



# Healing and Hope

## MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION



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For seven hours, young mother **Anna** traveled down river with her **4 month old**. Her baby was born with a complete bilateral cleft lip and palate, and hard nasal mass with failure to thrive. Without immediate medical care, the little boy would starve, unable to nurse or use a bottle.

**Because of you, Mission Doctor Lucy Goh was there.** Dr. Goh was able to insert a GI tube providing life-saving nourishment for her infant.

**“My utmost appreciation and Muchas Gracias to MDA and all their supporters! May God Bless all of you for all you do to enable me and other MDA volunteers to be of service here at S.C. Hospital, the only such health facility along the long Napo river from the border of Ecuador to Iquitos!”**

Your support provides continuing language classes, health and emergency evacuation insurance, and a stipend of \$150 a month.

Your support is vital as Dr. Goh continues caring for young patients at Santa Clotilde.

She will also be welcoming more Mission Doctors ready to serve short-term and provide life-saving medical care.

This is just one of stories, your support makes possible. Having a pediatrician on staff at Santa Clotilde can mean the difference for young patients like Anna’s son.

We asked Lucy what she’d like to share with you, the supporters of Mission Doctors and she shared



# Make a Difference

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

Become a member of our VitalCorps, our **growing monthly giving program**

[MissionDoctors.org/vital-corps](https://MissionDoctors.org/vital-corps)

**Our friends 70 ½ or older can also chose to contribute directly from their IRA to Mission Doctors (up to \$100,000) and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution.** This is known as a qualified charitable distribution.

Questions?

Call Elise at 213-368-1875.

## JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Support Mission Doctors Association while you do your holiday shopping.

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select **Mission Doctors Association as your charity of choice**, and a portion of every Amazon purchase made through the site will go to MDA, without any additional cost to you!

**Register on [iGive.com](https://iGive.com) and shop more than 1,700 stores that have partnered** to support charity, and up to 20% of every purchase will go to support the work of Mission Doctors Association.

# Thank You



## Meet Your Missionaries

**Missionaries don't go on Mission, they are sent.**

Mission Doctors are sent by all of you who make their mission possible. Serving in response to their faith and sharing their professional skills, Mission Doctors are sent to be a sign of God's love.

**We wanted to introduce you to Dr. Susan McNeil and Dr. Zach Gastelum. This summer, Zach and Susan joined the four-month formation program for long-term service.** During their first week at the Mission House in Los Angeles, we asked them a couple of questions about the journey that led them to Mission Doctors.

Dr. McNeil comes to Mission Doctors from the Dallas area where she has worked in Family Medicine, Pain Management, and Addiction Medicine at Veterans Administration Hospital, North Texas, as well as serving as Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center. As a member of the Airforce, Dr. McNeil served as a physician at Langley Air Force Base Hospital in Virginia and was the Director of Air Transportable Clinic during deployments.

As a military veteran, Dr. McNeil brings with her international experience, dedication, and flexibility so as to be prepared for any situation that may arise. A lifelong Catholic, as she pondered retiring, she felt that God was calling her to something more.

We asked Susan why she chose to serve with Mission Doctors and she commented **“As a Catholic doctor, I wanted to continue practicing with Catholic ethics in mind and with Catholic doctors in a Catholic hospital.”** She continued **“I like the fact that we go to places where we are invited by the bishop. So there is a need and we’re working within the Catholic Church.”**

Dr. Zach Gastelum completed the Via Christi International Medicine Fellowship in Honduras in June of this year, having graduated from The University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, AZ in 2018 with a focus on Community Service and Global Health. Feeling called to serve as a medical missionary, Dr. Gastelum learned about Mission Doctors from former Mission Doctor, Dr. Lisa Gilbert and Drs. Robyn and Brian Jennings.

We asked Zach about what motivated his service and he shared **“one of my favorite quotations from one of my favorite theologians, Bishop Robert Barron, said ‘The moment you leave your church on Sunday you enter missionary territory.’ That has always spoken to me... You know we are all called to be Missionaries. Some people in their own homes. Some people in their local communities. And for Susan and I, various parts around the world. And I am just really grateful that Mission Doctors exists to help support me in that mission to serve.”**

Please keep our Zach and Susan in your prayers in a special way over the next four months.

**Your support of Mission Doctors is vital as we prepare these doctors for long-term service. The four month formation program is an investment in their successful service. The program provides tools to deepen their faith, understandings of working in cross-cultural environment, and opportunities to reflect on the gifts they bring to mission.**

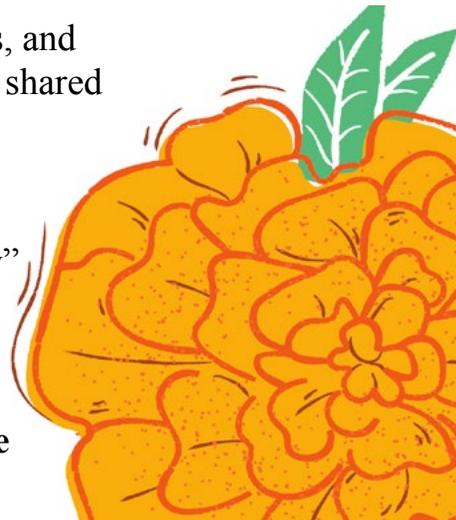
## All Souls Day

November 2nd, All Souls Day, we pray for all who have died. **Many of us have known people that we consider to have lived lives of grace and we feel we know that they sure now among the saints. This may well be the case, but this is a day to pause and pray for all who have died: our family, our friends, and our colleagues.**

Every culture has traditions around remembering those who have gone before us, and as a Church, we are united in prayer. Elise Frederick, MDA Executive Director, shared I’ve always especially loved the way those in Cameroon refer to those who had died as “Of Blessed Memory”.

We invite everyone to submit the name of someone who is “Of Blessed Memory” on our website - <https://bit.ly/FeastAllSouls>

**We will add their name to the basket at the altar for Mass on All Souls Day, and the names will remain on the altar at our Mission House throughout the month of November.**



# BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO THE LIVES YOU SAVE



Because of you,  
Mission Doctor Lou Coda  
was there to care for these  
children in Uganda.

Thank you for your  
continued support of this  
life-saving mission.

## Upcoming Events

**February 19, 2023**

### ***'Heart for the World' Hybrid Gala***

Save the date for our Hybrid *'Heart for the World'* Gala. Our Hybrid Gala will allow our local supporters and friends to join us in Los Angeles at the City Club. Our supporters unable to join us in LA are invited to a virtual gala to celebrate. Everyone will be invited to bid on silent auction items, learn more about our organization, and enjoy the evening's entertainment. Visit [www.MissionDoctors.org/Gala](http://www.MissionDoctors.org/Gala) to learn more.

**March 17-19, 2023:**

### **Spring Retreat/Seminar**

Doctors and their spouses interested in short-term service are invited to a Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Take the time to reflect on God's call and discuss the practical issues of medical licenses, visas, and international health insurance. Visit the MDA website 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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