



Dear supporters and friends,

**We have some exciting news to share!**

It's been said that "doctors can cure disease", and "plumbers can prevent disease"....this has never been more true than seeing a hospital, which is supposed to be a place of healing, operating without a sanitary waste system! If ever there was a case for applying plumbing skills towards promoting health, the Black Lion Hospital in Ethiopia, cries out!

Thanks to the efforts initiated by Jim Lockhart, a concerned member of UA Local 32, we, at Plumbers Without Borders are honored to have **committed our volunteer plumbing services to support the humanitarian efforts** of another great Seattle non-profit organization, started by a handful of local Seattle doctors: **the Seattle Anesthesia Outreach (SAO) group**. They have launched a full frontal attack on the problems at Black Lion Hospital that are fixable, in concert with local authorities and skilled Ethiopian tradespersons. <http://www.seattleao.org/> SAO is working to support the improvement of medical care in developing areas of the world with particular emphasis on surgical procedures. They are a grass-roots organization, composed wholly of volunteers, much like us. The Black Lion Hospital is a major hospital for the people in Addis Ababa and beyond, and is in **critical need of repair and hygienic plumbing systems and sanitation infrastructure**.

They see and estimated 400,000 patients a year who would otherwise not be able to receive care. After meeting with their founder and President, Dr. Richard Solazzi, as well as other staff and volunteers, it was clearly obvious that Plumbers Without Borders had the people with the skills and the desire to make a valuable contribution to this great humanitarian undertaking. **Doctors and Plumbers working together for health...and alleviation of human suffering and disease.**

Here's an interesting blog, written by another humanitarian group about the unthinkable conditions there. <http://www.travelblog.org/Africa/Ethiopia/Addis-Ababa-Region/Addis-Ababa/blog-413351.html>

"The most disturbing things were to see the black mold growing on the walls everywhere. It is well documented that mold will make a person sick and here it was everywhere but worst it was on the ceilings and walls of the kitchen. So the steam rises from the food and the mold literally drips from the ceiling into the pots of the meals prepared for over 1000 people daily. It was horrible.



**pictures speak louder than words....**

Let's help the doctors do what they do best! and do our part to ensure they have safe water and a sanitary waste system.



In a couple of months, Domenico DiGregorio and Fred Volkers, co-founders of Plumbers Without Borders, will be heading to Ethiopia, with the head of SAO, Dr. Richard Solazzi, and their team, to help fully assess the situation and challenges. They will meet and confer with local leaders and onsite hospital mechanical and engineering personnel tasked with developing the path forward. Their collaborative efforts will be in concert with local re-building initiatives currently underway, and sustained through local investments and personal commitments of the Ethiopian people. To optimize and leverage the timeliness of available skills and resources, Dom and Fred, along with a member of the Northwest Kidney Centers, Isa Abdus-Salaam and Dr. Solazzi will also do a thorough site and equipment evaluation at a nearby kidney dialysis facility, being run by a local volunteer organization, and in serious need of mechanical upgrades.



Supplies they have are great...adding skills and expertise will help put them to good use!

Stay tuned for more news...follow us on facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Plumbers-Without-Borders/160506667306834?ref=hl>

and twitter... <https://twitter.com/plumbing4all>

please share this with your friends and industry associates,  
leaders and corporate entities...helping us spread the word,  
raise awareness and hopefully funds and resources to continue on this challenging path.

We would be remiss if we did not ask you on behalf of the many thousands of people in Ethiopia,  
who urgently need help...whatever is within your power to do...please do it !

Thank you from all of us!!



This is the face of "faith in the goodness of people" !!!

