

Curing the blind for

SOME are shocked and others are just thrilled.' Those are the extreme reactions Oban optometrist Ken Macdonald is now prepared for when he cures blindness in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Ken is a volunteer team leader with the charity Vision Aid Overseas and for the last 13 years has taken self-funded trips to developing countries, along with other optometrists, to help hand out second-hand glasses, conduct eye tests and train others. His most recent visit was to Ghana in March.



A young boy is pleased with his new glasses [37sp3d]

'There are 300 million people in the world who just need a pair of glasses to cure their blindness,' said Ken.

'I've always worn glasses and my vision is not very good but when I go to these countries I see how bad the situation is.'

Ken was made aware of Vision Aid Overseas when he first qualified as an optometrist and he quickly joined as a volunteer. It was on one of these trips that Ken met his wife, Emily, who was also

working for Specsavers and the couple currently share the Oban franchise.

Ken told Lorn Life: 'For the price of a can of coke you can cure someone's blindness.

'The charity is so efficient. All the money they receive is used for equipment, recycling glasses and training projects around the world.

'We can go into a village or town and, in a very short time, a team of five to 10 volunteers can transform a place.

'We will use a hospital or a school as a base and we get hundreds of people turning up.

'I've tested a Stetson-wearing high court judge in Ghana, a re-

