



# Ministry Through Medical Missions

This is the St Andrews quarterly informational newsletter to keep you informed on how God is working through medical outreach.

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## *Hurricane Mitch*

*Tegucigalpa  
Honduras 1998*



## **God in The Midst of Tragedy**

This is our fourth and final newsletter of 2017. It is the goal of this newsletter to share just some of the ways God is growing His church and how he uses mercy medical missions to that end. In our first newsletter in January 2017, we shared with you about the ministry of Dr. Roger Guillen and the other ministries for teenage mothers and young boys through the work of MTW missionaries and the many new and growing churches in La Ceiba, Honduras. Now let us share with you the rest of that story about how God used a disaster in Honduras to grow His church around the world.

## **Global Disaster Response Ministry**

In 1998, a devastating hurricane all but destroyed Honduras. The storm wrecked about 35,000 houses and damaged another 50,000, leaving up to 1.5 million people homeless, or about 20% of the country's population. At least 7,000 people were killed and it set the country's economy back 50 years. One of the islands off the coast not far from La Ceiba was a direct hit and was utterly destroyed. MTW sent a medical team to that island and through their mercy medical ministry key relationships were established. This first MTW disaster response led to a permanent long-term missionary presence in the country that began multiple church plants. Those church plants began mercy outreach to their communities which led more MTW medical teams to come and serve alongside the local pastors and their congregations. These medical teams inspired Dr Guillan, who was from La Ceiba, who became a Christian and now serves his community full time as a medical missionary in his home community. None of this would have happened had it not been for that first team

to respond to God's calling in the midst of unspeakable disaster. Since that first response, MTF has fielded a Global Disaster Response (GDR) Team to over 32 disasters around the world.

Just like the scheduled short-term medical teams, the GDR team responds only at the request of the local national church or the local missionary on the ground. Disaster response is broken up into four general phases. Phase one is the rescue phase and happens immediately after the disaster and lasts from a few days to a few weeks. The local community and specially trained government and NGO teams respond during the rescue phase. Phase two is the relief phase and this is when the GDR team gets involved. As soon as the disaster occurs MTF is in touch with local missionaries and church pastors in the affected area. At their request, a small mobile assessment and response team is sent to assess the situation and determine if a medical team is needed. If a GDR medical team is needed then within a few weeks of the disaster a team is sent in. These teams are self-sufficient and set up camp amongst the refugees to live and serve amongst the affected community. After the immediate medical needs have been met, the GDR transitions to the third phase which is recovery. Building teams replace the medical teams and work alongside the church and the community to help in the rebuilding of homes and businesses. The final phase of a disaster is mitigation. Through the relationships established during the relief and recovery phases, GDR continues to work alongside the church and the community on public health education, good building practices, disaster preparedness plans and more.

GDR works in dangerous and remote corners of the world where infrastructure and basic institutions have broken down. Only those who are called to serve in these difficult and stressful situations and who have been trained are invited to participate. GDR training only occurs every few years. This year, 27 students instructed by 17 GDR volunteers were trained for a week in the rural countryside of Pennsylvania through the generous support of the Gospel Fellowship PCA.

In the widely-read book, "When Helping Hurts", the authors rightly point out that poverty is not about lack of material possessions but is about three key broken relationships; the relationship with oneself, the relationship between oneself and God and the relationship between oneself and the rest of creation. Global Disaster Response is about being the hands and feet of Christ during times when people are in the

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*Global Disaster  
Response Training*



*Living tents and  
clinic tents in the  
refugee camp*



*Totally Self Sufficient  
Treating  
Contaminated H2O*

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greatest physical and spiritual pain. GDR is about being present amongst the people to reduce physical suffering and to help rebuild those three key relationships.

#### GDR Responses To Date

Honduras 1998	Thailand 2005
Turkey 1999	Mexico 2005
Belize 2000	United States 2005
India 2001	Pakistan 2005
Peru 2001	Peru 2007
Belize 2001	Nicaragua 2007
Mexico 2002	Haiti 2008
Iran 2004	Myanmar 2009
Ethiopia 2004	China 2009
Peru 2004	Bangladesh 2009
Grenada 2004	The Philippines 2009
Jamaica 2004	Haiti 2010
Grand Cayman 2004	Japan 2011
Haiti 2004	The Philippines 2013
Sri Lanka 2005	Nepal 2015
India 2005	Haiti 2016



GDR Training – safe food preparation and eating in the refugee camp



GDR Training- map reading and compass training



GDR Training – How to safely pass an armed check point

## Going – Short-Term Medical Mission Needs



Scheduled Medical teams as of September 20, 2017

To learn more about  
Medical Ministries:

[www.mtw.org/medical](http://www.mtw.org/medical)

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	PROJECT	DATES	NOTES Trips are open to medical & non-medical personnel unless otherwise noted	APPROX. PROJECT COST	APPROX. AIRFARE
Africa	Ethiopia	January 6-13, 2018	MD's and NP's needed	\$1,000-1,200	varies
	Kenya	May 2018	Women's Health Symposium: health professionals, counselors, and others interested in women's ministry needed	\$1,350	varies
	West Africa	Summer 2018	all personnel needed	\$1,350	varies
Asia	Cambodia	October 7 - 15, 2017	team is full; prayers appreciated	\$830	\$1,100 - 1,800
	Philippines	January 26 - February 10, 2018	all personnel needed	TBD	varies
	Southeast Asia	February 12 - 17, 2018	Women's Health Symposium: health professionals, counselors, and others interested in women's ministry needed	TBD	\$1,100 - 1,800
	Southeast Asia	February 15 - March 3, 2018	all personnel needed	TBD	\$1,100 - 1,800
	Philippines	August 2018	all personnel needed	TBD	\$1,100 - 1,800
Caribbean	Haiti	May 26 - June 2, 2018	all personnel needed	\$850-950	\$500-900
Europe	Bulgaria	December 9 - 16, 2017	1 provider, 2 therapists (PT/OT), and 1 nurse still needed	\$850 - 900	varies
Latin America	El Salvador	October 21-28, 2017	1 nurse and 1 therapist (PT/OT) still needed	\$800-900	\$500-800
	Trinidad	January 20-28, 2018	all personnel needed	\$1,100-1,200	varies
	Juarez, MX	February 3 - 10, 2018	1 -2 providers, 1 lab tech, 1 Spanish speaker, and other medical personnel needed	\$900-1,000	varies
	Belize	Many opportunities in 2017	providers, nurses, front desk helpers and pharmacy assistants needed	\$809	\$400-600
	Costa Rica	April 7-14, 2018	team is full; prayers appreciated	\$900-1,000	varies
<b>Training</b>					
Advanced Medical Leadership Training (AMLT)	West Africa	May 2018	Training on how to effectively and safely lead medical mission teams.	varies	varies

