



Health Development International

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Practicing What We Preach



In the last newsletter I wrote of our hopes for building revenue streams to support us by practicing the principles of sustainability that we advocate in our workshops. As you can see from the stories in this newsletter, we're well on our way to achieving our dreams.

I am amazed at the pace and the magnitude of these developments. Even a professional planner like me is sometimes surprised by events outside our control. This is one of those times. It leaves me with the conclusion that it is wise to be ready, but we're not in the driver's seat as much as we might think.

While the details of the certification and fellowship plans unfold in the coming months, I know we're going to need help. I am beginning to visualize a virtual office with experts from various fields and locations, working toward our common goals. We'll need translators, test-question writers, mentors and more as we move forward a sustainable model of operation.

I also know the value of personal connections. If you know of someone that might be ready for a professional adventure of HDI proportions, I'd welcome an introduction.

Thanks for your encouragement and support. I sense that we're on the cusp of something much, much larger than ourselves. I'm glad you're along for the ride.

I'm amazed at how God uses a network of people to make a global difference, despite differing backgrounds, cultures and experience levels. Check out some of the stories...

Big Opportunities from China

We're back from a two-week teaching tour in China where I was joined by two HDI volunteers, Sandra Liu, PhD and Patrick Creager. We presented the management training to 85 people in two cities at the request of the Luke Loving Heart Medical Project under the direction of John Cao.

The bigger story, however, was the invitation from John to prepare training resources that can make HDI sustainable and fill a huge need in China. We discovered that the Chinese government plans to privatize 30-40% of their healthcare services in the next five years. This means there will be a huge demand for talented leaders, and HDI seems to be positioned to meet that need with a management certification program and a year-long fellowship program co-sponsored by John Cao's organization and Purdue University.

We're still in the early development stages, but we're hoping to roll out the programs in 2010, providing sustainable revenue for our services and setting the stage for global expansion. Stay tuned. It's going to be a wild ride.

Volunteers on the Move

The China trip marked the expansion of opportunities for volunteer healthcare consultants and managers to get involved in HDI. Sandra Liu, PhD and Patrick Creager participated fully in the training programs with Sandra pulling double-duty as our primary translator as well as management professor.

Four more volunteers will be mobilized by the end of 2009. Annetta Torre and Judy Van Dam are scheduled to assess the potential for nurse management training at DengFeng Hospital in rural China in September. Mark Huizenga will be joining me to teach the workshop in India in October, co-sponsored by the International Hospital Federation and Eli Lilly and Co. Another volunteer is exploring the option of a trip to Nigeria in October or November to assist a new healthcare program in the planning stages.

HDI now has over 20 volunteers that have attended orientation and expressed their interest in serving and developing countries. We project the opportunities for meaningful service to grow exponentially in the coming years, paving the way for more healthcare managers and consultants to make a life-changing contribution. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining HDI, please share this newsletter with them and watch for announcements of orientation training options in 2010.

Expanded Curriculum

The opportunities in China are stimulating us to develop new resources including a textbook on Effective Health Care Management for leaders in developing countries. The textbook will include sections on leadership, management, sustainability and service, forming the foundations for four workshops and four certification tracks. We are also finding excellent resources from USAID-funded organizations like Management Sciences for Health, and are exploring ways to extend their use throughout the developing world. Publication is expected by the end of 2009.

Thanks for your encouragement and support. Together we are improving the quality of care AND sustainability for hospitals that serve some of the most vulnerable people in the world. It's a high honor to be able to join God in HIS work around the globe.

Sincerely,

Ken Hekman
Health Development International