

URGENT REQUEST FOR HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR K-1 HOSPITAL IN KIRKUK, IRAQ

by
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While in Kirkuk, Iraq, several members of the local medical community invited me to visit at least one hospital in the area to ascertain the enormous need for medical equipment. The hospital chosen was K-1 Hospital, a 200 bed hospital which formerly served only the oil field workers of what is called the NOC, the North Oil Company, and their families, although now it has been assigned to serve a much broader population base.

At the "end of the hostilities" in May '03 before any security was available, this hospital was totally looted of essential medical and laboratory equipment. As documented by photograph, the hospital has a severe need for equipment. At present they can accept only medical patients. Surgery with general anesthesia cannot be performed because there is no ventilator for either of two anesthesia machines. Surgery is further hindered due to the lack of a functioning autoclave. The intensive care unit does not have a single monitoring electrocardiograph or

K-1 Hospital, Kirkuk, Iraq.

electroencephalograph machine. Indeed there are none in the hospital!

Other than some new small centrifuges and a microscope, the good-sized two room laboratory is also

severely lacking equipment; even the water distiller was taken and is still missing. Finally the kitchen is functioning on one broken down stove, the other equipment being original equipment installed by the British when the hospital was built in the mid-1950s. The building itself is in reasonably good shape having quality terrazzo floors and high ceilings for improved circulation. The K-1 Kirkuk Hospital has six departments: Surgery, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, ENT, and Ophthalmology. It also has diagnostic X-ray that is functional but the hospital is



Chief administrators of K-1 Hospital.

out of X-ray film (blue sensitive) and in need of new cassettes. [redacted] the Hospital Director shared that every department has severe shortages of equipment.



The empty laboratory of K-1 Hospital.

Please contact Blessings International for a copy of the list of requested equipment. If you or a hospital is interested in donating equipment, BI will ship to Kirkuk. Of course the hospital actually needs new

about people who cannot use their trained gifts for lack of equipment. Used equipment will bring a sense of hope, and purpose back to the entire medical staff of the hospital as well as all the auxiliary help which will in turn give hope for health and better lives to the patients and families treated by the hospital. While this effort is outside the general area of missions that Blessings International traditionally supports, the pleading look of five Christian physicians I met in Kirkuk deserve both attention and commitment at least in the immediate term. Blessings International appreciates whatever support you can give in this effort.



Female ward of K-1 Hospital.



Operating Room number one (of 2) at K-1 Hospital.

equipment because used equipment will have a more limited lifetime. But used equipment will enable K-1 Kirkuk Hospital to begin functioning once again. Not only will this serve the public's general needs, it will enable health professionals to use their trained medical skills to the fullest. There is a sense of hopelessness



Intensive Care Unit of K-1 Hospital.