

Messengers of Love



Hospitalito welcomes the Burket Thoene Family

Heading off to live in Guatemala to share their professional skills, Drs. Jennifer Thoene and Brent Burket can be lauded for returning to long term mission, having previously served in Ghana. However, this time—now as parents—they traveled with their four young children: Christopher, 6, Elizabeth, 6, Julianne, 4, and Nicholas, 2!

Hospitalito at Lake Atitlan was founded by Fr. Stanley Rother of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, whose life was given for the people of Santiago Atitlan. The hospital was closed for many years, reopened only to be closed by the disastrous mud slides of 2005. Having reopened in temporary quarters, work began to build and staff a new hospital which will open later this year.

(please see BURKET THEONE on page 7)

A Journey of Faith

A young family leaves home and begins their service in Guatemala.

A newly retired couple heads to Cameroon again, but this time to serve three years.

A mission doctor returns to Zimbabwe, another follows a call to Cameroon, and another family heads back to Tanzania, while others take the first steps to learn what may be involved in serving by attending the annual Retreat/Seminar.

There are others still who, through their prayers and financial sacrifice, make this service possible....

We travel together. **We are people on a journey.** Our faith helps us take the steps to live in such a way that our lives give witness to faith. For some, this journey takes them far from home to live and serve at mission hospitals and clinics. For others, the journey of faith is that of making personal sacrifices that others may serve.

While separated by miles, we travel together. We are companions in faith, working together to bring health and hope to those most in need.

Elise Frederick., Executive Director, Mission Doctors Association

"They have testified about your love before the assembly. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God."

—3 John 1:6.

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Returning with Hope

Most of the friends of Mission Doctors Association are familiar with the story of Dr. Richard and Mrs. Loretta Stoughton, who originally served in what was then called Rhodesia from 1970-1975 along with their seven children. In 2000, Richard and Loretta returned to Zimbabwe to care for the people of St. Theresa's hospital, until coming home last summer.

"I promised to come back to St. Theresa Hospital every year for a month. This year it ended up being only nine months since we left..."

Dr. Richard Stoughton writes on his blog about his experience returning to Zimbabwe, sharing the frustrations related to the computers and the solar electricity generating system, but also noting signs of hope...

"Still, all in all, I have to say that things are really running quite smoothly since I left. I am glad to see that. Dr. Maunga has stepped up and become very responsible and helpful in all respects, and apparently a good mentor for the younger doctor. The hospital is very quiet at this time. Only about 45 to 50 patients, which is such a huge difference from 7 to 8 years ago, when we were averaging between 100 and 120 patients, and occasionally as high as 145 - most with HIV related diseases.



Children cared for by their grandmother

"I am certain it is because of the good AIDS treatment program that we have running. The people no longer are coming back and coming back, ill with one opportunistic infection after another, until they finally die of AIDS. We have about 1,400 patients who are returning every one to



Empty beds are a sign of hope at St. Theresa's Hospital

two months for the medicines, and are very faithful about coming for their appointments and taking their pills.

"Another place we visited was where a grandmother was looking after three of her grandchildren. Both of the parents had died of AIDS, and one of these children had recently been started on treatment. Even though people are so very, very poor, they still have such nice smiles, and have such good attitudes. We can indeed learn from these very poor.

"I left Zimbabwe with a sense of hope; hope that the leaders of the country will be able to find a way to have true democracy so that they will listen to the needs of the people, and will bring peace and prosperity to these very peaceful village people."

More of this story and Dick's reflection, along with a video from this trip, is available on Dick's blog: <http://astepalongtheway.blogspot.com/>



Two Roads Converge...

Each year in early spring, two roads meet. One group shares their wisdom and their experiences and the other shares open minds and hearts.

Our annual Retreat/Seminar for doctors and their families interested in serving short term drew one of our largest crowds again this year! Attendees learned about possible locations, the logistics of serving so far from home and also had the opportunity to hear from those who have already

served in the missions.

The 2010 Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University brought doctors from Alaska, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Louisiana, and even California! Before the weekend was over many were already making their travel plans to serve in Africa and Latin America.

A special thank you to the mission doctors who have served and who came to share their mission experience.

Would you like to take the first steps to serve short term? Reservations are already being taken for the 2011 Retreat. E-mail info@missiondoctors.org for more information.



Beginning the Journey Anew

Jim and Terry Hake, who have previously served short term in both Cameroon and Zimbabwe, have completed the four month formation program, and are now making final preparations to begin three years in Cameroon. It is a big commitment—one that they have prayed about, prepared for, and are looking forward to. Terry writes on their blog:

"In late January we began our life in Los Angeles. After a few days of orientation, our formation began in earnest. What an incredible experience the program was. We have through Mission Doctors Association encountered some of the most wonderful people. Not only were the instructors well-qualified, but they were living examples of faith. We have no doubt been blessed to share the lives and experiences of present-day saints.

It was most apropos that on May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday, we were commissioned as lay missionaries, members of Mission Doctors Association, to the Diocese of Bamenda, Cameroon.

"We are now in Moses Lake, living with Kevin and Julie for a few weeks while we

tie up a few loose ends and do the real packing. We shall have a chance to visit with friends, and we are planning a family trip. As a parent I hope that it is a time for our sons to establish precedence for family bonds that they will be able to maintain in our physical absence.

"And then will come July 10, 2010. It is the day that Jim



Hakes at Commissioning Mass in May 2010



Jim and Terry Hake with Sr. Xaveria at Martin de Porres

Dear Elise,

Greetings from Njinikom, How are you and all my doctors? Hope all is going on well just as we look forward to welcome them all.

We are all getting very excited about Dr Jim and Terry coming. It is now the talk of all the sisters.

Thanks for all your efforts to get us doctors. We continue counting on you and your Association.

Sr Xaveria

and I have been preparing for the last nearly three years. (Jim has been preparing for that day for over 30 years. He just forgot to let me in on the call for a couple of decades!)

"You have been so supportive of our mission, both prayerfully and financially. We are most appreciative of that support."

You will be able to follow the work of the Hakes during the next three years on their blog:

<http://hakesincameroon.blogspot.com/>



Walking Together

The work of all our doctors, the journey of Mission Doctors Association, would not be possible without the support of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary. For more than five decades Mission Doctors Auxiliary has been on the same path, planning, organizing, sponsoring, and celebrating the work of MDA with limited resources and unlimited faith.

In 2010 this included the initiation of the first annual Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award, presented at the Annual Benefit at the Jonathan Club to Dr. Richard and Mrs. Loretta Stoughton. This award, given by Mother Antonia Brennan, honors the vision of the founder of MDA, and those who have been a living witness to this way to live our faith.



The tremendous results of their work this year provided an opportunity for Auxiliary President Jan Horger to present to Mission Doctors Association a really 'Big' check!

Upcoming events include a Piano Concert at the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Given, the annual card party at the Wilshire Country Club, and the 2011 Benefit to be held again at the historic Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles. For more information on these events, contact the office.

Would you like information on how you can become a member of Mission Doctors Auxiliary and help make this work possible? Call our office at (213) 368-1872 or drop an e-mail to info@missiondoctors.org

A Calling to Cameroon

"The feeling remains that God is on the journey too." —Teresa of Avila

I know my calling; it is the same as all the other baptized: Go into all the nations and preach the Gospel. For some, it is to go personally and fulfill this instruction. For others, it is to lend prayer and financial support to other missionaries. For me, for now, it is to lend prayer and financial support to those sharing the love of Christ both here and abroad, to directly share His love with everyone that I contact, and to express solidarity with missionaries abroad through short-term missions.



Dr. Ellen Iannoli with Sr. Angeline at St. Martin de Porres Hospital

St. Martin de Porres Hospital in Njinikom, Cameroon, has approximately 250 beds, and is founded and run by the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis. They are an active order with 298 sisters in Cameroon and

a large Novitiate. These women truly have the hearts of servants, seeking always to provide more and better health care for their people and to always express the love of Christ in a way that is inspiring. They were extremely generous in including me in their daily Mass and prayer, as well as allowing me to use their adoration chapel. Of course, there was also football (the African Cup of Nations tournament was underway), and even Uno (you know—the card game)—in French.

While I was in Njinikom, we worked on improvements in areas in which the operating room staff are already

committed, including aspects of the World Health Organization Safe Surgery Saves Lives project, team communication, data collection focusing on safety issues, and neuraxial anesthesia (the best way to use spinals and epidurals). I was the first American anesthesiologist to visit there in quite some time. As American anesthesiologists have some ideas different from the Europeans, the Cameroonian anesthetists have some new things to think about and add to their clinical decision-making.

I also have some new friends and a deeper relationship with Christ as a result of my time in Cameroon.

—Ellen Iannoli



Dr. Iannoli providing and teaching anesthesia

What Can You Do With Three Dollars?

The journey of a million miles begins with just one step, and you can help us on this new journey!

We have just established a new, exciting project at Mission Doctors: the One Million Patients Project. We are working to raise awareness about global health and poverty issues and encourage youth and adults of all ages to get involved and make a real difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters living around the world.

So what does three dollars have to do with it? We have averaged the number of patients our doctors see when serving long term and our direct expenses to make it possible for them to serve at hospitals and clinics in Africa and Latin America. On average it 'costs' only \$3 to treat a child in Cameroon, deliver a baby

in Guatemala, or care for an emergency patient in Uganda.

Our goal is to raise enough funds to make it possible for mission doctors to treat one million patients in rural Africa and Latin America!

We are providing materials to schools and churches with the goal of educating students and parishioners about Catholic social teaching and their role in global health and poverty matters. If you or someone you know would be interested in receiving a packet for a school or parish please let us know; we will be happy to send it on its way!

For additional information and to view our video about this project, visit www.OneMillionPatients.org.

—Jessica Franks, Program and Development Associate



CATHOLIC DOCTOR OF THE YEAR

Mission Doctors Association recognized Michael A. Fitzgerald, M.D. of Liverpool, NY, as Catholic Doctor of the Year, with the **"World of Difference Award"** on October 18, 2009 at the Los Angeles Archdiocese White Mass at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena, CA. This is the only National Catholic Doctor Award and one that Mission Doctors Association is proud to present. This award is given in recognition of the efforts of a doctor who has responded to Christ's call to "Heal the Sick" as a member of our Catholic faith community and in doing so has made a "World of Difference".



Dr. Michael A. Fitzgerald, M.D.

We are currently reviewing the nominations we received from across the country for the 2010 World of Difference Award. The award will be presented again this year at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles White Mass for Catholic medical professions on October 24, 2010 at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena. Visit our website - www.MissionDoctors.org - for additional information about the White Mass and the Catholic Doctor of the Year Award.

A Path to Follow

In 1957 Fr. Patrick Cotter was stationed at St. Gregory Parish in Los Angeles. Through his friendship with Cardinal Timothy Manning, Fr. Cotter came to know Mission Doctors Association founder, Msgr. Anthony Brouwers.

Fr. Cotter said that there were three things that impressed him:

- Mission Doctors provide help for children and their families in the poorest nations around the world, who are totally dependent upon this life saving care.

- The tremendous sacrifice that doctors and their families make to live and serve where there is so little, giving up all the comforts of life in the US.

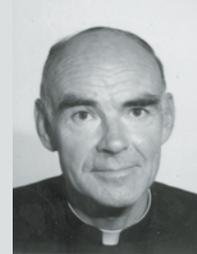
- Msgr. Anthony Brouwers himself; although suffering with terminal multiple myeloma, restricted first to a wheel chair, and eventually bedridden, he never gave up his commitment to Mission Doctors.

Supporting MDA since its inception, Fr. Cotter said that he began by giving \$100 a month, and noted *"With the sacrifices of both Msgr. Brouwers and the doctors serving, this was the very least I could do."*

This year, Fr. Cotter has joined in the 2010 Annual Fund Challenge as one of the donors offering matching funds.

Fr. Cotter has also remembered MDA in his estate plan. Although a humble person, he said it would be O. K. to publicly acknowledge his gift, *"if it would encourage others to consider this way of giving."*

So, we thank you Fr. Cotter for allowing MDA to recognize you publicly. Hopefully your example of generosity will be a path that others will consider and follow.



Fr. Patrick Cotter

A Message From Fr. Pat Cotter:

Dedicated volunteer doctors bring the healing hand of Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters in far off lands. We owe these selfless doctors our prayers and monetary support.

Good doctors, may the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the good Lord watch over you and forever hold you in the hollow of His hand.

*Thank you,
Fr. Pat Cotter*



The First Steps...

Msgr. Anthony Brouwers recognized that lay Catholics could offer their professional skills, needed in the missions while serving in response to their faith. In 1959 he founded the Mission Doctors Association, and he wrote:

"As never before, the church of Jesus Christ must reach out with the quick hand of the Good Samaritan, to all the millions of suffering children of God."

A book about the life of Msgr. Brouwers is available in our office, "For We are God's Helpers". Let us know if you would like to receive a copy.

Laughter, Joy and Tears in Tanzania

Last summer the Druffner Family—Dr. Mark, Mrs. Molly and their seven children—traveled to the diocese of Same in the north of Tanzania to work at Bwambo Hospital. This summer, they returned again. Here Mark Druffner, a family practice physician, shares a story from a night on call during their last trip to Bwambo:

"In the night I had been called to see a man with hip pain. The electricity was out—not unusual due to the national shortage of power—and the only location in the hospital to see him was the labor ward where the nurse on call had a kerosene lantern. As I finished examining the man who had severe osteoarthritis, the doors flung open and a panting pregnant woman in a bright red conga came into the room. The old man pulled up his trousers and limped out of the room, knowing that this woman was about to deliver. She had few prenatal visits and was not sure of her due date. As I gloved, I heard the nurse say 'Oh doctor, a breechie!' I saw the baby's bottom erupting from the birth canal and tried not to panic at the site of such a risky delivery. The baby fell into my arms, crying. As I checked for the after coming placenta, the woman's



Dr. Mark Druffner, Mrs. Molly Druffner with their children Jake, Julian, Cecilia, Charlie, Mary-Therese, Francis, and Rose

"The room was noisy with laughter and tears of joy as the grandmother came in to wrap up the twins in traditional colorful blankets."

abdomen felt unusually large. I asked the nurse, 'Twins?' She murmured and shot a look to our patient, shaking her head no. I grabbed the fetal monitor donated by one of my partners. Another heart beat was heard. 'Twins,' I said. As I ruptured the bag of waters, meconium came forth and I

instructed the mother to push hard. After the baby's bottom half was delivered, I managed to free the tangled arms and cord with some gentle difficulty. The baby wouldn't breathe. I provided ventilation with a bag and mask—also donated by an American friend—and the baby breathed and cried vigorously. The room was noisy with laughter and tears of joy as the grandmother came in to wrap up the twins in traditional colorful blankets.

"I realized that I had brought basic technology and teaching to a remote area. My presence that night improved the outcome of one woman and her children. The second twin would have died if I hadn't brought the resuscitation bag.

"No, I cannot 'save the world' but my simple presence had brought life to this remote hospital. I write this for doctors who hear the call and are hesitant to answer. Remember the words of John Paul II who opened the millennium celebration: 'Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!'"

We Remember

Catherine Morrissey whose enthusiasm for MDA was as strong as her New York accent, served as President of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary 1998 - 2000. Catherine died after a long and courageous battle with cancer in March of this year. A mother of nine she always found time not only for her family and her friends but her parish St. Robert Belamine.



Larry Powe, M.D. and wife Lynn took part in the four-month formation program to serve long-term in Uganda. Prepared to leave for their mission Larry learned that he had cancer, and he died in October 2009. We miss his genuine kindness, his sense of humor and the quiet faith filled way he accepted a dream deferred.

The arrival of two long-term doctors from Mission Doctors Association was greatly anticipated and they were warmly welcomed by all at Hospitalito.

Brent is able to provide OB coverage, certainly in great need as without this a woman in need of a c-section or physician assisted delivery would need to travel a minimum of 45 minutes by boat from Santiago to Pana, then an additional drive up a very curvy road, to reach the district hospital. Brent also noted that, "Finding a boat at 2:00 a.m. can be a challenge!"

Jennifer and Brent began language school in January and Christopher and Elizabeth began first grade, while Julianne and Nicholas attend preschool several days a week.

Brent writes on his blog:

"Thank you for your support of MDA that, in turn, gives us the opportunity to be messengers of your love for many of the forgotten ones in Guatemala. We realize more and more each day that our time here is a reflection of the love and support you give and have given.

"Your prayers are heard as Jennifer manages a 15-year-old, scared pregnant girl in labor, providing a safe and caring place for both mom and baby.

"Your love is seen as our child asks why the elderly

"Thank you for your support of MDA that, in turn, gives us the opportunity to be messengers of your love for many of the forgotten ones in Guatemala."

woman is picking up the pieces of corn off the ground and with our answer of 'because she is hungry' our child gives the 2 Q she had for ice-cream to the woman.

"Your teachings of love, knowledge, patience and hope are felt each day as the challenges in front of us dissipate with a hug and thank you from a patient.

"Your kind words are heard in the early morning as the birds, singing outside our window, tell us a new day has come with new hope of a better day for the forgotten ones who will not be forgotten today.

"Thanks again so much for your prayers and know that they are heard.

*Peace,
Brent, Jennifer,
Christopher,
Elizabeth,
Julianne and
Nicholas*



Follow the journey of the Burket/Theone family at: <http://burketthoenefamilymission.blogspot.com/>

2009-2010 Doctors Following a Path to Mission Service

- ◆ **Dr. Mary Ann Sorra** began the year at Hospitalito in Guatemala
- ◆ **Dr. Mark Bisanzo** and wife **Sheila** completed their nine month assignment at the new emergency Department at Karoli Lwanga, in Uganda
- ◆ **Dr. Phil Hawley** served in the Peten, Guatemala, caring for patients & supervising students from Loyola Stritch
- ◆ **Dr. Ellen Iannoli** served in the northwest of Cameroon at St. Martin de Porres
- ◆ **Dr. Richard Stoughton** returned to Zimbabwe for a month, a bit ahead of schedule
- ◆ **Dr. Ron Wick** and **Mrs. Barbara Wick** served the people of Mutolere at St. Francis Hospital, in Uganda
- ◆ **Dr. Roy** and **Dr. Melanie Elfrink**, with four of their six children, will serve in Belize this summer
- ◆ **Dr. Bill** and **Mrs. Kate Walsh** returned to Uganda and Bill is making plans to go to Cameroon
- ◆ **Dr. Maged Khouzam** will serve with Dr. Walsh this summer in Cameroon
- ◆ **Dr. Jaime Perea** plans to return to Hospitalito, Lake Atitlan later in the year
- ◆ **Dr. Mark** and **Mrs. Molly Druffer** have returned to Bwambo, Tanzania with their children
- ◆ **Dr. Kate Bolton** and **Mr. John Ruley** will be serving at St. Francis Hospital in Uganda in the fall
- ◆ **Dr. Amine Abraham** is ready to pack her bags and looks forward to serving
- ◆ **Dr. Dick Talbot** and **Mrs. Jane Fehenbacher**, will also be traveling to St. Martin de Porres in late summer
- ◆ **Dr. Joseph Llewellyn** is planning a trip to St. Martin de Porres, this fall
- ◆ **Dr. James** and **Mrs. Rose Unger** are preparing to serve in early 2011
- ◆ **Maria Curlej, N.P.** is organizing her plans for summer 2011 to serve in Cameroon
- ◆ **Dr. Richard Hourigan** is also looking to 2011 for an opportunity at St. Martin de Porres

