A CNN Hero
Dr. Andy Moore is honored for his Surgery on Sunday program

Help for Haiti
Journeys from the Heart
From Appalachia to Africa

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Special Mission & Ministry Edition
Dear Saint Joseph Family,

Webster’s defines Mission as “the act of sending.”

And this special edition of Common Thread is all about the “act of sending” forth our employees and physicians as ambassadors to serve others in communities across the state, our nation, and the world. It demonstrates that our Mission, to spread God’s healing ministry, is not confined to those in our health care facilities, but extends to all our fellow brothers and sisters wherever a helping hand is needed.

In this issue, you will read about many of our employees who have given of themselves including to support relief efforts in devastated parts of the world such as Haiti. Also this month, Dr. Andy Moore is featured in our cover story for his creation of the Surgery on Sunday program (for which Saint Joseph Health System and Catholic Health Initiatives provided seed funding to help launch the service). Dr. Moore has also recently been featured as part of CNN’s national Heroes program.

In February, I traveled to Belize with my son, Antonio, one my friends from childhood, Dr. David Hoffmann, and his daughter to see the good work being done there by a recipient of a CHI Mission and Ministry grant. I chose to travel to Belize because of a conversation some time ago with Sister Liz Wendlyn, who is a Sister of Charity of Nazareth (SCN), and is also a member of the Saint Joseph Health System Board of Directors. The SCNs have served in Belize for many years, and I wanted to make this journey in honor and support of their mission.

While there, we visited with Hand in Hand Ministries (based in Louisville, Kentucky) who works in Belize as well as Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Appalachia, Jamaica and Haiti. They provide food, shelter, clothing, medicine, education and build homes. We spent time visiting one of these homes (which costs a mere $3,700), as well as a daycare center that serves children living with AIDS. We also toured the regional referral hospital in Belize City, which had less comprehensive services than our critical access hospitals in Berea and Martin. The hospital did not have many of the most basic capabilities we take for granted and would frequently run out of ventilators, for example, as they only had two.

My friend David is an internist who specializes in treating AIDS patients, so he was able to provide some guidance on caring for some of the complex patients they had. What struck me the most was that even though we care for very poor patients, the poverty that we witnessed in Belize was incredibly more devastating than that in many of Kentucky’s poorest communities.

We left Belize with an enhanced sense of how fortunate and extraordinarily blessed we are in this country. As Ray Bradbury once said, “We are the dream that other people dream.”

But above all I left with a renewed spirit knowing that we are doing justice to the legacy of our founding Sisters, who no doubt would be very proud to read the stories in this edition about all the lives you touch with grace and compassion.

That is why it is such a sincere privilege to serve with you. You are living testament that our mission at Saint Joseph is alive and well.

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A $75 Visa gift card could be yours if you can answer this question correctly:

Who lived in Haiti for two years as a missionary, teaching in a church and orphanage? Somewhere in this issue of Common Thread you’ll find the answer. Submit your answer at SaintJosephCommonThread.org. Correct answers will be entered into a drawing on June 11 for a chance to win one of three $75 Visa gift cards. Only employees can enter this challenge. Congratulations to previous winners Karen Isaacs (Saint Joseph - Berea), Janet Lynn Lockridge (Saint Joseph - Mount Sterling) and Loretta Studey (Flaget Memorial Hospital). Lisa Ison, an X-ray tech at Saint Joseph Hospital, was the lucky winner of the Wii and Wii Fit Plus bundle.
The Maas Family keeps growing! Rebecca and Darren Maas adopted two more children. (back cover)

Dr. Bill Webb (left) has served on mission trips in Mexico since 1993. (pg. 13)

Julia Phillips served the injured within days of the destructive quake in Haiti. (pg. 14)

Anna Culver spent a week in Guatemala with a medical missionary group called Children of the Americas. (pg. 6)

U.S. Military patrolled the streets of Port-au-Prince after the quake. (pg. 14)

U.S. Military in downtown Port-au-Prince, about 25 miles from where Julia Phillips was stationed. (pg. 14)
Robert and Debbie Brock traveled from Appalachia to Africa to help build a school. (pg. 7)

Robert Brock explored Africa as he and wife Debbie volunteered on a mission trip. (pg. 7)

Edna Boone’s mission trip to Belize was a lifelong dream. (pg. 6)

Anna Culver learned about the culture as she cared for children in Guatemala. (pg. 6)

During her mission trip to Belize, Edna Boone worked in a Mayan village. (pg. 6)

Robert Brock captured a view of the Lesotho countryside during his trip to South Africa. (pg. 7)

The local children welcomed him on his trip to South Africa. (pg. 7)
Growth

New Saint Joseph - London Opens August 19
Saint Joseph - London (SJL) soon will move into its new home, as the final phases of construction are completed and the finishing touches added on the new hospital, located just off Interstate 75 on a 52-acre campus.

SJL is currently located on Ninth St. in the heart of downtown London in a facility built in 1971 (the original hospital opened in 1926 on North Main St.). The brand new 325,000-square-foot facility will be nearly double its current size at 189,000 square feet. Bed capacity will increase from 89 to 120 licensed beds.

Cardiology and OB-GYN will grow at the new hospital as well as other services such as orthopedics. Outpatient spaces will expand allowing SJL to treat more outpatients from the local and surrounding areas. The top floor of the hospital, the sixth floor, is shelled in for potential expansion.

Features of the new facility include “green” design concepts to protect the environment, spacious interior spaces, all private rooms, original artwork from local artists, a small lake and park-like setting, and a sprawling parking area (from 99 parking spots to 750!).

On August 19, both employees and patients will officially move in to the new hospital. SJL is working with Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County in the process to transport patients in a steady stream throughout the day. Non-patient care and/or administrative offices will start moving the week of August 9.

See sidebar for grand opening events. To learn more, visit SaintJosephLondon.org.

The Women’s Hospital Opens for Business
On March 29 The Women’s Hospital at Saint Joseph East (SJE) began admitting patients, and mothers and babies in the hospital’s former maternity unit were transported to the new 60,000-square-foot, three-floor addition. Advanced technology, such as a new tagging system for newborn security, and special touches, such as a “golden hour” for bonding between parents and baby immediately following birth, are what make this new facility unique.

The Women’s Hospital will accommodate the enormous maternity growth that SJE has experienced during recent years; it currently delivers 2,000 babies annually and its goal is 3,500 babies annually with the new facility. Space is even available next door for future expansion if this goal is surpassed.

The facility houses labor/delivery/recovery rooms, neonatal intensive care, a large nursery and all other aspects of maternity care. “Hospitalist” obstetricians remain on site 24/7 in addition to the doctors coming in for patient deliveries.

The Women’s Hospital features patient- and family-centered design and amenities. For example, there is a fathers-only lounge area, a play area for siblings, an education center, gift shop, coffee shop and free Wi-Fi. Warm, healing colors are used throughout the building and patients have Tempur-Pedic mattresses, spacious rooms, abundant natural light and access to a freestanding spa tub.

Other special touches include a “light well” in the center of the building that provides even more natural light, hand-knitted baby caps and original artwork by Kentucky artists. On front of the building is an abstract 30-foot aluminum sculpture that represents a mother and baby.

In addition to maternity services, more...
comprehensive health services for women of all ages will soon be added to the first floor. To learn more, visit SaintJosephEastKy.org.

TECHNOLOGY

Social Media Launches

Saint Joseph Health System (SJHS) has expanded its online community by offering new ways to connect with its hospitals. Linking to a variety of popular social media platforms, like Facebook and YouTube, patients, employees and the public can interact with thousands of others while staying in touch with the organization.

Those who participate in SJHS's social media networks will have access to breaking news, updates of new services and medical treatment options, event information and reminders, important health alerts, helpful links, pictures, videos, podcasts and networking opportunities. Users can write about their experiences at a SJHS hospital or share their stories to inspire and support others.

NEW SERVICES

Saint Joseph Connection

Saint Joseph Health System (SJHS) has enhanced its physician referral service, bringing its operation in-house and eliminating the use of a third-party vendor. Called “Saint Joseph Connection,” the service helps the public locate primary care or specialty physicians and receive information on specific services offered at all of our facilities.

By calling the toll-free number or visiting the Web site, people obtain relevant information from a staff expert who refers physicians based on a database representing the entire system. Bringing the service in-house has allowed a higher level of customer service and up-to-date information regarding services and physicians.

To access Saint Joseph Connection, call 859.313.2255 or 1.888.645.0013 (toll-free), or visit SaintJosephConnection.org. SJHS is currently promoting Saint Joseph Connection in all its markets. Employees are encouraged to share this information with anyone who requests a physician.

LEADERSHIP

President, Physician Enterprise

James (Jim) S. Parobek has been named president of the Saint Joseph Health System Physician Enterprise. In this newly created role, his responsibilities include overseeing the operations of Saint Joseph Health System physician practices and aligned partnerships to ensure high-quality care, service excellence and financial success.

Vice President, Cardiovascular Services

Rick Harrell has been named vice president of cardiovascular services. In this new role, he will serve as the lead administrator in coordinating the cardiovascular service line across all Saint Joseph Health System facilities to enhance outcomes in quality, service and efficiency; expand relationships with referring physicians and hospitals; and work with clinicians to build upon our legacy of quality and innovation in cardiovascular services.

On March 23, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the new Women’s Hospital at Saint Joseph East. Left to right: Doug Hacker of Congleton-Hacker Co. (builders); Jack Ballard, architect and president of CMW, Inc. (designers); Laura Babbage, Hospital Council Chair for SJH/SJE/SJJ; Denise Hundley, Administrator of The Women’s Hospital; Bishop Ronald Gainer; Eric Gilliam, Administrator of SJE; Mayor Jim Newberry; Ken Haynes, President of SJH/SJE/SJJ; Gene Woods, SJHS CEO; Mike Fiechter, SJHS Board Chair; and James Newton, Executive Director of Facilities for SJH/SJE/SJJ.

Amy Fair delivered the first baby at The Women’s Hospital at Saint Joseph East on March 30. She is pictured with her new daughter and staff members (left to right) Barb Kramer, Amanda Edmonds, Sandy Carlinhour, Brenda Wiemer and Jennifer Burton, who presented her with a large gift basket.
Journeys from the Heart

Two surgery nurses recall their mission trips to Central America

By Amy Taylor

For two of Flaget Memorial Hospital’s surgery nurses, mission trips to Central America were mind-expanding experiences. Both women came back with a renewed appreciation for life here – and with a reverence for the loving, courageous people of developing nations.

Anna Culver

Anna Culver, R.N., spent a week in Guatemala in January of this year. She traveled with a medical missionary group called Children of the Americas (COTA). She was assigned to the plastic surgery team, one of several teams to make the journey.

Culver’s team provided care in a city about the size of Bardstown. She was gratified to see that the city’s businesses and the hospital had electricity. Despite that luxury, few people had access to health care.

“We had people travel from hours away to get to us,” said Culver, who has worked in surgery at Flaget four years. “They would ride an old bus over bumpy roads, coming in from very rural areas.”

Those needing care would stand in line all day, and come back the next day if necessary. Even so, “They were never angry about the wait,” Culver said. “They were so appreciative.”

One tiny child especially touched the nurse’s heart.

“A little two-year-old girl had been so badly burned on her arm that she didn’t have use of her hand and thumb,” the nurse said. “It’s amazing the difference that skin graft will make in her life.”

Many vital items were in short supply. Fortunately, Culver and her co-workers at Flaget had saved surgical supplies for months, then hauled a truckload to COTA headquarters in Lexington before January.

“In surgery, when you have surgical packs of items, you don’t use everything in the pack. We used to throw these extra supplies in the trash. Because of COTA, my co-workers jumped onboard and started saving them and re-sterilizing them.”

By the end of her week in Guatemala, “over 3,000 prescriptions were filled, the family practitioners on the team saw 1,000 patients, over 300 teeth were pulled, and over 130 surgeries were done,” the nurse said. “Basically, it was a whirlwind.”

It was also the experience of a lifetime, Culver said.

“I definitely want to do it again. It’s about trying to be a better person and helping those in need. If you’re able to help, then you should.”

Edna Boone

Edna Boone, R.N., has worked for 26 years at Flaget, 17 of them in surgery. Going on a mission trip to Belize was a lifelong dream.

“I’d always wanted to be a missionary, from the time I was 12,” the nurse said. “Then I wanted to join the Peace Corps, but my mother died, and I had to take care of my younger...
Robert Brock and wife Debbie helped build a school in South Africa

By Kym Russell

Robert and Debbie Brock live in London, Kentucky. They used to live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Robert, vice president of finance with Saint Joseph – London, has travelled all over the world working in third-world countries and the Soviet states when the Berlin Wall fell, with relief and development projects.

So, when Debbie received a flyer about helping build a school in Maluti, a village in the Kingdom of Lesotho, South Africa, she thought her students could do it, all seven of them.

Her students, first-graders up to eighth-graders, attend a one-room school – the Appalachian Christian Academy in Clay County – where Debbie is both the teacher and the principal.

The project was part of Hope for Humanity’s mission outreach. All the schools in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference were encouraged to participate in the mission project.

The flyer asked for a $5.00 donation from each student.

The seven students quickly decided that $5.00 each wasn’t going to do much of anything.

So, they did some brainstorming. Maybe they could ask local churches to help? Or, get people to donate items for a yard sale? Or, put on a talent show? They decided they should set their goal at $1,500 and were eager to get going.

After all, they could relate: their school was in a poor county – the African students’ school was in a poor kingdom.

Never underestimate the power of seven determined kids led by a motivated teacher.

Debbie’s super seven put their plans into action. Soon, they surpassed their first goal and raised the bar. When it was time to turn in their donation, they’d raised a whopping $11,500 for the new school a world away.

“How can a little one-room school raise that much money? Well, it’s through God’s blessing is the only way I can describe it,” Robert said.

It got better. Debbie was asked to join the group of volunteers going to Mulati to start building. She recruited Robert. And, Robert asked if the hospital could help. Pharmaceutical vendors were called on for donations of antibiotics and over-the-counter medicines.

Robert took two full suitcases of medicines to help stock the Mulati hospital that was part of the school mission.

Last September, the Brocks and a student and his family headed to Lesotho. They made bricks. And, put up walls. In less than two weeks, the Clay County Crew helped get infrastructure in place before they left. Hope for Humanity volunteers finished building in October.

Their work is not over. This year, the project is raising funds to equip the school. This time, Debbie has 10 students to help. Their goal is $20,000.

“You can’t help everyone in need but for those you do, it makes all the difference in the world,” said Robert about Lesotho. “From an economic perspective, the education these kids get will let them go back and improve the quality of life and health in their communities.”

As for students in Clay County, it’s a lesson that anything is possible.

From Appalachia to Africa

Debbie and Robert Brock
Dr. Andy Moore is honored for his Surgery on Sunday program

By Amy Taylor

Those who volunteer with Dr. Andy Moore at his Surgery on Sunday program that provides free surgeries for low-income people agree Moore is a hero. CNN, the national news giant, has accepted Moore’s nomination as a CNN Hero of the week (a segment about Moore aired March 4-6). At the end of 2010, the Lexington plastic surgeon could be in the running to be voted CNN Hero of the year.

Laura Ebert, the director of Surgery on Sunday (SOS), can see why. “He has done something truly groundbreaking,” Ebert said. “Before his program, there had never been an SOS in this country. Dr. Moore has helped over 3,100 people since he started SOS in 2005. We’ve had people come through here who turned out to have malignancies that would not have been
“You really don’t have to go to South Africa or Haiti to find people in need of medical help. In these economic times, they’re your friends and your neighbors.”

detected if they did not have a program to come to. We’re kind of the last resort for people with no money and no health insurance. They come here to get help with bad gallbladders, horrible hernias, bad knees, bad shoulders.”

Because of SOS, free outpatient surgeries are performed in donated space in the Lexington Surgery Center on the Saint Joseph Hospital campus the third Sunday of every month. For income-eligible patients with no insurance, all services and supplies, from the pre-operative visit with a volunteer surgeon, to the imaging studies, to the medicines needed before, during and after surgery, to physical therapy, to the post-operative appointment, are free. Grants and donations pay for supplies. Surgeons and their staffs come from miles away to volunteer. Many Saint Joseph Hospital nurses lend a hand.

The most severe cases come first. That’s why, for some patients, there’s a year-long waiting list for surgery, Ebert said. That makes it vital for SOS to be offered in other parts of the state, and elsewhere in the nation.

Dr. Andy Moore, who is a member of the Saint Joseph Hospital medical staff, agrees. “It’s a mistake to single me out,” the surgeon said. “There are 400 volunteers on the roster at SOS. They make it happen. But I think this CNN thing is terrific publicity if it will get the word out about what other communities can do. You really don’t have to go to South Africa or Haiti to find people in need of medical help. In these economic times, they’re your friends and your neighbors.”

For Moore, helping those in need is a family tradition. His father came back from military service in World War II and became a plastic surgeon, the first in Lexington. His aim was to help fallen comrades heal from bad burns and disfiguring wounds.

“I don’t know that my dad ever turned anyone down for any reason,” Moore said. “He had to make a living, but he wasn’t into money. His main motivation was

Continued on page 17

Want To Volunteer?

Medical and support volunteers are the lifeblood of Surgery on Sunday. Without their generosity, professionalism and spirit, the program would not be able to provide critical surgical assistance to low-income individuals. You can help SOS continue to provide these much-needed services by becoming a volunteer.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Surgery on Sunday at 859.246.0046 or download a volunteer application at SurgeryOnSunday.org.

To See Dr. Andy Moore

Online On CNN

Go to Cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/03/04/cnnheroes.sunday.surgery/index.html for the story of Dr. Andy Moore’s heroic efforts.
Giving Back

A look at how some employees minister through mission work

By Kathie Stamps

Ministering to people’s physical and spiritual needs is the very foundation on which Saint Joseph Health System (SJHS) was built. From the simplest smile to the most complicated surgery, SJHS employees serve others in their hospital jobs and through many other ways. Here are some stories of ministering through mission work.
Wesley Paul

In the past, organizations have held crusades just to tell the gospel. “I feel it is important to invest in people, to show them that the gospel can meet your physical as well as spiritual needs,” Paul said. One year in India, a hospital invited Paul to train their chaplains and the director asked if he could also talk to the phone operators. It seems the people who answered the phones needed to be taught some courteous skills. He also held a spiritual conference for the medical staff on how spirituality lowers blood pressure and promotes healing. “We take a lot for granted here because our education and resources are so available,” he said.

Paul practices what he preaches at Saint Joseph - Mount Sterling. “We don’t just go in and pray and walk out,” he said. He may spend up to an hour with a patient, just being there, or getting someone a cup of cold water and making sure they’re comfortable.

Chris Schill

Chris Schill is the new director of development for the Saint Joseph - Berea Foundation. He has been on mission trips to West Virginia after some devastating floods, and to Florida following a hurricane. This year he will be one of 15 people from Glades Christian Church in Berea going to New Orleans, June 26 through July 3.

Through a group called Teen Mission, Glades Christian Church sent some people to New Orleans last year. “They couldn’t believe the need that still existed there,” Schill said. “They said that if you go beyond the regular tourist areas, you can still see the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. The people in New Orleans said that the government has all but stopped helping, and right now it is the Christian community that is rebuilding New Orleans.”

“When we arrive, we will find out exactly what we will be doing, as the need changes from day to day. Our desire should be to leave not one person behind without a home, without food, without hope. That is our mission and that is why I serve.”

Schill and his family help the local community in Berea through church outreach programs. “As a Christian, it is my obligation to care for those in need,” he said, “just as Jesus Christ did and asked us to do the same.”
Joanne O’Kane

Joanne O’Kane is the pharmacy manager at Saint Joseph - Berea and has been a member of St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Danville for 10 years. She is involved with a group at her church, usually 10 to 15 people, who gather once a month to make sandwiches and soup. They deliver the food during the last weekend of each month to between 160 and 280 people, some of whom are at the Arnold Tower retirement home. The church’s monthly service fund donations pay for the food supplies. Sometimes students from Berea College volunteer for this much-needed community service.

“Many churches are getting involved with this,” O’Kane said. She is grateful for the hard work of Don Staub and Sandy McElfresh at St. Peter & Paul Church, who take charge of the monthly food ministry, ordering supplies and making sure they have everything needed to make the soup and sandwiches.

“It is just a way to give back to the community and be involved in caring for those who need help,” O’Kane said. “It’s a very rewarding feeling. We get rather attached to those families or individuals that we deliver to every month.”

Ben West

Ben West is a physician assistant at Saint Joseph - London. He lived in Haiti from 2002 to 2004, where he and his wife, Becky, were missionaries, teaching in a church and orphanage. They return each year, typically in the fall, for a week of mission work.

“My heart was set on helping after the January earthquake,” West said. He asked the hospital for assistance. “It was a thrill to know they were willing to help,” he said. West collected abdominal pads, gauze, Betadine, suture kits and wound-cleaning materials from the Saint Joseph - London warehouse. The items were sent to Haiti with a friend of West’s, Dr. Bob Johnson, and his Missions of Love organization.

West met Dr. Johnson in Haiti in 2003. “I was very ill with typhoid fever and no medicine to help me,” West said. “He was traveling through and someone told him about the dying American. He had the right kind of medicine and saved my life.”

Miraculous, yes. And for added goose bumps, how about this: Dr. Johnson is from Hartford, Ky. One Kentuckian helping another, in the country of Haiti. The experience led West to go back to school and get into medicine. “It connected me in a serious way with Dr. Johnson and with the Haitians,” he said. “They get sick like that all the time and die.”

Mission work is West’s way of glorifying God. “I think all followers of Jesus Christ are missionaries, whether in their hometown or abroad. A missionary is just a person that extends God’s love to others.”
Extending God’s Love to Others

Dr. Bill Webb travels to Mexico, South Dakota for mission work

By Kathie Stamps

Bill Webb, D.O., is a doctor of osteopathy in family practice in Floyd County. He has an office at Betsy Layne Clinic and hospital privileges at Saint Joseph - Martin. He and his wife, Karen, have been members of the Church of Christ in Pikeville for the last 10 years, and several members of the congregation make two mission trips each year, typically for about 10 to 12 days. During the month of January they travel to Mexico and in July they go to the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in Fort Thompson, South Dakota.

Dr. Webb has been on mission trips to Mexico since 1993. He doesn’t speak Spanish, but that doesn’t inhibit the care he is able to give, whether he is helping to build a home for someone or providing a medical diagnosis and treatment. In Mexico, folks come in from 15 to 20 miles away to seek medical care, particularly for high blood pressure and diabetes.

A lot of people have back or knee problems or a whole range of medical issues. “They go to the local pharmacy and tell them their symptoms,” Webb said. Many of those people are expecting medications without first having had a proper diagnosis.

The same problem of undetected diabetes occurs on the reservation in South Dakota, so on those mission trips Webb checks sugar levels and blood pressure.

Working with Diamond Willow Ministries, Webb was part of a group of people who built a playground for the children on the Sioux reservation. The biggest problem the reservation’s hospital has is drug overdose. “The ambulances never have enough charcoal, for example,” Webb said. “Every time I go, Saint Joseph - Martin sends cases of charcoal for stomach pumping.” He also takes first-aid kits, Tylenol and other over-the-counter medications, along with clothing for children.

He and his wife, Karen, are in the process of adopting a 9-year-old Sioux girl named Celeste. They met her in 2007 on their first trip to the Crow Creek reservation. “Karen was reading to the children and helping her pick out clothes,” Webb said. “They bonded the first day we were there. By the end of the week we asked the grandmother if she could come back to Kentucky with us for a month until school started.”

The Webbs are going through the tribal council to approve the adoption. The Webbs’ grown son, Barrett, is doing his emergency medicine residency in Providence, Rhode Island.

A native of Pikeville, Webb attended the school of osteopathic medicine at Pikeville College. As a busy physician, why does he take time out for mission work? “I do it for the people,” he said. “I get so much out of it, a feeling of giving back and doing something that, if I was in the same situation, they would do for me.”
Julia Phillips is a registered nurse in Saint Joseph Hospital’s emergency department. She is soft-spoken and strong. She is a 26-year-old woman who has already seen more poverty, need and the power of God’s presence in many of the world’s hopeless places than most people can imagine.

The earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12 sent Phillips to serve the injured within days of the destruction.

The day after the quake she was helping the Refuge Medical Clinic through her church. The television images and talk was all about Haiti. It was there that Phillips felt a very decisive and clear message: Go to Haiti, go now.

She said she believes it was God’s calling. She shared her thoughts with the women at the clinic that day, and everyone showed their support. She called her parents in Honduras, where they currently serve as missionaries with Samaritan’s Purse. “Yes,” they told her. “You should go.”

Phillips grew up in Honduras with her parents. She has led mission trips on her own, but she had never served on a disaster relief mission trip. This time, it was her turn.

“I became a nurse so I could do this kind of work anywhere in the world,” she said, recalling her experience and snippets of horrifying scenes she had witnessed. She saw mass graves being filled with bulldozers and backhoes. There were burning bodies on the side of the road; no one wanted to touch those bodies that had lain exposed and possibly diseased for more than two weeks after the quake.

Her story unfolds quietly in a soft, almost reverent voice. It takes a zigzag sort of path, explaining a mix of past and present to fill in the blanks of why she felt called, why God
picked her, why she wants to return to help as soon as possible, and how humbled she was to have been there.

It was a calling because Phillips said she feels God opened every door for her to go. Her father contacted Samaritan’s Purse to see if they were sending any medical staff with their disaster response team. At work, her manager readily agreed to give her time off with a few days notice to travel. Some colleagues even donated their own Paid Time Off (PTO) days to help cover her time away. Friends and church members raised nearly $3,000 for medical supplies for Phillips to take with her in just four days.

Phillips’ first stop was Fort Lauderdale where a donated, private chartered flight waited to fly 13 volunteers to Port-au-Prince. With her on the flight was Dr. Jud Chalkley, an anesthesiologist at Saint Joseph Hospital.

Phillips didn’t really see downtown Port-au-Prince on the way in. She was stationed about 25 miles up the mountain at the Baptist Haiti Mission – a school, hospital and church compound that was virtually untouched by the quake. She said it was sort of a retreat, a place to heal physically and emotionally.

Every day for two weeks of 14-hour shifts in makeshift hospital wards, the secluded solace was broken with chaos. Four to eight patients were brought by military helicopter to the compound every day: people with serious wounds, mostly fracture injuries.

The helicopters landed in a cabbage patch and were met by flatbed trucks padded with a couple of mattresses that sufficed for ambulances. Patients were being brought to a hospital that had only one full-time Haitian doctor, and several residents and medical students. The hospital became inundated with orthopedic patients: there were two orthopedic surgeons, two general surgeons, two to three anesthesiologists, one to two OR nurses, one to two floor nurses and three to four family providers volunteering at the 100-plus-bed hospital at a time.

Phillips said the first

Continued on page 16
surgical instruments, “the doctor took a pen, we disinfected it with alcohol, and he used the pen to remove that bone. The little girl was about 8. She had no anesthesia, but she never tried to pull away.”

In the village, the health care team worked in a church equipped with a thatched roof, but with no glass in the windows. Boone got to play many different roles in this primitive area – from triage nurse, to pharmacist – even to dentist.

“The dentist used anesthesia on the patient, and prepared the tooth for pulling. Then he let me pull it, just so I could say I’d done it,” she said. “It gave me a feeling of confidence.”

Boone and her team also visited Belize City, where they found a “hospital that was immaculate and up-to-date,” she said. In other locations, “people lived on dirt floors and chickens ran through the houses.”

Her trip taught her “the people were just so genuine, just like you and me,” she said. “They have the same needs we have. We asked one man, ‘What is it you need from us?’ He said, ‘I need your friendship.’ It was a gift we were glad to give.”

To apply
To find out more about COTA, visit ChildrenoftheAmericas.org. For more information about U of L’s International Service Learning program, visit louisville.edu/student/isl.

To submit your story ideas or news to Common Thread, visit SaintJosephCommonThread.org.

By Mike Garrido
VP, Mission Integration, Saint Joseph Health System

Our organization’s mission is: to nurture the healing ministry of the Catholic Church by bringing it new life, energy and vitality in the 21st century. It is only through each of us, as caring individuals, that this energy and vitality can be felt and made real to those we serve. They can see it in our face, hear it in the tone of our voice, or feel it in the touch of our hands as we care for their physical, spiritual and psychological needs.

Think of the promise that each day brings as you go about your daily work – honoring the dignity of every individual who crosses your path, whether they are patients and loved ones or your fellow co-workers.

Setting Saint Joseph Health System apart is our outreach to the poor and underserved and commitment to building healthier communities, including a mobile clinic to some of Kentucky’s poorest counties. For fiscal year 2009, we provided more than $63 million in outreach care to Kentuckians for which limited or no reimbursement was received.

One of our latest initiatives in building healthier communities is our new focus on violence prevention – since the results of violence in our homes, schools and streets are seen each day in our emergency departments and in our local communities.

As we move forward, Saint Joseph Health System leaders will gather for the next Leadership Development Institute (LDI) on June 10-11, 2010, at the Perkins Conference Center, Eastern Kentucky University. Our theme will be building healthy communities as we come together to pray and reflect, learn from one another and strengthen our healing ministry.

Whether you are a physician, a nurse, a support employee, manager, board member, or financial contributor, we are grateful for all you do. What a privilege as we work together to move our mission forward!

A CNN Hero

Continued from page 9

helping people.”

The elder surgeon is no longer alive, but three of his five sons are plastic surgeons who volunteer their time at Surgery on Sunday: Andy, Woody and Mike. All three are known for a positive attitude that gives patients hope. Dr. Andy’s banter keeps people laughing. Dr. Mike entertains with his singing. Even Moore’s 84-year-old mother Peggy, once a registered nurse, is a faithful SOS volunteer.

Mrs. Moore and an old family friend, Mary Ellen Amato, also 84, are the official SOS greeters, or “citizen ambassadors,” as they’re affectionately called.

Amato ran the surgery department at Saint Joseph Hospital for 30 years. Now she works full-time for the Lexington Surgery Center doing credentialing and paperwork. She devotes every third Sunday of the month to SOS.

“I’ve seen young people with...”

For Dr. Moore, one of the satisfactions to SOS is knowing that people who might be bankrupted by paying out-of-pocket for surgery are still able to support their families after care. Another is knowing that SOS has saved the Medicaid program about $25 million.

SOS volunteers have created a template to share in the hopes that the program will expand nationally. No matter what type of health care reform is adopted within the next few years, Dr. Moore feels sure that millions of people will still need free surgery.

Holly Moore wants to see Dr. Andy realize his dream on a larger scale, she said. There are plans afoot to start programs in Louisville, in Texas, and at other sites around the nation.

“I really hope other organizations will pick it up and go with it,” she said. “I started volunteering to do community service for my bachelor’s degree. Once you start, you’re totally hooked. Being a volunteer with Dr. Andy is a privilege and a blessing.”
Story update!
The Maas Family Expands to 9!

By Kym Russell

Remember the Maas Family? In December, Darren, Rebecca, their two biological children and three adopted children were happily anticipating the arrival of two new children from Ethiopia.

In January, Rebecca travelled with a close friend to an Ethiopian orphanage to bring her new daughters, Sera, 22 months, and Grace, age 10, home.

Now, with seven kids – three with significant health needs – the Maas’ home is brimming with energy and fun and lots of prayer. In the face of home schooling, daunting medical issues, Darren and Rebecca remain steadfast in their faith and their calling to help the least, the children.

Will they adopt again? Yes. Definitely. Their 1,700-square-foot home is all that stands in the way. They can’t be approved for more adoptions until they move to a larger house.

Darren Maas, a long-time employee with Saint Joseph Hospital, laughs and says, “Our love extends far beyond these walls. Now, we’re praying for a bigger home. It’s all up to God.” The need for a new home for their growing family is a tall order. It has to be handicap assessable and have at least six bedrooms.

Even so, the newest family members, Grace and Sera, are right at home where they are. Grace has mastered jumping on the trampoline; she is a whiz at math and is getting the knack of riding a bike. And, Sera, the toddler, just got new eyeglasses that expand her vision far beyond her limited eyesight of just six inches. Darren says, “They are just exploring their new world and learning a new language. It’s a real blessing for us to see that and realize we take so many things for granted.”

Follow the Maas Family at KyFamilyforFaith.blogspot.com. They also were the April feature family at MyCrazyAdoption.org.