

## ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH

*This series will run in alphabetical order as photos are available.*

March 15th, 2006



### **RUSSELL REID**

Birthday: Jan 26th  
Anniversary: Feb 18th  
Wife: Maria

Classification:  
Human Resources Professional

Russell Reid brings to Rotary administrative ability gained in his occupation of Managing Director of the North Algoma Employment Help Centre  
And his Chairmanship of the Algoma District School Board.  
Russell is a Director of the Wawa Rotary Club and serves on the following committees; Fellowship, Christmas Nuts, and chairs the Group Study Exchange and Adventure in Citizenship Committees.



## *March is World Community Service Month*

### **THIS COULD BE OUR NEXT WCS PROJECT**

#### **PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS PATIENTS PROGRAMME OF THE SHEKHINAH CLINIC**

AIDS/HIV – project – Shekhinah Clinic is a medical facility initiated and directed by Dr. David Abdulai. It is located in a largely rural area in Northern Ghana near the city of Tamale where the levels of poverty are among the highest in the country.

The mission of the Shekhinah clinic is to provide totally free medical care to those in need. Dr Abdulai achieves this by his own dedicated work and that of the approximately 35 local volunteers who help him to provide medical care to the needy and with financial support from generous individuals in various countries who donate to his course.

Recently ant-retroviral medication has become available to treat individuals with HIV/AIDS from the WHO. To date, Dr Abdulai has been providing end-of-life care for patients suffering from the AIDS disease. Victims of AIDS, who would normally die at home are now coming to Dr Abdulai's clinic in hopes of receiving treatment. He must send these patients to the city of Kumasi about 350km away for consultation, investigation, and treatment. In Kumasi each patient receives a one month supply of medication. The patient must return monthly to Kumasi for a medical examination, possibly lab tests and to receive the next months' supply of medication.

This is the first time any treatment has been available to treat poor people suffering from HIV/AIDS in northern Ghana. This program will fill a huge gap in the medical system and will save many lives. The Copenhagen Consensus (<http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/default.aspx>) identified the treatment of AIDS victims in the developing world as the most effective way to use monetary resources to save lives.



**The Shekhinah Clinic** is a non-governmental, non-profit charitable organization which provides free medical and social services primarily to the poor and destitute in Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana.

The clinic is run by Dr David Abdulai, a medical practitioner who gave up his appointment as a District Medical Officer with the government run Ghana Health Services (GHS) to dedicate himself to serve the poor, including mentally ill people (or "mad people" as they are called locally), free of charge. He runs the clinic with the help of his wife Doris, a nurse who also resigned from Government service and about 35 (thirty five) volunteers as an experiment in faith.

The Shekhinah Clinic under the leadership of Dr. David Abdulai derives his resources to run the clinic activities from Divine providence through spontaneous donations from Individuals, groups and organizations both within and outside Ghana.

The programme run by Shekhinah Clinic includes:

1. **CLINICAL FACILITIES:** Dr David Abdulai provides clinical facilities in two different locations at GURUGU and WAMALE both in the Tamale Metropolis. In these Clinics services offered are: free medical care, including surgical operations, out - patient (OPD) in -patients (admissions) palliative and supportive care of the terminally ill patents and hospice for abandoned or very poor AIDS/HIV patients.
2. **DESTITUTE HOME:** The Clinic also provides shelter for people who have no homes or have lost their families and relatives or are mentally ill and freely come or are brought by "Good Samaritans" to live in this home as long as they wish. Here care for these people include, feeding, clothing and sleeping place and health care at the GURUGU Clinic. During their stay, some of them who get better are helped to locate or re-join their families where possible.
3. **MEALS ON WHEELS:** The Shekhinah Clinic provides a warm meal and drinking water daily to the mentally handicapped persons roaming the streets of Tamale, at the same time identifying the sick among them who need medical care and/or shelter.
4. **SPECIAL NEED**

Since the Shekhinah Clinic depends on divine providence and the love of God, to run the programme, the Clinic will need sustainable support in kind or cash to run it programmes, Dr. David Abdulai will accept support of all forms without conditions attached to run the Clinic to alleviate the suffering of the poor who number about 140 for the food programme and 30 for the terminally ill AIDS/HIV patients under his care.

The main thing about this project is that the Shekhinah Clinic under the leadership of Dr. David Abdulai offers free consultation, free inpatient care to the poor and free medication to poor people of the area. The project that is run through his hands is very useful and cost effective. He takes the projects that no one or no other organizations wants and tries to fill in the glaring gap in the social support system in Northern Ghana.

## CONCLUSION (SHEKHINAH CLINIC)

At a time when the impact of government's economic policies is being felt most acutely by the poorest members of Ghanaian society, the commitment of Dr. David Abdulai and his volunteers is an example of what an "experiment in faith" can achieve. People without money are receiving health care, the destitute are receiving shelter, and lunatics are being fed.

*Describing the inspiration behind his work. Dr. David Abdulai says "I am told that Jesus once said that the greatest commandment was that you love your God with all your heart, all your mind and with all your soul and that you love your neighbor as you love yourself. On this hangs the whole law and prophets. I find that the only way to live true happiness is by loving God and my neighbor; I believe everybody is pursuing happiness and that is what I am pursuing."*

COSTS: Part A—Meals On Wheels program of Shekhinah Clinic  
Part B—HIV/AIDS program of Shekhinah Clinic

US\$20,000  
US\$15,000

**Birthdays in April:** 07-Russell Reid; 21-Harold Soderlund; 27- Bill Devries.

**Anniversaries in April:** 22—Mena & Norman Braid

**Programs in April:**

*Magazine Month*

Les Calkins and Bill Rose

**Directors Meeting, April 12th**

Gloria Avis

