

*You Deliver
Hope in Cameroon*



Healing and Hope MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

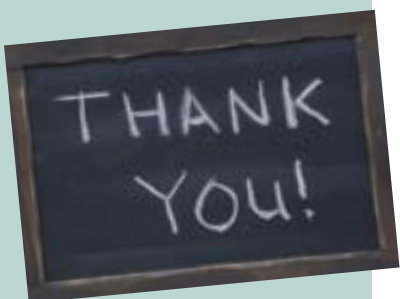
Inside

**You are our Partner in
this Year of Mercy**

**The Eight Steps to
Short-Term Service**

**Miguel's Life is Saved
Twice**

**Together we are working
Ourselves Out a Job**



“There are few events in life that have such a profound effect that it changes you...marriage, birth of a child, death of a loved one. Working in the mission field is one of those events. You will never be the same...but after the experience would you ever want to be...”

This is how, long-time, Mission Doctors Jennifer Thoene and Brent Burket responded when we asked; what would you say to a doctor considering serving with MDA?

Jennifer, Brent and their four children; Christopher, Elizabeth, Julianne and Nicolas will be leaving a simple life of service in rural Cameroon to return to bustling Los Angeles, California. This, however, was not Brent and Jennifer's first mission trip with Mission Doctors.

Before starting a family, these doctors served long-term, three years in Ghana. They set out again six years ago to serve long-term in Guatemala, followed immediately by the three-year mission in Cameroon. We sat down with this beautiful family and asked them some questions. We want to share their answers with you.

We started by asking them about the joys and challenges of service. This young family shared that it was difficult being away from their families, communication was difficult because of language and cultural barriers and the unfortunate lack of resources in the hospital (eg. water, electricity, lifesaving treatments) and facing the suffering of the local people. Brent and Jennifer commented that even faced with these challenges, they still feel God has called them to be there. “The mission field is where we feel that we are able to most fully live out the gospel and

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.

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.

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

www.MissionDoctors.org

