



# Healing and Hope

## MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION



*This is a story about faith and courage.*

*Imagine you are Sara, 23 years old and pregnant with twins living an indigenous community of the Napo River. Your house is covered by a leaf roof and sits 6 feet high on stilts that protect it from the rising river. There are no markets in town. You eat the yucca, plantains, papaya, grapefruit and peppers that grow on your land, as well as many species of fish that are caught daily from your canoe. This is your whole world. Your spirituality and sense of security comes from being close to the land and the water. Your food and medicines grow on this land, and the river provides not only thirst quenching water, but also a place to bathe, wash clothes, and splash in amidst the sweltering midday heat. You know no other world. But you are told that both you and the two babies growing inside you are at very high risk if you do not go the town of Santa Clotilde for a cesarean section.*

*Sara and her husband built up the courage to*

*leave their community, their land, and their 2-year-old daughter in order to travel to Santa Clotilde. We did her cesarean section, and the first baby was breech and came into this world pink and crying. The second baby was not as strong and took a bit of help to cry. She was breathing fast and required some oxygen. We suspected immature lungs, but we don't have an X-ray machine and after she did not improve in a week, we sent her to the hospital in Iquitos... the "city" even further from the family's home. There, it was discovered that her breathing trouble was due to that her intestines herniated through the diaphragm, taking up space where her lung should have been. The family ended up in Lima at the pediatric hospital where the baby is recovering and growing well after the surgery.*

*Many times in life, we are called to leave our comfort zone. Do we listen to the call? Do we listen to the signs that tell us we are on the right*  
*(continued on page 3)*

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Our faith unites us with those who serve and those who they care for. In the parable of the **Good Samaritan, he cares for the injured, and he also leaves resources to ensure that ongoing needs will be met.** I was struck by the parallel this has to the work of MDA. Some serve providing the direct care. You provide the resources to make that care possible.

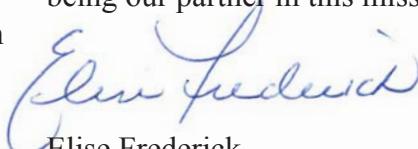
Today, Dr. Jennifer Thoene and her husband Dr. Brent Burkett have completed their first year at Njinikom Hospital in Cameroon. With their four children, they are now living and working in this rural community. They are providing care for patients with HIV, malaria, TB, doing C-sections, treating trauma, and providing training for local health care workers. Their children have once again become a part of the community - truly a global family, having completed three years in Guatemala - and now attending school in the Northwest of Cameroon.

On the other side of the world, in the remote Amazon region of Peru, Dr. Antoinette Lullo and husband Dr. Brian Medernach serve as mission doctors at Santa Clotilde Mission, with their one year old son, Charlie.

The remote nature of this mission, accessible only by a 'fast' boat trip of 7 hours serves people for miles up and down the Napo river.

In Tanzania, the Druffner family have again returned to Bwambo clinic with their seven children. Other doctors have served short-term missions delivering babies, providing anesthesia for surgeries, caring for children and adults suffering from illnesses and trauma. Additionally, plans continue to be made by those who attended our Retreat / Seminar.

Yet, regardless of where they serve, they cannot do this alone. **As a supporter of MDA, you provide the resources just as the Good Samaritan did to insure that care is provided for our brothers and sisters.** When Jesus asks us if we would choose to not look away - but take up the care of our suffering neighbor, you respond "yes" by being our partner in this mission of healing and hope.



Elise Frederick  
Executive Director

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



**OVER 39,000 PATIENTS SERVED IN 2013**



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

**MISSION DOCTORS  
SERVED OVER  
9,500 HOURS  
IN 2013**

**MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

(continued from page 1)  
path? Do we pray for guidance?

*Brian and I have been working outside of our comfort zone, supported by the faith that we are in the right place at the right time. We were invited by Father-Doctor Jack MacCarthy to come and work at Centro de Salud Santa Clotilde, which is composed of a 40-bed hospital, outpatient clinic, operating and delivery rooms, lab, pharmacy, and more. We are head of a network of health outposts that covers 400km and over 100 indigenous communities, and are 7 hours and two boat rides from our referral hospital. The staff here is amazing and have become like family to us. Our 11-month-old son Charlie has dozens of “aunts and uncles” here who treat him like their own. They’ve watched him learn to crawl, devour locally made popsicles, and flirt with other kids, dogs, and chickens alike.*

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*Far from family and friends, life can be a challenge. Running a hospital and taking responsibility for the lives of our patients is overwhelming at times. We’re constantly growing our knowledge and building our creativity, relying heavily on physical exam skills and prayer in the absence of modern resources. We continue to look for long and short-term volunteers from both Peru and abroad. We pray together in thanksgiving for the many patients who walk out of the hospital strong and healthy, and for guidance and openness as we continue to hear God’s call to service.*

Dr. Antoinette Lullo sent us this article from Santa Clotilde Mission in rural Peru. Antoinette is serving long term with her husband, Dr. Brian Medernach and their infant son Charlie.



Visit Antoinette and Brian's blog at  
[www.SantaClotildeMission.blogspot.com](http://www.SantaClotildeMission.blogspot.com)



Dr. Antoinette Lullo and Dr. Brian Medernach



Little Charlie with two of his “new aunts”



Brian caring for a patient with Tuberculosis



Antoinette reviewing X-rays in God’s lightbox



## Coming Together to Prepare

Doctors and their spouses gather each year at Loyola Marymount University to hear from veteran Mission Doctors, staff and Board members about the opportunities to serve short-term with MDA.

This weekend provides a unique opportunity to learn about mission locations and the joys and challenges of serving short term.

Below, 2014 Retreat/Seminar attendee Dr. Farmer shared his reflection on the weekend. Maybe you will be inspired to join us in 2015!

### Call to Serve Jesus in the Mission Fields

I would like to give my overview of what the Mission Doctors weekend retreat meant to me!

I was overwhelmed by the self sacrifice and the compassion that each speaker had for the less fortunate they served in the mission fields.

From the very beginning, Elise reminded us of the vision of Mother Teresa: Christ is everywhere, Christ is in our hearts, Christ is in the poor that we meet, Christ is in the smile that we give and the smile we receive.

Every speaker here seemed to remind us that we are not here just by chance, but we are here because we have been called by God to serve Jesus by giving of our talents to the less fortunate.

Brother John said we should not be disappointed if our call to service was not as dramatic as a lightning bolt as St. Paul received, rather a call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus could be as subtle as a Google search or something that a teacher or colleague said to us in the past.

Dr. Lou reminded us that when we walk down the trail

of life with God, miracles happen because we let God work through us.

And, how can we forget Dr. Tim's enthusiastic review of world health when he demonstrated that diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV and infant mortality are a reflection of extreme poverty and lack of access to medical care.



Dr. Wayne Farmer

These missionary doctors enthusiastically demonstrated that the experiences of living with and caring for diverse people in a foreign mission made them discover a special vocation. And by forming spiritual and physical bonds with the less fortunate of God's people, we are following the teaching of Jesus: "I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me".

The weekend retreat was a unique opportunity to share our experiences with dedicated volunteers who have truly put their lives on hold and have followed in the footsteps of Christ.

### Trailblazer

One of MDA's trailblazers, Marilyn Funari shares her reasons for support.

*I am always inspired each year that I attend the Mission Doctors Mass and Appreciation luncheon. Listening to the Catholic doctors who have served and talking to those in discernment attending the Retreat / Seminar humbles me and makes me appreciate, even more, the amazing work that Mission Doctors Association does. Through their faith, dedication and passion, the doctors and their families provide excellent medical care and much needed hope to so many. All of our financial contributions help support this exceptional effort.*



Ms. Marilyn Funari

MDA thanks Marilyn and all of the trailblazers who make our annual challenge grant possible.

## A Busy Summer in Douala

Drs. Susan Tan and Patrick Chao, both OBGYN's, traveled this summer to Padre Pio Health Center and Maternity Hospital in Douala, Cameroon. The maternity service at Padre Pio is 'busy' to say the least, averaging 300 births a month. Susan shared that she had the opportunity to deliver healthy triplets during their service in Cameroon, but the greatest part for both Susan and Patrick was the community.

*The best part of our trip was the chance to go to daily Mass with the sisters, to pray the Liturgy of the hours with them for evening and night prayers. We try to continue this even when we've come home. We were humbled by the people we served...they have truly blessed us.*



## 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 Wilshire Country Club. This year's recipients of the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award were Dr. Jim and Mrs. Terry Hake, who were recognized for their service and unique ability to share their experience and the lives of those they served with all of us at home. Plans for the 2015 Mission Doctors Auxiliary Benefit are already under way! The Auxiliary will be hosting this annual event on February 14, 2015 at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood. We will be honoring Ms.

Jane Fehrenbacher and Dr. Richard Talbot with the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award. Please save the date and plan to join us.

The Auxiliary also hosted a special gathering with the Matron of St. Martin de Porres Hospital, Sr. Xaveria and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Sr. Rufina in Cameroon at the beautiful home of Dr. John and Margaret Given.

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. Jane hosted a very special gathering for her 80th birthday that gathered family and friends to learn about Mission Doctors and raise funds for this special effort.

Interested in starting an Auxiliary or a 'Friends of Mission Doctors' in your area? Contact the office to learn more.



Dr. Jim and Mrs. Terry Hake accepting the award



Attendees enjoying the cocktail hour and silent auction

# Miracles in the Midst of Hardship

Veteran Mission Doctors Brent Burket and Jennifer Thoene share this article with us from rural Njinikom, Cameroon. The couple is in the second year of a three year mission serving with their four young children at St. Martin De Porres Hospital.

*HIV/AIDS is widespread in Cameroon and very common in our patients. Although the overall prevalence of new diagnoses for all people screened at St. Martin de Porres was 6.3% in 2013, that does not include all those already infected and living with HIV/AIDS. With the diagnosis comes hope and despair, miracles and hardship, recovery and suffering, life and death. HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. It affects all families, all ages, all socioeconomic classes, and all religious backgrounds. We have diagnosed 2 month olds and 80 year olds. On average, we make one new diagnosis every day.*

*Anti-retrovirals (ART) are free, but there are many barriers to taking the medications. The patient has to have the money to get to the hospital monthly and depending on where they live that could be \$1-\$5 and \$1 for the treatment unit to monitor and supply the medications. Sometimes this amount of money is just too much. There is still a strong stigma attached to the diagnosis making some people not seek treatment. Many people have a strong belief in traditional healers and traditional medication and decide to use that instead. Although the rate of diagnosis among men and women is the same, 3 times as many women are taking medication. The treatment unit tells us it is because many men are stubborn and refuse to take it. Some people take medication until they feel better and then default, while others stop because of side effects.*

*The diagnosis in children can be especially devastating as their already difficult life becomes harder. Some have already lost one or both parents and the diagnosis now means that they must be on medication for life.*

*Dublaise, an 8 year old boy, has been coming to the hospital frequently since our arrival. His mother is also HIV positive and his father has died. He is on ARV's but almost every month he comes in with worsening whole body swelling, fluid in his abdomen, and difficulty breathing. The amount of suffering that the child and mother experience is almost unbearable to watch. However, with medication and prayers, he improves and goes back home... a small miracle in spite of tremendous suffering. We always know he is better when his insatiable appetite returns!*



Jennifer, Brent, Christopher,  
Elizabeth, Julianne & Nicholas



Dr. Jennifer Thoene in the Outpatient Clinic  
at St. Martin De Porres Hospital



Dublaise

*Desmond is a 15 month old boy with an infectious smile. He came in with a severe lung infection. There were many times when we thought that he would not make it. Eventually, he was diagnosed with HIV and tuberculosis and with treatment is doing very well. He is gaining weight and his wide toothless grin has now grown 4 teeth.*

*We feel privileged to bear witness to these miracles and thank you for your continued prayers and support for our work in the missions. Without you, we would not be able to serve the many people we see every day.*

Visit the Burkett Thoene Family Mission blog at  
[www.BurkettThoeneFamilyMission.blogspot.com](http://www.BurkettThoeneFamilyMission.blogspot.com)



# Druffner Mission to Tanzania

"I pray that each of you be holy, and so spread His love everywhere you go. Light His light of truth in every person's life, so that God can continue loving the world through you and me." Mother Teresa

What a true blessing it has been to have worked with Mission Doctors Association since 2009 in Bwambo Village, Tanzania. Every summer we pack up our family and head to the South Pare Mountains in the Kilimanjaro region to volunteer as missionaries at the Bwambo Health Center, in the Diocese of Same (pronounced some-may). Last summer was an exciting one for us, as we got to work with the new full-time physician and pastor, Fr. Dr. Beda Kiure, who now runs the health center, after having no physician on staff for over eight years. Through your donations for our travel needs, and private donations for medical supplies, a new ultra-sound and x-ray machine, lab equipment, and the support from everyone at MDA, Bwambo Health Center is now almost totally self-sufficient.

Our Mardi Gras for a Mission in February was a great success. We were able to raise the funds to go again to Bwambo this summer on a short-term mission (six weeks). We also raised the funds needed to advance our Ambulance Campaign to purchase a new ambulance. Only \$15,000 to go! And, our Fund-a-need program helped to purchase all new lab equipment, medications for the year, a new labor and delivery table, and all new blankets for the wards. You will never know how much even a small donation can do to help those in need in these small rural hospitals.

Please keep us in your prayers as our family (see photo), and Dr. Greg and Heidi Young travel with our children to Bwambo this June. Mark and Greg will be seeing patients in the clinic, while Molly, Heidi, and the children will be painting and refurbishing buildings. Nick Markell, an iconographer, from Minnesota, will also be along to finish an icon mural in the church, while Sig Markell, his wife, will be providing an optometry clinic for three weeks. We plan on being very busy!

With the love and support of MDA, we feel confident that we will again be "His Light" to those in need.

Asante sana. Thank you!



Visit the Druffner's blog at  
[www.DruffnerMissionToTanzania.blogspot.com](http://www.DruffnerMissionToTanzania.blogspot.com)



## We Remember

**Mother Antonia Brenner:** Often called the Prison Angel, was the Foundress of the Sister of the Eleventh Hour and long time Mission Doctors advocate and supporter. Having been her spiritual advisor, Msgr. Anthony Brouwers instilled in her the value of the work of lay missionaries, and she never missed the opportunity to speak out loudly about the tremendous work of our doctors.



Mother Antonia Brenner

**Dr. Richard Mason:** Veteran Mission Doctor and former President of the MDA Board of Directors whose deep voice and cheerful heart remain with everyone who had the privilege to know or work with him. Rick served at Njinikom Hospital, among the first short-term mission doctors to serve there. At the celebration of his life, his family and friends spoke of the unique partnership with his wife Rita who preceded him and their dedication to family, their faith and Mission Doctors.



Dr. Richard and Mrs.  
Rita Mason

**Dr. Clyde Von Der Ahe:** Long time supporter and former Board President of Mission Doctors Association, Dr. Clyde Von Der Ahe was a charismatic and dynamic figure who, with wife Peggy traveled to Zimbabwe in the days that Dr. Leo and Blue Brown were serving at Drefontain Hospital. Often telling stories of flying with Leo to remote clinics with the need to clear the runway of zebra and other wildlife before a landing, Clyde's dedication to MDA was enduring. Most recently, the Von der Ahes took on the challenge of being the chairs of the Mission Possible Endowment. Their leadership helped begin a path to increase the services MDA will be able to provide.



Dr. Clyde and Mrs. Peggy  
and Von Der Ahe

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 2013 honoree, Dr. Elias Ayoub is one such doctor. Dr. Ayoub was selected because of his service both in his local community and in the Middle East.



The 2014 honoree will be named August 15th and will be honored at the Los Angeles Archdiocese White Mass, October 12, 2014 at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, California.

## One Giant Globe!



This year, Mission Doctors shared the One Million Patients Project with nearly 14,000 high school students at Youth Day in Anaheim. Youth and their leaders from across the country stopped by our table to learn more and take a "selfie" with our globe.

## Stock Donations

### Considering a gift of stock?

When you are able to make a direct gift of stock or other property that has realized a "gain," you do not have to recognize the gain. These rules allow for the "doubling up," so to speak, of tax benefits:



- A charitable deduction of the full value
- Plus avoiding tax on the appreciation in value of the stock or property.

Stock must have been held for at least one year. You are encouraged to check with your tax professional to see if this is something that would benefit you and the many patients served by Mission Doctors.

If you would like more information on how to make a gift of stock or property, please call our office.

## Upcoming Events

**August 15, 2014: Application Deadline** for the 2015 long-term program

**September 5, 2014: 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 12-14, 2014: Discernment Weekend** Candidates for the long-term program are invited to reflect on their call and learn more about this option.

**October 12, 2014: 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](http://www.CatholicWM.org)

**Fall 2015: Card Party** Join the Auxiliary at the Wilshire Country Club for a day of games and a wonderful lunch. Contact our office for more details and an invitation.

**February 14, 2015: Auxiliary Annual Gala** Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the historic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for a lovely evening of dinner and dancing on Valentines Day. MDA will present the 2014 Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award to Ms. Jane Fehrenbacher and Dr. Richard Talbot.

**March 27-29, 2015: Retreat/Seminar** Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend the annual Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University.

**March 29, 2015: 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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