



*Voice from the Field*

You Made This Moment Possible



*Healing and Hope*  
MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION



Dear Mission Doctors Partners,

My hand steadily holds the ultrasound probe- the baby's still heart appears as a frozen image on what should be a dynamic screen. A man holds his wife's hand as they silently endure together a second miscarriage- his concerned and gentle touch brings peace and security in a time of immense suffering.

A child laughs, his innocent and unrestrained happiness bringing a smile to all of our faces. To know their child will be able to walk normally for the remainder of his life fills our hearts with joy and gratitude. Only a few months prior we were afraid he would live with the life-limiting consequences of an easily fixable deformity.

A group of peers, hands on the others' shoulders, sit facing each other during our annual youth retreat. Their partners' attentive eyes and ears offer safety and acceptance in a unique moment of vulnerability. For many it is the first time in their lives experiencing liberating, healing connection amidst a world of oppressive brokenness, loneliness, and anxiety.

Alone and forgotten, his dying body uses all its strength to reach out and rest his hand on my shoulder, our eyes locked in silent conversation. As he takes his last breath unspoken gratitude departs from his lips and lands in my heart. In an instant the apprehension of death is transformed into the certainty of faith and hope.

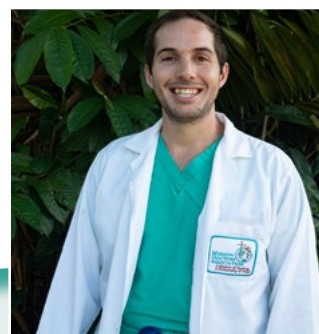
These sacred moments, all made possible with your prayers and support, bring hope and healing to so many of our brothers and sisters here in the Peruvian Amazon.

As the living Body of Christ, your palpable concern is the hand that stretches far and wide, touching their hearts. Your echoing support is the voice that advocates passionately for those who continue to go unnoticed.

Your sacrifice and generosity are the legs that steadily walk alongside the most vulnerable during an uncertain, arduous journey. Your unwavering faith and compassion are the eyes that witness to a reality much greater than that which immediately surrounds us. With your support, serving as a missionary doctor is more than practicing as a physician for those in need. It is a transformative encounter with our Heavenly Father, the realization of your trusting acceptance of our universal call to mission.

Please know of my sincere, heartfelt gratitude!

Zachary Gastelum, MD



This heartfelt letter of gratitude comes from Dr. Zachary Gastelum, a Catholic Family Medicine physician serving long-term at the Santa Clotilde Health Center in the Vicariate of San José del Amazonas, Peru. His words reflect not only the challenges faced in remote mission settings, but also the profound impact your support makes possible.

Thank you for walking alongside our Mission Doctors—you make this life-saving work possible.

# *When Aid Disappears - You Help Keep the Mission Alive*

In many corners of the world, international humanitarian funding is vanishing. Programs that once provided prenatal care, treatment for malnutrition, HIV, and TB have been reduced—or halted altogether.

## **And yet, Mission Doctors remain.**

Where systems falter and resources dry up, your generosity steps in. You make it possible for Catholic doctors to keep serving—offering life-saving care in places where the only alternative is to go without.

You help fill the growing gaps left by shrinking aid, ensuring that mothers still receive care during childbirth, children are still treated for illness, and communities still have a source of healing rooted not in policy, but in compassion.

This is not just medical relief. It is a ministry of presence. A testament to faith in action. **Mission Doctors Association has never received government grants to do this work.** We rely on you.

Because of your support:

- The Church's healing mission continues, even when others have left
- Local healthcare workers receive mentorship and training
- The most vulnerable still receive care—with dignity, tenderness, and love

Your gifts carry something that no budget cut can ever take away: hope.

**And in this moment—when global aid is retreating—your support has never mattered more.**

Every time a wound is cleaned, a newborn is delivered safely, or a suffering soul is comforted by the touch of a Catholic doctor's hand, you are there.

Thank you for making this sacred work possible. You are not just funding healthcare. **You are helping carry Christ's healing presence to the world.**



*Dr. Mark Druffner with a very young patient. Thanks to your support and the tireless work of the Druffners, St. Elizabeth's Maternity Center in Bwambo Village is fully equipped and ready to serve. This breakthrough means safer deliveries for mothers and babies in Tanzania.*



*Dr. Andrew Vincent performs a life-saving C-section—but his impact goes far beyond clinical care. His presence brings fellowship, solidarity, and the healing ministry of the Church to patients and staff alike.*



# Prayer for Our Holy Father

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the gift of our new shepherd, Pope Leo XIV.

Filled with the wisdom of Your Spirit and a heart formed in missionary service, may he lead Your Church with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith.

May his voice echo Your mercy to the poor, the sick, and the forgotten. Guide him in unity, protect him in spirit, and grant him the grace to inspire all your people to live the Gospel with love and boldness.

As Mission Doctors and their families have And continue to serve today, May Pope Leo XIV's missionary heart lead More to follow a call to service in mission.

We entrust Pope Leo XIV to the care of Mary, Mother of the Church, and ask all the saints to intercede for him as he leads us on this journey of faith.

Amen.



## Upcoming Events

**June, July, August, September 2025**

### **Mission Cooperative**

At the invitation of Mission Offices across the country, a speaker from Mission Doctors may be speaking in your parish this summer!

And while we are of course seeking support, we are also here to ask for your prayers and inviting Catholic healthcare professionals who feel called to serve to learn more. Stay tuned for more details on locations, Mass times, and speakers!

**October 12, 2025**

### **Archdiocese of L.A. Healthcare Professionals Mass**

MDA is honored to co-host the annual celebration with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, an opportunity to say thank you to healthcare professionals in our community. MDA will also present the Catholic Doctor of the Year, a national award, honoring a physician whose faith shines through service. Join us at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels—visit [www.CatholicWM.org](http://www.CatholicWM.org) for 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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