

MISSION CONNECTION



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

Spring 2003 Volume 10, Issue 1

A MESSAGE FROM EUGENE MCKELVEY, M. D. NEW MBF BOARD PRESIDENT

CELEBRATE WITH US . . .

How do you celebrate anniversaries? With people who have been part of your living history? With a time of reflection and planning together for the future? With a special event? These are the ways MBF is honoring its 40th anniversary, for today we stand on the threshold of our fifth decade of mission service.



Dr. Eugene McKelvey

We rejoice in the continued support of so many churches and individuals who have undergirded the foundations of our mission program and helped to make MBF a presence

throughout our country and around the globe. We rejoice in the dedication and commitment of our Board of Trustees who donate their hearts and minds and resources to serve those who are so desperately in need.

LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH US . . .

We look to the future with excitement and anticipation. The opportunities for mission continue to grow. Our partnership with Project C.U.R.E. has positioned MBF to receive medical supplies from different centers across the country and to send carefully selected equipment to mission hospitals more efficiently than ever before.

JOIN US IN COLUMBUS . . .

And we are holding a special event, a unique conference focusing on Healing Ministries in a Changing World. It will be held at Indianola Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio, April 25-26, 2003.

Won't you come and be a part of our celebration? Lives are being changed—perhaps even your own!



Directors and Coordinators of the FJKM (Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar) Health Program in Madagascar inspect the program's new vehicle which was funded, through MBF, by a gift from Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida. The vehicle will be used to access dispensaries, family-planning sites, vaccination centers and community pharmacies throughout the entire island of Madagascar.

Join Us for Breakfast

If you are attending General Assembly, join us for the Medical Benevolence Foundation / International Health Ministries Office Breakfast, Tuesday, May 27th 6:45 till 8:15 a.m. at Adams Mark Hotel in Denver. AIDS information direct from Africa, presented by PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers Caryl Weinberg and Janet Guyer, along with MBF Associate Executive Director, Pam Ator. Make your reservation on the General Assembly Reservation and Housing form.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

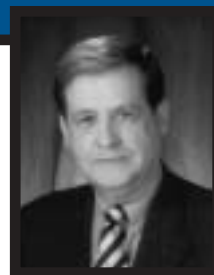
As you are aware, in 2002 most non-profit organizations experienced a drop in revenue. For most organizations, including MBF, this amounted to about a 35% decrease.

This change in the economy has caused us to look at how this ministry is to carry out its work. At my request, the President of MBF has appointed a small task force of MBF Trustees to do three things: 1) to look closely at how we are structured to carry out this ministry, 2) to look at how other

effective organizations carry out similar ministries, and 3) to recommend how we might change our structure to better carry out our Lord's commands.

The Task Force is already at work. Please pray for their work, and if you have suggestions for the Task Force, please send them to me and I will pass them on. Thank You.

Daniel L. Force



Register Now! Don't Miss Out on a Mission Conference You'll Never Forget

When you register for Mission Conference International Health 2003 to be held in Columbus, OH April 25-26, you can look forward to one of the most challenging and informative conferences yet. You'll hear from overseas visitors like Fletcher Matandika, who is struggling to save children in Malawi orphaned by

AIDS. You'll meet Dr. Jack Guy Lafontant, Medical Director of St. Croix Hospital in Haiti. Experts like Dr. E. Anne Paterson, USAID Bureau for Global Health, and Dr. David Addis of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta will offer up-to-date information. And your heart will be warmed by Dr. Alan Meenan of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.



Fletcher Matandika, through Community Based Orphan Care in Malawi will speak at Mission Conference International Health 2003.



Dr. Jack Guy Lafontant, another speaker for the April Mission Conference, directs the 120-bed St. Croix Hospital in Leogane, Haiti.

Register now online at www.MBFoundation.org or call the Houston office at 800.547.7627

SALVADOR AND IRMA DE LA TORRE ARE KEEPING KIKUYU ON TOP

For almost three and a half years, Dr. Salvador de la Torre has directed the activities of one of the best known medical centers in east Africa. Kikuyu Hospital, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, was started by Scottish Presbyterians in 1908. Since Dr. de la Torre and his wife, Irma, arrived in 1998, the 80 year-old hospital has been refurbished.

"Thanks to MBF and the PC(USA), this old facility has developed to a well known medical center," says Dr. de la Torre.

From their professorships at the University of Mexico, Salvador and Irma de la Torre, accepted an assignment with the PC(USA) at a remote hospital in Zambia. Both had previ-

ously worked with the denomination in Haiti. The de la Torres have three children—Jesus, a businessman in Mexico; Ana Rosa, with Church World Service's refugee program in Kenya; and Rodrigo, a college junior.

The Kikuyu complex includes a general hospital, the Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center established by Drs. Stan and Mia Topple and constructed by MBF, and the Eye Unit. The hospital serves an average of 600 outpatients a day, and performs 100 surgeries a week. Last year 6,549 patients were admitted. Kikuyu has an active community-based health program, and its Eye Unit mobile clinics reach remote areas of Kenya and Somalia.



Dr. Salvador and Irma de la Torre

CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

This past Christmas, a sagging economy did not keep Presbyterians from participating in a most satisfying form of gift giving: alternative gifts. Instead of giving a loved one or friend gifts such as clothing or jewelry, Presbyterians gave services like vaccinations or cataract removal or TB treatment for people in developing countries in the name of that friend or loved one. Some churches continued an alternative gift program they'd begun in previous years. Others were trying it for the very first time. How did they do? We talked to some of them and here's what we found.

Calvin Presbyterian Church in Tigard, Oregon, beat their Holiday Mission Marketplace record of the year before. "As the Oregon economy was in a slump, we did not know what to expect," says church secretary Victoria Moonier. But when the figures were in, their total for 2002—\$8,600, was \$2600 more than in 2001.

We were impressed with the creative ideas churches came up with to present the alternative gift concept to their congregations. For example, at Arcadia Presbyterian (CA), some of the men made four wooden fireplaces and painted them to look like brick. When someone purchased an alternative gift, they were given a paper ornament for their name, then the ornament was placed in one of the Christmas stockings hanging on a fireplace which included a tag describing the project and a picture of a woman and child in a developing country. With the picture were the words, "Make this Christmas a time of hope and healing . . . and a few miracles."

First Presbyterian in LaFollette, TN designated one Sunday in Advent as

MBF Alternative Giving Sunday. One of the church members created a series of computer-generated gift cards which were filled out by donors before and after the church service with the name of the recipient and the type of alternative gift chosen. According to Reverend Malcolm King, they hope to



Arcadia Presbyterian Church found creative ways to advertise their alternative gift market.

make this an annual event.

Alternative gift giving is not limited to Christmas. Contact your MBF regional director or the Houston office for information on how alternative giving can enrich the lives of your congregation and bring a medical miracle to someone in a developing country. (See page 4 for e-mail and phone numbers.)

IN YOUR HONOR
a gift has been made to...

Alternate gifts can be chosen for specific health needs of people in developing countries:

- to vaccinate children
- to provide HIV testing
- to run rural health clinics
- to remove cataracts
- to provide drugs for TB patients
- to pay hospital fees for the desperately poor



Alternative gifts help pay for nets to protect people, like this Malawi mother and child, from malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

Alternative gifts help pay for the construction and fitting of artificial limbs, like those made in this brace shop in Port au Prince, Haiti.



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

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Register Now! Mission Conference International Health 2003



SACRIFICIAL GIVING BUILDS NEW WING AT TUMUTUMU

Dr. Maria Zack, former treasurer and board member of MBF, traveled to Kenya in January for the dedication of the new Tumutumu Hospital maternity wing which bears her name. "I have mixed emotions about it," she says, "because that building is what God has done."

Solana Beach Presbyterian (CA), Dr. Zack's home church, chose the wing as the project to receive tithe money from their capital campaign after Dr. Zack visited Kenya to see what the hospital needed. The church drew up a partnership agreement with the hospital to help build a relationship with the people there. By April, 2001 the church reached the project goal of \$250,000. On the other side of the world, Presbyterian churches

near the hospital committed funds, hospital staff gave sacrificially, and the architect, contractor, and most engineering officials agreed to work for almost nothing.

"There have been stories of sacrifice on both sides," says Dr. Maria Zack. "It's been an incredible story that has absolutely penetrated our congregation."

Tumutumu Hospital operates with an all-Kenyan staff and delivers 2000-plus babies per year. It is the only hospital in the area doing C-Sections and treating women with "high risk" pregnancies. Funds for the project are channeled through MBF.



The new maternity ward wing at Tumutumu Hospital in Kenya.

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.

Regional Contact Information

Serviced nationally 800.675.9250
(info@MBFoundation.org)

IA, MN, SD, IL, OH, ND, WI, IN, NE, MI

Michael D. Haggin 800.225.4999
(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)

DC, DE, SC, MD, VA, NC, WV

Jan Schneider 800.891.7623
(jschneider@MBFoundation.org)

AL, KY, FL, MS, GA, TN

Susan J. Sommerville 800.990.6492
(ssommerville@MBFoundation.org)

CT, NY, MA, PA, ME, RI, NH, VT, NJ

Lynn Swinke-Workman 866.331.2525
(lswinke@MBFoundation.org)

AR, MO, KS, OK, LA, TX

Forrest Eggleston 888.343.9518
(feggleston@MBFoundation.org)

Medical Consultant and Volunteer

International Office 800.547.7627
(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

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