

Key websites:

- Christian Medical and Dental Association's (CMDA) Center for Medical Missions  
<http://www.cmda.org/cmm>
- CMDA's handbook for Medical Missions  
[http://www.cmda.org/WCM/media/pdf/Handbook for Medical Missions.pdf](http://www.cmda.org/WCM/media/pdf/Handbook%20for%20Medical%20Missions.pdf)
- Sites for International Rotations  
[http://www.cmda.org/WCM/media/pdf/Sites Medical Mission Experience.pdf](http://www.cmda.org/WCM/media/pdf/Sites%20Medical%20Mission%20Experience.pdf)
- Medical Mission Site Information in Table Format  
[http://www.cmda.org/WCM/media/pdf/Opportunities table.pdf](http://www.cmda.org/WCM/media/pdf/Opportunities%20table.pdf)

Where should I go?

The answers lie in you. The Lord's created you and has given you a unique set of interests and skills. So I will turn that question around and ask you, what excites you? Start there. My background was nursing and I wanted to go and serve. I didn't care where. I like adventure and I don't particularly mind traveling alone and meeting new people so I started calling organizations. I had a reference to organizations from my church so one day I called Samaritan's Purse and asked if they had any opportunities. By the end of the week I was in Honduras responding to a possible cholera outbreak after Hurricane Mitch. From that one opportunity the Lord has opened a variety of others. As I have heard Dave Stevens say "it's very difficult to steer a parked car." The engine needs to be running and it needs to be moving. The Lord has given us skills and talents so let's start the engine and begin moving.

So where do you serve?

**1. My question to you is what are your interests? Do you want to go as a part of a..?**

- Team or alone?
- Domestic or International?
- Urban or rural setting?
- Specific geographic location
- Certain culture – Muslim, Hindu, Chinese, eastern European,
- Do you have language skills or an interest in a certain language
- Large teaching mission hospital or small rural clinic?
- Inpatient or outpatient setting?
- Faith-based or national church-run hospital/clinic or a government-run hospital/clinic?
- Are you gifted as a surgeon where you will need an OR and specific instruments?  
Do your interests lie in public health and prevention? Do you want to be involved with a specific disease e.g. HIV/AIDS, or tuberculosis.

These are questions to sit down and pray through. But remain flexible. When I went to Honduras I was pediatric ICU nurse I didn't have a clue about cholera. But I was ready, willing and able to move and the Lord used it.

2. **The other thing to exam are your goals?** This will vary –
  - a. If you are in practice, is it just to serve? If that is your goal can I encourage you to leave something behind and teach. There are many mission hospitals that have nursing schools and residency programs.
  - b. If your goal is explore the possibility of launching into a career in medical missions. Then you will want to talk with your church or denomination’s mission board to see what opportunities they may have.
  - c. If you are a student I would imagine your program has some goals for your opportunities. Find out what are they
    - i. Are you an Family Medicine resident who needs to do an OB rotation? Can you serve in any aspect?
    - ii. Do you need a US boarded certified physician to supervise your time and complete an evaluation?
    - iii. Are there restrictions on locations? - Countries that have State Department warnings?
    - iv. When can you go and for how long? Are their certain months when they allow or don’t allow you to go? One thing to keep in mind – if your program has a time restrictions, others probably do as well, so start looking early because some places have limited slots.
  
3. **The cost.** Consider the cost involved. These trips aren’t cheap. Your flight is the big ticket item and typically the cost of airfare doesn’t change the longer you stay. So stay as long as possible. The longer you can stay the more beneficial the experience will be for you as well as those you are going to work alongside and those you are going to serve. As you calculate your budget don’t forget – passport, visas, incountry transportation, immunizations as well as room and board. Those costs will quickly add up
  
4. These first three are all about you. If I can go back to the beginning God gave you these interests and abilities for **one purpose to declare His glory!** Don’t forget it. One key question you need to ask is about the ministry? As you look at opportunities and potential mentors what is the goal of their ministry. Are they making disciples? I would highly encourage you to partner with those making an eternal impact. No matter how good the medical care you provide, the folks you treat are ultimately going to die. Be about Kingdom ministry!

So let’s get going.

1. Let’s head South....Central America and Honduras
  - **The Presbyterian Medical Clinic** is a
    1. **primary care outpatient clinic** serving the working poor **in northern Belize near Mexico's border.** Volunteers will have the opportunity to

2. sharpen their **diagnostic and therapeutic skills** by providing acute and chronic illness management. as well as dermatology, ortho and gyne office procedures
  3. minister spiritually as they work in the clinic, **make home visits** in the community, and **worship with the local church families**.
  4. Specialties needed in Community Health/Dev, Fam Med, IM, Nursing, Pediatrics, Pharmacy. For students in their final year of professional school (including nursing and dental hygienists), residents, and fellows.
- **Hospital Loma de Luz, Honduras:** Is located on the northern shore of Honduras about an hour east of La Ceiba. Loma de Luz is a \
    1. **50-bed mission hospital with 3 operating rooms, out-patient clinic examining rooms, an emergency room, a wound clinic, dental and eyeglass clinic, and a lab and pharmacy.** <http://www.crstone.org/what-we-do/the-hospital>. They have an urgent need for an **OBGYN and general medicine docs in December**. A minimum of
      2. **four weeks for college or professional school students (pre-med, pharm, PT, etc.) and two weeks for post-professional school, residents and fellows. Specialties needed in Anesthesia/CRNA, Dentistry, FP, IM, OBGYN, Peds, PT.**
2. We will keep moving further south.
    - **Diospi-Suyana, Peru** The hospital is a **state of the art 55 bed hospital** providing a wide range of surgical, medical, maternity and pediatric services. A minimum of three weeks plus travel is required
    - **New Life Mobile Clinic, Paraguay**
      1. **is an outreach of SIM.** They are a
      2. **primary care outpatient clinic.** Their vision is to
      3. **fulfill the Great Commission through evangelism and healthcare in rural, unreached Paraguay by working with national believers to show God's compassion, share His word and make disciples.** Dr. McKissick and his family serve 180 miles south of the capital.
      4. **You'll be immersed in the culture and language while acquiring basic physical examination and ultrasound skills while learning how to integrate faith and practice.**
    - **Hospitals of Hope, Bolivia** is a
      1. **32 bed, level II hospital located near Cochabamba, Bolivia specializing in trauma and critical care.** Volunteers will be able to be involved at the hospital according to the level of their experience - from shadowing staff to
      2. **hands-on medical care.** There are also opportunities to be involved in **community medical outreaches**, work at local orphanages and evangelistic outreaches in the community and hospital, including at our evangelistic coffee shop in the waiting room.

3. Opportunities for **college, pre-professional and professional students (dental, nursing, pre-med, pharm, PT, etc.), residents and fellows. Specialties needed Chaplaincy/Counseling, Dentistry, FP, IM, Nursing, Peds, Pharmacy, PT**
3. Let's move across the ocean to Africa...
- There are a bunch of opportunities to serve.
  - **Zimba Mission Hospital, Zambia** A
    1. **Ministry of Global Partners the outreach ministry of the Wesleyan Church.** Their
    2. **Purpose is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and demonstrate His love through the ministry of medicine.** Zimba's a
    3. **100 bed hospital with busy outpt department.** (50 deliveries, 50 surgeries per month 150 outpatient department patients per day). There are
    4. **Opportunities for pre-professional and professional students (nursing students last year only), residents, and fellows. in Chaplaincy, Community Health/Dev, Counseling, Fam Med, Internal Medicine, Nursing, OB/GYN, Peds, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Surgery**
  - **Uzima Mission Clinic, Tanzania** Uzima is a
    1. **A ministry of YWAM**
    2. **Primary care outpatient clinic with OB services caring for Muslims** in rural Tanzania about an hour south of Dar Es Salaam. This is a ministry of YWAM Tanzania. They have
    3. Opportunities for **senior medical professional students – nurses, pharmacy, dental, PT as well as resident and fellows as well as ultrasound and lab techs.**
  - **His House of Hope, Yei South Sudan** His House is a
    1. **25 bed secondary level referral hospital** dedicated to the medical and spiritual care of women and children. They are also
    2. **Training and empowering medical professionals in South Sudan.**
    3. Volunteers will **work with Sudanese and international health professionals;**
    4. Gaining practical experience in medicine, **pediatric, obstetric care in an integrated approach to medical missions.** They have
    5. **opportunities for chaplaincy /counseling, community health / development, nursing, OB/GYN, pediatrics, pharmacy, radiology, surgery**
    6. **a ministry of Harvesters reaching the nations**
  - **Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon** Mbingo is a
    1. **270 bed referral teaching hospital, training African surgeons and internists** in NW Cameroon. A limited number of four-week opportunities for pharmacy, PT, dietetics, and public health students in their final year of professional school.\* A minimum of four weeks is required for senior residents and fellows. Faculty is needed (two

weeks or longer) in Pediatrics, IM, OBGYN, Surgery, and subspecialties of these fields, plus Radiology, Psychiatry, and Anesthesiology. Volunteers are needed in pathology and ophthalmology, OBGYN

- **Pioneer Christian Hospital, Congo**
  1. Pioneer is a **60-bed general mission hospital** in the heart of the Central African rainforest. While interacting with indigenous peoples, students will receive exceptional clinical exposure and experience dynamic spiritual ministry with patients and families while sharing Christ and praying with patients on rounds in total dependence on God.
  2. A minimum of four weeks for students, residents and fellows in all healthcare related fields of study. **Specialties needed in chaplaincy, community health/development, counseling, family medicine, internal medicine, nursing, OBGYN, ophthalmology, pediatrics, pharmacy, PT/OT, radiology, social services, surgery**
  3. A ministry of Global Outreach Mission
- **Centre Medical De Gamboula** or CMG is a 190 bed rural mission hospital in the far western part of the Central African Republic. A ministry of the E-Free church of Reach Global. They have all the usual services, including a 3 year nursing school and active public health program.
- 4. Let's move further north where I have highlighted the 10/40 window. There many opportunities through this region. Here are some of the organizations that work in this area that are here at the conference.
- 5. If we move East here are a few we can talk about
  - **Nepal Tansen** is a
    1. **165 bed general medical/surgical teaching hospital** in western Nepal. Volunteers will gain a broad experience in
    2. **In-patient and out-patient care** following a missionary doctor.
    3. A minimum of six weeks for final yr. **Medical students. There are opportunities for residents and fellows. Specialties needed Community Health/Development, FP, IM, OB/GYN, Peds, Surgery**
  - **Pakistan Shikarpur** is a
    1. **35 bed women and children's hospital** with
    2. Both **outpatient and inpatient services for pediatrics, prenatal care, deliveries and infertility** patients. Experience will be gained in assisting in **C/sections, deliveries, tubal ligation and D&C's as well as outpatient prenatal care and primary health for pediatrics including tropical diseases**. We often pray for our patients either upon our offer or their request and it is greatly appreciated. There are also worship times in the OPD and on the inpatient ward daily that they may observe.
    3. A minimum of **four weeks for female students in their final year of professional school or residents and fellows. Specialties needed in OBGYN, Pediatrics**

- **Bangladesh LAMB** is a
  1. **full service hospital with teaching and referral services in rural NW Bangladesh.** LAMB provides
  2. **clinical tropical medicine/pediatrics/OB-gyn services, in-and out-patients as well as field services.** Students will have opportunities to participate in English-language Bible studies; Bible teaching at an English-medium school and observe chaplaincy work by national workers.
  3. **A minimum of eight weeks is required for college and pre-professional students. A minimum four weeks is required of post-professional school students, residents and fellows. Specialties needed in chaplaincy, counseling, community health/development, family medicine, internal medicine, OBGYN, pediatrics, surgery**
- 6. **Ukraine:** ABWE conducts a
  - **Primary care mobile medical ministry** here in the villages around Odessa. They **offer two week opportunities for to join a team** of medical professionals. Dr. Wheeler is in country and she will lead the team of dentists, **ophthalmologists, primary care physicians, FNP's, nurses, pharmacists.** Participant will assist in registration and triage, dispensing of medicines, patient evaluation and treatment, and home visits, all depending on their level of training. All day they seek God's leading for sharing the gospel with interested patients as we demonstrate Jesus' compassion in caring for physical needs.
  - **Specialties needed Dentistry, FP, IM, Nursing, Ophthalmology, Peds, Pharmacy**

The situation overseas is fluid, requirements change, staff change. I want to encourage you to go. This trip will change your life and your practice. it will takes some effort on your part but take advantage of the opportunities earlier in your career.

**Go Humbly as a learner willing to serve**

Scott Reichenbach, RN