

MEDIA KIT



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

A Mission of Healing, A Partnership of Hope

Patients around the world are waiting for a doctor.

Millions of people suffer from preventable diseases,
lower quality of life, and shortened life spans.

TOGETHER WE ARE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

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Following Christ's call to heal the sick, Mission Doctors Association provides lifesaving medical care for the poor and training for local healthcare professionals around the world.

We do this by sending Catholic doctors and other Catholic medical professionals short and long-term to locations at the request of local bishops and religious orders. Our doctors provide direct patient care and training for local healthcare professionals, always working toward the goal of sustainable healthcare.

Our vision is that Christ's mission to heal the sick will be fulfilled.



Our Story



In 1954, Monsignor Anthony Brouwers traveled to Africa. He saw religious brothers and sisters delivering babies and performing medical procedures with no training. He met priests and bishops who were building roads and fixing cars. As the Director of the Propagation of the Faith in Los Angeles, he asked the people how the Archdiocese could be of help.

He thought he would receive requests for funds to build a church, school or hospital. There were requests, but overwhelmingly he was asked for people to come and share their professional skills and live their faith.

Msgr. Brouwers founded Lay Mission Helpers in 1955 and Mission Doctors Association in 1959. These organizations have sent individuals, couples and families who have served three years (and often more!) in 36 countries. Together this amounts to more providing more than 2500 cumulative years of service to the Church.

In 1997, MDA added a short-term program to make it possible for Catholic Doctors to serve one to three months.



The Need

The life expectancy of women in Zimbabwe has fallen below 35 years.

In Cameroon, maternal death rate can be as high as 1 of every 100.

Uganda has more than one million AIDS orphans - and a population only 1/10th of the United States.

Tanzania has 5 million cases of malaria annually, resulting in 5,000 deaths a year.

In the United States, there averages one doctor for every 395 people.

In the countries where Mission Doctors serve, there is less than one doctor for 20,000 people.

When factoring in the rural nature of the locations, the realities of poverty and burden of disease, the problem of lack of healthcare professionals is only exacerbated.

This is where Mission Doctors comes in.



What are we doing about it?

Mission Doctors Association has two programs:

Short-term service of 1-3 months

doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend a weekend Retreat/Seminar, now held twice a year, in Los Angeles and Chicago.

Long-term service of 3 years

doctors and their spouses preparing for long-term service take part in a four month residential formation program in Los Angeles.

All placements are filled at the request of local bishops and religious orders who run the hospitals and clinics. Mission Doctors strive to become part of the community and help create sustainable healthcare.

Treating patients of all faiths, Mission Doctors strive to provide outstanding healthcare, work within the limitations of the existing location and improve the care that can be provided long after they return home.

In 2016 alone, Mission Doctors treated more than 25,000 patients at 12 hospitals in Cameroon, Ecuador, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda.



Elise Frederick

Elise is the Executive Director of Mission Doctors Association. She has worked with MDA since 1981. She served with her husband and young family for three years in Thailand with the sister program, Lay Mission-Helpers Association, and then came to work with MDA. Elise has visited the mission sites where our doctors serve, and has developed relationships with Bishops and Religious Orders who run the mission hospitals and clinics. Her experience as a lay missionary and her 35 years with Mission Doctors gives Elise a unique perspective on the work of Mission Doctors, one that encompasses the history of the organization and the vision for growth into the future.



Tim Cavanagh, MD

Tim has served both long and short-term missions with Mission Doctors Association. He also brings a critical element to the formation program and Retreat/Seminars by providing resources for doctors and an overview of the realities they can expect to face in a resource-poor setting. In addition to serving three years with his wife Sheila in Zimbabwe, he has served on short-term missions with MDA in Cameroon and has assisted the organization in evaluating sites in the Pacific. A member of the board of directors, Dr. Cavanagh brings comprehensive knowledge of the medical issues faced at hospitals in Africa, which provides a tremendous resource to MDA.



Jim Hake, MD

Jim initially served short-term in Zimbabwe and Cameroon with his wife Terry. They then felt called to serve a three year mission at St. Martin de Porres Hospital in the Northwest of Cameroon, West Africa. He has a unique ability to connect to his patients, which made him a favorite of the children and their families as well as the Franciscan Sisters serving at this hospital. After he returned to Moses Lake, Washington, Dr. Hake's connection to the work of MDA did not end. The Hakes have returned to provide lifesaving care in Cameroon and have joined to board of directors to help other Catholic Doctors see the tremendous opportunity and joy that can come following Christ's call to 'heal the sick'.



Brother John Kiesler, OFM

Brother John is a member of the board of directors of Mission Doctors Association and serves on the faculty of the formation program for those preparing to serve long-term. He is also a presenter at the Retreat/Seminars held for doctors who are considering the short-term program. As an expert in Mission Theology, Brother John teaches at the Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside, CA. Additionally, he is a frequent and popular contributor to the MDA blog, connecting all of us to the greater mission of the Church.



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