

YOU bring sight and hope to Ecuador



Healing and Hope MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Inside

You Are Building
Sustainable Healthcare

Heart for the World

An Organist and a
Mission Doctor

Thank you for
60 years

July 2019

I can see!

Three words, ophthalmologist and Veteran Mission Doctor, James Guzek has heard many times before, both in his practice in Washington State and in his mission work. This time, he knew Aleck's* story of healing would stay with him.

Aleck was just one of more than 100 surgeries Dr. Guzek and team performed during this short-term mission in Ecuador with MDA. James worked with Mission Doctor, Albert Exner, a local ophthalmologist and others who traveled with him from the US, including his wife Roberta.

Aleck came to the hospital on crutches,

only able to get around with the assistance of his wife. He could only move one step at a time. His vision loss made it impossible for him to navigate his crutches on his own. After a brief assessment, Dr. Guzek and team learned that Aleck had cataract surgery 10 years earlier, but it had not gone well. For ten years, Aleck was completely dependent upon on his wife.

Many people in United States think that cataracts only affect older people, but it can be a very debilitating problem for children too. Cataracts can be present at birth, or may develop as a result of an eye injury.
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Extraordinary Missionary Month

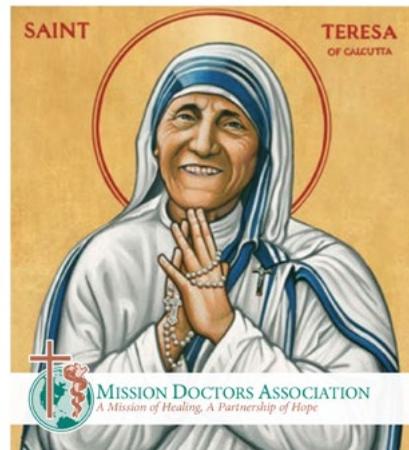
2019 is a big year for MDA and you; our partner in this Mission of Hope. This is the 60th Anniversary of Mission Doctors Association, and in addition, **Pope Francis has recognized October of 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month**. This special month is being set aside to recognize, celebrate, and promote the work we do together.

The theme for this special month is **“Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”**. Pope Francis shared the four dimensions we are called to live more fully;

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;
4. Missionary charity.

We wanted to share with you our Missionary Saints ebook. Visit our website www.missiondoctors.org/ebooks/ and download this wonderful guide for October and throughout the year.

Praying with Missionary Saints



We Want to Make a Difference

Barbara Primeau and her husband John have long been involved in philanthropy. Together, with their daughter Karen, they run the North American Catholic Educational Programming Foundation, Inc., a Rhode Island based nonprofit organization and the second largest

Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licensee in the United States.

They are part of our ‘Vital Corps’ of monthly donors, having been introduced to the work of MDA by Mother Antonia Brenner.

Barbara has late stage ovarian cancer that was diagnosed in 2015 and said “Please share that too, I can always use the prayers!”. To say that Barbara is a woman of strong faith would be a great understatement. Several months before her diagnosis, Barbara asked her family to dedicate themselves to St. Jude. She said at that time she believed something would come that would need the special intercession of the Saint who is the patron of hopeless cases. Today, and every day, hope is a strong base

upon which she stands as a faithful witness to God’s love. We asked her a few questions and want to share her answers with you.

What do you wish others knew about Mission Doctors?

“That you exist! And without Mother Antonia letting me in on this “big secret,” we would not have known either – when Elise told me about the sacrifices made by the doctors and their families, I was in awe!”

What do you hope for the future of Mission Doctors?

“That more will be willing to make a sacrifice and do this work that so many lives depend on, and that more people will join in supporting this work.”

Before we wrapped up our interview, she shared “In our family, we know we have been so blessed and that it is a privilege to be able to help others – we want to make a difference.”

As part of our Vital Corp, they are making a big difference!

Unfortunately, nearly 20 million people around the world are blind because of cataracts alone. The day after cataract surgery, he walked, using his crutches, without help. Aleck regained his independence and his smile. Dr. Guzek shared “He was so happy. And so were we.”

This was not Dr. Guzek’s first mission with MDA. In 1998, James and his family served for over three years at Margaret Marquart Catholic Hospital in Ghana, West Africa. Not only did he perform countless surgeries, but he had gathered over \$100,000 worth of donated equipment and supplies to open the eye clinic.

The day after cataract surgery, he walked, using crutches, without help. Aleck gained his independence and his smile back. Dr. Guzek shared “He was so happy. And so were we.”

Within three months, the clinic in the Diocese of HO, was open and serving patients. Exams, diagnosis and surgeries began in full. And amazingly, within only six months, the hospital had been approved as a teaching facility by the West African College of Surgeons.

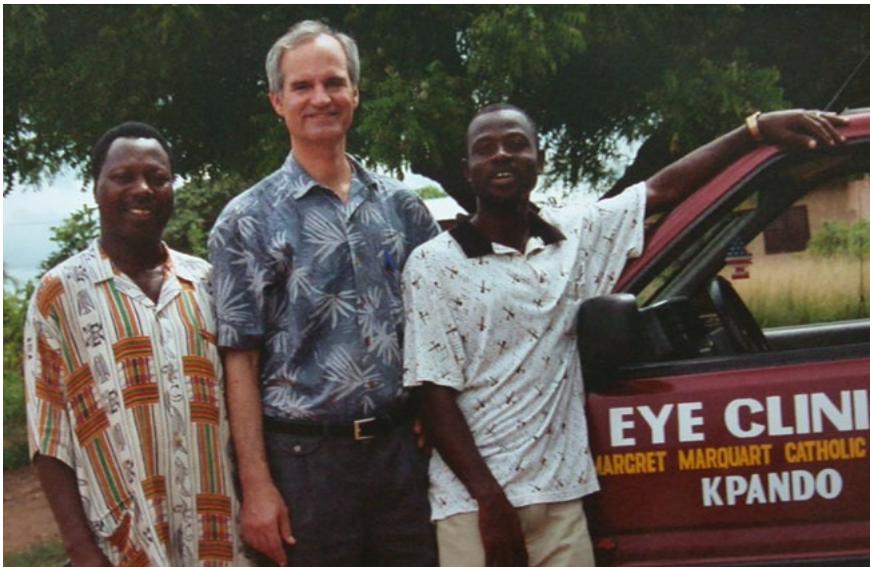
During their long-term service, Dr. and Mrs. Guzek were able to train dozens of

ophthalmologists and eye nurses. This eye clinic continues to operate, over 20 years since the Guzeks left!

This sustainability, this joy, this healing is all possible because of you. Your support of Mission Doctors allows us to recruit more doctors to serve, support doctors serving and maintain our vital partnerships around the world. With your help, we can continue our mission of bringing health to a world in need.

On behalf of Aleck, Dr. Guzek and team, thank you.

*name changed to protect the patient’s privacy.



The Eye Clinic at Margaret Marquart Catholic Hospital is continuing to operate over 20 years after Dr. Jim Guzek left. Your support makes the service of Dr. Guzek and other Mission Doctors possible.



Mission Doctor Jim Guzek evaluating a patient before cataract surgery.



Sight saving eye surgery performed by Mission Doctor Jim Guzek in Ghana.

we couldn't do it without you!

in **2018**

YOU brought Mercy
brought Healing
brought Hope

35,000

over 35,000 patients
served one patient at a time

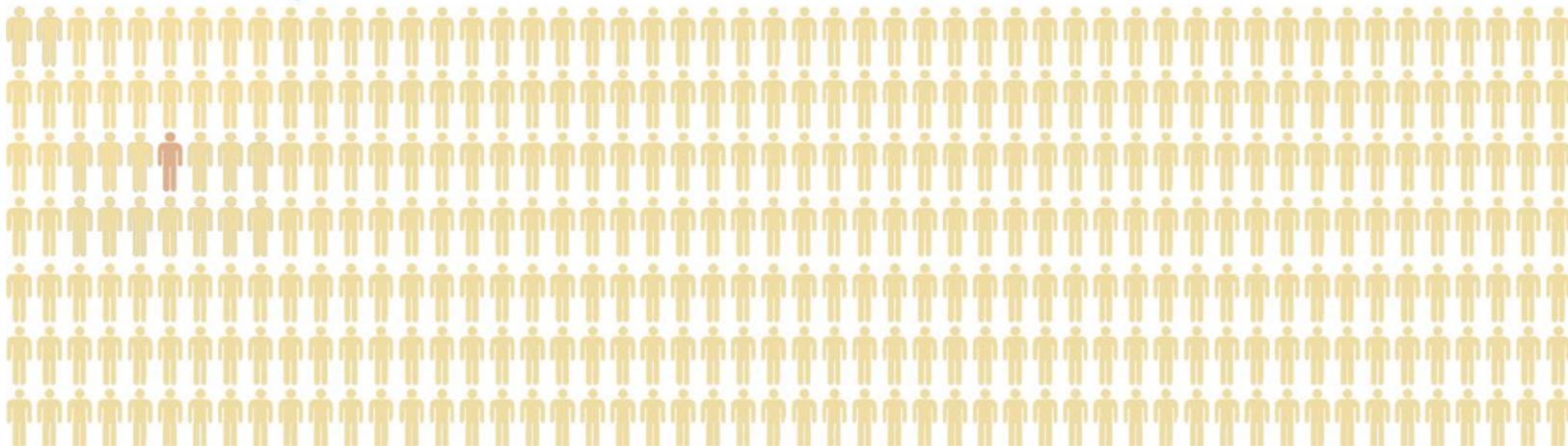


trained medical
professionals in
eleven Hospitals
and Clinics

11

Mission Doctors donated over 5,800 hours

5,800



Upcoming Events

September 13-15, 2019: Fall Retreat/Seminar

Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend a Retreat/Seminar at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. Take the time to reflect on God's call to 'heal the sick' and discuss the practical issues of mission service. Information on CME opportunity on our web site.

October 27, 2019: Annual Mass for Healthcare Professionals

In recognition of the dedicated work of Catholic Health Care Professionals, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Mission Doctors Association invites all Catholic medical professionals to the celebration of a Annual Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Visit www.CatholicWM.org for more details.

Mark your calendars!

February 29, 2020: 'Heart for the World' Gala



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1940
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: (213) 368-1872
info@MissionDoctors.org
www.MissionDoctors.org