



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1975

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KONTUM CENTER HOURS: 9 TO 5 MONDAY-FRIDAY (206) 622-8341

DR. PAT AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Dr. Pat Smith and her sons, Det and Wir, are well and have come home to Seattle. As of last Wednesday, April 23, she has been employed to be a member of the faculty in the University of Washington Medical School instructing in family medicine.

Peggy Braile and Mary Reigel, Seattle nurses who went to Kontum Hospital to work with Dr. Pat at the end of January, are back safely in the U.S., too, and about to look for nursing positions here.

Bill Rose, former hospital administrator for Dr. Pat, made a flying trip back to Saigon, and is presently in his home state of Pennsylvania. All are anxiously awaiting some word from Kontum. Sister Fay Hauer and Liz Desimone's plans for Kontum service are now in abeyance.

LUNCHEON

Choshi Juniors, affiliated with the Washington State Federated Women's Clubs, will sponsor a Spring salad luncheon at Christ the King Church hall on Saturday, May 31. The catered party will feature a fashion showing and door prizes. "Fashions of Yesterday" will be displayed by the Goodwill Industries.

Tickets for the party including a social hour beginning at 12:30 p.m., are \$4 and may be obtained by making reservations before May 21 with Mrs. James Fox, chairman, 778-8490, or the office, 622-8341.

Dr. Pat Smith will be honored guest and speaker. The Church is at 117th and Dayton Avenue North.

*(We quote from a letter written to the Board
on April 26, 1975 . . .)*

. . . to my knowledge there have never been any reports of fighting in the Kontum area; it was abandoned by the South Vietnamese military. . . thus Minh-Quy's physical plant could be assumed to be intact. . . one hopes that the bulk of supplies and equipment has survived the transition of government. . . there have been no reports to my knowledge of any large-scale exodus of tribal people from Kontum. So the major questions are that of the welfare of Edric, George and the indigenous staff, and whether they are still able to perform their medical work.

— Bill Rose

STATUS OF KONTUM HOSPITAL

The members of the Board of the Kontum Hospital Fund and Dr. Pat have waited in vain for some word concerning the staff and the medical facility at Minh-Quy. Attempts are being made to trace down some detail of the hospital in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. The speed of the fall of the country to the Communists and the resulting immense confusion have caused a complete lack of contact and of information.

So the situation still is not known regarding Dr. George Christian, American, and Dr. Ed Baker, New Zealander, who remained at Kontum Hospital after the Province fell to the advancing forces of the North Vietnamese last month.

Dr. Pat and the Board are attempting to obtain some information about the safety of the men and the present circumstances at the hospital. We do not know the future of Minh-Quy in regard to the take-over of the country, but until the time that we know definitely that the hospital has been closed and that our two doctors are gone, the KHF office in Seattle is open and accepting funds, although with reservations. It may not be able to forward the funds to Kontum and we may need to use them for some other similar purpose.

If you wish to be part of our continuing commitment to the work with the Montagnards which we must presume is still going on, we will be happy for your support.

BARBARA'S LETTER

Barbara Svitlik, a nurse, arrived in Kontum to work with Dr. Pat at the end of January. She wrote this letter to KHF while she was waiting in Saigon after the hospital was evacuated. We quote:

"It was for me an eternal privilege to work with the most dedicated medical team I had ever witnessed. . . We are all indebted to Dr. Pat Smith for being Dr. Pat Smith. Without her there would never have been a Minh-Quy Hospital. She continues to inspire us with her courage and by the very example of her life. . . And you, our dear friends, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of the patients and staff at Minh-Quy for your unflinching support of our work. We who are here were prompted by the daily encounter with the conditions of the people around us. Most of you have never been here, yet your faith and love have never failed to respond to the poor of Kontum. Pray for the safety of Dr. Baker, Dr. Christian, Bishop Seitz, our Montagnard Sisters and our faithful hospital staff and friends."

ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE