

Lisa Ritenour

From: Scott & Tina Lawrence <scott.lawrence=sim.org@mail95.atl161.mcsv.net> on behalf of Scott & Tina Lawrence <scott.lawrence@sim.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 4:24 AM
To: Lisa Ritenour
Subject: Lawrences in Ethiopia: Lessons in Teamwork

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Lawrences in Ethiopia: Lessons in Teamwork

[View this email in your browser](#)



Our mission is to demonstrate the love of God through healing the blind, caring for the poor, giving hope to the hopeless, and mentoring future leaders in eye care. With the generous support of our friends, family and churches, we have been serving in Ethiopia since 2015. Living and working abroad can be filled with complexity, but we are learning that teamwork is essential to making a difference here.



Facebook



Scott



Tina

Lessons in Teamwork



Minutes after having her patch removed, "S" poses with Michael, our clinical coordinator and, occasionally, my translator as well.

I looked up from my desk when I heard the door open. A young patient with an entourage proceeded to file in. This is not an uncommon occurrence, but it usually signals that a significant issue needs to be addressed. Such was the case with "S", a 16-year old girl from the countryside.

"S" started coming to our clinic about 3 months back, referred and accompanied by representatives from an organization that specializes in the education and development of children. Without the help of this organization and its dedicated volunteers, it is unlikely that "S" and her mother could have made the 400 km trip from the north.

When she first visited our clinic, "S" was triaged to my colleague, Dr. John Kempen, a uveitis specialist. She had a completely blind and scarred left eye, and her only seeing eye was filled with inflammatory

cells. Dr. John started treating her aggressively with steroids. After nearly 3 months of treatment, the inflammation in her right eye was gone, but so was the vision. "S" had developed scarring in her good eye as well as a white cataract. She could detect light but nothing more. The team of volunteers and her family had now made the long trek to my clinic in hopes that her vision could be restored.

Given the complexities of her case, I admitted "S" to our hospital and scheduled her for a complex cataract operation the next morning. Biruk, one of our optometrists, carefully measured her eye so that we could pick the most accurate lens to give "S" good near and distance vision. The following morning, my surgical team prayed for her as she underwent general anesthesia, and I began a slow but methodical procedure to remove her scar tissue and the blinding cataract and put in a new lens that would allow her to see.

The morning after surgery, "S" was wheeled down to our clinic from the inpatient ward, still in her pajamas. We cautiously removed the patch, unsure of what to expect with an eye that had experienced so much trauma. Our encounter with "S" and her team quickly became a sort of game as she successfully read smaller and smaller print without any correction. Her vision was nearly perfect, just hours removed from surgery. Our whole team of nurses, optometrists, doctors and coordinators celebrated that day. Such a reaction is fitting, given that every member of the team has played (and will continue to play) an invaluable role in "S's" treatment and recovery.

'Family Matters'



As we write this, Ethiopia is in the midst of important and challenging decisions about the future direction of the country. The members of parliament have been called back to Addis to vote on the re-establishment of martial law and to select a new Prime Minister. Nonetheless, our family continues to embrace the opportunities that we have been given to serve here. As a prime example of "life goes on", Tina and Scott recently attended the wedding of a couple they met two years before in Amharic language school. The wife is Ethiopian while the husband is French. Amidst much dancing and eating (Scott partook of raw meat that is ubiquitous at weddings, "tire siga"), we connected with Scott's ophthalmology partner

Demissie and his wife Worknesh (*top*). Tina enjoyed being able to wear her traditional Ethiopian dress for the first time.

Our children continue to thrive here, while life at Bingham Academy continues to take center stage. Joshua recently participated in a cultural event with his 2nd grade class. He chose to represent South Korea and gave a presentation while dressed in his Korean hammock (*bottom left*). All three boys competed successfully in the school cross country meet. Jon Nathan (*bottom right*) is making his way to the starting line with one of his good friends.

Prayer Requests

For "S's" continued healing and for the medicines to control her inflammation

For meaningful peace and stability to be established in Ethiopia - for courageous leaders and peacemakers

For Bingham Academy: the recruitment of teachers and smooth transitions for our interim and new Director

How You Can Be Involved

By investing in our work in Ethiopia, you play a vital role in bringing sight and care to thousands of Ethiopians. We need both prayer and financial partners to stand with us as we respond to the incredible need for eye care and leadership development in Ethiopia. Would you consider becoming a monthly partner or making a gift by clicking on the button below? All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Give Today

Can't give online?

Send checks to: *SIM USA, P.O. Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28273*

Remember to write our account number in the memo line (043201)

Copyright © Scott & Tina Lawrence, SIM USA, All rights reserved.

We love hearing from you!

Our Ethiopia mailing address is:

c/o SIM Ethiopia; P.O. Box 127

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

SIM USA Mailing:

P.O. Box 7900

Charlotte, NC 28241

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

SIM

respond to need. proclaim the gospel. equip the Church.

This email was sent to lisa.ritenour@2pc.org

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

SIM · P.O. Box 7900 · Charlotte, NC 28241-7900 · USA

MailChimp