



You were there
for Annette

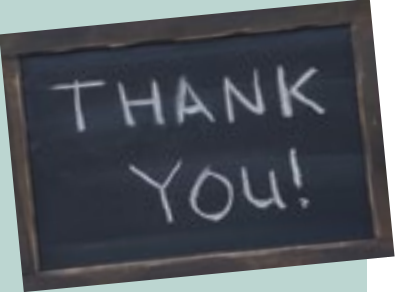


Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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- Are you being called?
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Less than 48 hours before this photo was taken, Annette was comatose. Suffering with severe malaria and seizures, the outcome was uncertain.

When Annette’s mother brought her to St. Martin de Porres Mission hospital in rural Cameroon, she was truly hoping for a miracle.

Fortunately, because of you, Mission Doctors, Martha Franz and Jim Hake were there.

They provided the necessary medical care and essential treatments to save Annette’s life.

However, Martha and Jim could not do it without you. You are the one providing the continuing support which allow these

doctors to be in rural Cameroon saving lives. **On behalf of Annette and her family we say “thank you.”**

As part of our community, you are there for the thousands of patients like Annette in Africa and Latin America cared for by Mission Doctors.

Today, Mission Doctors are on the ground serving Christ’s poor in Cameroon, Ecuador, Uganda and Peru. They are caring for patients with TB, HIV, malaria, and working within existing Catholic healthcare systems to train local medical professionals. Miracles happen because you care!

Thank you for believing that in working together, we can bring sustainable health care to a world in need.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Share a Prayer Request

Visit www.MissionDoctors.org/prayer to submit a prayer for your loved ones and our sisters and brothers around the world. Your petition will be delivered to the altar at our Mission House and will be prayed for by our Mission Doctors, Staff and Board of Directors.

Five Steps to Discernment

How do you hear God's call in your life? How do you understand what you hear? For doctors, the process of discernment may be a familiar one. The steps taken to choose a career as a physician or dentist may have had points along the journey where decisions have been necessary; what school, what specialty, where to practice.



If you are discerning a call to serve as a Mission Doctor, either with the long or short-term program, you may be looking into something you have felt a call to most of your life. Perhaps this opportunity is something new to you. While those preparing to serve long-term with Mission Doctors will take time in our four-month formation program, and those considering serving short-term will attend a weekend Retreat / Seminar where discerning this call is discussed in greater depth, we offer this as a brief overview to aid you on this journey.

Recommended scriptural readings as you pray about hearing and following God's call in your life: Jeremiah 1: 4-10 with others: Acts 9 (Paul); Jonah 1: 1-7 (Jonah); Matthew 9: 9-13 (Matthew); and John 1: 43-51 (Philip, Andrew, Nathaniel and Peter)

AWARENESS

1 Questions to ask yourself: What is drawing me to share my professional skills with people of another country? Have I asked God for assistance as I strive to listen to this calling?

INFORMATION

2 Questions to ask yourself: How can I share my gifts? Where I am best suited to serve? What motives are driving me in my choices? What support will I need? Have I consulted with those who will be intimately affected by the decision being made: family, friends, and colleagues?

UNDERSTAND GOD'S WILL

3 Questions to ask yourself: What is the most loving choice I can make? Am I resisting God's invitation?

CONFIRMATION

4 Questions to ask yourself: What happens when I share the idea of serving as a Mission Doctor with other people? How do I interpret the positive and negative responses? Do I seek to find God's voice in the voices of those who know me and who love me? Do I find myself strengthened rather than weakened in my resolve? Is there peace, even in the midst of some doubts?

PRAYER

5 Continue to pray for the understanding of where God is calling you.

God has work for us to do. We practice discernment so we can determine what this work is.*

St. Ignatius teaches that the first principle is a desire to choose the good. For some, that choice may take you to share your professional skills in another country. For others, you may consider your calling is at home and possibly supporting those who serve abroad with your prayerful support.

St. Ignatius provided a great deal of direction on the best way to strive to hear God's voice as we make decisions. This web site provides additional information and articles on the process of Discernment.

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/making-good-decisions/an-approach-to-good-choices>

*What Do You Really Want? St. Ignatius Loyola and the Art of Discernment by Jim Manney

A Journalist's View of Mission Doctors

Usually reporting for ABC Action News in Tampa, Florida, Emmy Award winning journalist Michael Paluska traveled to rural Cameroon this summer to document the lifesaving work of Mission Doctors. We sat down with Michael to discuss this trip and a trip to visit Mission Doctors in rural Peru.

We started by asking Michael how he learned about the work MDA. Michael is the cousin of Brian Medernach, a long-term Mission Doctor who recently completed a three year mission with his family at Santa Clotilde Mission in rural Peru.

While visiting Brian and documenting his work, Michael met one particular patient that he still remembers today, Mirelia Siquioha. Unfortunately, Mirelia lost her leg below the knee because of a venomous snake bite. Her family lived so far away from the clinic up the Napo River that her foot swelled and turned black by the time she and her father made the trip in a dugout canoe.

What Michael remembers most is her smile. She walks with a prosthetic leg and at first was too shy to show her leg to Michael. After a couple days of talking and laughing, they became friends, and Mirelia bravely showed her leg and shared her story. He shared "I know we were all proud of her for trusting us to tell her story."

I listened to stories of survival and honestly you can't help but want to cry tears of joy. Learning how much they put in, and sacrifice to save a life is truly amazing and that is what makes Mission Doctors Association such a powerful force around the globe.

Michael added "Not everyone can sacrifice three years of their lives to serve, but, all of us can donate and help out in our own way. We can share a link on Facebook. We can skip Starbucks one day and donate the cost of that skipped coffee to Mission Doctors. We can simply tell a friend, co-worker, or neighbor about the amazing stories of miracles these doctors perform every single day..."

Lastly, he told us "I will never feel the joy that Jim, Terry, Martha, Brian, and Toni felt from saving a patient's life, but, that has to be the most rewarding part. I listened to stories of survival and honestly, you can't help but want to cry tears of joy. Learning how much they put in, and sacrifice to save a life is truly amazing and that is what makes Mission Doctors Association such a powerful force around the globe."

Michael Paluska will be the Master of Ceremonies at the 2017 Mission Doctors Auxiliary Benefit and will share some of the video and images he took on these trips. Join us on March 11, 2017 to speak with Michael and hear about the lifesaving work you are making possible everyday.



Mirelia Siquioha



Michael Paluska and his wife Lauren
with Sr. Xaveria Ntenmusi in Cameroon, West Africa



"We look forward to coming to the Mission Doctors Gala every year, bringing our friends to share an evening with inspiring people and support the great life giving work!"

Pia and Anselm Varni

"What a great 'Ladies night out!' We have so much fun; find great wines and other special items in the silent auction; have a great meal atop downtown Los Angeles with live music – and all this to support healthcare in places where the need is so great!"

Nicole Gordon, RN



A HEART FOR THE
WORLD
Benefit Gala
Open your hearts to Mission Doctors



Join Us

March 11, 2017

City Club Los Angeles

Upcoming Events

February 3-5 and April 28-30, 2017:

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.

March 11, 2017: Mission Doctors Auxiliary Benefit

Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the City Club Los Angeles for a lovely evening of dinner and dancing at our Heart for the World Benefit. MDA will present the 2017 Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award to Drs. Jennifer Thoene and Brent Burket.

April 7-9, 2017: Retreat/Seminar

Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend the annual Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University. Contact our office for more details.



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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