2005

Pryor Aids Tsunami-Ravaged Region

Beth Rogers Thompson

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol2/iss2/16

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
and lost his entire family. Thomas Pryor ‘96 with “Harapan,” Indonesian for “hope.” Pryor nicknamed him Harapan’s primary attendant, working 12- to 14-hour days. Finally, after a week, the boy was able to breathe, an estimated 221,100 people. Pryor said: one month, compared with the normal two-week deployment for such emergency aid, and the first joint operation of the U.S. Navy and Project HOPE volunteers. Amid the chaos and destruction there were political sensitivities. Indonesia is the world’s largest Muslim nation, and the Americans did not want to force themselves on the government. Civil strife compounded their safety concerns. Banda Aceh’s ruined University Hospital served as a kind of staging area. The first crisis for the Mercy staff arrived as a small boy with a burn appendix was flown out to the ship because the hospital could not treat him. The next morning, a 12-year-old boy went into respiratory failure. He had a severe lung infection, aspirate the ICU at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. Pryor, a registered nurse, is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. He works for one of its agencies, the Indian Health Service. Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “Some of our basic antibiotics that we hardly everimedicate in immune system health. Dave Leonard ‘72 of Coos Bay is a behavioral specialist and psychologist for the Education Service Center to Coos Bay. He also teaches at Southwest Oregon Community College and Eastern Oregon University and serves on a number of editorial boards. The Akhile is 40. Pryor named him “Harapan,” Indonesian for “hope.” Since he had some pediatric experience, Pryor became Harapan’s primary attendant, working 12- to 14-hour days. Finally, after a week, the boy was able to breathe without assistance. Sooner after, Pryor went ashore and visited the hospital’s pediatric unit. A view of the beach front in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, during Thomas Pryor’s work there in February. There, he found a 7-year-old girl in similar respiratory distress. While arranging for her transfer to the ship, he noticed several very ill babies about the age of his daughter, Audrey. “That’s when I really felt the heart tugs, because I recognized that in my efforts in helping one, there were two or three others who didn’t get my help that day,” he said. Pryor said: one month, compared with the normal two-week deployment for such emergency aid, and the first joint operation of the U.S. Navy and Project HOPE volunteers. Amid the chaos and destruction there were political sensitivities. Indonesia is the world’s largest Muslim nation, and the Americans did not want to force themselves on the government. Civil strife compounded their safety concerns. Banda Aceh’s ruined University Hospital served as a kind of staging area. The first crisis for the Mercy staff arrived as a small boy with a burn appendix was flown out to the ship because the hospital could not treat him. The next morning, a 12-year-old boy went into respiratory failure. He had a severe lung infection, aspirate the ICU at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. Pryor, a registered nurse, is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. He works for one of its agencies, the Indian Health Service. Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “Some of our basic antibiotics that we hardly ever use anymore were very effective and powerful over there.” On Feb. 23, Pryor flew by helicopter with Harapan from the Mercy back to shore to join the boy’s uncle, aunt and their 2-year-old son – his only surviving relatives. Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “I guess what I was most touched with was the I felt immediate family was killed. Pryor named him Harapan. “Some of our basic antibiotics that we hardly ever use anymore were very effective and powerful over there.” On Feb. 23, Pryor flew by helicopter with Harapan from the Mercy back to shore to join the boy’s uncle, aunt and their 2-year-old son – his only surviving relatives. Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “I guess what I was most touched with was the I felt immediate family was killed. Pryor named him Harapan. “Some of our basic antibiotics that we hardly ever use anymore were very effective and powerful over there.” On Feb. 23, Pryor flew by helicopter with Harapan from the Mercy back to shore to join the boy’s uncle, aunt and their 2-year-old son – his only surviving relatives. Pryor wrote of the reunion in his online journal that day: “I guess what I was most touched with was the