



*You Deliver  
Hope in Cameroon*



# *Healing and Hope*

## MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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THANK  
YOU!

Patients in rural Njinicom, Cameroon are no longer waiting.

Today, patients like this mother of twins receive quality health care from dedicated Mission Doctors. When Lawretta arrived at St. Martin de Porres Hospital, Mission Doctor Jennifer Thoene was there to care for her and her little ones.

For the thousands of people living in North East Cameroon, this hospital is a beacon of health and hope.

Mission Doctors, Jennifer Thoene, Brent Burket, and Martha Franz provide life-saving medical care to a community in great need.

In Cameroon, the doctor to patient ratio is 1:12,500, while in the US it is 1:400. Less than half of the population has access to clean, safe drinking water and the infant

mortality rate is over six percent. An estimated seventeen percent of individuals are HIV/AIDS positive.

In the face of these statistics, you provide hope. Because of your continued support, Mission Doctors are there today to meet these needs. To treat the grandmother with hypertension, the child with diarrhea, the teenager with parasites and the father with AIDS.

You make their faith-filled dedicated service possible every day.

On behalf of Jennifer, Brent and Martha and the hundreds of patients they serve everyday, thank you.

If you would like to follow the service of Brent and Jennifer and their young family and Martha, you will find a link to their blogs on our website.

## You are our Partner in this Mission of Mercy

Those of you who have been receiving newsletters from Mission Doctors for years, are accustomed to getting a longer newsletter once a year in July. Well, we have decided keep you in the loop more often, and we want to highlight how much your generosity changes lives. You are part of the community that is supporting the mission doctors who are saving lives in Africa and Latin America.

### Year of Mercy



The symbol for the Year of Mercy is the Good Samaritan – the one who offers care for a man found in the road, and then ensures that care can continue to be provided.

Pope Francis invites us to the:  
“...experience of opening our hearts to

those living on the outermost fringes of society....”  
“...Reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty.”  
“...rediscover these corporal works of mercy.”

As a partner with Mission Doctors, YOU are making a difference for so many – making it possible for our doctors to be at the bedside of a patient today, your support ensure that care can be provided. We thank you, who have long been our partners, and those new to this work. Please share with others this unique mission of healing and partnership of hope that YOU are a part of today.

  
Elise Frederick  
Executive Director

## The Eight Steps to Short-Term Service with Mission Doctors

Hospital and Clinics in Ecuador, Peru, Cameroon, Papua New Guinea and Uganda are waiting for a doctor. If you are a doctor, please consider following these eight steps to service. You can be an answer to a prayer for thousands of patients in need.

Not a doctor? Please share this newsletter and pray for more Mission Doctors to step forward and serve. Thank you.

- 1 Pray.**  
Discern your call to serving as a Mission Doctor.
- 2 Become Informed.**  
Review our service options and locations on the website. Read the blogs written by Mission Doctors.
- 3 Complete an application form.**  
We know the form is long, but you will only have to fill it out once and it provides us with all of the information we need to help you match your skills with the many requests we receive.
- 4 Attend our Retreat/Seminar.**  
Spend the weekend with us at Loyola Marymount University and hear from doctors who have the experience of serving in mission and consider the spiritual and practical issues of service. March 4-6, 2016.
- 5 Prepare to Serve.**  
Work with the office to identify a location that fits you and your availability. Together, we will make all of the necessary confirmations.
- 6 Tell your parish and community about your service.**  
Share your mission and ask them to pray for you and the patients you will care for.
- 7 Serve at a Catholic Mission hospital or clinic with a long term Mission Doctor.**  
Hit the ground running by working along side a long-term Mission Doctor or at a site ready to receive you.
- 8 Tell us about your mission and share your story.**  
Let us know about your experience. Consider writing a letter from the missions of your own for our website. Join us the following year at the Retreat/Seminar to share your story.

## You are Saving Lives in Peru

### Mission Doctors save little Miguel's life twice.

Belina woke up with a terrible headache. She had headaches in the past, but this one she knew could be dangerous. Belina was 33 weeks pregnant with her first baby and trusting her instincts, she traveled 4 hours up river to Centro de Salud Santa Clotilde.

There she was met by Mission Doctors Brian Medernach and Antoinette Lullo, who assessed her condition and knew it was more than a mere headache. Her blood pressure was dangerously high, putting her at risk for a stroke and putting her unborn son in danger. He needed to be born quickly to save his mother's life. Brian and Antoinette knew that in this case, without a ventilator, a cesarean section in Santa Clotilde would be dangerous for a baby so young. They made the decision to transfer Belina to Iquitos for delivery.

Initially, both Mother and baby Miguel did well. The transfer saved their lives, but after over two weeks in the hospital, Miguel had not gained a single ounce. Little Miguel's life was at risk again. Brian and Antoinette requested that they return to Santa Clotilde for support.

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*Antoinette and Brian, and our short term Mission Doctors, save lives everyday at Santa Clotilde. But they could not do it without you. You provide the continuing support which allow these doctors to save lives. You are truly our partner in this mission of hope.*

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With the diligent efforts of Mission Doctors Brian and Antoinette and the staff at Santa Clotilde, Miguel gained weight everyday. They fed Miguel Belina's expressed milk through a nasogastric tube and monitored his weight and development closely, saving his life again.

After two weeks, Miguel was stronger and mature enough to nurses on his own. Since his rocky start, Miguel's mom has brought him in for weight and well-child checks. He is now cubby, happy and thriving. The family is ever grateful for their healthy baby boy!

Miguel and Belina's story is just one of thousands of patients cared for by Mission Doctors at Santa Clotilde. Antoinette and Brian, and our short-term Mission Doctors, save lives everyday.

**But they could not do it without you.** You provide the continuing support which allow these doctors to save lives. You are truly our partner in this mission of hope.

*Mission Doctors Antoinette Lullo and Brian Medernach and their growing young family have now served two years at Santa Clotilde Mission, a location reachable only by a journey that includes 5 - 7 hours on the Amazon and Napo River. They deliver babies, treat injuries and illnesses, and reach out to the many outstations that are a part of their work, which extends to over 20,000 people up and down the Napo River.*



Little Miguel upon return to Santa Clotilde



Mission Doctor Brian Medernach with a healthy Miguel



We are trying to work ourselves out of a job.

Your continued generosity not only provides quality patient care through the efforts of Mission Doctors like Dr. Martha Franz, but the support and training of local health care professionals.

Our goal is sustainable healthcare around the world.

Thank you for being our partner in this mission of healing, hope and sustainability.



## Upcoming Events

**March 4-6, 2016: Retreat/Seminar** Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend the annual Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University. Contact our office for more details.

**March 6, 2016: 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.



### MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1940

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Phone: (213) 368-1872

[info@MissionDoctors.org](mailto:info@MissionDoctors.org)

[www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org)

