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COVER PHOTO: Edward Graham, chief operating officer of Samaritan's Purse, welcomed attendees to the Prescription for Renewal conference in Orlando in September.



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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Dear Friend,

The world is experiencing tumultuous times. As we move forward into a new year, I firmly believe that this is not a time to be fearful but to unwaveringly do God's work *"while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work"* (John 9:4). He has given us the opportunity to minister to the sick and to declare the message of salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Medicine is one of the best tools available to share this Good News.

Our Prescription for Renewal conference in September drew hundreds of medical professionals, medical residents, and students. We pray that both newcomers and seasoned volunteers will step up this year to serve with World Medical Mission at our partner hospitals. The needs are great.

In this edition, you will meet some of those who have answered the call—a first-time volunteer, a veteran of 25 hospital assignments and international disaster deployments, and a post-resident surgeon who recently began her missionary career in Togo. Each of these physicians has encountered moments of grace when God demonstrated His power beyond their human capabilities.

I hope you will consider doing a short-term trip with us this year. The medical specialties needed by our partner hospitals are listed at the back of the magazine. Let's do all that we can to be ministers of the Gospel during these challenging times. Thank you, and God bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan's Purse

Dr. Jesh Thiessen began practicing medicine through our Post-Residency Program at Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.



Notes *from Around the World*

Insights from some of the medical personnel who serve in mission hospitals in more than 20 countries through World Medical Mission.



El Salvador

Virginia Bevers is a physical therapy assistant from Texas who served at Shalom Family Medical Center.

Recently I asked my 3-year-old grandson, Kellen, what he learned in Sunday school. He said, 'I learned that Jesus loves me always.' I replied, 'Grammy loves you always too. Do you love me always?' He responded, 'You are not Jesus.' He is so correct, but I am here to show Jesus' love by the work I do as a PT assistant. I had the honor of serving at a hospital in El Salvador and getting a physical therapy clinic established. I worked with the lady pictured who is a vendor in town. Her knee was bothering her. I performed some gentle massage and exercises for strengthening and then instructed her about home exercises. Prior to working with patients, I always pray that I may use my hands to help them and give God the glory."



Madagascar

Dr. Jesh Thiessen is a general surgeon from Canada who serves with a long-term sending agency at Good News Hospital.

We recently completed a massive upgrade of the entire electrical system at the hospital thanks to \$100,000 of funding from Samaritan's Purse in collaboration with Labor in Faith and Trust (LIFT) from Ireland and Engineering Ministries International (EMI). This includes a new 100 kVA generator, 100 kVA UPS, main electrical service, replacement of wiring to every single hospital building, new transformer, new electrical room, and new sewage drainage system. Over 2 km of hand-dug trenching was required. This has greatly increased our capacity to provide complex surgical and ICU care and teach surgical trainees, and in doing so share Christ and the Gospel at the Good News Hospital. It also will allow our hospital to grow! Our OR lights no longer go out and stay out. Our donated hospital equipment is safe to plug in! The new electrical system is also powering three new wells and one existing well which distribute clean water not only for the needs of the hospital but also for families of over 70 hospital employees in the surrounding community during a period of severe drought."



Above: Old electrical room.
Top left: Containers of water for hospital employees. **Top right:** New generator. **Right:** Dr. Jesh Thiessen in new electrical room.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

PRESCRIPTION FOR Renewal

MEDICAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE



Dr. Bill Rhodes asked the audience to “be Jesus in this world that is desperate for just a little bit of hope.”

Prescription for Renewal

To God Be the Glory

THE 32ND ANNUAL PRESCRIPTION FOR RENEWAL CONFERENCE highlighted God’s faithfulness and heightened the excitement about the future for the medical ministries of Samaritan’s Purse.

“**W**hat a privilege it has been to be involved in this ministry during the foundational years,” said the Rev. Preston Parrish, a keynote speaker from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association who was one of the directors of World Medical Mission in the 1980s.

Parrish fondly remembered the weekly meetings with World Medical Mission co-founders, Drs. Lowell and Richard Furman, and with Becky Williams, who was then volunteer placement director. At that point, they were sending out only seven doctors a year, and they fervently prayed for God to provide more Christian doctors to serve in short-staffed overseas hospitals.

Leading by example, the Furman brothers already had begun to do short-term medical mission work, even as they continued to run a busy surgical practice in North Carolina. They asked the Lord for at least 24 volunteer doctors, which would equate to placing two full-time missionary doctors on the field each month for an entire year.

“The easiest thing the Furman brothers could have done was to do nothing,” said Parrish. “Because they were not content to do the easy thing, let me give you some glimpses over 45 years later of what God has done through World Medical Mission.”

Parrish noted more than 14,000 volunteer assignments since then, which have helped to support the ministry of some 190 hospitals and clinics in 70 countries.

“World Medical Mission is about showing God’s love through compassionate and quality care and, in doing that, establishing a platform through which the message of the Gospel can be shared,” he said.

In addition to World Medical Mission, God has blessed Samaritan’s Purse with a growing spectrum of medical ministries, including Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), Children’s Heart Project, and travel teams that perform cleft lip and cataract procedures and other surgeries.

All of these programs were celebrated at this year’s Prescription for Renewal, as more

PRESCRIPTION FOR Renewal

MEDICAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE



World Medical Mission Director Scott Hughett (far right) was reunited with former directors (left to right): Rev. Preston Parrish, Dr. Richard Furman, Dr. Lance Plyler, and Ed Morrow.

than 700 medical professionals and students, spouses, and staff attended the four-day September event in Orlando, Florida. The diverse gathering drew people from across North America, including more than 80 medical and nursing students and medical residents.

“I want you to know where Samaritan’s Purse is going, and that’s to the sounds of the guns, to the location of a famine, to people who are hurting and most in need,” said Chief Operating Officer Edward Graham.

The grandson of world-renowned evangelist Billy Graham, he urged the audience to use their medical abilities to make an eternal investment in people’s lives and souls.

“You may not be a Billy Graham, but you can share the love of Jesus Christ through your talents and skills and save lives,” he said.

‘Amazing Adventures’

Two medical missionaries with extensive experience on the field shared their insights and encouraged those in attendance to use their skills for God’s glory.

Dr. Bob Spencer has made 25 trips since 2016 with World Medical Mission and DART. The retired cardiologist typically serves as a critical primary care physician on these assignments.

His adventures have taken him to hospitals in Togo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on Samaritan’s Purse crisis responses for COVID-19 and to the frontlines of the war in Ukraine.

“When you are looking at all the things Samaritan’s Purse offers for healthcare, if you can serve with DART, then there’s no reason you shouldn’t be serving in World Medical

Mission,” he explained. “What I found is that my experience in World Medical Mission was the single best thing that prepared me for a DART deployment. Going into a resource-limited facility and learning how to practice there was better than any textbook or any seminar that I could ever go to.”

“No matter where you’re going, you need discernment through prayer. You need to ask God where He is leading you,” said Spencer.

Treating the medical issues of patients is important, but Spencer elaborated that their spiritual condition is even more critical. He told the story of a patient in Togo with heart disease who had walked for five days to come to the mission hospital. Although the man was not a Christian, he said he heard a voice that told him to go there.

The patient received care for his damaged heart, but the chaplains and medical staff also shared the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Spencer encouraged medical volunteers to share their knowledge as well as their faith, as they can teach national staff about new techniques and treatments, and in turn, they

can learn more about local medical practices. Building relationships is essential, and Spencer recommended short-term volunteers find a place of service where they are comfortable and keep going back.

Treating the medical issues of patients is important, but ... their spiritual condition is even more critical.

“I’m here to encourage you to be the salt and the light,” he said. “Buckle your seat belt, because God is going to take you on some amazing adventures.”

Dr. Bill Rhodes, a general and plastic surgeon, has made Kapsowar Mission Hospital in Kenya his home for the past 25 years. He and his wife, Laura, also make several surgical trips a year to other parts of Africa, bringing



Several model mobile medical units were on display at the conference.

first-time smiles to people with cleft lips and other facial deformities.

“We are here for the kingdom of God’s sake,” he told the audience. “Our intention is to be Jesus in this world that is desperate for just a little bit of hope and a lot of help.”

Compelled by Christ’s sacrificial love, as His followers we are called to reflect His image and to extend His compassion to every corner of the globe, declared Rhodes. He expressed concern that the medical and economic chasms between the haves and the have-nots will continue to widen.

“The next generation is going to be strapped with a huge, overwhelming problem in sub-Saharan Africa, not to mention other places in the world. We must respond,” he cautioned. “We are the ‘Esthers’ of today. We are here to participate and to make a difference.”

Other general session speakers included Dr. Tom Kendall, the hospital director and chief of surgery at Hopital Baptiste Biblique in Togo, and Dr. John Fitzwater, a pediatric surgeon who has served with his family on 10 World Medical Mission trips to Kenya and Bangladesh.

Taking the Next Step

Bible teacher Dr. David Bruce shared a three-part series of messages from the book of Colossians and led a commissioning service Sunday morning. He exhorted the audience to be grounded in their faith, equipped by the Word of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life of faithful service.

“It’s the Gospel that will carry you to a different country. Yes, you’ve got your talents and abilities. But what is it that makes you go?” he asked. “It’s the Gospel, because the



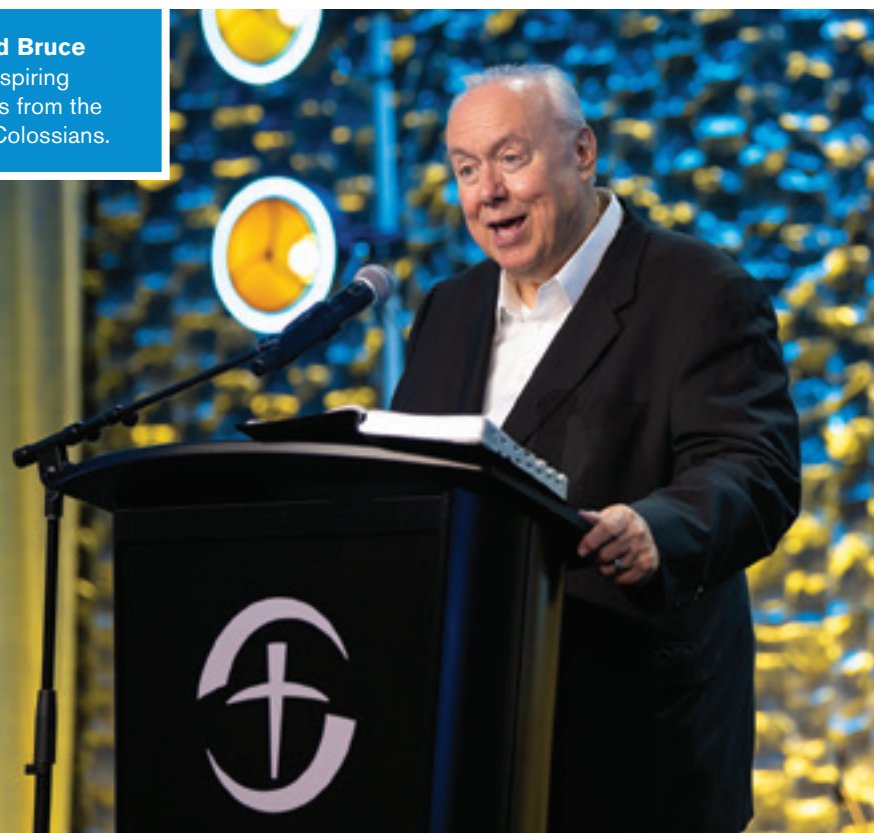
Staff answered questions about service opportunities in the conversation room.



Attendees enjoyed making new friends and sharing stories about their own professional and spiritual life journeys. More than 700 people participated in the Orlando conference.



Dr. David Bruce
shared inspiring
messages from the
book of Colossians.



Lecture speakers and medical equipment demonstrations provided educational enrichment.



A workshop in ultrasound technology was among more than 50 medical and spiritual enrichment offerings at the conference.

Gospel ties it all together. We go to extend the loving hand of Jesus in healing and caring and loving. At the same time, we give them the Gospel. You can never separate the two.”

Among the conference’s first-time attendees was a medical student named Jessica from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. The event further ignited her desire to take a step of faith and go on a medical mission trip.

“I just love interacting with so many people who have been on medical mission trips before and get to hear about their experiences,” she said. “I am getting to see the opportunities through them of what medical missions could look like for me in the future.”

Medical training enrichment was a major emphasis at the conference, and attendees could choose from more than 50 skills courses related to emergency medicine, infectious diseases, and other specialty topics. A hands-on abdominal

ultrasound workshop was also offered throughout the day Friday and Saturday.

Small tents set up in the hotel atrium gave conference participants a glimpse of the work of the Samaritan’s Purse mobile medical units and mobile surgical teams, as well as our biomedical technicians and laboratory technology staff.

Raising awareness of the need for short-term medical volunteers is the first step. To learn how to get involved, please see the “Calling for Help” listing on page 40. 🌐

The 2024 Prescription for Renewal conference will take place August 15-18 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Florida. Registration will open in the spring, and details will be posted online at samaritanspurse.org/pfr.



A urologist specialist,
Dr. Edward Chang
(center) served at
Hospital Shalom in
the Petén region of
Guatemala.



‘God Has His Own Plan’

A young surgeon learns that God is his greatest resource in the operating room and in life.

Dr. Edward Chang was in middle school when he experienced how disruptive a serious illness can be, impacting the sick person’s entire family.

Colon cancer had depleted his father’s strength and forced him to give up his job. Chang’s mother refocused her priorities on caring for her husband’s immediate needs. That left 13-year-old Edward with increased responsibility to take care of himself while his parents took care of each other.

“I had to step up. Seeing my dad go through all that made me realize that if you’re a doctor, you can help people during the most sensitive and vulnerable time in their lives,” Chang reflected. “That’s a big part of why I went into medicine, so I could be there for people during those times.”

Twenty years have passed since that stressful event, and thankfully, Chang’s dad underwent successful surgery and chemotherapy and is thriving today. His parents, both immigrants from South Korea, encouraged him as he persevered through medical school and five years of residency to become a urologist.

While in college at UCLA, Chang went on mission trips to Kenya and China. It was an eye-opener to see people in underserved communities who make do every day without access to quality medical care. For those with cancer or other life-threatening conditions, the outcomes are usually far different from his father’s story.

In 2022, Chang completed a fellowship in oncologic urology and surgery in California and began to contemplate taking a short-term mission trip. Some friends he met during residency had often urged him to consider a trip with World Medical Mission.

The prospect of performing operations in a mission hospital sounded intriguing, but the young surgeon wasn’t sure he was ready.

“God gave me the conviction that the first thing I would do after my training is to serve Him and do whatever He wants me to do and go wherever He wants me to go.”

“I wondered if it was the right thing for me to go serve this early in my career. I’m not seasoned in my field or in my abilities,” said Chang. “As I prayed about it, God gave me the conviction that the first thing I would do after my training is to serve Him and

do whatever He wants me to do and go wherever He wants me to go.”

Since Chang treats many native Spanish-speaking patients in California, he was specifically looking for a volunteer service opportunity in Latin America.

Hospital Shalom in Guatemala needed urologists, and Chang wanted to become fluent in Spanish. He even enrolled in a two-week language class in Guatemala to improve his skills before arriving at Shalom in late July.

Divine Direction

“The way God works is amazing. Sometimes we don’t know what we are getting ourselves into, but He always has a plan,” Chang can now say with a smile.

The Petén region where Hospital Shalom is located has a population of more than 600,000 people, and the needs are immense. Chang said there are only two professional urologists practicing in that region.

Modern urology in first-world nations is sophisticated and technologically oriented. Most surgeries are minimally invasive and rely on cameras and robots. However, the medical director forthrightly explained to Chang—before his arrival—that Hospital Shalom did not own or have access to any of that equipment.

“From the get-go, I knew I was putting myself in an uncomfortable situation,” he recalled. “I just had to pray that God would provide some way.”

Adding to the challenge, he would be operating without the guidance of a senior surgeon. His assistant was a general practitioner.

A 37-year-old woman with a kidney mass was his first surgical patient. Chang suspected the six-centimeter tumor was benign. However, no equipment was available to conduct a biopsy.

The next major decision was whether to remove the entire kidney or only extract the mass in a partial nephrectomy. After weighing all of the factors, praying, and contacting colleagues in the U.S. for advice, Chang opted to take out the mass. If anything went awry during surgery, he could resort to total removal of the kidney.

“It was nerve-racking,” he said. “I didn’t have surgical clips. There was a stapler, but it was not the kind of typical stapler I was used to. There wasn’t a self-retaining retractor that I would normally use. I realized during the middle of the surgery that the retractor we had was not going to work.”

More than once, Chang said he halted the procedure and asked God for help. “Every time I prayed, God put in my mind to maneuver in a different way. He kind of

progressed the surgery along. He gave me the idea that even though I didn’t have a retractor, I could mobilize the kidney enough and loosen it from all of its attachments. I actually released the entire kidney except the blood vessels and brought the kidney out of her body.”

Additional improvisation was necessary, but during the four-hour operation the surgical team was able to remove the tumor, stitch

the kidney, and close up the external incisions.

“I very clearly felt the Spirit of God working. He used everybody, my assistants and the techs and the nurses in the room. They all came up with good ideas, figuring things out, and it was just obvious that God had provided.”

While the patient was recovering, Chang went to the waiting area to speak with her parents. He learned that both of them serve in Christian ministry. Her dad is a pastor.

“Her father told me that during the surgery, one hundred members of his congregation were all praying. It was an amazing moment for me to think about. All those people were

*More than once,
Chang said
he halted the
procedure and
asked God
for help.*



ABOVE: Prayer was a vital tool in the operating room. Chang praised God for giving him and the team the insight they needed to handle complex surgeries.



LEFT: Chang and a group of friends visited Tikal, a famous Mayan historic site in the Guatemalan rainforest.

praying, and I definitely felt God's hand with us," he said. "It's a powerful reminder of His faithfulness."

Chang also found out that his patient knew for more than a year that she had a tumor, and she was praying for God to send someone who could operate on her. When word spread in the community that a visiting urologist was coming to Hospital Shalom, she wasted no time arranging to see the doctor.

"We both feel like it was God's divine hand that brought us together. It was an honor to serve a sister in Christ in this way," said Chang. "Even though I didn't know her and I'm from a different country, I'm so glad God used me to help her."

Chang's second surgery, involving a patient with a large stone that was stuck in the kidney's collecting system, turned out to be even more complicated due to the lack of instruments. However, the procedure went

well, and Chang praised God for that and other good outcomes during his stay at the hospital.

"This has been a life lesson for me. I'm the type of person that likes things to go in a certain way. It can be frustrating if the plan doesn't go accordingly," he said. "My time in Guatemala has really shown me that God has His own plan. He will provide a way while He executes His plan, and a lot of times it's not what I expect, but it is good."

Multiplying the Blessings

Serving overseas has certainly given the surgeon a renewed appreciation for the equipment and resources available to him in the U.S. He would like to do occasional mission work, but he feels called to focus on underserved populations in California.

"I think my particular interest in oncology comes from wanting to be in a position to



"My time in Guatemala has really shown me that God has His own plan," said Chang. "He will provide a way while He executes His plan, and a lot of times it's not what I expect, but it is good."



A young woman and her nephew underwent surgeries and recovered together at Hospital Shalom.

be able to help people, especially with tough questions," said Chang. "As people get closer to the end of their lives, they think about mortality. They think about how they live their lives, how they want to live their lives, and about the afterlife."

In Guatemala, Chang enjoyed the opportunity to freely share his faith in Christ with patients and their families. The operating room was one of many places of ministry, as he also interacted with dozens of people in the outpatient clinic, attended a local church, and enjoyed outings with other missionaries who took him to Tikal, the ancient Mayan city in the northern section of the country.

He also spent part of his evenings working on the Spanish lessons, which he said

definitely helped him to be more effective in communicating with patients. Those skills will benefit him as he applies his medical training in California and in any future mission trips to Guatemala or other parts of Latin America.

For the next trip, he plans to bring his wife, who was not able to accompany him this past summer, as well as some surgical equipment.

"Now that I have relationships with the people there, I would like to do a little bit more in terms of finding opportunities to teach local doctors and to learn from them. Maybe even be more involved in the church and discipleship," Chang said. "We'll see where God takes us." 🌐

GOD

— AT THE —
CENTER

One-on-one ministry is a hallmark of Tenwek Mission Hospital. The chaplains share the Scriptures with patients, encouraging them and giving them the opportunity to hear the Gospel. When patients are discharged, they receive a Bible that is provided by Samaritan's Purse.





The Operating Room Has AC

Sometimes it's the little things in life that bring a daily dose of encouragement.

Blog by Dr. Launa Clough, a general surgeon from Michigan who is serving at Hopital Baptiste Biblique in Togo through the Post-Residency Program. Clough arrived at the hospital in June 2023.



A little air conditioning goes a long way. Maybe you have experienced something similar to this. You feel crabby and overwhelmed. You have a snack and realize maybe it's not so bad and you just needed some popcorn?

Well, for me, it's a nice blast of air conditioning. There have been many points of feeling overwhelmed, stretched, frustrated. It's amazing what the feeling of cold air hitting your face can do for your soul and bring you back from the edge.

I have been here two months. Some really great days. Some really hard days. Some of the stuff I expected to be hard was easy, and vice versa. I have really loved being back in the operating room, which does have air conditioning most days, although it has also been a site of frustration and self-evaluation. A place that normally feels like my domain and my realm has become a place where I second-guess myself. Fifty percent of the time, I am reading about a procedure I have never done—the night before it is scheduled. That is, if I'm blessed enough to have lead time to plan.

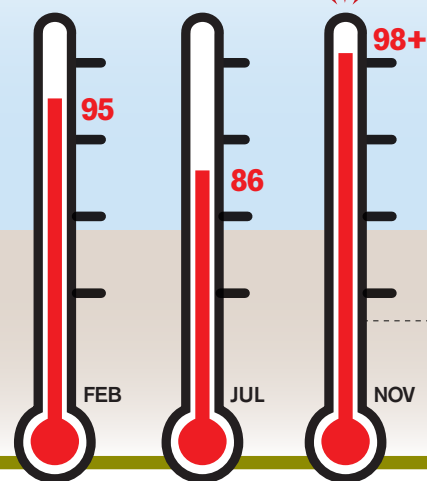
God's saving grace has been my team. Dr. Jack and Dr. Brandon are the other surgeons I work with most days. We also have

"There have been many points of feeling overwhelmed, stretched, frustrated. It's amazing what the feeling of cold air hitting your face can do for your soul and bring you back from the edge."

another surgeon who consults on the really complicated stuff, Dr. Tom. They have been so kind, so available, so encouraging. I really feel supported, which is the only way to actually thrive in this environment.

Dr. Launa Clough has seen God at work in the lives of her patients in Togo. She came to the hospital last June through the Post-Residency Program.

High temperatures in Togo



I often love being able to look back and see what God was doing and why He sent me certain places, and I know He has me here because He knows I love a good team. I have learned so much from these colleagues already, and mostly just learned that it's OK

to ask for help. It's OK to say "I don't know, but I'll do the best I can," and sometimes it's just nice to have someone else stumbling through it with you, together.

I did my first solo hysterectomy this week and am getting more and more comfortable on my own. Some things are definitely harder than expected. I have had full clinic days of telling

people they have inoperable cervical, breast, or stomach cancer. Days where I question if I can actually help anyone. And those days are the days that God is so present with me in the patient rooms. I can say to a patient "I cannot offer you anything surgically, but I can offer you the hope of a God who loves you." It's still hard. But that's exactly why I'm here.

One of my patients was a young man who seemed to have a bowel obstruction. He is 26 years old and had no hernias and no previous surgeries, which are the most common reasons. We were concerned about some sort of bowel perforation or twist so

we went to the operating room. When we saw inside the abdomen, I had no idea what I was looking at. Everything was stuck everywhere; I could not make heads or tails of where anything was. There were abscesses everywhere.

The scrub techs said this is what typhoid looks like. When it became apparent that the more we tried to separate

everything, the more damage we were causing, we decided to put in drains and get out of the operating room. I was fairly concerned that he was not going to do well.

The next morning, I was glad to see him doing OK. Definitely sore, but alive. Fast-forward to two days ago when he was doing laps around the hospital with a huge smile plastered on his face. He's still not out of the

"I often love being able to look back and see what God was doing and why He sent me certain places."

woods completely, but I'm so surprised at what the body is capable of enduring.

I had another patient who I saw in the clinic. I did an exam which was honestly confusing, so I called for help and backup. Another surgeon also did the exam and was equally perplexed. The patient was boarded for multiple things, depending on what we found. She ended up having a fibroma in her uterus which had prolapsed completely through her cervix, basically like an hourglass. We performed a hysterectomy and removed the fibroma piecemeal, slowly but surely. It was a benign tumor.

We kept remarking that this woman had been walking around with a tumor the size of my head in her pelvis. People here have a remarkable tolerance for pain and discomfort. I discharged her yesterday, and she had the biggest smile on her face. She was up and walking like I had told her to do, and she was so thankful.

I got to pray with her and her husband. It was a great day. 🌍



Dr. Launa Clough is grateful for a supportive hospital staff.



Dr. Clough repairs the ear of a man who was injured by a machete.



Dr. Bob Spencer has served with Samaritan's Purse on dozens of trips with World Medical Mission and Disaster Assistance Response Teams.

Mr. Fix-It

He may be a jack-of-all-trades, but Dr. Bob Spencer is a master of just about everything he tinkers with or touches.

A retired cardiologist, Dr. Bob Spencer practiced for more than 30 years in Florida, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. He also repairs medical equipment, does some electrical work, and can make the engines of old cars purr again. Add to that impressive list beekeeper, metal and wood craftsman, and pizza chef extraordinaire.

"There are always things that need to be fixed," said Spencer. His myriad of practical skills and knack for clever ingenuity have come in handy while serving with Samaritan's Purse on 25 assignments since 2016. Ten of those have been at our partner mission hospitals in Togo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and most recently, Madagascar.

He has also served on numerous deployments with our Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) program to war zones, disaster sites, and special assignments to high-security places that we can't mention by name.

A keynote speaker at Prescription for Renewal in September, Spencer felt God's call to serve overseas while attending the 2015 conference. Brimming with enthusiasm, he called his wife, who was at their home in Florida. "I had said more than once that I would never do medical missions," he recalled. "God has a sense of humor, so of course He nudged me into medical missions."

After a good experience at Tenwek Mission Hospital in Kenya, he became

more adventurous, seeking places that were completely off the grid.

Spencer ran across a blog written by a missionary doctor whose hobby was beekeeping. The doctor also did metal and wood fabrication. That caught his attention, and he contacted the blogger, who happened to be a physician with long-term ties to Samaritan's Purse—Dr. Warren Cooper.

Fixing equipment and tools is the easy part. Fixing people is a whole lot harder.

Cooper invited Spencer to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), where he and his family were serving full time at Nyankunde Hospital.

Upon his arrival, he learned that the oxygen concentrator was not functioning.

"I started troubleshooting and figured out there was a leak in one of the lines. We took some surgical instruments and used them to reshape the end of the fitting and got it to work," said Spencer.

"Another time I went to Nyankunde, Warren told me, 'I don't want you to see any patients. I just want you to help me fix stuff.'"



Dr. Spencer is “hands-on” as he uses an array of skills to serve in Madagascar (top), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (left), and in Mississippi (below).



So that is what I did. I went there for three weeks or more, and we just fixed things.”

Interspersed with his trips to the Democratic Republic of the Congo were assignments at Hospital of Hope and Hopital Baptiste Biblique in Togo.

The ability to quickly adapt and excel in any environment is a cultivated art resulting from years of practice. He credits his uncle for teaching him to be resourceful during his childhood in rural Mississippi. “I lived across the street from him, and we did everything. We poured concrete. We did heating and cooling. We did home renovation. We did all of our own auto repairs. We restored cars. Everything mechanical you could think of, we did it.”

Those varied skills helped prepare Spencer to handle whatever the moment required when he began serving on DART deployments with Samaritan’s Purse. He was heavily involved in multiple responses to outbreaks of COVID-19, beginning with our

Emergency Field Hospital in Cremona, Italy, in the spring of 2020.

“I came home for two weeks for quarantine. I had three days out of quarantine and went to our Navajo COVID response. Then it was the Bahamas for COVID. And California. And Mississippi. I also went to South Korea to train medical personnel on COVID treatment practices and was there for a month.”

“I left Seoul, came back home, left the next morning, and went to Ukraine,” said Spencer. “I changed my suitcase because I had suits, and I needed cold weather gear for Ukraine. I did five different deployments there.”

On his trips to challenging places with World Medical Mission and DART, resources and personnel are typically in limited supply. Spencer usually sets aside his expertise in cardiology to practice general medicine. But he jumps in and happily does whatever is needed, from repairing damaged wiring to driving forklifts.



Spencer operates a forklift in Mississippi in 2021.



Dr. Warren Cooper (left) shows Spencer (right) a brick oven in the backyard of his family's home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Spencer was inspired to add a pizza oven to his kitchen.

Fixing equipment and tools is the easy part. Fixing people is a whole lot harder.

"We can't fix everything. We have to meet patients where they are," he said. "When you are trying your best to treat someone with a disease that would be curable elsewhere, you have to realize that God has put that patient before you not just for their physical health

"You have to realize that God has put that patient before you ... for spiritual health too."

but for spiritual health too. Spiritual help becomes our emphasis."

Spencer saw his first case of polio in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also sees a lot of patients suffering the effects of malaria and typhoid.

"I just get in the trenches and see everyone that comes in the door," he said.

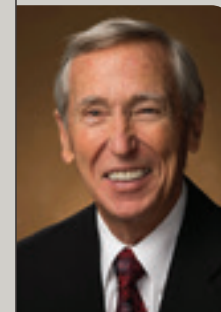
He provides treatment to heart patients too, and sometimes word spreads that a cardiologist is in town, bringing in a flurry of referrals.

The physician has another claim to fame, and that is his savory pizzas made in the brick oven in his home kitchen. It's usually a monthly event that reunites comrades he has served alongside in DART deployments.

"You share a common bond, because when you are in those stressful situations, you lean on each other. Gathering together strengthens us. It gives us an opportunity to help each other resolve anything that's still in our heads," he said.

"It's also a time of relaxation and restoration. We do have fun."

Always looking for the next challenge, Spencer recently returned from a short-term trip to Good News Hospital in Madagascar. The facility is a new partner hospital for World Medical Mission, and Spencer is the first volunteer to serve there. 🌐



ANSWERING THE CALL

Dr. Richard Furman,
co-founder of World Medical Mission

There is a huge difference between desire and commitment. There have been many times in life I have had the desire to do something but didn't accomplish it. A friend and I had the desire to climb Mount Everest in my younger years. We had climbed the Grand Teton mountain in Wyoming and wanted to use our skill to do more. We read books

about Mount Everest, learned different approaches to take, and even learned how long you have to stay at a certain altitude to be able to climb without supplementary oxygen. But we never climbed Mount Everest. We had the desire, but we didn't follow through. Desire is of the mind and requires no action. Commitment is of the heart and does require action.

I ask you today, have you had the call to go or return to a mission hospital or a Samaritan's Purse Emergency Field Hospital to reach others for Christ? Have you had the intention to serve for the first time or to go again to serve? Have you had a desire that keeps coming to your mind but you put it off for just a little while longer? If you have, I ask you to take the next step of commitment to go this coming year.

I was reminded of this at our recent Prescription for Renewal conference.

At our last service, just before the closing prayer, Dr. David Bruce noted that everyone had heard for the entire weekend about the medical needs at the mission hospitals and Samaritan's Purse deployments. Everyone attending PFR had the desire to be used.

That was evident because of their attendance. But Bruce asked the audience, did they have the commitment to go? He encouraged people to stand during the closing prayer if they were making such a commitment to go serve within the following year.

I was overwhelmed as I watched approximately three-quarters of the audience stand.

I am asking you who were not able to attend PFR to make the same commitment to go sometime this year if you have had such a calling from the Lord. Let us know, and we will find you a place where there is a need for your particular service. We will let you know where you can let your light shine. 🌐

***"Not unto us,
O LORD, not
unto us, but to
Your Name
give glory."***

—PSALM 115:1

Calling for help

Please pray for these mission hospitals and consider volunteering if you are a medical professional in one of the following specialties.



SPECIALTIES

The needs listed below are general and ongoing. To see locations where a critical need exists, please go to samaritanspurse.org/urgent-need

NEW HOSPITALS

Good News Hospital, **Madagascar**

AMERICAS

Alaska	Honduras
El Salvador	Mexico
Guatemala	Peru

AFRICA

Burundi	Ethiopia	Malawi
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Gabon	Rwanda
	Kenya	Togo
	Madagascar	Zambia

ASIA/PACIFIC

Nepal
Papua New Guinea

If you are interested in serving overseas, please complete our Volunteer Application online at samaritanspurse.org/medical/volunteer-application.

Please pray for these mission hospitals and their ongoing critical needs. For further questions, call World Medical Mission at (828) 278-1173.

ANESTHESIOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Specialty Teams
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
United Mission Hospital Tansen, **Nepal**

CARDIOLOGY

AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

COLORECTAL SURGERY

Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**

Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Hospital, **Kenya**

DENTISTRY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Karanda Mission Hospital, **Zimbabwe**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

DERMATOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Hospital, **Kenya**

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**

FAMILY PRACTICE

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chitokoloki Hospital, **Zambia**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Jungle Hospital, **Honduras**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country

Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
United Mission Hospital Tansen, **Nepal**

GASTROENTEROLOGY

AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

GENERAL SURGERY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**



Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Karanda Mission Hospital, **Zimbabwe**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
United Mission Hospital Tansen, **Nepal**

HEMATOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**

INTERNAL MEDICINE

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Jungle Hospital, **Honduras**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**

Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
United Mission Hospital Tansen, **Nepal**

NEONATOLOGY

AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

NEPHROLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

NEUROLOGY

Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Restricted Country
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

NEUROSURGERY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Karanda Mission Hospital, **Zimbabwe**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Specialty Teams
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chogoria Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
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Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Specialty Teams
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
United Mission Hospital Tansen, **Nepal**

ONCOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

OPHTHALMOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**

Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

ORAL MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Karanda Mission Hospital, **Zimbabwe**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Specialty Teams
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

PATHOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
United Mission Hospital Tansen, **Nepal**

PEDIATRIC ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**

PEDIATRICS

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Chitokoloki Hospital, **Kenya**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Jungle Hospital, **Honduras**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Macha Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Family Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kudjip Nazarene Hospital, **Papua New Guinea**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Mukinge Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION

AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**

PLASTIC SURGERY

Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, **Zambia**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kibogora Hospital, **Rwanda**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Restricted Country
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

PSYCHIATRY

AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Restricted Country

PSYCHOLOGY

Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
Restricted Country

RADIOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Chogoria Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Nkhoma Mission Hospital, **Malawi**
Restricted Country
Shalom Medical Center, **El Salvador**
Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

RHEUMATOLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Myungsung Christian Medical Center, **Ethiopia**
Restricted Country
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

THORACIC SURGERY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**

UROLOGY

AIC Kijabe Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
AIC Litein Hospital, **Kenya**
Bongolo Hospital, **Gabon**
Hopital Baptiste Biblique, **Togo**
Hospital Loma de Luz, **Honduras**
Hospital of Hope, **Togo**
Hospital Shalom, **Guatemala**
Kapsowar Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
Karanda Mission Hospital, **Zimbabwe**
Maua Methodist Hospital, **Kenya**
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Soddo Christian Hospital, **Ethiopia**
Tenwek Mission Hospital, **Kenya**
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“ HE HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED AND BINDS UP THEIR WOUNDS . ” —Psalm 147:3