



# HEAL THE SICK

and say to them  
The Kingdom Luke 10:9-10  
of God is at hand

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

## Ruvheneko Center Opens

### New Facility Brings Light to Problem of HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe



Dr. Stoughton speaks at the opening ceremony.

Voluntary counseling and testing for HIV is the next big step taking place at St. Theresa's Hospital in Zimbabwe and the goal of the Ruvheneko Center. Dr. Stoughton noted, "We are hopeful that, with this building and the four staff members, we will be able to go to the next level of educating the people in this area about HIV and AIDS, and also do something about preventing the spread of the virus. We have already involved *all* of the local churches — a real ecumenical effort — and they have enthusiastically supported our work."



The Governor of the Midlands Province cuts the ribbon, officially opening the Ruvheneko Center.

Among the 500 attendees at the opening was the Governor of the Midlands Province, who not only cut the ribbon to officially open the doors, but also made a donation of ZIM \$100,000 to St. Theresa's Maternity Unit, in recognition of their efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Dr. Stoughton added, "We had some entertainment with dancing and poems from some primary school girls, and then dancing and singing by all of the Home Based Care Volunteers. I gave the opening speech, then Willie Salmond, the Director of PACT Zimbabwe, gave a very good talk. He said, "*Ruvheneko* in Shona means 'light' or 'enlightenment.'" He finished his oration with, "And God said 'Let there be Light', and Jesus said 'I am the light', and so it is appropriate that we use this name to 'bring the light' to this problem of HIV/AIDS." †



Adding to the day's festivities, the Home Based Care Volunteers provided singing and dancing. Zimbabwean primary school girls also entertained the gathering with recited poetry.



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#### MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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This newsletter is published annually. Additionally, an online newsletter is circulated quarterly by e-mail to those who have requested it. To request this newsletter, please drop a note by e-mail to: [missiondrs@earthlink.net](mailto:missiondrs@earthlink.net). We will be happy to add your name to the list of those receiving our quarterly on-line newsletter. Of course, your names will never be shared with any other organization or business.

# Ghana Eye Clinic Continues to Provide Quality Care

My recent trip to Margret Marquart Hospital was great. I am happy to report that the eye clinic is functioning the same as when I was there. Patients come in great numbers from throughout the Volta region and the surrounding countries. My replacement, Dr. Seth Fiadoyor, is very patient and works tirelessly. He is doing excellent surgery with consistently good results. This trip, I brought a new intraocular lens calculation program on a Palm Pilot. My hope is that every individual who has cataract and intraocular lens implant surgery at



Dr. James Guzek is flanked by Dr. Seth Fiadoyor (left) and Dr. Opoku Asante (right) at MMCH.

MMCH should have excellent distance vision without glasses.

The eye clinic at MMCH continues to participate in the eye nurse training program which is run by the Ministry of Health. Thanks to our donors, we have a computer and a Powerpoint projector, and Dr. Fiadoyor and Dr. Asante frequently lecture the eye nurses. MMCH is the only place where the eye nurses get lectures like

this. Because of this and the hands-on training they get at MMCH, all the eye nursing students love to come to MMCH. † — Dr. James Guzek

# Former Board President Serves in Cameroon

Dr. Richard Mason will be serving at both Shisong General Hospital and Njinikom Hospital in Cameroon this summer, responding to an urgent request for assistance from the hospital administrators.

Dr. Mason and his wife, Rita, took part in the formation for long-term service in 1982, but were unable to begin work in the missions at that time. Since that time, Dr. Mason has served on the Mission Doctors Board of Directors, and was the President of the Board from 1984 to 1994. Rita Mason has worked tirelessly with the Mission Doctors Auxiliary, continuing to serve as the organization's treasurer as she has for many years. Beyond the official title of treasurer, Rita is also the driving force behind so much of the good work that is done by this group. Her unique energy and enthusiasm have been a real gift to MDA. The Auxiliary Benefit honored the Masons in 2003 for their contributions to the missions, and all six of the



Rick and Rita Mason (seated) with their six children at this year's Auxiliary Benefit.

Masons' children joined them for this wonderful evening.

Besides taking along a great deal of donated medications, Dr. Mason will be accompanied by his daughter Christine, who is a nutritionist working for the State of California managing patients with special dietary needs, including HIV/AIDS patients in the Santa Rosa area. Staff shortages have exacerbated the ongoing needs of the hospitals in Cameroon and Sister Xaveria has expressed her sincere gratitude for the help. †

# Nigerian Bishops Ask for Help

Veteran Mission Doctor, Dr. George Mulcaire-Jones has been invited by the Catholic Bishops of Nigeria to present a workshop on maternal health this summer for the Catholic hospital workers in the country. Dr. Mulcaire-Jones is the founder of Maternal Life International, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the well-being of women and families through the provision of emergency obstetrical care, community-based maternal healthcare, natural family planning services and AIDS prevention and care programs.



Mulcaire-Jones family

George and Mary Mulcaire-Jones served in Cameroon with their children from 1985 to 1987. Upon returning to Montana, the needs of the missions continued to call out to this dedicated doctor and he responded with the formation of MLI, which has, to date:



- ♦ built women's health centers in Sabongari and Koroum, Cameroon;
- ♦ implemented a "parish nurse" program for community-based AIDS prevention in Swaziland;
- ♦ worked to develop a program for integrating emergency obstetrical care, AIDS prevention and care, and instruction in fertility awareness in Malawi;
- ♦ introduced the bead system of fertility awareness at Margret Marquart Catholic Hospital in Ghana; and
- ♦ developed a comprehensive program for improving maternal and reproductive health in Yucatan State, Mexico.

Mission Doctors Association is assisting with transportation costs for Dr. Mulcaire-Jones this summer, and is seeking funding for the training manuals that will be used in this effort. If you would like to support this specific project, please e-mail us at: [missiondrs@earthlink.net](mailto:missiondrs@earthlink.net) †

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

# Celebrating 50 Years!



Msgr. Lawrence O'Leary, former Director of the Mission Office and former Spiritual Director of Mission Doctors Association, will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee as a priest

and we offer him our most sincere congratulations. Msgr. O'Leary served as Associate Director of the Mission Office under Msgr. Anthony Brouwers and Msgr. Harold Laubacher before becoming Director.

Msgr. O'Leary will also be retiring as Pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish, and will remain in residence there as Pastor Emeritus. †

E-mail us at:

[missiondrs@earthlink.net](mailto:missiondrs@earthlink.net)  
to sign up for our  
FREE quarterly  
online newsletter.

## Dr. Kummer Asks: What is the Work of Mission?

As a physician who has only practiced at large medical centers in the United States, I was accustomed to large facilities with a great division of labor. Each person doing his job, and administrators and supervisors keeping everything running smoothly. When someone was seriously ill there always seemed to be a way for them to get help and if I felt uncomfortable managing a particular case, there was someone to refer them to. Places where the work is not done until all the paperwork is completed — where if it is not written down it was not done.

The work here is at a much different pace. When in the clinic or a village, there always seem to be plenty of patients, but the system and expectations are different. The infant mortality rate in Guatemala is the highest in North America and the maternal mortality rate also remains one of the highest on this continent. In a survey done by the government in 2001, the number one health concern for women was lack of opportunity for treatment of gynecological problems from very common things like vaginitis to diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Just this year alone in San Luis, there have been four women under the age of 40 who have died from cervical or uterine

cancer. None were treated surgically nor given chemotherapy. Basically, they were just sent home to die.

I became aware of the first woman because she lived only a few blocks away and my daughter, Anna, wanted to visit her. Anna is always outgoing and tries to reach out to those in need. Because the woman

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**I have... had to step back from my role as only a cog in the great machinery of health care and touch people where they are personally.**

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had cancer and it was known for some time, I assumed that she had a physician who was doing all he could to help. It turns out that there was no physician and that she could only lie in bed and her children did what they could to attend to her needs. By this time, she had an abdomen greater than the

size of a basketball and she could not lie on her back or her stomach due to the size of the tumor. She had intermittent signs of gastrointestinal obstruction with vomiting and lack of appetite. Her appearance was that of a skeleton with barely enough flesh to cover her bones. Her feet were edematous partly from lack of activity and obstruction by the tumor, and partly because of severe malnutrition. She was in this state for several weeks without even so much as a Tylenol for pain. At that point, there's not much that can be done except help her feel more comfortable and prepare her for the inevitable. A massage, a pain reliever, a kind word, reassurance that her family was being cared for, and a prayer.

Is this the work of the doctor? If not the doctor, then who? Or is it the missionary? What is the work of mission? My work has evolved and I'm not sure how or why. I changed from doing only general pediatrics in the clinic and some outreach to the general



Aurelia Chub, 18 (*left*), is one of the health promoters. She is taking a health history in the aldea called Machaca.





This little boy is Henry. At 14 months of age he weighed only ten pounds. He could not eat well because of his cleft lip and palate. Dr. Kummer sent him to Dolores (St. Luisa Center for nutrition) and in 8 weeks, he gained 6 pounds. This picture was taken two days before he went for surgery to correct his cleft lip. The palate will be done later. His parents had given up that he could survive and were against doing anything. They are much happier now and the baby is alive and likely to have a normal life.

public in aldeas, to encouraging changes in the clinic including more laboratory testing and less empirical treatment. I am doing more education of health promoters in hopes of leaving experienced



Dr. Kummer sutures up the eyelid of a young boy in a makeshift clinic.

people to provide basic care, and begun to ask questions about why or how things happen in the health system. I have had to learn new skills or remember some that I learned only as a medical student. I have also had to step back from my role as only a cog in the great machinery of health care and touch people where they are personally.

Change — especially personal changes in attitude and desire — do not come easily. God continually pushes and entices that this way is better. “No you do not have as much control, but that is the way I want it. Trust in me. I came that you would have life and have it more abundantly.”

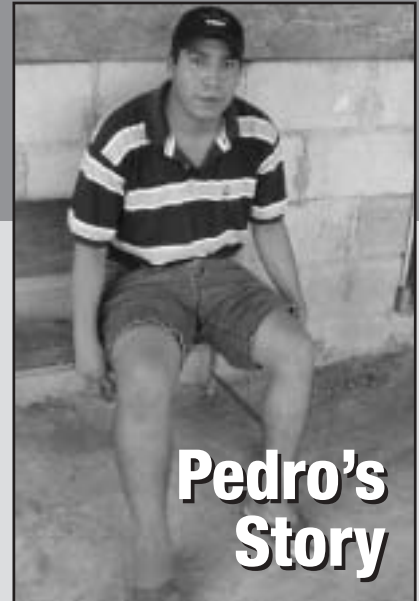
Sometimes I question if it is really God who desires the change or if it is truly good especially since I am not such a big fan of changes.

The days do not seem any longer but somehow they seem fuller. There is not any more time now than there used to be, but somehow it seems to be lived more completely, to feel pain more intensely and to experience joys not imagined and possibly even savored a bit.

The work is to use the talents and strengths that God has given. To follow the natural leads and opportunities that arise. To let the events of life and the lives of others to really touch one. In reality, one does not need to go to a foreign country to experience these things, one only needs to be open to God and let go of the things that hold you back. †

— Dr. Mark Kummer

**There is not any more time now than there used to be, but somehow it seems to be lived more completely, to feel pain more intensely, and to experience joys not imagined and possibly even savored a bit.**



Pedro — a young man whose mother had died a month before — developed swelling in his leg. Dr. Mark Kummer notes, “I saw him once and then his sister-in-law came to me because he was not getting better. He had gone to the hospital, but they refused to see him or provide any care. I saw him again and started antibiotics. He still was not getting any better, so I took him again to the hospital and they admitted him for ten days. He got much better but still is not cured. He suffers from osteomyelitis.

“For Pedro, I was able to get attention because I had sent another 14 year old boy with osteomyelitis and he basically was ignored in the hospital for 24 hours with no treatment. He went on to develop Staphylococcal pneumonia and meningitis. Because he was so ill he had to be transferred out and probably died. No one gives out information.”

## BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Guzek Family Grows by Leaps and Bounds!



Jim and Roberta Guzek are adopting three very special babies: *(left)* James, who spent three years with his parents in Ghana, is seen here with his new brother Joseph. They hope to soon be joined by twin girls Rachel and Leah *(right)*. Jim writes, "The twin babies that we are trying to adopt are doing pretty well in the neonatal ICU. One has stage I ROP and the other has stage II ROP (Retinopathy of Prematurity). Please remember them in your prayers. Thanks."

### Brent and Jennifer: New Parents!



**Brent Burket, M.D. and Jennifer Thoene, M.D.**, home from Ghana for a year now, are new parents! Christopher John, 7lbs., 9oz., was born May 26th, 2003, at 8:50 a.m. Brent reported that mother and baby are doing great!

## How can your everyday shopping benefit Mission Doctors Association?



Who hasn't uttered the words, "I wish there was something I could do to help?" Now you can. Start shopping! At [www.iGive.com/MDA](http://www.iGive.com/MDA), you can buy the items you would buy anyway, and help MDA. Books, gifts, clothes, even something special for you, without the guilt.

It's FREE, no invisible costs or tricky obligations. Shop for everyday items at the more than 400 stores at the Mall at iGive.com, like Barnes & Noble, Eddie Bauer, Lands' End and Amazon.com. Up to 26% of each purchase is donated to Mission Doctors Association.

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### [www.missiondoctors.org](http://www.missiondoctors.org)

Have you visited our Web site? This past year, Mission Doctors Association launched a new Web site with letters and photos from doctors serving in the missions, information on the history of the program, opportunities to post a prayer for the doctors serving, and even the ability to accept online donations on a secure server. We are seeing an ever-increasing number of visitors, with nearly 7,000 pages viewed for our last quarterly online newsletter. Drop by any time — day or night — and see what's new. And invite others to do the same!

**[www.missiondoctors.org](http://www.missiondoctors.org)**

# Mission Doctor Peter Meade to Speak in India

Mission Doctor, and member of the Board of Directors, Peter Meade, has been invited to be a presenter at a disaster and trauma conference in Bombay/Mumbai, India, and will be giving four lectures about disasters and medical emergency response.

In addition to this trip, Dr. Meade has been very busy offering his time and talent with organizations serving in Ecuador and Mexico, and he is currently making plans that will take him to Chinindega, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador and Sri Lanka in the next year. Dr. Meade is Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at King-Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles and notes, "I am committed to serving underserved people, wherever they may be — whether they are in south central Los Angeles or whether they are in Africa, Asia or Latin America."

In addition to the time he has generously given to the work of Mission Doctors Association, Dr. Meade has served with LIGA, Amigos for Christ, International Medical Alliance and Doctors Without Borders, and he jokes, "When it comes to overseas organizations, I am very 'promiscuous', because I work with so many of them!" Mission Doctors Association is fortunate to have the benefit of his experience and talent. His upcoming trip to India is being sponsored by Sion Hospital. †



Members of the Auxiliary

## Mission Doctors Auxiliary

At a Mass and luncheon at the home of Mission Doctors Auxiliary member Joan Caldwell, Fr. Dave Ayotte congratulated the members of the Auxiliary for the fine work they have done for more than 40 years supporting the efforts of Catholic doctors serving at mission hospitals and clinics.

"We are all called to be missionaries, because we have been baptized," Fr. Dave noted in his homily. He thanked the Auxiliary for the exemplary work they do and challenged them to invite more people to join in this important work. "You are really making a difference. You may never see it, but your hearts are connected to the rest of the world through your support of our doctors."



Fr. Dave Ayotte

Elise Frederick, recently named Executive Director of Mission Doctors, spoke about where the doctors are currently serving, and thanked the members for their wonderful support. She encouraged the Auxiliary to invite family and friends to participate in the work of this group that touches the lives of people around the world. †

### I N M E M O R I A M

Veteran Mission Doctor, **Robert Courteau**, died March 25, 2003, at his residence near Onamia, MN.

Robert and Florence Courteau served with their family at Driefontein Mission Hospital in Gwelo, (Rhodesia) Zimbabwe from 1970 to 1973. After retiring, they also offered their time and talent working in refugee camps in Thailand in 1983, and in Kingston, Jamaica.

One of the Courteau's daughters, Kathy, became a Lay Mission-Helper with her husband, Mike Lehn, in 1981. Our prayers are offered to the entire Courteau family.



Dr. Bob Courteau

#### Mr. Charles Wolfe

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wolfe have been long-time supporters of Mission Doctors Association. Charles contributed his wisdom and insight to the challenges that faced MDA during his more than ten years on the Board, and continued to serve as a consultant after stepping down. He will be missed for his good judgment and kindness. Our prayers are with his family.

# NINE WAYS YOU CAN HELP MDA

## 1) PRAYERS

Please remember our doctors and their families in your prayers. Our Web site offers the ability to sign a prayer card for our doctors.

## 2) VOLUNTEER

Opportunities exist for doctors wishing to serve 1-3 months and also for those able to serve three years. Learn about the requirements, formation, and locations where MDA serves by visiting the Web site at: [www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org), or by writing to Mission Doctors Association at: **3424 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010.**



## 3) DIRECT SUPPORT

Donations can be made online using a check or credit card at: [www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org), or mailed to the address above.

## 4) MISSION DOCTORS AUXILIARY

The membership of the Auxiliary sponsors an Annual Benefit that is the primary fundraising event for MDA, raising more than \$35,000 last year! Annual membership is only \$25.00 and benefits include invitations to the Masses and meetings held throughout the year. Additionally, we are always seeking donations of items for the Benefit's Silent Auction, so contact the office if you can help.

## 5) SUPPORT AN ENDOWMENT

MDA has been striving to establish an endowment for the program's ongoing needs. Donations designated for this purpose will be placed into an account that will provide for the future needs of MDA.

**6) DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?** You can shop "For goodness sake!" by signing up at the Charity Mall – iGive.com at: [www.igive.com/MDA](http://www.igive.com/MDA) Your online purchases from nearly 400 stores including Amazon.com, JC Penney, and Land's End, offer a percentage to Mission Doctors Association, at no additional cost to you! With only a handful of participants last year, we raised more than a hundred dollars. Imagine what we could do if everyone participated! (P.S. Tell your kids about it!) Information on this can be found on our Web site.



## 7) DONATIONS OF STOCK, PROPERTY, OR INSURANCE

There can be benefits for directly donating stock, property or an insurance policy. Naming Mission Doctors Association as beneficiary to receive all or a portion of the proceeds of a policy no longer needed for its original purpose can be a simple way to make a significant gift.

You can also donate a Life Insurance policy in your own lifetime and receive tax credit by naming MDA as the owner and beneficiary. Your insurance agent can offer you the details.



## 8) REMEMBER MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR PLANNED GIVING

There are many tax benefits for planned giving, and many different ways to make the most of the establishment of Charitable Remainder Trusts, and designations to charity in ones will.

We invite you to consult your own accountant or tax attorney for more information. If we can offer any help in this area, please contact us directly. MDA is a non-profit organization designated by the IRS as a 501(c)3. Our full legal title is: **Mission Doctors Association**



## 9) TELL SOMEONE ABOUT MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

One of the most effective means of helping Mission Doctors Association grow is the simple act of sharing your enthusiasm and commitment for this work with someone else.

Invite someone else to become involved, pass on this newsletter, and encourage them to visit the Web site to learn more about how they, too, can become part of this important work of the Church.

## CONTACT US

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