



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!

St. Augustine may never have actually used these exact words, but he preached often about Easter and the Easter Alleluia. He said that it is our defining song, the song that we will sing forever in paradise! And it is a song that our lives can sing for us!

Today, as many are becoming fully immunized, this Alleluia is also expressed with reunions, long awaited hugs, and the beginning of a sense of freedom most have lost in the past year.

The family relationships, and friendships at home, and even around the world, as Molly Druffner shares in her article, are testament to this Alleluia.

Your unselfish support of Mission Doctors during this challenging time brings the healing hands of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need, so they too can sing.

You have provided critical supplies and essential staffing to help our partners in Peru, Cameroon, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe to ensure that they can continue to be able to prevent and care for those infected with COVID, and importantly as we've learned, help prevent the spread of the disease.

Your support has allowed us to recruit more Catholic doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants through webinars and outreach, and Mission Doctors are now getting their vaccines, purchasing plane tickets and preparing to return to Tanzania, Honduras, and Uganda, **because of you.**

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our Song! May every day of our lives reflect this faith and joy!

We are so very grateful to you and to all our partners in this Mission of Hope and Healing!

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Mark and Molly Druffner and her children on an early mission to Tanzania. Serving with Mission Doctors is a family affair, everyone gets involved.



Molly Druffner stands with young friends in Tanzania. Because of your support, the Druffner family has made deep connections with this community, sharing God's love through their service and friendship.

A “Hundred Fold” in Blessing

With everything that’s going on in the world, one would think that people in a small, impoverished village in East Africa would be thinking about how they will survive the impending pandemic (COVID has just recently arrived in Tanzania) and ask for help. But, the Immaculate Conception Parish in Bwambo Village has committed to praying a Hail Mary everyday at morning Mass for people suffering in the United States. These are the same people, who came to our humble, brick home in Bwambo, when we first arrived to work as Mission Doctors volunteers in 2009.

This small group of mostly women, clothed in tattered, but brightly colored Kangas, and head scarves to cover their unwashed hair, came to my home in that first week and taught me how to make chapati over a wood burning stove, and ugali, a starch, much like oatmeal, which we came to love in the following weeks. They picked up 18 month old Rose, our youngest, and taught me how to carry her in a sling on my back while shopping at the market. These women, mostly from the parish, and many with whom we worked with at the hospital, would become our dearest friends for the next ten years.

Since we “signed on” to work with Mission Doctors, after experiencing the warmth and compassion of staff, lecturers, and hard working Board of Directors at the MDA Formation Retreat, we’ve never looked back. How could we have known, that after that first experience in Bwambo, with seven young children in tow, and many physical and

mental challenges we would face, that it would be our friendships in Bwambo that would bring us back every summer, (sometimes twice a year,) to live, work, pray, play, laugh, and become part of a community of loving, giving people. You know the saying, “we get more than we give” when on Mission. I think every volunteer doctor and his/her family on Mission at an MDA site can attest to the truth of that statement.

As a mother, teacher, and spouse to a Mission Doctor, I’m forever grateful for the chance we’ve been given, to not only transform our family life into one of serving and always thinking of those with less opportunities and resources, but even more, that we would be given the chance to live with a community of people who never think of their own needs. No matter how little the families of Bwambo have, they always have something to share. Sometimes it’s cooking lessons, sometimes it’s a basket of roasted maze, and sometimes it’s a sincere plea to God to protect and watch over their friends in a pandemic across the ocean.

I could never express in one article, the blessings and joys we've had working with Mission Doctors Association over the past ten years, but one thing I can offer is that without our supporters and the staff at MDA, this opportunity to serve, and to grow, and to be a part of a grateful and loving community could never have come to fruition.

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It takes a Village in Africa to raise a child, but it takes a "Village" in the United States to give that same child the healthcare, education, and support we have been blessed with everyday of our lives. Let's continue to, not only count our blessings this Easter season, but let us continue to share these same blessings with others by sending medical personnel all over the world where there is so much need.

Like the widow in the Gospel, who "gave all that she had," you too will receive a "hundred-fold" in blessings for your generosity.

Mrs. Molly Druffner shared this from her home in Minnesota. Dr. Mark and Mrs. Molly Druffner have served in Tanzania every summer for the past thirteen years with their seven children. With your support, their annual service has improved the care provided at Bwambo Clinic and supported the Parish and surrounding communities of the South Pare Mountains in Tanzania. The Druffners are currently planning their next mission in the fall of this year.



Dr. Mark Druffner caring for a young patient. Your support makes it possible for Mark to follow Christ's call to heal the sick, providing life-saving medical care.



Our goal has always been sustainable healthcare. Here, Mark is providing training for the local medical professionals.



Knights of Columbus

One of our long-time supporters and a member of Knights of Columbus himself, Greg Durocher of Anchorage, Alaska suggested that we share an opportunity in our next newsletter.

He suggested that Knights of Columbus members could bring the idea of "sponsor-a-doc" to their councils.

If you'd like more information about the opportunity to support a Catholic doctor caring for the poor in Africa or Latin America, please contact our offices.

Legacies of Faith

Dr. Bill Eddy

'I always get the Eggs Benedict' Dr. Bill Eddy would tell me when we sat at Schooner Or Later in Long Beach on one of the sunny southern California mornings we met there. Bill had served as a member of the Board of Directors of Mission Doctors Association and I looked forward to the opportunity to get together and catch him up on the latest, what doctors were going and where they would be serving.



Bill always had great insights to share both as a board member, and subsequently at these meetings. But that was not the only reason I loved to visit him. Joan preceded Bill having suffered with Alzheimer's. The last few years of her life were spent in a beautiful memory care facility not far from the home on the camphor tree lined street where they raised their large family. Bill would visit every day, would sit with Joan to make sure she ate her meals, and hold her hand. Visiting Joan with Bill was to witness a testament to their abiding, six decades of love. After a brief illness, surrounded by family at his home in Long Beach, Bill passed away and will always be remembered with deep affection and gratitude.

Dr. Evis and Mrs. Rosemary Coda

61 years married, raising a family of 13, it was not a surprise to those who knew and loved Rosemary and Evis Coda to learn that only two weeks separated their passing.



Dr. Evis Coda served as a member of the Board of Directors of Mission Doctors and continued his involvement long after stepping off the board and shared his love for the work with his family. Rosemary was a member of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary.

Rosemary was the heart of the family and Evis was known for his genuine kindness to all regardless of their position, he reached out with compassion, kindness and respect. In Cameroon, they say of those who have passed that they are of Blessed Memory. Truly, Evis and Rosemary Coda have blessed countless lives, and they are both remembered with joy and gratitude.

Both the Eddy's and the Coda's made planned gifts to Mission Doctors. Their legacies support the life-saving work of Mission Doctors, and I only wish I could thank you again, my friends. Thank you for your witnesses of faith and love. May your memories bless your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Upcoming Events

April 23-25, 2021: Discernment Weekends

Doctors and their spouses interested in long-term (3 year) service with MDA are invited to a Discernment Weekend at our Mission House. The weekend provides an opportunity to learn about current service sites, and discuss the joys and challenges of mission life. Contact our office for more information.

June 10, 2021: Introductory Webinar

We are hosting another webinar for Catholic doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and dentists interested in short-term (1-3 months) service with MDA. Contact our office for more information and to register for this webinar.



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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

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