

Share your gifts, live your faith, change the world ... and let the world change you.

“I was sick and you cared for me...”

During their commissioning in December 2019, Ed and Cathy Medina promised to care for the sick in Uganda. They had their tickets to depart in March 2020 when the pandemic hit. So, instead of going, they stayed to care for the sick in Colorado. Nevertheless, they kept their promises alive, and thanks to your prayers and support, the time has finally come to fulfill them.

This is the second time they go on mission. In 2001, together with their three children, they went to Cameroon where they served three years.

This August, Ed (physician assistant) and Cathy (registered nurse) will start their service at St. Francis Hospital in Mutolere in the Diocese of Kabale, Uganda. St. Francis and the district's government hospital serve a population of approximately 300,000 Ugandans, Rwandans, and Congolese.

Because of the quality of care, many patients choose St. Francis over the government hospital. They know they will be very well cared for no matter their religion, economic status, age, gender, ethnicity or any other characteristic.

St. Francis is especially known for its maternity ward where many expectant mothers come to avoid the risks of village births. With the average number of six births per woman in Uganda, the hospital gets very busy!

Equally busy is the Out-Patient Department and a Public Health Department where HIV therapy is given, immunizations are administered, and many come seeking medical attention every day. There is also a surgical ward, adult men and women



Ed and Cathy Medina, who first served with LMH in Cameroon, will now serve in Uganda.

wards, a pediatric ward, and a sick infant room. The hospital has a large nursing school. The student-nurses provide much of the on-floor care. For the next three years, Cathy will care for patients and teach at the nursing school, sharing her vast knowledge and years of experience. Ed also will teach and treat in-patients. In addition, the couple will assist in the ever-busy out-patient clinic.

In an area lacking diagnostic tools like laboratory tests or radiology equipment, it is the skills of (*cont.*)

“I was sick...” *continued*

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health-care professionals that will often determine life or death for patients.

“It’s exciting to prepare to go on mission a second time,” said Ed and Cathy. “We look forward to living and working in a new culture.”

Ed and Cathy’s service is possible only because of the generosity of caring people like you. Thank you for sending Ed and Cathy to care for the sick in Africa... again!



Ed and Cathy Medina will serve at St. Francis Hospital in Mutolere in the Diocese of Kabale, Uganda (top). They will also teach at the nursing school (bottom).

Give us this day our daily bread

Thanks to your generosity, Karen returned to Ghana last November. While her primary duties are at the Diocesan Secretariat (Diocesan Center) in Damongo where she works in the Financial Department, she also helps out at St. Anne’s School in the area of finances. She wanted to share with you this story about the resourcefulness of her students.

“One way to survive is to be resourceful. Ghanaians living in my village have to manage with what they have available to them. I witnessed this recently at St. Anne’s Girls’ Catholic Secondary School where I live and help out when necessary. Every Sunday after Mass, when money is available, I drive the Headmistress into the village to buy 23 loaves of bread. This is a real treat for the girls. They enjoy bread and tea. If they are lucky, milk will be provided as well.

Recently the school decided to build their own bread oven. The ant hill you see here (top), which is made from clay that the ants obtain by digging down into the earth, was knocked down and mixed with water. Bricks were formed and an oven was built. Next, an old bicycle wheel was used to form the opening (bottom). Because the rainy season is approaching, a roof was erected using fallen down limbs from trees. Now that is being



In Ghana, St. Anne’s School turned an ant hill (top) into a clay oven (bottom).

resourceful!

I can’t wait until the oven is fired up and the smell of freshly baked bread fills the air.”

Such resourcefulness combined with quality education will help the students at St. Anne’s Girls’ Catholic Secondary School reach their dreams. Thank you for sending Karen to the Diocese of Damongo!

Legacy of Two Missionaries

By Deanna Bowers, Class of 2003

Warren and I walked a long journey to our call to mission. When we first met in 1958 at the University of Wisconsin, the Peace Corps was just begun, and we considered joining to become American ambassadors to other countries. Warren went on to serve in the Navy, and we traveled to Japan and the Philippines and experienced other cultures. When we returned home, our son, Mark, was born, and we put such ideas and dreams on “hold,” and our careers and parenting responsibilities began.

As we approached retirement, still healthy and active, we attended the Straling Institute, a two-year leadership development of the Diocese of San Bernardino. At the closing retreat for that program, we prayed and revisited that dream of going abroad to share our gifts with others, and were led by the Holy Spirit to Lay Mission-Helpers.

Following two excellent orientation programs, delayed by our caring for Warren’s Aunt Gerry with dementia, we served three and a half years in Cameroon — a life-changing and life-giving opportunity. The preparation and support for us as Lay Mission-Helpers was outstanding — as evaluated by us, by Bishops and staff in Cameroon, and by the other Lay Mission-Helpers with whom we served.

I have been a board member for LMH since we returned in 2007

and have worked behind the scenes, witnessed the selection and formation of new LMH missionaries, and continue to marvel at the excellent organization of our mission. Warren and I and our family continued to stay involved as “veterans,” when we lived in Southern California.

As a further commitment, we decided to include Lay Mission-Helpers in our wills. We set up the Bowers Living Trust with a local attorney, identifying Lay Mission-Helpers as one of the charities

to receive money after our deaths. We set a specific amount to be paid out when we are both gone. We know by experience how much good we and all our missionaries are able to do, how important is the quality of the formation program, and the excellence of the LMH program and administration.

Warren died in December, 2019, and I know he is working on this from heaven. We are both proud of our part of a Legacy for Lay Mission-Helpers.



Warren and Deanna Bowers served in Cameroon (2003-07).

Creating Your Legacy with LMH

Deanna and Warren’s legacy will ensure that their cherished values live on through the service of nurses, teachers and other professionals in mission. Including Lay Mission-Helpers Association in your will or trust to leave a bequest, donate stocks, bonds, or mutual funds or to name LMH as a beneficiary of your IRA or insurance policy will ensure that your values bear fruit in the lives of the poor for years to come. While we cannot offer legal advice, we can explore together your intentions.

Please contact our office at director@laymissionhelpers.org or (213) 368-1874.

Rose Gala 2021

You are invited to our annual Rose Gala on October 16 at 5:00 PM PDT. To make it safe for you, we decided to make it virtual. The situation with the pandemic is still unpredictable, and even if vaccinated, many may not feel comfortable gathering indoors in a large group so soon.

We will share how your support impacts communities, update you on our formation program, and honor two friends of LMH — to name just a few attractions of the evening.

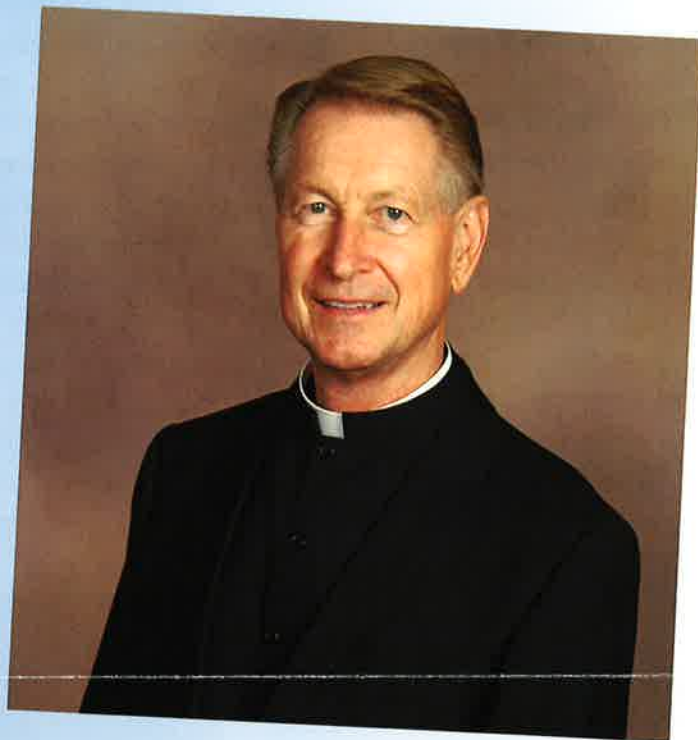
Msgr. Michael Meyers will be presented with the St. Therese of Lisieux Award in recognition of his continuous support of Lay Mission-Helpers. Msgr. Meyers was the Director of LMH and the Director (and Associate Director) of the Mission Office in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for 16 years. He also served as pastor at St. Dorothy Church in Glendora and as Vicar for Clergy for the Archdiocese. Msgr. Meyers is currently the pastor of St. James Church in Redondo Beach.

Patricia (Patti) Wetzel served two three-year terms as a Lay Mission-Helper in Papua New Guinea. She used her superb organizing, financial, and administrative skills to assist the communities in the Dioceses of Kundiawa and Madang. Patti also served as the caretaker of our Mission House for 13 years until her retirement in 2020. Patti's commitment to LMH will be recognized with the Ernst Ophuls Award, named after a LMH missionary who passed away while serving in mission in 1962.

With your help we would like to raise \$35,000 to support our service in healthcare, education and administration among the marginalized communities in developing countries.

There will be a silent auction that will give you an opportunity to bid on, among other items, unique art from mission countries.

Mark your calendar now! For more information visit www.laymissionhelpers.org/gala.



Msgr. Michael Meyers (top) and Patricia Wetzel (bottom) will be honored at the Rose Gala 2021.