

Healing

It can be good for a trip to have multiple purposes. Though some may not happen as planned, fulfillment of others can make a trip worthwhile for other people and for self. Though the official purpose of my nearly four-week trip to Kenya was to document the activities there of Seeds of South Sudan (www.seedsofsouthsudan.org), and to teach its students, I added some others. Proclaiming the Gospel with the distribution of Jesus Film Project movies on give-away flash drives is the topic of the ThreeSundays.pdf report (posted in <http://www.EdHolroyd.info/TripReports/2022Kenya>). This brief report is about providing free medical supplies to rural clinics in Kenya and South Sudan. Together they are in keeping with the initial commission of Jesus to the twelve apostles: "...and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal." (Luke 9:2)

For about the past seventeen years I have been a weekly volunteer in the warehouse of Project C.U.R.E. (www.projectcure.org), though my occasional service started in about 1999. This organization started in Denver in 1987 and has grown to be the world's largest distributor of donated medical equipment and supplies to more than 135 needy countries. It presently has warehouses in seven major cities in the USA, and the Denver warehouse is now in Centennial. Its main program is the shipment of 40-foot containers, typically packed tightly with about \$400,000 worth of medical goods that are free for the receiving hospitals and clinics. However, someone needs to pay the shipping costs of about \$20,000. The 20:1 investment ratio is highly attractive to donors, companies, and governments. The thousands of volunteer workers keep the overhead costs to less than 2 percent.

Occasionally, CURE Clinics are organized that offer free medical checkups in countries served by the container shipments. (For my clinic reports see www.EdHolroyd.info/TripReports for years 2017 to 2019 and countries Haiti, Ghana-twice, Panama, and Ivory Coast.)

Small rural clinics never have the storage space for the contents of a 40-foot container. So Project C.U.R.E. offers CURE Kits, consisting of bundles of supplies typically needed by a medical clinic. The combined weight is a little less than 50 pounds, designed to be sent with international airline travelers as their free second baggage. Normally a fee of \$200 per kit is requested to assure accountability in delivery. A packing list (white sheets in photo) is provided, and a letter of humanitarian purpose can be supplied for customs officials. Each Kit has about \$2000 worth of medical supplies, which are then free to the recipient clinics.



CURE Kits are two bags tied together.

Recognizing my many years of service to the organization, I have been allowed to take as many CURE Kits as I can deliver, for free. For the 2022 trips (July and September) of Seeds of South Sudan, I obtained six CURE Kits for our travelers who could fly them as second baggage for delivery in Kenya and maybe South Sudan.

We did have some challenges with such shipments. I had the major challenge of awkwardly dragging a CURE Kit, along with my suitcase and carry-on briefcase, as I rode the rail service from Wheat Ridge to Union Station to Denver International Airport. Some check-in agents insisted on cutting the connection between the bags, citing safety issues. But that generated two bags rather than the one for "second baggage", and it often led to a discussion about paying extra for the third baggage. Fortunately, no one had to pay an extra fee. One Kit, accepted intact, came apart during transit and the bag without the baggage routing tag was lost. So of the six Kits sent, 5.5 arrived in Kenya and had no problems with customs officials.

Most Kits were destined to go initially to the Seeds of South Sudan "Home Base" student home in Nakuru, but

transport was delayed until our teams actually went there. Byron and I were able to take a severed Kit (separated bags) on the flight of a small airplane to Lodwar and then car transport to the refugee camps in Kakuma. Later we went to a clinic chosen by our driver and tried to deliver a CURE Kit pair of bags to the clinic. However, that clinic was part of a larger organization that required all donations to pass through its headquarters. So that CURE Kit remained with the Seeds of South Sudan group in Kakuma for a later delivery somewhere.

Some of our team had as their additional mission to help set up a new clinic in Kitale in western Kenya. They were successful in the delivery of a CURE Kit (both bags). The eager receipt of our gift is shown in the photo.

The present plan is for the transport, by bus or van, of the remaining CURE Kits from Nakuru to Kakuma in November, when the Seeds students go there during a school break. Some of the Kits may additionally be taken into South Sudan to serve the medical health needs there.



This additional purpose for the Seeds of South Sudan trips to Kenya was not entirely fulfilled while we were there in Kenya. Therefore we do not have more photos of the Kit deliveries at this time. But at least the Kits are now in Kenya ready for final delivery of these gifts for the healings of many people in the near future.

By Dr. Ed Holroyd
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