IN THE HANDS OF THE GREAT PHYSICIAN
SERVING IN CAMEROON

Serving by faith, “sight unseen”
KENYA

“Bring on the challenge!”
HONDURAS

The future of medical missions
BURUNDI
World Medical Mission is a ministry of Samaritan’s Purse, a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan’s Purse has been meeting the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God’s love through His Son, Jesus Christ. World Medical Mission assists mission hospitals in more than 20 nations by sending physicians on short-term assignments, providing medical equipment and supplies, and recruiting physicians to serve in the Post-Residency Program in preparation for a lifetime of service as medical missionaries.
As brothers and fellow physicians, Drs. Lowell and Richard Furman had a lot in common, including their love for the Lord, a passion for evangelism, and a desire to provide trained medical support for under-staffed mission hospitals and clinics overseas.

With the help of a young college student named Franklin Graham, the Furmans established World Medical Mission in 1977 to help coordinate short-term service trips for physicians and dentists who wanted to volunteer their time and medical skills.

Functioning as the medical arm of Samaritan’s Purse, World Medical Mission coordinates more than 600 trips every year for physicians who serve in mission hospitals. World Medical Mission also ships tons of donated medical equipment and supplies to mission hospitals around the world. Biomedical technicians and an electrical engineer refurbish, install, and maintain medical equipment and systems that are used in mission hospitals.

Lowell Furman passed away in 2006, but Richard Furman continues to serve in mission settings around the world. During a visit to Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya, Dr. Richard Furman operated on a man who had been pierced by an arrow that lodged in his chest, just a fraction of an inch from the man’s heart. When Dr. Furman visited the man in recovery the next day, he told him how close he had come to dying and asked, “Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?” Dr. Furman was relieved when the man said, “Yes! Jesus has saved me twice. Once as a believer and again last night.”

The experience reminded Dr. Furman again why supporting mission hospitals is so important. “The greatest thing about practicing medicine is that it is one of the greatest tools for evangelism there is,” Dr. Furman said. “The more we help to staff and equip these mission hospitals, the larger the platform we have for telling others about Jesus.”

In the booklet “WHY DO WE GO? The Ultimate Aim of Medical Missions,” Dr. Richard Furman explains the call to medical missions that prompted him and his brother, Dr. Lowell Furman (pictured on the cover) to co-found World Medical Mission.

“I was not only responsible for the patient’s life from a medical standpoint, but also from a spiritual one.”

— Richard M. Furman
Is God calling you to serve internationally as a medical missionary? Samaritan’s Purse offers physicians and dentists a unique opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Great Physician through our Post-Residency Program, which is coordinated through our medical arm, World Medical Mission.

The two-year Post-Residency Program enables Christian physicians and their families to serve overseas immediately following their residency or fellowship. We provide logistical and financial support while you serve alongside career medical missionaries, sharing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with people in need. The goal of the Post-Residency Program is to help encourage and prepare young doctors in all specialties to become full-time medical missionaries.

Learn more about the Post-Residency Program online at samaritanspurse.org/prp. You can also call 1-800-528-1980 or send an email to postresidencyprogram@samaritan.org.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**I. HOW DO I APPLY?**
Applications will be made available to interested applicants in January. The application deadline is June 1 prior to the beginning of your last year of training. For an application or to be added to the distribution list, please email postresidencyprogram@samaritan.org. Please be sure to include your name, contact information, specialty, and anticipated date of completion of your training.

**II. HOW ARE CANDIDATES SELECTED?**
A committee of World Medical Mission senior staff members will review applications and interview qualified individuals for approval for the Post-Residency Program. The committee will consider your medical specialty, testimony, references, the leading of the Lord in your life, and your long-term career goals. Second-language skills are helpful but not required.

**III. DO I GET TO CHOOSE WHERE I SERVE?**
The committee will present you with two options of mission hospitals and sending organizations that can use your specialty and provide mentorship during these first two years. However, the final decision is up to you.

**IV. WHERE COULD I BE ASSIGNED?**
Typical assignments will be in established mission hospitals and clinics in Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, and Latin America within the network of World Medical Mission partner hospitals.

**V. WHAT KIND OF PREPARATION WILL I RECEIVE?**
The Post-Residency Program staff will work with you and your family from the time your application is approved through your two years of service. We will assist you with all ministry-related travel and country-specific field requirements. Prior to serving, you will be brought to the Samaritan’s Purse international headquarters in Boone, North Carolina, for orientation.

**VI. DO I NEED TO RAISE SUPPORT?**
Samaritan’s Purse will pay a modest stipend and provide airfare, insurance, immunizations, and ministry-related travel expenses to the physician. We will also provide housing and a food allowance for you and your family. You will need to raise support to cover your family’s airfare, benefits, and ministry-related expenses. Samaritan’s Purse will not take any administrative fees from the funds you raise.

**VII. WHAT ABOUT MY SCHOOL LOANS?**
We are prepared to assist you as you raise support to cover your basic student loans.

**VIII. HOW DO I TRANSITION TO A SENDING AGENCY?**
From the outset of your acceptance into the Post-Residency Program, our staff will assist you in finding a mission sending agency that is the right fit for you and your family. We can help you make a seamless transition to a long-term sending agency and minimize the time spent at home raising support and completing the necessary sending organization requirements between assignments.
Kyle and Vanessa Jones first met on a high school football field during marching band practice. They both felt a call to serve the Lord in a special way, but never imagined that they would follow that path together to a remote mission hospital in Kenya.

After Kyle completed his residency in family practice medicine, he and Vanessa packed up their three sons and headed for Kapsowar Hospital to serve for two years through the Post-Residency Program.

“Kapsowar, Kenya, was our dream come true!” Vanessa shared. “We traveled with three little boys to our new home, sight unseen.”

Kyle served alongside missionary veteran Dr. Bill Rhodes, honing his skills in a developing country where medical emergencies and advanced diseases were all too common. Working in a mission hospital gave Kyle the freedom to address both the medical and spiritual needs of his patients. “It is a privilege to be able to walk with them through their difficult times and point them to Christ, who is our ultimate comforter and healer,” Kyle said.

Kyle’s missionary spirit was stirred again when he made a house call on a little boy named Musa, who lived hours away from the hospital among the Pokot people in the Kerio Valley. When Kyle arrived at Musa’s house, dozens of people were waiting to see the doctor.

MORE >
After seeing the tremendous need for medical care among the Pokot, Kyle organized mobile medical teams to treat the people and share the Gospel with the help of a local missionary. The mobile outreaches soon gave rise to a plan to build a permanent medical clinic. Today, the completed Pokot Clinic serves as a community health care center where people receive medical attention in Jesus’ Name.

“I love the Pokot believers,” Kyle said. “Many of them have incredible testimonies. Mostly, they are first-generation Christians and facing a lot of stress from their tribe. We need to be praying for them and for the growth of the church.”

During the two years that Kyle and Vanessa served at Kapsowar Hospital, their family grew to six with the birth of a daughter, Ariella, at the hospital. Kyle and Vanessa also felt the Lord confirm His call to long-term medical missions. They were accepted by a missionary sending agency and now serve at Kapsowar Hospital full-time.

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Five physicians were accepted into the Post-Residency Program and placed at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, West Africa. Dr. Christy Lee is an OBG. Two husband-and-wife teams, Drs. J.R. and Lindsay Young and Drs. Chuck and Angela Barrier brought their own unique skills to the hospital. J.R. and Lindsay are pediatricians. Chuck practices internal medicine and Angela is also a pediatrician.

The five physicians became a vital part of the hospital staff as soon as they arrived. They began working alongside veteran medical missionaries to provide clinical care to patients. They also became mentors for the African nationals in the hospital's residency programs.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital serves as a training center for the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) and the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization programs (CIMS). It also supports a three-year training program for nurses.

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Serving at a mission hospital in the developing world, all of the doctors have had their medical skills and faith tested, but it has drawn them closer to the Great Physician.

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Judy served at mission hospitals in Honduras and Peru while she was a resident to experience the challenges of practicing medicine in the developing world. When she joined a losing battle to save the life of a 1-year-old named Maria, it strengthened her resolve to practice missionary medicine. "God calls us each to different paths and circumstances in life," Dr. Blumhofer said. "He doesn't place us in any situation without providing us with every tool and resource we will need to face it. It always hurts to see a child die, but if it's where He places me, then there's nowhere else I'd rather be.

"It's in those moments of despair and brokenness that we listen for Jesus, we hear His voice, and we know His comfort. It's a privilege to join families in their brokenness, to pray with them, to cry with them, and to know that even when I'm no longer with them, they will remain in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father."

Judy's determination to fight for her patients' lives automatically kicked in when twin boys were born and both stopped breathing. She scooped up one of the boys, said a prayer, and went to work, while others on the team resuscitated his brother. "I was ready," she said. "I had my timer going. My stack of warm, dry towels. My infant ambu bag. My intubation equipment. My poor-man's umbilical catheterization kit. Bring on the challenge! No way was this kid going down without a fight!" Both babies survived.

"In those moments you realize that this is exactly why you came," Judy said. "To make the difference. To provide a fighting chance. To give hope that will last beyond this moment. And to watch a life begin and a family form, that without those interventions, might very well have never been."
Dr. Dan Galat moved to Bomet, Kenya, with their four children in 2008 to serve for two years at Tenwek Hospital. Dan, an orthopedic surgeon, graduated from Ohio State University College of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program in Rochester, Minnesota. He also received a Master of Arts in Religion from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois.

“Serving at a mission hospital provides unique opportunities,” Dan shared in a YouTube video that he and Heather made about their work as a missionary family. “Not only do we help patients medically, but we are also able to minister to their spiritual needs and share with them the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As an orthopedic surgeon, I have great joy in seeing people get well again, able to walk and work and provide for their families, but definitely the greatest joy I have is when I see these patients find true hope and salvation through Jesus Christ as their Savior. That’s the reason why we’re here.”

After serving at Tenwek Hospital for two years through the Post-Residency Program, the Galats transitioned to full-time missionary service at the hospital. Dan not only treats patients, but is also working with the hospital staff and the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons to develop a new orthopedic residency program at Tenwek.

“What amazes me is that God is always at work at Tenwek and in all our lives,” Dan said. “His ultimate purpose is to work forgiveness into our lives, made possible only through the death of His Son on the cross—forgiveness which reconciles us to God and to one another, forgiveness which frees our conscience from guilt, and forgiveness that allows this simple orthopedic surgeon to see his own need for a Savior and continue with our family’s calling to alleviate a little suffering in this small part of the world.”

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—Dr. Dan Galat

Alleviating suffering
IN JESUS’ NAME

M A K I N G R O U N D S AT T E N W E K H O S P I T A L: Dr. Dan Galat uses his skills as an orthopedic surgeon to treat his patients, but also responds to their spiritual needs by praying with them and sharing the Gospel.
The future of MEDICAL MISSIONS

Our hope is that we can add substantially to the health care available in the region of Kibuye Hospital, and at the same time be integrally involved in the professional and spiritual development of young medical students and leaders,” Dr. Eric McLaughlin said. “We feel that this opportunity provides the best mix of the Gospel in ‘word and deed’ as it would pertain to the gifts of our group.”

It was no “coincidence” that three young couples—the Faders, Cropseys, and McLaughlins—became close friends. They all attended the same church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, four of the six spouses were completing medical residencies, two were teachers, and all of them felt called to missions. Before long, they began to sense that God wanted them to serve together as a team. The families even came up with a team name, the “McCroppders,” using a combination of letters from their last names.

As a group, the McCroppders applied to World Medical Mission’s Post-Residency Program, were accepted, and were placed at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.

For Dr. John Cropsey, serving in Africa felt like a homecoming. “I grew up at a mission hospital in Togo, West Africa,” Dr. Cropsey said. “My dad is a general surgeon and my mom is a nurse. After seeing my parents’ ministry in Africa, I’ve never been able to imagine a more meaningful way to live life than to serve as a medical missionary. What better way to obey the most important commandments? Love God with all you’ve got, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Dr. Rachel McLaughlin faced the unique challenges of being a physician, mother, and missionary wife, but found comfort knowing that it was all part of God’s plan. “Long before I became a wife or a mother, I knew God was calling me to be a doctor, specifically, a missionary doctor,” she wrote in the family blog. “I was only 16 years old and had no idea what I was committing to, but there you have it. And I need to remind myself that I am who I am because that is who God called me to be.”

Dr. Alyssa Pfister was grafted into the McCropder family after she arrived at Tenwek Hospital to serve through the Post-Residency Program. Two more McCropder recruits were added to the team when Dr. Carlan Wendler and another teacher, Sarah Crockett, set their sights on medical missions. During their two years at Tenwek Hospital, the group prayed about where they might serve together following the Post-Residency Program. They also visited various mission hospitals in Africa. Once again, the Lord paved the way, leading them to Kibuye Hope Hospital in Burundi.

Kibuye Hope Hospital and Hope Africa University are located in a rural area outside Bujumbura, the nation’s capital. The McCroppders have been working closely with hospital and university leaders to develop a 20-year master plan that includes major hospital expansion and a medical school for both physicians and nurses.

The McCroppders feel blessed to be following in the footsteps of the Great Physician, ministering to the sick and sharing the Gospel in Burundi. “We are honored to be part of the next generation of missionary medicine,” Dr. Cropsey said. “I do sense that God is at work in our generation.”

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DEAR FRIEND,

It’s a blessing to see how God established World Medical Mission as the medical arm of Samaritan’s Purse and continues to use it to help draw the lost to Him through missionary medicine.

I also am humbled to see the Lord work through our Post-Residency Program to prepare a new generation of Christian physicians for a lifetime of service as medical missionaries. Retiring physicians who have dedicated their lives serving at mission hospitals are encouraged to know that their life work will continue through the young doctors who are transitioning to full-time service through the Post-Residency Program.

As I pray for the physicians in our Post-Residency Program, I’m reminded of when Jesus sent His disciples out to share the Gospel.

Wherever His disciples found themselves, Jesus said, “Heal the sick there and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’” (Luke 10:9, NKJV).

If the Lord is calling you to medical missions, I pray that you will consider the Post-Residency Program and ask God if this may be the next step in your path to full-time service overseas. May God bless you as you seek His will.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan’s Purse