



A Miracle in Uganda because of YOU



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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Opening the door to the premature-sick infant nursery during the first day of rounding, I saw that only one crib was occupied with a comfortably sleeping infant. **Enjoy the peace I told myself, life in this nursery can change quickly.** Within days mothers gave birth to one premature infant after another each weighing from 2 1/2 up to 4 pounds. Here, at St. Francis Mutolere Hospital in the Kisoro district of southwestern Uganda, if a child has the strength to breathe they have a chance at survival.

One of the 2 1/2 pound newborns, hours old, struggled with fast breathing, an in-drawing chest, and low oxygen levels despite supplemental

oxygen. This was Jenna's daughter. The baby was weakening by the hour. The maximum support for breathing available was a trial of CPAP, an oxygen delivery through the nose given under pressure. Rarely used tubes, bubble chambers, nose prongs, and a half functioning CPAP machine were assembled, fitted to the baby, and turned on. The oxygen level slowly began to rise, although labored breathing persisted. Intravenous fluids, antibiotics, glucose monitoring, and temperature regulation were started. Then we waited to see if this fragile infant had the strength to recover.

By the following day the child's breathing struggles had eased slightly, (continued from page 1)

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Little Jenna with support oxygen getting her temperature taken. Your support provides life-saving medical care and training for healthcare professionals to take care little patients like Jenna.

the first hurdle had been jumped. A gauntlet lay head for infant and mother before reaching the capability of survival at home.

Maintaining body temperature using hot water bottles rather than an incubator which depended on consistent electricity, keeping intravenous access, providing proper intravenous fluids both in composition and flow rates, delivering adequate breathing and oxygen support while avoiding damaging excess support. And finally having Mother every 2 hours provide expressed breast milk for nose to stomach tube feedings.

Complicating all of these difficulties was having staff available to perform these tasks. During the night there were times when only two staff members were available to cover not only the nursery but also pre and post natal healthy mother-infant care, and attend, at times nonstop, deliveries and emergency cesarean sections.

This humble woman with her quiet, gentle, selfless, enduring love for her daughter humbled me to the core.

Infants are not named until mothers know they will live. I asked the nurse what name the infant was given... Miracle.



Mission Doctor Lou Coda with Jenna, and little Miracle at St. Francis Hospital in rural Uganda, East Africa. Your support makes these smiles possible.

One step at a time, one day at a time, day after day, night after night. For this child death was near on three or four occasions as a result of airway obstruction's, prolonged periods of apnea (no breathing) due to prematurity, and recurrent aspirations from complications with feedings.

Through all this Jenna was at the bedside. One day weary and exhausted Jenna asked for discharge despite the child weighing 3 pounds and not yet breast-feeding. As we talked tears filled her eyes as she explained that she had no money and minimal family support to pay the expected hospital bill of about \$100 and provide for Jenna's food and personal needs.

Quietly she was told that we also wanted her baby to live and she would be supported by caring people unknown to her. **On her knees now, smiling through tears she sincerely thanked us. Weeks past and the infant slowly and steadily gained weight.** At 4 pounds the child continue

to grow on breast-feeding alone letting us know she was ready for discharge home.

When that day arrived accounts were settled, instructions given, and family came to escort baby and mother home. At about 4 PM a nurse tracked me down saying Jenna wished to see me. They came to our house with a 50 pound sack of potatoes thanking us for all we had done for her and her daughter. Jenna would not leave before giving proper thanks even though it cost her and her family a late departure, followed by a four hour walk going into a cold rainy night before reaching their home. This humble woman with her quiet, gentle, selfless, enduring love for her daughter humbled me to the core.

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Dr. and Mrs. Lou Coda shared this story from their time in Uganda at the beginning of the year. This is just one of the thousands of lives saved and touched by the healing hands of Mission Doctors in Africa and Latin America. They have been serving at St. Francis Hospital for several years caring for young patients and walking in solidarity with the people of Kisoro.



A tired mother and her newborn miracle ready to return home. This moment is possible because of you.

thank you

During this year's Mission Doctors 'Heart for the World' Gala, you raised over \$150,000! When Elise told me the total, I was blown away!

Blown away by your response, your generosity and your belief in this mission. A belief that I deeply share.

Your support of this gala is vital to continue our Mission of Healing. Because of your support, we are ready to welcome two more doctors to our long-term (3 year) mission program. Your support also allows us to continue recruiting more doctors to serve and support Mission Doctors like Dr. Lou Coda in their service around the world. **As Elise always says, we can continue to say "yes!" to the Bishops, Sisters and Hospital Administrators that rely on Mission Doctors.**

On behalf of all of us at Mission Doctors, thank you!

Thomas J. Liataud

Tom Liataud
President, Mission Doctors Board of Directors



We were honored to have a special recorded message from Archbishop José Gómez thanking you, who make the work of Mission Doctors possible.

Prayer Cards

It is your support of Mission Doctors that provides compassionate care during challenging times for our brothers and sisters around the world.

If you would like to receive a prayer card for one or more of our doctors, please contact our office.

Know that your prayers for our doctors serving and patients they treat mean so much.



DOCTORS *on call* FOR DOCTORS *in the field*

With Doctors returning to the field both long-term and short-term, we want to put out the call again for our Doctors on Call for Doctors in the Field!

Often times while serving, our Mission Doctors run into a case where having specialist's opinion would be very helpful. For a family practice physician providing care for a young patient with a rare skin condition, an e-mail from a dermatologist made all the difference.

We are continuing to gather a cadre of physicians in various specialties willing to act as consultants to physicians on mission via e-mail, telephone or video conference. The time commitment will be based upon your availability, the amount of time you may have available, and the requests from the doctors serving. If you are interested in serving in this important way from home, sign up to receive questions from our dedicate short and long-term mission doctors.

Your expertise can save a life and provide support to Mission Doctors in the field.

Contact Elise Frederick, efrederick@missiondoctors.org, to be part of this team of home physicians.

Upcoming Events

April 22-24, 2022: Discernment Weekend

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.

September 17, 2022: Fall 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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