

Darkness can only be scattered by light,
hatred can only be conquered by love.

Pope John Paul II



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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It is not news to anyone that the past year has been filled with challenges, and as the sun rose on 2021, it began with hope, yet recent events are leaving many anxious.

Many have been impacted by painful losses, illness, as well as job and income losses, either their own or loved ones who they have now reached out to help.

Yet, YOU made sure that MDA would get to the end of 2020 still here, still ready to respond to the requests in 2021 and beyond.

While there are still many unknowns, we do know that Catholic Mission Doctors are needed and wanted at Mission Hospitals and clinics. We know that the needs that Bishops and Religious Sisters share with us are about more than the direct medical care and training our doctors provide. It is about hope, and witness.

In a year that it was expected that 1 in 3 non-profits would not make it till the

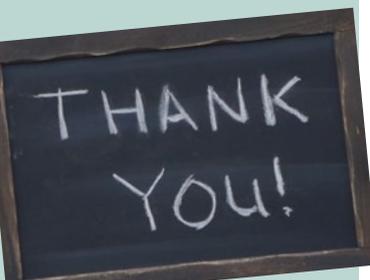
end of the year, many donors increased their giving, others began giving monthly, and still others made a planned gift.

As we pivoted to support our mission partners, YOU were right there, helping us say 'Yes!' Yes we can help with funding for PPE, equipment, and even hospital staff salaries.

As we look to the future, and vaccines become more available, we have doctors ready, willing and able to get their visas and go. Yet, without you and your support, we would not be here to say yes. So MDA is your story. **Your support in this past year could not have been appreciated more. We pray that 2021 will be a year of good health,** a return to a time we can be together with our loved ones, and more Mission Doctors will again join the ranks of the selfless ones who serve.

God bless you and your loved ones.

Elise Frederick, Executive Director



January 2021

Share a Prayer Request

Visit www.MissionDoctors.org/prayer to submit a prayer for your loved ones and our sisters and brothers around the world.

Your petition will be delivered to the altar at our Mission House and will be prayed for by our Mission Doctors, Staff and Board of Directors.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Philippians 4:6

For Generations to Come

“I want my money to go to a cause that I know will help people, to have a better life, long after I’m not around.”

This is what Lee Ann Ellingson said when we asked her why she made a planned gift to Mission Doctors.

A planned gift is any gift, often to be made after passing, as part of a donor’s overall financial and/or estate planning. Most commonly, these include gifts of a specific dollar amount or percentage of remaining estate. Other options include life insurance, real estate, personal property, or a retirement 401K.

And, this is what we hear from many of our legacy donors - *they want their last gift to help provide health for generations to come.*

Lee Ann first heard about Mission Doctors from Elise Frederick, MDA’s Executive Director. Ms. Ellingson shared “I have been friends with Elise since 4th grade. We were childhood friends.”

She also shared what she wished more people knew. “MDA is a wonderful organization and you feel good that you are doing something good in the world for so many people.”

To encourage others to join her, Lee Ann told us that **“It was very easy to make a planned gift. When I made my living trust out, I specifically asked it to go to Mission Doctors and that’s all it takes.”**

We want to share our deep gratitude with Lee Ann, and other members of our Legacy Society who have made a planned gift to Mission Doctors. Planned gifts made to MDA will keep providing healthcare for generations to come. Mission Doctors not only provide patient care, but train local professionals, increasing the quality of care wherever they are serving.

Would you like more information on planned giving? Give Elise a call at 213-368-1875, or email at efrederick@missiondoctors.org.

And if you have made a planned gift to Mission Doctors, Thank you! Please let us acknowledge you as a member of our Legacy Society, and ensure that you have added our updated address on your documents; 6102 South Victoria Avenue, Los Angeles 90043



*Ms. Lee Ann Ellingson
with her cat Dosie*

Just Being Part of the Team

Humble would be an understatement.

Last month we had the opportunity to sit down and speak with the very humble, funny, self-effacing Dr. Peter Meade via Zoom about his upcoming Mission.

While we were online, **Dr. Meade had to step away to take a call in which he agreed to drive the 5 hours from Stockton to relieve the overworked staff at USC Medical Center in Los Angeles for a couple shifts over the holidays. So yes, that's Peter.**

Peter attended a long-term formation program with Dr. Exner and Dr. Wick and their families in 1987. **Peter has served short-term missions with Mission Doctors Association, and as a trauma surgeon, has served in 18 countries with 15 different organizations.** Elise Frederick, Executive Director said "I remember when Peter arrived at my 1986 after driving across country. I also remember the times has served with MDA, when people never wanted him to return home!" And while long-term was not possible at that time, Peter told us now he is "making the most of what he has left."

Now he is getting ready to serve longer term beginning in February in collaboration with Pan African College of Christian Surgeons and Samaritan's Purse in Kenya and Papua New Guinea. Dr. Meade will be providing life-saving medical care and training for local surgeons and staff.

"the donors are the mortar and the bricks and doctors like me, just walk into the building." He continued saying that "some people do the accounting, some people donate, but we are all part of the bucket brigade - all doing the work together."

Like many Mission Doctors, Dr. Meade knew he wanted to be a Mission Doctor in medical school, where he was part of a program in Guadalajara, Mexico that cared for the poor in small villages around the city. **Peter said that "this was the first time I saw real poverty" and he realized that if he wanted to do the most good, he needed to go where the need is the greatest. And, today is he packing up to continue doing just that.**

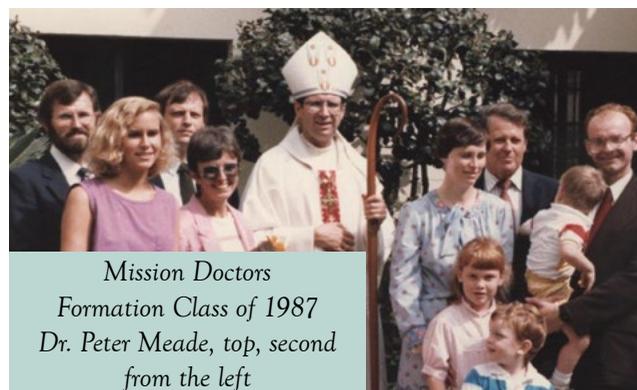
Before ending our conversation, Dr. Meade wanted to share his thanks with you, the supporters of Mission Doctors Association. He started by saying "the donors are the mortar and the bricks and doctors like me, just walk into the building." He continued saying that "some people do the accounting, some people donate, but we are all part of the bucket brigade - all doing the work together."

Peter said he is looking forward to just being there, being of help. He is hoping to "lighten someone's load," he said "that would be enough."

Thank you for your support of Mission Doctors Association and humble doctors like Peter Meade. Please join us in praying for Peter's mission as we work together as part of the bucket brigade!



Dr. Peter Meade,
in his backyard last year



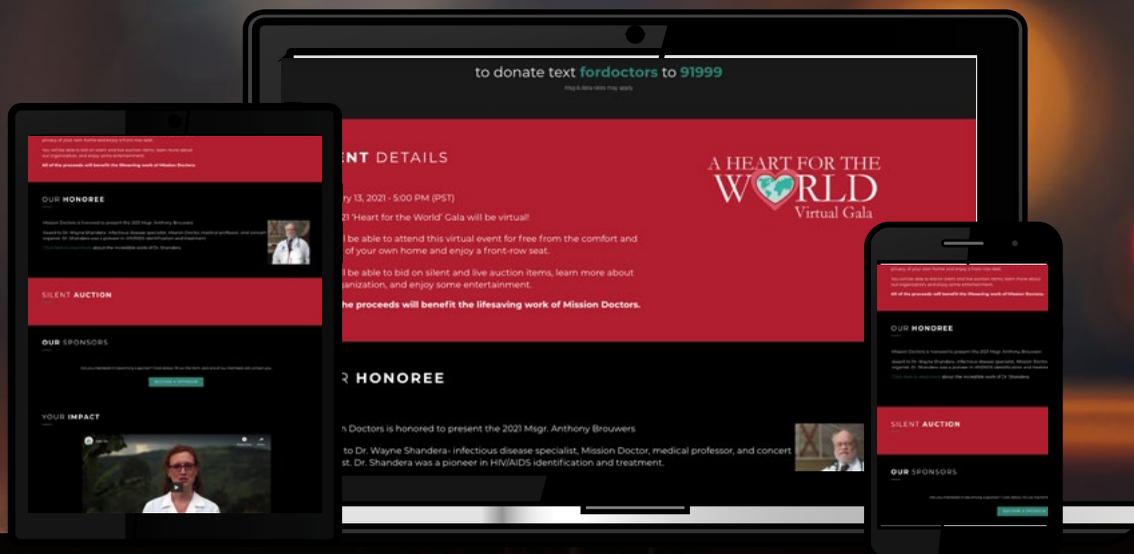
Mission Doctors
Formation Class of 1987
Dr. Peter Meade, top, second
from the left

'HEART FOR THE WORLD' VIRTUAL GALA

be inspired • save lives • support sustainable healthcare

FEBRUARY 13, 2021
5PM PT/8PM ET

Join us from the
comfort of home
and support the
life-saving work of
Mission Doctors!



www.MissionDoctors.org/Gala to register for free and learn more

Upcoming Events

March 27, 2021: Introductory Webinar

Join us for an hour-long online seminar to introduce you to the life-saving work of Mission Doctors and learn about our service programs. Executive Director, Elise Frederick, will be hosting the event and sharing the history of the organization and locations available to serve. Veteran Mission Doctors will also share their experience and answer questions. Visit our website for more information.

February 26-28 and 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 meet with the formation team, learn about current service sites, and discuss the joys and challenges of mission life. Contact our office for more information.



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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