



# Center for Medical Missions

*A ministry of Christian Medical & Dental Associations*

## October 2012

Welcome to this month's newsletter. This is Susan writing again as Daniel is still out.

Dr. David Stevens and I just returned from our annual Summit with representatives of mission agencies. There were 17 organizations present with some having multiple representatives. Not all are sending agencies but all are involved in medical missions. One thing we always look forward to is hearing each organization's report on the state of their medical ministry. This year I was struck by the reports of organizations involved in training nationals, but even more so by the reports of national medical missionaries joining the effort—many from the countries where medical missionaries have been serving for years. How fun must it be now to be working alongside those who have been influenced by the ministry of those who have gone before! I hope to be able to share more about that in a future newsletter.

Here is what you will find in this newsletter.

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Remember, I am here to serve you. If you have any questions about missions you think I might be able to answer, please don't hesitate to ask.

[Susan](#)

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## Think About This

by Rev. Stan Key

Keith Green was a radical Christian. Almost everything about him was unorthodox: his youth, his hair, his style, his passion, his rock music and especially his message. But the gospel he preached and sang touched a generation for God. Just a few days before he died in a tragic plane accident in 1982 at the age of 28, he wrote an article for his newsletter on missions.

So ... why should **you** go to the mission field?

1. *Because Jesus has told you to go (Mark 16:15).*
2. *You should go because the need is so great (Matthew 9:37-38).*
3. *You should go because so few Christians are obeying the call, making the need even greater (Romans 10:14).*
4. *You should go because God gives special anointing and grace to those who leave their own land, people and culture to do God's will and spread the gospel (Genesis 12:1-3).*
5. *You should go because America...is literally drenched with the gospel, while most other countries and cultures of the world do not have any continual, relevant witness at all (Romans 15:20-21).*
6. *You should go because, as Oswald J. Smith said, "No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).*
7. *You should go because the time is short. More and more countries are closing their doors to missionaries and the gospel, and we must go now (John 9:4).*
8. *You should go because the Holy Spirit is speaking to Christian leadership all over the world that it is God's desire for there to be a great final missionary thrust with gospel before the end of the age. It is His desire that every people should have the gospel preached to them, and that the gospel should be published in every nation and in every language. And unless you get involved personally, there is no hope of that ever happening in our generation (Matthew 24:14)!*

I admit that Keith Green is rather raw. He cuts to the chase and states the matter in simple, bold and absolute terms. But that is why his life and his message continue to speak to men and women today.

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**Prayers for Missionaries**

I found a bookmark with suggested prayers for missionaries the other day. I was struck by the unusual but specific things this suggests you ask the Lord for on behalf of missionaries. It would be wonderful if you could tell your missionary friends that you have asked the Lord for these things on their behalf. Here are a few examples taken from *Prayers for Missionaries and Their Families* by Heather Kaiser © 2006. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved.

**Intimacy with God.** Lord, keep \_\_\_\_\_ close to You. Cause them to love You with all their hearts, souls, and minds. Draw them into Your Word each day, and fill them with thankfulness. (Mt. 22:37; Col. 3:16)

**Cultural sensitivity.** Dear Father, enable \_\_\_\_\_ to understand and appreciate the local customs. Help them to be humble, wise, and respectful as they interact with others so that they will not offend their neighbors or sin against You. (1 Cor. 10:23-32; Jas. 3:17)

**Children.** Heavenly Father, draw \_\_\_\_\_'s children into relationship with You. Enable them to adapt to the culture and deal well with the extra attention they may attract. Grant them good friends, and provide the education they need to fulfill the purposes You have for them. Give \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom to discern each child's unique needs. Help the children to understand that they, too, are witnesses of You. (Mt. 19:14; Prov. 1:5, 22:6; 1 Tim. 4:12)

**Unity.** God, the evil one wants to destroy the unity of the believers where \_\_\_\_\_ serve. Help \_\_\_\_\_, their fellow missionaries, and the local believers daily to exercise hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love for one another. (Col. 3:12-15)

[Click here](#) to purchase some of these bookmarks. You will certainly want to keep note of this resource for when you begin developing your own prayer support team.

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### **HELP PLEASE - International Rotation Handbook**

Thanks so much to the three people who responded with suggestions of places where someone might be able to do an international rotation during their training. This will be very helpful as we begin the work of updating the handbook. Will more of you take a moment to share where you did your international rotation? Was it was a good experience?

It will be most helpful if you will send the name of the hospital/health clinic along with the address and a contact person to [susan.carter@cnda.org](mailto:susan.carter@cnda.org). Thanks so much!

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## **Don't Forget – Global Mission Health Conference 2012**

**Global Missions Health Conference** – November 8-10, 2012 in Louisville, Kentucky  
If you have not yet registered for the 2012 Global Missions Health Conference, I hope you will do so soon. The GMHC will be held on November 8-10 at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Remember, if you register early, the church can provide housing for students. Visit [www.medicalmissions.com](http://www.medicalmissions.com) for more information and to register. Be sure to look us up at the CMDA area in the exhibit hall. We are again having drawings for some great prizes.

**CMDA National Convention** – May 2-5, 2013 in Ridgecrest, North Carolina (near Asheville) Put it on your calendar now to attend. Would you set a goal to attend your first convention? Invited three friends – conventions like this are so much more fun when you are with others you know. Can we make this the largest representation of young people ever at a national convention?

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## **Finding the Right Mission Sending Agency**

by Susan Carter

Have you ever thought about which mission agency you are going to serve with and how you are going to select that agency? Back when I served, I simply asked the Lord to open the door He wanted me to go through and He did. But that was long before the internet and the ease we now have to research agencies.

I've put together a list of questions that you might want to consider. These will be especially helpful if you are at the point of talking to mission agencies at the Global Missions Health Conference on November 8-10 in Louisville. This list certainly isn't all inclusive, but it will give you a great start. Many of these things you probably have never considered.

I'm sure some of you are thinking that you don't even know any mission sending agencies. How about I tell you which ones were represented at our Medical Mission Summit? That will give you some great agencies to research. This alphabetical list is not exhaustive.

Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE), Barnabas Project, Frontiers, HCJB Global, Health Outreach to the Middle East (HOME), Church of the Nazarene, OMF International, Serving in Mission (SIM), The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM),

The Mission Society, World Gospel Mission (WGM) and World Medical Mission – Post-Residency.

1. What is the organization's doctrinal position? Does it fit your own?
2. What are the mission and vision of the organization? Do they agree with your own?
3. How would the organization prioritize the following?
  - Evangelism
  - Discipleship
  - Church planting
  - Compassionate ministry
  - Community development
4. Where does the organization have ministry and what types of ministry does it do?
5. What flexibility is there when a new need or passion is identified? By this organization's history, if a missionary sensed the Lord's leading into a new ministry, how was this received and acted upon?
6. What are the organizations:
  - Strengths
  - Weaknesses
  - Opportunities
  - Threats
7. How does the organization encourage/provide spiritual growth for its personnel?
8. What are the organization's long-term goals for the areas where they currently have ministry? What about new outreaches?
9. What's the decision-making pattern for the organization? Are most decisions made in the central office and handed down to the staff in the field or does the field make most of the decisions impacting the ministry directly?
10. Who do missionaries report to? Who sets goals for the missionaries and how often are they measured?

11. How often and in what manner does the home office communicate with its missionaries?
12. What does this organization do to care for its missionaries? What kind of fellowship gatherings are there for missionaries while in the field? When they are home for home ministry assignment?
13. How is spiritual discipline monitored on the field?
14. Would my spouse be considered and paid as a missionary even if the main responsibility is the care of the home and children?
15. What policies/opportunities does the organization have for children's education?
16. While living by faith is a significant part of missionary life, reality demands knowledge of the financial support/benefits offered.
  - Salary structure
  - Pension
  - Tax form completion
  - Expense recovery
  - Transportation options
  - Computers
  - Housing
  - Vacation allowance
  - Household furnishings
17. What type of insurance does this organization provide missionaries?
  - Medical
  - Dental
  - Eye
  - Life
  - Evacuation
18. Is this organization a member of Project MedSend – so I can apply to have them pay my school loans while I'm on the field?
19. What is the usual time frame between applying, getting accepted and being on the field?
20. What expectations does the organization have of new missionaries?
21. Ask the organization to provide insight on the following:
  - How their missionaries are supported? What help is offered if support raising is required?
  - What training and orientation is offered/required?

- What type of debriefing and help on re-entry back to the states?
  - Home Ministry Assignment (HMA) – what does it involve? How frequent?
  - Do they allow one to work while on HMA to keep knowledge current?
  - Will they allow one to raise funds for licensure, CME and association membership?
22. Does the organization have a specific person assigned to oversee its medical ministries - an advocate for medical missions/missionaries in the home office?
23. Is there a written statement on the value of medical missions to the overall ministry of the organization? (Some organizations are pulling away from medical ministry.)
24. Does the organization appear to recognize that hospital/clinic-based medical missionaries have different needs and different stressors than non-medical missionaries?
25. What options are currently available for a physician/dentist/nurse/pharmacist/etc.?
26. Will the organization provide contact information for at least one medical missionary and one general missionary in the field so that you can get their perspective on the organization?