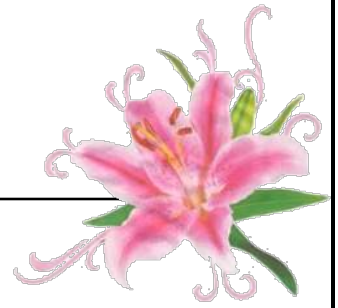




HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



Limbé 300 years

The City of Limbé celebrated its 300th anniversary this summer. As part of the festivities, a special celebration was organized at Musée the Guahaba on July 5th 2015 to honor Dr. William Hodges for his contributions and dedication to the community. For this special occasion, Joanna Hodges travelled to Haiti and attended the celebration.

During the ceremony, Dr. William Hodges was commended for his outstanding commitment to the development of Limbé through health services, drinking water, hydro-electric power, and Archeology discoveries. At the end of the presentation, Joanna Hodges was presented with two beautiful commemoration plaques. The organizers also announced the naming of the street running East/West parallel the hospital, "Route Dr William Hodges".

Limbé was a small town of approximately 3,000 people at the time Joanna and her late husband, Dr. Bill Hodges arrived in 1958. There was no electricity or potable water in Limbé. Transportation and communications were virtually non-existent. Through Dr. Hodges' guidance, the small clinic grew into a large regional hospital. Electricity, potable water and reforestation projects were committed to. Dr. Hodges' interest in Archeology and History led to the building of a small museum in 1981. Since then Limbé has blossomed and grown into a small city of approximately 75,000 residents.

Even though the trip was short, Joanna was very happy to be back in Haiti and reminisce about all the achievements that became possible with the help of all of the HBS friends and contributors. We feel fortunate to be able to carry on the work and dreams of Bill and Joanna Hodges.

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Scabies

Scabies is a skin disease and very common in Haiti. It is highly contagious and is caused by an infestation of tiny mites called *Sarcoptes scabiei*. These mites integrate in the outer layers of the skin and lay eggs. Relentless itching and widespread pimple-like rash are the most common symptoms.

The scabies mite is usually spread by direct, prolonged skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies. When first infected it can take as long as 4-6 weeks for the skin to react. Causing Intense itching, scratching the rash can cause skin sores which can become infected by bacteria.

When young children have scabies it is suggested that both mother and child be treated and preferably the entire family. The infant on the picture was brought into hospital with scabies. If not treated quickly, she would have developed a widespread bacterial infection.

Topical Medicines

Medications can be expensive and I have developed an interest in how to prepare topical medications in tropical countries. Using inexpensive raw materials purchased here in Canada, I was able to utilize established protocols (Dermatological Preparations for the Tropics, 2nd revised edition, Peter Bakker et al, The Netherlands).

I then worked with the pharmacy staff and Shawn Hodges to adapt the drug preparation to the conditions at HBS.

We successfully produced Gentian Violet 0.05% solution, useful for yeast infections and herpes infections. This drug was already on the HBS drug formulary, but procuring it can sometimes be difficult, making it not readily available. Now, HBS will be able to produce this medication on an ongoing basis.

We also produced Salicylic Acid 5% solution which is a good topical treatment for acne and folliculitis. As a dermatologist, many teenagers and young adults see me for acne and it was great to be able to offer them an affordable treatment.

I hope to continue producing more topical medications during my future visits to HBS.

By Gail Nield - July 2015



Mattress Project

It has been 5 years since we replaced the hospital mattresses including the ones in Kai Mira. We are looking to raise funds to replace all the mattresses in Kai Mira and procure a number of mattresses for Pediatrics and the Adult Wards.

As these mattresses need to be of high density foam with waterproof covers, we order them in South Florida and then ship them.

If you are interested in donating towards this project please let us know.

HBS Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 32446
West Palm Beach, FL 33420

Tel: (561) 246-3360
E-mail: hbsfl@att.net
Registration: CH21155