

# MISSION CONNECTION



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

Late Summer 2003      Volume 10, Issue 3

## MICHAEL AND NANCY HANINGER: AMERICAN DOCTOR AND NURSE DISCOVER JOYS AND SORROWS OF DR CONGO

**A**fter almost two years as the only U.S. medical personnel at Good Shepherd Hospital (IMCK) in DR Congo, Dr. Michael and Nancy Haninger are encouraged. In a country ravaged by diseases that would be easily treated or prevented in the U.S., they see how even basic medical help and education can make a difference in a developing country like DR Congo.

*"There would be no IMCK/Good Shepherd Hospital without MBF support."*

"DR Congo is a huge country abused by the world and its own people," says Mike. "The government has zero budget for health care. One of the bright lights in the Congo has been IMCK/Good Shepherd. Its main arm for economical and emotional support is the Medical Benevolence Foundation [MBF]. There would be no IMCK/Good Shepherd Hospital without MBF support."

Since November, 2001, Mike has been a teaching physician at Good Shepherd Hospital. His goal and his greatest joy is preparing Congolese to be the future family doctors of their country.

*"The women and children are dying from disease and circumstances I could never have imagined as a nurse in the U.S."*

Nancy has been involved with the community health program, serving mostly women

and children. "Women and children are the most vulnerable population in DR Congo," she says. "They are deprived and powerless with no personal resources, and they are dying from disease and circumstances I could never have imagined as a nurse in the U.S."

When Nancy first began working in the village of Tshikaji (population 6000), she was shocked to see the malnutrition, a major problem in DR Congo, and the poverty. There was no clean drinking water and no community-based health care. She helped the women of the village organize. In just eighteen months they had found a place for a prenatal clinic, immunized 3000 children, and provided prenatal care to hundreds of women.

*"Every day I'm invited into situations so out of my comfort zone that all I can do is say, 'Okay.' It's all about what God is doing."*

"All the initiative came from the Congolese," she says. "They just needed a partner to help them get started. It's so humbling. Every day I'm invited into situations so out of my comfort zone that all I can do is say, 'Okay.' It's all about what God is doing."

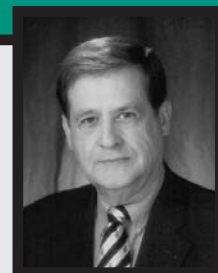
The Haningers had always felt a pull to work with people with few resources. While in private practice in Ohio, they volunteered with the clinic of a local women's shelter. When their children were grown, they offered their services as mission specialists under the PC(USA).

*continued on next page*



Mike and  
Nancy  
Haninger

## ANSWERED PRAYER



**D**avid came down the aisle looking for me as the postlude was finishing. He looked really excited. David is a recently retired stock broker who volunteers for MBF/Project C.U.R.E. He calls on hospitals that make up the Houston Medical Center (the largest medical center in the world) and, in the name of the poor of the world who do without health care, he asks for donations of medical supplies and equipment. The donated items are shipped to Presbyterian-related hospitals around the world. Already this year MBF has shipped six 40-foot containers to DR Congo, Haiti, and Kenya. The "used wholesale" value of these medical supplies and equipment exceeded \$3,100,000.

Now, back to why David was looking for me. A local hospital wanted to donate an x-ray machine valued at \$390,000. It was being used daily on patients, and needed to be moved quickly because a new machine was ready to replace it. David

said there was one catch: it would cost about \$1,300 to disassemble and move it to the MBF/Project C.U.R.E. Center in Houston. After thinking for a moment, I was able to assure him that I knew a donor who would want to cover the cost. David smiled. His work was not in vain.

I give thanks that by the grace of God MBF is blessed with such dedicated volunteers and donors. Because of David and volunteers like him, a hospital serving the poor in some distant land will have an x-ray machine. There are countless examples like this every day of volunteers and donors answering God's call to share their gifts. You will read some of their stories in this *Mission Connection*. God does answer prayer. I thank each of you who are part of MBF's dedicated volunteers and donors for your every day gifts that make this ministry possible.

*Daniel L. Force*

### Haningers *continued from first page*

For Dr. Mike, coming fresh from a medical practice in the U.S., the biggest challenge has been adjusting to how difficult it is to accomplish even the simplest things. "For example," he says, "recently I had a young woman patient with a curable cancer that had advanced beyond what a single drug could

accomplish." Good Shepherd didn't stock the needed drugs, so the family had to purchase them, but couldn't afford continuing the treatment.

Why didn't Good Shepherd stock those drugs? "They're not terribly expensive," Mike says, "but, the country is so impoverished that we have to deal with the most common and treatable with meds that are lower cost. We have

no money to keep others in stock. The needs go well beyond the resources."

MBF is committed to raising \$30,000 in support for Michael and Nancy Haninger this year, as well as ongoing support for Good Shepherd and other hospitals in DR Congo. Contact your MBF regional director or MBF's international office if you would like to participate.

## SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAISES \$100 FOR CHILDREN

**L**ast year, MBF Regional Director Lynn Swinke-Workman visited Summer Carreno in Topeka, KS to thank her for the \$6.00 she sent to MBF to help sick children in other countries. After Lynn's visit, Summer was inspired to do more through MBF for children needing medical attention in other parts of the world. Summer's pastor, Rev. Lisa Danielson, tells what happened.

"Summer and her parents worked together to prepare a special Fellowship Hour for the congregation . . . Summer filled the serving table with food she had helped to make, and proudly



displayed the picture of children in Haiti that Lynn had given her . . . During worship that day Summer gave a Moment for Mission and told the congregation about her special Fellowship Hour. She set out a basket and invited the congregation to give to MBF. \$100 was collected that day."

Rev. Danielson sent the \$100 to MBF with the reminder that "children who are inspired can and do make wonderful things happen in this world."

**Summer Carreno**

# PROJECT C.U.R.E. MBF AND PROJECT C.U.R.E. PARTNER IN FIGHT AGAINST SARS



Volunteers from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston fill a container for an overseas hospital at the MBF/Project C.U.R.E. Center in Houston.

In response to an urgent request from Taiwan, the Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) and Project C.U.R.E. have shipped 5,000 surgical masks to Taipei to help battle the SARS epidemic.

The request came from John McCall, a PC(USA) mission worker in Taipei. "I was distressed to learn that two of our Presbyterian Hospitals in Taipei had an outbreak of SARS among the staff," said McCall.

MBF contacted Project C.U.R.E. (Committee on Urgent Relief and Equipment), MBF's partner in collecting and distributing medical supplies and equipment for overseas hospitals and clinics. Project C.U.R.E. located the surgical masks and packed them up. MBF paid the air freight from Denver to Los Angeles where China Airlines flew the masks, free of charge, to Taipei, Taiwan.

The surgical masks are now in use at MacKay Hospital in Taipei and at Chunghwa Christian Hospital in Chunghwa.

"This venture is one more example of the valuable partnership between MBF and Project C.U.R.E.," said Dan Force, MBF executive director.

"I write this letter to officially acknowledge and give thanks for your kind support for the 3000 surgical masks received during our difficult fight with SARS. Up to today we have treated 165 reported cases of SARS, out of which 129 are SARS cases. . . . Out of the SARS cases 16 have died. Six of our staff were infected and have recovered now, although they had very critical times. Thank you again for your warm help in our most difficult time."

Yungming Paul Wang  
Vice-president in Administration  
MacKay Memorial Hospital.



One of the 40-foot containers the volunteers filled with donated medical supplies and equipment to ship to overseas PC(USA) partner hospitals and clinics.



Young volunteers from First Presbyterian and Immanuel Presbyterian churches in Albuquerque, NM help sort and pack medical supplies at a warehouse run by MBF's partner Project C.U.R.E. MBF welcomes volunteers of all

ages. Please contact your regional MBF office or the international office for information.

## WHERE DID THEY GO?

This year, through the MBF/Project C.U.R.E. partnership, 40-foot containers of medical supplies and equipment continue to ship out to PC(USA) partner hospitals and clinics in developing countries. Dollar value of the donated material? More than three million dollars.

### 2003 shipments:

To Hopital St. Croix in Haiti	*\$546,192
To Hopital St. Croix & St. Vincent Hospital in Haiti	*\$179,366
To Mombin Crochu in Haiti	*\$349,737
To Presbyterian partner hospitals in DR Congo	*\$376,001
To Kikuyu & Chogoria Hospitals in Kenya	*\$409,542
To Presbyterian partner hospitals in DR Congo	*\$742,955
To Tumutumu Hospital in Kenya	*\$495,232

To date, three containers have been confirmed to ship to Malawi in August. Before the end of the year, shipments are pending for Zambia, Hopital Sainte Croix Nursing School in Haiti, and for DR Congo.

\* Valued at "used wholesale"



Somewhere in the world, in the very near future, a rural hospital or clinic in a developing country will continue to function when their electricity fails. That's because Larry Norman, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL, donated a 6000-pound diesel generator, and MBF and Project C.U.R.E. will identify that hospital and ship out the generator.

That's Larry Norman on the far right, Pastor Mike Craig in the middle, and Dr. Frank Bertram, First Presbyterian member and also member of MBF's board.

Medical Benevolence Foundation  
P.O. Box 770636  
Houston, TX 77215-0636

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

## MBF Responds to SARS



### GREAT IDEA:

#### ALTERNATIVE GIFTS FOR TEACHERS

Eastminster Presbyterian Church in York, PA raised almost \$1400 for the work of MBF through their Alternative Christmas Gift event. Several people purchased alternative gift certificates as gifts for their children's teachers. The following thank you note expresses one teachers' enthusiastic response.

*"Thank you for the very special gift. I think the donation for pediatric care is one of the most meaningful gifts I have ever received."*

## PLAN NOW FOR YOUR CHURCH'S ALTERNATIVE GIVING EVENT

Materials are available now to help you prepare for your church's Alternative Giving Event. Even children can participate in an alternative gift event with gift certificates that can be purchased at minimum cost for the medical needs of people in other countries. For example:

- 25¢** will vaccinate one child
- \$1** will provide a consultation with a doctor
- \$1.50** will buy medicine to cure one case of malaria
- \$2** will provide an HIV test
- \$3** will pay for one day in one of the PC(USA) partner hospitals

- Other alternative gifts available are:**
- \$10** for malaria nets for a family
  - \$25** for a routine surgery
  - \$100** for annual vaccinations for the whole village
  - \$250** for training a nurse

Contact your regional director or MBF's international office for the complete list of alternative gifts and for more information. Alternative giving information and resources are also available online at [www.MBFoundation.org](http://www.MBFoundation.org).



## 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

**Serviced nationally** 800.675.9250  
([info@MBFoundation.org](mailto:info@MBFoundation.org))  
IA, MN, SD, IL, OH, ND, WI, IN, NE, MI

**Michael D. Haggin** 800.225.4999  
([mhaggin@MBFoundation.org](mailto:mhaggin@MBFoundation.org))  
AK, CO, MT, OR, WY, AZ, HI, NM, UT, CA, ID, NV, WA

**David B. Jenkins** 888.649.0222  
([djenkins@MBFoundation.org](mailto:djenkins@MBFoundation.org))  
DC, DE, SC, MD, VA, NC, WV

**Jan Schneider** 800.891.7623  
([jschneider@MBFoundation.org](mailto:jschneider@MBFoundation.org))  
AL, KY, FL, MS, GA, TN

**Susan J. Sommerville** 800.990.6492  
([ssommerville@MBFoundation.org](mailto:ssommerville@MBFoundation.org))  
CT, NY, MA, PA, ME, RI, NH, VT, NJ

**Lynn Swinke-Workman** 866.331.2525  
([lswinke@MBFoundation.org](mailto:lswinke@MBFoundation.org))  
AR, MO, KS, OK, LA, TX

**Forrest Eggleston** 888.343.9518  
([feggleston@MBFoundation.org](mailto:feggleston@MBFoundation.org))  
Medical Consultant and Volunteer

**International Office** 800.547.7627  
([info@MBFoundation.org](mailto:info@MBFoundation.org))

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.

**Medical Benevolence Foundation**  
P. O. Box 770636  
Houston, TX 77215-0636  
phone: 800.547.7627  
e-mail: [info@MBFoundation.org](mailto:info@MBFoundation.org)

MBF Mission Connection is published 5 times a year by the Medical Benevolence Foundation. Editor: Catherine Davis, Designer: Gary Gnidovic. For information on FREE subscriptions, call MBF at 800.547.7627.

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