

MISSION CONNECTION



Inspiring News from PC(USA) Medical Missions Around the World

Fall 2003 Volume 10, Issue 4

ASHA AWARDS TWO NEW GRANTS TO MBF PROJECTS

Malawi and Nepal will benefit from two new MBF grants totaling \$800,000. ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) has awarded \$300,000 for Lalitpur Nursing School in Nepal and \$500,000 for Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi.

"MBF continues to successfully compete for U.S. Government grants" says MBF Executive Director Dan Force. "We currently manage five grants in Malawi, Haiti, Nepal and India."

The ASHA grant for Lalitpur Nursing School in Nepal will renovate the existing building, a Victorian structure built in 1937 for a Nepali ruler and his family (and animals). The building is used for dormitory and classrooms for more than 115 students, but it has inadequate classroom and living space, insufficient lighting and poor bathroom facilities, no emergency exits, and is vulnerable to earthquakes and fire. The ASHA grant will renovate the building and help purchase badly needed equipment such

as computers and up-to-date textbooks.

Because of the poverty of the general population it serves, Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi relies on donations for 43% of its operational costs. The new ASHA grant will

help build a private ward for people with adequate funds who seek a hospital where they will receive excellent care and privacy. This group would include corporate patients from companies located in Southern Malawi. Funds generated from the people using the new ward would help subsidize the ministry of Mulanje.

Shared funding is often part of an ASHA grant. MBF will raise an additional \$52,500 for Lalitpur Nursing school, and \$136,000 for Mulanje Mission Hospital.

ASHA grants are awarded to "responsible providers of humanitarian assistance to developing nations."

(Top) Students crowd around their instructor and a portable heater in one of Lalitpur Nursing School's classrooms. **(Bottom)** Over the entrance to Mulanje Hospital, a cross testifies to its mission.



WE GET MAIL



I wish you could read some of the letters that come to my desk here at the Medical Benevolence Foundation. For example, today a letter from Frances Newton Hospital in India said, "Thank you for the operational support sent by MBF through PC(USA). The funds will be used for our Central Oxygen Plants Pipe Lines." In the same mail came letters from several donors. One from a donor in Pennsylvania said, "This check is for Gotcheb Clinic in Ethiopia." A donor in Seattle wrote that his check was "for AIDS in Africa." Several wrote, "Please use where needed most."

Through letters, we are constantly reminded of how

much your gifts are appreciated. The administrator of Mwandu Mission Hospital in Zambia wrote, "Thank you. This money will go towards the training of staff for the hospital. We continue to appreciate for your love, prayer, and support." The Presbyterian Church of East Africa wrote, "We wish to thank MBF for the support shown for Tumutumu Hospital. The funds will go a long way in supporting the Hospital as well as the provision of AIDS Testing Machine especially during this time the country (Kenya) has declared 'Total War Against AIDS.'"

Please know that I know you make this ministry possible in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel L. Force



GIFTS WITH "MIRACLE QUALITY"

That's what MBF Executive Director Dan Force calls the gifts that come in at just the right time. Dan remembers one of those gifts coming on September 11, 2001.

"This was a time when MBF was in serious need of unrestricted funds," he says. "I was delayed in Haiti because of the terrible tragedy in New York. Our Houston office called and told me that we had just received a check for \$443,000. Unknown to us, we had been named as a beneficiary in the will of a woman who had been faithfully giving us about \$25 a year. That gift had 'miracle quality.' It came at just the right time."

Dan Force writes in the Summer 2003 issue of Corner-

stone, the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation publication, "To ensure that its mission is carried on long into the future, the MBF works closely with the Presbyterian Foundation to promote planned giving—the kinds of gifts that provide support for many years to come, like permanent funds."

You may choose from several options when considering planned giving and it can be a particular dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the residual of your estate. It can be in the form of a charitable remainder trust, charitable beneficiary designation of your life insurance, or a charitable gift annuity. Contact Dan Force for more details. Yours may be a gift with "miracle quality."



Correction:

The caption below this photo in the last issue of Mission Connection should have read: "Left to right: Dr. Frank Bertram, Larry Norman, and Pastor Craig Sumey."

SHORT-TERM DOCTORS NEEDED IN AFRICA

The Medical Benevolence Foundation, in cooperation with the International Health Ministries office of the Presbyterian Church (USA), has connected many health professionals in the United States with short-term service opportunities in developing world hospitals. Now word has come from Africa that short-term physicians are needed in PC(USA) partner hospitals there.

At Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi, only one part-time doctor serves the needs of the people of that area. And even after a full-time doctor arrives in October, the hospital will need a continuous supply of short-term physicians until they can recruit additional help.

At Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi, short-term doctors are needed in Family Practice, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, or General Surgery for one to three months.

There is also a need for short-term physicians at Mwandu Hospital in Zambia.

If you are a doctor who may be available for short-term service, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact MBF's International Office: 800.547.7627.



Share this copy of MBF Mission Connection with others in your church who are interested in medical mission. Additional copies available from MBF regional offices.

AFRICA, AIDS, FRUSTRATION, AND JOY

AN INTERVIEW WITH JODI MCGILL, PC(USA) MISSION CO-WORKER IN MALAWI

You may remember her from the MBF episode of "The Visionaries" TV program on PBS. She and her husband were interviewed about their work at Embangweni Hospital in Malawi. Jodi McGill and her husband, Jim, are back in the USA now for a well-deserved furlough. We talked to Jodi about her work as Public Health Coordinator and AIDS Coordinator for the Livingstonia Synod in Malawi, Africa.

MBF: How does the Synod's AIDS control program work, and is it too soon to see results?

Jodi McGill: The idea is to educate Malawi congregations (Presbyterians and others) about HIV/AIDS, give them information on how they can get involved to prevent the infection, and care for those infected with and affected by the illness. We are seeing more open communication about the illness than ever before, and less condemnation. Stigma is still a huge problem, but the church is becoming more of a help and less of a hindrance. The church has historically been too late in addressing HIV, but is turning around and becoming the leader it should be.

With your responsibilities with the Synod, Jim's work as water coordinator, and four young children, you must need this furlough! How have you managed?

I've been able to manage for several reasons. The "real" work, the field work, was done by the wonderful Malawi staff while I did surveys, wrote reports and proposals, and managed the staff. We have a spectacular woman who does the hands-on monitoring of the congregational-based malaria prevention program, and four dedicated staff members to run the AIDS program. I also do have help at home with cooking and child care. Then, I could not have managed without a very supportive husband who is proud of what I can offer in God's service.

Tell us about the Jodi McGill Scholarship Fund.

In 1997 when I spoke in some PC(USA) churches in California about the critical nursing shortage in Malawi,

the MBF area director there suggested it as a way to help fund the training of Malawian nurses. Now the fund is helping all three hospitals in Malawi. We've sent 2 nurses for anesthesia training, 2 for community health training, one to become a nurse tutor for the Synod's nursing school, one for advanced midwifery, one for radiography training, and 6 for upgrading. We have also paid for several high school students to attend nursing school.

"We are seeing more open communication about [HIV/AIDS] than ever before"

In the "Visionaries" video, you express frustration with not having the equipment, medicines, etc. you really need to treat the sick. Is that still your greatest frustration?

Yes, coupled with a double-edged bind of funding. People generally only want to fund projects or program costs, not the salaries or benefits of the Malawians who

implement these programs. . . As members of U.S. congregations, we don't want to foster dependence, yet neither do we give enough to support the qualified nationals to implement the programs.

And your greatest joy?

Knowing that people were helped, even if indirectly, from our work . . . also joy comes from seeing my Malawian counterparts become more assured and skillful in their jobs.

You'll be in the USA until June of next year. How can we pray for you during that time?

Pray that we may represent well our co-workers and church leaders in Malawi. And pray that people with whom we speak may feel connected to God's work throughout the world and continue to be faithful.

Note: To help combat HIV/AIDS in Malawi, through Diseases of Poverty Funds MBF continues to support the AIDS control program of Livingstonia Synod, including its prevention and care activities, home-based care, orphan support, counseling, and advocacy programs for women.

Jodi and Jim McGill with their children (left to right) Selina, Jason, Salome, and Michael.



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A Gift with "Miracle Quality"



A HEART FOR THE POOR

Dr. Magda Iskander has a heart for the poor. Born in Egypt, trained in the United States, she worked for years in a Cairo hospital as a radiologist. But, "practicing diagnostic radiology made me realize more and more the importance of preventative medicine, early diagnosis, and treatment of disease," she says. "As a specialized care giver, my practice was institution-based, sickness centered, individualistic, and mostly available to those who could



Dr. Magda Iskander

afford it. . . I am more interested in working at a grassroots level—primary health care and community health."

Today, under the Coptic Evangelical Organization of Social Services, Dr. Iskander has developed "Care With Love." The program trains young Egyptians to be home health care providers for the elderly, chronically ill, convalescing, and disabled.

MBF is committed to raise support for Dr. Iskander as a mission specialist under the PC(USA).

GET READY NOW TO SEND A MIRACLE AROUND THE WORLD

Remember, MBF has FREE materials designed to make your Alternative Giving program a success. Please visit our web site, or fax or call in your order for bulletin inserts, a helpful handbook, "Minute for Mission" scripts, newsletter and bulletin copy, clip art or video.

Visit www.MBFoundation.org

Fax: 954-786-2261

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Administrative Charge Continues

Restricted donations increasingly outstrip unrestricted donations coming to MBF. The Foundation is dependent on unrestricted gifts, not only to send overseas, but to continue the ministry of mission interpretation to Presbyterian congregations and to collect and ship medical supplies and equipment. Due to the shortage of unrestricted funds, the MBF Executive Committee continues to place a 5% administrative charge on restricted cash donations. In other words, out of every restricted dollar, five cents will be used for mission interpretation and administration.

Note the MBF Regional Director for Your State

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The Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) with the Presbyterian Church (USA) proclaims and demonstrates the gospel of Jesus Christ by encouraging and supporting the healing ministries of our worldwide partners.

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