



For We Are GOD'S HELPERS

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LMH'ers Change Lives

From Janice England, Program Director LMH

On May 22nd, the Class of 2011 was commissioned as Lay Mission-Helpers to serve in Cameroon and Kenya. Just like the over 700 lay missionaries before them, they will share their skills and live their faith in another culture. What is unique about this group of lay missionaries is that they have been requested by leaders in the Church who were influenced by Lay Mission-Helpers when they were young boys.

In Cameroon, Bishop George Nkuo understands that a good education is a key to changing and improving the future of the Church and the country. He was greatly influenced by Betty Risley, a LMH'er who was his Biology teacher in Form I (see story on page 3). I received several e-mails from him last Fall asking if we had any LMH'ers that could join him in his diocese. We were happy to assign two LMH'ers to the Diocese of Kumbo. Debbie Bauer will serve as an English and Computer teacher at St. Pius X School in Tatum. Frank Olszyna will serve as an English teacher and work in agriculture at St. Augustine College in Kumbo. They join a long list of Lay Mission-Helpers who have served in Cameroon since the 1960's.

Fr. Bernard Njeru of the Diocese of Meru, Kenya, was a young boy when Lay Mission-Helpers such as Adelina Coronado served in his diocese (see story, right). As a young priest, he worked alongside Mike & Yuki Ohashi in the Bishop's Office. Once he became a pastor of his own parish, one of the first things he did was ask for LMH'ers to help build up his parish and the community. Jeff & Dorothy Flint have recently arrived in Kenya to serve as Pastoral Associates – working in the schools, youth ministry and other parish activities. They, too, join a long list of LMH'ers who have served in Kenya since 1957.

As individuals, we are not always aware of the difference we make in other people's lives. Yet, after more than 50 years of service, we can see that LMH has come full circle. Bishop George and Fr. Bernard are just two examples of people whose lives have been changed because of Lay Mission-Helpers who responded to their baptismal call to be missionary by going to another country. Who knows what stories we will hear years from now from people who were changed because of the service and witness of Jeff, Dorothy, Debbie and Frank?

Janice England

Missions On the Move



Jeff & Dorothy Flint, Debbie Bauer and Frank Olszyna
at Commissioning Ceremony

Father Bernard Njeru Influenced by LMH

By Father Bernard Njeru

The work of so many Lay Mission-Helpers serving in the Diocese of Meru Kenya for the last 50 years has knit a strong bond between us. I am a product and beneficiary of this bond. I am Father Bernard Njeru, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Meru. I had the opportunity to further my education and experience because of this bond.

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Jeff & Dorothy Flint with Fr. Bernard Njeru

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From the Desk of the President...

**By Deanna Bowers, President
LMH Board of Directors**



Greetings! I am in my second term as the president of the LMH board of directors. My husband, Warren, and I were Lay Mission-Helpers at St. Rita's Technical High School in the Diocese of Kumbo in Cameroon from 2003 to 2006. I was the school nurse, and Warren, an aerospace engineer, taught project planning and woodworking. It was a life-changing experience, a gift we would wish for all Catholics. Serving on the LMH board is a continuation of that call to mission we received.

With the recent commissioning of Jeff and Dorothy and Debbie and Frank, Lay Mission-Helpers is proud to send four more lay missionaries to the mission field. Thanks to Janice England, Program Director, the Formation Team (Elise Frederick and David Braun) for their dedication and time, and the Formation Faculty who shared their expertise. Thanks to Patti Wetzels, LMH "housemother," all the veterans who attended gatherings

and the commissioning, and the LMH Board of Directors for contributions to governance! It truly is a team effort—"for we are (all) God's helpers."

The LMH board has begun the process of strategic planning and we look forward to continuing development and sharing of that plan in the next few months. Please join us in our prayer for the success of the process:

Good and gracious God, we offer you all our efforts – our strengths, our weaknesses, our opportunities and threats – those times we felt the spirit move through us and those times when we lost sight of our mission, or failed to achieve the goals we had set. Forgive us for those times we forgot to keep you at the center of our plans and projects.

Help us remember too, that the seeds we sow often take time, patience and the nourishment of your grace. Remind us of your love; remind us that we are one, that you have brought us all here together, at this time in this place, to serve the mission of the Lay Mission Helpers as best we can. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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Fr. Njeru, (continued from page 1)

How did this happen? In 1987 Monsignor Michael Meyers, who served as the Director of Lay Mission-Helpers, visited Kenya to meet LMH'ers Mike and Yuki Ohashi. The Ohashi's worked at the Bishop's Office as an Accountant and Secretary. I assisted them with bookkeeping and later after they left I became the accountant for the diocese from 1996 to 2001. The Ohashi's were my mentors.

Several years later, Msgr. Meyers invited me to come to Los Angeles and experience the missionary life of the church of America. I took the challenge and worked as his associate at St. Dorothy's Church in Glendora and studied at the University of Phoenix where I graduated with an



Fr. Bernard with parishioners

MBA. I am indeed the product of Lay Mission-Helpers since they mentored me, assisted me, and prayed for me.

Some of many the LMH'ers whom I have worked very close with for many years are:

■ **Addie Coronado** who came to our diocese in 1959 and knew me since I was a baby. She and Patricia started Igoji Hospital and did very commendable work with Consolata missionaries at the early stages of our Diocese. They know our culture and our mother tongue and are still a part of us although they are living in America.

■ **Janice England**, Program Director of LMH, as part of the continuing relationship between the Diocese of Meru and LMH, has continued to send more lay missionaries to help the Diocese of Meru Kenya. Debbie Prieto at Timau Secondary, Walt & Frances Birchall at Tigania Hospital, Nkubu, and Materi just to name a few.

■ **Bud & Sue Ozar** served at the Bishop's office and St. Francis School and are still very involved in the development of our Diocese.

■ Now **Jeff & Dorothy Flint** are beginning their missionary work in the Diocese and have joined us at St. Massimo Church, where I am pastor.

LMH has assisted the Diocese of Meru through the work of all these lay missionaries who have given their lives to serve in our Diocese. I am happily and eternally indebted to the Lay Mission-Helpers Association. ■

Lay Mission-Helpers

The Lay Mission-Helpers in My Life

From +George NKUO,
Bishop of Kumbo

Next week I will heartily welcome Frank Olszyna and Debbie Bauer, the new Lay Mission Helpers, for the Diocese of Kumbo. I was privileged to meet them in Los Angeles in May during my brief visit. I pray and hope that they will have an enriching experience with us here in Cameroon.

My experience with the Lay Mission Helpers goes back to over 40 years ago when I first entered Secondary School (Bishop Rogan College, Soppo). Then we had a wonderful science teacher who had



Frank & Debbie meet with Bishop George Nkuo and Fr. Eugen Nkardzedze

escaped from the Biafra War in Nigeria and was invited to teach us. She is Miss Betty Risley and I know she still has very strong links with Lay Mission Helpers till today. She can be credited for laying in many of my classmates, a solid educational foundation. She taught us how to study and gave us the principles to succeed in life. Her influence can never be measured. And I am sure it is the Spirit of the Lay Mission-Helpers that greatly inspired her, and we her many pupils in Cameroon can boast that she made us what we are today.

As I grew up and became a priest I saw other Lay Mission-Helpers teaching

in some schools and working in some hospitals and secretariats of Bishop's Houses. Some of them reminded me of Miss Betty Risley. Since I became the Bishop of Kumbo five years ago, I have had the good fortune again of meeting new Lay Mission-Helpers. And what has been most striking is that in this new Diocese those who have worked here have got very good memories and have established very strong ties and bonds with the communities they have served. A very vivid example is that of Warren & Deanna Bowers. This couple taught in St. Rita's College Nkambe and have

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kept a lively interest in the school. They are a real blessing to us and the college community has very good memories of the Bowers.

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Courtney Caiola with her nursing students

LMH ONLINE:

There are a variety of ways you can keep informed about the work of Lay Mission-Helpers:

- Our lay missionaries have blogs you can visit to learn about their experiences and reflections on life in mission. Visit our website for blog links: www.laymissionhelpers.org
- Watch videos of LMH activities on Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/LayMissionHelpers (or click the link on our website).
- Are you on Facebook? Visit our page and "Like" us (search for Lay Mission-Helpers).
- Visit www.cafepress.com/laymissionhelpers our online "store" where you can purchase t-shirts, travel mugs, tote bags, and more to support the work of LMH.

See you on the "net"!

Leave a Gift in Your Memory

Choosing to leave a gift from the heart brings meaning, dignity and purpose to a life well lived. Your gift is your opportunity to continue the charitable and missionary work that is so meaningful to you, in a way that allows Lay Mission-Helpers to be well supported now and long after you have gone. Personal Philanthropy through a Will can be an additional way to ensure that your legacy lives on. You have given generously and faithfully to Lay Mission-Helpers for many years. Your contributions have enabled us to continue our mission of training, sending and supporting lay missionaries as they serve the profoundly impoverished all over the world. Consider leaving a part of yourself to LMH in your Will or Trust. There are many ways to accomplish this:

Cash • Pledge Plan • Appreciated Securities and other assets • Life Insurance • Bequests • Charitable Remainder Trust • Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust Charitable Income Lead Trust

By leaving a gift in your memory, you are making a significant contribution to the future sustainability of Lay Mission-Helpers.

LMH Mission Statement

We are Lay Mission-Helpers, called by baptism to live our Catholic faith, to share our gifts and to learn from others, as we walk with those who are poor in our world.

Please remember LMH in your Will. For more information contact the Lay Mission-Helpers Association at (213) 368-1870 or visit our website at www.laymissionhelpers.org

NOTE: THE LEGAL NAME FOR LMH IS THE LAY MISSION-HELPERS ASSOCIATION

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Lay Mission-Helpers Association, founded in 1955 by Msgr. Anthony Brouwers

Fr. Njeru, *(continued from page 2)*

One of the first actions we have taken is a search for an Executive Director. The Executive Director will work in partnership with the board and the staff to provide leadership and direction toward the achievement of the Lay Mission-Helper organization's mission, vision and strategic plan. We are seeking an Executive Director who can represent the organization in the community—to ensure growth, financial stability and respect as a Catholic lay mission organization, and with proven fundraising expertise. The board is anxious to partner with him/her for action.

Janice England has done an admirable job of managing everything. Her area of expertise and real love is Program, and she has great vision and energy for that. She needs time to focus on Program and recruitment/support. Jorenz Campo has been our Development Director for two years, and we saw an increase in donations when he joined our team. He is seriously ill, has been out of the office for four months and it may be 6-12 months before he can return. We extend our prayers and love to him and his family. We pray also that God will provide LMH with direction and personnel for a positive growth far into the future.

Please join with us in prayer and financial support. We can all change the world, one missionary at a time...with the Lay Mission-Helpers' motto...: 'For we are God's helpers.'" ■

Fr. Njeru, *(continued from page 3)*

I have also had the occasion to participate at send-off meals with Lay Mission-Helpers leaving Kumbo. The testimonies of their experiences were very moving and sometimes there were lots of parting tears.

That is why I am so confident that Frank and Debbie will truly enjoy their stay with us. Each time we bid farewell to Lay Mission-Helpers in Kumbo, we were very reassured when they told us that they came out as missionaries but they were going back home having received so much from our young and vibrant Churches. That is why the work of the Lay Mission-Helpers in Kumbo and the relationship we have established will need to be nurtured for the mutual spread of the kingdom of God. ■



Deanna Bowers and her husband Warren taught at St. Rita's College Nkambe

Your support for Lay Mission-Helpers makes you a missionary, too as you pray and sacrifice so that the poorest in the Missions may know the love of Christ.

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