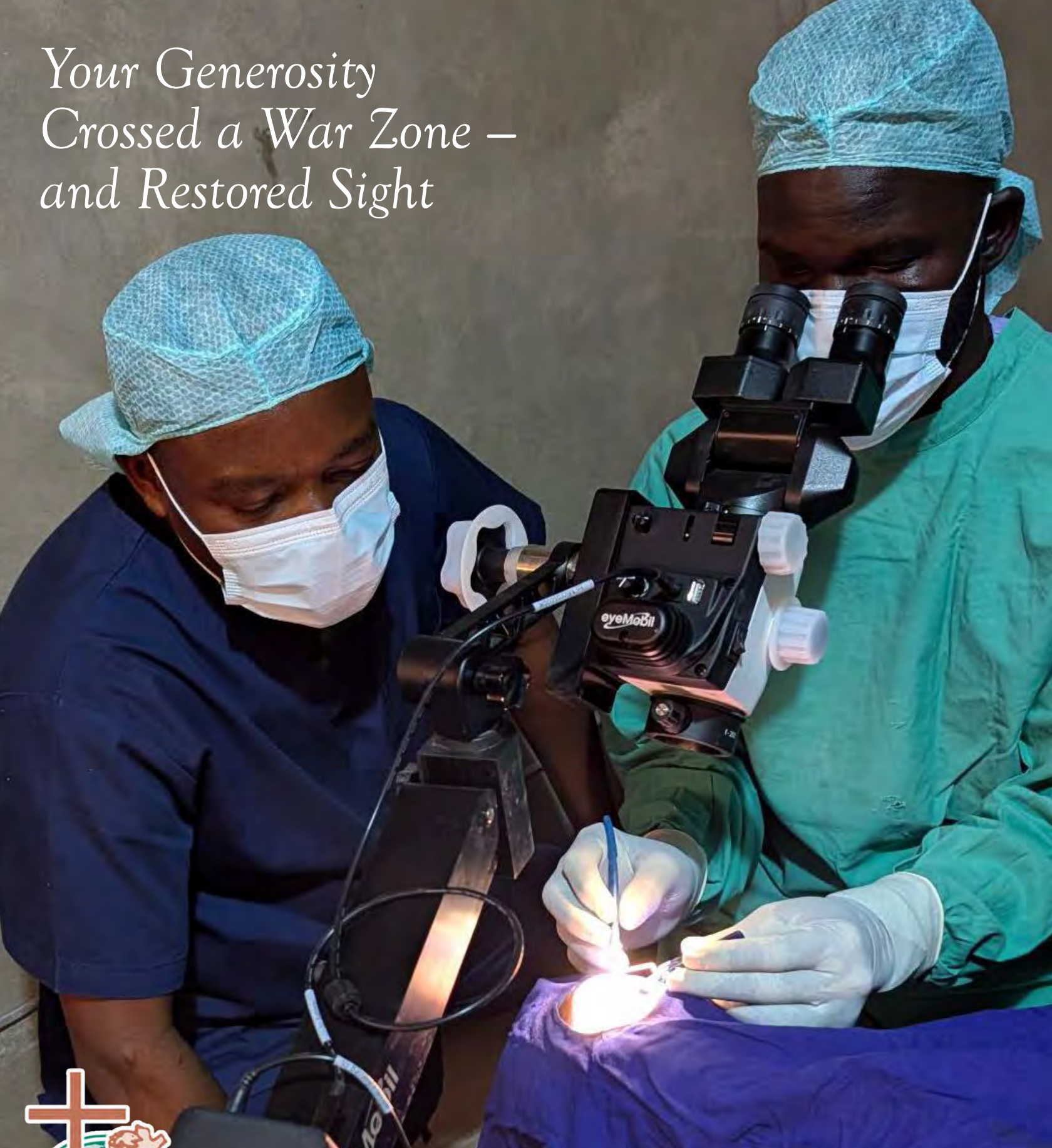


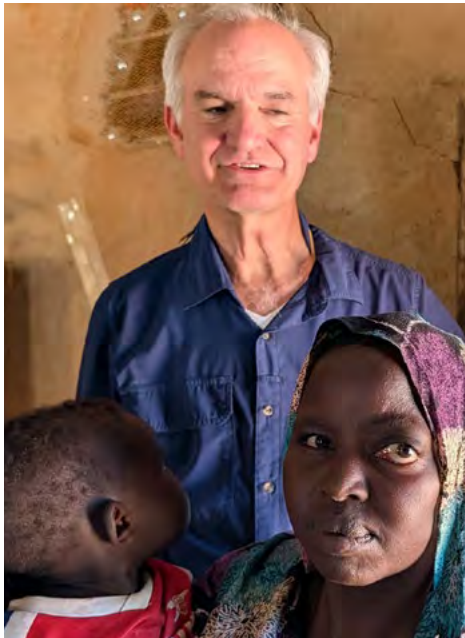
*Your Generosity  
Crossed a War Zone –  
and Restored Sight*



*Healing and Hope*  
MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION



Mission Doctor James Guzek performing eye muscle surgery with Dr. Emmanuel in Juba, South Sudan- a life-changing collaboration made possible by your steady support.



When Raya\*, a widow and mother, sought help for an aggressive eye tumor, the medical challenges were immense. But thanks to our donor community, we were able to offer her more than just a diagnosis. Your gifts funded her journey to receive specialized care and imaging

# Restoring Sight and Hope in a Place of War

When Mission Doctor James Guzek returned from Sudan, he carried with him more than stories of surgeries completed and skills taught. He returned with the quiet certainty that God is still restoring sight—both physical and spiritual—in places most of the world has forgotten.

An ophthalmologist by training and a missionary by vocation, Dr. Guzek has spent decades responding to what he believes is a clear call from God: to use the gift of healing eyes not for personal gain, but for service. “The gift wasn’t for me,” he explains. “It was something the Lord entrusted to me for others.” That conviction has taken him to Sri Lanka, Ghana, South Sudan, and most recently, war-torn Sudan—where blindness is often a life sentence and access to eye care is almost nonexistent.

While serving in Sudan, Dr. Guzek focused not only on treating patients, but on something donors often tell Mission Doctors matters deeply to them: sustainable impact. His primary mission was to train local ophthalmologists in a newer, minimally invasive glaucoma surgery—one that can prevent blindness with fewer complications and minimal follow-up care. Over the course of the visit, local surgeons were trained, surgeries were performed, and not a single complication occurred.

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*“...your generosity does more than fund a trip or a surgery. It restores sight. It trains future healers. It brings Christ’s compassion into places marked by suffering and conflict. And it tells patients—many of whom have lost everything—that they are not forgotten.”*

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For patients like Osman\* the stakes could not have been higher. At just 38 years old, Osman was already blind in one eye and rapidly losing sight in the other due to advanced glaucoma. With two small children depending on him, the loss of his remaining vision would have been devastating.

In places like Sudan, there is often nowhere to turn. But through Mission Doctors—and the generosity of donors—there was hope. His story became one of the many that fueled Dr. Guzek’s determination to bring advanced glaucoma care to regions where it has long been absent.

Another patient, Raya\*, a widowed mother of two, arrived with a painfully bulging eye caused by an aggressive tumor. Though her diagnosis was heartbreaking, donor support made it possible to send her—

accompanied by family and medical staff—to receive advanced imaging and care. “Sometimes,” Dr. Guzek reflects, “the only thing you can offer is accompaniment, prayer, and dignity. And that matters.”

Throughout his service, faith remained central. Daily Mass at the remote mission hospital sustained both staff and patients, grounding their work in Christ’s healing ministry. “This life is not the end,” Dr. Guzek shares. “It’s the doorway to something greater. When you know what God is asking of you, fear loses its power.”

For Mission Doctors supporters, this work is a powerful reminder: your generosity does more than fund a trip or a surgery. It restores sight. It trains future healers. It brings Christ’s compassion into places marked by suffering and conflict. And it tells patients—many of whom have lost everything—that they are not forgotten.

With gratitude, Mission Doctors Association thanks the donors whose faith and generosity make this life-saving, hope-filled work possible. Together, you are helping bring light where darkness once prevailed.

*\*To protect the privacy of the people we serve, the names of patients in this article have been changed. We share their stories with gratitude, honoring their courage and the trust they place in Mission Doctors.*

## *An Easy, Tax-Smart Way to Make a Lasting Difference and Hope*

With gratitude, we thank you—our donors—who make it possible for specialists like Dr. James Guzek to say yes, bringing compassionate, faith-filled medical care to communities in need and forming the next generation in service, humility, and love.

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”  
— Matthew 25:40

Through your generous support—including gifts made through a donor-advised fund (DAF)—you help ensure compassionate, lifesaving care reaches Christ present in the most vulnerable patients around the world.

**A gift from your DAF is a simple and meaningful way to support Mission Doctors and help Catholic healthcare professionals serve patients in need around the world.** Whether it’s, supporting doctors like James Guzek serving short-term missions or providing training for local healthcare workers, your DAF gift directly enables lifesaving care. Best of all, it’s an easy, tax-smart way to give.

Take action today: Direct your donor-advised fund gift to Mission Doctors Association and help bring healing to patients and communities worldwide. **We are deeply grateful for your support and for the prayers that sustain this work.**

If you would like assistance in making a gift through your donor-advised fund, please reach out to Elise in our office—we are always happy to help. You can e-mail her directly at [efrederick@missiondoctors.org](mailto:efrederick@missiondoctors.org) or call (213) 368-1875.



*Mission Doctor Zachary Gastelum cares for a young patient—your generosity, including gifts through donor-advised funds, helps make moments of healing like this possible.*

## Caring for Mothers at the Heart of the Mission



In the highlands surrounding Lake Atitlán, expectant mothers come to Hospitalito Atitlán carrying hope — and the trust that someone will be there to care for them.

Mission Doctor Brian Jennings honors that trust every day. **Through prenatal ultrasound, he gives indigenous Mayan mothers something precious:** the chance to see their child for the first time, to know complications can be caught early, and to receive the attentive, skilled care every mother deserves.

Early detection saves lives. A trained eye on an ultrasound screen can identify concerns in time to act, guide a safer delivery, and give a family the future they are praying for.

You make this possible. Your generosity sends skilled, faith-filled physicians like Dr. Jennings to communities where their gifts deepen and strengthen the care already being offered.

**You are the reason Hospitalito Atitlán can continue to be a place of healing, welcome, and hope.** This is your mission too. Thank you.

### Upcoming Events

#### *Will we be speaking in your Parish?*

This summer, members of Mission Doctors Association's staff, and those who have served with MDA, will be speaking in Parishes for the Missionary Co-Operative Plan (also known as Mission Co-op).

We've been invited by Mission Offices in Diocese across the country, from California to Connecticut!

And while we are, of course, seeking support we are also going out to ask for prayers and inviting Catholic healthcare professionals to consider if they feel called to serve!

We will keep you posted on locations and Mass times, and we hope you will come out to say hello! Make sure you're signed up for e-mail updates!



### 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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