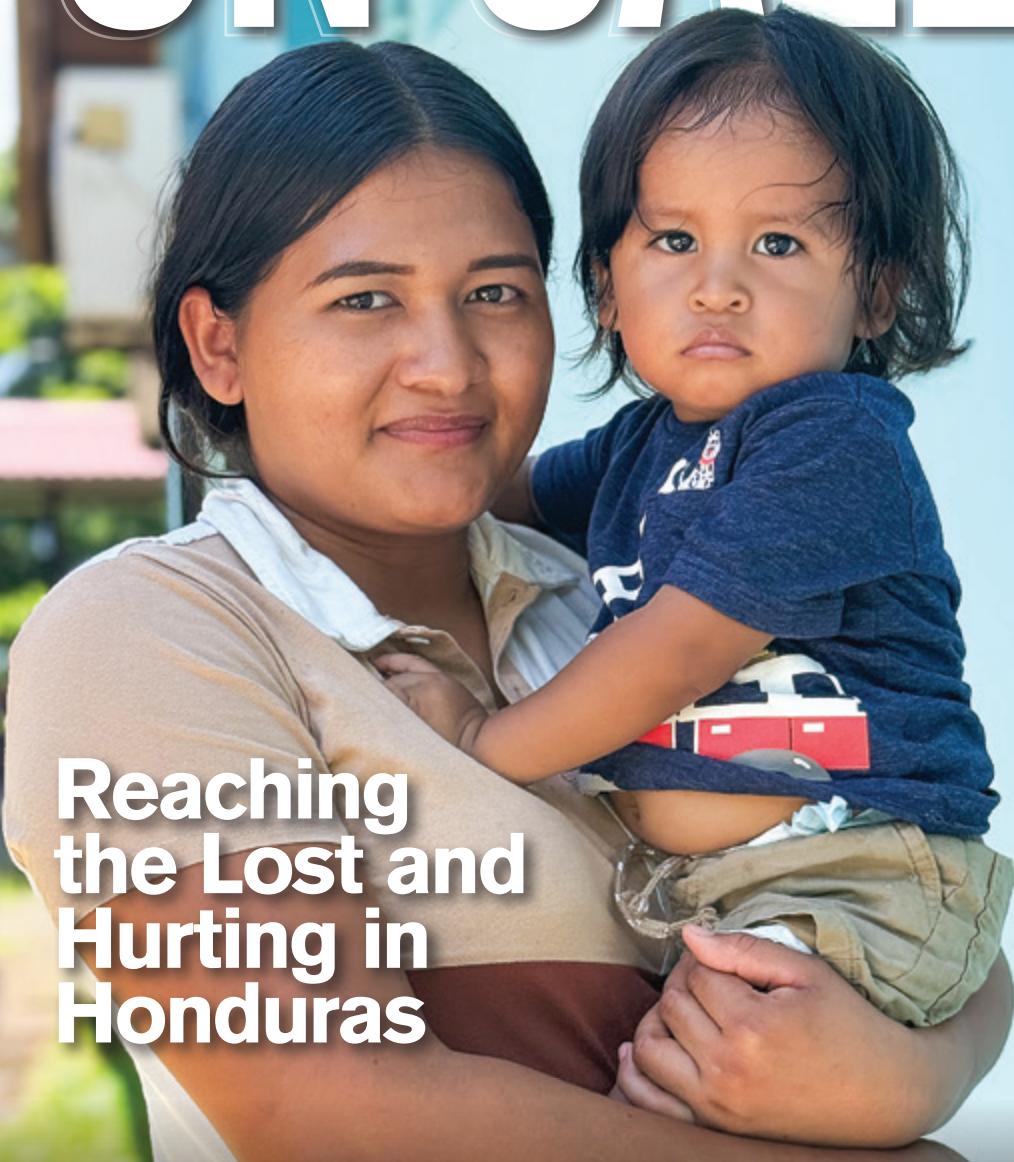


ON CALL



**Reaching
the Lost and
Hurting in
Honduras**

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Read updates on how God is at work through World Medical Mission.

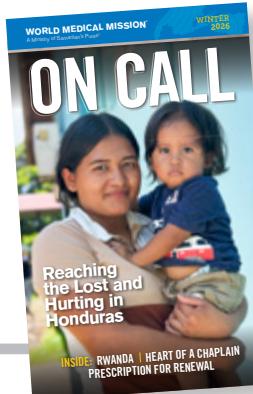


Samaritan's Purse Is Seeking a Full-Time, On-Site Physician

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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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Proclaiming Jesus' Name



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

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WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?
Look at the latest "Calling for Help" to see which mission hospitals need volunteers in your specialty.



WORLD MEDICAL MISSION®
A MINISTRY OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE®

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Dear Friend,

We go in Jesus' Name. That's the most important message I wanted to emphasize to the audience of medical professionals and students during our

Prescription for Renewal conference in October.

God has gifted the men and women who serve with Samaritan's Purse with top-notch technical skills. What impresses me above all, though, is their compassion for the sick and suffering and their commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ wherever they are.

In this edition of *On Call*, you will be introduced to people who are doing exactly that in remote mission hospitals in Africa and Central America. Dr. Greg Hellwarth recently served on an orthopedic surgery trip with our Specialty Teams program (see p. 19). Describing the purpose of their mission, Dr. Hellwarth said, "I know that because of these surgeries, these patients will be different. ... They'll walk, run, and jump. But the reason we're here, most of all, is to do it in Jesus' Name, so I want them to know and understand who God is."

He's right. We want the sick to be made whole, but our greatest desire is for people to know that God loves them and that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, from Heaven to this earth to take away our sins and give us new life through His sacrifice on the cross.

As we begin 2026, I encourage you to make a difference in this broken world by volunteering on a short-term trip to one of our partner hospitals. One person can make a lasting impact in the lives of others. *"If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen"* (1 Peter 4:11).

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan's Purse

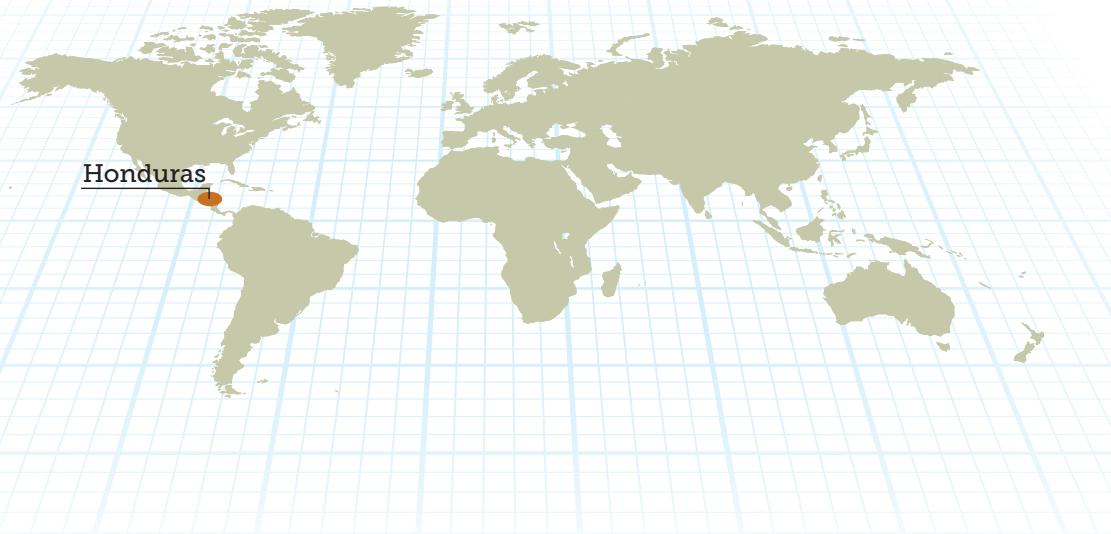
Open wide! A child in Kenya is examined during what may be her first visit to the dentist. Our specialty teams offer dental, orthopedic, gynecological, and urological treatment at mission hospitals.





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.



Honduras

Peter Rodriguez and his wife, Raquel, led the spiritual care team during a World Medical Mission Specialty Team dental trip to Clinica Sal y Luz (Salt and Light). Peter is a pastor in Denver, Colorado.

Jose came to receive dental care, only to be surprised by the news that his blood pressure and sugar were dangerously high. Unfortunately, he was not a candidate. However, the revelation about his health led him to realize the fragility of life, and so he reconciled with the Lord. God truly works in mysterious ways, especially when it comes to seeking and saving the lost. What an honor and privilege it's been to be part of World Medical Mission's efforts to fulfill the mission of Christ and reach the lost and hurting in Honduras."



Samaritan's Purse Is Seeking a Full-Time Physician



Samaritan's Purse is actively seeking a full-time, board-certified Physician (Family Medicine or Internal Medicine) to serve in our On-Site Family Medicine Clinics in North Wilkesboro and Boone, North Carolina.

Through our partnership with a healthcare system, the selected physician will be hired directly by our partner and have the opportunity to provide compassionate, high-quality primary care to our Samaritan's Purse employees and their insured family members.

This is a unique and rewarding opportunity to serve on-site with a ministry, offering care that supports both the physical and spiritual well-being of those who serve in Jesus' Name. If you, or someone you know, is seeking a meaningful full-time physician role, we encourage you to share this opening with your friends, family, and church community.

Thank you for helping us connect with those who are called to serve Jesus Christ through healthcare.



For more information, or to express interest, please contact Dr. Lance Plyler at LPLYLER@samaritan.org.



Dr. Becky Haak, an OB-GYN from Indiana, shared stories of her experiences serving with Samaritan's Purse in Sudan, Togo, and the Bahamas.

Making a Lasting Impact

Stories from the field, medical lectures, and edifying Bible teaching are just a few of the highlights of the 2025 Prescription for Renewal conference.

A frantic husband rushed into the Togo mission hospital with his wife in his arms. Bleeding heavily, she was in labor with a breech baby, and the head was entrapped.

It was a night eight years ago that Dr. Becky Haak will never forget. In the dimly lit labor room, the OB/GYN from Indiana did deliver the baby—unfortunately stillborn—and then focused her efforts on saving the mother. Haak explained to the couple that a hysterectomy was necessary. But in a culture where a woman's worth is based on her ability to bear children, the answer was a resounding “no.”

Haak silently prayed for God's intervention. “I used every skill I had ever learned and a few that I didn't know I had,” she said. “The Togolese staff and I worked very hard, and by the miracle and grace of God, the woman kept her uterus, and she lived to go home.”

The physician, who has served multiple times with World Medical Mission and on Samaritan's Purse emergency deployments, shared additional God-moment stories with the audience of healthcare professionals at the 34th annual Prescription for Renewal. The medical missions conference was held

in October at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Florida.

The four-day event included dynamic speakers, Bible teaching, and medical lectures and hands-on workshops highlighting the diverse medical ministries of Samaritan's Purse

We hope you go away inspired, encouraged, and challenged to serve.

that began with the launch of World Medical Mission nearly 50 years ago.

“We hope you go away inspired, encouraged, and challenged to serve,” World Medical Mission Director Scott Huggett told more than 900 attendees. “I'm grateful for the heritage and meaning of this conference.”

‘Everything You Need’

Guest Bible teacher the Rev. Jonathan Falwell, senior pastor at Thomas Road Baptist Church and chancellor of Liberty University in

Lynchburg, Virginia, delivered a message from 2 Peter 1:3-10 and encouraged the audience to remain steadfast in following God's direction for their lives.

"We have the opportunity and the great privilege of showing up in places around the world where everyone else has walked out the door, of showing up when people are hurting, broken, and have nowhere else to turn," Falwell said.

"God has put in each and every one of us a desire to be an example of love to a world where there is no hope."

He challenged his listeners to be single-minded in their devotion to Jesus Christ and to be wary of the entrapments—social status, titles, wealth—that our culture views as success. What ultimately matters is our love for Christ and our love for others as we serve in His Name.

"Why does Samaritan's Purse do what it does? Why are you sitting in this room?" Falwell asked. "You show up because God has put in each and every one of us a desire to be an example of love to a world where there is no hope."

"It's up to you, because God has given you incredible talents and abilities," he continued. "Understand that to whom much is given, much is required. God has already given you everything you need to accomplish the work that He has called you to do."

Lifelong Learning

Professional enrichment lectures and breakout sessions—more than 60 in all—are staple activities of Prescription for Renewal. Attendees have the opportunity to receive continuing education credits as they learn about a wide variety of medical topics.

Among the intriguing session titles in 2025

were "Helping Babies Breathe," "Infectious Disease Outbreaks," "Low-Resource Burn Care," and "Lessons Learned from 25 Years in Africa."

SIGN Nail orthopedic workshops were also offered, and conference attendees were encouraged to visit exhibits in the hotel atrium featuring Samaritan's Purse programs for community medical outreach, lab-to-go innovations, and biomedical technology. In addition, a selection of spiritual enrichment classes was open to everyone, providing Biblically based insights into the integration of spiritual and medical care.

Samaritan's Purse staff were on hand throughout the event for one-on-one discussions about how to get involved with our medical ministries. As our global outreach expands, we are looking for healthcare professionals who can serve on short-term assignments with World Medical Mission, Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART), Children's Heart Project, and various surgical campaigns at overseas hospitals.

The community medical outreach program is a new initiative that involves partnering with local churches to serve U.S. communities by providing vision, dental, and basic medical care free of charge.

'Healing in the Middle'

Keynote speaker Dr. Jim Ritchie, an emergency medicine physician, invited conference participants to look beyond the science of medicine and to explore the spiritual component of sickness.

He noted there are physical and spiritual sides to treating patients, and both are valid Biblically.

"I would submit that healthcare alone is a worthy goal, something that Jesus Himself endorsed, and healthcare is a powerful magnet to people encountering the Gospel."

Healing can come in a variety of ways, Dr. Ritchie asserted, through physical restoration, spiritual transformation, and the integration of the two. He used examples of patients he treated while serving for six years at Chogoria Hospital in Kenya.

One patient was a young adult male who

PRESCRIPTION FOR Renewal

MEDICAL MISSION CONFERENCE

RIGHT: The Rev. Jonathan Falwell encouraged the audience to remain devoted to Christ and to use their talents for God's glory. **BELOW:** Medical workshops and worship gatherings highlighted the four-day conference.





TOP: Practice makes perfect through medical emergency simulations and hands-on training. **RIGHT:** Richard "Stick" Williams, a member of the Samaritan's Purse board of directors, spoke during a general session. **BELOW:** Conference attendees made praying for special needs a priority.



Becky Williams (far left), is the director of development and has served with World Medical Mission for nearly 50 years. She is pictured with the wives of three former missionary doctors (from left): Millie Bransford, Martha Foulkes, and Faythe Furman.

was suffering from edema, particularly in his feet. Tests indicated his heart and kidneys were failing. The man said his wife's relatives had placed a curse on him because he was behind in his dowry payments. Dr. Ritchie was skeptical, but the Kenyan hospital chaplain believed there was an evil manifestation.

"We treated the man's renal failure and prayed against the curse and encouraged him to reconcile with his family. His renal failure cleared," said Dr. Ritchie.

"There's a spectrum of healing that the Lord invites us into. We can operate in all of these areas," he concluded. "We get to minister to body and mind and spirit in ways that others cannot approach."

Following in the Footsteps of Missionary Heroes

Samaritan's Purse celebrated the life and legacy of two long-term ministry partners who passed away in 2025.

Dr. Jim Foulkes served for 38 years at Mukinge Mission Hospital in Zambia. He retired in 1997 and moved to Boone, North Carolina, where he became involved with World Medical Mission. Foulkes was a

member of the leadership committee and helped to start the Post-Residency Program. He passed away in January at the age of 97.

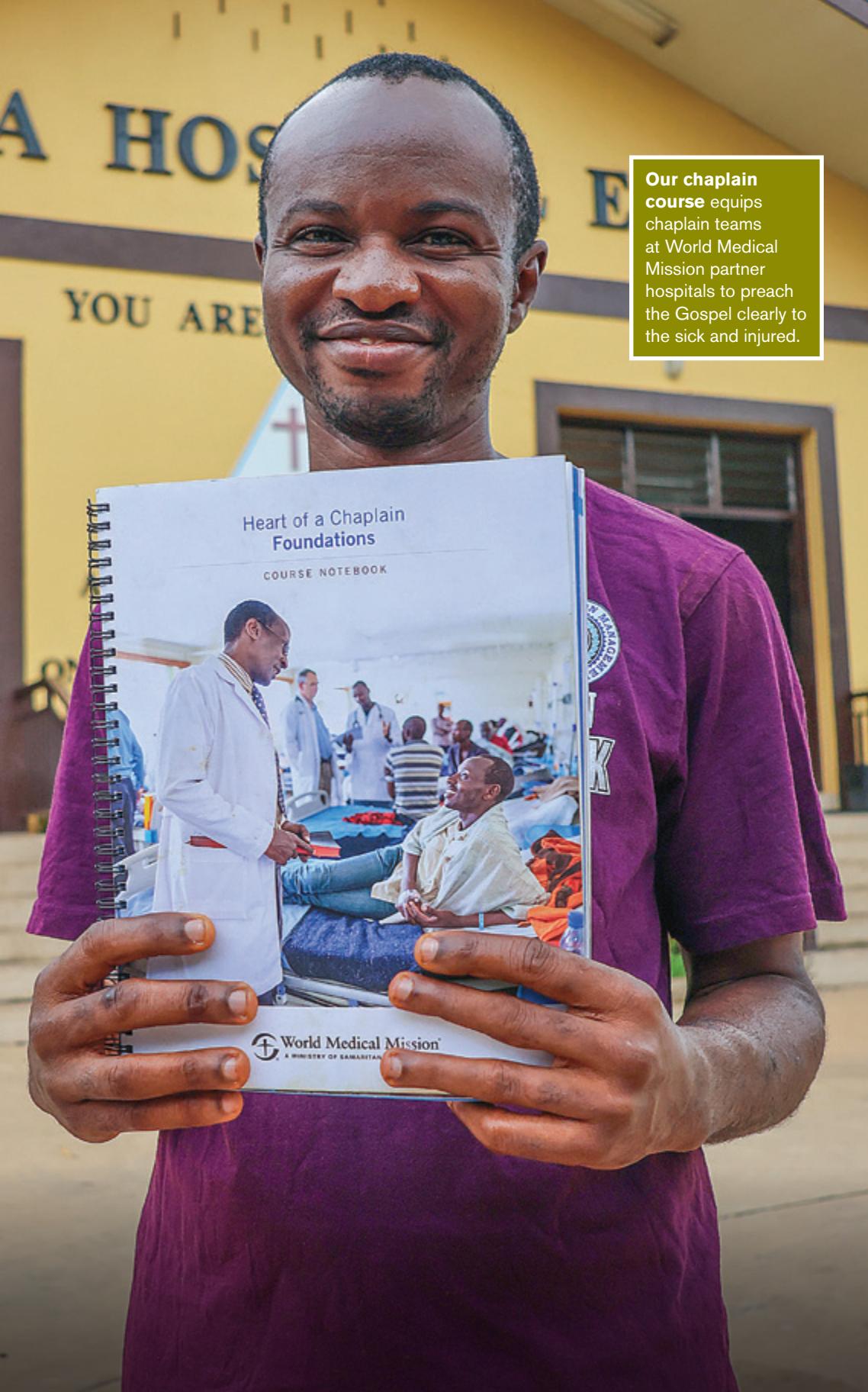
Aileen Coleman, co-founder of the Annoor Sanatorium for Chest Diseases in Jordan, dedicated seven decades of her life to ministry in the Middle East. She was a valued friend and spiritual mentor to Samaritan's Purse CEO Franklin Graham. Coleman was 94.

Video tributes were shown to honor both of these legendary medical missionaries. Looking toward a group of young medical students in the audience, Scott Huggett commented, "We look forward to the Jim Foulkes of the future that are here tonight."

Dr. Danny Holland, an orthopedic surgeon from Texas, described how serving on Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) deployments to Ukraine, Armenia, and Myanmar have immeasurably impacted his life. For those who feel God's prompting to serve in medical ministry, he offered this advice:

"Get out there!" he insisted. "It will absolutely change your life. It has mine."

The Prescription for Renewal conference will return to the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld Oct. 1-4, 2026. 



Our chaplain course equips chaplain teams at World Medical Mission partner hospitals to preach the Gospel clearly to the sick and injured.

Proclaiming Jesus' Name

With support from World Medical Mission, a dedicated hospital chaplaincy team boldly shares the Gospel with people from all tribes and tongues in West Africa.

Pastor Musa* stands by Aminat's hospital bed squeezing her hand as he leans in and gently shares Jesus with her. Her left leg is broken and infected from an injury she sustained over a year ago. Although Aminat comes from a different faith background, she asks the pastor for prayer.

From there, he leaves for his office until a mother nearby waves him down. He stops, crouches low, and prays over her young daughter, Faith, who is set to receive surgery soon. The 8-year-old was born with a severe leg deformity that twists her feet backward, and for the first time in her life, she is about to have her toes point forward. Musa rises to leave the ward before another insistent mother pleads for prayer. He stops again.

As he exits the pediatric ward, a man calls for him down the hospital corridor. The pastor follows and goes to visit Wetti, another patient awaiting surgery. He has suffered from a broken leg for over two years after injuring it in a motorcycle accident. After a long discussion, Musa grabs his hand and prays over him, too.

Finally, he makes it to his office where a small group of nervous relatives of patients are waiting. He turns the key and invites them in to talk.

The five-minute walk across the hospital took the pastor hours. Amid the groans and cries of sick men, women, and children, the pastor shares the hope of the Gospel with joy.

"I chose to evangelize those who don't know Christ, and I am praying that God would save them."

In it all, his goal remains the same: "I chose to evangelize those who don't know Christ," he said, "and I am praying that God would save them. I will not be able to do it, but He will."

Equipped and Sent

Pastor Musa is one of seven chaplains who faithfully tell the Good News to each patient who comes through the gates at this bustling West African mission hospital.

With multiple people groups flocking to the hospital for rare quality care, the chaplaincy team

relies on resources and training provided by World Medical Mission to ensure patients hear the Gospel clearly and in their native language.

World Medical Mission trains the team through the Heart of a Chaplain program—a curriculum developed by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association—and provides resources such as printed and audio Bibles in dozens of languages, along with additional video and audio equipment to proclaim the Name of Jesus to patients and their families.

“The Heart of a Chaplain course seeks to deepen chaplains’ knowledge and love for the Triune God and the Gospel,” said Jacob Pratt, the manager of hospital evangelism with World Medical Mission. “We support them as they continue to share eternal hope with patients and other people that God puts in their path.”

Since 2019, when the program started, World Medical Mission has come alongside nearly 200 chaplains in dozens of hospitals with the hope of sending them into areas people rarely go.

The curriculum equips chaplains by teaching them how to approach difficult scenarios, such as a death at the hospital or news of a serious diagnosis. Beyond just training the chaplains to help the patients, the course shows chaplains how to minister to doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff—and even gives devotionals for the chaplains to study for themselves each day. While each cultural context is different, the World Medical Mission resources prepare chaplains serving on the frontlines across the

world to be *fishers of men* (Mark 1:17) among the lost and sick.

“The program helps us identify when and how to tell the Gospel to a patient as they are experiencing physical pain. What should we say? How should we say it?” said the Rev. Adebayo*, the lead chaplain at the hospital. “World Medical Mission visits us, too, and encourages us to continue praying for our people.”

The Heart of a Chaplain course seeks to deepen chaplains’ knowledge and love for the Triune God and the Gospel.

In addition to year-round chaplaincy support, World Medical Mission sends surgical teams to the hospital to provide care otherwise unavailable to people in need. Aminat, Faith, Wetti, and dozens of others received this care just this past year when an orthopedic team visited the West African country.

Even while providing physical care, our team’s focus is on the heart.

“More than making bones straight, we want to make the message of the Gospel clear,”

Heart of a Chaplain Course

 **123 CHAPLAINS** have graduated

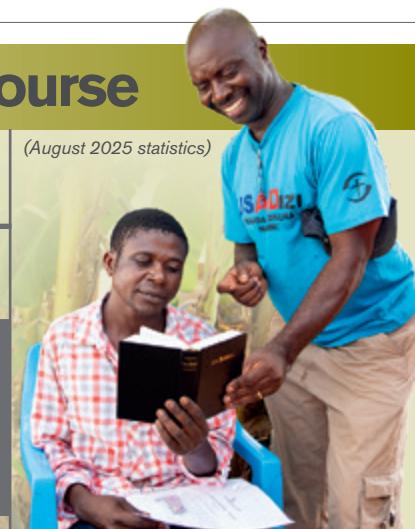
72 CHAPLAINS currently training  **IN 7 COUNTRIES**

3,012 BIBLES given out in August 2025



23,228 BIBLES given out from Jan.-Aug. 2025

(August 2025 statistics)



99 CHAPLAINS — IN — 26 COUNTRIES

SPONSORED BY
SAMARITAN'S PURSE



Pastor Musa (left) and Madison Strausbaugh pray over Aminat following the successful surgery to correct her left leg fracture.

said Madison Strausbaugh, a registered nurse and program manager of the Specialty Team program with World Medical Mission. “It’s the love of Christ that compels us to be here.”

Hearing Jesus’ Name for the First Time

While each of our partner hospitals around the globe benefits from our chaplaincy support, the pastors here understand the urgent mandate to bring the Gospel to many in the surrounding seminomadic communities who have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ.

Because he speaks the local language and grew up in these cattle-herding villages, Pastor Musa knows God has him here for a purpose.

“My people are dying in darkness,” Musa said. “My prayer and hope are that they would become Christians—that is my zeal, my hope, and also my work. That is the reason I chose evangelism over everything else.”

Wetti was one patient who heard the Gospel for the first time when he came to the hospital

this past year. Pastor Musa had traveled to Wetti’s small, remote village with news that doctors from World Medical Mission were in the country to provide free orthopedic surgeries.

Wetti, a father of three children under 5, had lived with a broken leg for over two years and relied on his siblings to provide for his family. “I need to go back to work for my kids ... that’s what I’m looking forward to,” he said. “I have to retake responsibility for my household.”

In desperation, the father turned to the traditional healers shortly after his injury, who embalmed his fracture in a makeshift cast made of sticks, oils, and spices that were believed to heal broken bones.

“I wasted so much time sitting and waiting for my leg to heal,” Wetti lamented.

Aminat, too, arrived at the hospital against all hope. Her left leg festered with a dangerous infection. In June 2024, she was walking when a motorcycle struck her. The impact broke her lower leg and shattered the bone, causing

shards to lodge in the surrounding tissue that eventually became infected. For months, the widowed mother hobbled as she struggled to provide for her four children. Then a woman in her village, who'd received surgery from a previous World Medical Mission team, told her that healing was available through doctors visiting from "a far land."

For two weeks, a World Medical Mission orthopedic specialty team—comprised of 12 medical professionals, including two orthopedic surgeons and two residents—performed 64 surgeries free of charge for men, women, and children in need. For these individuals, high prices and lack of access to sophisticated healthcare often force them to resort to living with these painful injuries.



Pastor Musa instructs Wetti on how to use the audio Bible tract provided by World Medical Mission. Specialty teams patients receive Bibles before leaving the hospital.

"For old fractures, a surgery will cost close to \$8,000. Simply put, people can't afford it," said Hans Monono, the director of administration at the hospital. "People are just trying to eat each day so they cannot address their healthcare needs. They turn to the traditional healers who only make things worse. World Medical Mission is the help God has sent to these people."

Dr. Tony de Bari, an orthopedic surgeon from Michigan, inserted a rod to correct Wetti's tibial fracture and externally fixated Aminat's broken leg, while also cleaning the wound of bone fragments to prevent future infections.

"I believe God has given us the ability to do these kinds of surgeries that others wouldn't be able to do," said Dr. de Bari,



ABOVE: The seven-strong chaplaincy team serves daily on the frontlines, proclaiming Christ. **RIGHT:** A member of the chaplaincy team prays over a girl before our doctors perform surgery to correct her leg deformity.

who visited this same hospital in 2024 on an orthopedic campaign.

Dr. Greg Hellwarth, the other orthopedic surgeon on the trip, agreed: "I know that because of these surgeries, these patients will be different. They'll have a solid leg to stand on again; they'll walk, run, and jump. But the reason we're here, most of all, is to do it in Jesus' Name, so I want them to know and understand who God is."

Both Wetti and Aminat left the hospital with straightened bones and a special gift in their hands: an audio Bible that they can share with family members who may be hearing the Gospel for the first time in their own language. As they left and returned to their isolated communities, Pastor Musa is confident that the planted seed of the Gospel will grow.

"My people never came to this hospital before, but through these orthopedic



campaigns, they are here and the people are turning to Christ!" the pastor said.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14) 

* Name changed for security.



Rhodes Receives ACS Award

Dr. Bill Rhodes has faithfully served at Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya since 1999, distinguishing him as one of the longest serving American surgeons in sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr. William (Bill) Rhodes is the recipient of the 2025 ACS/Pfizer Surgical Humanitarian Award by the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors. A board-certified general and plastic surgeon, Dr. Rhodes' service was recognized at the ACS Clinical Congress, held in Chicago in October.

In addition to his work at Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya, Rhodes and his wife, Laura, have made more than 50 trips to Somaliland, Sudan, Liberia, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to

perform cleft lip repairs and other reconstructive surgeries in low-resource environments.

In 2021, the couple received the Gerson L'Chaim Prize from African Mission Healthcare for their outstanding Christian medical missionary service.

A long-time friend of Samaritan's Purse, Rhodes began serving on short-term trips with World Medical Mission while he was a general surgery resident. Each of the four Rhodes children has grown up to share their parents' vision to make an impact on lives and souls in Africa. The couple's daughter, Avigael, and her husband, Dr. Timothy Hereford, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, joined them at Kapsowar in 2024 through the Post-Residency Program. Dr. Zeke Rhodes, a general surgeon, and his wife, Laila, also came to Kapsowar through the Post-Residency Program and are now serving there long term.

The American College of Surgeons website describes Dr. Rhodes' career as "a rare blend of surgical excellence, deep cultural humility, and lifelong service. His legacy is one of faith, family, mentorship, and an enduring commitment to those most in need of care."



Skylar (left) and Jody Lund are nurses who served on their first mission trip together.

A Willing Heart

A shared vocation and a desire to serve prompt a mother-daughter team to experience powerful God moments at a mission hospital in Rwanda.

Jody and Skylar Lund are professionally trained nurses blessed with fulfilling careers, but one thing they had not crossed off their bucket lists was the opportunity to work together.

With more than 40 years of experience, Jody has served in intensive care, the operating room, labor and delivery, hospice, and as a helicopter flight nurse. She currently works in the OR at a hospital in Tucson, Arizona.

"I love working one-on-one with the patients. I'm the last voice they hear before they go to sleep, and I'm often the first voice they hear when they wake up," said Jody. "Except for my roles as a wife and a mother, I never wanted to do anything other than be a nurse."

Jody's middle child and only daughter, Skylar, followed in her footsteps and received an RN degree a few years ago. In third grade, one of Skylar's best friends died of leukemia. That tragedy helped set her on a path to specialize in pediatric oncology.

"It was always in the back of my mind to be able to try to prevent that heartache for other families," Skylar said. Now she has found her niche in the bone marrow transplant unit at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Nursing is Skylar's second degree. She also has a heart for overseas children's ministry, and her

first degree in kinesiology and exercise science opened the door for her to do sports ministry for three summers across Europe. Additionally, she has gone on a church missions trip to Cuba and participated in numerous U.S. disaster relief deployments, including a Samaritan's Purse tornado response.

"I'm so proud of Skylar. She carries the Lord with her. I wanted to take Jesus with me somewhere."

Jody had always wanted to serve internationally, but the daily responsibilities of family and career kept her schedule booked.

"I'm so proud of Skylar. She carries the Lord with her. I wanted to take Jesus with me somewhere," she said.

Earlier this year, Jody felt a sense of urgency. Her longing to go on a mission trip "came to a fever pitch. ... I needed to pack and go," she said.

The two had previously contemplated serving together, but it didn't seem plausible

due to their different nursing specialties, Jody contacted World Medical Mission, and the staff found a match for them at Kibogora Hospital in Rwanda, where nurses were needed with experience in the OR and in pediatrics.

"At Kibogora, I eventually got the

"I believe that God doesn't always call the qualified. Instead, He qualifies the called."

opportunity to go into the OR. So we worked together as nurses for the first time when we were in Africa, and we had so much fun," said Skylar.

'Absolutely Stoked'

Despite the depth and breadth of Jody's experience in American hospital settings, her introduction to nursing care in a small bush



The Lunds enjoyed working with nursing students and the staff at Kibogora Hospital.

hospital held some surprises.

"I am a circulating nurse in Tucson. So I'm the one who gets patients ready and gets them positioned. And I do all the charting. If anybody needs anything, I run and get it while the surgeon and the first assist scrub up," she said.

"On the first day at Kibogora, I walked into the OR and introduced myself as the nurse. The surgeon said, 'OK, go get scrubbed.' I had never gowned and gloved off the back table, but he showed me how," recalled Jody. "Then I assisted with surgery. I got the instruments ready. When it came time to pull traction on broken bones, I pulled traction. I helped every way I possibly could."

That valuable session prompted Jody a few days later to ask the surgeon if her daughter could watch them work. They were preparing a patient for hand surgery.

The doctor welcomed Skylar into the OR, but not for the purpose to casually observe. It was a case of *déjà vu* when he began meting out instructions. Jody paraphrased the surgeon's no-nonsense challenge to both women: "Your daughter's got hands too, doesn't she? Get her

scrubbed and bring her in."

"So I took Skylar out in the hall and we scrubbed her up and brought her in, and she gowned and gloved. She got to assist the surgeon too," Jody said.

Skylar's moment of truth came when the surgeon asked her to begin suturing. Perhaps he already knew that as a young nurse she would have limited experience.

"Well, I don't know how, but will you teach me?" Skylar replied.

"OK, I will talk you through one suture, and then I'll do one while you talk me through it, and then you'll do the rest," he answered.

These were some pressure-filled moments, but Skylar was learning the essentials of loading a needle, closing the wound, and knotting the ties.

"As a mother and a nurse, watching Skylar do those sutures, even though she had a mask on, I could see in her eyes that she was absolutely stoked," Jody recalled.

The surgeon stepped back and let Jody and Skylar work together. At one point Jody announced to her daughter, who was intently concentrating on the immediate task: "Not to make you nervous, but he just took his gloves off and left the room."

Skylar was unfazed. "We did it! We got the sutures done and we bandaged the hand up and one of the techs put the cast on," she said. "It was a really cool experience being able to work with my mom and especially in that kind of setting."

Hands of Faith

Throughout their three-week stay at Kibogora, the Lunds witnessed many "God moments." From marveling at His healing power to their admiration for the hospital staff's fierce dedication to patients, both felt humbled serving in the austere but Christ-centered environment.

Jody was impressed by the staff's expertise in caring for a young man who had sustained serious injuries in a road accident. His motorbike was struck by, of all things, an ambulance.

The man's femur was shattered in about 10 pieces. Unlike a hospital in the U.S., Kibogora is not equipped with extensive imaging or laparoscopic technology.

"I watched the surgeon use only his hands to



Jody assisted a surgeon in the repair of a patient's badly broken leg.

put the pieces of that patient's leg back together again. We screwed and pinned the femur. The staff does so much with so little," Jody said. "To me, it was like watching the hands of God. It was one of the most memorable things I have ever seen."

The patient's case was a success story in spite of the low-tech environment and the frequent lapses in electricity during surgical procedures. The staff are accustomed to such challenges and are not hampered by them.

Jody believes their resilience comes from a combination of faith and learning to make do. "The things that we take for granted, they have faith for. They react with faith. It's the most wonderful thing," she said.

The Lunds are already talking about a return trip to Kibogora. Their time in Rwanda offered an amazing learning experience for both women, and they encourage other parent-child teams to venture out into the mission field. The most important prerequisite, they say, is a willing heart.

"I believe that God doesn't always call the qualified. Instead, He qualifies the called," Skylar said. ☽



Hospital Loma de Luz shines the light of God's love on patients in Honduras. Dr. Wesley Harris was involved in starting the hospital, which opened in 2003.

From Trauma to Transformation

Dr. Wesley Wayne Harris Jr. is a family medicine physician from Georgia. Last year's mission trip to Hospital Loma de Luz in Honduras was his 10th since 2003.



The greatest blessing I experienced while serving at Hospital Loma de Luz was working with the Honduran physicians. Seeing their love for God and for the patients is a joy.

Our typical clinic day began with the medical providers gathering in the waiting room to lead the patients in some worship songs and prayer. Then the providers met together to read Scripture, share their thoughts and prayer requests, and pray before starting to see patients in the outpatient clinic and in the wards. During the patient visits, we made it a priority to share and pray with them as the Lord leads. If I was on ER call after working in the clinic, I would attend to any emergencies either in the ER or in the wards.

One day while I was on call, a patient who was intoxicated and had been badly assaulted came into the ER. He had facial and neck trauma but was stable. His facial trauma needed repair by the general surgeon.

In the operating room, the anesthesia

personnel found out how serious his neck trauma was internally. Even though the patient had been oxygenated normally, his airway was

"We stressed to him how the Lord in His mercy had spared his life."

so compromised that he could not be intubated. The surgeon asked for prayer because he needed to do a tracheotomy on a neck that was severely affected by swelling and hematomas.

The tracheotomy was a success, and the surgeon did the facial repair. The patient continued to receive much prayer.

This event was the second time the patient nearly died due to being intoxicated and assaulted. We stressed to him how the Lord in His mercy had spared his life. We explained

that he has yet another chance to surrender to God, who wants to forgive him and set him free from alcohol and sin.

After I returned to the United States, I found out that the patient had been discharged. On his follow-up visit, he was doing well and was very thankful for the care he had received. The doctor who examined him spoke more with him about the Lord, and they prayed together. We are very hopeful that through the care and prayers he received at the hospital, he will now follow the Lord with a grateful heart. ☽



ABOVE: Dr. Wesley Harris with Dr. Javier Shafick Asfura and a patient. **LEFT:** Dr. Harris examines a patient in ER. **BETWEEN:** Doctors gathered for devotions, including Wesley's son, Dr. Travis Harris (in green scrubs).



Richard Furman



ANSWERING THE CALL

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

The very first World Medical Mission trip I made resulted in a significant impact on my practice back home. I went to India to teach surgeons how to implant cardiac pacemakers. Almost all of the patients were Hindu, and they worshiped multiple idols.

One of my patients was an elderly Hindu with whom I had developed a friendship. I asked him about the numerous Hindu gods. He said Christians believe there is only one way to Heaven, but he believed his gods were another way. He said that there were three gates into the hospital—a main front gate and two smaller side gates. He said he came through the main gate, but if he had come through one of the side gates, I still would have operated on him. I responded that the Bible teaches us there is only one way to Heaven and that is through Jesus Christ. I explained John 14:6, that Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

On the plane ride home, I decided to share that verse with my cancer patients. I realized anyone who has cancer must think of the hereafter. Following the routine initial post-op visit, I would ask them if they would like to discuss eternity. All agreed. I would point to the examining room door and ask them, "If

that were the door to Heaven, and you knocked and someone opened it, what would you say that would make them let you in?"

About three quarters of them responded, "I hope I've done more good than bad." I would explain John 14:6 and tell them that if they believed the Bible, they would realize it was not by their good works, but accepting Jesus is the only way to heaven.

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory."
—PSALM 115:1

I would give them a Bible that had that verse underlined and tell them, "Your faith is based on one of three things: something someone told you, or something you read, or something you came up with on your own thinking." I then said, "I don't know any person I would believe more than Jesus. I don't know any book I would believe more than the Bible. And I surely wouldn't base my faith on something I made up in my mind."

Using our medical skills in mission hospitals gives us an opportunity to be witnesses to our patients. We have a similar opportunity in our home practice, and my first mission trip taught me that lesson. It is my prayer that it will teach you the same. ☽

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