



MINISTRY MOMENTS

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you, But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NKJV)



Mercy Forever...

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Mercy Medical Team (MMT) program works to enhance Lutheran church partnerships and provide medical care in underserved areas. Team members volunteer their time and expertise to work and walk alongside LCMS partner churches, local healthcare providers and missionaries overseas to help serve their communities. My fellow missionary, Sarah Kanoy always says, “The main focus of the MMTs are to connect people to the church and to their local healthcare providers.” A few weeks ago I served with the MMT in Uchira, Tanzania with the Lutheran Church of East Africa (LCEA). Nine volunteers came with hearts to serve and to share the love of Christ with many. For one week they worked together with pastors from the LCEA and Tanzanian doctors and nurses to share the Gospel and they gave medical care to over 1300 people. Many thank you’s were given along with smiles and hugs for the care that was received. It was a blessing to be part of such an amazing team, who worked lovingly and tirelessly to be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus.

Hearts of Mercy - Stories from the MMT...



Rev. Abel Maasawe is a pastor with the Lutheran Church of East Africa and has served the Lord faithfully for 35 years. His joys as a pastor includes evangelism, serving the community and mentoring the younger pastors. He has served alongside the MMTs in Tanzania for three years. He says that the outreach and medical services provided by the MMT always comes at a good time for the community and that it is a wonderful evangelism tool for the church. He is always happy to see that the people who come get good medical treatment. "The people are thankful and they don't see other churches doing outreach like this one."



Suzy has been a pharmacy technician for 4 years. She currently works at the District Medical Office in Moshi, Tanzania and was very instrumental in assisting us with the medical staff and medication list for this recent MMT. Suzy told me that she enjoys her work very much and she is happy when people get their medicine. She likes interacting with people and serving them, especially counseling them about the medications. Suzy has served with the MMTs in Tanzania for three years. She says, "the clinics are good and that people are able to get medicine and a good Christian message. People say that the doctors are good and that one week is not enough."



Kimberly Pepmiller is from Colorado and has been a nurse for 10 years. She has served on eight MMTs to Madagascar, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and has been a team leader three times to include this recent trip. I asked Kimberly why she keeps serving on MMTs? It makes her appreciate why she became a nurse. She finds it fulfilling to help those in need and who appreciate it. MMTs help her to tie together her faith and vocation. Why would you encourage someone to participate on a MMT? "To open your world view, to tie the Christian and cultural worldview together. It gives one the

opportunity to use the gifts that God has given you. A MMT is a profound way to discover your gifts." What are your three favorite things about serving on a MMT? "The relationships that you build with the team and the locals, serving with fellow Lutherans who share the same faith and getting to interact with the locals and providing good healthcare."

These are just a few of the awesome people who are part of the Mercy Medical Teams. One thing that they all have in common is the most amazing laugh. It lights up a room. I am blessed beyond measure to call them brothers and sisters in Christ and for the relationships that have been nurtured over the years.

Yours in Christ.....Shara



Prayers & Praise

- Pray for God's strength and guidance as Michael and I serve in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Pray for the Lutheran Church in East Africa and the pastors as they serve the Lord.
- Pray for all those who received medical care, that they will remain in good health.
- Praise God for the phenomenal MMT that served in Tanzania.
- Praise God for all of you and the love and support that you give to me and Michael.

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