



Global
Kindness
Foundation
bringing smiles worldwide

Iraq 2015



46 Volunteers from 7 countries all headed to war torn Iraq with one goal in mind: “Let’s put a smile on the faces of those orphans.” Our challenges started early. Half of our group was connecting through Dubai, and Emirates cancelled its flights into Baghdad. But unperturbed, and hours spent on the phone with our travel agent we all found alternate flights. March 21st, the spring equinox, found the majority of the group heading straight from the airport to a school in Kadhmiya, a suburb of Baghdad, where we set-up 8 dental stations and a physician’s clinic. This year, for the first time we had a pediatrician joining us. By the grace of God, all our equipment and supplies made it. No lost suitcases or destroyed



Dr Ola Hassan Discussing Things with Br. Inayat Daya and Br Haider Razaq



Sis. Kulsum Rashid Entertaining the Orphans

supplies. 3 days of hard work and we made a small dent in their dental and medical needs. This was the first time we had set-up in the Imam-e-Jawadain school and the needs were extensive. Day 3 saw us packing, we were on the road to Kerbala to set-up in the Sayeda Rukaya School where we started last year. This year they gave us 6 big rooms on the ground floor. Again, 8 dental stations and a physician’s clinic. We were up to 11 dentists as the last of the group joined us. And did we work hard. So much work and such little time! We did our best and the stats show we worked super hard and all as a team. People from various backgrounds quickly learnt how to do various tasks, from patient management to cleaning and sterilizing instruments to helping kids recover from sedation. We had bank executives, computer techs, pharmacists, self-employed business owners, retired seniors, students on spring break and even a Canadian federal government worker. All worked hard and



we were soon working like a well-oiled team. It still amazes me how you can get so many different people from diverse backgrounds, and they can all function as a team. I didn't hear any complaining. I think everybody had come with the right attitude with one goal in mind: "Lets help as many orphans as we can. Lets put a smile on their faces even if it's just for today!" 4 days in Kerbala, and again we were packing. Off we headed to Najaf to the Al-Zahra School where we started 7 years ago when the school had 100 grade 1 students. This year there were 430 students, and a new school is being built which will house 1500 students next year. Here we have seen the greatest impact of the work we have done over the past years. These students' teeth were in significantly better shape than their compatriots in Kerbala and Kadhmiya. 3 more days of hard work and again it was time to pack. This time we had to decide what to leave for next year and what to bring back. We need equipment and supplies for our mission to Kenya in August. Finally, the hardest part, saying goodbye to new and old friends and planning to get together next year. With 46 volunteers, I can't talk about all of them in detail but I would like to profile a handful.



Dr Gulam Sumar being Assisted by Sis. Shabira Jaffer and Sis. Roshan



Dr Zaid Ali and Sis. Farhana Jagani

To all the volunteers, thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this mission a resounding success. May the Lord reward you for all your efforts. Please forgive us for any shortcoming, and your feedback would be appreciated. Finally, a freelance reporter in Canada wrote an article about us. The headline is a little over the top, but it's a good read. I've included it in this report.

Dr. Hasnain R. Dewji



Dr Zaid Ali

Zaid was our tallest volunteer, but that's not what made him special. We affectionately dubbed him the "Super Dentist." He is doing a multi-specialty that includes prosthodontics, periodontics

and endodontics. On top of that he is also doing a PhD. I think he is half way through his postgraduate studies. Born and raised in England this was his first trip to Iraq where he got a chance to meet his grandmother in Kerbala. His sweet voice and mild mannerism seemed to calm many of the anxious children. He was also an incredible resource when it came to complex cases. But that's not all, Zaid is a marathon runner, and he ran the Leeds half marathon to raise funds for GKF. Thank you Zaid and we hope to see you next year in Iraq!!



Dr Zaid with His Daughter After the Leeds Marathon

Dr Alma Sykes

For the first time in Iraq we were fortunate to have a pediatrician. Alma hails from Tanzania and was recruited by Sis. Fawzia Kara one of our most chronic volunteers. With limited resources she worked tirelessly examining and diagnosing various ailments. She consulted with the teachers and caregivers and recommended a number of referrals. She seemed to spend every waking moment, whether on the bus or at the dinner table, writing up her charts, calculating BMI's and growth percentiles. Her comprehensive notes will make it easier for future physicians to follow-up these children. We are, however, expecting to see Alma next year in Iraq



Siddiqa Merali

Siddiqa Merali, a young girl with Down Syndrome joined Global Kindness Foundation in their annual help the orphans dental trip in Iraq. At first, unsure about what she was actually going to do, she quickly got into the realm of things and was an active participant in helping the process go smoothly. Siddiqa helped prepare appropriate bags with toothbrushes and toothpaste for children of all ages. She was also partly responsible for handing out gifts to children who had been seen by the dentists/doctor. During quiet periods she was also seen preparing bibs for the dentists.



On this trip, Siddiqa gained an understanding of the various needs of children living in a different environment. She also made many friendships and basked in the love that was sent her way. The warmth and acceptance she received by all the volunteers at GKF helped her feel an integral part of the 2015 GKF Iraq Mission. Thank you all!

Tahera Rashid (Siddiqa's Mum)



Br Suhail Nasser

Br Suhail wanted to come last year to Iraq but didn't get visas. He again signed up and came with a big heart and a drive to help. He was a great volunteer and at the end of the trip we discussed how next year we would set-up a dedicated hygiene station for him to work at. But it was not meant to be. On returning back home the Almighty called him. I'm at a loss for words so I defer to Sis. Fauzia who wrote this beautiful tribute to a great volunteer

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