



- Family Mission Trip, pg. 1
- Christmas in other countries, pg. 2
- Big Dreams for Hôpital Ste. Croix , p.3
- FSIL Nursing School leaders of tomorrow p.4



In Partnership With
Presbyterian
Church (USA)

Winter 2010 | Volume 17 | Issue 4

A Family Mission Trip

by Dr. Amy McAuley, Incoming President, MBF Board of Trustees

Last August, our family spent five weeks at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. While Jim and I worked in the hospital, our children, Miriam, Ruth, John and Christopher, helped at Ebenezer School. Like most hospitals in developing countries, we found the needs overwhelming, the work physically, emotionally and spiritually challenging, staff overworked and supplies and equipment inadequate.

On the pediatric ward there were two to three children per bed, most with malaria, pneumonia and severe anemia. The mortality rate for children under five in parts of Malawi is twenty percent. In Africa, malaria kills a child every second. There was never enough oxygen for all the children who needed it. Every day children died. I wept with mothers as they lost their dearly beloved children. Many children had multiple illnesses. Leonard, an unimmunized 11-year-old boy, was admitted with meningitis, malaria, anemia and schistosomiasis

(a disease due to poor sanitation and unclean water), and developed measles while in the hospital.

One day, a teen arrived and collapsed, unconscious and unresponsive. Her blood looked like water and her hemoglobin was two (a normal hemoglobin is 12). She had malaria, but parasites like hookworm and schistosomiasis, as well as malnutrition, can worsen anemia. Amazingly, that afternoon, after a unit of blood and fervent prayer, she sat up and ate porridge.

After my 16-year-old son donated blood there, one afternoon, he commented to his friends on Facebook, "I gave blood today, saved several lives. What

did you do?" It is a great question and a challenge to all of us. What are we doing? Scripture tells us "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it," (I Corinthians 12:24). But do we really? Are we engaged in active sustained commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering in the world? What does partnership mean and what is our response to James 2:15: "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food and one of you says to them,

'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" Even more pointed is I John 3:17, "Whoever has the world's goods and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

The Lord of the universe, rich beyond measure, chose to become poor, letting go of position, power, reputation and rights. Jesus' life was one of voluntary sacrifice in submission to the will of the

Father. He came for the poor, the lost, the grieving, the brokenhearted, the oppressed, those in mourning, those in despair, disgraced, shamed, hungry, naked, wandering in darkness. We are called to join Him in restoring, rebuilding, renewing, planting, blessing, healing, satisfying, strengthening, watering, raising up foundations, bringing light, justice and mercy for His glory so that righteousness and praise will "spring up before the nations" (Isaiah 61).

I pray my words will inspire all of us to seek after the heart of God and consider, how can we get involved?



Dr. Amy McAuley and her children wait to donate blood at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. (left to right: Dr. McAuley, Chris, Miriam, John, and Ruth)

From the Executive Director

The legacy of medical mission is strong and, by God's grace, continues in so many places. Recently, I visited the Richardson Leprosarium outside Miraj, India. While real advances have been made in treatment, leprosy continues to claim new victims. We visited a young boy whose hand had been distorted by leprosy, but who had received surgical treatment that gave him a functional and non-disfigured hand. We saw an older farmer whose leprosy kept him from feeling the pain of an injury. Infection set in and he was in danger of losing his foot. Thanks to medical help, the infection is being treated and he is receiving new footwear designed to protect his "anesthetized" feet and permit him to return to farming.



Dr. Will Browne



This farmer in India is grateful for medical help that saved him from losing a foot to leprosy.

We expectantly pray that the economic crisis of the last three years will fade away. Like other nonprofits, we have had to make program and personnel changes, but the international partners with whom we serve have been more affected than we have. We stand in **humble amazement** at the lessons of perseverance, faith, and joy we learn from these partners and those they serve. We are **humbly grateful** for the steady faithfulness of our long-term donors and for the ongoing and emerging partnerships that have enabled us to continue supporting medical mission around the world.

In confidence that our God of abundant love and unlimited resources will act in response to the cries of people in need, we have great **hope** that in this new year we will:

- welcome new donors to join present donors and help us grow in our ministry;
- fulfill needs of our mission partners and assure those who give time and expertise that their efforts will change things for the future;
- find expanding resources (government, NGO and corporate grants) to support the

Thinking About "If you are a child this Christmas in another country..."

If you are from a Christian family in Mumbai, India, your father has strung giant star-shaped paper lanterns between your house and your neighbors. If you live in the south of India, your father has placed a small clay oil lamp on the flat roof of your house to show that Jesus is the light of the world, but if you are from a Christian family in Pakistan, there will be a star on your roof.



Children at St. Joseph's Church in Rajshahi, Bangladesh get all dressed up to celebrate Christmas Day. (Photo courtesy Dr. Les Morgan, PC(USA) medical missionary).

In Ethiopia where Christians celebrate Christmas (called "Ganna") on January 7th, you and your family will be dressed all in white at the Ganna celebration, but you won't receive or give gifts.

After the Christmas service in Zambia, all the adults from your extended family will go to one house to celebrate while the children will go to another.

If you live in Malawi, you might be in one of the long, popular Christmas plays that start with the Garden of Eden and end around midnight with the birth of Jesus. And you might fall asleep while your family stays at church singing until dawn.

If you live in Ethiopia, you might say, "Melkam Yelidet Beal."

If you live in India, you might say, "Bade Din ki Mubarak."

If you live in DR Congo, you might say, "Mbotama Malamu."

And we say, "Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy new year to our medical mission partners around the world!"

most valuable asset in mission we have—long-term PCUSA medical missionaries.

We invite you to continue the journey that so powerfully touches lives around the world with healing and hope and that makes us one with all God's children.



BIG DREAMS FOR HÔPITAL STE CROIX IN HAITI

Hospital board encouraged with plans for future

Hôpital Ste. Croix (HSC) in Leogane, Haiti will be “a hospital of excellence for the 21st Century,” Bishop Duracin promised at the annual meeting of the hospital board in Miami. With the new \$750,000 grant obtained by MBF from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for HSC, the board is optimistic about the future and moving forward with a multi-phase plan for full reconstruction rather than only emergency repairs. Other sources of funding are also being sought, including grants from USAID.



Hôpital Ste. Croix in Leogane, Haiti after the January earthquake.

Former MBF board president and architect Jimmy Hite presented the reconstruction plan and status. He has developed plans for earthquake-and-hurricane-resistant buildings for both the hospital and FSIL School of Nursing campuses.

The board was introduced to Dr. Gladys Memnon, Hospital Director, who is reorganizing the medical and health work of the Episcopal Diocese in Haiti with the support of Mike McIntyre, a consultant. Dr. Memnon’s strong leadership promises to keep plans

for the hospital on target.

MBF’s long partnership with Hôpital Ste. Croix and FSIL School of Nursing has provided much-needed financial support as well as the leadership of Jimmy Hite, Chip Lambert, Bill Simmons, Fred Kingston and Dick Stuber.

Dr. Will Browne, MBF Executive Director, who was recently appointed to the hospital board, reports, “it is clear that Hôpital Ste. Croix will make progress and that the board is energetic and committed for the long term...by God’s grace, the mission of providing quality medical care to the people of Haiti in Christ’s name moves forward. Thanks be to God.”

Update on Anticipated Funding for Hôpital Ste. Croix

In the Fall issue of MBF Mission Connection, we announced that a donor group, the City of Champions for Haiti, would be in partnership with MBF on a reconstruction and expansion project for Haiti that included Hôpital Ste. Croix and FSIL School of Nursing. That group will now be working in another needy area of Haiti, but, by God’s grace, with the help of faithful donors and other sources, MBF and the Episcopal Diocese will proceed with plans to restore these facilities that are crucial to the health of our Haitian brothers and sisters.

When Mbuyi was 9 years old, a wave of ethnic violence swept through southern DR Congo, and he and his family were forced to flee for their lives. Traveling north on the refugee train, Mbuyi’s arm began to swell. By the time they reached the north a week later, Mbuyi was very ill. His parents took him to Good Shepherd Hospital in Tshikaji where doctors amputated his arm in order to save his life. Even though his parents had no money, Mbuyi was able to remain at the hospital for more than a year, enduring operations and skin grafts, because of the undesigned gifts of people in the U.S.

Today, Mbuyi has completed his national exams at the end of high school and will attend the Presbyterian University of Congo on a scholarship program to study law, on his way to being a powerful force for God in that part of the world.



Mbuyi and his father pose at graduation celebration when flour is sprinkled on graduates. Because someone cared, Mbuyi is on his way to being a leader in DR Congo

THIS CHRISTMAS, GIFT THE WORLD WITH A HEALING PROMISE!

Make a promise to give MBF an undesignated gift in the coming year so someone like Mbuyi can be healed and sent on their way to bless the world. Your undesignated gifts to MBF go out wherever they are most needed and become a gift to the world in the form of medicine, nutrition, medical supplies, indigenous training, orphan care, disease prevention, and more. Email us at info@mbfoundation.org to tell us that we can count on your committed support in 2011.

“We have felt the support of MBF so profoundly over the years, and are deeply grateful.”

Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan
PC(USA) coworkers in Bangladesh

Email Us At info@mbfoundation.org to get Mission Connection Online

Medical Benevolence Foundation
3100 S. Gessner, Suite 210
Houston, TX 77063

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 11118
Houston, TX

FACING THE NEW YEAR WITH OUR MEDICAL MISSION PARTNERS



This Issue:
FACING THE NEW YEAR WITH OUR MEDICAL MISSION PARTNERS

Medical Benevolence Foundation
3100 S. Gessner, Suite 210 | Houston, TX 77063
Phone: 800-547-7627 | Email: info@MBFoundation.org
Mission Connection is published by the Medical Benevolence Foundation.
Editor: Catherine Davis.
FREE subscriptions: call 800-547-7627 or subscribe at MBFoundation.org

FSIL Nursing School Graduates will be Haiti's Leaders



Two proud graduates of
FSIL School of Nursing.

“I know already they will be the leaders of Haiti,” says Dean Hilda Alcindor about the senior students who graduate this December from FSIL School of Nursing.

Nowhere was that leadership spirit more evident than the night of the devastating earthquake in early 2010. As the injured poured into the nursing school compound, Dean Alcindor put the seniors in charge of medical aid.

After they observed how police had handled the sight of blood on earthquake victims, FSIL students organized classes for the local police on

emergency medicine. During the recent outbreak of cholera, students again proved their leadership when Dean Alcindor sent them out into the community to educate people in schools and churches about the infection.

“We are participating in community development,” Dean Alcindor explains.

MBF continues to send operational support to FSIL School of Nursing. About three-quarters of the students at FSIL depend on scholarships that run \$3,000 per year and cover tuition, room and board, books and uniforms.

Visit Us Online at www.MBFoundation.org