

The Decade of Deterioration: the global medical solution

BY N NEWTON



Something happened since we entered the new millennium. It's been a decade of deterioration for our planet. The attack on the USA on September 11th, 2001 is seen as the catalyst that caused a spiralling of violence, coupled with global warming, a plethora of natural disasters, a financial crisis that rocked the world and the worsening condition of suffering people in developing countries. Yet the reality is not simply America's 9/11, but the results of years of previous neglect, abuses and indulgences that have left the ecology and the humanity of our globe in critical shape.

Our world has always had a; 'them and us' mentality. We view people in developing countries as 'them' and 'us' as the privileged West, and never the twain shall meet. Our attitude has maintained the status quo, never giving thought to the immense lost resource that these two billion people represent. But now, with our deteriorating planet and the collective concern of its people, we finally have a chance to right the wrongs and put into place a brand new paradigm that could revolutionise the medical care of the developing world. While the ecology experts figure out how to save the flora, fauna, water and stop global warming, the medical profession must now

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cast its eyes afar and do its part to lift the health, the skills and the whole system of our next door neighbours. Because if we all work together, there will be no more 'them and us', but a marvellously functioning planet full of innovation, expertise, professionalism and a caring, strong humanity.

The new global paradigm – logistics resource

Global Flying Hospitals, (GFH) is a revolutionary humanitarian medical charity. GFH was founded in 2001 by Neill Newton, an Australian international business consultant, author, pilot and visionary. He had a big vision, but it was simplistic when compared to how complex and troubled the world now is in 2010. He planned to acquire and refurbish a Boeing 747 into a high-tech flying hospital, and provide free

medical treatment to the developing world. It was another piecemeal approach to a huge existing medical crisis.

Today, *Global Flying Hospitals* has morphed into the world-changing paradigm as the Logistics Resource to the world's humanitarian medical charities. By supporting *Global Flying Hospitals*, many medical charities can benefit.

Newton, the Chairman and Founder, along with Kelly Barker, the International CEO, reached the conclusion that simply being just another humanitarian medical charity, albeit with a big aircraft, was definitely not enough to make the smallest dent in the massive needs of the world. They worked with their team to research what was missing in the humanitarian efforts. With every medical charity it is resources and logistics. When medical volunteers commit to missions they end up working in sub-standard operating theatres, or suffer a huge lack of medical equipment and supplies. Many places do not even have theatres, clinics or basic care facilities. All a matter of resources! Also, as for logistics; what do you do with a paediatric heart patient, who needs not just an operation by leading surgeons, but recovery in an ICU, long recuperation and special needs? There are no world-class hospitals adjacent to villages! This is the logistics!

Morphing into magnificence

The *Global Flying Hospitals* team has a magnificent obsession. It is to flood the world with all the tools and training necessary to stop the deterioration and to support the developing countries with the resources available, from high-tech surgical theatres, modern medical equipment, and the training necessary to lift the standards of local medical personnel. By providing these resources and logistics the existing humanitarian medical charities can travel further, reach deeper, broader and of course, treat more and more patients. It is creating a world without medical borders.

But how is this all possible on such a large global scale?

Global Flying Hospitals is now refurbishing its first Boeing 747-200 into a state-of-the-art surgical hospital for large cities. Previously, most missions were done by medical volunteers travelling on commercial aircraft; while the search was on to acquire a plane and continue to build the infrastructure. After much input from medical and aviation professionals the complex conceptual design work is now finished. Now the engineering work is underway, in a China based aviation facility recommended by Boeing. This is to be the flagship of the charity and available to all host charities which engage with *Global Flying Hospitals*. Future plans include one flying hospital for each continent.

Air jeeps

The Hercules C130 cargo aircraft are the jeeps of the air. Built tough! They go where the Boeing 747's cannot. They can land on unprepared strips, sandy beaches or grass clearings. The charity is acquiring four for the fleet, for transporting medical field clinics to a plethora of isolated areas, in order for host charities to function more effectively. These specialised clinics are designed for attending to routine medical procedures, vaccinations, dental, ophthalmology, and other conditions that can be treated on site.

Dominating domes

In alliance is a US firm that specialises in manufacturing rapid deployment inflatable domes. These have been designed specifically for the charity as on-site hospitals for major disasters. These domes are especially resistant to dust, wind, heat and severe conditions associated with developing countries. Utilising a unique pallet transport system, hospitals, clinics and equipment can be loaded on and off

of the Hercules quickly, then deployed and operational within a short time, so that the host charities can put their volunteer medical professionals to work in quality conditions.

Clean green clinics

Modular eco-friendly, quick-build field clinics are the next level that Newton and the team developed. The need for permanent clinics exists in all countries, but because of the lack of building materials and trained construction crew this presented a challenge. This was solved with development of modular clinics, manufactured in Asia and shipped in the Hercules or shipping containers. Designed to be energy efficient with solar panels for power and hot water, rain water catchment, insulated and using modern lightweight materials, they can be erected within hours, resulting in a pristine clean environment that can last for years.



From village to world-class hospital

One of the 'indulgences' of our western world, is to provide air ambulance services to expats living in developing countries. They pay insurance, and if they need to be evacuated to a western hospital if suffering a medical emergency a Lear Jet air ambulance is dispatched. But what of that little child in some dusty village who needs surgery or treatment of a life-threatening illness? Why cannot our neighbours in these lands have access to the very same facilities? Why do 25,000 children die every day because they suffer from some minor or major illness, yet cannot have the same level of access?

This grave disparity embarked the charity on a program to solve it. Three Lear Jets, fully outfitted as air ambulances and capable of international travel are being added, as a direct result of a merger with an air ambulance firm, to come under the umbrella of *Global Flying Hospitals*. With the input of a senior consultant with 35 years experience in the industry, a

revolutionary new model has been formed that never existed, until now. This means that a paediatric heart patient can be evacuated from his village and flown direct to a world-class hospital in Singapore, Thailand, India, Hong Kong or one of the other dozen hospitals in alliance. This air ambulance department is being established under corporate sponsorships, as firms nowadays realise the immense value of being seen as contributing global citizens.

37 million blind – 28 million need not be!

Ratios – it is all about ratios. According to Orbis (the flying eye hospital) there are 37 million people in our world today who are blind, and 28 million of them do not have to be. There are simply not enough ophthalmologists in developing countries. This parallel organisation has done a

profound impact over 26 years in delivering care, plus trained thousands of local eye doctors in the latest procedures. *Global Flying Hospitals'* last eye mission was to the Himalaya Eye Centre in Pokhara, Nepal, led by Dr Francis Nathan, a leading Eye Surgeon from Australia who pioneered minimal incision cataract surgery. All six members paid their own way and even raised funds to purchase an auto keratometer, which was donated to the Centre. More than 1,000 people were screened and 102 people had their vision restored with cataract surgery and lens implants during the three day

mission to the remote village of Babiyachur in the Myagdi district of Central Nepal. A teaching seminar was also held.

Yet, these approaches are definitely not enough. We need to increase the ratios of eye specialists to patients. This applies to the whole spectrum of medical specialisms. There exists a huge shortage of physicians in the developing world. Indulgence by the west has lead to crisis and lack!

Online medical e-academy

Global Flying Hospitals has been establishing an online training portal, called Global Medical E-Academy to demonstrate procedures online, from cataract surgery to dental. An uploading of the text books, videos and even live-feed tele-medicine is included from either alliance hospitals or from onboard the flying hospital. The charity sees this as a growing initiative, and is seeking colleges and professionals to add content, video and curriculum. This resource is designed to provide host charities and countries, with a vital training platform, to aid in the

lifting of skills. Perhaps one day, we will not need to send volunteer medical professionals, as countries will become sustainable and self-sufficient.

The global web

The charity is establishing branches globally, like a web, in order to raise funds, grow and provide the services as the Logistics Resource. The US Regional Head Office is West Palm Beach, Florida. The Asian Regional Head Office is Macao, near Hong Kong. The European Regional Head Office is being planned. Together they will oversee the 25 plus fundraising centres launching worldwide. Operational bases are under development in Ghana to service West and Southern Africa, Macao will service Asia, and Colombia to service South America. The charity has established a holding company that accepts investors, to acquire, refurbish and service the aircraft, field clinics and other equipment, which then leases the resources to the international charity group, and then supplies the host charities.

The missing ingredient

Newton was asked what is still missing in completing this comprehensive global medical resource? He stated: *"Building a fleet of flying hospitals, air ambulances,*

modular and dome medical field hospitals, training portals, the web of fundraising and administration centres is all vital to impact the quality of medical care on a global scale. Each of these will help stop the indifference that is killing millions each year because of a lack of medical treatment. However, the missing ingredient is the individual. For instance, the medical professional who understands the problems and has the heart for the challenge. It's the collective power of individuals supporting, that is the fuel to drive this world changing mission!"

Newton emphasises that by supporting *Global Flying Hospitals*, all the client charities are supported, which in turn provides the vital work at the point of human need. One of these collective programs available to individuals is the *Angel Wings Global Partner* program. It's a donation of \$20 or equivalent, per month for just one year. This \$240.00 per year is minimal, yet collectively provides immense resources all the way down to the children in dire medical need.

Your lasting legacy

A key program is the *Plaque of Honour*, in the VIP reception area onboard the flying hospital. This very special focus point will be engraved with the names of an exclusive group of medical professionals and

companies who have donated at least \$1,000. For all on this honour roll, an elegant Certificate of Recognition will be presented along with a desk model replica of the Boeing flying hospital. Other exciting opportunities are available, as naming rights on surgical theatres, postoperative care units and other components, for those who make larger donations.

You are invited to join with *Global Flying Hospitals* and leave a lasting legacy, with your name featured on the plaque, or other areas of this life changing mission. Or join as an *Angel Wings Partner* with a small donation, as a demonstration of your willingness to make the difference to the lives of the one-third of our planet's suffering people. *Global Flying Hospitals* welcomes all offers of assistance, donations and expressions of interest. Welcome aboard and fasten your seatbelts. **EN**



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