



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION



God has truly honored me with the chance to serve His little ones.

There have been sad, tragic, triumphant and even funny moments since I first began serving with MDA in 1989.

On my first day in Ghana, a messenger ran to tell me a newborn with meningitis had arrived. I ran down to find a baby with neonatal tetanus instead. Miraculously, I discovered a small vial of tetanus antitoxin in a refrigerator in the back of a storage room. We gave him the antitoxin, kept him in a quiet room, sedated him by IV and fed him by a tube. At the end of the month, he was recovering.

There have been children in Guatemala, Uganda, infants in Cameroon who I have been able to help, and others sadly that arrived too late at the hospital or for whom resources were not available. Yet, the sight of 5 ten year-old boys laughing and playing in Papua New Guinea, each with their left legs in full leg casts who

became fast friends for the brief time they were together, makes me smile every time I picture them sitting in a row outside the ward.

During cancer treatment this last year, I completed weekly surveys for a study. One question was "Do you feel needed?" Absolutely! All I had to do was think of the children and families I have been blessed to meet, help, and be helped by, all over the world. I make such a small difference in the great sea of need, but, for that one child, for that one family, it is tremendous.

For all the children, really some of the best moments have also been teaching pediatric medicine to nurses. This way, I have left more than my heart behind. I know others are continuing my service as I wait to heal enough to go out again.

Dr. Kate Bolton, Veteran Mission Doctor

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In Cameroon, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kenya, Peru, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, Mission Doctors have made a world of difference for thousands of patients and their families. Because of your support, 10,000 more patients were cared for in 2012 and Mission Doctors were able to provide over 3,000 more hours of medical care than the previous year.

Babies delivered; malaria, TB, HIV, treated; trauma victims cared for – all in some of the most remote and under served areas of the world. Patients may walk days to get to St. Teresa’s Hospital in rural Zimbabwe, and others travel just as long, on the other side of the world, in the Amazon Region of Peru, on the Napo river to arrive at Santa Clotilde Mission.

What have Mission Doctors left behind at home, and what have they come to find? Family, friends, and the security of a medical practice in the United States are often replaced with serving at a mission that may lack the basic diagnostic tools and resources. Yet they also find fulfillment. They may find because of the great needs, the faith of the people with whom they serve, leaving at the end of a three-year mission becomes harder than they ever imagined.

Motivated by their faith, our Mission Doctors and their

families encounter Jesus in the face of each patient and strive to serve to overcome the challenges. Patients around the world need your help today as they did in 1955 when the bishops, priests and sisters in Africa told our founder Msgr. Brouwers ‘We need help!’.



Msgr. Brouwers

Your role in this mission of healing maybe joining the ranks of the doctors serving overseas or it may be your financial support that makes it possible for others to serve. This partnership of hope is vital for the tens of thousands cared for each year by Mission Doctors.

As doctors prepare to leave to serve for three years and others join them on short-term mission, none of their work would be possible without the generous support of the community at home.

Elise Frederick
Elise Frederick
Executive Director

**TOGETHER, WE
SUPPORT CATHOLIC
DOCTORS AND
THEIR FAMILIES
WHO SERVE IN
RESPONSE
TO REQUESTS FROM
MISSIONARY BISHOPS**



**OVER 52,000 PATIENTS
SERVED IN 2012**



**TRAINED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
IN SEVEN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS**

**MISSION DOCTORS
SERVED OVER
9,000 HOURS
IN 2012**

**MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION
2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

Blessed and Sent to Bring Hope

Four families stood at St. John the Evangelist Church at the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, May 26 and were Commissioned as Mission Doctors and Lay Mission-Helpers to serve for three years in Africa and South America.

For more than 50 years, Catholic men, women, couples and families have followed the call to serve as lay missionaries with these programs, founded in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles by Msgr. Anthony Brouwers. The newly commissioned missionary families include three who have just completed their four-month formation program, and one family who completed a three-year assignment in Guatemala and was re-commissioned for Cameroon.

Veteran Mission Doctors, Dr. Brent Burket and Dr. Jennifer Thoene and their four children, Christopher, Elizabeth, Julianne and Nicholas will serve at St. Martin de Porres Hospital, Njinikom, Cameroon. Not their first mission with Mission Doctors Association; Brent and Jennifer along with their four children, recently completed a three-year mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala serving at Hospitalito in the Diocese of Sololá-Chimaltenango. As a young married couple, Brent and Jennifer also served long term providing healthcare at rural Margret Marquart Catholic Hospital in the Diocese of Ho in Ghana. Brent and Jennifer are both family practice physicians who have felt called to serve in mission for a very long time. Brent said that he first considered mission work after experiencing the poverty of the developing world during a trip to Mexico before starting medical school. Jennifer noted *"I believe we are part of a world community; that we must look beyond our borders to serve those in need...I feel that this is what I am being called to do."*

Dr. Brian Medernach and Dr. Antoinette Lullo were commissioned for Santa Clotilde Mission in Vicariate Apostolic of San José del Amazonas, Peru. Brian and Antoinette had already served there for one year before joining Mission Doctors. Brian shared how important he believed the four months of formation has been in preparing them to serve for three years. *"Even though we were in Peru for a year already, the wisdom, information, and reflection time we had been given was invaluable. The classes were very diverse and encouraged self-awareness, personal growth, cultural sensitivity, self care, stress relief, communication, prayer, scripture, and Catholicism. After this formation, we are better prepared not only as physicians and missionaries, but as people of our own local communities who want to make a difference in everything we do, for our three years with Mission Doctors and beyond."*

Dr. Antoinette Lullo, a Family Medicine physician and Dr. Brian Medernach, with a specialty in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, recalls on their blog that service to their local community first opened their eyes to social justice and the glaring inequalities that exist. The couple have previously participated in several international missions in Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Malawi. *"These experiences have opened our hearts and minds, and have strengthened our call to serve those in need. While we have strived to do this on a local level, we know something bigger is in store for us. We will partner with the people of Peru, treading lightly with a spirit of openness and compassion."*



Commissioning for the LMH & MDA Class of 2013



Brent, Jennifer, Nicholas, Julianne, Christopher & Elizabeth



Brian & Antoinette

Coming Together to Prepare

Every year, MDA provides a Retreat/Seminar for those considering serving one - three months at mission hospitals and clinics. This year, doctors and their families from around the country joined us in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University to learn about opportunities to serve. ***Please consider joining us for the 2014 Retreat/Seminar.***

Veteran Mission Doctor Lou Coda shared in the article below why he feels called to serve. Maybe you will be inspired to serve, too!



Why overseas work?

Thoughts from Lou Coda the night before departing the U.S. to return to Uganda:

Is it because my heart will soon be reaching out to each person at the bedside scene of an ill African child? The patient suffering in the bed, the caregiver, anxious and weary at his side, and the other family and friends who have come to help. At times the care is straightforward, and other times a broader differential diagnosis of treatment plan is needed. For a few, I will need the willingness to admit that the illness is beyond the care available.

Is it because I look forward to meeting travelers from a multitude of countries who also find it important to reach out to others in need? Those who enjoy the adventure of traveling and are not afraid to take risks, put up with a few hardships, and who enjoy the simple pleasures of a visit, a shared meal, or a game of cards where the stakes might be a few M&Ms or a stick of gum? Is it because back in the U.S. the day-to-day drudgeries of paperwork, budgets, reimbursement rates, production, and documentation have buried the patients and their needs so deeply I have forgotten why

I went into medicine? Am I forgetting what it means to be a human being, to help and not worry about the cost? Have I lost my way without a compass to point my steps in the direction of life-giving service?



Lou Coda caring for a young patient

*Is it because deep down there is a gentle voice, a quiet movement, the slight urge that says: **Act, Choose, Believe, Trust, Reach out, Let go, Live, Love?***

In the end I go because I must. To not go is to slowly drift into an unawakable sleep, to go is to wake from a long slumber, to breathe the free air, walk the dusty path, take the hand of God, and know that I am alive.



Visit Lou's blog at www.CodasOnMission.blogspot.com

Trailblazers

“Trailblazers” is an apt title for two people who have made our matching challenge possible for the past four years. Dr. Leo and Mrs. Blue Brown have also shared their medical skills in Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, Ghana and Cameroon. Leo always says being a mission doctor is living a life of “Love, Joy and Adventure.” We invite you to follow the trail blazed by this remarkable couple and help us meet this year’s trailblazer challenge.



Brown Family on first mission in

Mission Miracles Happen!

From Tanzania, Molly Druffner shares a story of one young patient and the miracle surrounding her recovery.



Anna

“Dr. Mark, Dr. Mark. A small girl is in the ER and cannot breath very well. Come quickly.” Mark dressed and ran up the steep hill to find a nine-year-old girl almost comatose. I fixed the breakfast on the wood stove and asked the children to pray. The doctor/priest, Fr. Dr. Beda, was away and would not be return until 6 pm. Mark was on his own, with many patients waiting in the clinic, an HIV Clinic about to begin, and three women in active labor. He had spent two hours trying to diagnose the problem and came down the hill to say the girl would die and asked us to pray for her family. I took the children to church to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. At first, I felt overwhelmed with grief, for the family, for the little girl, and for Mark. He seemed so distraught by the fact that we had no lab tests to give her, no x-ray, and felt he had not enough language skills to really communicate with the family to diagnose the problem.

Almost noon, a feeling of total peace and calm came over me in prayer. A quiet voice in my head said, “She is going to be ok. She is going to live.” I was shocked by this revelation and went immediately to tell Mark. As I walked out, Fr. Dr. Beda pulled in. He said, “Something told me to come back early and I sensed that Mark needed me.” I explained the situation and he ran up to the ER. One hour later, Mark came down to the house, “She’s going to be ok!” Dr. Beda spoke to the grandfather who explained she had been very thirsty for the past month! Diabetes! We found some insulin in the next village, enough to get her through the next week! Praise God!” We spent the rest of the day getting our new little friend, Anna, comfortable in her hospital ward, our children became fast friends. Her older sister learned to give insulin and the parents took up a collection to buy the medication for the next few months. After ten days, Anna walked home with some new friends from “Amerika”.



Visit the Druffner’s blog at
www.DruffnerMissiontoTanzania.blogspot.com

Making New Friends and Celebrating with the Auxiliary

AUXILIARY: Busy and dedicated as always, the members of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary, who are based in Los Angeles, raised more than \$72,000 for the continuing work of Mission Doctors at the recent Benefit held at the historic Jonathan Club. This year’s recipients of the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award were Dr. Kate Bolton and Mr. John Ruley, who were recognized for their many years of commitment to providing care for children across the world.

This past year’s efforts included a Day of Games at the Wilshire Country Club; a Piano Concert at the magnificent home and gardens of Alex and Beatrice Calfo, and plans are underway for additional events this year and next.

MIDWEST FRIENDS OF MISSION DOCTORS: Headed by Molly Druffner, who with her husband Dr. Mark Druffner, serve every summer in Tanzania with their seven children. An annual Mardi Gras supports this mission and the broader mission of MDA.

SANTA BARBARA FRIENDS OF MISSION DOCTORS: Jane Fehrenbacher leads this effort with a special mission of raising funds for the James Carey Memorial Fund which provides medical school loan payments for doctors while they are serving long term with Mission Doctors.

Interested in starting a ‘Friends of Mission Doctors’ in your area? Contact the office to learn more!



Kate Bolton and John Ruley with
Tim and Sheila Cavanagh

The Second Hardest Thing I Will Ever Do

Jim and Terry Hake, from Moses Lake, Washington have recently completed their long-term mission to Cameroon. Here, Terry reflects on their three years and the challenges and blessings of service.

At this same time in 2010, we had just completed formation and been commissioned as missionaries to the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon, Africa—a world away. As we were packing our bags, a million thoughts were going through my mind, but one repeatedly popped up. No matter how much I tried to put on a smile, I couldn't keep one comment made by a former missionary at bay. It played like a broken record... "Saying good-bye to your family and friends, when you get on that plane will be the hardest thing you have ever done."



Jim and Terry Hake

And when the actual time came, it was indeed, true. The thought of not seeing our children and grandchildren for so long can only be described as pain.

Not knowing how to cope with the pain, I did the only thing I could think to do. I prayed. I opted to make a new broken record to replace the old one. My prayer was short, so I could repeat it a million times a day...and night. I prayed, "Oh Lord, be with me each step of this journey."

It worked. He was with us. And His blessings were generous. It seemed that wherever we were, so too was He. He was there in the faces of so many who have touched our lives.

He was there in the faces of those with whom we worked. We watched them care for patients with love...sometimes when that was the only thing to do for them.

He was with us in the welcoming voices of the Sisters with whom we celebrated Holy Mass each morning. They opened their hearts and home to us, making us feel a part of their joyous community.

So often, we reflected on Mother Teresa's words to her young sisters. Her advice was 'to see the face of Jesus in the face of everyone you care for'. That is when you are doing His work. Her simple bit of wisdom made our mission an easy journey.

Serving our patients is when He was with us most. So many patients, and family members have touched our hearts in a special way. Sometimes it is because they have been in the hospital for months. Sometimes it is because we have been blessed to watch them grow stronger each month as their HIV treatment has begun. Sometimes it is because after days in a coma due to cerebral malaria, a child begins to wake up. Sometimes it is because a son and daughter have been at their mother's bedside every day for three months, bathing, feeding, and wishing

for the day that their mama will begin to get well. And sometimes, it is not to be. And at those times, it is just to be with them, to share in some small way in their very great loss.

I can only describe the past three years as a wonderful gift from God.

Now as we are once again packing, this time to return home, nothing has changed. Yet everything has changed. In just a few days, I think that I will find the one thing we were not told during our preparation for mission. I fear the second hardest thing I will ever do is the same as the first.... saying 'good-bye to family and friends'. You see, God has blessed us with a second family and more friends.



Visit Jim and Terry's blog at
www.HakesinCameroon.blogspot.com



Jennifer, Brent, Christopher
Nicholas, Julianne & Elizabeth

From Hospitalito Atitlan, Dr. Jennifer Thoene and Dr. Brent Burket reflect on their continued journey from three years in Guatemala to three years in Cameroon. Before they had children, the couple also served long-term with Mission Doctors in Ghana. Now with four children, they are completing one mission and setting out on another.

We are finishing our time here in Guatemala and will return to the USA for a few months before continuing with MDA in Cameroon at St. Martin de Porres in Njinikom.

It is a busy time, as we prepare to leave, say our good-byes and finish up various projects that we hope others will continue. We've had little time to reflect on the past 3 years.

So many special people have entered our lives and touched us profoundly.

So many late nights/early mornings spent caring for patients.

We have seen our children grow, afternoons helping with various school projects, making new friends, celebrating birthdays and holidays.

*We also want to take this opportunity to say
THANK YOU for all of your love, support and prayers.*

Visit the Burket Thoene Family Mission blog at
www.BurketThoeneFamilyMission.blogspot.com



We Remember a Missionary Heart

Rita Mason never had the opportunity to serve in mission as she had prepared to do. She was never able to share her nursing skills to care for patients in Africa alongside her husband, Dr. Richard Mason. Not long after completing a nine-month formation program, medical issues arose that would make it impossible for Rita to follow this call to serve – but not for one minute did this quench her desire to improve the lives of people cared for by Mission Doctors.



Dr. Richard and Mrs. Rita
Mason

Rolling up her sleeves, Rita became the advocate for MDA by growing both the numbers and impact of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary, running everything from card parties to galas, and **challenging everyone involved to do just a bit more, to do it for less, to ensure that every penny raised went to alleviate suffering.**

There are some people involved in an organization that become pivotal to its history. Rita is one such person – a missionary heart whose impact on MDA ensures that doctors are caring for patients today and will be able to do so tomorrow. We will always remember. We will always be grateful.

Catholic Doctor of the Year

What makes a Catholic doctor special? Is it their faith-filled service in their own practice, volunteer work in their community, or international mission service? Or is it all of the above?



The 2012 honoree, Dr. Andres Enriquez of El Paso, Texas is one such doctor.

The 2013 honoree will be named August 15th and will be honored at the Los Angeles Archdiocese White Mass, October 27, 2013 at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, California.

10,000 Wristbands!



This year, Mission Doctors introduced the One Million Patients Project to nearly 14,000 high school students at Youth Day in Anaheim. We handed out over 10,000 wristbands with the project information and all of the students in attendance viewed a video introduction to the program. To view the Youth Day video, visit the Mission Doctors YouTube page at YouTube.com/MissionDoctors. You will know you found the right video when you see a skunk tackle a bear.

IRA and Stock Donations

Through December 31, 2013, donations can be made directly from an IRA for our friends 70 1/2 years old and older.

For some donors, making a gift of appreciated stock can result in a substantial tax benefit.

If you are interested in making a stock gift or a gift from your IRA, please contact the office for more information and to ensure your gift is properly acknowledged.

The gifts we have and the gifts we share can bring hope and light to patients around the world. Thank you.



Upcoming Events

August 1, 2013: Application Deadline for the 2014 long-term program

September 5, 2013: Msgr. Brouwers Memorial Mass Celebrating the life and legacy of Msgr. Brouwers at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Los Angeles. Contact our office for more information.

September 13-15, 2013: Discernment Weekend Candidates for the long-term program are invited to reflect on their call and learn more about this option.

Fall Auxiliary Lunch: An opportunity to hear from Sr. Ntenmusi Xaveria, the Matron of St. Martin de Porres Hospital in Cameroon, who has worked with Mission Doctors for many, many years.

October 27, 2013: White Mass This year's mass will be held at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels with celebrant Archbishop Jose Gomez. MDA will present the Catholic Doctor of the Year Award at this Mass. All are welcome. www.CatholicWM.org

Fall 2013: Card Party Join the Auxiliary at the Wilshire Country Club for a day of games and a wonderful lunch.

February 22, 2014: Auxiliary Annual Gala Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the historic Wilshire Country Club for a lovely evening of dinner and dancing. MDA will present the 2014 Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award to Dr. James and Mrs. Terry Hake.

Spring 2014: Retreat/Seminar Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend the annual Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University.

Spring 2014: Annual Appreciation Mass and Brunch Friends of MDA are invited to join us to celebrate our annual Mass, followed by a brunch at St. Robert's Hall, and an opportunity to meet the doctors who have come together for the Retreat/Seminar.

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