



HOPE

You are the
Good News
of the Church in
the World



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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You make the
Difference

Life Saving Equipment
to Tanzania

Closer to the Lives
You Save

This summer was filled with a great deal of news from every corner—tragic news in the world, divisive news in our country. And, in our Church, our haven of hope, the news has been, at times, overwhelming. Archbishop José H. Gomez called this the “summer of sorrow for the Catholic Church in this country.”

When I turn on the news, I can feel inundated with bad news. The stories of political polarization, of abuse and cover-up, can make us all feel hopeless.

But as I am sitting here, I find hope in YOU.

You are the good news of the Church in the World.

Individuals like you that care for your sisters and brothers around the world, without ever hearing a **thank you for your generosity from those whose lives you have touched. You are bringing the light of Christ to what can feel like a very dark world. Without your support, our Mission Doctors could not be caring for the poor in Africa and Latin America. You are continuing Christ’s call to heal the sick.**

You are doing the good work of the Church every day.

Thank you for providing hope to the world and me!

Elise Frederick
Executive Director, Mission Doctors

Make a Difference

What you can Do Today

Sign up for our email newsletter at missiondoctors.org/newsletters

Donate today at missiondoctors.org/donate

Become a member of our Vital Corps, our growing monthly giving program
missiondoctors.org/vital-corps

Just in Time for the Holidays!

Support Mission Doctors Association while you do your holiday shopping.

Visit 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 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

Another Man's Treasure

When people thank us for our work in Tanzania, I always respond, "We are blessed with challenges, treasures and fun."

Life in the missions comes with the expected strife, sadness, and disappointments. This is the challenge when working with people who don't have access to basic human rights of food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare. But, after nine years of working as MDA volunteers, I can honestly say the joys outweigh the struggles a hundredfold.

This past summer, Mark and I got the rare opportunity to go to Bwambo Village, (without the 7 children in tow), to deliver a donated digital X-ray machine to St. Luke's Hospital where we have been working since 2009. The project of attaining, procuring, and shipping the X-ray machine took almost a year, and we were celebrating the gift by taking a two week hiatus together to our favorite place on earth - the South Pare Mountains in Tanzania. (The South Pares are a mountain range about two hours south of Kilimanjaro).

Part of the "fun" of our work in Bwambo has been watching the miraculous, (and sometimes humorous) ways in which things get accomplished. After a month of organizing and shipping the new portable digital X-ray, it finally arrived in the port at Dar es Salaam. Transporting a machine the weight of an elephant provided ample "conundrums". (A word we have come to love using during the more difficult times in the bush). Our Medical Director and Pastor, Fr. Dr. Beda arranged for a forklift to transfer the X-ray into a large truck which and proceeded up the "off-road" roads to St. Luke's Mission Hospital in the clouds.

Upon arrival, another conundrum awaited us: how to get the X-ray machine (weighing over a thousand pounds) into the newly constructed X-ray room, which is perched on a bluff. Sand!! A huge hill of sand had been left near the front door of the X-ray building after the construction and it was an answer to prayer. A group of strong guys were able to slide the machine out of the crate into the sand pile and push it across the threshold into place! Covered in sand and dust, high fives were exchanged and the machine was ready for use! Not!

We arrived a week later to pieces, cords, and manuals strewn all over the floor. Ah! A Barbie Townhouse? Nope. Note like an Erector Set. We settled into our home, put work clothes on and headed up the mountain to put together a digital X-ray machine. Why not?!

Mark and Fr. Dr. Beda spent the next eight hours looking through manuals, and piece-by-piece, mistake-by-mistake, slowly worked a miracle. By 6pm, Fr. Beda was on the X-ray table getting an X-ray done of his sore knee. The image was transferred to the laptop, which was then emailed to Radiologist, Dr. Michael Grogan in Wisconsin, and a diagnosis was made. It all reminded me of my dad on Christmas Eve putting together a Radio Flyer wagon with a hundred screws.

“Thank you supporters and friends of MDA for making it possible for us to serve. We couldn’t do it without you!”

Praise God for manuals and guys with fortitude!

We spent the next two weeks enjoying the “miraculous machine” and went home with a wonderful feeling of relief and huge smiles on our faces.

We return to Bwambo Village in January for a four month stay, with the youngest two Druffners ready to homeschool, and Mark and I ready to teach at the hospital, install five new pieces of donated medical equipment, and have a good laugh doing it!

There are many hospitals and clinics who think their old machines are “a piece of junk.” But we in the medical mission fields know they are treasures.

Thank you supporters and friends of MDA for making it possible for us to serve. We couldn’t do it without you!

For those thinking about serving, Just do it! Put all your trust in the Lord. Many treasures and lots of “fun” await you!

Dr. Mark and Mrs. Molly Druffner have served in Tanzania every summer for the past nine years with their seven children. Their annual service has improved the care provided at Bwambo Clinic and supported the Parish and surrounding communities of the South Pare Mountains in Tanzania.



Mission Doctor Mark Druffner celebrates the newly assembled digital X-ray. Visiting and local doctors will now be able to share X-Rays with colleagues around the world



Because of your support, young patients like Grace in rural Tanzania are now receiving the care they need

BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO THE LIVES YOU SAVE



Because of you,
Mission Doctor Lou Coda
was there to treat patients
like little Moses.

Thank you for making it
possible. Your support
means more than you will
ever know!

Upcoming Events

November 4, 2018: 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.

March 29-31, 2019: Spring Retreat/Seminar

Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend a Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Take the time to reflect on God's call to 'heal the sick' and discuss the practical issues of mission service and obtain CME credits for attending.

Mark your calendars!

60th Anniversary Gala - February 23, 2019



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.

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