With Your Help, We’re Providing Life-Changing Medical Care For the Hurting and Forgotten

African Mission Healthcare

2018 Highlights
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By the year 2100, Africa will be home to over one-third of the world’s population. Despite current progress, without rapid and aggressive efforts to increase the quantity and quality of healthcare in Africa, the number of people who will die or suffer from under-treatment will dramatically increase over the next several decades.

The people of Africa deserve better. As in many places, most of Africa’s citizens are bright, motivated, capable and passionate. But they need our help. Do we want our grandchildren to live in a world where nearly 40% of our world’s population doesn’t have access to quality, compassionate healthcare?
Consider the following stark comparisons and statistics:

- Tanzania has 1 doctor for every 33,000 people; in the U.S. the number is 1 for every 390
- In Uganda there is 1 surgeon for every 136,000 people; in the U.S. the number is 1 for every 1,800
- In East Africa, 1 of every 4 children die before the age of 15; in the U.S. the number is 1 of every 25
- Well less than one-half of the women in rural Africa who need a C-Section will get one
- 56 million Africans are living with untreated surgical conditions

The basic solutions, such as bed nets, have already been implemented in many places. *Future improvements will be more difficult, requiring functioning hospitals and clinics with well-trained professionals.*
This is, admittedly, a VERY BIG DREAM. But with what’s at stake, it’s essential; and while we can’t achieve this vision alone, we have an important and specific role.

**Our Mission** is to strengthen African mission hospitals to aid those in greatest need. We believe mission hospitals are well positioned to improve clinical health systems on the continent. The faith-based sector provides approximately one-third of the medical care in sub-Saharan Africa and arguably a higher percentage of quality medical care. African mission hospitals are also training centers, producing qualified nurses, physician assistants and, increasingly, doctors and specialists. They have long, deep roots in the local communities they serve, having survived wars, famine, epidemics, and poverty—earning the trust of the people in those communities.

At AMH, we envision an African continent filled with enduring and improving health systems where everyone has access to quality, compassionate healthcare.
Our approach is unique. We do not have a standard, easily repeatable solution. Instead, we spend time and resources identifying what is truly needed. Think of AMH as a private investor that invests carefully with trusted mission hospital partners, but instead of measuring a return in profits we measure impact in lives changed and the years of quality-life added.

We carefully select the hospitals with which we work, spend the time to understand and build relationships, and truly partner—not prescribing answers but together developing solutions. We make investment decisions leveraging five distinctive values that we believe help to maximize our impact in the African context:

• **We Listen:** With our mission hospital partners, we focus on identifying what’s needed and leverage existing resources to get the work done;

• **We’re Hands On:** We come alongside our mission hospital partners, rolling up our sleeves to help provide life-changing care;

• **We Train:** We multiply our impact by helping to develop the next generation of African healthcare professionals;

• **We See It Through:** We address urgent needs while remaining committed to improving health systems for the long haul; and

• **We Get Results:** We hold ourselves accountable to make decisions that change and save lives every day.

No one displays extravagant love like these Christian medical missionaries who are willing to lay down their lives and their careers to serve the overlooked and left behind.

Rabbi Erica and Mark Gerson
Our focus is on making the right investments, at the right time and in the right sequence to optimize their impact. This is a simple concept but can be challenging to implement. It requires an understanding of how existing resources and future contributions will complement one another; it requires an understanding of the existing healthcare and leadership competencies at each mission hospital partner; and it requires careful monitoring and support to ensure investments mature to reach their full potential.

Working closely with our mission hospital partners we support programs and projects that fit into one of four broad categories:

**Training and medical education:** Training is core to all that AMH does. This category includes a wide-range of programs focused on HIV and tuberculosis clinical care; the education of surgeons, doctors, nurses, anesthetists, and nurse anesthetists; and the development of other health professionals supporting operations and administration.

**Support for direct clinical care:** These efforts involve a broad range of activities that enable quality, compassionate care. Examples include sponsoring individual surgeries through our Surgical Access For Everyone (SAFE) program; procuring and shipping medicines and other consumables; and hiring and deploying staff.

**Infrastructure and equipment:** We combine a wide range of investments with important capabilities to ensure the related projects are impactful. Activities range from constructing surgical theaters, housing for health professionals, and new spaces for clinical care; renovating existing structures; and procuring and installing equipment such as x-rays, c-arms, ambulances, endoscopes and laparoscopic towers. We compliment these investments with engineering, project management, and other relevant skills to ensure projects are efficient and successful.

**Management advisory support:** This is our newest area of focus and involves helping our mission hospital partners to strengthen the governance, operations and administrative functions that support their sustainable delivery of high-quality, compassionate care.
We work hard to ensure that each investment compliments and strengthens the others. And while the investments are tailored with direct engagement with each mission hospital partner, we also leverage broader initiatives to help strengthen and accelerate these efforts. Following are three examples of such initiatives: The *AMH Gerson-L’Chaim Initiative*; our *Partnering for Impact*; and our *Surgical Access For Everyone (or SAFE)* program.

**The AMH Gerson-L’Chaim Initiative**

Thanks to the generous support of our Co-Founders, Rabbi Erica and Mark Gerson, AMH has established the Gerson-L’Chaim (“To Life”) Initiative. This initiative was launched in 2016 with our initial Rabbi Erica and Mark Gerson L’Chaim Prize for Outstanding Christian Medical Missionary Service. The annual L’Chaim Prize of $500,000 is the world’s largest annual award dedicated to direct patient care; the recipient is selected by a panel of leaders in African medicine.

The L’Chaim Prize not only provides important resources for the selected Christian missionary and the hospital he or she serves but also creates a pipeline of future high-impact investments. For example, nearly all of the grants made as a result of our recent AMH-Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) Matching Campaign were previous finalists for the L’Chaim Prize.

The L’Chaim Prize is the first facet of our vision for the Gerson-L’Chaim Initiative. In the future we will add other strategic investments such as the development of a Mission Hospital Teaching Network; projects focused on critically needed housing; and the expansion of our management advisory program—all focused on improving the sustained impact of the mission hospital sector.

Since inception of the L’Chaim Prize, AMH and the Gerson’s have recognized three outstanding Christian medical missionaries and their hospitals. *On the following pages we highlight these remarkable servants and their work:*

![Image of people smiling and children]

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*The AMH Gerson-L’Chaim Initiative*
In 2014, at the height of the Ebola epidemic, Dr. Rick Sacra, serving with the mission SIM, voluntarily cut short his leave in Massachusetts to assist his colleagues at ELWA Hospital in the capital city of Monrovia, Liberia.

As others cared for victims in the Ebola Treatment Unit, Dr. Sacra helped to keep the rest of the hospital open for other forms of care. While delivering a baby to a sick mother, Dr. Sacra contracted Ebola. Evacuated to a special facility in Nebraska, thankfully he survived and then shortly thereafter decided to return to Liberia to help the country rebuild.

Dr. Sacra has served in Liberia for over 20 years. When civil war drove many Liberian refugees into the neighboring Ivory Coast, Dr. Sacra, his wife Debbie, and their children moved to a remote region to serve the refugees. The Sacras then returned to Liberia when the war ended.

Explaining his motivation for returning to Liberia, Dr. Sacra told *Time Magazine*, "God led me to become a medical missionary many years ago. The passion that motivated me then is still the one that motivates me now: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' To see people's lives enriched through better health and the experience of God's love is still what drives me."

The $500,000 Gerson L’Chaim Prize award will be used to develop health workers and improve hospital infrastructure at ELWA Hospital:

- **Train Liberian family medicine residents.** Liberia has only one doctor for every 15,000 people, and most of those lack advanced training.
She Survived a Fire. Now, She’s Being Given a Second Chance at Life.

Her eyes are so big. It isn’t so much their size on her tiny face as the way they seem to swallow you up, and the whole room too, when she turns them on you. A whole world’s suffering could fit in those eyes.

Her head is wound securely in a gauze bandage — under her chin, over her ears, around her skull. Only her face shows — her burnt, healing, pink lips and those eyes. When I first met her, her tiny legs dangled off the edge of the bed, a good foot above the floor, stripped of their skin in square patches of pink across her upper thighs, where the doctors took it to graft onto her scalp. Her name is Serafina and she is barely three years old.

Tariza, her mother, is only 26 years old herself and has two more little boys at home a few hours away. She sits on the bed beside Serafina, describing the day when she was out of the house on an errand and Serafina, feeling chilly, went to sit near the fire and fell in.

Serafina came to ELWA Hospital after traveling for several hours, her little face and head covered in third-degree burns, with complete loss of her skin down to the bone. Doctors had to remove the top layer of the bone in her head, to support a skin graft. The images from the operating room that day are searing: a huddle of white coats clustering around the tiny little form on the white bed, her entire skull gleaming red. Overall, Serafina has had 11 trips to the operating room for procedures including the debridement of her burns, grafting of her scalp and shoulder on three different occasions, and changing her dressings under anesthesia on another half dozen occasions.

Moving forward, the doctors say the skin will continue to mature and the bone will eventually be normal, but that will be over the next year or so. While the remaining journey for Serafina is still quite long, thanks to ELWA she has the second chance that many in Liberia only hope for.
The 2017 Gerson L’Chaim Prize supported Dr. White’s dream of eliminating unnecessary deaths from rheumatic heart disease. Dr. White’s solution includes community engagement; a surgical fellowship to train a significant number of new cardiac surgeons across Sub-Saharan Africa; and building a state-of-the-art Cardiothoracic Institute at Tenwek Hospital.

The Prize also served as a catalyst for other investments. During last year’s L’Chaim Prize dinner, Samaritan’s Purse committed to raise $4 million for the cardiothoracic center. Additionally, $300,000 from 2018’s matching gift campaign conducted with our partner CBN and a total of $200,000 from two other, generous ministries, have been committed to Dr. White’s vision.

Since the prize was awarded, the first heart surgery fellow has begun training, AMH has procured medical equipment, and ground-breaking for the new facility is planned for April 2019.
Dr. Fader—a son of a medical missionary, serving on a team with American physicians in Burundi—was able to bolster his work with $500,000 from the first-ever Gerson L’Chaim Prize. During 2017, Burundi became the poorest nation in the world.

"To move forward, to provide higher volume and better quality care, and to train more national healthcare workers, we have to expand the hospital," said Dr. Fader, who intends to serve in Burundi "for many years to come."

Funds from the Prize completed a 48-bed surgical ward so patients can sleep one-to-a-bed. Hundreds of patients have benefited from improved fracture care; and the balance of funds will provide additional housing and support medical internship training. Additionally, $350,000 from 2018’s matching gift campaign conducted with our partner CBN has been used to install Solar Power at the hospital, providing much more stable and affordable electricity.
During 2018 we expanded our work with our strategic partner The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN). We continued our strong partnerships with crowd-funding site Watsi.org and with the Pan-African Association of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) faculty and graduates. We also began a new, exciting project with MedSend. We believe these and other partnerships will result in progress that none of us can achieve on our own.

An important highlight is the matching campaign we completed with CBN, resulting in $2 million in new investments in our mission healthcare partners. The resulting projects are focused on our principal strategic priority—the development and expansion of a network of high-quality teaching hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa. They include a wide range of projects including: construction of a solar power system, training of critical health professionals, electrical system stabilization and upgrade, additional housing, sponsorship of life-changing surgeries and more. Each is important in improving the sustainability of the hospitals and expanding their capacity to develop the next generation of health professionals for the African continent.

Following this campaign, AMH and CBN began working together to enable additional surgeries across AMH’s SAFE partners.
Since the program’s inception nearly 5 years ago, AMH has invested more than $4 million to sponsor over 11,500 surgeries. We currently have 10 hospital SAFE sites in four African countries, involving 40 doctors and more than 60 approved surgical procedures. During 2018 we paid more than $800,000 in surgical sponsorships and our existing SAFE partners have the need and capacity to more than double the annual volume of our SAFE-sponsored surgeries. We want to expand our surgical sponsorships to at least $2 million annually in the near-term and to more than $5 million within the next 5 years. Our sponsorships of SAFE-funded surgeries compliment our other investments in infrastructure and training, compounding their respective impacts.

The AMH SAFE Program:

- Provides financial support, rewarding our hospital partners for performing high-quality surgeries;
- Raises the quality of care throughout the hospital;
- Strengthens relationships with local communities by extending love and compassionate, quality care;
- Raises surgical volumes enabling training and expansion of needed services to the community; and
- Improves surgical costing data and processes.
Our Impact

At AMH, we hold ourselves accountable to make decisions that change and save lives every day.

As investors, we choose our partners and investments carefully and then we cultivate and monitor progress to help them reach their full potential. Of course, we’re not looking for a financial return. Our goal is the sustainable ability to change lives through improved access to quality, compassionate healthcare.

Since AMH’s inception, we have worked with more than 35 mission hospital partners across 16 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Today we have active projects in 10 of these countries.
Since Our Inception:

$19.5M+
IN TOTAL INVESTMENTS

13,000
IN SURGICAL & CORRECTIVE PROCEDURES SPONSORED

600,000+
DIRECT PATIENT VISITS ENABLED THROUGH 2018

3,000+
IN TOTAL TRAINEES

Highlights for 2018:

- We directly sponsored more than 1,200 surgical and other life-changing procedures and will enable approximately 2 million additional patient visits over the life of this year’s investments;
- We committed more than $1,200,000 to construct housing units, enabling the placement and training of healthcare professionals for our rural mission hospital partners;
- We successfully completed a $2 million matching gift campaign with our partner CBN which is benefiting eight of our mission hospital partners; and
- We trained 409 Kenyan health workers in HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) clinical care to confront one of the world’s largest epidemics.

Housing is a critical need for many of our mission hospital partners. In response, during 2018 we introduced our new “Housing Our Professional Experts,” or HOPE Program.
"Time and again AMH has demonstrated that it’s one of the most trustworthy, pragmatic, and impactful nonprofits in the world."

Chase Adam, founder, Watsi.org.

Because of you, we’re able to strengthen African mission hospitals to aid those in greatest need.

Thank you!
You can make a BIG difference...

With your help

We can help many more of the hurting and forgotten:

Donate online at AfricanMissionHealthcare.org or mail your donation to:

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Pueblo, CO 81008

To receive our newsletters and other information about AMH’s activities, share your contact information through our website (AfricanMissionHealthcare.org) or write us at:

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