



You bring miracles to children in Tanzania



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Inside

The Mighty Mites

An Amazing Weekend Made Possible by You

A Day in the Life of a Mission Doctor

Anna's Miracles Continue



Miracle after Miracle.

That was my response when I answered the question, "How was your trip this time?" And I don't use the word "Miracle" lightly. I'll share just one story. (Although I could tell many!)

The story really starts three years ago, it is Anna's story. Little Anna came to the hospital in rural Bwambo, Tanzania, listless and faint. Fearing the worst, Mark came down to the house while we were all sitting and having lunch and asked us to pray. So, we went to the chapel with the children and we prayed not knowing exactly what the Lord had in mind for Anna. As we exited the church, we saw Father Dr. Beda's car coming up the mountain six hours earlier than expected. He got out of the car and we asked why he returned so early, and he responded, "I just felt like I needed to come back for some reason".

Father Dr. Beda went up to the hospital and met Mark next to Anna's bedside and began to ask the family questions in Swahili. Father Dr. Beda knew the family well and turned to the grandfather and asked him, "What do you think is wrong with little Anna?" The grandfather responded "She has been very thirsty lately."

Mark and Father Dr. Beda knew immediately what was wrong. Anna had diabetes. Because there is no refrigerator or insulin at the hospital, Mark went down to the home of a patient who they knew had been treating himself for diabetes for many years. The good man was able to give us enough insulin for Anna for a two month period. She stayed with us for a month until she gained back her strength and we were able to train her sister on how to give insulin injections and regulate her diet. But that is not where little Anna's story ends. (continued on page 4)

A Really Big Check!

It was Margaret Mead who said “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Mission Doctors has our own Margaret - Margaret Liautaud, who also recognizes that it doesn’t take a large group to make a big difference in the world. In this case, she lovingly calls the Mission Doctors Auxiliary the Mighty Mites!

This mighty group has supported Mission Doctors since its inception in 1959. “Without the dedicated support of the members of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary, MDA would not be around today” shared Elise Frederick, Mission Doctors Executive Director. “Their partnership ensures that the compassionate care provided by Mission Doctors will continue.”

Thank you to those who count yourselves among the Mighty Mites! You know who you are! If not, you can join! Just give us a call to join or start a Mighty Mite group in your area!

Thank you to those who support the events put on by the Auxiliary in support of the work of Mission Doctors.

Thank you!



Diane Kelterer, Margaret Liautaud, and Auxiliary President, Bonnie Flaherty and Mission Doctors Board President, Tom Liautaud



Look What your Gift as Done!

You are an answer to their prayers.

Lively conversation filled the air at Loyola Marymount University as doctors from Illinois to Louisiana, Washington to Texas and even some local to the Los Angeles area, gathered to learn about the possibilities of serving short-term with Mission Doctors.

Theologian, Brother John Kielser, OFM discussed Mission Theology, Veteran Mission Doctor Lou Coda presented on the “Call to Serve” and Dr. Tim Cavanagh presented on “The Big Three”; HIV, TB and Malaria. Executive Director Elise Frederick covered topics including the challenges of cross cultural communication, as well as the practical issues of visas, insurance, etc. Each location seeking doctors was shared by those who have served in that specific country.

For 19 years, Mission Doctors has held this gathering, yet without the generous support of our friends, this would never be possible. Space at LMU plus the cost of meals and the staff hours add up, however, the connections made and stories shared during this weekend are truly priceless. One couple wrote “I think everything was valuable and needed. I wouldn’t exclude anything! We enjoyed the PowerPoints, the video presentations, the warm welcoming atmosphere and people. Thank you!”

By Sunday brunch, most of those in attendance were already making plans to serve! **Thank you for making this weekend possible!**

Thousands of patients around the world are waiting for a doctor. By providing the support for opportunities like this, you are an answer to their prayers.

DAY
in the
LIFE



He is Risen! Alleluia!

Around the world our song of praise goes up. Alleluia! Alleluia! The song that unites us, Jesus the healer, the servant, Now risen for all.

God, eternal, you show us the path of service and love. May we be aware of Your calling and follow. Bless our efforts to care for our sisters and brothers around the world. And one day may we follow this path to eternal life with You.

Renew our hope, and strength. May each day of our lives be a witness to this song: Alleluia!



- 6:00 AM** **Wake up**
- 6:30 AM** **Out of bed** (I am not a morning person)
Breakfast is homemade bread with various toppings and tea.
- 7:00 AM** **Hospital Meeting**
- 9:00 AM** **Rounds on the Female Ward**
These rounds usually include 5-10 women.
Today, at least 3 of them speak no English and no Pidgin, however, with the help of a nurse translator, we make due.
- Rounds on Pediatrics Ward**
There are usually 3-8 children on the Pediatric Ward.
Today, we have two on oxygen, a three week old and an eight month old. And, a 12-year-old patient with cellulitis, reactive arthritis, and typhoid fever. The last patient is only 9 weeks old, having severe apnea episodes.
- Rounds on Neonates**
This is the fun time where you get to play with cute babies.
Currently, we have four newborns; all of them have been or are currently being treated for neonatal sepsis. One is a premature baby, the others were all born at term.
- 1:00 PM** **Time for Lunch**
I usually go home, reheat leftovers and browse Facebook.
- 2:00 PM** **Rounds on the Surgical Patients**
We currently have 10 or more surgical patients that we are consulting on for diabetes, hypertension, and kidney disease mostly. Also, we have 2 patients who have just been diagnosed with HIV, so we are getting labs in preparation for starting HAART (highly-active antiretroviral therapy).
- 5:00 PM** **Saturday Evening Mass at the Hospital Chapel**
- 6:00 PM** I visited Mission Doctors, Brent Burket and Jennifer Thoene.
This was my last day on call, so I signed out to Brent who will be taking over for me.
Jennifer fed me dinner.
- 7:00 PM** **Back to the hospital**, to check on a sick baby.
- 8:00 PM** **Home to rest.**
- 12:30 AM** **Called in for an emergency cesarean section.**
Thank God, baby is okay
- 3:00 AM** **Ride the high of a healthy baby back home to bed.**
- 5:30 AM** **Called in for the morning fasting blood sugar of a diabetic woman.**
Blood sugar is higher than 300, insulin ordered.

Dr. Martha Franz could not do it without you. You provide the continuing support which allow her to provide care for these patients, to save lives and share her faith. You make her mission possible. You are truly our partner in this mission of hope.

This Day in the Life came from Mission Doctor Martha Franz. She is serving long-term (three years) at St. Martin de Porres Hospital in rural Njinikom, Cameroon.



While we were in Tanzania in December, Father Dr. Beda was at a mobile clinic in Anna's village and just happened to check on her. Unfortunately, he found Anna suffering with a serious infection in her ear-drum, blindness, and very much underweight (about 30 pounds). Anna's parents had decided to seek another treatment from a local medicine man. Unfortunately, they had stopped giving her insulin and the new treatment had caused the serious infection.

Miraculously, Anna was transported to the hospital in time. If they waited one more day, Anna would not be with us now. We were able to give her proper

She's growing in strength and we are coming up with a new plan now on how she can receive treatments on a daily basis. Without MDA, without the support of individuals like yourselves, Anna would have died. But she's alive because of you!

diet with protein powder and to regulate her insulin levels, but we knew that she was going to have to stay with us for a long time.

Because of Father Dr. Beda's knowledge and understanding of the culture, Mark's medical education, and the proper supplies and medication, Anna is alive today. She's growing in strength and we are coming up with a new plan now on how she can receive treatments on a daily basis.

Without MDA, without the support of individuals like yourselves, Anna would have died. But she's alive because of you!

Molly Druffner shared Anna's story after retuning in January from Tanzania. Miracles like Anna's do not come without your support. Since Dr. Mark and Mrs. Molly Druffner and their seven children first arrived in 2009, there were only six people on staff.

Because of your support and your compassion, the hospital was able to hire another physician, two more nurses, a midwife, and many support staff. The new ambulance is running beautifully and they now have one car for local pick ups and another that goes down the mountain to transport people up to our hospital.

Molly added "Again, we are so grateful because our donated medical equipment and surgical supplies are all working well, making it possible for Father Dr. Beda and Mark to see many patients each day. And no one is ever turned away!"



Upcoming Events

June 3-5, 2016: Discernment Weekend

Doctors and their spouses interested in the long-term (three year) program, you are invited to a Discernment Weekend at the Mission House in Los Angeles. Participants will meet with the Formation Team and learn more about the challenges and joys of mission life. Contact our office for more details.

July 15, 2016: Nomination Deadline for the Catholic Doctor of the Year Award Submit a nomination for the 2016 Catholic Doctor of the Year Award. Honor a friend, family member or colleague with a nomination today. Visit our website for a form and more information.



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1940
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: (213) 368-1872
info@MissionDoctors.org

www.MissionDoctors.org

