



VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 · JULY 2023

SERVING TOGETHER

Official Newsletter of Mission:318



Serving Together: Fostering Relationships

Where we put Actions into Words

I want to start off by thanking each of you for your commitment to the mission of Mission:318. There is something special that happens when each of us brings our unique gifts, passions, and resources to the table. I've seen this play out in the hospital in Yendi as well as here in our own back yard. You all are truly a remarkable bunch of passionate people.

In talking to many of you and hearing your stories, one thing is crystal clear: you're here because someone invited you. It's incredible to see all the relational connects of Mission:318. What started off as a relationship between 2 pastors—one in Washington, Missouri, the other in Yendi, Ghana - has grown to an army of doctors, nurses, and medical professionals. As many medical professionals as we have, there might be even more of us in non-medical fields. These relationships are the lifeblood of our organization.

These friendships now reach beyond Pastor Emmanuel Mustapha "Muss" and Dr. Ayuba Abdulai in Ghana. Because of a relationship with another St. Louis-based mission organization (Brace for Impact46) our reach now extends to Dr. Wislyn Avenard in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti and the CHIDA medical clinic.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read stories of how relationships have fueled the passion and work of Mission:318. You'll see how, from the beginning of Mission:318, it was about fostering relationships. I bet as you read this newsletter you'll think of someone you need to invite into this story. That's how I got here. Someone invited me. Let's keep that going.

Honored to be on this journey with all of you.

Randall Littleton, Pastor at The Crossing and Board Member Mission:318

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Putting Action Over Words: Haiti

In late April 2023, a team of nine Mission:318 volunteers traveled on behalf of Brace4Impact46 to Cap Haïtien, Haiti. Estevenson Coleman, the Executive Director of Brace4Impact46, guided us to the beautiful community of the IDADEE Children's Home where we would stay for three days delivering medical and surgical care. Our team performed over 15 surgeries and treated over 50 patients while conducting a medical needs assessment.

There is an increasing demand for healthcare at CHIDA, the Medical Center at IDADEE. Patients come from surrounding communities to receive consistent, quality healthcare. The facility is adequate, but healthcare needs are increasing. Dr. Wislyn Avenard, Medical Director at CHIDA and Mission:318 Board member, noted two major medical conditions plaguing the community – **cholera and hypertension**. Due to heavy rainfall and inadequate supply of clean water, cholera is ravaging the community and taxing the medical center. Treating cholera in the hospital is complicated by lack of medicines, supplies, and space to treat these patients.

Surgically, CHIDA has also seen an increased demand for healthcare services from surrounding communities. The Surgical Service Line, started one year ago, has been operating out of a makeshift department below the ED. This space was not designed for complex cases. The current physical plant and resources are not able to meet the needs of the community.

As a result of our medical needs assessment, Mission:318 supported by Brace for Impact46, the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation, and members of the IDADEE community **recommend expanding surgical capabilities with an improved recovery room, developing a community-based hypertension program, and improving access to medicines and diagnostic technologies** to ultimately improve health outcomes and transform the lives of the community.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: STEVE MILLER, RNFA

Steve Miller share his story of serving with mission:318. He's been a nurse since 1997, with expertise in ICU, step down, OR, and surgical first assistant in specialties including general surgery, orthopedics, urology and ENT.

Your story is a bit of a Mission:318 origin story, tell us about how it all started.

I was on the first team that went to Yendi back in 2008, when the organization was called Care4Ghana. The original team consisted of 5 nurses - Carolla, Jan, Rose, Dena myself, one doctor - Dr Shust, and Pastor Joe . Our first trip was more of a medical mission trip - we visited and cared for over 2000 patients in different villages within 5 days. This trip opened my eyes to the plight of the people within West Africa. Before we left Yendi I was able to convince Pastor Joe that we needed to see the hospital in Yendi. Upon seeing the state of Yendi Municipal Hospital for the first time, ***I knew we had to improve the lives of the community by improving the delivery of healthcare in the region.***

An idea becomes the future of Mission:318.

On the plane ride back I knew we could do more to help the people of Yendi. We needed to do more than treat people in the villages, their needs were much greater than we imagined. So many of the patients needed surgical intervention for the illnesses they had. Many, many children had massive umbilical hernias, women had goiters that prohibited them from straightening their necks, and women were dying in childbirth, as a result of uterine rupture and preeclampsia. Dena, an OR nurse, and I discussed whether a surgical trip was possible. We agreed that a surgical trip was essential. Pastor Joe told us if you can get it together, he supported it. A few years later, I met Dr. Jonathan Limpert.

So, actually, your responsible for the Limperts becoming Mission:318?

Well, kind of, yes. I met Jon Limpert when he started working at Mercy Washington. As I got to know Jon, I admired his energy, sense of adventure, but most importantly his surgical skills. So, I asked him if he would lead a surgical trip to Ghana. He agreed and the rest is history.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: STEVE MILLER, RNFA



How many times have you travelled with Mission:318?

I have been fortunate to go to Ghana many times since then and Haiti twice.

Why do you continue to serve with Mission:318?

I just feel that *helping others is why we are here and a testament to our faith*. By using our skills and talents surgically we are spreading Gods love to the underserved.

What is different about serving in Ghana and Haiti?

Haiti is a much more challenging place for us to minister to. The medical center we serve at, CHIDA, has many unique challenges, given the state of Haiti – including political instability, riots, power outages, and economic uncertainty. In a way, we minister the staff at CHIDA – as they are eager and excited to learn. The staff work hard and do the best with what they have, as their dedication to serving their community and Haiti is a blessing.

What is it about these communities that keeps your coming back?

For me, it's the patients, particularly the children. The gratitude expressed by a simple smile from children and their families is life changing. So many patients over the years have had an impact on me. Seeing the parents smile after the team was able to fix their child's hernia or facial mass are a couple. To these children we are their only hope. For me, the hardest part of the trips are when we pack up and leave knowing what is still happening in our absence.

Anything else you want to share?

I have been fortunate to play a small part with *a great group that puts others first*. Mission:318 is that group.

GLOBAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT: CHOLERA

After three years of no reported cases of cholera, national authorities have confirmed a resurgence of cholera in Haiti. While our team was in Haiti, there were 5 confirmed cases at CHIDA Medical Center.

What is cholera?

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. The bacterium produces an enterotoxin that causes a copious, painless, watery diarrhea that can quickly lead to severe dehydration and death if untreated. With a short incubation period, ranging between two hours and five days, it affects both children and adults. People with low immunity, such as malnourished children or people living with HIV, are at greater risk of death if infected. Person-to-person transmission is not common.

How do you contract cholera?

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. Cholera is usually associated with poverty, poor sanitation, and poor access to clean drinking water. Cholera remains a global threat to public health and an indicator of inequity and lack of social development. While it does not pose a threat to countries with adequate sanitation and access to safe drinking water, the disease remains a challenge for countries where these conditions are not yet present.

Are there vaccines available to prevent cholera?

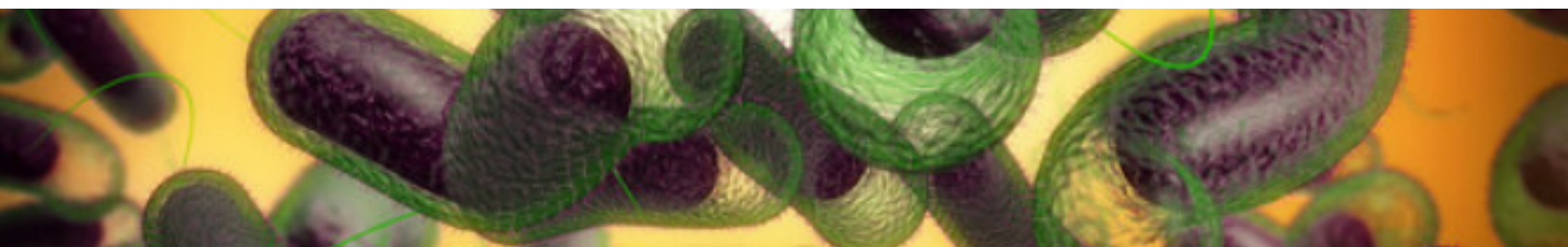
Currently there are 3 pre-qualified oral cholera vaccines: Dukoral®, Shanchol™, and Euvichol®. All 3 vaccines require 2 doses for full protection.

Can cholera be treated?

Yes. Cholera is a treatable disease. The majority of people can be treated successfully through prompt administration of oral rehydration solution (ORS). Severely dehydrated patients are at risk of shock and require the rapid administration of intravenous fluids. Patients are also given antibiotics to diminish the duration of diarrhea, reduce the volume of rehydration fluids needed, and shorten the amount and duration of the illness. **Rapid access to treatment is essential during a cholera outbreak.** Oral rehydration should be available in communities, in addition to larger centers that can provide intravenous fluids and 24 hour care. With early and proper treatment, the case fatality rate should remain below 1%.

References:

- World Health Organization. <https://www.cdc.gov/cholera/general/index.html#one>
- Cholera Fact Sheet. African Health Organisation. <https://aho.org/fact-sheets/cholera-fact-sheet>



GLOBAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT: CHOLERA



CHOLERA FACTS

INTERNATIONAL SOS

Cholera is a serious disease which causes diarrhoea.

Cholera is easily **PREVENTED** and **TREATED** but if left untreated, it can kill quickly.

Each year, about **1.3 – 4 million** cases of cholera, and **21,000 – 143,000** deaths worldwide due to cholera.*

Cholera is spread by **contaminated food or water.**

People travelling or living in places with **poor sanitation and hygiene** are at risk.

Symptoms
Some people may show no or only mild symptoms. Others may have:

- watery diarrhoea
- vomiting
- dehydration
- muscle cramps

Treatment: Early replacement of fluids is life saving

Most people can do this by drinking “oral rehydration solutions” (ORS) if available OR sugar and salt sachets which are mixed with safe water.

Antibiotics and intravenous fluids are used in severe cases.

Many cholera cases and deaths are preventable

Use safe water (bottled, boiled, treated) for:

- drinking
- cooking
- cleaning your teeth
- washing hands

Wash hands frequently with soap and clean water, or use hand sanitiser.

Eat safe food – thoroughly cooked, avoid raw.

Cholera vaccination is available, and might be used during an outbreak in conjunction with improvements in water and sanitation.

Source:
*World Health Organization, Cholera Fact Sheet, March 2022

This infographic has been developed for educational purposes only and is correct at the time of publication. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice. Should you have any questions or concerns about any topic in this infographic, please consult your medical professional.

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Fact Sheet Courtesy of International SOS, <https://pandemic.internationalsos.com>

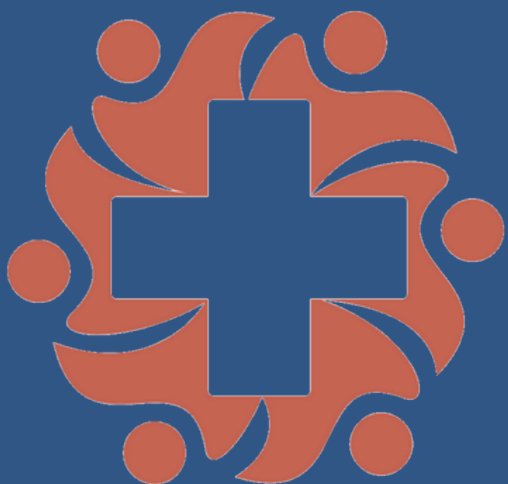


Mission:318 Topgolf

Topgolf was a success!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Topgolf event on May 21, 2023! We enjoyed having the Mission:318 community come together for a fun evening.

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, as we raised over \$7000 dedicated to obtaining medical supplies for the forgotten communities around the world.





MISSION:318

Upcoming Events and Opportunities to Serve

Mission:318 Building Hope Event September 29th, 2023

Our signature fundraising event, where we come together for a special evening to recognize the accomplishments, dream about future impact, and ask our corporate and generous donors for their continued support. Our largest fundraising effort, this event is critical to the organization and the impact on the forgotten communities we serve.



Medical Mission - Yendi, Ghana October 6-13

Inquire online at mission318.com

Medical Mission - Sefwi, Ghana October 6-13

Inquire online at mission318.com