

# Lutherans in Medical Missions

## August 2022



### A Note from our Executive Director

There is an older Tanzanian hymn entitled “Listen, Listen God is Calling” with lyrics by missionary Howard S. Olson. The refrain goes: *Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news. That He came to save us and set us free. Let none be forgotten throughout the world. In the triune name of God, go and baptize. Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast. Walking in your precepts, led by your Word.* There are many times in our lives that we need to remember these words. We get so busy, we fail to just stop, and listen to God.

I open with this song because God has recently reminded me that I needed to stop what I was doing and listen to Him. A year ago, a friend and I began planning an Alaskan cruise. We chose this cruise because Lysa TerKeurst, an American speaker and author, was the key note speaker. After an incredibly stressful couple of years, I knew I needed to take some time to “refuel”. Well, due to circumstances out of her control, my friend had to cancel her trip. That left me with 2 options: go alone or cancel with hopes of getting a refund from my trip insurance. I prayed about this and listened to what God was calling me to do. You see, I had found a magnificent homestay through Lutheran B & B (if you did not know this existed, you need to go look it up!). The homeowners were LCMS Pastor Dale and Julee Brynstad from Peace Lutheran Church in Bremerton, WA. They opened their home to me for a free 3-night stay before I sailed out. All the pieces were falling into place for me to go solo, and see what God had in store. To summarize, God opened the door to share Lutherans in Medical Missions with their entire church body, and introduced me to retired RN Mary Demars, who is very involved in a mission in Mexico. This church body had never heard of LIMM, and because I listened to God’s calling, it opened doors for a new ministry partner and new lifelong friends! I am extremely excited to see how God leads us to work with this mission project, and what doors He will continue to open if we listen to Him.

So, I ask you, what is God calling you to do? Are you listening? Maybe it doesn’t involve an Alaskan cruise, but it could be reaching out to a ministry that needs your prayers or support. The work of LIMM is here to serve ministry needs throughout the world, and it is only through your generosity that we can continue to serve. If your congregation would like to know about our work, please contact us! **Thank you for listening and thank you for following God’s calling.**

Sharon



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**Lutherans in Medical  
Missions (LIMM) works  
with local and global  
partners to share Christ’s  
healing in medically  
underserved communities.**

## **Lutherans in Medical Missions**

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Please visit our Facebook page:

**Lutherans in Medical Missions**

### **Donations may be sent to:**

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P.O. Box 766

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Or go online at [www.limm.org](http://www.limm.org)

To donate through Pay pal or  
credit card.

Contributions made directly to

LIMM are tax-deductible.

## **LIMM Sends Two Nurses to Belize**

In June, Lutherans in Medical Missions grant recipients, Maddison Grashorn and our Executive Director Sharon Thomas, went to Seine Bight, Belize on a short term mission trip. They joined a group of volunteers from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Belvidere, Illinois and other volunteers from Texas and Missouri. This trip was filled with challenges, and at one point, they wondered if Satan was blocking the trip or if God was saying that this is not the right time. Their first flight was cancelled and there were no other available flights out of O'Hare that day. Even a flight out the next day was impossible. Finally, two days later, the team was booked for a flight to Dallas only to find out half of the group was getting bumped. Several team members had to fly to another connecting airport in Texas and spend the night. Mildly frustrated with the travel industry, the group gathered and prayed, asking God to show them His direction, and if they were to go, clear any obstacles.

The timeliness of getting there was especially important as the new Mercy House had been delivered to the village. Part of the team was assigned to do construction and secure the future ministry building of Christ Lutheran Church. Sharon's project included teaching a health education class in the local school. She needed to arrive before summer recess.



As the team prayed and listened, God opened the door and the rest of the trip went as planned. Sharon was able to teach Community Health Education and Evangelism classes (CHE), help lead women's ministry, and partner with nurses Allison LaFevers and Maddison Grashorn on first aid instruction. Allison and Maddison were able to do several shut-in home visits and teach patients how to best handle their health concerns. Adults and children received help, human contact, and love from the team. The mission group received abundant blessings by being there and *listening to God's calling*.



It was incredible to see work progress on the Mercy House. LIMM was able to grant funds to the Belize Mission Society for this project which will house a dental clinic, a medical exam room, a classroom for teaching, and a kitchen facility or the feeding program. Along with the Belize Mission Society volunteers, local villagers were contracted to complete the necessary construction to secure the building and finish the interior. Workers, desperate for work, received employment. There will also be other teams working on this project and we look forward to the dedication of the Mercy House sometime this fall. Lord willing, next year when the team returns, they will have a dedicated classroom for teaching and conducting health exams.

**Lutherans in Medical Missions participates in Thrivent Choice Dollars program. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to LIMM. We will use your Thrivent Choice grant funding for future mission projects. LIMM is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). Contributions made directly to Lutherans in Medical Missions are tax-deductible.**