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From the Field ~How Long Do PETs Last?

It's anybody's guess. Nobody really knows just how long a PET will really last – BUT the thing we do know is that, as long as they are cared for, they will last a very long time. Since the first PET was sent to the field in 1995, some of them have lasted at least that long. The following story came the other day from our International Headquarters in Columbia, Missouri.

“As an organization, we have been asking that question from the beginning. The idea was that PET should be simple to operate and maintain and hopefully last at least several years. We send along with each PET some tools, chain link kit, oil and some spare parts. Because of reports from the field we have made some changes to parts over the years of production to increase longevity and dependability. In 2009 one of our volunteers ran into a fellow in Ecuador who said his PET was around 8 years old. Now this story comes to our Director of Operations about a PET that is 6 years old, in Sierra Leone.” While we may think it needs a fresh coat of paint, it has provided Pa Earnest the transportation he desperately needs.



“Dear Von, I know this man very well. His name is Pa Earnest and he lives in my village, Lawana, 12 miles from the larger town of Mattru Jung which is in the Bonthe District, in the southern part of Sierra Leone. Earnest is an older man, so he finds it hard to walk most times. He was screened by the Mercy Ships New Steps physical rehab team in one of our up country visits in 2006. The PET cart was given to Earnest in our second visit to the same area. Today when I saw him, he told me that he takes care of the PET because it is now his only means of transporting himself from one place to another as the prosthetic limb needs adjustments and doesn't work so well. Mr. Andrew Conteh June 2011.”

For several years now hundreds of PETs have been sent to Sierra Leone. Most have been shipped by Mercy Ships and distributed by New Steps. In the fall of 2007 118 PETs were sent. In January 2008 another 24 went to a missionary nurse who oversaw their distribution. Two US PET volunteers went to Sierra Leone in May 2008 for two weeks to assist Steve Perry of the United Kingdom who is working on setting up a PET assembly/affiliate site to help increase their distribution. So many there have been afflicted by Polio. The ground is sandy and PET wheelbarrow type tires are well suited for the task. This man hauls iron sections for the welding/blacksmith shop.



From Our Headquarters

Mel West wrote the following about global education and opportunities for youth.

Two youth recently went on the PET distribution trip to Guatemala, and they will never be the same. They have a new understanding of poverty and a new appreciation for the gifts and heroism of the poor. They were immersed in a practical humanitarian project which makes a dramatic and positive impact on those who live at the very bottom of the world's pile of human misery. Parents are sending their youth on these kinds of experiences because they want them to become "global" in a global world. The July 25 issue of Newsweek Magazine had an excellent article on the need to do that. The article says that nearly 300,000 Chinese children are studying English and South Korean children begin English study in the first grade. Nearly 700,000 students from all over the world attended U.S. universities during 2009-10, with the greatest increase from China and Saudi Arabia. The article points out that for children to be successful as adults in a global economy it is important for them to be bilingual, and to have learned to be comfortable living and working with those of other cultures.

PET Affiliates can help with this by sending mature youth on PET distribution trips.

There is a continuous need for volunteers (adults and youth) to do just that. If you would like information on future opportunities, call Dick Carpenter or drop a note to us at: petnnewsletter@onemain.com.

Requests for PETs

Sometimes requests for PETs come in unusual circumstances. A woman from Oklahoma has a son and daughter-in-law working in Zambia drilling wells and doing medical work. They met Joshua, 20 years old, who cannot walk. Not knowing about PET, they wrote to their mother asking her if she could do some research in the US for drawings of a rugged vehicle they could build for Joshua. About that time, the mother saw an article about PET and contacted our Columbia Missouri shop. It turns out they work

about 160 miles from the PET assembly plant in Kitwe, Zambia. Information has been sent and we are sure they will find a way to get mobility to Joshua. When people care enough, there is a way.

Milestones

Fifty more PETs (numbers 843 through 893) are on their way

overseas to help lift 50 more people out of the dirt



into a life of dignity and hope. These PETs will go via Med Share in San Leandro, CA.

Volunteer Spotlight

Somehow I have a hard time visualizing a man who refuses to be "outdone by a machine". It seems there was a time this volunteer thought he had been defeated by a machine and put his hay baler on Craig's List just to get rid of it. It wasn't long before he changed his mind, took it off Craig's List, fixed it, then proceeded to bale 250 hay bales in one day. This man is one of the most cooperative, "can do" type people we have on the PET team. He was a logger (lumberjack) for over 40 years, a long time Scout Master, an industrial arts teacher, an Army vet, and is now an adamant evangelist for the PET Project. Among other things, he has had to take time out for two back surgeries and an open-heart surgery. He returned to school at age 35, with 5 children, then graduated at 40. Not only is he "can (and will) do" for the PET Project, but he still cuts wood for widows, farms 9 acres of timothy hay, is extremely handy at fixing farm equipment, can weld "anything" and (I'm told) is very stubborn.

You've probably guessed by now (or at least looked at the picture) our spot-lighted volunteer is none other than Larry Stevens.

Finances



Larry and Laura have 3 girls and 2 boys, 18 grand-children, and 15 great-grand children. (Larry is old enough to have ridden horses to school when he was a child.) In order to complete school, he worked in the lumber mill at night and went to school during the day. Their first child was born in Alaska while he was serving in the Army. Larry has such a "helping heart" it is a real pleasure to work with him on our PET team.

One of Our Business Partners

Spokane Packaging is a manufacturer of custom corrugated boxes and foam interior packaging. They are a division of Alliance Packaging which is headquartered in Renton Washington. Spokane Packaging, which employs approximately 75 employees, has been in Spokane for over 27 years and is located in a 130,000 square foot facility in the Spokane Industrial Park. Their products are sold in all of eastern Washington, Idaho, eastern Oregon and western Montana. They also have a warehouse and distribution facility in Boise Idaho.

Spokane Packaging came along side The Inland NorthWest PET Project as soon as their general manager, Craig MacDonald, became aware of the ministry. Their original contributions were the boxes we pack and ship in increments of 50 PETs. When we could no longer pack the PETs with clothing and stuffed animals as protection for the PET, and as gifts to the communities, Spokane Packaging made their design team available to create a system of packing with cardboard which protects PETs in shipment. We treasure their partnership in this ministry and we sincerely THANK them.

We've fully paid for this batch of 50 PETs, but we will struggle for the next 50 unless more donations arrive. The metal fabrication business has picked up and we are pleased for our PET-Kin in those businesses, but this does put our work behind higher priority paying jobs. We have faith God will help them continue to help us in a timely fashion. The crunch will come when we have to order tires: about \$3000. But, we're half way through our 6th year and God has been with us all the way. If He wants us to continue, we will. Therefore we will gladly wait on Him and completely trust His timing.

Contact Information

For comments about this newsletter, or address changes, please send an e-mail to: petnwnewsletter@onemain.com. You can contact Dick Carpenter at (509)466-3425. Tax deductible donations may be sent to WCPC PET Project and mailed to the address on the coupon.

<p>The Inland NorthWest PET Project DONATION SLIP</p> <p>Yes! I want to give the GIFT OF MOBILITY to a person whose legs do not function. My check is enclosed for:</p> <p>\$ _____ for _____ PET's at \$250.00 each.</p> <p>\$ _____ toward the purchase of a PET.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Organization, or memorial (if any) _____</p> <hr/> <p>Make check payable to: WCPC PET Project & mail to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15123 N Little Spokane River Dr Spokane WA 99208</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inland NorthWest PET Project is sponsored by WCPC, a 501(c)(3) charity/church</p>
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Reasons for needing PETs

Accidents	Disease	Leprosy
Animal bites	Earthquakes	Polio
Bends	Explosions	Shootings
Birth defects	Falls	Terrorism
Brittle bones	Injuries	Tumors
Diabetes	Landmines	War



So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not
 grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful
 giver. II Cor 9:7