

9 years, 3 countries, 1000s of patients  
all because of YOU



# Healing and Hope

## MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

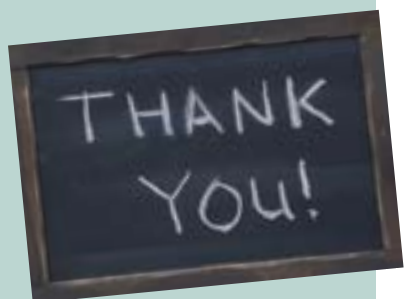
### Inside

Do you know the 2016  
Catholic Doctor of the  
Year?

Without Your Wallet

All Because of You

Look what YOU did in  
2015!



“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 Nicholas 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 at Margaret Marquart Hospital in Ghana. They set out

again six years ago to serve three years in Guatemala, followed immediately by another three-year mission in Cameroon. **We asked this beautiful family to reflect on their service and we want to share their answers with you.**

The first thing we asked was what were the joys and challenges of mission service. The family shared that they treasured the relationships with patients, friends and colleagues and the feeling of being needed and wanted in their work. Jennifer and Brent both said that it was difficult being away from their families and that communication was problematic because of language and cultural barriers. In their service, the unfortunate lack of resources at the hospital (eg. water, electricity, lifesaving treatments) and the daily suffering of the local people were challenging. They both shared that even faced with these (continued page 3)

## Nominations are now being accepted

*Do you know the next Catholic Doctor of the Year?*

MDA is now accepting nominations for the 2016 National Catholic Doctor of the Year Award. The award recipient will be honored at the annual Archdiocese of Los Angeles White Mass for health care professionals on October 23, 2016. This is an opportunity for patients, colleagues, friends and family members to recognize an outstanding Catholic doctor.

**As part of the community of Mission Doctors, you stand with us as we recognize the outstanding qualities of a Catholic Doctor, a doctor whose faith is woven seamlessly into their healing profession. Thank you for being our partner in this mission of healing and hope.**



*Presentation of the 2015 Catholic Doctor of the Year Award*

To submit the name of a qualified doctor(s) fill out an application form on the Mission Doctors' website or download and complete an application and send it to MDA. All forms are due by July 15th, by mail, email or fax.

## Four Things you can do for Mission Doctors without Opening your Wallet



### Pray

Please remember Mission Doctors and their families in your prayers. The daily work of Mission Doctors, caring for patients in resource poor settings is difficult. For the doctors, knowing you are keeping them in your prayers truly lightens their work. We invite you to visit our website to sign a prayer card.

### Join our Online Community

Join people from across the country and around the world staying connected with MDA online. Visit our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. Social media is the best way to keep up-to-date on the work of Mission Doctors and see how your support is making a difference.

[Facebook.com/MissionDoctors](https://www.facebook.com/MissionDoctors) [Twitter.com/MissionDoctors](https://twitter.com/MissionDoctors) [Instagram.com/MissionDoctors](https://www.instagram.com/MissionDoctors)



### Spread the Word

Many of our Mission Doctors tell us they have heard about the organization through a friend or colleague. Please share a newsletter, prayer card, flyer or email with friends and family, at your parish or with Catholic doctors you may know. If you need additional material, please call Laurie at our office (213) 368-1872.

### Friends of Mission Doctors

The Mission Doctors Auxiliary and the Friends of Mission Doctors are involved as they plan and host events to raise awareness, and funds for mission doctors serving around the world. If a group does not exist in your area, and you are interested in starting one, please contact our office for a leadership packet.

Each group establishes their own organizational structure and membership is open to everyone. We currently have groups in Southern California, one in the greater Los Angeles area, Santa Barbara and one in the Midwest. If you are interested in joining one of these existing groups, contact the MDA office.





## 9 years, 3 countries, 1000s of patients...all because of YOU.

(continued from page 1)

difficulties, **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 Jesus’s calling to “come and follow me.”**

The rewards, instead of the challenges of serving seem to be at the forefront of their minds. “Our family growth, witnessing the faith of the people we serve, growth in our own faith, the feeling of being needed in our work and the relationships with patients, friends and colleagues.” Despite leaving these all behind, the Burket Thoene family is looking forward to ice cream, cheese and of course being close to their their own families in the United States.

**We asked Jennifer and Brent if there were any patients whose stories stood out during their more than nine years of service with Mission Doctors Association. They said there are many, but a recent one was a young girl, Anunciata.** Anunciata is a little girl they began treating when they had been in Cameroon less than a year. When Anunciata first came to St. Martin de Porres Hospital, she was a young AIDS patient failing treatment with a difficult home life. At one point, she was so weak and malnourished that they placed a feeding tube for nutrition and medications. After two years of dedicated treatment by Jennifer and Brent and care by the Franciscan Sisters, Anunciata is graduating from primary school and will be able to return to her family.

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*And, what did this humble family want to say to you, the supporters that make their service possible? “Thank you! Your prayers and financial support allowed us to serve so many and to continue our faith journey.”*

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**The Burket Thoene children also shared with us a couple things they will remember from their time in mission.** Christopher will fondly remember hiking and swimming in Cameroon. Elizabeth will remember homeschooling in Cameroon and knocking over the Christmas tree in Guatemala. Julianne told us she would miss all of the singing and dancing and the Youth Day celebration in Cameroon. And, the youngest, Nicholas said the water park in Guatemala was awesome.

And, what did this humble family want to say to you, the supporters that make their service possible? “Thank you! Your prayers and financial support allowed us to serve so many and to continue our faith journey.”

Brent and Jennifer said that they are not ending their missionary service with Mission Doctors. They hope to serve again in the future, once their children are older and their families at home can share them again with the world.

**Without your support, their more than nine years of service, the thousands of patients they cared for and the training they provided for many health care professionals would not be possible. You have made all of this possible. Thank you for your continued support of the lifesaving work of Mission Doctors.**



Dr. Jennifer Thoene caring for a child in Ghana



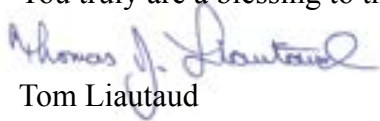
Dr. Brent Burket treating a patient in Guatemala



Dr. Jennifer Thoene caring for a baby in Cameroon

# A Message for YOU from the President of MDA

I am always inspired by the generosity of you, our donors.  
I want you to know that your support makes a difference in the world.  
You are sending compassionate doctors to provide quality health care to Christ's poor.  
You truly are a blessing to the world.



Tom Liataud  
President, Mission Doctors Association



Tom Liataud  
MDA Board President

we couldn't do it without you!

in **2015**

**YOU** brought Mercy  
brought Healing  
brought Hope



medical  
professionals  
trained in  
twelve Hospitals  
and Clinics

**12**

Mission Doctors donated over 14,000 hours

**14,000**



**63,000**

over 63,000 patients  
served in 2015

## Upcoming Events

### June 3-5 and September 9-11, 2016: 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 and learn about current service sites and discuss the joys and challenges of mission life. Contact our office for more information.

### September 23-25, 2016: Midwest Retreat/Seminar

Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend a Retreat/Seminar at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Take the time to reflect on God's call to 'heal the sick', and discuss the practical issues of medical license, work permits, visas, and international health insurance. Visit the MDA website for more information.



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