

Your Call

Keeping you focused on God's call for your life

An e-newsletter encouraging and equipping you for a career in medical missions



September 2016

Welcome to this issue of *Your Call*. It is going to surprise you by its brevity, but there is a good reason for that. Two weeks ago I had bilateral knee replacement, so I'm not moving quite as quickly as normal. The first week I didn't even feel like turning on my computer. I'm doing better this week but am still not up for too many hours at the desk.

However, there are a couple very important announcements I want you to have and a good devotional thought is always welcome. I'll do my best to be back to giving you a full-length newsletter in November.

Susan

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Upcoming Events

Global Missions Health Conference

This is the last chance I have to encourage you to attend this year's Global Missions Health Conference at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky on November 10-12. You can register on site but are encouraged to register in advance at www.medicalmissions.com. Housing is provided to students if requested.

If you've never participated, you will be amazed at all the opportunities you will have to learn about healthcare missions. MANY sending agency representatives will be present, and they would love to talk with you about the future. Of course, if you have participated in the past, there is still much to learn at this year's conference.

Of course, CMDA will have many staff on hand to answer questions on just about anything. You will find us in the center aisle of the main floor exhibit hall. I hope to see you there!

CMDA's New Medical Missionary Training

The next training for new medical missionaries will be held March 9-12, 2017, with arrival on the 8th. You can learn all about the [training here](#). I'm happy to answer any questions regarding this. You can contact me at susan.carter@cnda.org.

Service Loan Repayment Program

Students to Service Loan Repayment Program Helps Establish a Career in Primary Care

Dr. Victoria Nichols always knew she wanted a career that would allow her to do more for others. This passion for serving led her to pursue her master's in public health at the University of Minnesota where, through her studies and research, she learned about the many gaps in access to healthcare throughout the country.

"So many people in the United States lack access to primary healthcare," said Nichols. "I am honored to serve my country and do my part to help bridge that gap."

With a lifelong interest in primary care, Nichols applied for medical school where she hoped pairing her public health

background with medical practice would enable her to help others in a greater way.

She obtained her doctorate of osteopathic medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri, and then completed her residency in family medicine at St. Joseph Mercy Health System.

Perseverance Leads to Opportunity

In medical school, Nichols was introduced to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), a federal government program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The NHSC placed primary care providers in areas of America with limited access to care, and provides its members with scholarships and loan repayments for their education.

Nichols applied for the NHSC scholarship program, but didn't receive an award. Determined to practice in an underserved area and attracted to the financial benefits of the NHSC, Nichols applied to the Students to Service Loan Repayment Program, which repays loans for medical and dental students in their final year of school, who commit to practicing in areas of the country that have too few healthcare professionals to serve the people who live there.

Students who are accepted into the program can receive up to \$120,000 to pay back qualifying loans in return for their service commitment—three years of full-time or six years of part-time clinical practice—which begins upon completion of residency.

To be eligible, one must be enrolled as a full-time student in the final year of medical or dental school; be attending a fully accredited school in an eligible degree program; and be planning to pursue primary care.

Nichols was thrilled to receive an award and secured a family medicine position at Packard Health in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is one of 375 NHSC clinicians currently providing care to the underserved in Michigan, and one of 9,600 serving nationwide.

Building a Meaningful Career in Primary Care

"I knew I wanted to practice family medicine where I'd have the opportunity to build long-term relationships with my patients, and felt so lucky the Students to Service program was able to work with me to find such a perfect fit," said Nichols. Family medicine also allows her to serve a diverse patient population in the Ann Arbor area. "I have a world map in my office, and I color in countries when I meet different patients from around the world. So far I've colored in nearly 30 countries."

She admits it can be challenging to work in an underserved area, but her experience has been so rewarding she plans to continue serving at Packard Health after completing her commitment. Her advice for NHSC applicants is, "If you want to help people and serve the greater good, joining the NHSC is a great option!"

The application cycle for the NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program opened on August 16. To learn more about the program and how to apply, visit www.nhsc.hrsa.gov.

Under-appreciated

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves" (Philippians 2:3, NIV 2011).

I've got a new chief at the office. And he doesn't know how great I am. He doesn't know I work harder and longer than most; that I care for my patients more than most. He mainly complains about the petty stuff. I was dwelling heavily on this on the way home this evening: *This is not fair; how am I going to prove to him that I am worthy of his appreciation?* I was chomping on an evening salad at the grocery café when I realized: *Why am I dwelling on me? I should be dwelling on God's love for my boss. It should not be how can I be appreciated, but how can I show this man the way to my Lord?* How do I introduce him to Jesus? It really is not about me at all. I crunched on my salad and got it; I then handed him off to God.

It's good that God every now and then lets me see my pride and helps me understand how it leads me away from His mission for my life. It's good to see where my natural self would take me were it not for Jesus. As much as I long to follow Him and as much as I do stuff to please Him, I am basically a self-centered human being who is only saved from myself by the blood of the Lamb. Life really *is about me* if I don't let go and let Him live through me.

This overwhelming focus on my being under-appreciated was just a reflection of my pride. I was choosing to focus the

spotlight on me instead of my chief. I needed to take myself out of the center of my circle. I needed to let my thoughts focus on God's love for others rather than on their appreciation of me.

I needed to be more like Jesus.

*Dear Father,
Help me get myself out of the center of my circle.
Amen*

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