

**YOU** are providing relief to the front lines of the coronavirus



## Healing and Hope

### MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

**You are a sign of hope during this deadly pandemic. You are providing life-saving resources to vulnerable communities facing the coronavirus.**

Our partners in Africa and Latin America; Hospital Administrators, Religious Sisters and Bishops are working hard everyday to prepare for the spread of the virus. To support them, we started a Coronavirus Emergency Fund to help our partners get the life-saving supplies they need. 100% of donations received for the fund will go to our partners.

In Ghana, you are providing masks, boots, thermometers and other protective gear at three mission hospitals. In Tanzania, you are providing soap, buckets, masks and beds. In Zimbabwe, you are helping provide the staff needed to assist

the sisters running St. Theresa's Hospital.

All of the critical supplies are purchased in country to treat those that are ill and to help prevent the spread of the disease. Prevention is critical for our local partners on the front lines of the coronavirus because many of our partners work without the support of a strong healthcare system.

**Long before the coronavirus became a global health crisis, you were there for our sisters and brothers around the world.**

Because of you, for over 60 years, Mission Doctors have provided life-saving medical care and training for local professionals and we will continue this work long after the pandemic ends.

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Thank you from Bishop Emmanuel

May 2020

## YOU Inspire Me

I asked for a small space in our donor newsletter to speak directly to you, our awe-inspiring supporters.

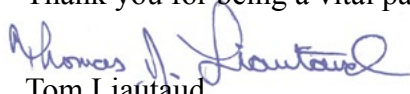
Margaret and I are long time donors to Mission Doctors Association and like you, we are inspired by the stories of sacrifice, healing, miracles, and sustainability built. **The difference made by the support you and I provide is visible on the faces of smiling, healthy children.**

We are working to respond to the requests of Bishops and Hospital administrators. They need our help, and we are able to support them because YOU are our partner.

While it is not business as usual, the coronavirus has also shown us again the way the world is connected, and how the well-being of those far from home may impact our own lives. **We see in a brand new way just how important it is to support the Catholic healthcare system in places where there is one doctor for 20,000 people, not only for the well-being of the patients and their families, but our own as well.**

**We pray that you and your family are well**, and I want to assure you that all of us at Mission Doctors Association, our Board of Directors, Staff, and Mission Doctors are praying for you and your loved ones.

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission.



Tom Liautaud  
President, Mission Doctors Association



Tom Liautaud  
MDA Board President

## Celebration for a Great Cause! Your support makes a World of Difference.



Friends and supporters from across the country joined us to celebrate the life-saving work of Mission Doctors at the City Club, Los Angeles. Mission Doctors, Dr. Pat and Mrs. Nora Ryan were honored with the 2020 Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award for their faith-filled service. Attendees enjoyed fine food, drinks, dancing and amazing city views, all while supporting Mission Doctors.

Mission Doctors' Executive Director, Elise Frederick, shared "It is difficult to imagine, after all that has happened since the Gala, that this

was just a few months ago!

Yet we came together, we hugged, there was a wonderful meal, dancing and an opportunity to honor two remarkable people, Dr. Pat and Mrs. Nora Ryan. The evening included a silent auction of donated items and a celebration of the work of Mission Doctors Association. How truly blessed we feel that we had this special evening, given that a mere week later, the 'stay at home' began to be put into place.

Somehow, it makes the evening all that much more special! 'Our Heart for the World' Gala reaches across the world to let you reach our partners in Latin America and Africa. In Cameroon, a common greeting is 'We are Together' – through this time, we know we are indeed together because of YOU!"

**If you were with us at the City Club, we shared a slide show of the night on our website. Visit our website and see if your photo made it!**

## Miracle in the Midst of the Pandemic

“We had not planned to leave Ghana. We planned to keep a low profile and not leave the hospital compound as things got worse.

My due date was March 26. On March 27 at dinner time, we got emails from the embassy that we had seats on a “repatriation” flight that would leave the next day. We had to decide quickly if we should stay or go. We agreed that the safest thing for our family was to go. We quickly packed, including a carry-on with medicines and supplies needed for an in-air birth, and left for the airport.

Thankfully, we made it safely to Connecticut on 3/29 with baby still in the womb. We had time to eat, take a nap, and look up which hospitals took our insurance before my water broke that evening. Sophia Grace was born without complications on 3/30 at 12:17 am.

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*“If we hadn’t decided to get on that plane, I might not be here today. I am thankful for God’s gift of new life- both physically and spiritually. I am reminded to never take life for granted, never lose focus on the important things, and always seek to be in God’s Will, because His plans may be incomprehensible but are always best.”*

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Sophia and I were both well until around 10 am the next day, when I started bleeding a lot. Medicines and a procedure could not stop the bleeding, and I lost so much blood that I went into disseminated intravascular coagulation (blood has lost or used up all the things that help it to clot). I had to spend the night in the ICU to get blood products and have a uterine artery embolization procedure before the bleeding slowed down. Brian also had everyone he could think of around the world praying for me.

No one knows with certainty the cause of the bleeding. But I am grateful that in God’s perfect timing, we had returned to the US for Sophia’s birth. I got 10 units of blood and required a high-tech medical procedure to save my life - things which would not have been available in rural Ghana. If we hadn’t decided to get on that plane, I might not be here today.

I am thankful for God’s gift of new life - both physically and spiritually. I am reminded to never take life for granted, never lose focus on the important things, and always seek to be in God’s Will, because His plans may be incomprehensible, but are always best.”

*Dr. Robyn Jennings shared this blog last month. Mission Doctors Brian and Robyn Jennings started a long-term mission with their two young children to Ghana this year. They were evacuated on a emergency US Embassy flight. After returning home, Robyn is taking time to recover and care for her new daughter and Brian is looking to start working while they are home.*

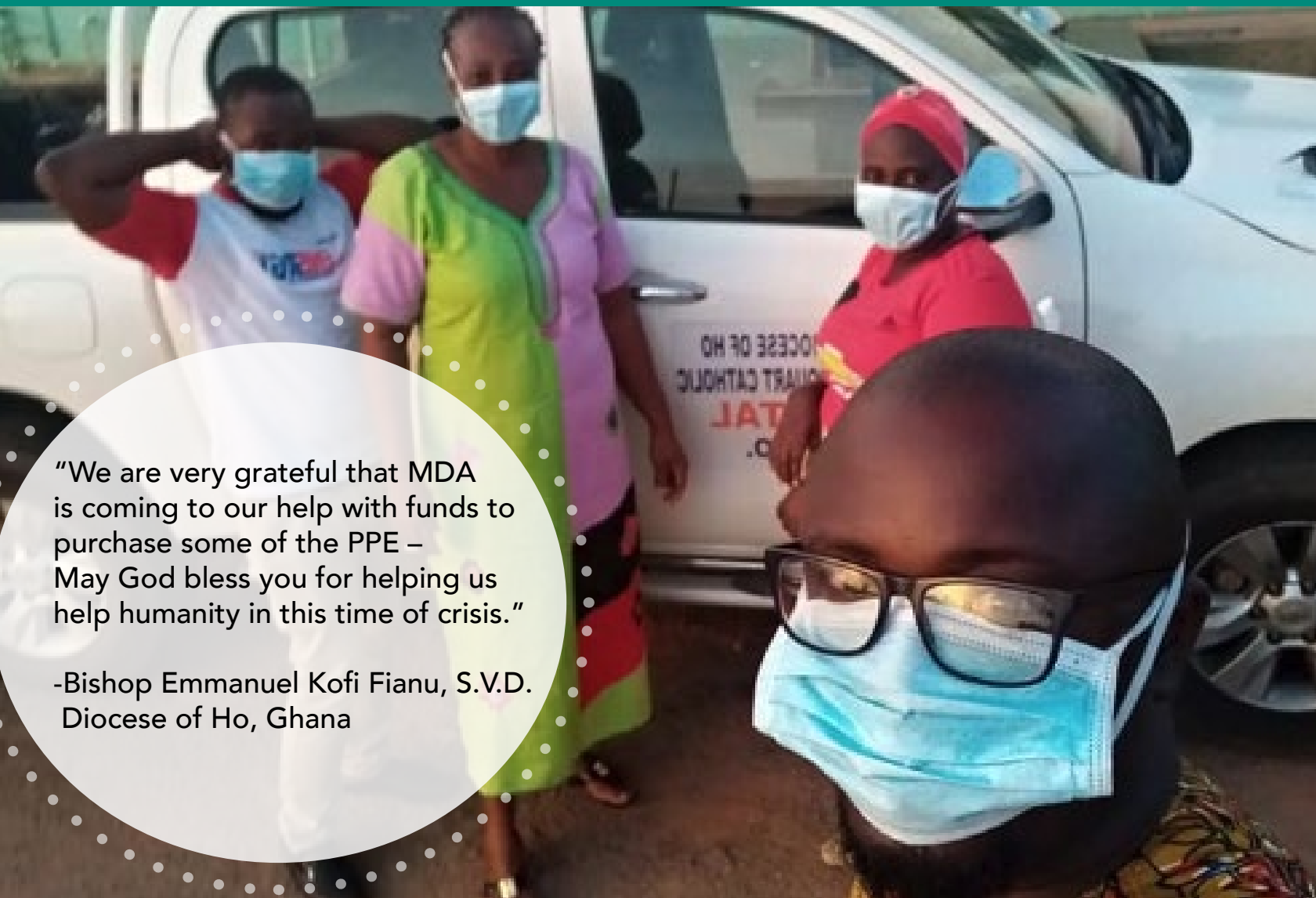


Mission Doctor Robyn Jennings with little Sophia Grace, following their emergency evacuation and Robyn’s miraculous recovery



Sophia Grace with her big brother and sister at home in Connecticut

# BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO THE LIVES YOU SAVE



"We are very grateful that MDA is coming to our help with funds to purchase some of the PPE – May God bless you for helping us help humanity in this time of crisis."

-Bishop Emmanuel Kofi Fianu, S.V.D.  
Diocese of Ho, Ghana

## Upcoming Events

### June 20, 2020: Online Informational Seminar

We are hosting a webinar for doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and dentists interested in short-term (1-3 months) service with MDA. Contact our office for more information and to register for the seminar.

### October 25, 2020: Annual Mass for Health Care 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 an Annual White Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Visit [www.CatholicWM.org](http://www.CatholicWM.org) for more details.



## 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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