



April 13, 2018

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff and Friends,

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with Sight.org for Mission Drive 3, our final fundraising initiative of the 2017-2018 Maroon and White Society. This mission drive begins **Monday, April 30** and continues through **Friday, May 4**.

Sight.org is an international organization with special ties to St. Paul's High School. Mr. Lewis Swann [brother-in-law of Ms. Nahannai Lewis, Assistant to Fr. Len Altilia, SJ] founded an organization that completes cataract surgeries in the African country of Togo. We have attached a personalized letter to the St. Paul's Community, from Mr. Swann, with information about the charity so you can learn more about Sight.org. Included also is the link to an inspiring video about their work. Be sure to check out the link to the video at the bottom of this letter.

We ask that students, parents, faculty, staff and friends donate to this worthy cause in order to "Give Sight to the Blind".

GOAL: This Mission Week we have set a goal of one (1) Cataract Surgery per MGM grouping. Each surgery costs approximately \$200.00 CAD. Our goal is 40 surgeries, \$8,000.

We ask you to give generously and to encourage your son to participate in the events of Mission Week for Sight.org.

EVENTS: Maroon and White has planned a barbecue, a casual day, and a silver collection at the Mother Son Luncheon. In addition, the Mission Tins will be distributed in your son's MGM for donations. We hope that there will also be families who are able to sponsor a surgery in their family name.

HOW TO DONATE: Donations will primarily be collected in Mentor Group Mission Tins. If you choose to donate, \$20.00 or more entitles you to a tax receipt. Please make Cheques payable to St. Paul's High School. Please reference "Mission Week" on the memo line of your cheque. You can also donate online by clicking on the following link: www.stpauls.mb.ca/donate.

When donating online, please Direct Your Gift to - Mission Fund. During the 'Submit' process of the online donation, please wait to be redirected to the St. Paul's website for the donation process to complete.

Thank you for your consideration and for your generosity.

Sincerely,

The Maroon and White Society

Sight.org video: https://drive.google.com/a/sight.org/file/d/1cHtRP0TFulni5Eq-BHJ2CK719jv8oy3G/view?usp=drive_web



*Celebrating 5 Years of
Serving the Blind in Togo!*

March 22, 2018

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for giving sight to the blind in Togo, Africa. Your support will go a long way toward giving sight to the blind and furthering the gospel in Togo, Africa. Because you care, many people in Togo will have sight restored! Sight is life, and it takes a community of people like you to assure that life is being restored to people in Togo. Thank you for nurturing hope and health. Again, thank you for your support! We are overwhelmed by your generosity!

My name is Lewis Swann and I am the founder of Sight.org. A few years ago, nobody would have thought that I would be running a medical ministry in Africa. Like the prodigal son, I had turned from my Christian values and was living for the world. Unfulfilled and facing spiritual bankruptcy, I desperately longed to fill the void that was growing within me.

In 2010, I signed up for a three-year volunteer service in West Africa aboard Mercy Ships, a charity which offers free medical care in the world's poorest nations. I was working in Public Relations, and I was exposed to a level of need that was beyond comprehension.

I felt good serving others, but there was still a void in my heart, and God seemed as distant as ever. Living amongst mature Christians, I tried to conceal my sinful vices. Growing sick of living in hypocrisy, I became inspired by the Christians around me. They were serving with joyful love beyond what I knew, and I wanted what they had.

Desperate, I began reading the New Testament with the intent to fully live out the Christian life as depicted in the Bible. A big part of me feared that the Bible would create even more doubt, but I was astonished by its intricacy. Amazed by the gospel's message of undeserving love and grace, I discovered a side of Jesus I had never grasped.

Gradually, everything began to change. God began taking away my desires for sin, and soon, people began to ask why. Typically, I would just smile in response. Then God gave me increasing favor in my life. My work and temperament were dramatically improving. My mentor expressed "I don't know what has happened to you, but it's like you have fallen in love or something." It was a funny observation, and he was right.

I began to have a growing burden in my heart for others, especially for those who did not know Christ. Within a year of my walk with Christ, I set out for a 2,600-mile road trip to spread the gospel to unreached people groups in Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso. Many of the people we met were eager to receive Jesus even though they had never met a Christian.

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They were hungry for the gospel, but no other Christians were bringing it to them. At this point, I realized I had seen too much to return to a normal life. My conscious led me to ask: if not me, then who?

Soon after, I returned home to announce to my family that I was going to be an evangelist for unreached people groups in West Africa. It was exhilarating to feel so confirmed in God's will, and I was ready to do anything He asked. Then one day, God told me to talk to a man named Peter. Peter is an Africa pastor, and at the time, we barely knew each other. I asked Peter if he had a calling. Peter explained that God showed him a vision of blind people in the rural villages, and that he was supposed to go and restore sight to these people while sharing the Gospel. I knew that God wanted me to support Peter's calling.

Then Sight.org was born!

I cannot tell you how excited I am to see how Sight.org has grown since we started in 2012. Our humble beginnings have launched us into the most efficient and cost-effective eye program reaching out to the remote villages of Togo. Many in Togo have no access to eye care, resulting in thousands suffering from preventable blindness. With your help, we can continue to extend Christ's healing hand to the blind of Togo while bringing the gospel to the unreached!

As the founder, I am fully sponsored by family and friends, so every dollar you give will go directly to Sight.org.

Thank you again for giving sight to the blind in Togo, Africa.

Warm, personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis Swann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lewis Swann
Founder and President
Sight.org

P.S. Forty-six year old Guiybiebe wants to say thank you. She says, "When I got my sight back, all I could think about was the beauty that had been brought back into my life. No longer would I be a burden to my son. Not only was I free from blindness but he was free to live his own life now, marry and have children of his own. I could go back to work, feed, and clothe myself."