

MISSION MESSAGES

From the GC Loma Linda Office



WELCOME

We are entering another graduation season and have many DMA celebrants this year. As they prepare to transition into residency training, we continue to pray for each of them and their mission commitment. Join us in congratulating this next cohort of missionaries!

Our GHI office has also welcomed new team members. They look forward to engaging more with each of you and our international partner sites. We hope what they have shared encourages you to try the immunity boost or challenge yourself by tackling a new hobby!

As always, we are grateful to our current missionaries for sharing some of their experience overseas. While we'll never be short of challenges, He is using each willing vessel for purposes we sometimes cannot see. The features in this article share how two DMA families continue to trust and move in faith.

Keep a look-out for upcoming events this next academic year!

-Angeli

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NEW GHI MEMBERS



JULI DANIELS PROGRAM MANAGER, INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Wellness is paramount to this busy mom of three. And, if you're anything like me, you love a good holistic approach to targeting the common cold. I must admit (and my family can attest) that the taste is not the most appealing. However, within each sip is an assortment of powerful vitamins and nutrients that I believe can help shorten the duration of a cold, getting you back to doing the things you enjoy.

Ingredients:

- 3 sour oranges
- 1 ginger root as big as your hand, peel and cut into small pieces
- 1 whole garlic, wash and break into individual pods with skin
- 1 tbs cumin
- 1 tbs turmeric powder
- 1 tbs clove powder
- 5 lemons, cut into pieces
- 2 red onions
- 16 oz water to boil

Preparation:

Add all ingredients to a large pot. May add 4 large tbs of honey. Cook on a low heat for 30 minutes. Allow to cool. Drain and take 4 tbs every 4 hours.



QUALYN ROBINSON GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Engaging in creative activities is essential to maintaining mental clarity. Exploring new mediums to express oneself is a constant pursuit. Recently, I've taken up sewing, inspired by my grandmother's love for creating garments years ago. Although it can be challenging and time-consuming, there's nothing quite like the sense of satisfaction that comes from wearing something you've personally cut, stitched, pinned, and buttoned. While my grandmother has retired from sewing, I'm excited to continue honing my newfound craft.



MEDICAL DMA FEATURE



DO NOT BE AFRIAD

By Sarah Silva, MD

Bere Adventist Hospital Chad

Four big brown eyes stared up at me on pediatrics rounds yesterday. Their mother had not paid for her one-year-old twins' IV quinine and dextrose in the 24 hours since I had last seen them, and they had not had any medication since then. I sighed and asked where the father was and why she hadn't paid. The nurse translated the mother's story that she and her twins were abandoned soon after birth. I signed off to pay for all their meds and relayed the information to the nurse to explain to the patient. Like most of my patients, she did not thank us or even smile at me.

Many days on rounds, I am overwhelmed with the suffering of our patients. Chad always makes it on the top 10 list for worst countries to be a woman, highest maternal and infant mortality, etc.

Earlier today, one of our volunteers asked me to look at the burned man's wounds. His partial-thickness burns cover at least 30% of his total body surface, and his screams echo through the campus when he has dressing changes. One night last week, his straw roof caught fire, crashing down upon the sleeping family and killing all three kids and their mother while only he, the father, escaped.

My teenage Arabic eclamptic, Hawa, smiled at me on rounds today and stood up to demonstrate her improvement. She had been so near death two nights prior, the night I spent running between her and her eclamptic neighbor, whom I lost due to flash pulmonary edema. Hawa still didn't quite understand what had happened to her but was already starting to bond with her baby and asking to go home.

CONTINUED

Hawa's neighbor was a new patient, pregnant at 19 weeks and hospitalized with malaria. I had never met her before, but at the end of our visit, the nurse translated for the husband, who expressed appreciation for my colleagues and me leaving our country of comfort to care for them in Chad in their suffering. In all my years here, I have never had a patient or family member say this to me. I could hardly hide my astonishment.

Sometimes, I wonder if all I am doing here is prolonging lives of suffering. Chad is a desperately hard place, and most who could get out would do so. I often round on 30-50 patients daily and consult on 10-20 more. This, coupled with our minimal diagnostics here, means that sometimes I am left wondering if I know what is actually going wrong with my patients.

Yet every day, we continue to try. We diagnose, prescribe, cut, and repair, hoping our patients catch a glimpse of a faithful Christian and a better understanding of God's character. The other day, our Cameroonian volunteer stopped me after morning worship. He reported that a patient had been healed here about a year ago and during his stay received some tracts from our chaplaincy office, including one about the Sabbath. He read the tract, and when he returned to his home about 6 hours away, he shared it with others and now a group of about 75 people were meeting together every Sabbath. I was astonished. Since then, several volunteers brought the group boxes of books and tracts and spent the weekend teaching the people.

"Then He continued, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.'" Daniel 10:12

Perhaps the Lord is saving up the greatest astonishments for us after we enter those pearly gates.

Sarah Silva



DENTAL DMA FEATURE



FAITH AMIDST THE STORM

By Mel-Anizi Bersaba, DDS

AHS Waterloo Hospital & Freetown SDA Dental Clinic, Sierra Leone

Figuring out what to say about Sierra Leone has been long delayed and difficult to write about. It's pretty crazy how our lives and our mission purpose can change so drastically in one day. We were sent to Sierra Leone in August 2021 to open a new dental clinic in Freetown. It took 11 months to properly fix up the place, and we finally opened the clinic doors of the Freetown Adventist Dental Clinic after a short dedication service held on July 3rd, 2022.

We felt our new dental clinic was making steady progress and things were finally headed in the right direction after ~4 months of operation. Unfortunately, we had to unexpectedly shut down our dental clinic on October 28th, 2022 when we were hastily evicted without much warning or notification as our landlord lost ownership of the building. The high court of Sierra Leone ordered everyone in the building to be evicted, and there was nothing we could do. All our personal belongings and the dental clinic equipment were thrown out on the streets. Thousands of dollars and so much time and investment were lost within a span of a few hours. What was left was the feeling of being homeless, embarrassed, lost and broken with multiple dental staff losing their jobs in the process. There are days I can't wrap my head around what happened, but I know God has a greater plan, despite all that's happened.

It's a new year and I want to stay as positive as I can, but to be honest it's been hard to brush off the pain, sadness and depression that lingers. This article is merely the beginning of the journey of recovery to whatever God has in store for us next. I'm hopeful there will be brighter days ahead as I cling to the promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that God won't give us a burden more than we can bear. I'm not one who usually asks others for much, but it would mean the world to me for those reading this if you could pray for my family and other missionary families that may be going through their own challenges.

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If there's one thing we've learned over the past few years, it's that mission work is not always pretty and most often does not go according to plan. Our time in Africa has been filled with many highs and many lows. The past few months have been eye-opening and have also given us much needed time to reflect on our experience and how we felt about going back to Sierra Leone. Despite the challenges and setbacks, 2022 has been one immense year of growth and prayers answered. My family and I are grateful for the community of friends who became family and for those who have supported us, reached out to us and prayed for us. I thank God for my beautiful wife and our precious little bundle of joy Mia, who we welcomed to this world in April 2022.

At the end of the day, we acknowledge the fact that Satan may have won this battle, but he hasn't won the war. There are still a lot of questions left unanswered, but we step forward in faith and go wherever God leads us this year in 2023. Despite our clinic's unexpected closing, my wife reminded me that there were patients whom we were able to help in the short time we were open. For those out there feeling lost or broken, know that there is a God who loves you and cares about you, even in your darkest moments.

"In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings." {Ellen G. White, The Ministry of Healing 474.

Mel-Anizi Bersaba



Maureen and Mel Bersaba



Mel Bersaba treating dental patients



RECENT EVENTS

MIG X GHI HIKE WITH DR. STACI DAVENPORT 2.12.23

WHILE ON ANNUAL LEAVE, DR. STACI DAVENPORT LED A GROUP OF MISSION-MINDED STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS ON A HULDA CROOKS HIKE. SHE SHARED SOME OF THE CHALLENGES, NEW DEVELOPMENTS, AND DAILY LIFE FEATURES OF WORKING AT BERE ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, CHAD.



DMA & GSA RECEPTION, LLUH HOMECOMING WEEKEND 3.3.23

LLUH HOMECOMING WEEKEND IS A WONDERFUL TIME FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY, CHURCH LEADERSHIP, AND CURRENT STUDENTS TO CONNECT. OUR DMA AND GSA NETWORK ENJOYED FELLOWSHIP WITH THOSE COMMITTED TO BRINGING HEALING AND HOPE TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.



OAK GLEN FELLOWSHIP: THE DMA EXPERIENCE 5.13.23

THE MAY OAK GLEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FEATURED MANY OF OUR GRADUATING LLUSM DMAS. EACH SHARED THEIR RECENT INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVES AND WHAT THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AT EACH SITE.



MEDICAL STUDENT MATCH DAY

THIS YEAR WE HAVE A COHORT OF EIGHT LLU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DMA GRADUATES. JADE DESCHAMPS-STUTZMAN HAS JUST WELCOMED HER FIRST CHILD WITH REECE AND WILL PLAN TO DEFER STARTING RESIDENCY TRAINING FOR A YEAR. BELOW ARE SEVEN GRADUATES THAT WILL BE STARTING RESIDENCY THIS SUMMER.

CASSANDRA DREW

Family Medicine, Kaiser Fontana

MONICA FUKUDA

Preventive Medicine, LLUMC

BRIANNA GREENE

Pediatrics, LLUMC

YOUNG JI "JENNY" KIM

Internal Medicine (Global Service Tract),
LLUMC

ESTHER GOW-LEE

Internal Medicine, Kettering Health

SHAUNRICK STOLL

Family Medicine, Kettering Health

REECE STUTZMAN

Anesthesiology, LLUMC



MARRIAGE:

Monica Fukuda, SM DMA, wed
Dr. Hiroshi Yamagata in
December 2022



RESTARTING SERVICE:

Dr. James & Sarah Appel, family
medicine at SDA Cooper Hospital,
Liberia. — starting June 2022



ENDING SERVICE:

Dr. Greg & Kathy Saunders, general
surgery at Lilongwe Adventist Hospital,
Malawi – finishing March 2023



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Luca Stutzman born April 30,
2023 to Jade and Reece
Stutzman



Drs. Olen & Danae Netteburg,
Emergency Medicine and OBGYN at
Bere Adventist Hospital, Chad – ending
service May 2023. Will hike the Pacific
Crest Trail as a family next



Dr. Mel-Anizi & Maureen Bersaba,
Dentist and Registered Nurse at AHS
Waterloo Hospital & Freetown SDA
Dental Clinic, Sierra Leone – ending
service June 2023



Dr. Sarah & Gabriel Silva, family
medicine at Bere Adventist Hospital,
Chad – ending service April 2023.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Global Healthcare Conference:
(in-person)
Oct 12-15, 2023

End-of-Year Potluck
Friday, June 9, 2023
11:30 am-1:00 pm
UReach Café Amphitheater
Bring your favorite vegetarian
entree/dessert and a picnic blanket!

Submit a Prayer Request:
<https://ghi.llu.edu/prayer>

CURRENT DMAs & GSAs:

Visit Us & Share Your Mission Story

|Accommodations in Loma Linda provided|

What is Provided:

- Two weeks of accommodations on or close to campus

In Exchange For:

- Public Relations activity - video recording, etc. or
- Event Speaker (MIG vespers, Oak Glen Fellowship, etc.)

Contact the GC Loma Linda Office to coordinate at least one month before visit by calling 909-558-7747 or email gc@llu.edu



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Global Health Institute

909-558-7747 or email ghi.llu.edu/gc