

# MISSION CONNECTION



*Miracles through Medical Mission*

January 2007 Volume 14, Issue 1

## MBF NAMES NEW OUTREACH COORDINATOR

**J**erry "Chip" Lambert, M.D. has been named Outreach Coordinator/Development Officer for the Medical Benevolence Foundation. Chip will develop and coordinate MBF's short-term volunteer program, lead medical/exploratory teams to partner hospitals and clinics in developing countries, and act as development officer for the Pittsburgh area.

Chip is an emergency medicine physician and comes to MBF from Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh where he was Director of International Emergency Medicine. Fourteen years ago, he was a last-minute addition to a short-term mission team and, as he says, "the bug kind of bit me." For him that experience was moving and eye-opening, and one he has repeated many times since then in Malawi, Guatemala, and in other countries around the world. Some of his short-term volunteer trips have been



**Jerry "Chip" Lambert, Outreach Coordinator for MBF**

with Southminster Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA where his wife was associate pastor. He also worked in refugee camps in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami, as well as providing medical relief in Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. After coordinating numerous shipments of medical supplies and participating in clinics along

the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, he realized that he wanted to commit himself to serving in mission in some capacity.

"I believe we are all given special skills," he says. "But to be faithful Christians, we must consciously be good stewards of those same talents. To use all of these wonderful gifts in unison is what enriches the Kingdom. The apostle Paul said it best to the Corinthians, 'For the body does not consist of one member but of many.' This is what being a Christian is all about."

Chip will also coordinate the International Short Term Volunteer program.

Contact Chip Lambert at [clambert@MBFoundation.org](mailto:clambert@MBFoundation.org) for information on both individual and group short-term volunteer opportunities or go to MBF's website (<http://mbfoundation.org/VOLUNTEER>) for more about this exciting new program.

## A CALL FOR SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

**W**hen a missionary doctor at Rajshahi Hospital in Bangladesh needs a three-month furlough in the United States, who takes her place?

When a surgeon at Covenant Hospital in Haiti is called home for a family emergency, who will stand in for him?

When a nurse working with orphaned children in Malawi must leave, who will be there for the children while

she is gone?

The answer could be a short-term volunteer, a medically trained person with a heart for mission who can take the place of medical mission workers for three weeks to several months.

If you have skills that can be used at one of the partner hospitals or clinics, contact Chip Lambert at [clambert@MBFoundation.org](mailto:clambert@MBFoundation.org).

# MEDICAL MISSION TRIPS

## THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

# GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY

**Y**ou may not be able to volunteer for a short-term assignment at a hospital in Haiti or Africa, but you could join other Presbyterians on a medical mission trip. Some congregations regularly sponsor group trips to hospitals and clinics in countries such as Zambia, Malawi, India, and Haiti where they spend a week or two helping with the construction of medical buildings, cooking for workers, cleaning, organizing offices, teaching skills to the office staff—helping wherever help is needed.

What if your church does not sponsor such trips? MBF can help. Contact Chip Lambert at

[clambert@MBFoundation.org](mailto:clambert@MBFoundation.org) and find out how you can join a medical mission trip group. It won't be a vacation, but it could be the experience of a lifetime.



(Above) Dr. Chip Lambert checks a young boy at a clinic in Domasi, Malawi. The building of this clinic was primarily funded by a generous Presbyterian donor from Pittsburgh.



Volunteers at a clinic in Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch.

**A**gain, we remind you that the work of prayer for those who have committed themselves to a healing ministry in developing countries is significant and needed.

Here are some suggestions for your prayer support:

1. Pray for Chip Lambert and others at MBF and the PC(USA) who are developing an important new program for short-term volunteers and others who want to visit

medical mission sites and help.

2. Pray that those who have the needed skills will be aware of the opportunities for short-term work and will respond.

3. Pray for your own congregation, that a new awareness and commitment to mission will energize the church and make a difference in the ministry of PC(USA) medical mission workers around the world.

**"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD."**

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

## [ I HAVE A QUESTION ]

# About Short-Term Medical Mission Volunteers

### 1. What qualifications are necessary to volunteer at a mission hospital or clinic?

It depends on the type of volunteer work needed. Medical people should have completed residency/training or work under the direct supervision of another certified health worker.

### 2. Are there short-term jobs for nonmedical people at these facilities?

Yes. Interpreters, accountants, carpenters, plumbers, and teachers are just a few of the skilled people needed from time to time.

### 3. Is there a way to be reimbursed for travel expense?

Volunteers are asked to find their own means of travel; how-

ever, most churches are willing to help out in some capacity if money becomes an issue.

### 4. Is room and board provided for volunteers?

Most medical mission posts will provide room and meals for a very reasonable price or a discounted total package including airfare, room, meals, and transportation.

### 5. How do I find out which of the partner hospitals or clinics need short-term volunteers and when they need them?

Since the needs are always changing, this is hard to answer. The best thing is to e-mail Chip at [clambert@MBFoundation.org](mailto:clambert@MBFoundation.org) to see what the current needs are.

# SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG VISION

## REACHING OUT TO ORPHANS IN ZAMBIA

**W**hen Rev. Bruce Giese visited Africa early last summer, he found the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Zambia alive and growing. In five years, the Zambian church has increased from 22,000 to 46,000. Congregations have taken on the care of thousands of orphans in community-based care centers.

Rev. Giese, a member of MBF's Board of Trustees, went to Zambia to see first hand the mission projects his church, First Presbyterian of Wilton, IA, had chosen to help support with a generous gift left to the church in the will of Harold and Grayce Nicolaus. The couple stipulated that the funds must be used for national or world mission.

Through consultation with MBF Development Officer Cathy Gold Moore and Frank Dimmock, health consultant for Africa, the church settled on medical mission work in Zambia. Although First Presbyterian is small—250 members—its designated gift represents a large vision for medical mission.

One of the Zambian projects to receive the funds over a period of three years is the community-based orphan



Children at the Community-based Orphan Care Center in Lusaka, Zambia are given one nutritious meal each day.

care center sponsored by Mandvu Presbyterian Church in Lusaka. Church families have taken orphans into their homes, but are so poor they can't sustain the cost of extra family members. The church provides a center in the community where orphans receive a nutritious meal, education, clothing and other essentials. The gift from the Iowa church will help support this center.

First Presbyterian's gift is also supporting home-based health care in Zambia. Ana, a poor widow, is one of the health workers Rev. Giese met on his trip. She has six clients, mostly AIDS patients. With

her health certification she is able to visit these people in their homes and dispense medications.

Bruce Giese says, "In thirty years of ministry, my experience is that a church that's strong in mission will be stronger in ministry." First Presbyterian, Wilton, IA, is living proof.



A classroom table at the center in Lusaka is crowded with orphans.

## THANK YOU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To those who participated in Alternative Christmas Gifts, "thank you" from all of us at MBF and all of those whose lives you touched with your gifts. Because of you, children in developing countries will be vaccinated, clinics will have trained workers, cataract surgeries will be performed. The list of medical miracles goes on and on and your gifts keep on giving as people are offered new life and hope.

To all of you who, in one way or another, are our partners in bringing God's love through medical mission to people around the world, "thank you," and may this new year be one of joy and hope for you and your families.

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## Short-term Volunteers



### MISSION TRIPS HELPED THIS TEEN SHAPE HER FUTURE

**B**rianna Swinke was sixteen when she first visited David Gordon Hospital in Livingstonia, Malawi with an MBF volunteer group. She already knew that she wanted to be a doctor, but the trip to Malawi solidified that career choice.

"I would wander off from the rest of the group to the hospital wards where I

really preferred to be working," she remembers.

In the maternity ward she found ten to twelve women in various stages of labor in a room with no air conditioning, fans, or screens on the windows. Brianna decided that one thing she could do was to make these women more comfortable. She made a fan from a piece of poster board and went from bed to bed fanning them. She also visited the children's ward.

"Seeing those kids and watching the doctors and nurses in action was a life-changing experience," she says. "I cried when we left. I wanted to go back and help."

Brianna, whose mother is MBF

Development Officer Lynn Swinke-Workman, says she felt the same way when later she visited Kikuyu Hospital in Kenya with another MBF volunteer group. Today she is a resident at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago with pediatric rehabilitation as her goal. And she hopes there will be a short-term volunteer project with MBF in her future.



**Brianna Swinke at sixteen, with some of the children she met during her mission trip to Africa.**

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*MBF Mission Connection* is published by the Medical Benevolence Foundation.

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Designer: Gary Gnidovic

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