



### Kimura Disease

I was scheduled to observe a surgery on the Africa Mercy; removal of a growth just outside the lower jaw of a nine year old boy. When I met with the surgeon, Dr. Chris Blackburn, he told me he would actually not be performing the surgery because the evening before, in a moment he believes was divinely granted, two words came to him: “Kimura Disease.” He researched the condition and the recurrence rate is very high. If the growth or growths are removed, they are extremely likely to grow back, thus making this surgery on a nine year old not worth the risk. This is an extremely rare condition that produces a large growth or growths usually around the ear and in the lower cheek, down to the neck. The cause is unknown, but the surgeon suspected that a badly decayed and infected six year molar might have promoted the condition. The tooth was to be removed and a biopsy taken, that was all. When I went to see the boy to see exactly what this condition looked like, I was astounded by the size of what had developed. If I had cupped both of my hands, they could have been more than filled with the tumor like swelling of the left side of his face.

What does this have to do with Trinity Dental Clinic? Many of you have read for years and probably grown tired of my writing of the different complications and problems that can arise from a simple infected tooth. We have seen numerous similar, permanent distortions of the face from osteomyelitis (in fact we just did on a five year old boy only a few weeks ago). I guess I was just amazed that we would now add one more possibility to the list. And I find it sad that we must consider extraction of a tooth “prevention”, coming from a place where that word means things like fluoride and simple oral hygiene. But in these circumstances it is, and we hope to consistently push prevention back to the stages where it belongs with education, cleanings, and fillings.

The five year old I just mentioned ended up with a swelling not much less in size to the boy with Kimura. We treated him and waited to see if he would heal. After several weeks, all signs pointed to healing except one which commonly remains in conditions like his—the distortion of his face. It almost seems disappointing that we could technically “heal” someone like him, but still have this unchangeable factor, what to him will one day be the biggest one. But when I told his father that he did not need to return to the clinic for any more follow up and he thanked me and gave all of us a big hug, I was at least reassured that some healing had taken place, not just for him, but also for a concerned family. —Keith

### Real Dental Lights!

After working for so many years in a semi-portable clinic, we are so happy to have real dental lights installed and working in our clinic. It is a strange thing to be excited about, but it allows us to feel we are that much closer to actually using the lights for their intended purpose.





*This area will be TDC's denture laboratory, making simple prosthetics to rebuild our patients' smiles, should they have to remove a front tooth. One of our Liberian assistants will be trained to fabricate the dentures.*

The clinic is tentatively set to open the last week of October. With somewhat of a “housing crisis” due to the increased number of long term volunteers with SIM Liberia, Keith’s focus quickly shifted to the staff house construction for several weeks, attempting to move it along as quickly as possible. Keith and family moved houses as well. With Frieda away on vacation, her one bedroom house became the Chapman family’s best option! They say it is reminiscent of their time on the Mercy Ships. The Chapmans will be moving to the new staff house about the same time as the clinic will open (prayer, please!).

We have sadly experienced some hold ups due to some “bad business”. After contracting an aluminum factory to fabricate our dental cabinets as well as our staff house windows, window bars, and doors, nothing was delivered after several weeks of calling, inquiring, and pursuing, even after our hefty initial down payment. It turns out after some investigation that the owner had done the same thing with several clients, and we have thus far been unable to receive any refund. We were forced to contract the items out to another factory, and this entire process has delayed both construction projects.

But as this is being typed, the final coat of paint is going on in the clinic and the new cabinets will be delivered in less than two weeks. We will soon move in our dental chairs, organize all the materials which are still coming in from America and Europe, and position the reception area chairs that will hopefully be filled with thousands of patients over just the next several months.

Frieda will return from her leave of absence on November 1st. She has faced a battle of advanced arthritis in her ankle and is slowly overcoming the condition with physiotherapy. We were glad to know that she will be able to return to Liberia not long after the clinic’s opening.

Thanks again for everyone’s interest, prayers, and support.

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. **1 Samuel 2:8**

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