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RESTORING HOPE in Bangladesh

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COVER PHOTO: Malia Barshaw volunteered through World Medical Mission to provide care and compassion to Rohingya refugees.

World Medical Mission assists evangelical mission hospitals and clinics by sending Christian medical professionals as volunteers, and by providing equipment, supplies, and other resources that help them treat patients in the Name of the Great Physician.

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WorldMed
DEAR FRIEND

One of the highlights of our annual Prescription for Renewal (PFR) conference for missionary doctors is the presentation of the “In the Footsteps of the Great Physician” award. The most recent recipient, Dr. Greg Alty, is a surgeon from Lynchburg, Virginia, who has served at numerous overseas hospitals with World Medical Mission. He brought his son along on four of those trips.

Alty took to heart a devotional message that he heard when he first attended a PFR conference 13 years ago. The speaker’s theme verse was Luke 5:4—“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” Although he had never traveled outside of the United States, Dr. Alty responded to the Lord’s leading and went to Kenya on his first medical mission trip. Since then he has impacted many lives through his work with mission hospitals in Africa.

In Asia, World Medical Mission recently sent dozens of nurses and other healthcare personnel to Bangladesh to assist a long-standing hospital partner with the care of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Some of these volunteers came from as far away as Canada and the United Kingdom, “launching out into the deep” to share God’s love with a homeless and forsaken people.

I hope the stories featured in this issue will inspire more Christian medical professionals who have never done mission work to take that step of faith. No one is too young or too old for God to use. Some doctors bring their spouses and children with them, and it becomes a great experience for everyone. Thank you to all of the men and women who have answered the call to bring the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ to a hurting world.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan’s Purse

Dr. Greg Alty has donated his surgical skills to serve mission hospitals across Africa.
Notes from Around the World
Insights from some of the physicians and their families who serve in mission hospitals in more than 20 countries through World Medical Mission.

Dr. Kristi Tebo, a pediatrician, serves at Karolyn Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital in Togo through our Post-Residency Program.

A patient in our women’s ward was paralyzed from the waist down and had been admitted to the hospital for a simple infection. She told me she cares for her family and her home by scooting across the room with her hands. Her active child was playing by her hospital bed. I couldn’t begin to imagine how she was able to run a home and keep up with a toddler, all with limited mobility. Thanks to a missionary family in Togo and some generous donors, our hospital received a shipment of Personal Energy Transportation (PET) carts just a few weeks before this woman’s hospital visit! The patient smiled with anticipation as we assembled the hand-cranked device. We helped the woman onto the cart and watched as she quickly learned to pedal, steer, and brake by herself. She later returned to her town as a newly independent, and mobile, member of society.

A certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) from Boone, North Carolina, Kevin Henson and his 22-year-old daughter Keirsten served for three weeks last summer at Mukinge Mission Hospital. Henson served at Zimba Mission Hospital, also in Zambia, in 2015.

Keirsten just completed her undergraduate degree in computer science and was planning to assist Mukinge’s business office with some significant information technology needs. However, God's plan was different. We desperately needed her assistance in the operating room on an unexpectedly busy day to help with watching our pediatric patients recover from anesthesia. We performed 14 surgical cases that day and a couple of emergency cesarean sections during the night.

I was greatly blessed to have the opportunity to work with the hospital’s first student nurse anesthetist and share with him hours of clinical training. Keirsten did assist the hospital administrator in staff training of basic computer skills. She also worked with several local children in evangelism and ministry.

Dr. Suzanne Snyder enjoyed the opportunity to minister to U.S. military veterans.

The highlight of the week was seeing the baptisms and marriage rededications. We were so thrilled that such life change was happening in just one week. In hindsight, we realized that even small conversations around the fire pit or in the bunker had the chance for eternal impact. We were honored to serve alongside the staff on a team that supported the marriage renewal and the chaplains’ efforts to lead the guests to a saving relationship in Jesus.

Medically, I was amazed at how God provided just the right medication needed for a wide variety of ailments, from a very limited dispensary. We always had what we needed, when we needed it. I’m convinced that God provides!

Dr. Suzanne Snyder enjoyed the opportunity to minister to U.S. military veterans.

A patient at a hospital in Togo will enjoy more independence and mobility with her new PET cart.
Samaritan’s Purse is partnering with Memorial Christian Hospital to provide medical aid and help alleviate the suffering of hundreds of Rohingya refugees.
The United Nations has called the plight of the Rohingya a “humanitarian and human rights nightmare.” Since August 2017, more than 600,000 members of the ethnic minority group have fled violence in Myanmar and flocked to refugee camps across the border in Bangladesh. After the arduous journey, many are arriving sick and injured, straining the capacity of local hospitals. As the enormity of the crisis became known, World Medical Mission began sending volunteer nurses and other personnel to staff the Rohingya Care Unit at Memorial Christian Hospital.

Mariah Bywater is one of 34 volunteers from four countries who responded to World Medical Mission’s call for help. The South Carolina nurse served for three weeks in November, treating patients who had been brought to the hospital from a nearby camp. She saw a wide range of medical needs ranging from broken bones to respiratory infections to gunshot injuries. But their deepest wounds were pierced souls that only the grace of God can heal.

One of Bywater’s patients was a 32-year-old man who needed surgery for a fractured right arm. His face was disfigured and both eyes were missing. The man told her that his house in Myanmar had been bombed. The shrimp farmer and teacher now felt that he had nothing left. He had lost his sight, his independence, his village, and most of his family.

His story does not end there, however. At the broken man’s hospital bedside was his sister, who was doing all she could to be his eyes and protector. She soothed him hour after hour by gently stroking his head. Hospital staff were also attentive to the man’s needs, bandaging his physical wounds but also telling him of God’s love and praying with him.

He received an amazing answer to prayer when he learned that his wife and young child were not only alive, but that they were in the refugee camp near the hospital! Overwhelmed with relief and joy, the man burst into tears when he spoke to his wife by phone. The staff rejoiced with him.

“These were brief moments to touch, to care, to enter into the broken lives of hurting people,” reflected Bywater. “We were given the precious opportunity to share not just physical healing, but the hope of salvation through the work of our compassionate Savior who saw the multitudes and was moved.”

The four teams of volunteers sent by World Medical Mission from October through December were part of a multilevel response by Samaritan’s Purse to bring emergency assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Samaritan’s Purse helped our partner hospital construct a 50-bed ward for post-operative care of Rohingya patients.

In December, the Samaritan’s Purse DC-8 cargo plane transported 20 tons of medical equipment and supplies for use at the hospital, including patient monitors and portable digital X-ray and anesthesia machines.

Rebecca Steckle, a nurse from Ontario, Canada, visited one of the refugee camps during her October service trip with World Medical Mission. She was deeply moved by the stories she heard that reminded her of the Biblical account of the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt.

“We have the chance to be Christ in the flesh for them, to wash their feet and bandage their wounds and love them like they have never known,” Steckle said. “We as followers of Christ have a responsibility, but we also have the greatest honor—to serve others in need. I would not trade the three weeks I spent in Bangladesh for all the things this world can give.”

**“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” —Matthew 25:40**
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Transforming Medical Missions

The 28th annual Prescription for Renewal Conference brought together more than 350 medical professionals, spouses, and Samaritan’s Purse staff to celebrate another exciting year of God’s work around the globe through World Medical Mission.

Held at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, North Carolina, the October event was also a time to reflect on God’s outpouring of blessings as World Medical Mission commemorated its 40th anniversary in 2017.

“It has been exciting to see what the Lord has done, to look back and see His hand, to go from seven doctors who served on short-term trips the first year to over 600 who are going out now,” said Dr. Richard Furman, who co-founded the program with his brother, Lowell, and Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham.

Keynote speaker Alistair Begg thanked the audience, which represented a wide array of surgeons, physicians, dentists, nurses, and other healthcare workers, for their commitment to relieve physical suffering and share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

“All over the world, the Spirit of God is moving and people are encountering the love of the Lord Jesus as expressed through your ministry,” said Begg, who is the host of the radio program “Truth for Life” and since 1983 has been the senior pastor at Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

“There are physicians from atheist backgrounds, from Muslim backgrounds, from Hindu backgrounds doing similar things that you do. What they can’t do is minister the truth of the risen Christ,” he said.

Speaking on Jesus’ physical and spiritual healing of a leper, Begg said, “Jesus identifies with us in our condition, and like no other physician, takes upon Himself our disease and grants to us a healing and a

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—Dr. Furman
to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya for six months in 2017. They are planning to return to the mission field on a full-time basis this year.

World Medical Mission’s Post-Residency Program has also helped supply staffing for overseas hospitals, giving Christian doctors and dentists practical training, mentorship, and spiritual preparation to equip them to become career medical missionaries. Some 160 young men and women have gone through the two-year program since 2004, including guest speaker Dr. Alyssa Pfister.

Pfister is a specialist in internal medicine/pediatrics who completed the Post-Residency Program at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya in 2011. She is now serving long term at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.

“Eight years ago, I was finishing up my residency in Birmingham, Alabama. I had done a lot of short-term missions, but I didn’t know if long-term missions was God’s plan for me,” said Pfister.

“What brought me the most joy, the most encouragement, the most confirmation of the calling the Lord has on my life, was the community God brought to me through the Post-Residency Program.”

The recipient of the 2017 “In the Footsteps of the Great Physician” award was Dr. Greg Alty, a general surgeon from Lynchburg, Virginia. Alty has gone on 10 mission trips with World Medical Mission to hospitals in Haiti, Togo, Zambia, Cameroon, Kenya, Niger, and Rwanda. He has taken his son, Isaac, currently a second-year medical student, on four of those trips.

Dr. Alty was joined on stage by his wife, Lisa, and son as he accepted the award from Dr. Furman and World Medical Mission’s Director of Development Becky Williams. “Jesus told Peter to launch out into the deep and let down his nets for a catch,” Alty told the audience. “If Jesus is calling you, He is going to use your skills to do something that will require you to trust Him, in situations in which you have no idea what’s going to happen.” (Turn to page 16 for a profile story about Dr. Alty.)

Other speakers included Dr. Bill Rhodes, a general and plastic surgeon who serves at Kapsowar Hospital, and Dr. Thomas Dillard, a North Carolina pediatrician who brought his wife and their six children to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya for six months in 2017. They are planning to return to the mission field on a full-time basis this year. World Medical Mission’s Post-Residency Program has also helped supply staffing for overseas hospitals, giving Christian doctors and dentists practical training, mentorship, and spiritual preparation to equip them to become career medical missionaries. Some 160 young men and women have gone through the two-year program since 2004, including guest speaker Dr. Alyssa Pfister. Pfister is a specialist in internal medicine/pediatrics who completed the Post-Residency Program at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya in 2011. She is now serving long term at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.

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The 2018 Missionary Medicine Seminar and Prescription for Renewal conference is scheduled for October 11-14. Guest speakers will include Dr. Jim Cymbala and Joni Eareckson Tada.

“The Lord is using World Medical Mission and Samaritan’s Purse to help preserve the work of mission hospitals,” Dr. Furman told the audience. “Looking back over the past 40 years, it is good to see the Lord’s hand in it. Looking forward five to 10 years from now, I really believe that at least half of the full-time medical missionaries who serve overseas will come through our program. Our goal is to share Jesus, and I think that’s the reason He is using us.”

forgiveness that we don’t deserve. “The leper discovered what his real need was. Only the Gospel and only Jesus is able to make that known and bring about a transformation,” he said.

The four-day conference kicked off with the optional Missionary Medicine Seminar, which offers participants Continuing Medical Education credits as they learn about diseases and health conditions that are more prevalent in the developing world. This year’s topics included viral hemorrhagic fevers, pediatric malnutrition, and ultrasound techniques.

At the Spouses Session, Dr. Katherine Radcliffe from Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea and Laura Rhodes from Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya shared advice and inspiration regarding family life on the mission field.

Since the founding of World Medical Mission in 1977 more than 8,100 doctors and other healthcare personnel have served with the ministry on short-term trips to overseas Christian hospitals and clinics. In addition, over 9,500 spouses and children have served alongside them.
The 2017 recipient of the “In the Footsteps of the Great Physician” award made a gutsy decision years ago that the Lord turned into an unexpected ministry opportunity.

BELOW: Dr. Greg Alty left his full-time practice in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 2005 and began serving on volunteer trips with World Medical Mission.

LETTING GO to Gain So Much More

The 2017 recipient of the “In the Footsteps of the Great Physician” award made a gutsy decision years ago that the Lord turned into an unexpected ministry opportunity.
Dr. Greg Alty was at the height of success when he decided to leave his thriving Virginia practice 13 years ago. Some of his colleagues watched in disbelief, thinking the gifted general surgeon had lost his mind. Others admired his bold step of faith with a tinge of envy.

Looking back, Alty can now say with certainty that it was one of the best choices he ever made.

At the time, the Lynchburg physician was working about 27 days a month. He had tried to scale back his practice to have more time at home with his wife, Lisa, and young son, Isaac. But patients kept coming in need of his services.

“One thing led to another, and Lisa and I both came to the conclusion that it was in all of our best interests for me to stop doing surgery and be a full-time dad, which was what I felt the Lord called me to do,” he said. “As much as I loved doing surgery, I loved being a dad more.”

Family has always been a priority in Alty’s life. He didn’t stray too far from home, attending college at Duke University, a 2½-hour drive from Lynchburg, and completing medical school and residency training at the Medical College of Virginia. From there he returned as planned to his hometown and joined a group of three surgeons.

Having known each other since sixth grade, Greg and Lisa were high school sweethearts who married after his first year of medical school. Both were excelling in their careers—he as a surgeon and she as a university chemistry professor, when the couple found out they were expecting a child.

“He was a miracle baby, a special gift to us. The name ‘Isaac’ was intentional,” said Alty.

During the next several years, he felt an agonizing tug and pull as he became very successful in his medical practice but spent precious little time with his son. He felt convicted to put his family first and trust God for the outcome.

“It was a leap of faith,” Alty said of the difficult decision to walk away from his lucrative career. “I was giving up the income, the prestige, and the personal satisfaction of practicing medicine, but I felt that I would gain more than I gave up.”

Unbeknownst to him, the Lord was about to take his life in an extraordinary new direction that would return him to the surgical work he enjoyed—and give him more time with Isaac.

TRODDING AFRICAN SOIL

Five months after his “retirement” in 2005, Alty attended Prescription for Renewal. "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." — Romans 8:28

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TRODDING AFRICAN SOIL

Five months after his “retirement” in 2005, Alty attended Prescription for Renewal.
A friend from medical school was involved with long-term missions in Kenya and had encouraged him to go to the World Medical Mission conference. Alty went mostly out of curiosity with no plans to serve.

“I did not leave my practice with any particular intention of doing mission work,” he recalled. “I quit specifically to spend more time with my wife and son.”

Moved by the testimonies he heard from other doctors, Alty filled out an application for short-term volunteer service but figured that was the end of the matter. His interest was really only half-hearted. Besides, he had never been outside of the United States and was sure his wife wouldn’t let him go to a faraway place like Africa.

Around Thanksgiving he received a call from World Medical Mission staff notifying him that his application had been accepted and asking for dates when he could serve. When he told Lisa, she gave her blessing and urged him to go. Now he was out of excuses to God and knew it was time to take another step of faith.

The following spring, Alty was just as astonished as anyone to find himself at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya working alongside his medical school buddy. He served there for a month and loved the experience so much that he wanted to return—next time with his 12-year-old son.

In October, he and Isaac spent two weeks at Kijabe. It was a wonderful adventure for both of them. They served together again four years later, this time in Rwanda at Kibogora Hospital. Isaac donned gown and gloves and became an operating room assistant, learning how to pass instruments and hold retractors. He also accompanied his dad on trips to Zambia in 2013 and Togo in 2016 while he was a college student.

Those experiences left a lasting impression on young Isaac, who started thinking about a career in medicine when he was 15. He is currently in his second year of medical school at Harvard, and Alty couldn’t be more thrilled.

“He wants to be a surgeon, but I think he is open to exploring other opportunities too,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Lord led Alty back to full-time work in 2013, rejoining the surgical group in Lynchburg after an eight-year hiatus. He was delighted to return but sorely missed serving on the mission field. Seeking a more flexible schedule, he later switched to a part-time acute care surgical position with another group so he could practice medicine in Virginia and serve in Africa.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO TRUST GOD

Life was fulfilling and uneventful until a few days after Christmas 2016 when Alty developed a deep, painful cough. “In retrospect, I had been tired and short of breath for a while, but I thought I was just out of shape,” he said.

A chest X-ray showed a tumor in his left lung. Further tests were not encouraging. For the next three months, Alty faced one health crisis after another. Lisa took leave from her job to take care of him.

It has been a difficult and humbling journey, but one through which the surgeon has experienced the Great Physician’s healing power in his own body. Alty returned to work last May, and he and his family rejoice that CAT scans reveal the tumor is shrinking.

“The prognosis is one day at a time, and today is a good day,” he concluded. “I think the Lord is using a lot of prayers and working through my doctor to heal me.”

Alty said he was surprised but deeply honored to receive the “In the Footsteps of the Great Physician” award at Prescription for Renewal last fall. His prayer is that he can return to the mission field soon.

“All of the work the Lord has given me has been very rewarding—my work practicing in Virginia, the mission work overseas, and the opportunity to share those experiences with my son,” he said. “If God calls you to serve, you must answer.”
Mission works tirelessly behind the scenes and around the world putting the right tools into the right hands. “We go to so many countries where hospitals are crippled by broken or outdated equipment,” said Jim Moore, the technical support supervisor. “Cardiology departments working without EKG machines. Hospitals without the right equipment to sterilize their surgical instruments.”

The World Medical Mission team of technicians have decades of experience in the biomedical field to purchase, service, store, ship, install, and repair tools and machines that keep hospitals running properly. Sometimes they have the opportunity to travel with their machines and tools to countries that are closed off and hostile to the Gospel.

AMBULANCES IN NORTH KOREA?
“We’ve been doing work there for several years,” said Monte Oitker, a medical engineering technician who helped deliver five ambulances to North Korea last July. “That was my third trip there.”

The medical transport vehicles, along with basic supplies, met needs of residents in the capital city and surrounding provinces. Although no World Medical Mission personnel serve in the country, providing for its struggling citizens creates open doors to show them Christ’s love by caring for “the least of these.”

THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF BIOMED
“It’s easy to think of our work as not having a spiritual component to it,” Moore said. “We spend a lot of time underneath machines playing with wires. But sometimes when you show up and fix equipment that’s been broken for months, you can see God breathe new life into a doctor’s ministry. I’ve had hospital staff tell me ‘I was about to bail out, but when World Medical Mission provided that piece of equipment, I decided OK, I can do this.’”

GROWING CAPACITY
World Medical Mission expanded its storage capacity with the opening of a new warehouse in 2017. Now we can receive even more donated equipment and supplies, and in turn provide for significantly more of the critical needs of mission hospitals. Last summer Moore and his team prepared pallets for a large shipment that was transported to Tanzania on the Samaritan’s Purse DC-8 plane. The cargo included ultrasound equipment, EKG devices, and surgical tables. These supplies filled the wish lists of several hospitals in East Africa and helped open doors for the Good News of the Great Physician to be shared across an entire region.
As the daughter of missionaries, Dr. Annelise Olson is no stranger to the innumerable challenges and rewards of life on the field. She spent much of her childhood in Denmark and Portugal, where her parents were church planters and seminary instructors. Those early experiences instilled in Olson a similar desire to serve the Lord and to minister to the needs of others. Her path of service, however, would take its own unique trajectory to another continent and to a different Christian vocation.

God used a story in Time magazine to touch Olson's heart as a 9th grader and point her to medical missions. "I was reading an article about war and famine in an African country and felt really sad about the suffering. Then I turned the page and started reading the next article. Something stopped me, and I realized what I had done," she said. "I had felt pity, and then turned the page over and continued my life without doing anything about what I had read."

That moment was pivotal for the teenager. "I realized if I didn't do anything about the situation in the article, I could go through the rest of my life justifying my inaction, feeling pity but taking no action," she continued. "So I prayed. I told God that I didn't have money to give, but if it was His will, I would become a medical missionary and help those who were suffering."

Staying true to her word, Olson attended medical school at Loma Linda University in California, where she discovered a love for surgical work. She received her general surgery residency training at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and did a fellowship there with an emphasis on rural and international surgery.

World Medical Mission's Post-Residency Program offered the ideal segue for Olson as she transitioned from training in the United States to putting those skills
into practice overseas. The mentoring aspect of the two-year program especially appealed to her.

In 2010 Olson was assigned to work in Angola, where her ability to speak Portuguese would be put to use. Visa approval to that country was delayed, however, so she served for four months at Bongolo Hospital in Gabon and two months at Tenwek Mission Hospital in Kenya. The remainder of the time she spent in Angola, working at Centro Evangelico de Medicina do Lubango (CEML) and a more remote facility, Kalukembe Hospital.

“The program was very beneficial to me. One of the amazing things is the continued friendships and community I still have with Samaritan’s Purse staff and with the other Post-Residents with whom I attended orientation,” she said.

After completing the program, Olson returned to the United States and took a break to evaluate the next step. During that year-and-a-half, she raised financial support and sought a long-term sending agency. She also volunteered for three service trips with World Medical Mission that included one month at Karolyn Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital in Togo, a month at Egbe Hospital in Nigeria, and two months in Angola.

Her decision to return to CEML as a career missionary was a carefully considered, prayerfully confirmed, and life-defining choice. That same resolve keeps her going during long, intense days at the hospital when she reflects about the One whom she serves, the Savior who gave His all for her.

“I continue because I am daily overwhelmed by the love of Christ,” Olson said. “Yes, the work has been hard. I have been exhausted, broken, and burned out, but I am still overwhelmed by a God who leaves behind Heaven to become human and suffer and die for us. How could I not serve Him with the skills and gifts that I have?” It’s also a privilege for her to serve the patients, to pray with them, and to give them genuine hope and peace beyond their current circumstances.

“So many people come in the last hours, days, or weeks of their lives. It was so frustrating at first, because I could not cure their advanced disease, and I kept asking God why He brought them to us so late,” she said. “Then I realized maybe they were coming just in time, for someone to pray with them and share Christ with them before death. So I keep praying.”

There are moments of irrepressible laughter and delight too. Half of Olson’s work involves orthopedic surgery. Since she does minimal obstetrics, the surgeon feels a bit envious that the OB/GYN doctors have many babies named after them.

One of Olson’s patients was a woman whose leg had been partially paralyzed since childhood. Two years ago she fell and broke the femur bone in that same leg. The woman came to the hospital with an infected intramedullary nail following unsuccessful surgeries at another facility. Olson removed the nail, reduced the woman’s fracture, and placed a new nail with bone graft.

“All the time in the hospital, she babied her leg and was very careful how the nurses and therapists moved it. Her bone is now healing. She is without pain and walking,” said Olson. “On her follow-up visit, she told me to be careful with ‘Annelise.’ She had named her leg after me in honor of the work I had done!”

Olson encourages more physicians to opt for career missionary service. Although the challenges are many, the resulting blessings—for both patient and doctor—are far greater.

“All of us at mission hospitals are working towards training skilled and compassionate physicians in the countries where we serve, but those training programs need people on the ground, teaching, mentoring, and training new physicians,” she said. “Short-term volunteers are helpful, but the greatest challenge is finding people willing to serve long term.”
The priority of evangelism has been the focus of World Medical Mission from the very beginning. While serving at a mission hospital years ago, I was asked to make certain that any patient who was about to undergo an elective operation had been told the plan of salvation. If not, I was encouraged to postpone the elective surgery until I or a chaplain had talked to the patient. But how do we emphasize Jesus in an emergency operative setting? If we are truly committed to the spiritual health as well as the physical health of our patients, our post-op follow-up is going to take on a greater sense of urgency.

I vividly remember when a patient who had been shot with an arrow was admitted to Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya. The arrow had lodged into his left chest. Fearing the arrowhead was poisonous, the man had pulled it out, but the arrowhead broke off inside his chest. By the time he was brought to the hospital, the man was unresponsive. His heart was beating but he had no blood pressure. There was no time for us to even do a chest X-ray. There were no thoracic instruments. We had to manually pull two ribs apart with handheld retractors and slide in a gynecological retractor to hold the ribs apart. There was blood in the chest as well as within the pericardial sac surrounding the heart. After meticulous exploring of the chest, the 10 centimeter metal tip was located lying between the aorta and superior vena cava. An hour later, we were able to dissect the arrowhead out and get all bleeding controlled without injuring the cava or aorta.

When do you talk to such a patient about the Lord? My thinking was the sooner, the better. The following morning, he was alert and talking. I asked him if he had ever accepted Jesus as his Savior. A nurse translated for us. She looked at me and replied, “He said yes. Jesus saved him twice. The first time when he received Jesus into his heart at the age of 10, and last night when He saved his life.” I encouraged the patient to live out the rest of his life as a witness for the Lord.

**“Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory”**

—Psalm 115:1
Mission hospitals around the world depend on the assistance of Christian medical professionals who volunteer to provide care to the sick in Jesus’ Name. We want to thank the men and women listed below for their faithful service between October-December 2017.

**BANGLADESH**

**MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL**

- Dr. Katherine Allen
  Emergency Medicine Physician
  Newcastle upon Tyne, England

- Dr. Pauline Anthony
  Family Practice Physician
  Horton, England

- Sharon Bailey
  Registered Nurse
  Nottingham, England

- Joanna Baiz
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Ludon, RI

- Jana W. Barlow
  Registered Nurse
  Myplas, CA

- Kalisse S. Barwich
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Surrey, BC, Canada

- Marijah B. Bywater
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Brount, SC

- Dr. Charles A. Cleare
  General Practitioner
  Nassau, Bahamas

- Dr. Daniel DeCook
  General Surgeon
  Holland, MI

- Casey L. Diener
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Goshen, IN

- Mrs. Lauren Ann Freeman
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Portland, OR

- Mrs. Jill Gerber
  Registered Nurse
  Butlon, IN

- Mrs. Charlene Gilbert
  Associate Degree in Nursing
  Jomorsborn, TN

- Philip Habegger
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Nashville, TN

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  Olyby, England

- Henrietta Hemstra
  Registered Nurse
  Kitcheen, ON, Canada

- Vanessa D. Johnson
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Victoria, BC, Canada

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  Anesthesiologist
  Be Air, MD

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  Certified Nurse Anesthetist
  Beak, SC

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  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Portland, OR

- Charity Montanel
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Houston, TX

- Mrs. Nancy E. Pope
  Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Dallas, TX

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  Registered Nurse
  Philippines

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  Calgary, AB, Canada

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  Licensed Practical Nurse
  Vineyard, ON, Canada

- Heidi S. Sehagel
  Licensed Practical Nurse
  Saint Ave, ON, Canada

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  Salford, ON, Canada

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  Registered Nurse
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  Anesthesiologist
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  Registered Nurse
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- Dr. Wingko W. Youg
  Anesthesiologist
  Richmond Hill, ON, Canada
**Angola**

- **Evangelical Center of Lubango**
  - Dr. Sarah Hudgins
    Obstetrician/Gynecologist
    Timberlea, NS, Canada

**Burundi**

- **Kibuye Hope Hospital**
  - Dr. Ted John
    General Surgeon
    LaPalma, CA
  - Dr. Josh Thissian
    General Surgeon
    Kingston, ON, Canada

**Cameroon**

- **Mbingo Baptist Hospital**
  - Dr. Glenn Hanke
    Pediatrician
    El Paso, TX

**Ethiopia**

- **Soodoo Hospital**
  - Dr. Brian Hodges
    Orthopedic Surgeon
    Vega, TX

**Gabon**

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  - Dr. Andrew Huang
    Plastic Surgeon
    Saskatoon, SK, Canada
  - Dr. Kimberley Huang
    Family Practice/Anesthesiologist
    Saskatoon, SK, Canada

**Honduras**

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  - Dr. Roy Kissner
    Family Practice Physician
    Fort Myers, FL

**Kenya**

- **Chogoria Hospital**
  - Dr. Providence Usimana
    Family Practice Physician
    Richmond, TX
  - Dr. Emily Weimer
    Family Practice/Obstetrician
    Salem, OR

**Nigeria**

- **Egbere Hospital**
  - Dr. Ashley Reimer
    Family Practice
    Canfield, OH
  - Dr. Sean Reimer
    General Surgeon
    Canfield, OH

**Papua New Guinea**

- **Kudjip Nazarene Hospital**
  - Dr. Sheryl Udeta
    General Surgeon
    Syracuse, NY

**Peru**

- **La Fuente Centro de Salud Integral**
  - Dr. Ben Lewis
    Pediatrician
    Charlotteville, VA

**Togo**

- **Hospital of Hope**
  - Dr. Christine Bies
    Emergency Medicine Physician
    Schumburg, IL
  - Dr. Megan McGinnis
    Obstetrician/Gynecologist
    Sugar Land, TX

**Uganda**

- **Karolyn Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital**
  - Dr. Seth Malloy
    Family Practice Physician
    Quincy, MI
  - Dr. Kristi Tebo
    Pediatrician
    Chicago, IL

**Special Assignment**

- Dr. Christina Miller
  Family Medicine/Preventative Medicine
  Colton, CA

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*Featured Speakers:*

**Jim Cymbala**

Has been the pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City since the early 1970s. The congregation has church plants in other parts of the city as well as missionary stations that bring the Good News to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

**Joni Eareckson Tada**

Is the founder and CEO of Joni and Friends International Disability Center. She has written over 50 books about disability outreach, God’s goodness, and the problem of suffering. Her daily radio program has been airing for over 35 years.

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- Banso Baptist Hospital, Cameroon
- Baptist Medical Centre, Ghana
- CMG/Nyankundo Hospital, Democratic Republic of Congo
- ECWA Egbe Hospital, Nigeria
- ECWA Hospital, Liberia
- Galmi Hospital, Niger
- Hospital Diespi Suyana, Peru
- Hospital of Hope, Togo
- Hospital Shalom, Guatemala
- Kapsowar Hospital, Kenya
- Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital, Togo
- Baptist Medical Centre, Ghana
- Baptist Medical Centre, Kenya
- Karolyn Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital, Rwanda
- Kibogora Hospital, Rwanda

CARDIOLOGY
- Banso Baptist Hospital, Cameroon
- Baptist Medical Centre, Ghana
- Chokokolok Mission Hospital, Zambia
- ECWA Egbe Hospital, Nigeria
- Hospital Diespi Suyana, Peru
- Hospital Loma de Luz, Honduras
- Hospital of Hope, Togo
- Kapsowar Hospital, Kenya
- Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, Liberia
- La Fuente Clinic, Peru
- Macha Mission Hospital, Zambia
- Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon
- Myungsung Christian Medical Center, Ethiopia
- Shalom Family Medical Center, El Salvador
- Tensian Bible Camp (OHOP), Alaska
- Kibogora Hospital, Rwanda
- Kibogora Hospital, Kenya

CARDIOLOGY
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- Hospital Loma de Luz, Honduras
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- La Fuente Clinic, Peru
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- Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon
- Myungsung Christian Medical Center, Ethiopia
- Shalom Family Medical Center, El Salvador
- Tensian Bible Camp (OHOP), Alaska
- Kibogora Hospital, Rwanda
- Kibogora Hospital, Kenya

DENTISTRY
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- Baptist Medical Centre, Ghana
- Chokokolok Mission Hospital, Zambia
- ECWA Egbe Hospital, Nigeria
- Hospital Diespi Suyana, Peru
- Hospital Loma de Luz, Honduras
- Hospital of Hope, Togo
- Kapsowar Hospital, Kenya
- Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, Liberia
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Ways to be Involved

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Pray for the multitudes around the world who are suffering and dying because of a lack of proper medical care. Ask God to call more Christian medical professionals to treat the suffering and share the Good News overseas.

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