

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tom Johnson, Jr., to Present an Edifying Story of Health, Healing and Hope

MORRISTOWN, NJ - On Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 3:30 PM at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 100 Harter Road, Morristown, NJ, Tom Johnson will recount his enthralling story of healing, health, and hope for some of the poorest people on the planet in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Some individuals are challenged to meet the call to "serve each other" in extraordinary ways to which most of us are not summoned, or have just ignored. Tom Johnson, Jr., both heard the call and responded. Tom's response to the seemingly unfeasible appeal in 2001, for medical and surgical help in Sierra Leone, West Africa, has grown and blossomed into Africa Surgery, Inc., the source of "help, healing, and health" for so many in one of the poorest nations on the planet. It is a fascinating tale of what one person can accomplish. And it is also a beguiling story of those at home participating in the collective journey of care to fulfillment for all creation as Pope Francis says.

Raised in Morristown, NJ, Tom Johnson, Jr., served two years as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa (1989-91), working with farmers on tree crops and beekeeping projects. He was there at the beginning of the rebel war which ravaged the country from 1991 until 2001. The war, which was named the most brutal of the 1990's by the United Nations, saw the maiming and killing of thousands and disrupted farming, education, and the immunization programs against such diseases as polio and tuberculosis. This conflict also saw the almost complete destruction of the small country's medical infrastructure which was already very weak, leaving the Sierra Leonean people with virtually no medical care. Tom's desire to help the people of Sierra Leone led him to revisit the country when their civil war was ending in December, 2001, and he began to facilitate surgical treatments for some of those in need. He now spends five months a year there, aiding patients and helping surgeons, physicians, and foreign medical-mission teams.

To help Tom carry on his efforts, Africa Surgery, Inc. (ASI) was incorporated in the State of New Jersey and registered with the Federal Government as a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization in February, 2007. Their mission statement reads: "Africa Surgery, Inc. (ASI) is a non-profit service organization dedicated to bringing healing, promoting health, encouraging education and offering hope to ill and suffering African people, and especially to those in Sierra Leone, through the combined efforts of Africans, Americans, and other people in pursuit of this common goal."

All are welcome. There is no charge for the program.

Information at: www.votfnj.org, info@votfnj.org, 973-538-4063

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