

HEALING LIVES

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FALL issue 2022

HEALING LIVES

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Medical Ambassadors International

1-888-847-0960 (toll free)
PO Box 1302, Salida, CA 95368-1302
email: info@med-amb.org
www.MedicalAmbassadors.org

EIN: 94-2691184

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from the Editorial Team

UNIQUE (adjective)

- *The only one or the sole example; single; solitary in type or characteristics*
- *Having no like or equal; unparalleled; incomparable*
- *Not typical; unusual.*

UNIQUE (noun)

- *The embodiment of unique characteristics; the only specimen of a given kind.*

Someone who is unique is a rare find, as are some outstanding and unique ministries. We present a handful of these unique people and stories to you in this Fall 2022 edition of Healing Lives.

A Unique God: We serve a one-of-a kind, glorious God! II Chronicles 6:14 says: *O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no god like You in heaven or on earth...* and Psalm 89:6 says: *For who in the skies is comparable to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the LORD?*

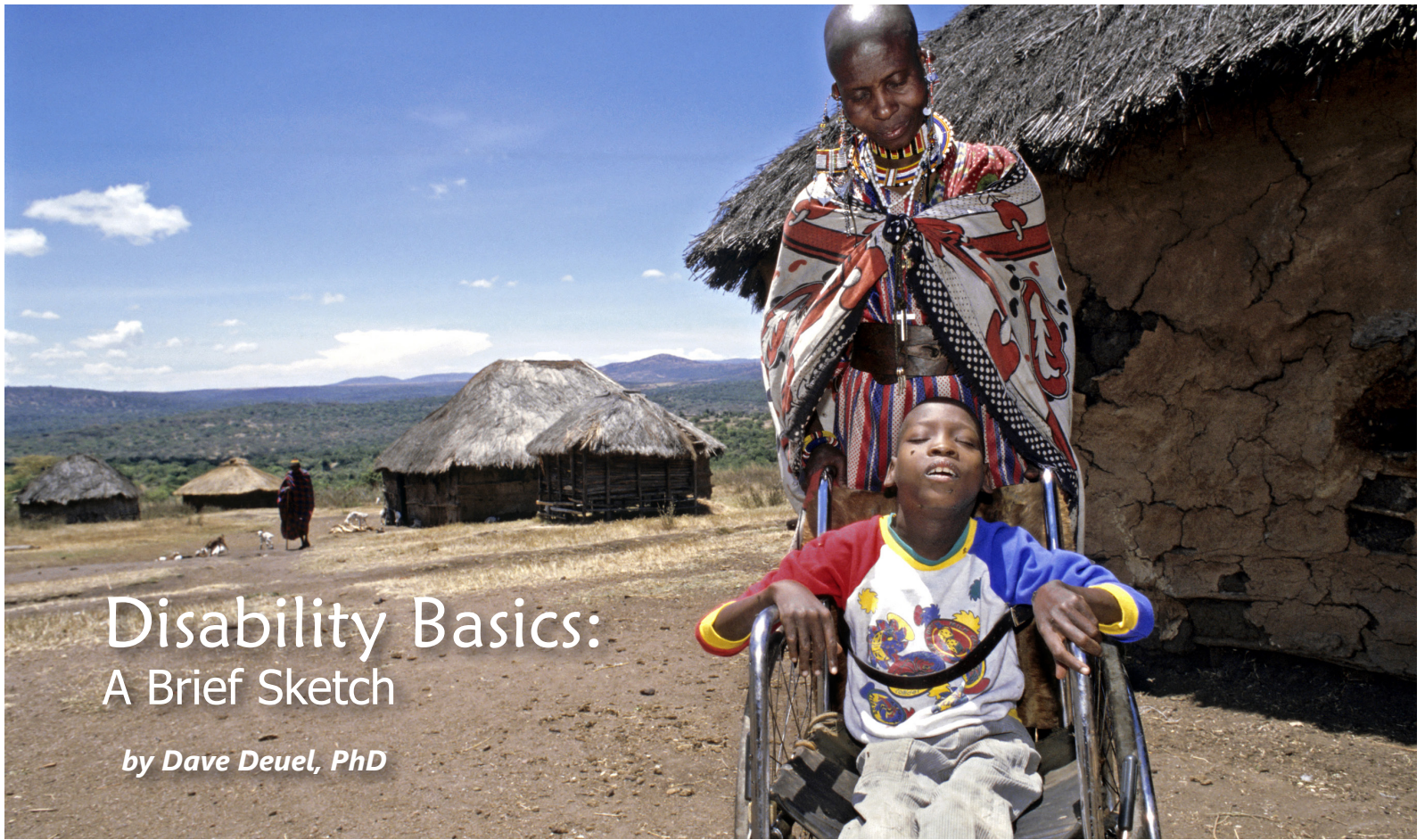
A Unique Group: We serve with faithful servants of God who minister faithfully and selflessly to the poor, the vulnerable, the weak and marginalized and spiritually

bereft. Servants who give of their time and energy, their resources, their knowledge and their finances. See [Progress for the Disabled](#) (pg.7) and [Comfort My People](#) (pg. 18).

Unique Individuals: Each individual person on this planet is created by God, in His likeness and for His purpose. See Aarón's story (pg. 6), [God's People in Action](#) (pg.8), and the amazing uniqueness of Hogan Bassey's LivFul story (pg.15).

Unique Ministry: Medical Ambassadors International's work of Community Health Evangelism (CHE) aims to heal communities and transform lives. Its uniqueness is in the beautiful process that brings people to spiritual, physical, emotional and social wholeness. See [Going Solar](#) (pg. 26), [MAI Academy](#) (pg. 20), and [Helping Each Other Heal](#) (pg. 12).

Without our loving God and the gifts He gives us, there is little uniqueness to be found anywhere that gives glory where it is most deserved—to our compassionate Creator.



Disability Basics: A Brief Sketch

by Dave Deuel, PhD

What do we need to know about disability? Disability is complex and diverse. Over one billion people globally experience impairment, and the number is increasing rapidly. All people face the onset of disability with aging. Of those who live into their eighties, there is a roughly fifty-percent chance that they and their family members will develop some form of disability. Disability affects us all.

At the present time, disability is commonly defined by function. The trend is to avoid use of disability labels such as Down syndrome, but instead apply questions based on function such as, "Do you find it difficult to think clearly at times?" Impairment can be very complex with many sources and symptoms.

What are we doing? We are working hard at removing physical, attitudinal, communication, and financial barriers that hold back people with disabilities. Most express concerns for social barriers they experience daily in the form of exclusion, discrimination, and alienation. In one form or another, these still prevent people with impairments from participating in the community with

others. And abuse is still rampant. Although we've come a long way in improving the lives of people with disabilities, we still have a long way to go.

Progress in the way we view people with disabling conditions has helped. Rather than label them with diagnostic terms or "tags" as they are often pejoratively called, disability services aim to use perspectives or models to construe disability better socially, particularly when it comes to interacting personally and helping people plan their own lives. Conscious effort in identifying with people reduces social stigma and abuse.

Who are those working with people with disabilities? People with disabling conditions benefit from care by many kinds of vocational specialists. Doctors, therapists, and nurses and other healthcare workers offer primary service. Medical research continues to improve the life quality of people with disabling conditions. Inclusive education specialists such as teachers, aids, and a task force of technical specialists play a significant role in the development of children and adults with disabilities. Disability services personnel focus on improving quality

of life through events, group and individual activities, as well as supported employment. Disability advocates aim to improve all areas of disability assistance through government and agency standards, policy-making, and best practices. First responders help in disability-sensitive ways during individual crises and natural disasters. Ideally, people with impairments will have the circle of support they need. As our knowledge increases, so also does our ability to help them succeed and thrive in the community with supports.



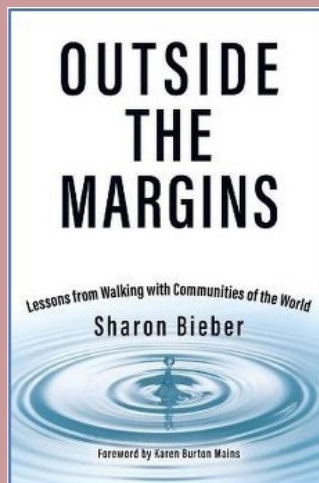
Serving people with disabilities can be a challenge here in the US, though much progress has been made for disability concerns. The challenges in the developing world are much greater, because of attitudes towards the disabled and a lack of resources and services. Thus,

the journey ahead is a continuous uphill one, but must be pursued if we want to make a difference.

Thankfully, people with disabilities are finding help from many sources.



Dave Deuel, PhD, is Senior Research Fellow and Policy Advisor for the Christian Institute on Disability at Joni and Friends, Catalyst for Disability Concerns with the Lausanne Movement, Member of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, and Chairperson for the New York State Developmental Disability Planning Council.



Outside the Margins

by Sharon Bieber

Review by Rhonda Barnett

In this absorbing portrayal of human kindness, Sharon Bieber skillfully weaves together lessons of integral transformation with the life experiences she and her husband, Bill, have had in their journey from Canada to the hinterlands of Papua New Guinea and beyond.

As one who ministers to the spiritual and physical needs of those outside the margins, these chapters remind me of what is possible, especially as we uphold the principles of Community Health Evangelism. Sharon illustrates what happens when—as our first step—we listen to those we have come to serve, when we ask good questions and enable community ownership, finding a local champion who can lead in bringing change. We don't always experience a positive outcome, but we must keep this goal before us and encourage others to do the same.

Outside the Margins illustrates the good that can happen when humans collaborate – diverse groups coming together for the benefit of all, because everyone is valued. Together we can make a difference one community at a time.

This book may also help those who have participated in a CHE training and are wondering how to proceed in their own context. And for those who have supported CHE over the years and would enjoy some of the back stories of honest struggles and unsung heroes in remote places, this book is for you.

May we all remember that Kingdom life is realized when we invest in humanity—physically and spiritually.

Rhonda Barnett, CHE Trainer

Rhonda and her husband, John, are small business owners in Idaho. They have been serving part-time with MAI in South Asia since 2016. Currently, Rhonda coordinates and facilitates the virtual TOT1 sessions offered by MAI biannually.



Aarón with Julio and his aunt, Floricel

Aarón ... a Drummer for Jesus

by *Marcelo López*

Resource Facilitator, Finance, Microenterprise & Disabilities,
Latin America

There was an urgency in our hearts as my wife, Silvia, and I headed out from Phoenix toward the Mexican border. We had to get to Puerto Peñasco in Sonora state to lead a training seminar!

But when we got to the border, the driver told us: "Get out here! You will cross on foot. I'm not allowed to cross the border." In alarm we asked what we were to do next. "On the other side," he said, "you will find a gas station with a similar van that will take you to Puerto Peñasco." We walked across, found the gas station, the van, and a new driver who drove us to our destination...praying the entire time!

On Sunday, we attended the Community Christian Celebration Church, which uses Community Health Evangelism (CHE) in its outreach. We conducted a training seminar on disability with the local CHE Trainers, opening the minds of these leaders to God's truths on disability.

At the training, we met Aarón (age 38) who suffers from Chiari Malformation Type 1, which causes unsteady gait, poor coordination and numbness in the hands and feet, along with vision and speech problems. As a child Aarón had been very vulnerable. Josefina, his mother, took care of him exclusively, but when she died, his father could not take care of him. Floricel, Josefina's sister, and her husband, Julio, took Aaron to live with them.

At first glance Aarón does not attract attention until the praise begins in his church. Despite his physical limitations, he plays the tambourine. Little by little, sitting on his bench, he showed he was capable of following the rhythm and even of adding creativity to the music. The beating of Aaron's tambourine expressed that his heart was beating in rhythm with the beating of the heart of Jesus.

One Sunday his father came to church. When he saw his son playing the tambourine, he was very moved by the love of God and received Jesus Christ in his heart.

Aarón is no longer sitting like one more participant in church; he is in front with the other musicians and that makes him feel valued. To improve his talent, he is taking drum lessons. People new to the church come up to him, say hello, and tell him, "You were such a blessing to me!"

Jesus Christ said: "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be rewarded at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke: 14:13-14)

Missionary work that does not include people with disabilities is incomplete. There is a reward waiting for those who welcome the disabled; the Kingdom of God needs many more drummers for Jesus...like Aarón! ■



Aarón playing the drums for worship



Progress for the Disabled

by Marcelo & Silvia López

Twenty-five years ago, we took our first missionary trip to Haiti. Entering through the Dominican Republic, we immersed ourselves in Haiti, the poorest country in the West.

There was caution in our hearts as we entered with our children, Luz and Felipe. We were fearful of the difficulties and unknown challenges we would face, since Felipe had a physical disability that prevented him from walking. Despite being six years old, we took him in a stroller. (He had not yet received his first wheelchair.)

With our musical instruments we performed a recital to raise funds for the clinic in Bayeux. We sang at a rehabilitation center for special children in Cap-Haïtien, and we preached the Word of God. We were light in the midst of darkness! (See photo above.)

In the past twenty-five years since our start in Haiti, our ministry has grown abundantly in projects and fruit. We train local Community Health Evangelism (CHE) Trainers in South America, Central America and the Caribbean in evangelization and development of equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Accomplishments this past year: We translated Bible lessons and studies on disability, written by David Deuel, a writer for the Lausanne Movement. We entitled it, God and



His Story on Disability: the unfolding plan from Genesis to Revelation.

We attended virtual meetings and were interviewed, telling our story of Felipe's life. In February, we also took part in a worldwide MAI video and zoom event called Beautifully Enabled by God's Design.¹

We participated in a virtual Regional Council meeting, challenging missionary teams from various countries to annually dedicate the first Sunday of December to prayer and teaching on the evangelization of people with disabilities and their families.

We taught missionary candidates face-to-face at the Center for Cross-Cultural Missionary Training (CCMT) on disability and micro-enterprises for people with disabilities.

We had meetings with Latin American leaders to establish in each country a Coordinator on Disability Issues. Flor de Leon, the Caribbean Regional Coordinator is supporting us in this project.

God is Good! His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is all we need. Thank you for your prayers and your commitments. ■

¹www.medicalambassadors.org/beautifully-enabled-by-gods-design

God's People in Action

Disaster Relief Response

by **Zuzana Poláčková**

Resource Facilitator

I know exactly where I was when I first heard the news, how my knees weakened, my heart sank, and how the feelings of grief, pain and helplessness entered my life in a new, deeper, and darker way.

Traveling from Canada to Eastern Europe was no longer exciting. This journey was inevitably marked by never-ending headlines, which left scars in the heart, unspoken paralyzing questions in the air, and untold expectations of what needed to be done. Heart-breaking.

But heart-warming stories came out of the darkness as well. Juraj, the Church of the Brethren disaster response leader in Slovakia, told us of Angelina and her two children who traveled from Kostopol, Ukraine to Michalovce, Slovakia—a long, exhausting trip—knowing they could be leaving their home for good. At the border, they had to wait for several days. When Angelina and her children reached their destination, they literally fell out of the car. Her old car just barely finished the journey. After a good night of sleep, Angelina said if she could get a car she would go back to Ukraine and drive women with children to Slovakia.

After that, Juraj offered to travel with her to Kostopol, to her church called “Word of Life” and meet the local pastor, Alex, who was helping people near the Belarusian border, by then a very dangerous area. There, he found out that there were 20 men willing to bring humanitarian help to different areas, about 200km inland from the Slovak border. Most humanitarian help ends at the border, as people are not safe going further into Ukraine. All these men were willing to work under the local pastor. After that Juraj went to visit their new church plant in Kostopol (called Patmos) with its local pastor, Misha, who had just come from heavily-bombed Zhytomyr. These



two churches—Patmos and Word of Life—were already working together. Both churches are not involved in military responses, and that is critical to the Slovak Brethren Church, which is not willing to encourage or provide gun transportation.

These two churches had already created space for storage for all the necessary supplies. Through this visit by Juraj to Ukraine, the church in Slovakia had on-the-ground people to navigate the humanitarian and medical needs for distribution.

Juraj reported in May, “Before the war started, Angelina had not been an experienced driver. But now, she drives a van into Ukraine, bringing supplies to the areas where they need them and driving people to safety. Most of these women do not have cars or are scared to drive themselves and they would not feel safe just going with anyone. However, they feel safe with Angelina because she is a woman too. They trust her - she is a bridge for them to the Slovak church. She has just returned from her sixth journey. The last two journeys led her to the

Donetsk region. Three brave God-fearing Ukrainians, Angelina, her brother Roman and his wife, armed just with bulletproof vests and first aid kits, drove for several days while we prayed.

“On April 22nd she successfully brought 18 people to the safety of the Michalovce church in eastern Slovakia. In a few days, the church managed to find long-term accommodation for most of them in Italy.”

Angelina has made several trips to Ukraine and brought over 70 people to safety. As I write this in mid-May, she is on another trip, and we pray that God will protect her and everybody in her van. I am thankful to God, who has protected them and their passengers.

In total, the humanitarian committee of Slovakia’s Brethren Church has eight vans that drive supplies to Ukraine, and then drive people out of Ukraine on the return trip. Eight vans require eight brave drivers, and Medical Ambassadors International (MAI) was able to donate the money for one of the vans.

Brave drivers are not just born, they are shaped by God through experience, pain, and trust in Him. This is also true of Ruslan, who is married with four children. His two sons are both disabled. Ruslan lives in Kostopel, Ukraine. Besides being a caregiver for his sons, he owns a small welding business. He was willing and available and therefore his church in Kostopel appointed him to oversee their ministry to refugees. Because his sons are disabled, the military mobilization does not apply to him, and the Ukrainian border control let him and one of his



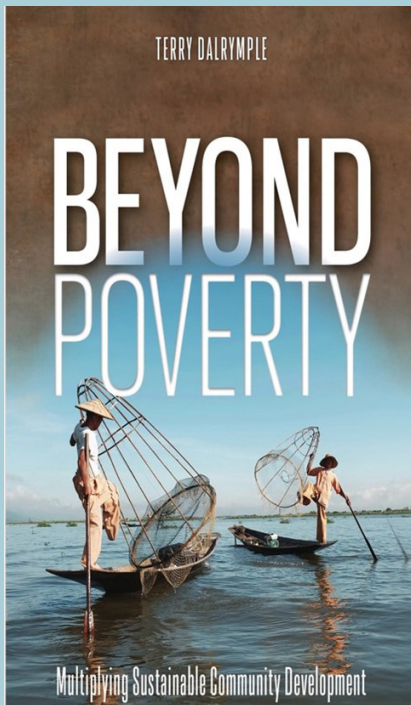
sons cross the border to Slovakia. He came to pick up one of the eight vans that were donated. The van will serve inside Ukraine, delivering supplies and driving people to the safety of other Ukrainian regions or Slovakia.

At another meeting with Juraj and his team, I was approached by several people who were interested in getting trained in Trauma Healing and Psychological First Aid (PFA), as these leaders could see the need of the traumatized arrivals. I partnered with Jaroslav and Alexandra, a Wycliffe Slovakia team as well as the Brethren Church to translate lessons from the curriculum offered by Community Health Evangelism. I have now been able to train the team in PFA; currently, I am leading the Trauma Healing sessions. Everybody in the class is committed to learning, helping, and allowing God to lead them in the next step.

Through various conversations, unfortunately, we found out that human trafficking didn’t stop during the war! Slovakia is a small country. There has been minimal international assistance arriving at our borders with Ukraine and not much is afforded in the way of

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BEYOND POVERTY

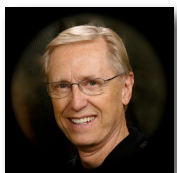
by Terry Dalrymple
Review by Dr. Paul Calhoun

The worldwide CHE movement is one of the formidable tools God is using today to usher in His Kingdom on earth. Beyond Poverty is the movement's best articulation to date. Terry Dalrymple has hammered out an apologetic on the anvil of Biblical truth. The book is eloquent,

well researched, validated with field experience and invitingly readable.

I have watched the author of Beyond Poverty grow from an early convert to wholistic ministry into a purveyor of the CHE movement that has taken him into the presence of world leaders and even given him a podium on the stage of the United Nations. Yet Terry remains a most humble friend to the people of the developing world. Terry does not write from the tower of theory but from the viewpoint of a witness who has unflaggingly traversed the globe from the remote highlands of New Guinea to the risks of war-torn nations like Pakistan.

Beyond Poverty is the record of a movement which has expanded in a generation from God-inspired theory to tens of thousands of villages turned right side up into Kingdom models. In short, the book documents CHE's essential quality of sustainability: it has the power to change nations one village at a time by redeeming people, family by family.



Dr. Paul Calhoun

Since passing on the baton of the leadership of Medical Ambassadors International, Paul Calhoun, MD has assisted in the founding of the Alliance for Transformational Ministry, created to prosper the hundreds of organizations doing CHE ministry. He is currently the chairman of the board of that organization. He resides in a retirement village in Sun City, Arizona, with his wife Darla.

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publicity. This created a perfect environment for human trafficking. The traffickers would not need to worry about being spotted or filmed. The traffickers would lure young mothers with children to accept rides in vans, which they were told would take them across the Ukraine border to safety. The vans were driven by young women pretending to be from a local Slovak church or the Red Cross. Once this approach was identified by the local police force, the traffickers would change their strategy. For example, they would approach victims at bus or train stations. Later they moved to the airports and secondary borders.

The Brethren Church is aware of the need for frank and open discussions to increase the general awareness of human trafficking among victims of war. For that reason, I was asked by a local Christian radio station to share information on how to respond, as a Christian community, to what was happening.

None of this help could have happened without people who are committed to the cause! People who will sacrifice their nights, time with their families and financial comfort. People like these make our MAI response tangible and worthwhile. Therefore, please pray for all these special people. I just want to bring some of the names to your attention: Juraj, his wife Zuzana and their two boys; Jaroslav, his wife Alexandra, and their daughter; the whole Slovak team of leaders, volunteers and families who have been willing to love sacrificially.

Thank you for joining their efforts with your prayers! ■



Jaroslav and Alexandra

The background image is a sunset scene with a chain in the foreground and birds flying in the sky. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple, with many birds in flight. In the foreground, there is a chain made of dark, heavy links, stretching across the width of the image. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and silhouettes of tall grasses.

The Day After Escape

by Dr. Bibiana MacLeod

Technical Advisor for Disaster Response, Orality & Special Projects

How does MAI, with its focus on community development and integral mission, contribute to the protection of victims of human trafficking?

We do not have transition houses. We do not have specialized staff that knows how to approach complex trauma. We do not get directly involved with special topics of training—like how to coach survivors to testify against their abusers, how to run the day-to-day operations of a shelter or an educational center, nor do we present specific therapeutic strategies. These tasks require highly experienced professionals, volunteers, material resources and facilities, which are beyond the scope of our ministry in Community Health Evangelism, just as we do not have hospitals, surgical wards and treatment centers. But we do care for the sick at the community level, providing basic training in what needs to be done to be part of the healing process. MAI joins the ranks of helpers by preparing communities to receive the wounded, promoting healing of the wounds of trauma with biblical foundations and a clear program that will assure the teachings follow a proven participatory strategy when offered to those coming out of the oppression of slavery.

In order to be effective, we depend on others who are also involved in anti-trafficking ministries. We are involved in regional anti-trafficking networks, where we learn from

each other and support one another. We have been part of a team that has created a protocol so that churches will know how to address cases of sexual abuse and human trafficking in Latin America. There have been multiple opportunities in which we were asked to intervene in critical situations through our connections and CHE communities in Latin America. We do not neglect being present when asked or needed.

At the beginning of 2022, we were asked to help a young Venezuelan woman who had escaped from her captors in a small city of another country. Taking advantage of her desperation to leave misery and unstable socio-political conditions, she was offered a job and a place to stay by a long-time friend. When she arrived, instead of the promised job, she was broken to accept working as a prostitute. But she had escaped and needed to be protected to get back home. Through the anti-trafficking network, a lawyer was able to contact her. Today she is back home in Venezuela, but there is much work to be done to facilitate her healing.

So, does MAI protect victims of human trafficking? Yes, we do, but not alone. We are part of a larger army of soldiers enlisted in this fight. We are just one piece of the strategy, and we continue to learn and apply what we learn to our ministry in communities around the globe. ■



Helping Each Other Heal

by Dr. Bibiana MacLeod and Zuzana Poláčková

When we were looking for materials to address mental health in the context of human trafficking, our attention was drawn to the Trauma Healing Institute. They promote this simple method that brings a group of people together in a safe place where they can help each other heal. Using a holistic and Bible-based approach, they recognize trauma affects every part of a person: mind, body and spirit, as well as every aspect of their relationships. The lessons use art, stories, activities, and questions to help people engage deeply with themselves, with God, and with each other.¹

We (Zuzana and Bibiana) took part in a healing group during the summer of 2021, and then an equipping session enabled us to become training facilitators. We offered this to our teammates at Medical Ambassadors International, along with other colleagues and interested people who heard about it and wanted to participate. Since then, we have facilitated healing groups in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Slovak, translated stories and materials, and equipped new facilitators in Argentina, Nigeria, Canada, Liberia, Egypt, Philippines, Haiti, Peru, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Slovakia.

Is this group experience just for victims of human trafficking? Of course not! It has been proven to help those emotionally wounded in many other situations. Stories are adapted in each culture, just as we do with Community Health Evangelism. As we have found with other lessons, participatory training is vital. For this reason, it has been easy to transfer the format of the program to our CHE curriculum. Being part of a small, safe, and interacting group is key to the process.

Woman from Niger with
homemade “toothbrush”

As we continue to provide guidance and encourage others to participate in a healing group, we recognize the value of discussing emotional health among our teams. Mental health has become such a highlighted topic in the past few years, especially during the pandemic, that we need to focus and learn how to help each other to be emotionally balanced. Healing does not happen just because one spends twelve hours with a healing group. God uses these very valuable studies to confront us with the need to address wounds and bring them to Him. And this is something we must repeat through our lives: expressing our emotions, listening to each other, being present, bringing our pain to the cross, forgiving each other and ourselves. We are eager to learn more, to encourage each other to remain healthy and to seek help when needed. All of us have suffered disappointments, deception, or some other traumatic experience. Not everybody responds in the same way. These tools that heal the wounds of trauma provide a practical way to equip God's people to help others.

For this reason, we have not limited our sessions to just MAI staff and partners. We have opened the opportunity to participate to others who have heard about it, even those that may not have had a personal encounter with Jesus yet.

As always, the Lord exceeds our expectations. Our groups have varied from small private groups, family units, church leaders or church volunteers. Every participant was sent by God to start with Him the healing journey. We would like to share some of the participants' feedback!

We asked these questions: "How did this healing group affect you, e.g., did you learn something new? How did your own healing take place? Do you feel better equipped to help others?"

Below are some of the participants' answers:

- I learned how to approach a person who is experiencing an injury, and how to start communicating with such a person. How they might react and how can I understand them...what they are probably going through and what they are experiencing...

- I learned to ask three important questions; it was confirmed to me that listening attentively is often better than giving wise advice and evaluation. Well, it makes me feel better prepared to talk to someone who has been through some sort of trauma.

- All the topics were very valuable; it would certainly be appropriate if education in the church focused more on working with grief and trauma, and if people wanted to hear more about these topics. When we feel good, we don't have time to think more deeply; when it's hard, we don't have energy; but as Christians, we should understand how important healing is for those around us, as well as for ourselves. The healing group helped me return to my community (after the pandemic and prolonged health problems), and also acted as prevention against burnout, which every helping person needs. I am a lifelong learner, so I believe that there will be an opportunity to work more deeply on this topic. ■

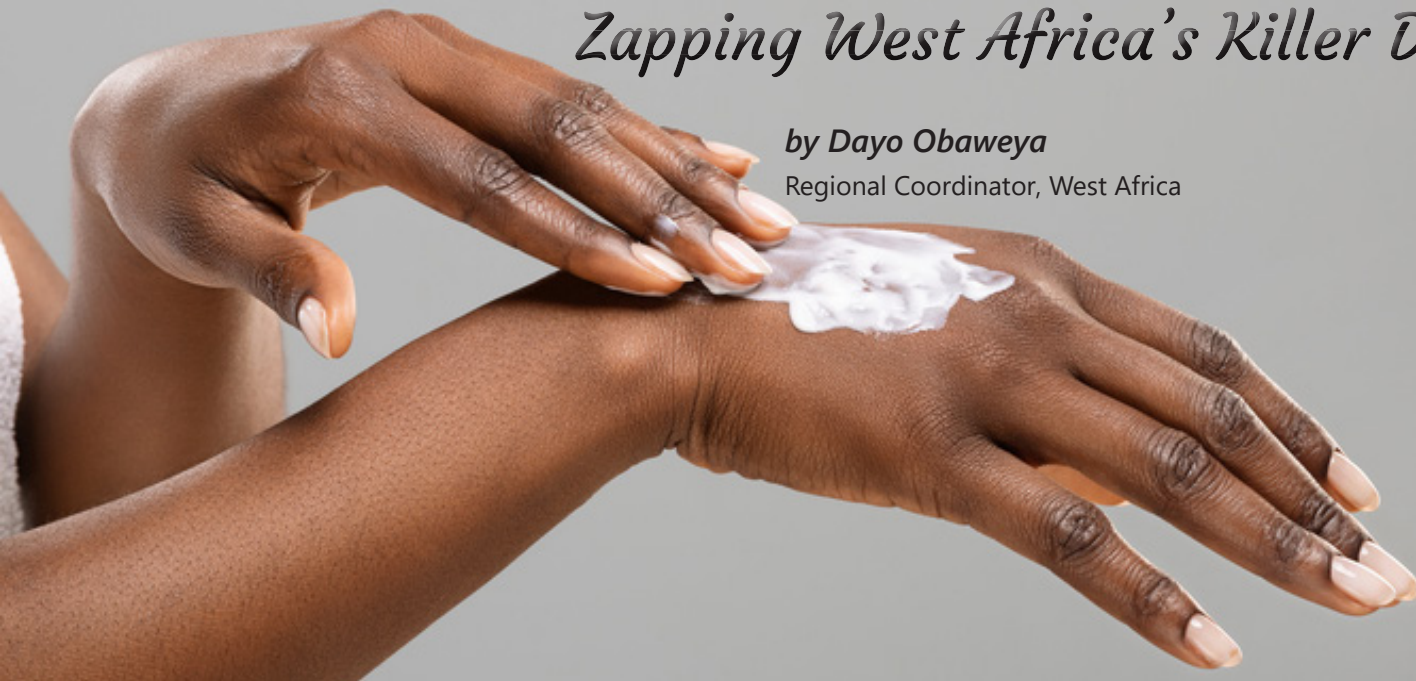
¹ <https://traumahealinginstitute.org/about>



Zapping West Africa's Killer Disease

by Dayo Obaweya

Regional Coordinator, West Africa



Malaria is indeed the number one killer disease in West Africa. Nigeria claims 23% of the death cases—about 200,000 a year. Estimated loss of wages is about \$1.1 billion annually (2021 WHO statistics). Even with much intervention to protect from mosquito bites, the threat is always there. Use of bed nets does not provide 24-hour protection. The lifestyle of an average African exposes them to bites long before they go under the bed nets at night. Most people are outside of their homes until late at night and wake up early in the morning to be bitten by mosquitoes as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic further complicated the situation of residents in the West Africa region. Many community dwellers lost jobs, had no sources of income, animals consumed the little farm produce they had, and drought took the rest.

In 2021, MAI in West Africa decided to mitigate these challenges the people faced through our Community Development strategy. We embarked on a trial of total protection from mosquito bites to community dwellers using a newly formulated mosquito repellent called Insec Off. The product is made by LivFul Inc, Atlanta, USA, and packaged by Worthwhile Industry Limited. Worthwhile packages Insec Off mosquito repellent locally in Nigeria, creating employment for people in the distribution chain. This lotion provides protection from being bitten. An anecdotal trial was carried out on the residents of Ilara

in Ifedore, a local government of Ondo State in Nigeria. This was carried out in conjunction with the government authorities. The trial involved 200 users for forty days with control.

LivFul has conducted an anecdotal test in Ghana of 100 nighttime security guards for 45 days. 73% of them had suffered malaria in the past 12 months and 95% said mosquito bites impacted their work. During the test 99% said the product was effective and no malaria was reported. More such studies will be carried out in Nigeria too. Medical Ambassadors International (MAI) subsidized the procurement of the repellents initially.

With this success, we are encouraged to promote the use of the lotion but need in-kind contributions to enable us to provide this repellent to communities that are prone to sickness. With \$0.14 per day per person, we can provide daily coverage to each person in the communities we serve, focusing on pregnant women, children and nursing mothers. It is expected that the intervention would reduce deaths, loss of person-hours at work, increase productivity and reduce poverty and much more.

The CHE strategy would be used to distribute bed nets and Insec Off repellent with adequate monitoring by community peers. Evaluations will be carried out every 90 days to ensure proper usage and success. We also are presently engaging churches and NGOs in enlisting their distribution centers during health outreach programs. ■

LivFul - From Leftovers to Innovation

by Hogan Bassey

Co-Founder & Chief Access Officer of LivFul Inc.

Have you ever been in a situation in which you clearly didn't get a fair share of the food at the table—when all that came your way were the leftovers, and you departed hungry?

There is a little-known statistic that ninety-seven percent of global Research and Development dollars in healthcare goes to serve the wealthiest ten percent while the rest of the world waits for leftovers. I have firsthand experience of this injustice. Growing up in Nigeria I had malaria at least four times by the age of ten. I have vivid memories of my mom sitting by my bedside while I suffered through the side effects of cheap malaria injections, along with the symptoms of malaria. Those side effects made me feel like I was being stabbed by a million needles all over my body; I lost my appetite; and I lost my sense of taste (everything sweet tasted bitter).

I was blessed because I came from a home that could at least afford primary healthcare. According to UNICEF, 750 children under age five die daily in Africa from malaria. That's one small child every two minutes! I decided I had had enough! What we were using wasn't good enough. I decided to invent something I could take personal responsibility for to keep mosquitoes away. I "accidentally" invented a mosquito repellent, not knowing that what was an exciting innovation to me had already existed for

almost half a century. But it had not reached my part of the world. Why? Because health innovation is driven by maximizing profit not health outcomes.

You see, in those terrible childhood bouts of illness, God was setting me up for



my purpose; I just didn't know it yet. He was writing my story, though I didn't yet understand His intentions for my life. That didn't come till a couple of years after college. Up till then I didn't want to surrender my calling to God, because I didn't want Him to mess up my plans. Then I had an *ah-ha* moment – God knows me better than I know myself and He loves me more than I could ever love myself. So, whatever He decides I should do—though I may not understand or like it at the time—will ultimately be the best thing I could ever imagine. It was in that moment, at age 23, that God began to unfold His plan that led to my founding of a company called LivFul Inc.

The stated purpose of LivFul Inc. is to unlock human potential and expand access to transformative health solutions. We prioritize impact over profit maximization. In bringing this purpose to life, we started off with creating the best mosquito repellent in the world with lab and field-tested sixteen-plus hours of protection, the safest toxicology profile – even safe for infants two months and older. It has a scent and feel that is more like a premium lotion than a mosquito repellent. We distribute through a variety of means but we are most excited about a

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program we call Ignite. It is a micro-packaging franchise that creates jobs and removes layers in the supply chain. What is otherwise one of the most expensive repellents in the world, sells for eleven-to-eighteen cents a day. Our first social entrepreneur in Ghana, Kofi, now has eight employees and will be profitable this year despite launching in 2019 before the pandemic. Today he lives a fuller and richer life, impacting his community. Now, we are doing the same in Nigeria where the repellent is renamed, Insec Off, spearheaded by Medical Ambassador's West African Leader, Dayo Obayewa.

The journey doesn't end here! Our Lord Jesus is inviting us to co-labor with Him, to re-imagine the entire industry, to bring Isaiah 61 to life and, in a sense, bring the kingdoms of healthcare to repentance. We imagine a new world with an innovation platform that accelerates innovation,

reducing its cost and risk, and protecting people who repair the broken innovation system. We imagine a world with a distribution platform that creates jobs, builds local capacity, and provides data that brings transparency and trust while reducing layers in the supply chain. In this way, innovations can be more affordable to those in developing countries. We imagine a world where a billion people per day can now live a full life.

Just imagine! All this can be encapsulated in a call to serve the least—not as those that need a handout or our pity but as dignified image-bearers of God, who also can co-labor with Him to bring healing to their community.

We invite you to consider how Jesus would like for you to co-labor with Him. What is He calling you to re-imagine in your life? ■



Hogan Bassey is an entrepreneur who is passionate about using systems entrepreneurship to bring God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven (Isaiah 61). He is eager for lost people to encounter God's love and purpose for them (Psalm 138:2, Romans 8), and longs to see justice flow through economic opportunity. He is married to Victoria, an accountant, and blessed with a two-year-old daughter, Sophia-Grace. They are active in their local church in the greater Atlanta area (www.LivFul.com).

Learning to Serve God with my Whole Heart

by Matt Elsberry



Matt & Rocio and son, Joel

My father and both grandfathers were pastors, and I grew in faith and passion for the Lord from a very young age. I remember devouring twelve chapters of the Old Testament in the morning and twelve chapters of the New Testament every night. I simply could not get enough!

At a youth event in Cincinnati, I heard a great message from Dr. John Maxwell, calling for the students in the crowd to become “full-time” ministers of the Gospel. I did not have a sense of this calling and remember feeling left out. “What about the rest of us?” I asked our youth pastor. “Are we not supposed to serve God with our whole life? Are we condemned to be second-class citizens of the Kingdom of God?”

Despite all this, I still started my career with Crown Financial Ministries and became ordained as a pastor. It wasn't until God prompted me to give away my tennis shoes in Venezuela that He let me in on His plans for my life.

I gave my favorite pair of shoes away, and as I asked Him why He prompted me to do so, He brought me to the passage of the woman with the alabaster jar, its contents poured wastefully on Jesus' feet. God wanted to know if I was willing to do the same. I was touched

and committed a big gift to Jesus, ten times larger than any gift I had given before.

As I was contemplating where to give the gift, God pressed three things onto my heart:

- Don't give it away; invest it! Show that I can build my Kingdom through business just as I build it through church or ministry.
- The proceeds are not yours to consume; you are to re-invest them into other businesses, bringing about the Kingdom as they grow.
- Why only this “small” amount? When I ask for something, give me everything!

Matt Elsberry's Journey

Matt Elsberry started his career at a nonprofit under the mentorship of a former Apple VP of Operations. He became part of the leadership team that grew the organization in three countries to eighty countries in six years.

Through this, Matt realized nonprofits can sometimes cause more harm than good while working to make the world a better place. Matt left that world to become VP of Organization Development for a regional conglomerate in SE Asia for five years, hoping to inspire businesses

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COMFORT MY PEOPLE

Dr. Bibiana MacLeod

Technical Advisor for Disaster Response, Orality & Special Projects

Since MAI shifted from clinical work and evangelization to Community Health Evangelism (CHE) in the '80s, one of our key core values has been "Development instead of Relief." We had seen so much damage done through compassionate giving to individuals and communities that suffered long-term challenges due to poverty. Encouraging self-reliance, use of local resources first and community ownership required wisdom in the intervention and restraint from the wrong application of assistance. Because of this, our participation was timid and ill equipped in situations where a sudden crisis surpassed people's capacity to respond effectively. We were shy about helping in emergencies, fearing that relief would last too long and create dependency.

As disasters increased around the world (a 400% increase between 2010 and 2020), communities where MAI served were impacted. We suffered along with brothers and sisters during tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, epidemics, and erupting volcanoes. We learned that there are proper ways to accompany those exposed to catastrophes that effectively combine wholistic and developmental approach, without removing community ownership and good use of available local resources in the moment of

a disaster. We have also learned to become available to other organizations, as our partners on the ground, well trained and trustworthy, provide an excellent framework for assisting in distribution. Networking in disasters requires open minds, open hands, and open hearts. When the situation in the field is dire, there is no room for isolated and proud actors.

MAI participates through trainings and fund raising in each of the four stages of the Disaster Cycle.

RESPONSE phase: We become present immediately after the event that causes havoc in communities we have previously partnered with, or where contacts ask us for aid. This includes food security, mental health, shelter, and water and sanitation. In response to a formal request, we provide life-saving resources, as well as mental health care through Psychological First Aid.

REHABILITATION phase: We connect community leaders with available resources, sometimes in the form of seeds to recover their fields, sometimes with additional trauma-care lessons, or finding partner organizations that will help with rebuilding and rehabilitation.



MITIGATION phase: Long-term commitment is required to train leaders and community members. We do this type of work through Community Health Evangelism (CHE), helping people get organized, identifying their vulnerabilities and risks, and working together to minimize the impact of future crisis. We have well-trained facilitators and partners from other Non-Government Organizations around the world that become available to train new churches and communities in CHE principles.

PREPAREDNESS phase: We prepare those we serve for the disasters they are most likely to face in their own areas. They are given lessons on how to respond in an efficient and coordinated way, alone or as part of a larger effort that may include their local government or international relief organizations. In this phase, some of the components of trainings include equipping people to have a go-bag with enough clothing and food for 72 hours, early warning systems, principles of disaster management, and preparing for the specific disasters most common in their area.

In the past three years MAI has responded to crises around the world.

We sent funds for roofing and food supplies to Nicaragua after two cyclones hit the same villages one week apart. During the first few months of the COVID pandemic, MAI in partnership with the Global CHE Network rapidly developed messages and lessons to be distributed in CHE communities, offered training on how to prevent the disease and do contact tracing, and held online sessions on Psychological First Aid and how vaccines work. These trainings were provided to countries in Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, and North America. We provided funds to those severely impacted by COVID in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Bolivia and different countries in Africa.

We aided volcano victims in Goma (Democratic Republic of Congo), earthquake victims in Haiti, survivors of violent attacks in Nigeria and displaced people from Ukraine in Poland and Slovakia.

Not only did we convene prayer intercessors across the globe in each of these events, but we also saw God’s people responding to the needs of brothers and sisters every time, following the heart of God.

But all these activities seem to be focused in the first stage of the Disaster Cycle—the immediate Response phase. What happens next? We have seen a natural flow into the Rehabilitation phase when solid relationships develop or have existed before the event. In cases where we know the locals well, trust and the desire to continue serving together brings us to assess what training materials, resources or connections could be beneficial to move on to recovery. Most of the time, this includes training in CHE strategy, or use of CHE to recover stability. Sometimes training will be on a particular topic that will address just one issue but opens the door to participatory education, modeling the core values that define integral mission with a development approach. People realize they have gifts, resources that can be used in their own situation, they learn to walk on their

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MAI ACADEMY

by Galen Dalrymple
COO, Dean, MAI Academy



In the book of Acts, the evangelist, Philip, is led by the Spirit to go to a road from Jerusalem to Gaza where he sees and hears a man in a chariot reading from a scroll. Here's what happens next: When Philip ran up to it (the chariot), he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?" "How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" – Acts 8:30-31, CSB

This man was from Ethiopia, and he wanted to understand what he was reading. His request to Philip was simple (paraphrased): "I need someone to guide me in understanding the things I'm reading."

MAI Academy was built to help people learn. It not only covers very practical skills that can assist people in their work and everyday life, but also helps them understand teaching from God's Word. While the Spirit is our primary teacher, the reality is that even this man from Ethiopia, who desperately wanted to understand the Scripture, needed someone to help.

Around the world there are many like this unnamed man. They are passionate about wanting to learn, to grow, to

understand. They want to be more valuable as employees, to be better disciples and disciple makers, to understand what the Word is saying. The desire is there, but the simple reality is that most of them will have neither the opportunity – nor the finances – to attend an institution of higher learning. They can't readily access Bible college courses or theology courses. And we think that MAI Academy can help to address their hunger for learning.

It is for people such as the Ethiopian in the story from Acts that MAI Academy was founded in 2020. Starting from a blue-sky concept, MAI Academy has grown to the point that it now includes thirty-five (35) courses containing a total of 683 lessons. The topics range broadly but include Bible studies on a variety of subjects, theology and Bible teaching from people such as Dr. John Stott, Michael Card and the late Dr. William Lane. They teach how to be a better story-teller, photographer, videographer, how to know your life's purpose and live it out, how to use Microsoft software products, how to conduct virtual trainings, a virtual self-paced CHE Vision Seminar, how to build Kingdom partnerships, urban transformation and other topics, including how to be a better creative thinker as well as a truly fascinating walk through the history of Jerusalem throughout the centuries done in podcast format.

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Most of the courses in MAI Academy are free, but you have to register in order to access them. You can register by going to this link (https://maiacademy.thinkific.com/users/sign_up). There is no charge to register as a student in the Academy.

Once inside, you'll discover that the materials are organized in a variety of ways to help make it easier to find the courses you're interested in taking. Courses are organized into categories such as Bible & History, Bible Study & Theology, Ministry Tools, Spiritual Development and others. You can click any category to see the courses contained in that grouping.

Courses are sometimes further broken down into chapters and lessons. For example, the course on how to be more creative and generate better ideas is broken down into these chapters: Introduction, Perceptual Blocks to Creativity, Emotional Blocks to Creativity, Cultural and Environmental Blocks to Creativity, Intellectual Blocks to Creativity, Blockbusters, etc. Within each of those chapters in the Creativity course you will find lessons and exercises you can do at your own pace to reinforce your discoveries and learning.

As we move forward, we intend to continue enriching and expanding the courses that are available in MAI Academy. We are polling our field team to discover what practical skills they would like to learn to improve their ministry work as well as exploring avenues for other types of content. This will all take time to develop but we are encouraged by the fact that God is never in a hurry.

We hope you'll join the 60 who are already enrolled!

Do you have or know of materials that you think could possibly be useful to include in MAI Academy? If so, please reach out to Galen Dalrymple at this email address: galen@med-amb.org. We'd love to discuss it with you! ■

Check us out today!
<https://maiacademy.thinkific.com>

to adopt a long-term view of caring for communities in a similar manner to nonprofits. He founded and launched the Kingdom Entrepreneurship Academy with some brilliant Indonesian partners.

Matt asks the question, "Couldn't the perception of business as mindless profit pursuers be challenged if the maximization of impact was trumpeted above the maximization of profit? What kind of company could be created?" He joined LivFul to create this new type of company. His "big hairy audacious goal" is to, in his lifetime, see \$38 trillion invested in companies that are living out this ethic: for profit and for good. LivFul (www.livful.com) is an unconventional life science company with a vision to unlock human potential by expanding access to transformative health solutions. It prioritizes health access and impact as more important than maximizing profit.

Matt states, "LivFul is a response to this angst I felt as a teenager. I have become convinced that we can fully serve the Lord through business. We at LivFul work every day to put this into action.

Matt is married to an amazing and adventurous wife, Rocío, and together they are attempting to parent their incredible and (very) energetic five-year-old, Joel.



Clinic Staff photos

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own, and though outside help may be needed, it is done with respect for dignity, allowing locals to lead the way.

In Goma we were asked to help deal with the emotional trauma left after losing homes and belongings to the volcano eruption. In Nicaragua we were involved in a long and sad experience of trying to bring seeds from another country, only to see the seeds being removed by public officers from the local partner's office after two weeks quarantine. We had been negotiating for months to obtain the necessary permits but were unsuccessful, and seeds for one thousand families were lost. However, the local partner continues to request new trainings for aboriginal communities that were beneficiaries of the first wave of assistance in November 2020. The Guarani people in Southeastern Bolivia were without health care essentials during the third wave of COVID. When Orfa, MAI trainer, asked for help, she was seeing people suffer with lack of basic medical care. Supplies were sent, people were grateful, and they immediately asked if we could train them further in Community Health Evangelism. They are eager to learn more about how to get organized, not only for emergencies but also for long-term plans. The Slovakian church that received

funds to purchase a vehicle to transport refugees, food and medical kits has gone through the second phase of disaster, providing trauma healing to those in need. It is now into the third phase, requesting CHE be taught to its leaders. As the crisis keeps changing outcomes, churches adapt and respond in different ways. We are there with them, because we believe that being present is also how the Lord ministers to people.

Where is God when it hurts? Psalm 46:7 depicts a suffering person who understands the fact that God's presence—just His being there, even though in silence—gives him reassurance. May we find that same place of healing, and on behalf of our Lord and King comfort those suffering the devastating effects of sudden loss. ■

Psalm 46

*¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble
⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress*



PREVENTION

the KEY to ENDING Human Trafficking

by Dr. Bibiana MacLeod

Technical Advisor for Disaster Response, Orality & Special Projects

There is a growing awareness of the crime of human trafficking since the signature of the Palermo Protocol against organized crime. This document, signed in 2000, called on UN member countries to take action. It emphasized the need for **Prevention** of the crime, **Prosecution** of perpetrators and **Protection** of survivors: called the 3 Ps.

A review of literature regarding human trafficking in the past few years shows there are other equally important concepts to add to these three original Ps of the Palermo Protocol in order to achieve a good outcome. **Partnerships, Participation** and **Policies** have been added, and Christians include **Prayer**. Can MAI get involved in all seven aspects of this fight?

Maybe the right question is, "How do you differentiate between these activities?" Church leaders and denominations offer a rich theological viewpoint that can provide tools and orientation if they are willing to relate to the public sector. A readiness to build relationships with public servants, instead of building walls, can produce a stronger team that pushes for the creation of safety nets through **Policies**. As local faith actors

Participate in the global and local arena, they engage in the discussion, and in preparing a strategy that will lead to **Prevention**. Communities where MAI serves as a facilitator of transformational development walk this path as they grow in understanding of Kingdom principles. **Prayer** helps people be aware, and when done on special days, like Freedom Sunday (International Justice Mission initiative)¹, it unifies communities against exploitation. The anti-trafficking team at MAI prepares a prayer calendar to encourage prayer partners to join us in this fight, praying for survivors to be restored, for communities to include them as essential and valuable members of society, for perpetrators to be brought to justice, for governments to fight corruption, and for our children to be safe.

How about **Partnerships**? Do they help prevent human trafficking? In the past two years MAI has joined anti-trafficking networks in various continents. In some cases, we were invited to initiate them. The Latin Forum against human trafficking² gathers over 40 Christian organizations in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, and meets quarterly under the umbrella of World Evangelical Alliance. Our members collaborate with



country reports presented to the United Nations for their Universal Periodic Reviews by Non-Governmental Organizations. We hold our governments accountable by reporting what we see and find in each of the areas where our members serve. We have also recently joined the European Freedom Network and two of our team members serve in the Philippines and West Africa, building relationships with partners in their respective areas of influence. Through trainings like Trauma Healing, Psychological First Aid and our participatory lessons, we contribute with materials, providing tools to churches and communities with whom we partner.

Although we do not work directly in **Prosecution** and **Protection** of survivors, we are strategically placed—through our partnership with those who do—and have the possibility of being informed in each of the countries we serve of available services and organizations that help. We can connect those at risk or trapped in the crime with those that can help them with resources, rescue, or rehabilitation. Our trainings mentioned above are also tools we have shared with those on the front lines. One of our missionaries, Zuzana Poláčková, with a certification in Horticultural Therapy and a degree in Landscape Architecture, has made herself available to use horticulture as a tool for rehabilitation to our communities and partners.

But I have left for last an essential weapon to fight human trafficking. Everyone in this field agrees that **Prevention** of modern slavery and human trafficking is the key to eliminating this crime. Medical Ambassadors International is strategically positioned in over 70 countries and thousands of communities where our Community Health Evangelism (CHE) practitioners have developed relationships at the local level and are actively involved in the lives of millions. As we include in our trainings the lessons on what is human trafficking, what are the lies perpetrators use to convince those at risk (caused by poverty, gender issues, disabilities, ignorance of dangers with use of social media, and other vulnerabilities), we

actively prevent them from being victims. Lessons we have developed or are in the developing stage include: the risks of pornography, addressing masculinity, child sexual abuse—did you know that 96% of victims of sexual exploitation were sexually abused as children?—self-esteem, trauma healing, Bible stories on slavery (Joseph, Hagar, the slave girl and Naaman), parenting skills with internet literacy for safe use of navigation tools, micro-enterprise, and many more related topics that directly or indirectly impact the expansion of human trafficking. We do not focus only on sex exploitation, as we are aware that mass migratory movements in several areas of the world where we serve are exposing people to labor slavery, organs extraction, forced marriages, a life of begging and other forms of servitude. As we witness how people are treated as merchandise, we have committed ourselves to declare the value that God has placed in each person as a bearer of His Image (Imago Dei). We invest our lives in the mission of loving them wholistically, as we love God and respond to His commandment to make disciples of all nations, teaching all that He has taught us because He is with us always (Missio Dei). ■

¹ www.ijm.org/freedomsunday

² You can visit our facebook page Foro Latino Contra la Trata to find more information on Spanish and Portuguese speaking Christian groups against Human Trafficking

References for further reading:

† Faith and Freedom, the role of local faith actors in anti-modern slavery and human trafficking, a scoping study. Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and local communities. <https://jliflc.com/resources/executive-summary-ams-ht-study/>

† Ending Human Trafficking A handbook of strategies for the church today, by Shayne Moore, Sandra Morgan and Kiberly Mc Owen Yim, Intervarsity Press, 2022.

Going SOLAR

by Daniel Kpowbie

Area Coordinator, French West Africa, Togo



The concept of our solar irrigation system at Mawuto Farm started three years ago. With an initial grant of \$3000, we purchased a portion of the solar panels needed. That grant was a spur for us. With some local savings and minor donations, we completed the system. The first test run last year was very satisfactory. We irrigated five acres of land and grew vegetables while everything else around was completely dry. The system consisted of 60 solar panels: one used a 15-kw submersible pump and a 20-kw power inverter ordered from China. The system is unique as it uses no battery. Batteries are the limiting factor due to their cost and fragility. We can pump all day long if the sun is shining, usually from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The water is pulled from a creek 1700 feet away. It offers the potential of pumping around 110,000 gallons of water a day. The technology was borrowed from India and Pakistan via YouTube, and we are pioneering it in Togo.

The first impact was to provide fresh vegetables, especially okra, to the near-by villages. During dry

seasons, locals are challenged to find fresh vegetables; usually they must travel very far to find some at a high price. They were very happy to access those items, while no other community outside of the region could. Most of the time the villagers would come to the field and buy directly from the production site. When we have excess left, we take it to the nearby market. We have not yet taken it to the big cities where the demand is even higher.

The second impact was that over eight people were employed as part-time workers. They were very happy to find a second income in a period when everything is dry, and all the farmers have nothing to do to complement their meager revenue.

The technology was published on our Mawuto Farm Facebook page, passing on the information to others. We had calls from Gambia, Nigeria, and Ghana. Three engineers came to visit and learn from us. Some of them were very skeptical about our system at first. They found



it hard to believe we could run a 15-kilowatt pump solely on solar and pull that much water without the use of any drop of fossil fuel!

Economically we cannot say we gained as much as we intended. But at least we were able to deploy the system, see its weaknesses, and bring necessary corrections. We have been able to employ and pay the workers too. Next year we are planning to triple the acreage; then we should start generating some profit.

The foreseen impact is still in its infancy but satisfactory. This first years' experience showed the full potential ahead. We have learned!

We are still short twelve panels to complement the system. Thanks for praying for us. ■



Daniel and Kafui Kpowbie

After planting dozens of churches in multiple countries in French-speaking West Africa, Daniel Kpowbie discovered CHE. His dream of taking Jesus to the nations is now being fulfilled. He is supported by his wife, Kafui, and their two daughters.

Healthy Families

By **Maggie Conrad**, Women's Health and Healthy Families
CHE International Coordinator

In the beginning, God created man and woman. Together they formed the family, the foundation for relationships and society. As children were added, the family grew and expanded . . . creating generation after generation after generation after generation.

However, soon after its formation, the first family's relationship with God was fractured by sin, passing on an inheritance of brokenness, a legacy that has followed all humankind. Though our families vary in composition, we all struggle with brokenness. God had other plans for His creation. We praise God for the redemption and healing that we can have in our families because of Jesus. Building a strong foundation for our families can increase our resilience in calamity, provide protection and security, and grow enduring love that will support one another in disability as well as through the changes in life.

The well-being of women is crucial to a healthy society and family.

- **Women's Cycle of Life** (WCL) lessons continue to bring transformation as the value of women is embraced and as women grow in their understanding of how they are designed by God. Growing healthy relationships with God and others is integral to WCL.
- **Healthy Birthing Lifesaving Skills** addresses family and community needs for safer childbearing.
- **First Thousand Days** focuses on those crucial days of life from conception to age two, that impact a child's potential for a lifetime.
- **Men Matter** is designed to help men recognize their importance to the well-being of the family and to bring the transformation that can enable men to bless their families.
- **Children's CHE** creatively helps children discover who God made them to be and the wholeness of life He brings as we grow in relationship to Him, others, and the world around us.

Pray with us as our network of international and local trainers seek to heal and bless families with the hope and fullness of life that Jesus brings! ■



Cost-Effective Stewardship

The plans of the diligent lead to profit... Proverbs 21:5

by Dr. Ravi I. Jayakaran

President of Medical Ambassadors International

Be-coming a cost-effective, efficient, and diligent steward involves two important aspects:

- Making sure that every dollar of the Master's resources is producing the maximum impact possible (i.e., existing resources are being used effectively, efficiently and diligently).
- And, mobilizing more resources to expand the ministry and strengthen it, so that we can raise more, in order to do more, to bring more people into God's kingdom.

This is what we are doing at Medical Ambassadors International (MAI). Our first step in this process was to submit ourselves to the rigor of external assessment by the ROI Ministries (Return On Investment for the Kingdom Ministries). Their process ensures that we are compliant with their stringent standards by being effective, efficient and diligent. Having done this, we are now in the process of mobilizing more resources to expand and strengthen our ministry.

ROI Ministry (roiministry.org), in partnership with various groups, has established standards to identify organizations that have a high return on investment for the Kingdom of God. To do this, the group determined

eighteen standards—thirteen for the organization and five for the program on which "return on investment" is calculated. It then works towards seeing that it finds the "Top 10" organizations that meet these standards. These standards are strongly recommended, though ROI Ministry recognizes that circumstances may exist where variations are warranted and considered.

- The first few criteria are related to the organization's **compliance** with being Christian, it's statement of faith consistent with the historic creed, with whether it subscribes to the Lausanne covenant, and whether the organization's leaders manifest a personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and have active engagement with local church congregations.
- The second set of criteria are related to **governance** of the organization by a Board of Directors, its constitution, the independence of the board members, the frequency of board engagement with the organization, regular review of its financials and the individual board members' commitment to financially supporting the organization's ministry.
- The next set of criteria are related to the **financials** of the organization and a review to assess if it prepares

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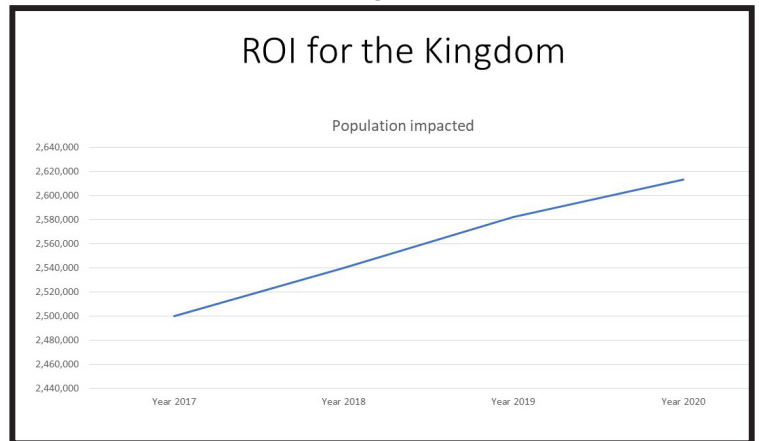
financial statements according to GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), complies with FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) standards, and if it rigorously implements internal accounting controls to prevent and detect fraud and financial misstatements, including opening mail and receiving checks, preparation of bank deposits, recording accounting entries and ensuring separated duties performed by different persons or by two persons who monitor each other's work. This includes reporting any variations from GAAP reporting requirements within financial statements, and having financial statements prepared by an accountant without undue influence from the management.

- The final set of criteria are related to **transparency and effectiveness**. This means the organization makes its financial statements or Form 990 available to the public and responds appropriately to external requests for information. Other requirements are that the organization is legally registered as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization with the IRS, and that it has existed in its current form for at least three years. In terms of effectiveness, it is expected that the outputs (or actual results) of the program are measured, including costs associated with program outputs, and reports are made accessible to donors.

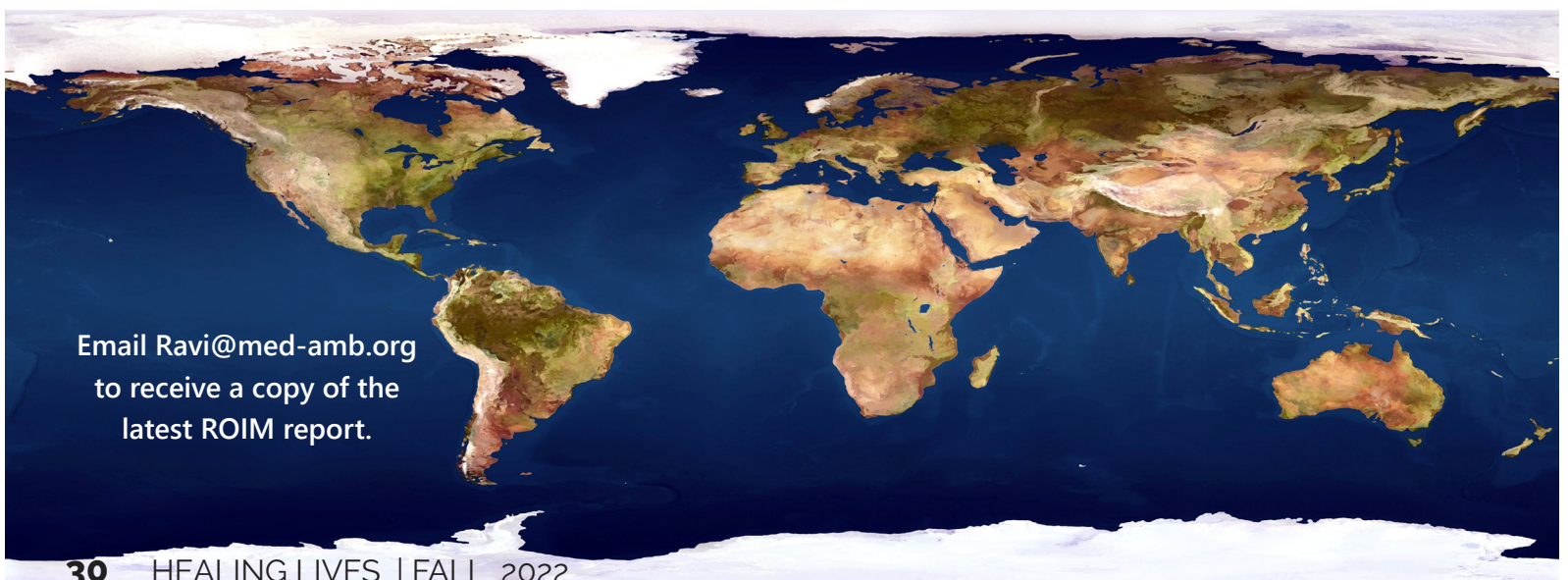
ROI Ministry used the professional services of Calvin Edwards & Company to develop these standards, and in partnership with the Jackson Family Foundation, launched the program. MAI qualified to be among the "Top 10" in 2017 and continued to be on that list for

2018, 2019 and 2020. Assessment is in progress for 2021. Once MAI had ensured that its ministry was having a powerful impact, it also made sure that it was getting the highest returns on its investment – *return on Investment for the Kingdom of God!* Without letting up on efficiency and effectiveness, MAI then focused on growth.

Initial growth and expansion were in specialized programs, that were deeply grounded in MAI's signature Community Health Evangelism/Education (CHE) program. This current issue of Healing Lives focuses on several of



those new programs: Healthy Families, relief response, trafficking prevention, non-conventional energy use for agriculture, corporate social responsibility, partnerships with the corporate sector for malaria control, addressing disability concerns, establishing and expanding the MAI Academy, trauma healing, etc. We hope you have found the articles and testimonies inspiring and encouraging. Our strategy and focus now is on "continuing to be able to raise more, to do more, to bring more into the Kingdom of God."



Email Ravi@med-amb.org
to receive a copy of the
latest ROIM report.

By the grace of God, the last few years have seen a growth in the ministry, and now that we have consolidated our ability to maximize the impact of our ministry, we are planning to grow in the next three years through a special resource mobilization drive (Capital Campaign) so that we can do the following:

- Expand our ministry in Northeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Caribbean
- Expand in our current existing ministry areas
- Launch more innovative programs, like the successful ones we currently have
- Strengthen the organization’s capacity to sustain this growth and expansion.

In the next three years as we follow God’s lead, MAI is planning to impact an additional population of over 200,000 people, thus bringing the total population impacted globally to over 3.18 million.

Are you interested in partnering with us? Do you want to learn how you can be a part of our ministry? Please write to us to become a ministry partner. ■

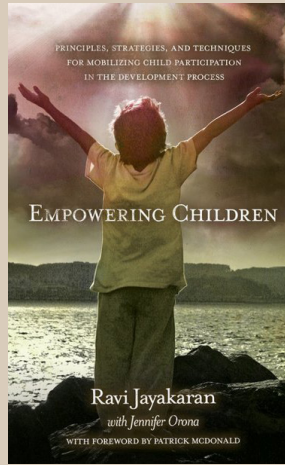
*And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*



Dr Ravi I. Jayakaran, President

Dr. Jayakaran joined Medical Ambassadors International in May 2017 as the President. He is also the Catalyst for Integral Mission for the Lausanne Movement. Ravi has worked in senior management positions in the corporate sector, International NGOs - including World Vision International, the Asian

Development Bank and the UNDP. He has lived and worked long term in India, Cambodia, China, and the US and provided technical support in more than 23 countries.



Empowering Children

by Ravi Jayakaran with Jennifer Orona

Review by Candy Maraballi

Dr. Ravi Jayakaran’s book is a must read for every pastor, ministry leader and parent. Empowering Children is especially designed for field practitioners seeking ways to encourage young people—particularly the marginalized—to become more involved in changing their circumstances. Through dozens of

exercises and lessons, the book presents a variety of practical methods for engaging children in the development process—from assessments to evaluations. Discussions on issues such as personal empowerment, self-esteem, problem analysis, and child protection can equip leaders to help children to serve as agents of change—once they understand how valuable they are. The book concludes with preparations for a community child-participation plan. From a Christian perspective, the realization that all children have dignity and are created in the image of God helps us to see that every child’s input is valuable. The Bible’s concepts of community, church, and mission further help us to see that God not only uses kids in His wonderful plan, but He also wants all of His children—male, female, young, and old—to participate in His work in the world.

Empowering Children is profound. It shares the importance of mobilizing children as welcomed participants, helping to bring transformation within their communities. It is research-based and includes effective strategies any leader can implement within their context. Ravi quotes from The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF): “The drive to participate is innate in every human being. Promoting meaningful and quality participation of children and adolescents is essential to ensuring their growth and development. Children have proved that when they are involved, they can make a difference in the world around them. They have ideas, experiences and insights that enrich adult understanding and make a positive contribution to adult actions.”



Candy Maraballi serves as President & CEO of The Prayer Covenant, whose mission is, “Making disciples among the children and youth of the nations.” She also brings leadership to The Global Children’s Task Force whose vision is, “Every child, everywhere, on mission with God.” Candy and her husband, Vik, live in Albany, Ohio; they have two married children.



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COUNTRIES WHERE
WE PARTNER



40

COUNTRIES WHERE
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