



For We Are GOD'S HELPERS

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Focusing on a Bright Future

From Jorenz T. Campo, Development Director

Forward: the only direction Lay Mission-Helpers will go. The economic news over the past few months has been riveting and life changing. I am fully aware of the magnitude of my responsibilities and I am doing my best to advance Lay Mission-Helpers.

These are challenging and changing times for us all. But, taking the long view, we must remain optimistic. Lay Mission-Helpers will come out of this economic downturn and will find new ways to continue fulfilling its mission, thanks in no small part to your prayers and generosity.

I intend to greet every day head on with a smile. I am very excited and eager to produce the best possible results for Lay Mission-Helpers. I realize that the work ahead will be challenging, but I am confident that, by working together, we will persevere in a manner that will result in an increase in funds.

By staying focused and on target, the outlook for the coming year can be brighter than it has been for some time. With a positive, assertive attitude, nothing can stop us!

Considerable progress has been made to secure a brighter future for Lay Mission-Helpers.

Already we have received major grants from foundations, veterans have generously remembered Lay Mission-Helpers in their wills, and, in addition to your support, donors who have not given in years are contributing once again. Thank you, and please know during these hard times your prayers and generosity are appreciated.

Yes, the economy is down. But by staying focused and on target, the outlook for the coming year can be brighter than it has been for some time. With a positive, assertive attitude, nothing can stop us!

Take care and God bless,

Jorenz T. Campo



Diane Prell and friend tend to daily chores in Tanzania

Tumshukuru Mungu!

By Diane Prell

"Mama Mzungu! Mama Mzungu!" hollers a street vendor in the midst of the noisy open-air market. Squeezing my way through the dark-skinned crowds and the mounds of rice and miniature pyramids of tomatoes, I realize that I am the only "mzungu" (white person) around. He must be talking to me, I thought. I yell back, *"Hujambo!" "Salama!"* the friendly street vendor cries. Welcoming me to his tomato stand with *"Karibu, Mama!"* he hopes that I will buy a mini pyramid of tomatoes for 200 Tanzanian shillings. My hand-woven basket is already chuck full of fresh tomatoes, purple eggplants, red onions, garlic bulbs, giant cucumbers, "Chinese" greens, sweet-smelling papayas, and golden yellow passion fruit. *"Pole! Hapana leo. Nimenunua nyanya."* (Sorry! Not today. I bought tomatoes already.) I clutch my basket and inch my way through the maze of skinny alleyways in

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For We Are God

The Johnsons' News from Cameroon

By Jorenz T. Campo

With so many stories of hopelessness coming from Africa, it is so uplifting to know that the Johnsons are sharing their gifts by living their faith to change the world into a better place. I have no doubt that they are becoming a symbol of promise and possibility for the people of Cameroon. One year into their mission, the Johnsons are going strong.

"We came to Cameroon to serve its people, share our gifts and talents and be Christian witnesses. We've accomplished a lot, but what we've received in return is so much more. Today, we have a much deeper understanding of the meaning of service, a very different viewpoint of the material gifts and talents God has given us and greater knowledge of how Jesus Christ works in our lives."

—The Johnsons

The Johnsons are paving the way for people to have a better life in Cameroon. I commend and thank them so much for being such important role models to not only those on the continent of Africa, but worldwide.

My deep admiration for the Johnson family inspires me on my mission to help Lay Mission-Helpers. They are truly a blessing and a living prayer, giving of themselves as they receive God's grace. Yet as they console God's people overseas, they too need consoling. As we know, the ebb and flow of life will also bring challenges. Let us keep the Johnsons in our prayers, as well as all current and past lay missionaries.



Chris Johnson, RN, provides care to a young patient in Cameroon

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.

Double Your Money!

It's not too late to make your contribution count twice. So far we have raised \$4,000 of our \$15,000 goal. Already, 27 donors have used this golden opportunity to double the power of their gift. A generous LMH Veteran has pledged a matching gift up to \$15,000 to help our mission of serving our poorest brothers and sisters overseas. Her inspiring generosity will match dollar for dollar up to the \$15,000 offer.

Help bring health care, education, and social services to our brothers and sisters around the world by donating now. Please don't let this amazing chance to double your gift pass you by. I know that together we can reach this goal.

If donating online, please indicate "Please Match" in the comments field.



Shop for Lay Mission-Helpers Association!

Please consider Lay Mission-Helpers when you are shopping online. Go to www.igive.com and register Lay Mission-Helpers as your charity of choice. As you shop with the multitude of vendors (bookstores, hotels, car rentals, clothing, office supplies, etc.), Lay Mission-Helpers gets a percentage of the retail price of the merchandise. Please consider this especially as you shop for Christmas!

's Helpers

Tumshukuru Mungu!

(continued from cover)

search of a *parachichi* (avocado). I hear “*Karibu, Mama!*” not once but many, many times. Tanzanians are noted for their gracious hospitality and I, obviously not of African heritage, am a stranger to be welcomed. But I do not feel strange here at all. For it all seems strangely familiar!

The Tanzanians have the sunniest of smiles! Merely greeting a local in their native tongue will yield not only a mile-wide smile, but a triple handshake (palms, then locked thumbs, and palms again) and inquiries about your day, your family at home, and your work. Every morning we attend the 6:30am Mass at our parish church. Afterward, we practice our Kiswahili with fellow parishioners. They have been very patient with our beginner’s Kiswahili and some of them are very good teachers! Tanzanians love to meet and greet because it is an integral



Earl Fong and Diane Prell, currently serving the people of Tanzania in the Diocese of Mtwara

part of their culture. In a flash, strangers become family and one feels very much at home.

Our new home is in the small town of Mtwara which is located on the coast of south-eastern Tanzania, along the rugged patch of coastline that leads to the country’s border with Mozambique. Elevated slightly along the Makonde Plateau, the area is one of the more remote locations in Tanzania. We are working with the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, Germany who run

the St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School. Because the school was relocated, the Sisters along with our pastor, Father Patrick, converted the former headmaster’s office into our loft-like living quarters. We are steps away from our church and a few kilometers from the school’s new location. Soon after sunrise, we make our way through the thatched mud-hut village of Magomeni. As we greet everyone along the way, the littlest of children in the field will yell out to us in their pip-squeak voices, “How are YOU?” Or they’ll pop up out of nowhere like Munchkins and wave frantically as we walk by. Sometimes they call “*Mzungu!*” Then, at the end of the day as we make our way home, the little children with their big smiles will be calling to us again and waving. They totally make our day! We feel so blessed to be here! And as we say in Kiswahili, “*Tumshukuru Mungu!* (We give thanks to God!)”

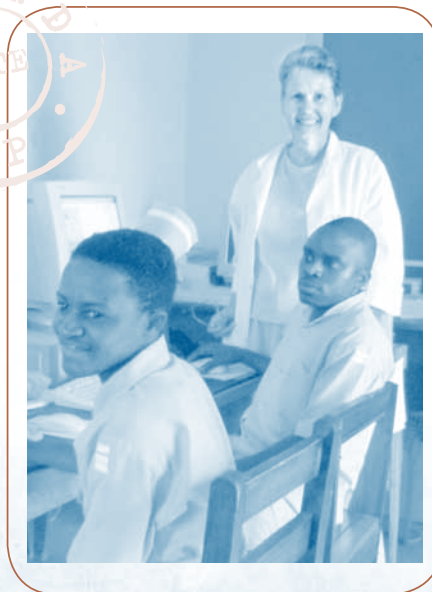
In Uganda, Change Comes from Within

By Diana Sherrod

As I complete my term of service as a Nurse Tutor in Uganda, I will also be saying farewell to the graduating students. For me, the graduating students this year have a special meaning. This group, that was newbie’s when I first came, I have seen through to the completion of their nursing education.

I have often said that there is nothing like nursing school to bring one to maturity. This holds true even on this side of the globe. The once shy, timid individuals now seem to move about with an air of confidence. Obviously there are always a handful of students that stand out in my memory. There is Judith, who

went from the bottom of the class to the top position. There is Mary, who always was up to challenge me—the type of student every teacher needs to keep them on their toes. There is Marion, interested in computers and my assistant technician when I was trying to piece together old computers for our classes. There is Winnie, a dedicated and hardworking student who had been the victim of severe burns that left her with facial scars and vision in only one eye. There is Fred, who had a hard time with the word “no.” And Daniel, a great student with a wonderful sense of humor who always seemed to be in the wrong place at the wrong



Diana Sherrod with nursing students in Uganda

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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



Diana Sherrod celebrates with graduating nursing students

Changes

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time, but he made it. And then there was Edward, the student who was up for any challenge to go beyond.

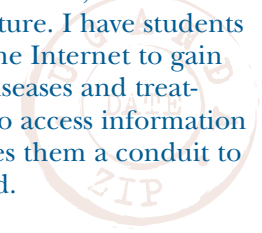
About a year ago, an organization called Mission Direct (from the United Kingdom) donated an ECG (electrocardiogram) machine to the hospital. Because most medical facilities don't have this type of equipment, the Ugandan physicians are not trained in the use of this diagnostic information. Often equipment is donated to the hospitals here but the staff does not have the knowledge to run the equipment. In addition, some of the equipment is broken when it arrives and we do not have the technicians or the parts to repair it. Consequently, the equipment is set aside or put into storage.

When the ECG machine arrived last year I asked Edward to put together a presentation for his class. With information I provided, the Internet, and Dr. Mark (a regular visiting ED physician from the USA) Edward put together a presentation that was far beyond my

expectations, complete with handouts.

The Mission Direct group visited this year and brought several doctors. During a discussion with one of the physicians, I mentioned that I had a student who had put together what I thought was a good ECG teaching lecture. Dr. P showed interest and Edward presented his PowerPoint presentation. Dr. P was overwhelmingly impressed with Edward's work and took a copy of the presentation back to the UK. As it happened, that day there was a patient in the emergency room with chest pain. The ECG machine came out of storage and Edward assisted in performing the diagnostic exam.

The fact that I have a few students like Edward, with knowledge and skills that can make changes, or the Mary's who challenge the way things are done, is hope. Change will come, but it comes from within the culture. I have students who regularly use the Internet to gain knowledge about diseases and treatments. The ability to access information on the Internet gives them a conduit to the rest of the world.



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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