

Dear Friends of the Indiana-Kenya Partnership,

Below please find a message written yesterday morning by Dr. Joe Mamlin from his home in Eldoret.

For all of you who so closely followed the news from Kenya during the weeks of post-election violence, we hope you will be reassured and inspired by Joe's report of the recovery of both AMPATH and the Kenyan people. We also hope you will share our team's determination to seize the opportunity to build the long-term solutions that hold so much promise for Kenya's future.

Thank you for all your support of the Indiana-Kenya Partnership and the people we serve.

It is all about Jeremiah

It is a spectacular Sunday morning in Eldoret. Outside our home among flowers and the sound of birds I send words of greeting to all friends of the IU/Kenya Partnership.

I couldn't help but think of you this past Wednesday as staff and visitors settled down at the Siam Restaurant for the meal of a lifetime. Every year, the owner puts on a feast free of charge for all staying at the IU compound. It is Mr. Yu's way of saying thank you to Sarah Ellen just before she returns to the US to see our grandchildren. Sarah Ellen and I looked at each other as we swelled with pride at the sight of 20 plus people gathered around the tables. We knew the IU program was back!

Just a few months ago, we gathered the remaining handful of IU staff around one of these tables and watched tears well up in their eyes as we outlined their pending evacuation. Those painful days are now over. It is time to send a new word to those who never wavered in their support.

As you probably know, every USAID-AMPATH clinic managed to stay open every working day during the crisis. Sometimes it was a single staff member who was able to make it safely to the clinic to make sure no patients ran out of antiretrovirals. Now all staff are accounted for and back at work. Each clinic site is now booming with activity. We are more than just back to normal. We are pushing forward; determined to do so much more.

Let me list a few of the new and exciting wrinkles in the AMPATH story that are happening NOW:

- Home based testing [HCT]: During our initial pilot over 95% of homes in the catchment area served by the AMPATH clinic at Mosoriot let our teams into their houses to test for HIV, screen for TB and leave behind mosquito netting to protect against malaria. With the support of our friends at the Abbott Fund, we are launching a new HCT campaign for the 120,000 thousand people served by our Turbo clinic. Within weeks, we hope to hear that a major coalition of the corporate community will join with PEPFAR to support AMPATH testing door-to-door the two million people served by all AMPATH sites. We are determined to accomplish this unheard of task within two years. Imagine finding parents alive; keeping them well; and stopping the horrendous flood of orphans.
- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission: We are currently rolling out the most aggressive intervention in East Africa determined to demonstrate rates of HIV transmission capable of almost eliminating the tragedy of infected infants.
- Express Care: Last year, AMPATH demonstrated the safety of managing stable patients not only with nurses but actually with specially trained AMPATH patients who monitored their own colleagues in the community. As HCT rolls across western Kenya, specially trained nurses and patient providers will create the capacity for AMPATH to grow from the current 62,000 to 120,000 patients without adding a single physician or clinical officer.
- Family Preservation Initiative [FPI]: AMPATH seeks to move a patient from certain death to food security and ultimately to income security. The success of this final step falls on the capable shoulders of FPI. AMPATH has declared this as the year of FPI. With help from so many donors to the IU/Kenya Partnership, the agriculture arm of FPI's income generating program will reach record numbers of some of the poorest HIV-infected subsistence farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. When I think of thousands not

only becoming well and food secure but also income secure, I want to shout the word *Victory!*

- Lateral Expansion: AMPATH has had enormous success taking on the critical challenge of HIV/AIDS, but we also see other great healthcare needs in so many of our patients. Even in the midst of the worst crisis Kenya has seen in its nation's history, our friends at Eli Lilly and Co. were willing to make a key gift of the drug Capreomycin so our Tuberculosis team led by Dr. Jane Carter and Brown University could start our first-ever patients on care for tuberculosis that was resistant to multiple other forms of drug treatment. This gift and Lilly's support for our cancer and psychiatric care allow us to expand laterally beyond HIV to address the many other needs faced by some of our patients.
- And finally, let me mention our newest kid on the block, therapeutic feeding: The story began when Musa was carried into the Mosoriot clinic as a barely breathing skeleton. I put Musa in a nearby mud shelter build by North United Methodist Church. With humanitarian funds, we began adding to Musa's diet locally purchased nutritional supplements. Four months later, a new Musa returned to his home as good as new. Inspired by Musa, we approached Abbott Laboratories to donate their Ensure product. They not only donated immediately but additional tons have been sent to the Catholic Medical Mission Board to be flown to us within weeks. We have hired the staff and are bringing up Kenya's first community-based therapeutic feeding program for some of the most vulnerable and fragile patients on this planet. With this program in its infancy, the last patient brought to my clinic on Thursday was Jeremiah.

Jeremiah is in his early thirties. He was wasted beyond recognition by his friends with a weight that had dropped to 82 lbs. To make matters worse, he had been displaced in the recent clashes and lived in a tent with a simple mattress in the Eldoret IDP camp. Since he was also in shock, I told him that I would need to admit him to the hospital for a few days. He had lost all confidence that anyone genuinely cared for him. He refused admission and asked to be returned to his tent. After thirty minutes of fairly intense persuasion [my children would understand], I convinced Jeremiah to give us one more chance to care. I told him of Abbott's donation and I promised to

visit him every day to confirm that everything necessary was provided for his recovery. This picture is from my visit last night. I laid the can of Ensure next to him.



And more is on the way. Computers are humming as leadership of the IU/Kenya Program hammer out the next generation of grants. The vision is right so expect funding to follow. It is with confidence that I predict the birth of an AMPATH Institute capable of sharing with the world lessons learned in AMPATH in record time. Expect to see funding directed at replicating the IU/Kenya Partnership as additional North American Medical Schools join with counterparts elsewhere in Africa. That is not only good for Africa but is good for North America. And - you will see the success of the AMPATH HIV program integrated more fully into the Kenyan MOH as we move toward lifting up the entire primary care system for the communities we serve. Rest assured that the post HCT world of AMPATH will give birth to the most successful HIV prevention program in Africa.

The years ahead are full of promise. The IU/Kenya program remains focused and can offer leadership during one of the greatest medical challenges in recorded

history. But know the secret is more than simply growing. At its essence, success depends on pausing and reaching for the next Jeremiah.

Joe Mamlin