

*Working together to transform
lives in Uganda thanks to YOU*



Healing and Hope
MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION



When Dr. Juan Gonzalez and his wife Silvia and their little boys Gabriel and Paolo set out to serve at Karoli Lwanga Hospital in Uganda, their journey was inspired by a deep faith and a shared commitment to providing care for those most in need.

Because of your generosity, they have brought healing and hope to many while learning profound lessons in resilience, faith, and community.

Dr. Juan and his wife felt called to pursue mission work after a year-long global health fellowship in Africa. **They searched for a Catholic mission that aligned with their faith, eventually finding MDA.** “We felt very blessed by the support and guidance we received from MDA,” Juan shares. “From our first contact, through retreats, and now in service, they have been with us every step of the way.”

Their faith not only guided their decision, but continues to sustain them. “Through our faith, we know we have a special role in sharing God’s love with those who are poor and suffering,” he says. “It reminds us that the results are in His hands, not ours.”

“Many good things come out of MDA’s work,” Silvia emphasizes. “With your generosity, the dialogue between MDA, its partner hospitals, and the doctors who serve can continue bearing fruits of service, learning, and charity.”

As a family, preparing for their mission involved both spiritual and practical steps. **Prayer was central, helping them cultivate openness and flexibility.** “We prayed for guidance,” Juan explains. “We knew we had to adapt to circumstances we couldn’t imagine ahead of time.”

Practical preparations included packing essential medical tools and personal items that would ease their transition, from a pediatric blood pressure cuff to a sturdy kitchen knife. “These small things make a big difference when resources are limited,” he notes. Working in a resource-limited environment presents daily challenges, from shortages of medical supplies to patients’ inability to afford treatments.

Despite these obstacles, Juan finds immense rewards in his work. **“Taking care of patients, seeing them improve, and experiencing their humble gratitude is deeply fulfilling,”** he says.

One memorable patient was a woman suffering from a frozen shoulder, a condition unfamiliar to the local medical trainees. Juan’s expertise not only relieved the patient’s pain, but also introduced new knowledge to the local doctors. **“Her gratitude reminded me that even modest contributions can make a meaningful impact,”** Juan reflects.

Mission Doctor, Dr. Juan Gonzalez, his wife Silvia and their two young sons, Gabriel and Paolo at our Mission House in Los Angeles.



Juan and Silvia and their boys join in the efforts to care for God’s creation with hospital staff and community members.



Living their faith, Mission Doctors become integral to the communities they serve. Together with you, they deliver hope and healing.

While Juan's medical work addresses immediate health needs, the family's involvement extends beyond the hospital. **Juan and Silvia are supporting the hospital's administrator on a waste segregation and composting project, inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato si' encyclical, to reduce toxic fumes from burning trash.** "This initiative will improve environmental health, and hopefully, through community education, it will inspire deeper respect and appreciation for this beautiful land" Silvia said.

Serving in Africa with two young children has been both a challenge and a blessing. "Our boys bring joy and grounding," Silvia shares. "They're learning that what they've known as 'normal' in the U.S. isn't the reality for most people around the world."

The children's presence has also fostered meaningful connections. On Gabriel's birthday, during their time serving in northern Ghana (prior to their current mission in Uganda), he embraced a local tradition of giving rather than receiving, delivering fruit to children in the pediatric ward. **"It was a beautiful, touching experience that enriched all our lives," Silvia recalls.**

Through their journey, Juan and Silvia have been inspired by the ingenuity and resilience of the people they serve. **They've also been deeply moved by the support of MDA's donors. "Many good things come out of MDA's work," Silvia emphasizes.** "With your generosity, the dialogue between MDA, its partner hospitals, and the doctors who serve can continue bearing fruits of service, learning, and charity."

Together, we uphold the dignity of every person and share God's love with those who need it most. Thank you for making this mission a reality.

Discerning Your Legacy

Each year, we share the generosity of Mission Doctors Legacy Members —those who have included Mission Doctors in their planned giving. **As we begin this new year, we invite you to reflect on making a legacy gift to sustain this 65-year mission of hope and healing, and to join us in prayer for discernment in giving.**

"Everything is from you, and what we give is what we have from you."

1 Chronicles 29:14

Jesus, our Healer and Redeemer, You call me to recognize You in the poor and sick. Help me discern the opportunity to leave a legacy of healing and hope through the work of Mission Doctors.

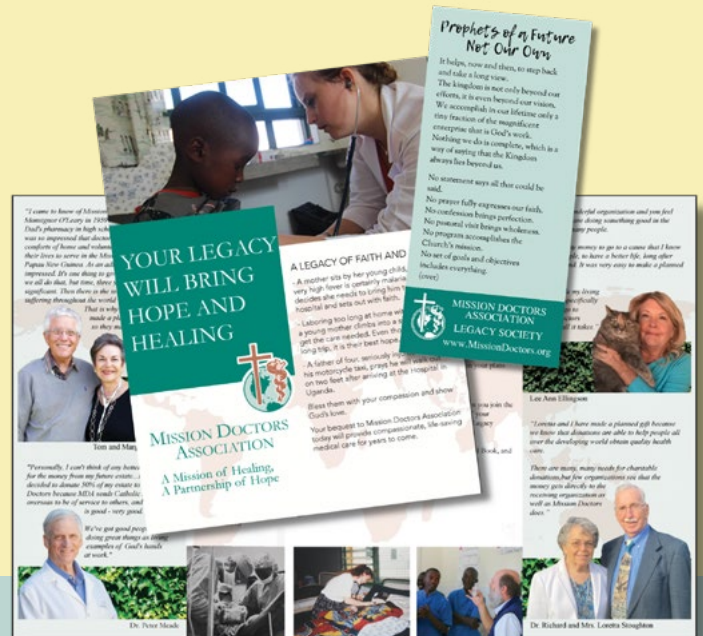
I know all that I have and all that I give comes from You.

I pray that when I return to You, my life reflects this faith.

I trust in Your wisdom. At the hour of my death call me, so with Your saints, I may praise You forever and ever,

Amen.

If you'd like information about setting up a planned gift or would like to receive our planned gift guide, contact Elise Frederick on her direct line 213-368-1875 or email her at efrederick@missiondoctors.org.



A HEART FOR THE WORLD HYBRID GALA

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

You're invited to celebrate with Mission Doctors Association at our annual gala and be part of an unforgettable evening, whether you join us in Los Angeles or virtually from anywhere in the world!

And, don't miss the opportunity to bid on an incredible selection of silent auction items—open to all attendees, in person and online.

This year, we are honored to present the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award for Faith and Service to Dr. Brian Medernach and Dr. Antoinette Lullo, recognizing their long-standing dedication to the Mission Doctors' ministry.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate with us, you'll be uplifted by the impact of this life-changing mission.



Visit www.MissionDoctors.org/Gala today to purchase tickets and register

BE INSPIRED ♥ SAVE LIVES ♥ SUPPORT CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE

Upcoming Events

Spring Retreat/Seminar

April 25-27, 2025

Doctors and their spouses interested in short-term service are invited to a Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Take the time to reflect on God's call and discuss the practical issues of medical licenses, visas, and international health insurance. Email Program Coordinator, Amie Garcia at agarcia@missiondoctors.org to learn more and reserve your spot!

Appreciation Mass and Brunch

April 27, 2025

Friends of MDA are invited to join us to celebrate our annual Mass at Loyola Marymount University Chapel, in Los Angeles, followed by a lovely brunch at The Hill in the Malone Student Center, and an opportunity to meet the doctors who have come together for the Retreat/Seminar. Contact our office for more information and RSVP at info@missiondoctors.org.



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Following Christ's call to heal the sick,
Mission Doctors Association
provides life-saving medical care for the poor
and training for local healthcare professionals
around the world.

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