

**6. LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS** – We focus on development rather than relief. We believe prevention of diseases (and other problems) is less costly and more sustainable than trying to cure them.

**7. PARTICIPATORY LEARNING** – Our teaching methods engage adults in discussion, reflection and action, starting with what they have and building on what they know. It also allows less formally educated people to shine as trainers.

**8. CHRISTIAN SERVANT LEADERSHIP** – Jesus modeled leadership based on serving others, not on being served by them. Thus, we raise leaders who, like Jesus, lead through sacrificial service.

**9. MULTIPLICATION** – The brilliance of CHE is that it doesn't need professional development workers to thrive. Because it relies so heavily on local leadership and volunteers, once one community catches the vision, it spreads quickly.



  
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# EQUIPPING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT



If you had a child with a chronic illness, which would you choose?

- A medical center or clinic miles away with long lines, or
- A neighbor next door who could teach you what to do, not only treating the symptoms of disease, but eliminating the cause.

Medical Ambassadors International (MAI) teaches individuals in villages and urban slums to make home visits with their neighbors, educating them in disease prevention and empowering them to be responsible for their own health care. Woven into these lessons are scriptural truths of how to know God.

We call this strategy Community Health Evangelism (CHE). While Stan Rowland, the founder of CHE, was on staff with MAI, we became the incubator of CHE development and, eventually, of its growth into the international CHE movement.

In the thirty-five years since MAI's founding, pioneering individuals have field tested the teaching method in real-life settings and honed a method that is learner-centered and highly empowering.

MAI is facilitating this teaching methodology in over 100 countries, and it is rapidly being adapted by numerous mission organizations as an effective church-planting tool.

MAI strongly believes the claim of founder Dr. Raymond Benson: "*Above all else, the world needs Jesus.*" And that includes his healing of the whole person (Luke 4:18-19).

## VALUES THAT SHAPE OUR WORK

Using the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) strategy, the following principles shape our work:

**1. PRIORITIZING THE WHOLE PERSON** – Some ministries focus solely on the spiritual and ignore other needs; others address only the physical or the social. Jesus addressed all these needs, and we seek to learn from his example.

**2. PRAYER** – Because true transformation is the work of God, we must seek his guidance and help.

**3. COMMITMENT TO THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED** – Jesus offers salvation to everyone. However, he particularly calls us to serve those whom others might ignore.

**4. LOCAL OWNERSHIP** – We do not want to promote a cycle of dependency on outside aid. Rather, we teach communities to identify and solve their own problems.

**5. USE OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES** – When people use and grow resources they already have, they strengthen their independence and teach others by their example.