

MISSION CONNECTION



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

Spring 2002 Volume 9, Issue 1

THANKS TO YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT ... MOTHER AND CHILD CARE CENTER NOW OPEN IN MIRAJ, INDIA

A long-time dream of MBF Trustee Dr. A. G. (Archie) Fletcher, Jr., came true in September when he traveled to Wanless Hospital in Miraj, India to help dedicate the new Mother and Child Care Center. Dr. Fletcher, a former director of the hospital and Presbyterian missionary, is well aware of the precarious health situation of women and children in rural India. Half of infants do not reach age five, and life



The children of India—the survivors. Half of infants born in rural India die before age five.

expectancy of women is well below that of men.

With funds granted to the Medical Benevolence Foundation and with shared funding from generous Presbyterians in the U.S., the building is now complete. The major portion of the funding came in a grant to MBF from the U.S. Government via American Schools and

Hospitals Abroad (ASHA).

The first and second floors of the three-story facility focus on maternity and pediatrics. The third floor is dedicated to community health care, crucial in the hospital's efforts to teach preventive care and awareness of maternal and child health concerns to people in rural India. The new building also houses a 10-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Along with Dr. Fletcher, MBF Trustee Dr. Richard Bedell, now Miraj Medical Center's "ambassador" to the U.S., was present to represent MBF at the dedication of the new Mother and Child Care Center.

The new Mother and Child Care Center at Wanless Hospital, Miraj, India.



The Gift of Grace

For many years, PC(USA)-related hospitals and international health programs have benefited from donated medical supplies and equipment gathered and shipped overseas by MBF.

In recent years, we have reviewed this program to find a better method of providing the needed materials. Often, due to the small “mom and pop” size of the program we did not have the space to store those materials. Under the direction of the MBF Committee on Equipment and Supplies, we have been searching for a better way to meet the overseas needs this program seeks to fill.

The Fall/Winter issue of *Mission Connection* describes the Project C.U.R.E. and MBF partnership to expand a medical surplus ministry—one that will improve the quality and quantity of supplies and equipment available to PC(USA)—related overseas hospitals, clinics, and international health programs. In order to move ahead, however, we needed a location for receiving and sorting donated items, loading containers, and for office space in Houston.

Today came the “gift of Grace.” Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston informed us that they will provide the use of a 20,000-square-foot space formerly occupied by an Office Max to serve all the immediate needs of this new program. The location is easy to find at a major

intersection in West Houston.

Thank you, Grace Presbyterian Church!

For the next several weeks MBF will be moving its current supplies and equipment inventory to the new location, and until the joint MBF/Project C.U.R.E. program opens, no donations of equipment and supplies will be accepted in Houston. The new Houston location will be open for business at a date to be announced. Presbyterian Church (USA) and MBF volunteers and donors of equipment and supplies will not be limited to the joint MBF/Project C.U.R.E. program in Houston.

Again, our thanks to Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, for granting the use of a building to house the expanded ministry of MBF's medical supplies and equipment for this phase of our international ministry. *Daniel L. Force*



Volunteers and donors of equipment and supplies can also work through the following Project C.U.R.E. Centers by calling:

DENVER: Jason Corley, Executive Director, 303-750-2959;

PHOENIX: Clyde and Margo Nissly, 602-955-6559;

NASHVILLE: Ed Colvin, Executive Director, 615-837-7575;

HOUSTON: Expect an announcement about the Houston center this fall.

Your Gifts Make a Difference

A NURSING STUDENT FROM MALAWI TELLS HOW

Dear MBF: Ref: Note of thanks

My name is Brenda Ngoma, an enrolled Nurse and Midwife, working at Embangweni C. C. A. P. Hospital, Malawi.

Currently am in Republic of South Africa at University of Natel doing a bridging program in General nursing. I joined the university on 3rd February 2001. The program is for two years, i.e., up to March 2003.

BRENDA'S EDUCATION IS BEING FUNDED BY THE JODI MCGILL SCHOLARSHIP FUND WHICH RECEIVES SUPPORT THROUGH MBF. GIFTS TO THE FUND ARE MADE IN HONOR OF JODI MCGILL, A PC(USA) MISSIONARY AND NURSE PRACTITIONER CURRENTLY SERVING IN MZUZU AS THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE COORDINATOR FOR THE SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA. THIS FUND ASSISTS IN TRAINING NURSES FROM MISSION HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT MALAWI, AFRICA.

As for my reference above, I want to thank you for your support. Am here doing the course because of your funds. This is great!!

The course involves upgrading skills of nursing management, nursing administration, patient assessment, patient diagnosis, assisting doctors, procedures, and teaching fellow health workers, etc. The course is tough and it needs a lot of books to read. But am really working hard so that I can get a diploma in General Nursing. Am married and a mother of five children. I left my family at home because of school/course. I hope this will benefit the patients and the whole community when I go back to Embangweni. But it will also benefit my family.

Once again thank you very, very much for your support.

May God bless you, bye,

Mrs. Brenda Ngoma

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.

SAVE THE DATE!
General Assembly of Presbyterian Church USA
“International Health Breakfast”
6:45 to 8:15 a.m., Tuesday, June 18
The Morrow Room of the Hyatt Regency Columbus, Ohio

Sponsored by MBF and International Health Ministries Office

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT COVENANT HOSPITAL IN MOMBIN CROCHU, HAITI

Presbyterian missionaries Dr. Paul and Joan McLain will arrive in March to give leadership, under the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, to Covenant Hospital in Mombin Crochu. The hospital is the principal health treatment center for more than 20,000 people in the remote Central Plateau area of Haiti.

Recently, representatives of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, and of MBF and the PC(USA) have worked together with Mombin Crochu community leaders to develop a more inclusive way for community involvement at the hospital. A community advisory board has been established to provide input on health care for the area.

Dr. Paul McLain will supervise the clinical and spiritual mission of the hospital and oversee the community health program in an area of subsistence farming and overall poverty. "The health needs of the people of Haiti are great," says Dr. McLain. "Mission groups from the U.S. who journey to Mombin Crochu in support of Covenant Hospital are, and will continue to be, a vital part of the success in achieving the goals of the facility."

Joan McLain will coordinate these visiting mission teams, contacting groups who want a short-term

mission experience in the health care field, and facilitating their travel and activities in Haiti. Watch for an announcement in the near future concerning when teams may begin scheduling trips to Mombin Crochu.

All Presbyterian and MBF health work in Haiti is in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. Over the years, Presbyterian support of health programs has changed the lives of many Haitians.

Dr. Paul McLain On **What Motivates a Medical Missionary?**

For the past thirty years, Dr. McLain has been a family physician and owner/operator of a comprehensive primary care practice in eastern Washington. What motivated this doctor and his wife to leave the comfort and familiarity of home for a new life in Haiti?

Paul McLain explains. "We are drawn to mission work primarily by a deep sense of gratitude to God for the many blessings experienced in our lives and our family, and a desire to express our thankfulness in service to a needy world through the church as the living Body of Jesus Christ. Our assignment to Covenant Hospital is our first committed mission endeavor. The more we learn about the country of Haiti, and in particular, the people of the Mombin Crochu region, the more challenging and overwhelming the task appears to us.

"We are learning a new language, Haitian Creole, and preparing to enter a culture in which we have no experience. Because of the remote location of the town and the difficulties of travel and infrastructure in the country, we will be learning a new lifestyle. In this setting we will attempt to practice medicine using the limited resources available to battle the illnesses of poverty and hunger. We will try to involve and enable those who live in Mombin Crochu to confront preventable disease, and to continue to build a sustainable health facility."



Dr. Paul and Joan McLain

JEWETT'S COMPLETE THE CIRCLE—RETURN TO INDIA

Thirty-five years ago Dr. Paul and Judy Jewett began their first assignment as medical missionaries at Wanless Hospital in Miraj, India. Now, following their last assignment at Mombin Crochu Hospital in Haiti, the Jewetts have returned to Wanless as consultants to the director. As they say, "the health care

situation is completely different from a century ago when this hospital . . . first brought Western scientific medicine and the gospel message to this part of India" Their task will be to help Wanless define its role in a country with increased medical care, but little or no affordable health care for the poor.

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MBF Funds New Mother/Child Center in India



SAM WATERSTON STILL INTRODUCING MBF TO TV AUDIENCES

"MBF reaches out to Presbyterian congregations throughout the U.S., creating a circle of giving that connects American parishioners with 3 million people worldwide who are served by their clinics." SAM WATERSTON ON "THE VISIONARIES"

As the PBS series "The Visionaries" continues to air across the country, Sam Waterston's enthusiastic words about MBF continues to inform viewers about MBF's support of the PC(USA)'s overseas medical mission work. Waterston calls MBF "the Presbyterian Church's best-kept secret" and says that the Presbyterian parish-

ioners who support MBF "receive something in return. They too are fulfilled . . . they feel no sense of sacrifice, or of having "lost" anything in the exchange. Quite the opposite!" (Those of you who support overseas medical missions know what he means.)

Videos of this excellent program are available from your regional director or from MBF's national office.



Sam Waterston

The mission of Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) is to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through a healing ministry. In partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA), MBF provides mission education in congregations, solicits financial support, medical supplies, and equipment, and recruits brief-term volunteers for overseas service in health care.

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