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ABOUT EYECARE WORK IN ZAMBIA**

Journey for Healing

A team of Rotarians from RC Mysore West, RI District 3180, took up the task of bridging continents to carry out Operation Eye Sight and restore the vision of the affected impoverished population in Zambia. This is an exemplary story of a great humanitarian journey undertaken for the healing and transformation of their life.

"This is my ninth eye operation for the day," said Rtn. Dr. Ravishanker of RC Mysore West. "Fabulous! I am greatly relieved and happy-go-lucky," said Dr. Kuondakwema of Ndola in Zambia. These two doctors from completely different continents, separated by a big ocean, worked together for a common cause — To restore the vision of every Zambian who were ill due to living in a world of complete darkness and despair.

Rtn. Dr. Ravishanker of RC Mysore West, RI District 3180, an experienced and well-known eye surgeon in Mysore, who had undertaken TRF voluntary service in countries like, Bangladesh, Nepal and Nigeria, received an invitation from RC Ndola, RI District 9220, Zambia to serve in Ndola for the eye care of impoverished population of Zambia. He went on a mission to Zambia to render free

service under The Rotary Foundation's humanitarian programme.

He volunteered for this assignment in Zambia where 1,00,000 persons are suffering with cataract and other eye ailments that need to be treated. The country with a population of over 10 million has just about 15 eye surgeons mainly located in cities leaving the vast majority of the population in villages without any medical and eye care. Many people in these places make their living with their hands, doing tasks such as fishing, sewing, cooking or assembly line work. The loss of close-up vision can threaten their livelihood, and even their survival. At the very least, their quality of life is seriously compromised when they can't see well enough to cook, read or work.

The President and other members of RC Mysore West wholeheartedly

supported the project with generous donations for the medicines and equipment needed for a large number of surgeries conducted in Zambia.

The Rotarians of RC Ndola had completed all the groundwork needed for the eye operations to be conducted in different locations of Zambia. They activated the media like TV and Radio to apprise the same to people of Zambia and more so to people in rural areas through hand bills. They roped in Dr. Kuondakwema, a local eye surgeon to work with the Rotary volunteers and assist the mission in a big way. They also raised over \$2,000 towards cost of food, medicines, transport of patients, publicity and logistic expenses. A lot of ground work, like screening and getting patients ready for surgery were done by the local Rotary club.

"Operation Eye Sight - Zambia" was conducted for 10 days. The expert eye surgeons from Mysore and the local doctors of Zambia conducted a total of 51 eye operations which included cataract surgeries. Other patients with different eye problems were also treated and provided with medicines. Rtn. Ramani Patel, President of Rotary Club of Ndola, went out of the way to make the Rotarians feel at home.

This project is indeed an example of Rotary's reach across continents to share expertise and experience through service.



Rtn. Dr. Ravishanker, Dr. Kuondakwema and Rtn. Ramani Patel along with some operated patients.

With inputs from
RC Mysore West
RI District 3180