WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Look at the latest “Calling for Help” to see which mission hospitals need volunteers in your specialty.

ANSWERING THE CALL

A word from World Medical Mission co-founder, Dr. Richard Furman

World Medical Mission assists evangelical mission hospitals and clinics by sending Christian medical professionals as volunteers, and by providing equipment, supplies, and other resources that help them treat patients in the Name of the Great Physician.

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The writer of Hebrews described faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (11:1). The 14 young doctors who recently joined our Post-Residency Program are taking bold steps of faith as they venture to distant lands to become medical missionaries. Their passionate desire to serve the Lord and share Christ’s love will touch many lives for eternity.

One of the Post-Residents is Dr. Selina Thomas, a family medicine physician who will be serving in a rural hospital in Burundi. “I know that following a call to missions is not easy,” she says, “so I seek to hold firmly to my identity as a child of God. I intend to be a student of my patients, to learn to love people better, with the love of Christ.”

That same desire to serve is demonstrated by our World Medical Mission volunteers too. In this issue, you will read about a nurse-midwife who has served for the third time at Hospital Loma de Luz in Honduras, and a family of six who spent several amazing months at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. As they will attest, trusting the Lord in obedience brings great blessing and bears much fruit.

Please keep our medical missionaries in your prayers, and I encourage you to explore opportunities for service with World Medical Mission. Our placement and logistics teams will guide you through the process. May God abundantly bless you as you follow in the footsteps of the Great Physician.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan’s Purse
A woman who works in our hospital had an infection in two of her front teeth. I explained that she needed a root canal to save her teeth, but I could not do it here in the clinic since we do not have an X-ray machine. A clinic in the city would be very expensive and she could not afford it, so I had to extract her teeth. I felt sad for her because I saw how this affected her confidence. She hid her smile. I wanted to find a solution to help her and change her smile. She was one of the patients for whom I wanted to start making small dentures.

She joined my Bible study group on the very day I spoke to the women about accepting ourselves as we are, that we are all beautiful, and God loves us. I was encouraging her not to hide anymore. A few days later I did the denture work for her. Now she is so happy. It has been very special to see not only her exterior, but also her interior change.
Fourteen doctors and their families
will soon begin serving at overseas
mission hospitals through World Medical
Mission’s Post-Residency Program.

CALLED to SERVE
POST-RESIDENTS CLASS OF 2021

These Post-Residents will be working in nine mission hospitals
in six countries. More than 200 doctors and dentists have
served in the Post-Residency Program since 2004.
**Dr. Hannah Anderson**  
**Family Medicine**  
University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas; University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Assignment:** Hospital Loma de Luz, Honduras  
**Vision:** “Growing up as a child of medical missionaries, I have been aware from an early age of the vast physical and spiritual needs in many parts of the world. When I returned to the U.S. for college, God gradually revealed a call toward medicine. My husband, Max, and I felt a pull toward using our skills internationally. We were excited to find the Post-Residency Program, as we felt like it would prepare us well for a future in medical missions.”

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**Dr. Timothy Fretwell**  
**Pediatrics**  
University of Central Florida College of Medicine, Orlando, Florida; Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, Kansas City, Missouri  
**Assignment:** Hospital of Hope, Togo  
**Vision:** “During high school, I had formed an identity in my ability to run and was looking forward to competing at the collegiate level. I had a plan for myself that honestly made God an afterthought. However, through an injury that did not allow me to run my senior year, God drew me to Himself and taught me about finding my identity in Him. My long-term goals involve working to develop medical care providers in a resource-limited country. This would include not just physicians in training, but community healthcare workers, nurses, and other healthcare providers.”

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**Dr. Jacob Grasser**  
**Pharmacy**  
Cedarville University School of Pharmacy, Cedarville, Ohio  
**Assignment:** Galmi Hospital, Niger  
**Vision:** “I feel a clear calling to be a career, full-time medical missionary. I have wanted to be a pharmacist ever since I was in fourth grade, yet in high school I started to feel called to missions. I went to Cedarville University because I thought that I would be best prepared for both pharmacy and missions. My home church has a missions focus and has produced many missionaries that are currently serving in England, Germany, Bangladesh, and Thailand. I remember as a small child thinking it was awesome that they got to tell people about Jesus for their job.”

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**Dr. Fraser C. Henderson, Jr.**  
**Neurosurgery**  
University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, Virginia; Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina  
**Assignment:** Tenwek Hospital, Kenya  
**Vision:** “My short-term goal is to perform neurosurgery in Kenya, and to develop expertise and experience, particularly with tumor cases of the brain and spine. I believe training, mentoring, and enabling talented, local in-country residents to carry the torch—surgically and prayerfully—are keys to sustaining long-term neurosurgical mission work, and I look forward to engaging with East African residents through the Post-Residency Program.”
Dr. Esohe “Grace” Iyamu-Osagiede  
Family Medicine  
Ross University School of Medicine, Bridgetown, Barbados; Louisiana State University-New Orleans, Bogalusa, Louisiana  
**Assignment:** Jungle Hospital, Honduras  
**Vision:** “In the summer of 2012, I went on a medical missions trip to Honduras. The more time I spent in Tegucigalpa, the less I saw despair and the more I saw the potential for hope and healing to be brought to the people of this city. This was a pivotal moment in my life in that it gave my lifelong calling to missions a face. There is a world full of people from many nations without healthcare who need a doctor who will not just fight against their infirmity, but fight for their hope and salvation. I will live unfulfilled, holding onto this righteous discontent, unless I do something about this lack of healthcare and lack of hope.”

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Dr. Wanda Lam  
General Surgery  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York; University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio  
**Assignment:** Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi  
**Vision:** “During my senior year of college, I attended Urbana 2009. God opened my eyes to see a world of loss and suffering through His lens (Matthew 25:34-40). His love has compelled me to give all I have been gifted with to build up His Kingdom by serving overseas as a general surgeon. I look forward to training and discipling PAACS surgeons in Malawi, who will change the landscape of surgical care in Sub-Saharan Africa.”

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Dr. Liza Kessling  
Family Medicine  
Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lillington, North Carolina; In His Image Family Medicine Residency, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
**Assignment:** Karolyn Kempton Hospital, Togo  
**Vision:** “My short-term goals are to gain some experience with a mentor on the mission field. My long-term goals are to use medicine for church planting. I have felt called to do this since I was about 10 years old. I feel the Lord wants me to use medicine to get into hard-to-reach areas or unreached areas to introduce the Gospel and plant churches.”

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Dr. Stuart Ostby  
OB/GYN  
Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota; University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama  
**Assignment:** Galmi Hospital, Niger  
**Vision:** “I felt called to medicine and missions after seeing the Gospel transform a tribe of cannibals into Christ followers in Indonesia. These believers suffered many physical ailments. My hope is to share the same Gospel power with others and also to minister to physical sufferings. In simple obedience, we desire as a family to make disciples of Jesus. Currently, we are moved specifically by the spiritual and physical conditions affecting women and children in Niger.”

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“Bless the Lord, ... Who heals all your diseases.”  
—Psalm 103: 2-3

“He healed many who were sick with various diseases.”  
—Mark 1:34
Dr. Jonathan Swanson  
**Tropical Medicine/Emergency Medicine**  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia; Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia  
**Assignment:** Tenwek Hospital, Kenya  
**Vision:** “Jesus has worked on the hearts of Chelsea and I over the years in showing us His heart for the nations, and how we can use our specific talents He gave us to open doors for those otherwise closed-off to the Gospel. We are excited to see how the Lord will use us during our time in Kenya as we strive to imitate Christ’s ministry of healing the sick and proclaiming the Good News of His Kingdom.”

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Dr. Nathanael Wiles  
**Family Medicine**  
Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, Ohio; MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio  
**Assignment:** Tenwek Hospital, Kenya  
**Vision:** “In the next five years, I would like to be working in a Gospel-centered ministry providing healthcare and the message of Jesus to people in an underserved, poor community in a developing country. It is clear to me that I have been entrusted with much. With the passions I have been given and the weight I feel to help the underprivileged in obedience to Christ, I feel I must give my life toward that end.”

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Dr. Selina Thomas  
**Family Medicine**  
University of California San Diego School of Medicine, San Diego, California; Contra Costa Family Medicine Residency, Martinez, California  
**Assignment:** Kibuye Hope Hospital, Burundi  
**Vision:** “My lifelong desire has been to serve those with the greatest needs, in hard-to-reach places, for the sake of the Gospel. I am compelled in this pursuit by both the saving grace of God, and the knowledge of how blessed I am to have had the opportunity to become a doctor. I know that following a call to missions is not easy, so I seek to hold firmly to my identity as a child of God. I intend to be a student of my patients, to learn to love people better, with the love of Christ.”

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Will: Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, Georgia; Carolinas Medical Center at Atrium Health, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Mary Bailey: Mercer University College of Pharmacy, Atlanta, Georgia; Atrium Health, Charlotte, North Carolina  
**Assignment:** Chogoria Hospital, Kenya  
**Vision:** Will: “We are excited to commit to working abroad as the hands and feet of Jesus. It’s a joy to use our professional training in such a tangible way to help those around us. The calling to missions has been a long process, and we feel blessed to respond with the support of World Medical Mission.”  
Mary Bailey: “We feel uniquely blessed to be able to serve the Lord by using the gifts He has given us. As a clinical pharmacist, I am excited for opportunities in which I can work alongside physicians and medical officers to help create simple and effective pharmacotherapy regimens for patients.”

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Dr. Elena Roumaya  
**Family Medicine**  
University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Basseterre, Saint Kitts; University of Alabama Birmingham–Huntsville, Huntsville, Alabama  
**Assignment:** Chogoria Hospital, Kenya  
**Vision:** “I have had a desire and passion for medical missions since I rededicated my faith in high school. My hope is that the Post-Residency Program will help guide me and solidify where I want to continue mission work. I hope it will teach me and equip me, and that I will see and experience true mission work, to prepare me for what the future holds.”

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Drs. William and Mary Bailey Smith  
**Internal Medicine/Pharmacy**  
Kenya, Africa  
**Assignment:** Chogoria Hospital, Kenya  
**Vision:** “We are excited to commit to working abroad as the hands and feet of Jesus. It’s a joy to use our professional training in such a tangible way to help those around us. The calling to missions has been a long process, and we feel blessed to respond with the support of World Medical Mission.”  
Mary Bailey: “We feel uniquely blessed to be able to serve the Lord by using the gifts He has given us. As a clinical pharmacist, I am excited for opportunities in which I can work alongside physicians and medical officers to help create simple and effective pharmacotherapy regimens for patients.”
As a nurse-midwife and a teacher, Nola Holness inspires others to make the most of their God-given potential.

“With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”

Genesis 4:1, NIV

ike the wondrous joy voiced by the first woman, Eve, the tumultuous journey through labor and delivery is often quickly forgotten the moment a mother cradles her newborn in her arms. But that doesn’t make the passage into motherhood any less intense, whether the child be her first or her 10th.

Having a midwife to coach a woman before, during, and after the birthing process can minimize her distress and make the pain more manageable—and help her deliver a healthy baby.

Those are only a few of the many reasons Nola Holness believes she has the best job in the world. “I help a woman through the process, painful, yes, but a process which is also beautiful and ultimately satisfying,” she said. “I tell her the contractions are giving your body a hug. They are propelling the baby closer and closer to being in your arms. Keep pushing.”

Holness refers to her work as a “partnership for a lifetime,” as she offers support and guidance to women throughout all the phases of pregnancy. That begins with prenatal care by monitoring the health and nutrition of the mother and her unborn child. She is by the mother’s side during labor and delivery, and she provides follow-up care for the mother and newborn, including advice on breastfeeding.

For the past 30 years, the certified nurse-midwife and nursing instructor has plied her craft in her native Jamaica and in the United States. She has also participated in medical outreaches to communities in the Dominican Republic and India.

In 2018, Holness traveled to Honduras to serve for a week as a short-term volunteer with World Medical Mission. At the time she was working as a nurse-midwife at a large tertiary hospital in Florida, providing care for women in the obstetrics triage ward. The transition to rudimentary midwifery care at Hospital Loma de Luz was challenging, but also very rewarding. She enjoyed her experiences there so much that she has returned to Honduras twice, including the most recent trip in March.

Holness’ admiration for the resiliency of the patients at Hospital Loma de Luz has deepened with each visit. Unlike what she is accustomed to in a U.S. medical facility, in rural Honduras there are no epidural medications available for women in the throes of labor. Instead, Holness employs non-pharmaceutical techniques for pain management.

“Although we don’t have the same resources, my ability to provide high quality care is just the same as in a U.S. hospital,” she explained. “I may not be able to provide high-tech care, but it is still high quality.”

While serving, she saw patients in the prenatal and newborn clinics in the mornings. Two doors down was the delivery room, where she could quickly run in to attend to a woman who was in labor. And the maternity ward was a short walk down another corridor.

Holness began attending nursing school at the age of 16 and was later honored as the student nurse of the year.

HONDURAS

What Holness said she enjoyed most is the family-centered care that is customary at Hospital Loma de Luz. During her second visit in 2019, she recalled assisting a mother who was in labor, while the woman’s young son was laying on a mattress on the floor next to her bed. The woman’s husband was nearby in the waiting room.
“Her child was right beside her, and she was happily laboring,” Holness said. “She was smiling as she watched her little boy, and then she would turn back to me with a look of peace as she continued the labor process. It was a beautiful scene.”

Of course, not every patient’s situation is heartwarming. In March, Holness was concerned that most of her expectant mothers were teenagers. One girl was 13 years old. Fortunately she delivered without complications and had a healthy baby. Another teenager suffered a miscarriage. Holness said the first thing the 16-year-old asked was how soon could she get pregnant again.

She prayed with her patients and encouraged them to see their value in God’s eyes, not only as mothers and wives, but as young women with bright minds and abilities that they can use for His glory.

“I hope that the love and joy of what I do shines through, that the patients see the love of Christ shining in my heart,” Holness said. “I know without a doubt that God has had His hand on my life, giving me a purpose and opening the right doors to allow me to walk in His paths.”

**WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY**

It was the white, pristine uniform that drew Holness’ interest toward nursing when she was 6 or 7 years old.

“I saw a nurse dressed all in white, walking down the road in my town in Jamaica,” said Holness. “I remember thinking, ‘she’s like an angel.’”

A tragic bus accident years later further inspired Holness to pursue the path of nursing. A teenage friend from church was killed in the crash. The event deeply impacted the entire community, and left Holness wondering if she could have done something to help the victims. Soon after, the youth determined in her heart that she would get medical training so she could help others in the future.

Holness graduated from high school in Jamaica at age 16 and wanted to continue her education to become a nurse. The only problem: she was too young to enter nursing school.

At least that’s what she was told when she insisted on having a meeting with the dean of the program.

“I argued with them and said this is what I want to do. I persuaded them to give me an interview and came back with all the paperwork they requested. I started nursing school that fall.”

Holness became the student nurse of the year during her second year of the three-year program. She was the youngest student at the school and graduated in 1985 at the tender age of 19.

After working as a nurse for four years, she returned to school in Kingston, this time to study midwifery.

She was content in Jamaica, but when she and her husband had the opportunity to begin a new life in Florida in 1991, she reluctantly agreed to relocate. It’s a decision that she says she has never regretted.

Holness worked as a certified nurse-midwife for 27 years at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. During this time she earned bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees in nursing from Florida International University. But she feels her greatest achievement was raising four sons.

“Several years ago, my then 11-year-old son asked me one morning, ‘Mom, what are you going to be today—a student, a midwife, or a teacher?’ He told me, ‘Whatever you do, you are always a loving mother.’ I sat down and cried.”

God redirected their family again in 2018 when Holness’ husband was assigned to a naval job outside of Washington, D.C. The move did not impact her second career as a clinical assistant professor of nursing at Florida International University. Now she teaches online courses full time and makes trips back and forth between Florida and Virginia as needed.

“Nursing never grows old for me, and I love to promote and protect this profession that I’m so happy to be a part of,” she said. “As I challenge my students to academic excellence, I also hope they see the qualities of kindness and compassion in me. Those are the qualities that will make them good nurses.”

While Holness encourages her students to develop their skills, she too is always on the lookout for new opportunities to become a better practitioner as a servant of Christ. Later this year she plans to go on a short-term trip with World Medical Mission to a hospital in Bangladesh. And she feels led by the Lord to go to Nepal, perhaps next year.

“When a baby is born and takes its first breaths, we rejoice over this new life and the child’s potential. That’s what God does in all of us as we follow Him. I want to keep my eyes focused on Jesus, because He is the author and finisher of my faith,” she said. “I love what I do, and I want to be used by Him for His glory.”
Groundbreaking began in July for the construction of a 295,000-square-foot cardiothoracic center at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. Envisioned as a “distinctly Christian center of excellence,” the facility will treat patients with cardiothoracic diseases and train Christian African healthcare workers.
A South Carolina family spends six unforgettable months serving as missionaries in Kenya.

Many American families have taken advantage of the easing of travel restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and set off on long-awaited vacations to their favorite destinations—a beach cottage, camping in the mountains, an amusement park.

The Goodwins had a different plan. This past winter they arranged to take the trip of a lifetime—not for a relaxing holiday—but to spend several months at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya doing mission work together.

Peter is an ophthalmologist who specializes in retina surgery. Emily is a pediatric hematologist-oncologist. The South Carolina couple always planned to serve as medical missionaries, but they wanted to wait until their four children, Nate, Isabelle, and twins Priscilla and Abigail, were a bit older.

“I had a lot of reservations until 2013 when God got me excited about serving abroad,” said Emily. “We wanted to figure out how we could serve as a family. The twins were almost 4 years old when we took our first trip to Tenwek in 2017. Now each time we’ve gone has compelled us to serve even more.”

Their first few trips never lasted longer than four weeks at a time. They knew an extended stay would involve a different set of challenges—and a lot of confidence in the Lord to work out the details.

There were plenty of reasons not to go. Continued COVID-19 concerns, for starters. The children’s schooling. Then there was the looming decision Peter faced about whether to take a sabbatical from the medical practice where he had worked for nine years.

But the Goodwins were convinced they were supposed to be in Kenya, and they reaped the blessings as they watched the Lord meet every need.

“God provided an excellent physician to join the practice, directly stepping into my position,” said Peter. “He also provided me a job upon our return to the United States with another medical group that has a heart for missions.”

Teachers and administrators at the private Christian school the children attended expressed strong support for the family’s mission plans. Thanks to video conferencing technology, they felt the children could seamlessly continue their coursework in Kenya.

In November 2020, the Goodwins hauled themselves and their 14 suitcases to the local airport, eager to begin their Africa adventure. While checking in, they discovered Kenya had canceled all international flights the day before due to the coronavirus. Dejected, they loaded their luggage back into the car and returned home.

“We prayed for a couple of weeks, and Dr. Lance Plyler at World Medical Mission continued to encourage us to seek the Lord’s will,” recalled Emily. “We felt so supported by World Medical Mission. We were thankful to be able to try again, and on the first of December we flew out.”

One of the primary reasons for the Tenwek trip was for Peter to fill in for Dr. Ben Roberts, a long-term missionary and highly skilled eye surgeon who was taking a yearlong furlough.
Peter and Emily have known Ben and his wife, Jenny, since their residency training at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. That’s how the Goodwins first heard about Tenwek.

Kenya has a population of 55 million people, but there are only about a dozen retina specialists in the entire nation. Most of those are based in the capital city of Nairobi. Among their staff of about 40 people, Tenwek’s eye center has two Kenyan ophthalmologists and a Kenyan clinical officer.

“Tenwek’s eye clinic is state-of-the-art. It has exactly the same equipment and staffing that you would find in an office in the U.S.,” Peter said. “They have all of the diagnostic equipment, medications, and an optical shop to fit glasses. That’s what allows me to do retina surgery. It’s as close to home as possible with what you have and what you can do.”

Patients of all ages, from babies to the elderly, flock to the eye clinic for treatment and surgery. By 8:00 each morning, a long line of people stand waiting to be evaluated. If they aren’t among the 100 or more patients that will be seen that day, they come back the following day to wait in line again.

The clinic treats the gamut of eye conditions in all age groups, including retinopathy in premature infants, pediatric and adult cataract cases, glaucoma, diabetes-related eye conditions, trauma, and infections.

Peter’s work focused on repairing retinal detachments caused by diabetes, trauma, and inflammation. He is surprised by the number of his pediatric patients who sustained ocular injuries while playing with sticks or other objects.

One 9-year-old boy was brought to the clinic on Peter’s first day with vision that allowed him to do little more than discern light from darkness. Both eyes had a retinal detachment, and only one eye had the potential to be repaired. The boy required multiple surgeries.

“His mother was very grateful that we got him back to seeing at a functional level,” Peter explained. “He can see to walk on his own again. He can even read books that have large print. His eyes are still healing, so in another six months to a year his vision should improve even further.”

Emily’s schedule was more flexible, but no less demanding, as she multitasked in the roles of mother, educator, and physician. In the mornings she oversaw the teaching of Nate, 13, Isabelle, 11, and Abigail and Priscilla, both 8.

When Peter came home for an hour lunch break during the week, Emily had the opportunity to review blood smears in the lab and consult with staff pediatricians. Sometimes the pediatricians would make “house calls”—meeting with Emily to discuss patient care around the same table where she taught school lessons to her children. In addition, Emily taught medical students and clinical officers as her schedule allowed.

Unforeseen events can occur on the mission field, and that’s what happened when Emily experienced her own medical crisis. Two months after their arrival in Kenya, she suffered acute unilateral hearing loss with tinnitus.

The Goodwins returned to the United States for Emily to receive treatment. This interruption in plans did not keep the family in the U.S. However, thanks to answered prayers, Emily saw an improvement in her symptoms, and the Goodwins flew back to Kenya in mid-March. They quickly jumped back into the rhythms of African missionary life that had become natural and harmonious for them.

For the kids, life in Africa was full of adventure and splendor, and opportunities for ministry.

Despite its simple outward appearance, the Tenwek eye clinic has state-of-the-art equipment needed to perform a gamut of ocular procedures.

Daily life in Kenya included gathering eggs and maintaining a vegetable garden, as well as keeping up with schoolwork through virtual learning.

It was a special treat for both the Goodwin children and the people of a nearby village when they delivered wheelchairs to four disabled residents. Seven-year-old Dorcas, pictured in the center, was one of the wheelchair recipients.

“Each time we’ve gone has compelled us to serve even more.”

Making Memories, Transforming Lives

It was a special treat for both the Goodwin children and the people of a nearby village when they delivered wheelchairs to four disabled residents. Seven-year-old Dorcas, pictured in the center, was one of the wheelchair recipients.

For the kids, life in Africa was full of adventure and splendor, and opportunities for ministry.

Having other missionary families as neighbors on the compound, the Goodwin children enjoyed making new friends, playing games, and learning about Kenyan culture. They also enjoyed family hiking outings and an excursion to a retreat center in the Kakamega Rainforest.

“It was

“Each time we’ve gone has compelled us to serve even more.”
fun going to the rainforest,” recalled Abigail. “There were so many birds and trees. The birds were really interesting. There were monkeys and baboons too. We had a guide who took us hiking.”

During visits to nearby villages, Isabelle was taken aback by the level of poverty she saw. She reflected on having a greater appreciation for the blessings she enjoys in America.

“Not everybody has plumbing and electricity and a laundry room and bathroom. People can survive without that. I never really knew what poverty was until I went to Africa,” she said. “I learned what’s important. It’s not about having a lot, but having just what you need, what God has blessed you with.”

The Goodwins were blessed to have those amenities and lived comfortably in the Roberts’ home at the compound. There was certainly no lack of food, as the Goodwins had stocked up on bulk items at grocery stores in Nairobi before traveling to Tenwek Hospital. They also could purchase food from local markets near the hospital, and they had their own vegetable garden and fruit trees.

Most of their travels were done on foot, including walking to church. Priscilla liked the simplicity and sense of freedom.

“I liked that we didn’t have to drive everywhere,” she said. “We could walk five minutes to just about anywhere we wanted to go. There were always kids playing in the common area. We could walk there and play.”

Because of COVID-19 protocols, Nate was unable to shadow his dad in surgery and the clinic as he had done in previous years. Although he was disappointed that he couldn’t visit with patients in the hospital, one of his Kenya highlights was a trip to four village homes to deliver wheelchairs to the disabled.

A 7-year-old girl named Dorcas was one of the recipients. The child had clubbed feet and hydrocephalus, but her eyes lit up when she received the wheelchair. “Dorcas could talk and smile, but she couldn’t walk. Yet she was one of the happiest of the people we saw,” recalled Nate.

He needed a bit of medical attention himself when he broke his ankle while playing “Mission Impossible” at a community celebration a few weeks before the Goodwins returned to the U.S. “The orthopedist was the one chasing me, so I can blame him for it,” Nate chuckled.

While a cast and boot were unexpected souvenirs from Kenya, Nate treasures the otherwise wonderful experiences he had in Africa. Kenya has become like a second home for his family.

“Your sense of home is a little different once you’ve been in Africa for a while,” he said. “It’s really nice because now we know people. We will have friends when we go back.”

Before the Goodwins’ departure, some of the Tenwek staff joined them for a keepsake photo. “It’s really nice because now we know people,” said 13-year-old Nate. “We will have friends when we go back.”
Grace. I have meditated on the grace of God many times over these past two months since we began our work here. Within the span of just over one week, I cared for two women who had similar complications following childbirth. They had both delivered at home in very remote areas and subsequently suffered from massive hemorrhages. Their families carried them to the closest local health centers where a helicopter was then obtained for them to be flown to our hospital. They presented with the two lowest blood counts I have seen in someone living (hemoglobins of 2.4 and 3.1; normal is 12-14) and were both tenuously hanging onto life. We provided them with such basic, yet life-saving care—IV fluids, blood transfusions, antibiotics. And I held witness to the grace of their recoveries.

I have seen God’s grace in the sweet smile and gratitude of the mother for whom I safely delivered her baby girl via C-section just two short weeks after her 4-year-old son had died in an accident. I have seen it in the words spoken by my surgeon-mentor, Dr. Ben Radcliffe, as he helped me see and counsel a young woman with terminal vulvar cancer—saying, “I don’t know why God chooses to heal some people and others He does not.” There was grace in His reassurance to her of Christ’s faithful love and presence, even when the healing does not come. Just this morning, I saw God’s grace in the feisty personality of my 80-something-year-old patient as she sat up in bed and talked animatedly in her Tok Ples—only two days after we removed a large, likely malignant, ovarian mass that had occupied most of her abdomen.

Dr. Myatt is an OB/GYN who is serving at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea through the Post-Residency Program.
As God said to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV): “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

Marimari is the pidgin word for grace. And as the verse says in pidgin: “Marimari bilong mi em iap long yu. Long wanem strong bilong mi, em i save kamp strong tru long man i no gat strong.”

“It is in Christ’s strength I am finding myself lately. And that is more than sufficient.”

Paul goes on to say: “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (vv. 9-10)

It is in Christ’s strength I am finding myself lately. And that is more than sufficient.
Please pray for these mission hospitals and consider volunteering if you are a medical professional in one of the following specialties.

If you are interested in serving overseas, please complete our Volunteer Application online at samaritanspurse.org/medical/volunteer-application. International travel is slowly resuming, and there are limited opportunities to place volunteers at this time. For further questions, call World Medical Mission at (828) 278-1173.
“HE HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED AND BINDS UP THEIR WOUNDS.” —Psalm 147:3