

Miracles and Joy in Cameroon because of YOU



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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And the winner is...

We are thankful for you

We first met Emmanuella in September 2010 when she sat in the last bed of side one, females ward one. It seems like yesterday that I looked the length of the ward and my eyes met this beautiful face that could light up a room.

Thirty-five year old Emmanuella, one of our first patients, was in the hospital with HIV and Tuberculosis. Her hospital course was complicated first by a blood clot in her leg and then a pulmonary embolus. She nearly died, only to recover and then sustain a worse insult. She had a terrible stroke leaving her with complete paralysis of the right arm and leg and unable to speak. Despite all these terrible things, Emmanuella never lost her beautiful smile. Emmanuella miraculously recovered and got home just in time for Christmas with a wheelchair we were able to get for her.

That was 2010-2013. And to think that now, we should be blessed to see Emmanuella here in 2016 and looking well.

I don't know what more to say, but... I know now why we needed to come back to Njinikom. What a day this has been.

This update about Emmanuella came from Terry Hake. Dr. Jim and Mrs. Terry Hake have just returned to serve short-term at St. Martin de Porres Hospital in rural Cameroon, West Africa. Jim and Terry Hake served there long-term (three years) from 2010-2013. **Without your support, Mission Doctor Jim Hake would not have been there to provide competent, compassionate care for Emmanuella. On behalf of Emmanuella and her family "thank you". Thank you for your continued support of the lifesaving work of Mission Doctors.**

Lessons from Santa Clotilde



Elfrink Family crossing the Napo River

The Elfrink family spent their summer in rural Peru serving the community of Santa Clotilde in the Amazon Basin. Mission Doctors, Roy and Melanie Elfrink served in the local Catholic hospital, Santa Clotilde Centro de Salud, while their daughters Teresa and KK taught English at the local school. They all recently sent us their “Lessons from Santa Clotilde” and we wanted to share them with you.

Dr. Melanie Elfrink, a Family Practice Physician, wrote that during their service they were reminded while living without air conditioning, limited electricity, no Wi-Fi and all sorts of biting insects, that these are not the basis for joy. She shared “without that excess, we can live joyfully”.

Melanie told the story of Violeta, a premature infant who arrived cold, with low blood sugar, and not nursing as she became more and more lethargic from hypothermia. The infant survived and was able to return home with her mother because of the truly lifesaving care she received.



Melanie, Teresa and KK sharing a cold treat

“I felt that by teaching, we left something behind that would truly benefit the exceptional young doctors working there. MDA and other donors play an important role in keeping the hospital funded and stocked, and several staff expressed their sincere appreciation for the support.”



Dr. Roy Elfrink performing surgery at Santa Clotilde

Dr. Roy Elfrink, a General Surgeon, mostly spoke about the compassionate, intelligent and hard-working people he worked with in Santa Clotilde. He included “I felt honored to work with this team and do some teaching. I felt that by teaching, we left something behind that would truly benefit the exceptional young doctors working there. MDA and other donors play an important role in keeping the hospital funded and stocked, and several staff expressed their sincere appreciation for the support.”

Fourteen-year-old KK shared three, honest and brief lessons she learned.

1. Before you go, become fluent in Spanish.
2. Hang out with the kids (they will bare with you as you just smile and nod when they talk to you).
3. If they ask you to read at church, don’t smile and nod.

Teresa, the Elfrink’s eleven-year-old daughter told us that “The biggest lesson I learned was to always be thankful for what you have even if it seems like a little.” A good lesson for us all!

Your support makes the mission of the Elfrinks and all our Mission Doctors possible. Because of your donations, Roy and Melanie were there, there to save Violeta’s life and train local health care professionals. Thank you for being our partner in bringing lifesaving medical care to a world in need.

Doctors gather to learn, share and serve First Midwest Retreat/Seminar



For many years, we have talked about the idea of adding a second Retreat/Seminar in the Midwest for doctors and their spouses interested in serving short-term with MDA. **This year, YOUR support made it possible!**

so smoothly. In sharing their call to serve in Tanzania, they provided the opening on Friday evening that set the stage for the ‘Why’ someone would even consider this mission.

You made it possible for an anesthesiologist, surgeons, OBGYNs, pediatricians, and a physician assistant to take the “counter-cultural” step to learn about service opportunities and ultimately provide lifesaving care for our sisters and brothers around the world.

Attendees from Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Arizona and as far away as New York and Florida joined us for the weekend. Doctors and their spouses heard from Veteran Mission Doctors, who have the experience of serving at mission hospitals and clinics and discuss the practical issues of medical license, work permits, visas, and international health insurance. We had the opportunity to pray together, to reflect on the challenges and blessings of serving in a professional capacity in a resource poor setting.

By Sunday, many were already expressing an interest in serving at specific locations in Africa and Latin America. **Several attendees have started planning their first missions with MDA.**

We are grateful to Dr. Mark and Mrs. Molly Druffner of Hudson, WI, for their assistance in making the weekend run

Mark shared “those of us blessed with the education and skills are in the top 1% of the 1% and because of this we not only should serve, we must.”

In his homily on Saturday evening, Fr. Maurice Schroeder, MD, who served in the Amazon basin of Peru for 30 years reminded us “Christianity, in its essence, is counter-cultural for this world.”

You made it possible for an anesthesiologist, surgeons, OBGYNs, pediatricians, and a physician assistant to take the “counter-cultural” step to learn about service opportunities and ultimately provide lifesaving care for our sisters and brothers around the world.

Your gift to Mission Doctors makes a difference. You are our partner in this Mission of Healing. Thank you.

2016 Catholic Doctor of the Year

Mission Doctors Association is happy to announce that the 2016 Catholic Doctor of the Year is Dr. Gina Lawson.

Dr. Gina Lawson is the Medical Director of the St. Luke's Transfer Team and the Medical Director of the Women's Center of St. Luke's Northland Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to her faith-filled service, she serves as a Eucharistic Minister and brings Communion to the hospital. Dr. Lawson also participated in a short-term mission to Jamaica, caring for the poor and marginalized in the mountain villages.

Several members of her community, including a local Pastor, a coworker, her husband and the Chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital, nominated Dr. Lawson for this award. Chaplain Jean Harrington, who has known Dr. Lawson for over 25 years, shared "I have observed her sitting with patients and family members, focusing intently on their



Dr. Gina Lawson and her family

concerns as though she has nowhere else she needs to be in that moment. Gina listens for her patients' spiritual concerns, she brings the healing presence of Jesus into the doctor-patient relationship, and she prays with patients when they are open to sharing prayer."

Dr. Lawson was presented with this Award at the Los Angeles Archdiocese White Mass for Healthcare Professionals at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angeles.

We are Thankful for YOU

As the holiday season approaches, we wanted to take a moment and let you know that we at Mission Doctors Association are thankful for you. Your generosity allows Mission Doctors to be on the ground, providing lifesaving medical care and training for local medical professionals. Together, we are working to create the future of sustainable healthcare around world.

As President of the Board of Directors, I get to see the day to day running of the organization and your gifts do the good work of the Church in some of the poorest regions of the world.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Mission Doctors, thank you for your support. Wishing you a very blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Tom Liautaud
President, Mission Doctors Association



Tom Liautaud
MDA Board President

Upcoming Events

October 25, 2016: Mission Doctors Auxiliary Card Party

Join the Auxiliary at the Wilshire Country Club for a day of games and a wonderful lunch. All are welcome. Contact our office for more details and an invitation.

February 4-6, 2017: Discernment Weekend

Doctors and their spouses interested in long-term (3 year) service with MDA are invited to a Discernment Weekend at our Mission House in Los Angeles. 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.



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