

Medical Missions

Fourth Quarter 2004

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colosians 1:9 NIV).

by Larry Capps, M.D., D. Min., MVI Medical Director

In reality, all missionaries are medical missionaries because it is not possible to separate mankind’s physical needs from mankind’s social, mental, and spiritual needs. Food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, clothing for those who are cold, and medicine for the sick are clearly the mirror image of visiting the prisoner, comforting those who mourn, hope for the downtrodden, and proclaiming the Gospel. Missionaries are God’s frontline workers to the whole of mankind because when any area of a person’s life is renewed that person’s entire being is refreshed.

I believe everyone who is reading this has been touched in some way by a missionary. A surrogate that was touched by a missionary has touched some. A missionary has more directly inspired others. American missionary, David Brainerd, has touched thousands and included in this list is the likes of John Wesley, Henry Martyn, William Carey, David Livingston, Andrew

Murray, and Jim Eliot.

If missionaries are this important in Kingdom work, they are this important to us. Will you join me in helping them and encouraging them? Will you pray the scripture verse above for them? Will you stop right now and send them a note of encouragement via E-mail or snail mail? Will you send them a small financial token of your appreciation? Will you join them on a short-term mission team to aid in their ministry?

Truly, God is their reward but we owe them so much.



God Changes Lives

BY ARLEN R. STAUFFER, MD

God initiates small changes in each of our lives. Sometimes we forget just how big of a change He can make in a life. I was reminded of this recently while on a medical mission team in Peru.

On our second day of clinic in a small church, we called for the next patient in the long line and led Guillermo behind the sheets that hung as exam-room dividers.

He walked with a limp on his right side and I noticed that he held the registration papers up to within six inches of his left eye to read which papers were his and which were his child's. Guillermo was friendly and he smiled broadly.

After greeting him, we asked what

problems he was having this day. When he answered with only the common backache and headache complaints, I had to ask what happened to his vision.

He sat up straight, with an air of confidence and pride, and began telling a story that shook me out of the tiredness that the hot, muggy, jungle afternoon had imposed.

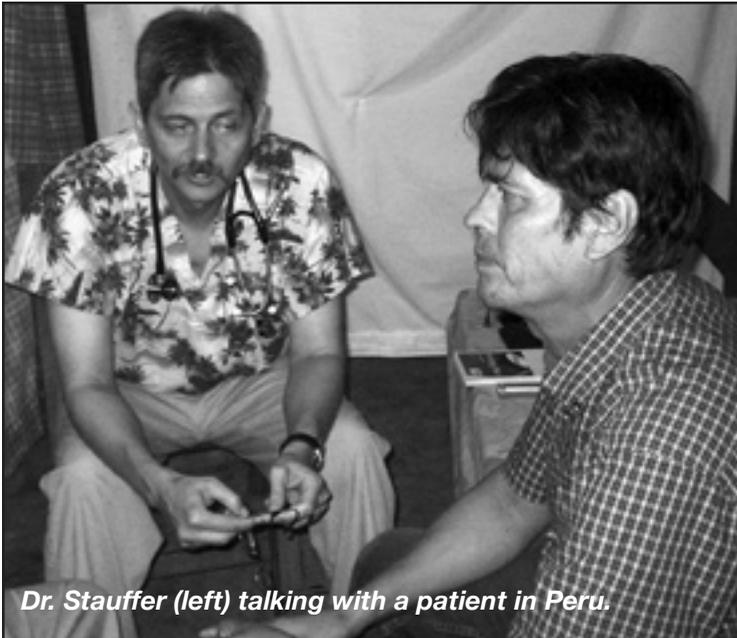
When he was young, he had fallen in with the "wrong people" and had become a terrorist in this country in the 1980's. He did not elaborate as to just what he did back then. He was captured by the police and was beaten quite harshly while in prison. The resulting injuries made him limp on his right side, blind in his right eye, and allowed only a little vision in his left eye.

As he continued his story, we sat back in admiration of his newly found conviction.

A preacher came to the prison, and began telling the prisoners "they were nothing, they

were all bad people, and that they were cowards." When Guillermo heard him calling them cowards, he became quite angry. Still, the preacher's words caught his ear and he began listening to the message of salvation that the preacher was telling.

The Good News got through to him and he opened up his heart to God. This Good News produced such a dramatic change in Guillermo that his life was



Dr. Stauffer (left) talking with a patient in Peru.

completely and inalterably changed and improved.

His injuries healed as best they could in prison, leaving him with these permanent disabilities, but the rest of him came alive. He began studying the Bible and became a pastor when he was released from prison. His days of terror and crime were behind him forever.

Now, Guillermo spends his time in service to the Lord. He travels up and down the Amazon headwaters of the Ucayali River in a small boat stopping in the small villages along the way to teach the Indians about the Gospel.

In an almost Saul-Paul way, Guillermo saw the light of God when he was struck down in a Peruvian prison. He is now doing everything he can to teach his Peruvian friends and neighbors about the salvation offered by Jesus to everyone.

He carries with him, every minute of every day, both the physical reminders of his own evil past and the realization that he can now be an impetus for change in the lives of many others around him.

I am so grateful to have met Guillermo this month along the headwaters of the Amazon. His life was changed forever when a preacher came to visit him in prison. My life was changed and enriched by just meeting Guillermo.

Medical Team Needed for Ghana

Missionary Ventures, in cooperation with Dr. Michael Dapaah, an internal medicine physician in Orlando, Florida, is planning a medical/surgical mission trip to Ghana, Africa June 4-18, 2005. The setting will be in a new clinic built by Dr. Dapaah, in Kumasi, Ghana. The clinic had its grand opening in February 2004. Steve Beam, MVI President, blessed the clinic and prayed that miracle healings would take place there. Ghana is located in West Africa and is a very peaceful country. There is a great opportunity to do outreach. Please pray about being a part of this team. We need doctors, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, as well as non-medical support personnel. Please contact Renea Harris at rharris@mvusa.org.

Medical Equipment Needed for Nicaragua

We are presently looking for equipment for the Nicaragua Hospital/Clinic. We need a very specific non-electric operating room table. If you know of one that may be available, we are looking for an Amsco Model 1080 operating room table with manual controls, two armboards with rail clamps, two cane stirrups with rail clamps, and one anesthesia screen with rail clamps. Also needed are two stainless steel back tables and two mayo stands. If you have any of this equipment, please email Donna Capps at dswlcapps@mvi.org.

I will help support Medical Missions.

- Here is my gift to help purchase equipment for the clinic/hospital in Nicaragua.
- I will support the Mobile Leprosy team in the amount of _____ monthly or _____ one time gift.
- I will support Medical Missions in the amount of _____ monthly or _____ one time gift.
- Here is my one time gift of _____ please use where most needed.
- I would like to go on a short-term medical trip. Please contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

JOIN a Medical Missions Team!

Here are a few possibilities. Please, contact an MV office for other available dates.

Teams leaving from MVUSA

- January 29 - February 5: Dominican Republic/Haiti
- February 5-13: Philippines
- April 2005: Medical team to the Philippines
- May 28 - June 4: Nicaragua
- June 4-18: Ghana
- Summer 2005: Medical team to Peru
- TBA 2005: Medical team to Bolivia
- TBA 2005: Medical team to Colombia

Teams leaving from MVAUSTRALIA

- November 6-20: Medical and evangelism team to India

Teams leaving from MVCANADA

- November 6-20: Medical team to Guatemala
- February 5-19, 2005: Medical team to India

Teams leaving from MVEUROPE

- Nov 26 - Dec 6: Optometry team to Uganda

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