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# Living the Mission Experience

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

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*Forward to a Friend*

## Discovering A Calling to Serve



Some studies have shown that the career you wanted at 10 is the one most likely to make you happy and fulfilled in life. Discovering what God wants us to do for our life's work can be a serious discernment process. However, I believe that if we are pro-active in our

approach, that is pro-active in prayer and works, God will reveal the career He has chosen for us. "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you, that you may go and bear fruit that will last." Matt:5:2.

In this issue of Living the Mission Experience, we'll meet a doctor who discovered his career in dentistry through a Helping Hands Medical Mission. Through hard work, prayer and sacrifices, Dr. G'Sell discovered God's professional calling for his life. In 2003, Dr. G'Sell attended his first HHMM Mission in which he felt God calling him to a life of service in the medical field.

My advice to anyone who is seeking or struggling to find God's calling for their life's work is to follow the example of Dr. G'Sell. God has a special mission for each and everyone of us and we have to be humble and pro-active in prayer and works. We must be constantly seeking to serve those who have been placed in our path, be it a sales professional, teacher, medical professional, a student or any noble line of work. If you are discerning your life's work, feeling that God has been calling you to attend a mission or know someone who is considering attending a mission, please contact us for more information.

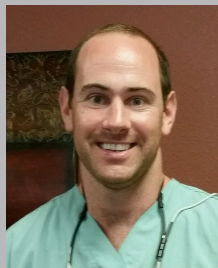
Lupita Assad, RN

International Missions Coordinator

*We love, we care, without boundaries. If you would like to experience the joy of collaborating on a Helping Hands Medical Mission or if you are interested in learning more about HHMM please contact Gloria at [mission@hhmm.org](mailto:mission@hhmm.org) or (972) 253-1800.*

## Meet the Missionaries

### Christopher G'Sell, DDS



Home State: Missouri

Parish: St. James Catholic Church

Mission: 2

I was seventeen years old when I stepped off a bus in Santiago Texacuangos, El Salvador on my first Helping Hands Medical Mission in 2003. I did not know what to expect as I walked down old cobblestone highways greeting the people that I saw and distributed toothbrushes to their homes.

As a teenager it was shocking to be confronted by the truly impoverished scene that was before me. The stick houses, metal roofing, and the people's lack of access – to what I considered the most basic necessities – astonished me. Yet, beyond the poverty and desperate need I encountered something I least expected among the people; I encountered a life changing love and joy.

One such moment I remember vividly was a time when I was approaching a small little girl on a bridge made of kindling sticks. She stood there looking over into the waste below. Turning to me, she burst into a huge smile. Without saying a word, she radiated love and joy and melted my heart when she said "bienvenidos, misioneros" which means "welcome, missionaries." She grabbed my hand and tugged me into her stick home where her parents and five siblings welcomed me with great warmth.

Suddenly, the tables were turned for me; the poor and the hungry were giving something to me, the missionary.

The joy and thankfulness I found in the hearts of the people of El Salvador struck me with a profound realization of what it means to be rich; what it means to have and have-not. I truly encountered the joy and contentment found in the gospels, and as a teenager, it was life changing to realize that this joy was not found in material wealth.

I learned to appreciate the value of a smile as the primary way by which one presents themselves in the world. It gave clarity to my own mission: to help others by relieving them of avoidable human suffering. After returning to the US, I began to shadow various medical specialties and soon found my niche in dentistry.

I encourage any parent to consider this opportunity for their children. In the least, they will witness and come to love the simple closeness to God as they share in the spirit of faith in these communities. For me, it also provided my vocation.

I have long looked forward to finally returning to Central America as a dentist and offer so much more to them than simple toothbrushes.



**Serve with us on a mission. Learn more at [www.hhmm.org](http://www.hhmm.org).**