

# Jerold Beeve, M.D. paves way for new eye clinic in Savusavu

The year 2004 marked the 14<sup>th</sup> mission trip made by The Beeve Foundation for World Eye and Health to a small island in Fiji. The foundation was started by local resident Dr.

Jerold Beeve, who has served our community for over the past thirty years. With his wife, Dorothy Beeve, they envisioned the foundation back in 1989 and the results have been beyond anything they ever imagined fifteen years ago. Since the team's first mission trip fourteen years ago, where their health clinic was set up in a bure (a traditional Fijian thatched house), they now set up in a new location in

a real hospital setting. During the team's fifteen years of missionary work in Fiji, their accomplishments include the following:

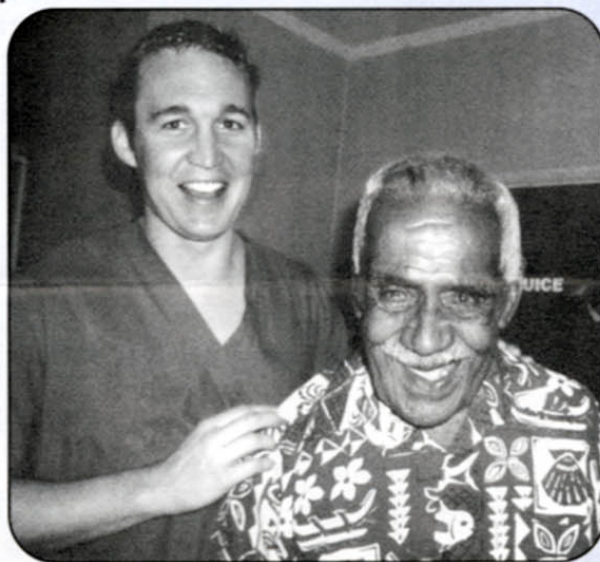
- Vision tests for more than 16,344 children & adults
- More than 13,081 glasses dispensed after the doctor's examination
- 1,248 major eye surgeries performed, including cataract extraction with lens implant, corneal transplants and strabismus surgery
- Plus many minor surgical procedures

"The lives and sight of many children and adults were saved from infection and injury," said Dr. Beeve, adding, "We are very proud to report that these surgeries have all been done without any known post-operative infection and all with good results."

During the Beeve's last visit, the Fijian president's wife requested cataract surgery with lens implant. "The first lady felt most confident in our surgical bure and our team of doctors and nurses - her results were excellent," said Dr. Beeve. "Amazing

that she could go any place in the world to have surgery and she chose us."

After much advice from the president and prime minister of Fiji, as well as the World Health Organization,



*Scott Beeve M.D. with Fijian cataract patient after surgery.*

The Beeve Foundation recently decided to move its clinic and surgery team to Savusavu, a more remote area of northern Fiji whose residents are in serious need of medical attention. Having cared for all of the western area of Fiji in the Yasawa islands, the foundation figured it was time to broaden its scope.

"We flew over to Fiji in July 2003 to say goodbye to Turtle Island and move several tons of equipment and supplies," said Dr. Beeve. "This was a huge task and

we thank God for all His help as He answered many prayers. All of our crates needed to be barged from Turtle Island 70 miles at sea, put on a container truck from Nadi to Suva, then barged 150 miles out to Savusavu.

Among The Beeve Foundation's volunteers are several ophthalmologists, an anesthesiologist, nurses, optometrists and other support staff. The Fijians call our visits 'The Blessing Time' because so many of them have had their sight restored during past mission trips. It is a blessing for us to provide the care that we do.

This year, 1,800 patients were screened and 1,600 patients received a complete optometric refraction with glasses dispensed, 150 major life-changing eye surgeries were performed and at least two were squamous cell carcinoma excisions that were life-saving! This year's trip truly was a 'Blessing Time' for everyone involved.

For more information or to become involved in The Beeve Foundation's sight-saving and lifechanging activities in Fiji, please call 818-790-8101 or e-mail us at: [beevefoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:beevefoundation@earthlink.net).