



# Healing and Hope

## MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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**This may just look like a photo of doctors performing surgery, but this photo, this life-saving surgery, is only possible because of you!**

This photo was taken at St. Martin de Porres Hospital in northwest Cameroon in West Africa. And, unfortunately, our sisters and brothers in this part of Cameroon have suffered greatly in the last several years. In 2016, the Anglophone region was plunged into crisis after a protest by lawyers and teachers turned violent. According to Cameroon's health ministry, "nearly 30% of hospitals in the northwest region were no longer functioning because of separatist attacks and that hundreds of health workers had fled to French-speaking towns for safety."

And sadly because of this conflict, humanitarian organizations like Doctors without Borders have been banned from the area, creating an even greater crisis for the people of the region.

But, because of you, we were able to say "yes" to the Franciscan sisters in Cameroon. Your support of the Coronavirus Relief Fund allowed us to send the sisters the funds they needed to hire a surgeon and a family practice physician, Dr. Lydien and Dr. Yali. These doctors are able to care for the thousands of patients seeking care at St. Martin de Porres.

**Your prayerful support of MDA is saving lives and providing a refuge of hope and healing for our brothers and sisters in Cameroon.**

## Donor Spotlight

YOU inspire us! Your generosity during these challenging times show your love of God and our sisters and brothers around the world. We asked if we could share the story of two of our VitalCorp members, Greg and Shari Durocher.

The Durochers first learned about MDA from Mission Doctors, Tim and Sheila Cavanagh. They originally supported the organization because of their friendship with the Cavanaghs.



However, they shared “as we learned more about the organization and the good it does for so many people, we made a commitment to become monthly donors... We are impressed with how far MDA can stretch the funds and resources they receive. With so many MDA volunteers giving mightily of their time and talent, we figure that the least we can offer is a small bit of treasure!”

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to Greg and Shari and all of YOU who support this life-saving work, especially through these challenging days.

## Make a Difference

- 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 us at 213-368-1875.

# Returning to Mission

## Lou and Marty Coda

### Uganda

“We are drawn by the suffering, illnesses, and needs of the patients at St. Francis Hospital Mutolere, along with the community life and friendships which allow the love of God to live through all of us. Given ever-changing uncertainties, the illusion of the strength of our own abilities fade while the ever recurrent need to trust in God and His mercy reawakens.” Internist and Pediatrician, Dr. Lou and Mrs. Marty Coda return to Uganda this month to provide care and to share in the lives of this community.

## William and Susan Stavinoha

### Honduras

Drs. William and Susan Stavinoha, from Austin, TX, have been involved helping in COVID clinics, palliative care for those in the ICU, coordinating COVID treatment/monitoring, and administering COVID vaccines during the pandemic. However, they returned to Honduras last month and shared from Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”)...“It brings great joy to be back where we feel called to be. Working together with the lovely people of Honduras — a country with few resources — gratifies us.”

You can follow their mission on their blog: [NeighborsFarAway.blogspot.com/](https://NeighborsFarAway.blogspot.com/)

## Mark and Molly Druffner

### Tanzania

“After almost two years of being away from our beloved friends and work in Bwambo Village, we are returning to bring midwife packs for new mothers (Thank you friends of MDA), medications, oxygen concentrators, and PPE to St. Lukes Hospital. Mark is very much looking forward to working with Fr. Dr. Beda, Fr. Dr. Josaphat, and the nurses to improve safety and precautions against Covid and to bring further assistance to those in need. We are now working to find donated medical equipment for the new St. Elizabeth’s Maternity Center, which will open this Spring. We thank God ahead of time for all that we will provide for the mothers and babies who come for care at St. Lukes.”



# Starting on Mission

**“I’m excited to go!”** When we sat down with Dr. Mary Anne Barnhill in the Mission House chapel, she shared her excitement.

Dr. Barnhill joined the formation program for long-term service in August this year and will start a three-year mission to West Gonja Hospital in Damongo, Ghana, West Africa.

A family practice physician from Fort Worth, TX, Mary Anne knew, like many Mission Doctors, that she wanted to serve internationally in medical school. She said the “seed was planted” while she studied tropical medicine.

However, this will not be Mary Anne’s first medical missionary experience. She has served with LIGA International in Mexico, Doctors without Borders in Niger and the Syrian Medical Society in Greece. During these short-term missions, Dr. Barnhill cared for children treating acute malnutrition, malaria and provided general medical care.

Mary Anne is looking forward to her long-term mission because, as she said, she wants to “fulfill my purpose.” She knows it will be hard to be away from family for three years, but is looking forward to the day to day work, making rounds and practicing “old fashion medicine” without the electronic records. She also shared that she is excited to work with and learn from the incredible doctors and medical support staff at the hospital because of their great clinical skills and extensive knowledge of tropical medicine.

**Dr. Barnhill wanted to share with you, Mission Doctor supporters, that “you’re supporting a great organization...they do a lot of preparation to serve overseas, about culture and faith...not many organization do that.” MDA prepares doctors so we can be successful.**

Additionally, she has some encouraging words for doctors considering service with MDA - “Do it!” She continued saying that there is such a great need for doctors and medical mission service is so rewarding.

*Your support of Mission Doctors makes Mary Anne’s service possible. In January, she will be flying to Ghana to care for our brothers and sisters in need. Please pray for Dr. Mary Anne Barnhill as she continues the four-month Formation Program at our Mission House in Los Angeles.*



*Dr. Mary Anne Barnhill outside the Mission House in Los Angeles her first week of formation for long-term service.*



*We are excited to introduce you to Dr. Lucy Goh in our next donor newsletter, scheduled to print January. She joined the formation program in August with Dr. Mary Anne Barnhill. Dr. Goh is a pediatrician with extensive experience serving in resource-limited medicine. In January, she will start a long-term, three year mission at Santa Clotilde Centro de Salud which is located in north-eastern Peru.*

# Look what you did

700

Because of YOU, over 700 midwife kits will be shared in Tanzania, allowing mothers to have something special, and ready to dress and wrap their new precious Gift from God.

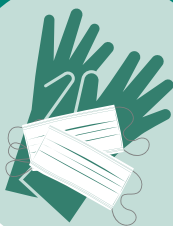


Because of YOU, the Franciscan Sisters in Cameroon had their prayers answered. You allowed MDA to send the funds for 2 full-time doctors to care for patients at St. Martin de Porres Hospital.

2

150

Because of YOU, Mission Doctors has been able to continue to recruit Catholic doctors to serve. Over 150 doctors, nurse practitioners, dentists and physician assistants have signed up for our introductory webinars.



Because of YOU, Mission Doctors have supported Catholic Healthcare in 6 countries through this coronavirus pandemic. You have provided 1000's of gloves, bars of soap and life-saving medical equipment.

6

2

Because of YOU, the lights stayed on, the oxygen tanks had power, and water ambulances provided life-saving transport. Your support kept 2 motors running in Peru at rural Santa Clotilde Hospital.



## Upcoming Events

### Long-Term Application Deadline

**January 1, 2022**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 Formation Program for long-term, three year service with Mission Doctors. Doctors and their families need to submit an application by January 1, 2022 to be considered for a Discernment Weekend in Los Angeles. Contact our office for more information.

**February 13, 2022**

### 'Heart for the World' Virtual Gala

Save the date for our Virtual 'Heart for the World' Gala. Join us from the comfort of home and bid on one-of-a-kind silent auction items, support Catholic Healthcare around the world and have a wonderful time! Visit [www.MissionDoctors.org/Gala](http://www.MissionDoctors.org/Gala) to learn more.



## 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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