



# Be not afraid



## Healing and Hope

### MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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Special Novena to St. Therese

Join us Online

August 2020

The most commonly repeated phrase in the whole Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, is “Have no fear!” or “Do not be afraid!” or “Be not afraid!” God tells us that we need not be afraid, God loves us and cares for us; God is with us and protects us, even in times of suffering or hardship. God’s faithful love extends even beyond the limits of our lives.

These are times that it is easy to feel anxiety as we do not know what the future holds. But our faith leads us to know that **we are not alone, and we need not fear** as we are called to care for our sisters and brothers everywhere!

And you have done just that – **you have helped meet this critical moment.** Bishop Emmanuel Kofi Fianu of Ho, Ghana, shares his thanks and blessings with you.

*“The PPEs are quite expensive now because of the high demand. The hospitals have to finance them themselves since they cannot charge*

*them to patients.*

***This is why we are very grateful that MDA is coming to our help with funds to purchase some of the PPE. May God bless you for helping us help humanity in this time of crisis.”***

In Ghana, Tanzania, and Peru, you are saving lives. You are protecting the medical staff on the frontlines and preventing an even greater spread of the coronavirus around the world.

**And long before the coronavirus became a global health crisis, you were there for our sisters and brothers around the world.** Like you, we are looking to the future with hope and faith. Because of your support when this crisis is over, Mission Doctors will be ready to return to mission. Doctors are ready to join the long-term formation program and more are ready to serve short-term. Know that **you are a blessing to so many now and in the future.**

# Heroes at

Your generosity is helping us meet this moment.

You are truly a hero. At a time when many people may be experiencing circumstances that force them to cut back on their giving, **your support means more now than ever.**

I asked friends of MDA if I could share their reasons for giving – and **I would love to hear yours too!**

One VitalCorps member (a monthly donor), Michael from Connecticut, called our office and asked me to return his call. I admit, I had assumed that he was going to let us know he needed to pause his gift of \$20 a month. But when we did connect, **between his rides as an Uber driver, he did not want to pause his gift, but increase it to \$25 a month.** Michael told me *“I decided to increase my monthly giving because I realized with more clarity the great work Mission Doctors Association does. MDA serves Christ in a very tangible way. St. Teresa of Avila said “Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.” I see Mission Doctors Association as being the hands and feet with which St. Teresa speaks of. It is an honor to support an organization which brings Christ’s compassion to those in the most need.”*

**I am humbled by Michael’s generosity.**

**“I see Mission Doctors Association as being the hands and feet with which St. Teresa speaks of. It is an honor to support an organization which brings Christ’s compassion to those in the most need.”**

A very close friend of Mission Doctors, Marilyn Funari, who’s Family Foundation has made an annual Trailblazer Gift for our matching fund, sent in a loving note saying *“We recognize that these challenging times have placed a particularly heavy burden on your organization. In an effort to bridge the transition to recovery from COVID 19 and it’s many ramifications, we are increasing our donation for this year... I hope in a small way it helps! It is always a pleasure to donate to MDA, an organization that through its faith, dedication, and passion, provides excellent medical care and hope to so many.”*

**I told Marilyn her note made me cry.**

Another donor, a veteran Mission Doctor who is also a VitalCorps member, and long-time friend – I asked if he would consider increasing his monthly donation at this time. Peter’s reply “of course and I will also send a gift today.” He added *“My job, my position, everything I have comes as a gift from God. Since it’s God’s money, I am just returning back to Him. And when I cross over for my judgment, what will God say? What did I do for Him? And for His people?”*

**My friend, who has lived his life for others, I believe has little to fear.**

**Because of you, and all our donors, we are able to support our Mission Partners, and continue recruiting doctors to serve once the airports are open. We have also been able to host virtual events for doctors interested in serving.**

Please know how grateful we are for your partnership in this mission of hope.

  
Elise Federman  
Executive Director

# Home

Since our Mission Doctors have returned home, many have been on the frontlines caring for patients in need. We wanted to share their stories and words of thanks with you.

**Dr. Mark Druffner** is a Family Medicine Physician with Hudson Physicians in Hudson, Wisconsin. He also stays in contact with the Hospital in Tanzania and wrote *“They are gathering as much PPE as well as encouraging handwashing and social distancing. Unfortunately, there’s no reliable Covid testing right now in our area... At St. Luke’s, there is only two oxygen machines for the hospital and so this has been a struggle. There is no ventilator yet. We are raising money for this purpose. We thank God for all the generous donors that support our work in Tanzania.”*



**Dr. Lou and Mrs. Marta Coda** left Uganda just as the airport in Entebbe was closing. Dr. Coda is an Internist and Palliative Care Specialist working at Wellspan Palliative Supportive Care in Chambersburg, PA. Lou shared *“Mine is to try and listen to Christ’s calling, whether that is on the ward at St. Francis Hospital Mutolere in Uganda or on the palliative care service at Waynesboro Hospital in Pennsylvania. I only ask my small story be a part of God’s big story.”*



**“Mine is to try and listen to Christ’s calling...  
I only ask my small story be a part of God’s big story.”**

**Dr. Brian Medernach** is an Internal Medicine and Pediatric Specialist at Loyola University Medical Center in Homer Glen, IL. Brian’s wife **Dr. Antoinette Lullo**, who had just returned from her annual trip to Santa Clotilde in the Amazon region of Peru, practices Family Medicine with Hinsdale Family Medicine. Both remain in contact with Santa Clotilde and are assisting MDA with the delivery of Coronavirus Emergency Funds. We heard from Brian *“Though we are worlds apart when it comes to distance and access to resources, we remain one, in solidarity, with our brothers and sisters, striving to continue to extend the healing ministry of Christ in our daily lives with patients, colleagues, friends, and family.”*



Many other Mission Doctors continue to provide care in their community and we ask for your prayers for their well-being and for the many patients they care for each day. **Your support of Mission Doctors today will allow us to be there for these healthcare heroes when they can return to mission, caring for our brothers and sisters in need around the world.**



# TOGETHER WE PRAY

A Novena to St. Therese, patron Saint of Mission, during this time of need. You are invited to start this nine days of prayer at any time for everyone impacted by the Coronavirus.

We pray

For those who are experiencing loneliness, fear, and anxiety.

For the patients and for family and friends.

For those mourning the loss of a loved one.

For all the compassionate hearts caring for sick.

For all our Mission Partners around the world.



That through the intercession of the Little Flower, the lonely and anxious will have their hearts lightened; the sick will be healed, the mourning comforted, those providing care strengthened in faith that God may bless the work of their hands.

[www.MissionDoctors.org/Novena](http://www.MissionDoctors.org/Novena) to join us.

## Upcoming Events

### September 19, 2020: 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, once the travel bans have lifted. Veteran Mission Doctors will also share their experience and answer questions. Visit [www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org) for more information and to register for the webinar.

### October 25, 2020:

#### Annual Mass for Health Care Professionals

2020 will be a Virtual Mass. This year it is especially important to recognize the dedicated work of all Catholic Health Care Professionals. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Mission Doctors Association invites all Catholic medical professionals to join the celebration online. Visit [www.CatholicWM.org](http://www.CatholicWM.org) 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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*we've moved*

We have moved our offices to our Mission House where our doctors live and study before serving. This will allow us to focus on our mission and continue to be good stewards of our resources.