

Southern Eye Institute
P.O. Box 771317
Memphis TN, 38177

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Southern Eye Institute



Dear Southern Eye Institute Supporters,

There have been several important changes in our lives since our last trip to Serabu. Of course, COVID-19 has changed everyone’s life and Southern Eye Clinic of Serabu (SECS) is no exception. The eye clinic was closed for several months in 2020 but is operating full-time now. Other important changes effecting our mission includes our expanded surgery capacity at SECS and our recent move to Pennsylvania. The virus craziness has made it difficult to return to Serabu, but by God’s grace we will be there in January 2022.

We remain steadfast in our determination to continue our mission work in Serabu, and we thank God for the abundant blessings that accompany our work.

You are an important part of those blessings. On behalf of the poor and needy people that we encounter in Serabu – Thank You and God bless you.

With sincere appreciation,

Cathy Schanzer & Tom Lewis



Record Surgery Despite COVID

There is no doubt that the coronavirus has been disruptive to our mission efforts. The eye clinic was closed for several months and our travel plans to Serabu have been curtained until January 2022. Despite these difficulties, **this year we will likely establish a new record for annual surgeries.** Prior to COVID-19, Cathy and other visiting surgeons were training Mohamed Rogers, our Clinical Director and Cataract Technician, to perform manual small incision cataract surgery. As a result of his training, the resumption of the eye clinic and ten outreach clinics last October, Mohamed has been performing 75+ cataract surgeries each month. This Summer, Dr. Jalika Mustapha, the National Eye Director for Sierra Leone, will be performing eye surgeries at Southern Eye Clinic of Serabu. The need for modern eye surgery remains severely under-served; but by God’s grace we are managing to expand our capacity despite these difficult times. Amen.



Typical Serabu cataract – Can you diagnose it?



Bring a mission retreat team to Serabu like Fr. Ben Bradshaw did in 2017

Food and water distributions have expanded in Serabu.

Water well pumps have been replaced and all nine precious water wells are properly maintained. Due to the generosity of St. Louis Catholic Church in Memphis, TN, and our ongoing purchases of local rice, we have been able to offer daily meals to patients, kindergarteners and village residents. These food and water programs were especially critical during the severe virus lockdown periods.

All community development activities continue

Our community development activities include a 20-station computer training center, 1200+ student scholarship programs, a 30-teacher subsidy campaign, Belmont Garage vehicle repairs, and a resource initiative for the blind. We also provide support for a variety of social encounter activities such as talent competitions and cooking contests, and our newest care ministry, a soccer program for one-legged players, which is being organized by one of our one-legged scholarship students.



The 2021 Bumpe Cup Soccer Tournament will soon begin.

Teams from ten area villages will compete in this very competitive annual event that began in 2009. The Championship Match will be played on June 20th and will be broadcast live on a national Sierra Leone radio station. How cool is that!!!



Fr. David Knight, a dear friend and two-time Serabu missionary, recently died while on mission in Guatemala. God bless you, Fr. Knight. You are dearly missed.



Our Pastor, Fr. Jabati (left), with Fr. Matthew and Fr. Bradshaw. Please pray for Fr. Jabati who is very sick.

The Future of Southern Eye Institute:

By God's grace, Cathy will continue her mission work in Serabu for many more years. However, it's time to prepare for the long-term future of this mission, beyond Cathy's services. Therefore, **we are expanding our human and financial resources to sustain the mission work of Southern Eye Institute.**

On the human resource side of the equation, we are supporting an inspired, native, third-year medical student, who intends to be an ophthalmologist in Serabu someday. We also are deepening our affiliations and surgical support with USA based training programs such as Wills Eye Hospital and the University of Colorado.

On the financial side, we are accelerating our mission endowment development efforts so that, ultimately, the financial support of this mission will be self-sustaining. **Launched this past January, with the goal of continuing it over the next three years, we will deposit 100% of all non-designated donations into the Southern Eye Institute Endowment Fund.** During this time, Cathy and I intend to fund all mission expenses from our household income; we call it divine economy. All of our savings is measured by the poor and needy lives who pass through Southern Eye Clinic of Serabu from multiple West African nations.

Our move to Pennsylvania is an important part of SEI endowment plans

We have purchased a small home and eliminated our debt with this move so that we can fund SEI mission operations while Cathy is working. It's the Holy Spirit's plan, and it's been exciting to see it unfold. For your information, our mailing address is 1766 Elmira Street 182, Sayre PA, 18840. Our home is about a mile from this UPS office location, and we feel very blessed in our new community.

Southern Eye Institute will continue to be based in Memphis

Please continue to mail all donations to **P.O. Box 771317, Memphis TN, 38177**. Bryan Watson and William Sanvee are helping us with mission logistics such as processing donations, maintaining our website and shipping containers.



We are intensifying our endowment efforts with a fundraising campaign. The name of this campaign is **The Gifts of Serabu – Focused on Forever**. Our Muslim and Christian friends in Serabu are already praying for its success. You will be hearing more about this campaign later, but for now, please prayerfully discern your part in the Holy Spirit's long-term plans for SEI's mission in Serabu. God bless you and thank you for your continued support of Southern Eye Institute.



Become a mission volunteer – see one, do one!