



A **Life-Changing** Gift Worth Sharing

Many lives are drastically transformed at the hands of surgeons daily. These stories make it past the walls of the hospitals, except to be repeated to family members and those closest to the patient.

In the Caribbean, even some of the most extraordinary cases never reach the spotlight. Medical miracles seldom make the front page.

One case in Antigua, however, received some attention late last year, after specialists were able to give a young man something as

simple, but essential, as the ability to open his mouth.

For 19-year-old Kelly Tuitt it was the gift of a lifetime, but the case also highlighted the central purpose of medicine, and demonstrated that contrary to popular belief, money doesn't always make the difference.

Dr Horace Griffith, one of the few maxillofacial surgeons practicing in the Caribbean, has been coming to Antigua to treat cases for the past seven years. He doesn't

advertise the full range of his services, but luckily, was referred by Dr Derek Marshall, who realized the need for drastic intervention in Tuitt's case.

The result was close to US\$100,000 worth of medical services, including the replacement of a jaw joint with an artificial implant, all at no cost to the patient.

"You have to either want to be here, or be from here," Dr Griffith says of his choice