



HELPING HANDS Medical Missions

Delivering compassionate healthcare and the Gospel
to the most needy in the developing world

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Forward to a Friend

Faith & Family on the Missions

In this edition of Living the Mission Experience we hear from Sue Condit. Sue is a registered nurse, wife and mother from Michigan.

She shares how important the missions have been in helping to build up her faith and family.

"I love the fact that Helping Hands Medical Missions always puts the faith first. Each mission starts with Holy Mass. The Mass gives us the graces we need to have a fruitful and productive week ministering to the poor, as is often said, 'you cannot give what you don't have.' The missions also give me the opportunity to deepen my Catholic faith; through daily Mass, Confession, Spiritual Direction and Prayer. Learning and living the Catholic faith is an integral part of every medical mission.

Our 3 adult children have also benefited greatly from their mission experience as teenagers, by accompanying me and my husband several times. Our children have encountered many wonderful opportunities to serve the poor and learn valuable real-life skills under the tutelage of some of the best Christian doctors and nurses in the world. Furthermore, the missions afford us wonderful family time, to work side-by-side serving the needs of God's children each day. Then having the wonderful opportunity at the end of the day to unwind and talk about our experiences, without the interruption of TV, electronic gadgets and all the other interruptions we have grown so accustomed to in our day-to-day lives. As many of you know well, these gadgets crowd out precious family-time, but not on the mission! God gives us simplicity without gadgets. We have also brought our nieces and nephews on missions and I can say that each time it was a wonderful experience. It has been so gratifying to see these children volunteer intensely for one week. The children seem to grow and mature tremendously in such a short amount of time. Below I have included a few steps you can take if you would like to bring you family on a mission."

Steps to take in planning for a mission with family and friends:

1. Call and speak with Gloria Madrigal. Gloria has many years of experience coordinating and serving on several missions. She can give you all the details and help you to determine which missions might be best for family and friends. Some missions take place in the summer months and some take place during the school-break weeks, so you can plan accordingly with your family calendar.
2. Contact friends and family. Take the time to reach out to families you think might be interested in attending. Invite them over and tell them all about the mission and the many spiritual, intellectual and social benefits that you have experienced through serving.
3. Make a savings plan. Once you have decided on a mission, you will need to take practical steps to save for the mission. HHMM keeps their mission fees low, but there is still a cost involved. However, it will be well worth it. Where else can you take an international trip, deepen your faith and give your friends and family valuable skills that will last a life-time?

Meet the Missionaries



Sue Condit, RN

Place: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Parish: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

How would you describe your volunteer experience?

I would describe my volunteer experience as ongoing: every year I look forward to the Santiago Texacuangos mission. The mission has become almost a part of me. I think and pray for the Salvadoran people regularly even when I'm not there. The last couple of years, I helped to run the Operating Room. All year long, I gather medical equipment and supplies from donors and have them sent to El Salvador. Each time I pack a box, I know it is for a very special cause and person.

How many years have you participated in the Helping Hands Medical Missions?

For the past 6 years I have participated in the Santiago Texacuangos Mission in El Salvador. My husband, Dr. Donald Condit, and I have 3 children – Patrick, Maggie and Anne Marie. All three of our children have participated in a mission during their high school years and have continued to volunteer at different times, one as a dentist and the other as a nurse. Also, I'm part of a weekly ladies Bible study at my parish, where I often share my mission experiences.

What do you like best about the missions? The two things I love best about the mission are daily Mass and prayers. Prayer and the regular reception of the sacraments helps to keep us grounded and focused on the busy week of volunteer service.

What has been your favorite missionary moment?

One of my favorite moments on a recent mission was when our priest came to be with the OR staff and patients for the day. The priest was able to come into the operating room before the procedures started; he even had a chance to pray with a little girl patient. You could see the girl relax and benefit from this prayer time. The whole staff also knew that God was with them throughout the surgery.

To learn more about how you can bring your family and friends on a mission, please contact Gloria Madrigal at our International Mission's Office in Irving, Texas at (972) 253-1800 or visit us online at www.hhmm.org.

Serve with us on a mission. Learn more at www.hhmm.org.