even a tune on occasion and after work hours, he remains equally jolly. So, yes, the happy doctor is a fitting description! And I can testify that he LOVES his work!

Dr. Yoou Nianga (Jonas Prosper) Goumou, joined our team at Dominghia the first week of March. He is from the village of Didita in the southern region of Guinea and following the completion of high school in the Beyla Prefecture, he attended six years of university in Conakry studying medicine.

We are fortunate that Dr. Jonas comes to us with the added experience of having worked for three years at one of the large hospitals in the capitol city of Conakry. We’re hoping that he’ll be content returning to village life and will find joy and fulfillment participating in the work at our health center in Dominghia. Welcome, Dr. Jonas to the LGL team!



***Dr. Jonas and Dr. Adama work in the clinic.***

## ***We Also Extend A Warm Welcome to Antoine Thiam***



***Antoine Thiam***

Our newest member of the LGL team in Guinea is Mr. Antoine Thiam. He has assumed the role (as of April 23<sup>rd</sup>) as Manager of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). Our mission and quest at The Lyceum Group has been to use our well developed local structure in Guinea to offer our capabilities to partner organizations and bodies working in West Africa and enhance their compliance and commitment to CSR. The development of infrastructure in Guinea carries with it the firm wish of the new government to see the life of Guineans improve as investment moves in to build infrastructure, assist in the rich resource development of the country, and improve living conditions. Corporate social responsibility should thus apply to both external groups as well as the revitalized government.

Antoine was born in Siguiri in 1983. He lived in Washington for six years where he did his high school while his father served as the Ambassador of Guinea to the United States. After returning to Guinea, Antoine attended university, finally studying law and majoring in public rights. His final thesis (just completed) was “The International Character of Mining Contracts”. We have followed Antoine’s academic progress for over three years, and are delighted that he has joined our capable team to advance the work of ONG Groupe Lyceum in West Africa.

## News Flashes

- Edie Mullen is back on Grand Manan Island after three months of volunteer work at Dominghia – her fourth work term in Guinea.
  - Dr. Ken Keirstead was able to spend two visits to Senegal and Guinea with much appreciated time spent at Dominghia. His focus has been on building capacity both physical, and for human resource development.
  - Our ONG Groupe Lyceum president Fatoumata Dabo has recently married Sam Camara in Conakry so she is now Mrs. Fatoumata Dabo. We are all delighted for Fatoumata and Sam, and wish them all the best!
  - Our Accountant in Conakry, Ibrahima Gackou has just announced that on June 28<sup>th</sup> he is getting married to a soon-to-graduate medical doctor. Gackou is an invaluable member of the team, and we commit our congratulations to him for a happy life with his new bride.
  - During May Dr. Ken Keirstead spent almost a week in the Irvine, California area, meeting with LGL Advisory Committee members and Associates, and working with the UCI Africa Initiative. More news will follow as we develop plans and programs together.
  - We are unabashedly delighted that Ken's wife Lynne Tompkins has taken an early retirement from her New Brunswick civil service job, and has joined TLG/LGL as its Development Director for North America. We welcome Lynne and her experience and capability!
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## From Fatoumata's Desk in Conakry

How can I thank you all for your love, support, and prayers?! My life changed so much in the past weeks. First my father passed away unexpectedly while I was on project in Sierra Leone, then Sam Camara and I got married here in Conakry, and at the same time I started my new appointments as Secretary of the Conakry Rotary Club, and Treasurer of PAMOJA – and attending a seminar held by UNICEF! And all this while I try to keep up with the daily emails from our Chairman who never stops working for us here in Guinea.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks, and apologies that I can't reply directly to you all. We have so little power and Internet connectivity here. I have dozens of emails of condolence and wishes. Maybe you can come to visit us here, and I promise you more thanks at that time. Insha'Allah.

## Preparing Young Lives For The Future



**Back row L-R:** ESL Lecturer Tony Robinson-Smith, Zhong H. Fan (China), Robin Martinez (Chile), Renata Mastna (Czech Republic), Mei Ushiroda (Japan), Zizi Wang (China)

**Front row L-R:** Yaoqui W. Zhou (China), Natsuki Yagi (Japan), Kanako Oi (Japan), Li Yixuan (China), and Yudi Zeng (China).

**March 28, 2011:** Pioneering medical researcher and Chairman of The Lyceum Group, Dr. Kenneth Keirstead (far right) is guest speaker at an English as a Second Language (ESL) class at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Drawing on his extensive experience of delivering social and health care services to West Africans, Dr. Keirstead spoke on the socio-economic aspects of a “flattening world”, enlightening students from four different countries (China, Japan, Chile and the Czech Republic) on the benefits of computer and cell phone technology. “Now I can be in touch with my colleagues in Africa daily,” he said. “A doctor or health care professional in Guinea can send us a picture of a patient with a problem, and, within minutes, we can offer them advice.” He went on to say that in a flattening world, it is more difficult for governments to keep secrets and easier for people to help each other. “We are all

citizens of the world, all members of one big community, sharing knowledge.”

Personal comments from the students:

**Kanako Oi:** “Dr. Ken Keirstead taught us we live flattening world, so we share the same information across the countries. I was impressed the last word he said ‘We are the citizen of the world.’ I’m not Japanese. I’m not Asian. We are equal! We are the citizen of the world!”

**Li Yixuan:** “In this lecture, we learn about the benefits about the flatten world. For example, globalization, the people can go everywhere easily and can communicate each other anytime. Maybe we have the different first language, but we can use English to talk. And I love to listen. You are really kind and friendly. It is nice. Thank you very much.”

**YOU can help this project by forwarding this Newsletter to at least ten contacts and friends you feel would like to be kept up to date! Thank you.**

Contributions in Canada can be made to  
***The Grand Manan Rotary Memorial Trust Fund*** and given, or mailed to:

Mrs. Edie Mullen, 1071 Route 776, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4E5

**Email:** [ediemullen@lyceumresearch.com](mailto:ediemullen@lyceumresearch.com)

A tax receipt and a commemorative card will be mailed within a few weeks to you.

**You may contact us in Canada:**

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*The new health center/hospital/diagnostic center/clinic.*