



VISION SOURCE[®] SIGNATURE EYE CARE TRUSTED COLLEAGUE

Keith Nice, OD

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Look for Opportunities to Serve

Doctor finds the benefits extend far beyond patients he saw on El Salvador mission trip.

Sometimes, when plans finally come together, they come together fast. That's how it was for Keith Nice, OD, of Burlington, North Carolina. Dr. Nice has been practicing optometry for about 20 years. In that time, he has become friends with Andy Lamb, MD, an internist who has led 33 medical mission trips with Global Health Outreach, the missions outreach arm of the Christian Medical and Dental Association. The group has provided patients with readers during these trips, but for the past 12 years, Dr. Lamb has been encouraging Dr. Nice to come along. Finally, Dr. Nice and his wife decided that the timing for a family mission trip was right. Their sons are now 13 and 16, old enough to appreciate the effort and help out, too.

Coincidentally, Dr. Nice joined Vision Source[®] in 2014. "I could see that in order to survive the changes within health care, I needed to find a network that would allow me to work better," he says. He and his wife attended The Exchange[®] in Phoenix earlier this year. "I can see why Vision Source[®] has named it The Exchange[®]. It is so unique from other meetings in the way that individual optometrists get together to share ideas."

During a stroll through the exhibit hall, the couple walked up to the Sight Ministries International and the Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH) booth. The VOSH volunteers provided them with contacts for purchasing readers and sunglasses, as well as someone who could lend them a portable autorefractor. At the Sight Ministries International booth, they met Scott Settegast, director of operations. "He was kind enough to offer the eyeglass kits and explained how we could be giving out new eyeglasses in the correct prescription to the patients coming through the clinic instead of having to use recycled glasses. We were so blessed to have made those connections. And what a difference it made," Dr. Nice says. "We were just there checking out the exhibits and within 30 minutes, we had our mission trip planned with all the readers, sunglasses and eyeglasses we needed." Part of the profits from Eyes Of Faith Foundation pay for glasses for Sight Ministries International trips, and Dr. Nice has added the Veggie Tales line of children's eyewear from Eyes of Faith into his practice, too.

In late July, the Nice family was part of a team of 70 or so volunteers organized by Dr. Lamb who travelled to El Boqueron, El Salvador. Approximately 1,400 people went through the clinic in five days, says Dr. Nice, and the eye care team gave out about 800 readers, 300 sunglasses and 174 custom-made eyeglasses from Sight Ministries International. "It was truly amazing to see the faces of people when they realized they were going to get a new pair of eyeglasses and to watch them put on the glasses for the first time."

It was an eye-opening experience for his teenaged sons, too. "They had never realized that there are people who don't even have clean water to drink. The health of the community where we were – about an hour outside of San Salvador – is poor," Dr. Nice says. Many of the teenagers ended up working in the eye clinic, he recalls, mainly because the mood there was so positive with the big smiles as people put on their new eyewear and could see clearly.

And while Dr. Nice was away from his office on a mission trip to El Salvador, he didn't worry about his patients back in North Carolina. "Another Vision Source[®] doctor agreed to see my patients." That's network support.



Interested in Volunteering?

Don't be intimidated by the idea of a mission trip, advises Dr. Keith Nice. There are many opportunities to go along with already established medical missions or optometry-specific mission trips. Here's contact information to help you get started, and Dr. Nice welcomes your questions, too.

Sight Ministries International | sightministries.org | 888-861-7520

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Global Health Outreach, the mission outreach branch of the Christian Medical and Dental Association
cmda.org/missions/detail/global-health-outreach | You can also reach Dr. Andy Lamb directly at aslusma@aol.com

VOSH | vosh.org

Eyes of Faith Optical | Eofoptical.com

