

MISSION CONNECTION



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

Spring 2005 Volume 12, Issue 1

HOW TO BE A MEDICAL MISSIONARY WITHOUT LEAVING HOME

A MESSAGE FROM DR. GEORGE POPE, MBF'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My first ministry position was as Assistant Pastor of a church in the Midwest. One of my areas of responsibility was youth ministry. We had just announced a trip by high school youth to Puerto Rico to work on a Christian school. Jim, an executive in a large corporation and an elder in the church, came to me with questions about what we were going to do. The next week he approached me again, this time with a check for a significant dollar amount. As he handed me the check, he said, "I can't go with you, but I can help those who can."

Isn't this where we find ourselves most of the time, trying to find a way to connect our faith commitment to our faith practice? When we are not able to be "hands on," it is the stewardship of our resources that connects commitment and practice. The apostle Paul struck this note in a lesson for the New Testament church. In the ninth



**The Reverend Doctor
George F. Pope, new Executive
Director of MBF.**

chapter of Second Corinthians it is by an act of stewardship that the young Gentile church is connected to the Christians in Jerusalem.

The Medical Benevolence Foundation serves hospitals and clinics in thirty-three countries around the globe, most often in places not on any tourist map. In doing so, MBF is the connection between our Christian commitment to minister to those in need and our doing so through the hands and dedication of medical missions staff. Jim had it right, "I can't go with you, but I can help those who can."

And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause . . . He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us.

(2 Corinthians 9: 8,11 TEV)

CLASSES BEGIN AT HOLY CROSS NURSING SCHOOL

On January 10, almost five years from the groundbreaking for the new buildings and five days after the dedication ceremony, Hopital Ste. Croix (Holy Cross) Nursing School in Leogane, Haiti opened its doors to the first class. Known as Faculte de Sciences Infirmiers in its affiliation with the Episcopal University of Haiti, the school received seventy-six applications for the opening term. Thirty-six students were admitted, including six men.

The school's buildings were designed by architect Jimmy Hite, President of the MBF Board of Trustees, and funded by grants from USAID/ASHA through MBF.



More than 300 people attended the dedication of Holy Cross Nursing School on January 5. The ceremonies were held under three tents set up between the school and the dormitory and included greetings from Hilda Alcindor, Dean of the new nursing school; Dr. Jack Guy Lafontant, Director of Holy Cross Hospital; and Jean Zache Duracin, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

THE SECOND DIMENSION

What do you think of when you hear the word stewardship? Most of us associate the word with the annual church budget campaign, a time when we decide what we can give to help our church carry out its many ministries. That kind of giving is the “first dimension” of our stewardship, present and immediate.

The “second dimension” of stewardship is future and visionary. It asks how we can use our estate to continue the work of the church beyond our lifetime.

When you choose to include the Medical Benevolence Foundation in your estate plan, you are taking stewardship

to the second dimension. For more than forty years MBF has served mission hospitals around the world. The ministry of medical mission has touched the generations and will continue to do so for generations to come. Your bequest will provide health and hope in Christ’s name.

There are many ways to make sure your assets are used in stewardship’s second dimension. Stock, real estate and other personal property, as well as life insurance, can be part of your bequest. Consider too that assets such as your IRA, pension plan, or Keogh can be used in conjunction with a charitable trust, with the potential of reducing your tax burden. For more information, call MBF at 800.547.7627.



CHURCH YARD SALE BENEFITS MBF

First Presbyterian Church of Jefferson City, TN has discovered a unique way to increase its mission giving. Each fall, this small 200-member congregation sponsors a yard sale and donates the proceeds to local, national, or international mission projects. In October of 2004, the Medical Benevolence Foundation received

\$4000 of the church’s yard sale proceeds.

We at the Medical Benevolence Foundation would like to thank all of the individuals and congregations who, like First Presbyterian Church of Jefferson City, TN, find unique hands-on opportunities to work on mission projects that support MBF’s healing ministry.



(left) The whole community turned out for First Presbyterian’s annual yard sale.

(right) Yard sale items included everything from toys, books, and household goods, to washing machines and vacuum cleaners—even the occasional car or boat.



MBF/PROJECT C.U.R.E. PARTNERSHIP KEEPS OVERSEAS HOSPITALS SUPPLIED

The partnership of MBF and Project C.U.R.E. continues to provide much needed medical supplies to our partner mission hospitals overseas. In the last six months, seven forty-foot sea containers full of donated medical supplies and equipment were shipped to Congo, Haiti, Malawi and Zambia. The wholesale value of these shipments came to almost \$2.2 million. Frank Dimmock,

regional health coordinator for Presbyterian Church (USA), reported that in addition to hospitals at Ekwendeni, Nkhoma, Embangweni and Livingstonia in Malawi, a shipment also went to a number of clinics in Zambia.

Volunteers for MBF and Project C.U.R.E. pick up sur-



plus material from the medical community that would otherwise be discarded because of damaged cartons, over-purchase, obsolete models, etc. Volunteers sort and pack the materials and MBF covers the cost of shipping: usually about \$10,000 per container. Your gifts help support this vital ministry.

An opportunity for you to get to know the men and women who are bringing health and hope in Christ's name to people in developing countries. We may not be able to be "hands-on" ourselves, but we can support those who are.

MEET DR. MAGDA ISKANDER

BRIDGE BUILDER

Dr. Magda Iskander builds bridges in Egypt—bridges of love and support between Christians and Muslims and between Christians and non-Christians. She does this through the community health program she developed for the Cairo Geriatric Center and the Coptic Evangelical Organization of Social Services (CEOSS). The program, "Care With Love," trains home health care workers to give quality, long- or short-term care for those needing regular health and living assistance in their homes. "Care With Love" benefits the elderly, as well as chronically ill, convalescing, and disabled individuals.

Dr. Iskander was born in Egypt, but



Dr. Magda Iskander

received her training in the United States and became a U.S. citizen in 1982. With her credentials (she is a radiologist and holds a masters in social counseling), Magda could be working at a prestigious hospital anywhere in the world. But, she says, "I am more interested in working at a grassroots level—primary health care and community health." In her previous position as a diagnostic radiologist in Egypt, her practice was available mostly to those who could afford it. Now she reaches those who would be without care except for "Care With Love."

Dr. Magda Iskander is one of the PC(USA) mission specialists MBF is committed to support in 2005.

[I H A V E A Q U E S T I O N]

ABOUT ASHA GRANTS

What is an ASHA grant?

ASHA stands for "American Schools and Hospitals Abroad," the division of the State Department's USAID program that funds hospital projects around the world.

How does MBF receive ASHA grants?

MBF applies for funding for specific overseas partner projects with a formal proposal.

Are there "strings" attached?

When ASHA reviews a grant proposal and decides to award the grant, MBF must agree to raise shared funds and supervise the use of those funds. The entire process, from application for funds to the actual completion of a project, can take more than five years.

Which current hospital projects are supported by ASHA grants?

Ekwendeni Hospital and Mulanje Hospital in Malawi, Miraj Medical Center in India and Lalitpur Nursing Campus in Nepal.

Which of these projects still need shared funds?

Miraj Medical Center still needs \$60,000 for its Cardiac Cath Lab, Lalitpur Nursing Campus needs \$48,500 to renovate the main school building, and MBF is seeking \$90,000 in matching funds for a female ward and outpatient facilities at Mulanje Hospital.



Students in this crowded classroom at Lalitpur Nursing Campus in Nepal will benefit from the ASHA grant that MBF has secured for their school building.

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Medical Mission and You



THANK YOU, VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

A sincere thank you to the members and staff of Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, AZ for their hard work in preparing for the Medical Benevolence Foundation Mission Conference 2005. The local committee, headed by Fran Siems and Dr. Jim Callison did a superb job in planning this event.

Those attending the conference will hear about MBF's work in developing countries where the political, social and economic situation can impact the health of its population. Thanks to the following conference speakers and workshop leaders who bring fresh information about medical mission: Rt. Rev. Nyansako-ni-Nku, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon; Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin, Consecrated Bishop of Haiti; Dr. David G. Addiss from the Center for Disease Control; Dr. Sue Makin, medical missionary at Mulanje Hospital in Malawi; The Rev. W. Jack Noble of Pompano Beach, Florida and the Rev. Dr. George F. Pope, Executive Director of the Medical Benevolence Foundation.

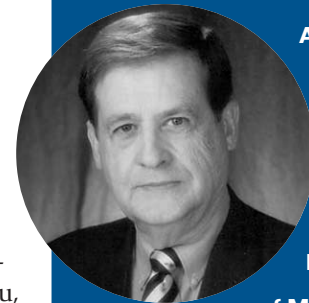
MBF's partnership with Project C.U.R.E. makes valuable used equipment and supplies available to overseas partner hospitals. Here, volunteers fill a container bound for Africa with chairs and tables, and boxes of medical supplies.



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.

Fund Established to Honor Dan Force



A donor has given MBF \$100,000 to establish a special fund in honor of the Rev. Daniel Force, Executive Director of MBF from 1996 until his

retirement in September of 2004.

Earnings from the fund are to be used to provide operational support for MBF.

The Dan Force Fund is open to additional gifts from anyone wishing to honor Dan. Mark your gift, "Dan Force Fund."

Medical Benevolence Foundation

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