

HUGH'S NEWS

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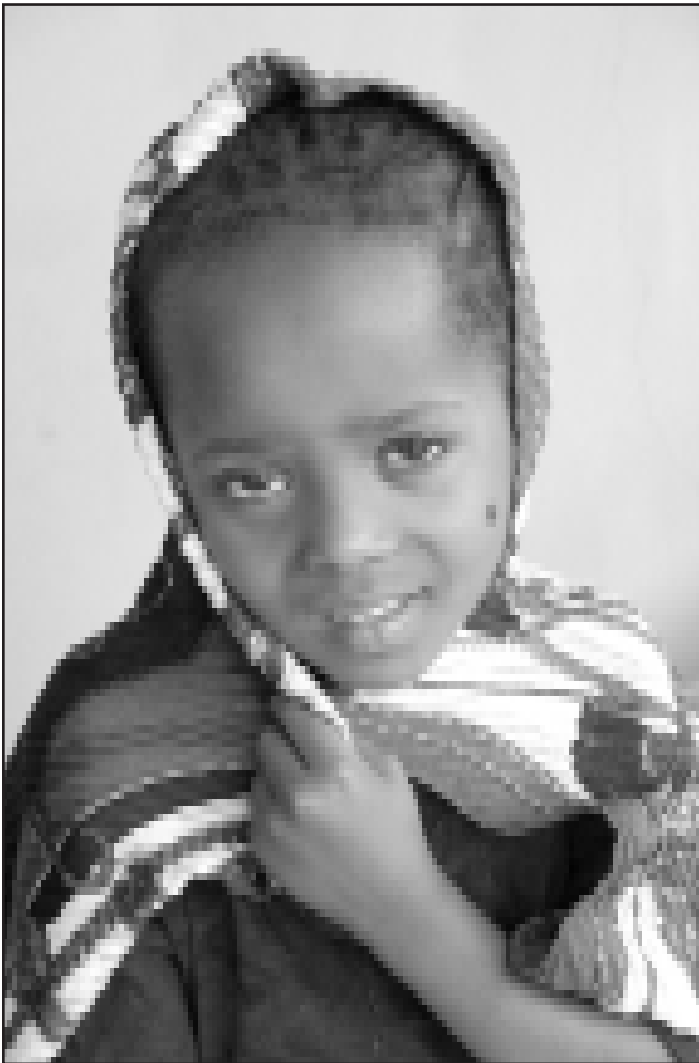
Special Report

Published every once-in-a-while

Dear friends and colleagues:

Those of us who are intimately involved with Lalmba programs often fail to communicate the details of all that we are doing in Africa. We may tell you the individual story of orphan children like Beregwa who has overcome incredible odds just to survive, or my meeting with Barack Obama (really?), or possibly our challenges in treating malaria or AIDS. But we often fail to tell you the details of this complex and enormous work which you have enabled us to do. Read on . . . I think you'll be impressed.

Hugh Denny



WHO WE ARE . . . WHAT WE DO

Serving the people of Africa for 46 years

Serving refugees

Displaced people

The blind and lame

People with AIDS

And tropical diseases

and orphan children

(our specialty)

A special report to the people who make it possible

(That's you)

2009 Annual Report

Our Mission Statement

Realizing that God has blessed us abundantly, we feel the obligation to help His other children who are in dire need. We have been led to places in Africa where we have found a niche caring for orphan and at-risk children and where we provide medical services to the poor. We promote various other educational and charitable works and provide resources not normally available. It is our goal to teach and train these good people to care for their own needs. Our name "**Lalmba**" has come to mean "a place of hope," and that is what we aspire to be.

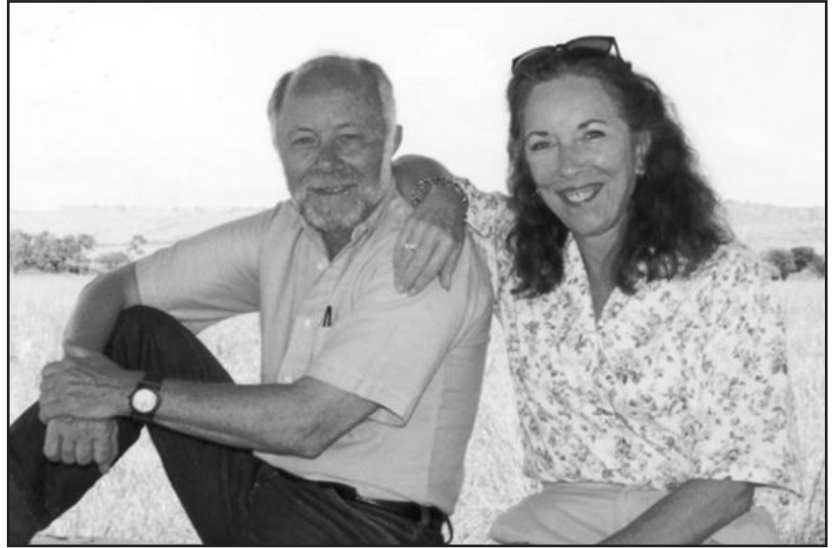
It is my pleasure, as the president of Lalmba, to report on our activities and accomplishments for the past year. It is my belief that our partnership between generous donors and the good people of Africa could be an example – a model – for other development and relief work.

We are a non-profit, tax deductible, organization recognized by the IRS as a **501(c)3** providing humanitarian services to the people of East Africa, and we do it with love and compassion towards good people whose lives are difficult due to no fault of their

own – rather, they were simply born into the wrong place and time. Lalmba was founded in 1963 and has provided continuous service since that time. The work is not easy, but it is certainly rewarding.

The name **Lalmba** means "a place of hope," and indeed it is to the people we serve. By most measures we are quite a small organization. We delight in calling ourselves "**the world's smallest international relief agency,**" though that is not likely true any longer. But to the people we serve, we are a GIANT. You see, we are found only in very remote parts of Africa which are often politically unstable and can be difficult places to live and work. We specialize in

providing medical care to people who have no place else to turn, and to orphan children who now recognize us as their family.



Lalmba founders, Hugh and Marty Downey

Over nearly a half-century we have treated over **2 million patients** in our hospitals and medical clinics (that's a lot of sick people) and have cared for **thousands of orphan children**. But still, we consider each patient as an individual in need and each child as a blessing. That's the way we do business.

Helping the people of Africa is our passion. We have been blessed with so much in our lives, and we strive to share those blessings with others. As we grow older, we have been pleased to witness others stepping up to take responsibility for the organization with the same compassion and commitment which we have devoted our lives to.

Our People

So, you want to know what makes us special? It's our people! It's nothing more. Let me brag for a moment about these special folks.

Carrole Johnson, Our Executive Director

It is amazing how God watches over this important work. As Marty and I have grown older and no longer able to be as physically active as the work requires, He has sent us a beautiful woman to direct the Lalmba efforts. For two years now Carrole has served as our executive director assuming the responsibilities which Marty and I have been sharing for more than four decades.

The American Staff

Kim Chen, MD, and David Leonard, MD, are our medical directors. This gifted couple (with three little boys) serves as the Lalmba medical directors, overseeing all of our medical programs in Africa. They were instrumental in starting our hospital and health programs in Ethiopia more than ten years ago where they lived for nearly two years.

Now they have assumed the responsibility of being in charge of this often-times challenging medical work. They spend a portion of each year at Lalmba medical facilities in both Kenya and Ethiopia.

Our other staff here in the United States, nearly all volunteers, is equally dedicated to the Lalmba goals. There is a **9** member board of directors plus volunteers who attend to accounting, bookkeeping, web-site management, administrative matters, medical advice and direction, etc. Our domestic staff numbers around **10**.

During the past year, **10** extraordinary American professionals and managers volunteered their services in Africa, working under very difficult conditions – to bring hope to people in our world living in dire need.



Kim Chen, MD and David Leonard, MD

99 volunteers help with our AIDS and Mother-Child healthcare programs and another **20** or so serve on advisory committees for our programs. Indeed, both paid and volunteer African staff are an important part of the Lalmba success story. Each year we are able to place more and more responsibility in their hands so that they may care for their own people. Some our African staff were originally orphan children who were raised in the Lalmba family, and achieved positions of responsibility and leadership in the organization.

Our Medical Programs

Lalmba is well known through parts of Africa for its **Medical Centers**. The most obvious of these programs are the hospitals and medical clinics where curative care takes place. In 2009 our records show a total of **49,703 patient visits** to those facilities in Ethiopia and Kenya. In addition, **13,052 patients** were served by our mobile clinics and MCH (mother/child health) services. Wow, all together, Lalmba cared for **67,082 patients** during the past year. Lalmba reaches out to the very poorest people in remote regions.

The role of the American medical staff is to teach and train our African staff to care for the medical needs of their own people to the extent they are able. Our expatriate staff carry out and teach many procedures, as well as being closely involved in the diagnosis of unusual conditions.

* We have found it quite difficult to define 'a patient.' Whenever you see this asterisk indicating the number of patients, it refers to patient visits. Sometimes it is a new patient, sometimes a repeat patient or possibly a follow-up visit. All were separate patient contacts.

The African Staff

We must say something about our special African staff too. We are so proud of them. They number about **100** salaried staff. In addition to managers/directors, our African staff fill roles such as nurses, nursing assistants, mobile clinic staff, librarian, driver, lab technicians, pharmacists, RCAR program staff, HIV counselors, children's home mothers, guards, maintenance crew, mechanic. Many of them have been with us for over 20 years.



Nurses Dolith, Willis and Moline treat patients at our Kenya clinics

Public Health Programs

One of the foundations of Lalmba's work is a lot of attention to public health issues including health education. To some of us it seems unusual that so much effort be placed in an area which does not heal or cure anything. Yet, it prevents both individual and community illnesses. A far larger number of people receive services in this area than in any of our medical facilities. Curative care is essential to the Lalmba efforts, but curative care only addresses the immediate battle. Public Health is the arena in which the war is won. It is difficult to estimate the actual number of people served as public health and health education is a constant and ongoing process. These programs include:

De-worming programs for thousands of school age children in area schools.

Emergency feeding programs to meet the nutritional needs of 'at-risk' elderly and children.

Sanitation and water projects are focused on bringing people clean potable water.

Mobile clinics and outreach services travel to areas which are far for many to reach our clinics.

Immunization programs. Virtually tens of thousands of children are immunized each year for polio, measles, tetanus, etc.

Mosquito net program has been effective in preventing malaria, the number one killer in Africa for children under five.



Marty consults with Joseph, one of our Kenyan HIV Counselors

Orphan Care Programs

“orphan care . . . our specialty”

Caring for orphan children goes all the way back to the beginnings of Lalmba. The first orphan project was started in Eritrea back in 1964. Our concept is to reach the most needy and vulnerable children and to provide for each child's needs – at the same time empowering them to become 'someone special' in life – becoming what each of them may be able to achieve.

The statistics seem overwhelming and seemingly impossible to deal with. But we believe that isn't so. It is impossible if we think so – but we don't think so! We see each child as an opportunity to create a better

future for those parts of Africa that have been devastated by war, famine and poverty.

At the end of 2009, Lalmba cared for 1,755 orphans in three countries. As we see it, these are 1,755 opportunities for children to become leaders in their communities. We see health care workers, educators, business men and women, and yes, people who will care for other orphan children some day.

Lalmba operates two different orphan programs. In Kenya and in Ethiopia we operate orphan homes. These are residential facilities where we

only accept children whose lives are threatened by hunger, health issues, or exposure to the elements, even wild animals.

And in each country where we work Lalmba also operates a fine program called RCAR (Reaching Children At Risk). This program is also for orphan children (almost all are AIDS orphans). We supply all of the child's needs including clothing, food, blankets, education and medical care – but no housing. Local people in the community house the children, some of whom were sleeping under a tree when we found them. Through the RCAR project we try to match elderly

widows or distant relatives with the children to supply housing. In this way we are able to support two obvious needs in the communities which we serve.

These orphan programs are the very heart of who we are. I am able to recount stories of individual children who came to us with life stories which could easily have ended at our door step.

The little girl found in her dying mothers arms alongside the road. The boy whose arm was so infected that it had to be amputated. A girl rescued from certain death when villagers prepared to throw her into a crocodile infested river because of an epileptic seizure. Children so severely malnourished that it is a wonder they survived long enough to reach us. Their tragic stories tear at your heart. What we have accomplished on their behalf warms you heart.

What they can (and have) become is the greatest reward we are able to find in this work of His.



Carrole has a special love for our orphans.

The issue of orphans in Africa has become a terrible and growing problem as the curse of AIDS continues to envelop the continent. No one knows for certain just how pervasive the problem is, but many estimates state there are in excess of 20 million AIDS orphans in Africa. 20 million? In Kenya alone, where we have our largest orphan program, the 'official number' is 1.1 million.

Let me tell you about our programs in Kenya

Lalmba has been working in Kenya for 25 years. Presently the programs there are

supervised by an American medical director and an African project

director. The paid staff there numbers **51** at three separate locations, working with over **100** volunteers. Following two decades of management by American staff, a dedicated team of Kenyan staff has taken charge – one of our most significant accomplishments in Africa.



The carpenter, the cook and the cowboy

Marico Awino - project director, Jenipher Atieno - assistant director, Jackson Otaga – personnel director now manage all of our projects in Kenya. Also known as the carpenter, the cook and the cowboy, these three worked their way up from low starting positions in the organization to the very top. This says a lot about what type of organization we are.

In the future, we plan to have a Kenyan Medical Director as well.

Matoso Clinic. This very busy outpatient clinic saw **14,454 patients** during the year and performed **7,219 laboratory tests**. This included **3,343 patients** for **Mother-Child Healthcare** - special care for pregnant women and babies.

The PSC is an **AIDS treatment clinic** which saw **3,041 patients** last year. We have been amazed at the number of AIDS patients in our clinic area probably close to **30%** of the population we serve.

Ochuna Dispensary is a satellite clinic located about one hour (over a terrible road) from the Matoso facility and very close to the Kenya-Tanzania border. This clinic saw **6,183 patients**, including **3,343 patients** for **Mother-Child Healthcare** - special care for pregnant women and babies.

A Public Health Program is operated throughout quite a large area in conjunction with mobile clinics and the education program. The project deals with sanitation, immunizations, clean water, health education and preventive medical care.

This project also includes the Lalmba **SWAT team** which responds to disease outbreaks such as cholera and typhoid, rushing to the area to control spread of the disease, protecting water supplies, educating the people and providing prophylactic medicines. There were

virtually thousands of these public health contacts in the year 2009.

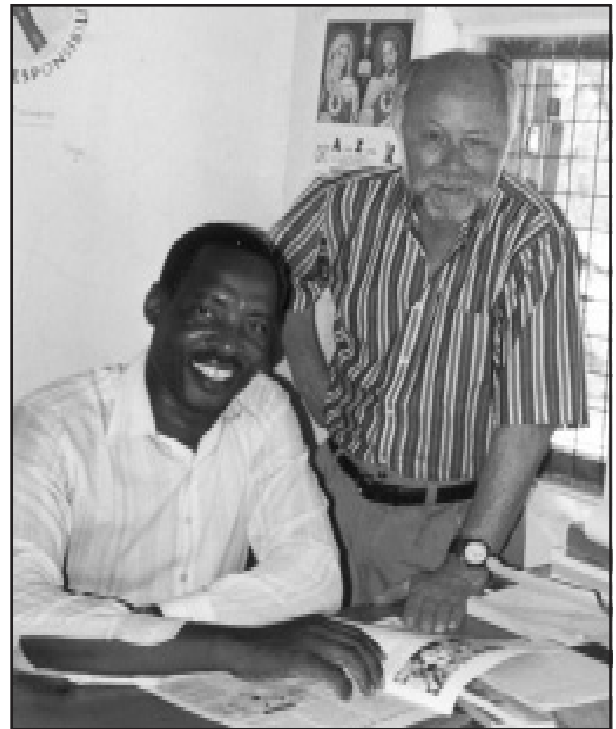
Mobile Clinics travel on a schedule to remote villages reaching people too far for people to travel to our established facilities. Last year we saw **4,897 patients** at these travelling clinics.

Teaching and training is an ongoing process with Lalmba. We train health care workers and provide weekly education classes on medical topics for our staff.

Chakula Bora is a nutrition program at Ochuna which serves malnourished children in nearby areas. Last year **312 meals** were given in the program.

Ongoro Children's home is the residence of **40 AIDS orphans**. Not all orphans can get into this home, only children whose lives are immediately at risk are admitted

Scholarship Program. Each year Lalmba awards scholarships to secondary schools (even to the university) for outstanding students in our orphan projects. This year



John Chacha, Mobile and Education Department Director, with Hugh

55 scholarships were awarded to AIDS orphans who otherwise would have been unable to continue their education.

RCAR (Reaching Children at Risk) is our largest orphan care project, providing food, education clothing, blankets and medical care for **1,414 AIDS orphans**.

The Lalmba library is the only one of its kind in a huge area. Last year **10,806** visits were made to the library - that's over 200 visits a week (makes it a very busy place).

The Lalmba Bank is a community loan program which provided small loans to **24 businessmen and women** (11 women and 13 men) last year. To qualify, people must attend the "Lalmba Business School" - a course on how to succeed in business. Loans were granted for selling household goods, livestock, used clothing, tailoring, and a hairdresser (among other things). The program gave loans totaling Kenya shillings 350,000 (\$4,700) and has a 100% success rate over a ten year period. There are no employees and it is entirely managed by Kenyan people.



Jared, center, manages the Lalmba Bank program as a volunteer

Let me tell you about our programs in Ethiopia

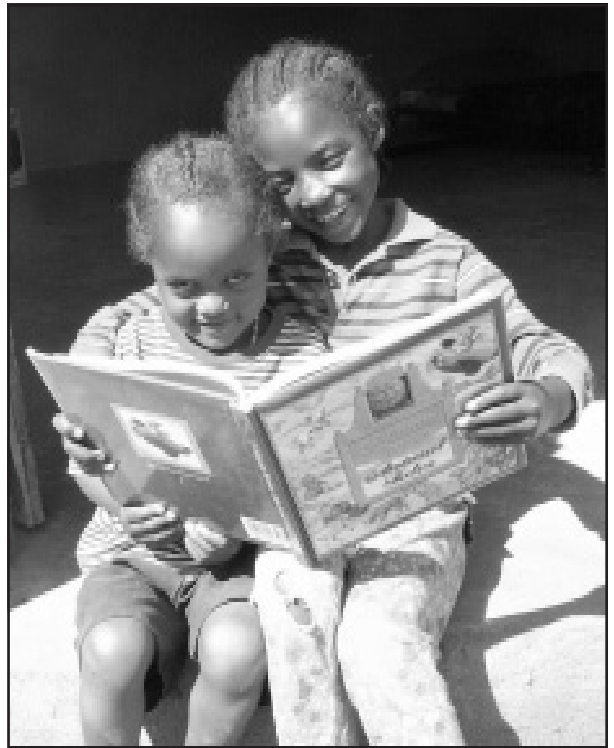
Lalmba has been operating in Ethiopia for eleven years under the supervision of American project directors. Our programs are located in the Kafa province in the south-western part of the country. It is commonly believed that coffee originated here and took its name from the province – Kafa. The specific location is a very rural town named Chiri.

There is an American staff of **5** and an Ethiopian staff of **45**. This place is situated in what we refer to as “the end of the world.” If it is not truly the “end of the world,” then it must be very close.

Working in this part of Africa has proven to be one of the most difficult challenges in our 46 years. The setting is in a beautiful rainforest, but the beauty of the environment is overshadowed by the difficulty of living and working there.

Chiri Health Center is the only hospital which Lalmba operates in Africa these days. All of our other facilities are outpatient only. The health center sees an abundance of strange and interesting illnesses and tropical diseases. The Chiri Health Center saw **23,510 patients** in 2009. The inpatient unit hospitalized **499 critically ill people** for a total of **1,572 days**. In addition, **93 children** were hospitalized for up to 30 days with life-threatening severe acute malnutrition.

Outreach Services are somewhat similar to the mobile clinics in Kenya, but the target villages are more remote – often only accessible on foot or by mule. Last year this service attended to **18,462 patients**.



These two little girls are learning to read from a small collection of simple books in the home.



Public Health Director Erin with our orphan Meskerem

Health Education is a wide ranging program of teaching either at our Chiri Health Center or in the surrounding villages which we serve. This program also provides health education in **12 schools** in our woreda (county). During the past year, more than **30,000 people** were served by this project.

TB program treated **121 patients** involving several months of treatment for each individual. Truly, every person treated for TB has had their life saved.

The **RCAR (Reaching Children at Risk)** program provided food, health care, education and supervision for **18 orphan** children in 2009. These children are often too old to qualify for our orphan home. It is not uncommon to witness a 10 year old child beginning the first grade! Formal education in this part of Africa has been uncommon until recently.

Chiri Children's Home cared for **13 orphan children** in 2009. The stories of these children's lives are very touching. Some were found alongside the road, others had been ostracized from their villages due to health conditions. In addition to housing, food, clothing, medical care and education, these kids get huge doses of love. When the health center closes each day, the children come to play sports on the hospital grounds.

Let me tell you about our programs in Eritrea

Eritrea is an extremely difficult place to work. It is the newest country in Africa, having achieved its independence from Ethiopia following a bitter 30 year war. This is the place where Lalmba was established in 1963. Eritrea has one of the lowest average incomes in Africa, and two wars have taken its toll. Life in Eritrean villages would remind you of how people lived 2,000 years ago. What impresses us so much here is the beauty and warmth of the people. Though poor beyond understanding, they are gracious and hospitable in ways that amaze us.

The original Lalmba orphanage was established here in the dusty town of Keren 46 years ago, and some of the children from that home are now involved in orphan programs themselves. The hospital which Lalmba constructed in Keren back in 1969 still continues serving the people there.

Due to the sensitive political situation in Eritrea, it was necessary to withdraw American volunteers from the country in 2005. The work continues under the supervision of leaders who were educated in Lalmba programs in the 1960's and 70's.

One way or another, we have been able to provide continuous service to the Eritrean people for 46 years.

RCAR (Reaching Children at Risk) is a program operated in all the countries where Lalmba works. As in Ethiopia and Kenya, the project provides clothing, food, medical care and education for orphans and extremely poor children in a number of Eritrean villages. Last year participants in the villages numbered



Orphan children are our specialty

around **300 children** plus **15 orphan children** in Keren town.

The Education Program is an extension of a school project initiated by Lalmba in Eritrean villages 46 six years ago. Many of the schools were constructed by Lalmba in the 1960's and we continue today providing funding and resources for them. There is a total of 15 village schools with an enrollment of more than **6,000 students**. We share the operating costs as well as teacher training and resource materials. It is fascinating to know that schools built by Lalmba so many years ago are still educating boys and girls in an area where no other educational opportunities exist.

Count 'em up! It is just amazing how many people's lives in Africa have been touched by Lalmba programs during the last year. This work is a blessing not just for those good people, but for those of us who are honored to serve them (including you).

This is a condensed summary of our annual report for 2009. If you'd like additional detail, drop us a note.

*God Bless us all
and this work
of His.*



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