



*Because of your faithful support
a physician answered the call
and a community was forever changed*



Healing and Hope
MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Dr. Zachary Gastelum Returns from Three Years in Peru



Zachary plays with a young patient - your generosity, helps makes moments and smiles like this possible.

The jungle has a soundtrack. Dr. Zachary Gastelum knows it by heart; the steady rhythm of rain against a metal roof, the thunder that follows lightning across a darkening sky, the birds that return after the storm passes, the chorus of toads and cicadas that carries him to sleep.

For three years, that was the music of his life in Santa Clotilde, Peru, a remote community along the Napo River where Mission Doctors Association sent him to serve.

Now he's home. And the painting, as Zach describes it, is finally coming into view.

“Although I was sent to Santa Clotilde to meet a need, I have come to realize that God placed each person and each experience in my life to fill a need in my heart as well.”

Your generosity made this mission possible. When you give to Mission Doctors Association, you don't simply send a physician to a faraway place, you send someone into a sacred encounter.

Zach describes traversing the Napo River to reach distant communities, sharing meals under leaf-thatched roofs, and rushing to save a woman dying from hemorrhage. These were not just medical interventions. They were moments of grace, made possible because donors like you said yes.

The patients Zach served gave back in ways he never anticipated. A poor single mother caring for her dying baby with unshakeable devotion. An elderly blind woman who never missed an opportunity to receive the Eucharist. Children who ran to embrace him on his afternoon walks. Neighbors who shared the fruits of a meager harvest. In their faith, humility, and joy, they became his teachers.

“Every time I entered their homes and traversed the Napo River, I felt as though I were entering sacred ground.”

This is the mystery at the heart of Catholic mission: the healer is also healed. The donor who makes service possible participates in that transformation.

Your investment in Mission Doctors is not merely a charitable transaction, it is an act of faith that ripples outward, touching the physician you send, the patients they serve, and the communities that welcome them as family.

As Zach prepared to leave Santa Clotilde, he reflected on what the people of the Napo River had given him — faith offered freely, love without coercion, a kingdom not of this world.

Those gifts belong, in part, to you. Thank you for making it possible.

Standing Together at the Border of Crisis

In Southwestern Uganda, three Catholic hospitals sit along one of the most vulnerable frontiers in the fight against Ebola.

St. Francis Hospital, Our Lady of Good Health Hospital, and Karoli Lwanga Hospital all serve communities pressed against the Congolese border, where porous crossings mean health workers never quite know what tomorrow's patient might bring.

This is the reality our partners live with every day. And it's the reality that makes the bond between Mission Doctors Association and these front-line hospitals so vital.

"As a district very close to the Congo border, with high possibilities of getting Congolese coming through porous borders for health care, we know any time we shall get Ebola cases," writes Pontius Mayunga, Hospital Administrator at St. Francis Hospital.

At Karoli Lwanga Hospital, the threat has already brushed close.

"Eight out of the now 19 reported cases in Uganda are health workers," shares Dr. Lema Felix Adriko, CEO and Medical Superintendent. His hospital has already evaluated three suspected cases. The challenge now is PPE. It is scarce, increasingly expensive, and essential.

Dr. Martin Bikorwomuhangi, Medical Superintendent at Our Lady of Good Health Hospital, describes a hospital currently untouched by confirmed cases but unwilling to wait for crisis to act. His team has identified clear priorities: infection prevention supplies, emergency room readiness, staff training, and ongoing supervision.

What strikes us most, reading these messages from partners in Uganda, isn't fear, it's faith. Each administrator closes not with alarm, but with gratitude. Dr. Bikorwomuhangi writes of being *"deeply grateful for your prayers and steadfast support."* Dr. Adriko offers, simply, *"May God continue to bless you all."*

This is the partnership MDA donors make possible: not a distant transaction, but a living relationship between communities of faith separated by geography and united by mission.

When Catholic hospitals in Uganda prepare for what may come, they do so knowing they are not alone—that a community across the world stands with them in prayer, in solidarity, and in shared commitment to protecting life. **That partnership is the heart of who we are. And you make it possible.**



Our three partner hospitals in Kabale can't afford to wait and see. Your support is a partnership that reaches across thousands of miles, right to the hospitals standing on the front line.



MDA Program Coordinator, Amie Garcia with our Mission Partners, Bishop Callistus Rubaramira and Dr. Martin, medical director of Our Lady of Good Health Hospital.

Scan here to hear more from our Mission Partners in Uganda



A Prayer You Can Hold

Faith and healing have always traveled together in the Mission Doctors story. Now, supporters can carry that connection with them.

We're offering a set of prayer cards featuring Mission Doctors at work in the communities they serve—a reminder of the hands healing the sick and the places where that healing happens. On the back of each card, a prayer invites you to hold these missions, and the people within them, close to your heart.

These cards are more than keepsakes. They're an invitation to pause, whether before Mass, during a quiet moment at home, or in your own daily prayer practice and remember the Mission Doctors community: the physicians and staff serving far from home, the patients they care for, and the partner hospitals, like those in Uganda, standing watch at the edges of crisis.

To request your prayer cards,
contact our office,
info@missiondoctors.org
or (213) 368-1875



Please pray for the
THE ENGBLOM FAMILY
Bethany, Josiah, Avery, Amos, Lucy, Norah, Silas
Serving with Mission Doctors
in the Diocese of Same, Tanzania
 scan here or visit
bit.ly/Engblom
to support our Mission

www.MissionDoctors.org

Upcoming Events

June, July, August, September 2026

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 11, 2026

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 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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