Deferred Mission Appointees
AIMS Leadership
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On the cover:
Paul (SD ’08) and Janie (SM ’06) Yoo with baby
Jaycee Hannah in Lusaka, Zambia

From the Editor
by William H. McGhee, MD, EdD

“This issue of the AIMS journal is focused on the stories and pictures of four of our DMA’s serving the church overseas.”

Deferred Mission what?”, so I was greeted by a freshman medical student, “Tell me more about that.” Indeed it was a delight to talk about Deferred Mission Appointees (DMA’s). They start out as dental students or medical students, committed Adventists in school at Loma Linda, who come here to serve the Lord in long term mission assignments when school and residency are completed.

We now have 34 persons serving overseas -- from Nepal to Nigeria. Also, there are 30 physicians in residency -- from the University of Hawaii to the University of Kentucky. Additionally there are two students in the School of Dentistry and 26 in the School of Medicine.

The persons signed up for the DMA program have dramatically increased over the past five years, very much related to the efforts and resources used by the General Conference of SDA’s and the Schools of Dentistry and Medicine.

The role of several persons, including myself representing the GC at Loma Linda, is to continually work to maintain close ties with the students, residents and persons overseas; to encourage them and to find out what we can do to support them.

So this issue of the AIMS journal is focused on the stories and pictures of four of our DMA’s serving the church overseas. On our cover is Janie (SM ’06) and Paul (SD ’08) Yoo and Jaycee Hannah, in Lusaka, Zambia. They have an interesting story for us. Nick Walters (SM ’92) then tells of their work in Bangkok, Thailand. Finally there is a story by James Appel (SM ’00) about their work in Moundou, Chad.

So these are three accounts of DMA’s working overseas. For me, they were exciting tales of how they are working there for the Lord. And my prayer is that they will be inspirational for you. ✽
The satisfaction of finally being able to make decisions in treatment was a very rewarding and satisfying experience. What is more, the opportunity to help people who really needed the service we could provide, lit a fire inside of me. That satisfaction and reward I felt driving back to Loma Linda from Monument Valley stayed with me, and as a DMA (Deferred Mission Appointee), I consequently accepted the assignment to Africa, later changed to Puerto Rico in the InterAmerican Division, where we served for two terms at Hospital Bella Vista in Mayagüez.

Over and over we see proof of the benefit of Service Learning and the DMA program. AIMS encourages and supports Service Learning and enrollment of students into the DMA program. We know it can change the path of one’s career, as it did mine, and also fill a need in the world.

Even before I met my husband, Paul (SD 2008), I dreamt of becoming a medical missionary. And for Paul, this was a dream that he held fast to as well. We both signed up as Deferred Mission Appointees during our first year of medical and dental school, committing to becoming missionaries through the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists once we finished our professional programs. During our years in courtship and early years of marriage, mission work was a vital part of who we were and what we envisioned for our future. We took part in many short-term medical mission trips during our time in our respective training programs in Ophthalmology and Dentistry, cumulatively serving in multiple countries such as Bangladesh, Cameroon, Madagascar, Honduras, Panama, Mexico, and Bolivia.

Our time here in Zambia has been full of joys as well as challenges. Some of the challenges include culture shock, uprooting everything we knew to live in a developing nation, dealing with insects and pests of every dimension, and learning to practice ophthalmology and dentistry in a foreign setting with very limited resources. We have also been faced with making tough decisions and dealing with difficult personnel and financial issues due to our position as directors of our institutions. I have learned that when we leave our comfort zone to participate in God’s work, He often asks us to do more than we expected.
WHAT’S A MOUNDOU?
MOUNDOU, CHAD

James E. Appel, MD (SM 2000)

In 2008 the Bere Adventist Hospital in the Republic of Chad started noticing that many patients were coming from the nearby city of Moundou to Bere to have surgery. That was unusual since Moundou is Chad’s second largest city and economic capital with a population estimated at 500,000. Why would they come out to the bush to get operated on? Then Medical Director, James Appel, decided to find out. He went on a trip to Moundou with local church leaders and toured the city’s one hospital: a government-run institution with only four doctors on staff. He also heard many horror stories from the local population.

Then the mission’s treasurer, Job Nguerebaye, took James to see an old mission house that had fallen into ruin and was being squatted on by some military families. The house was located on Moundou’s one paved road behind a

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AIMS GLOBAL MISSION AWARD: NOMINEE REQUEST FOR 2014

Please send your suggestion for a person to be named a recipient of the 2014 AIMS Global Mission Award for 2014 to William McGhee, at wmcghee@llu.edu A person needs to be active in his or her profession for at least 10 years, contributed as a medical missionary—self-supporting or church sponsored—and the candidate should have made a major contribution which brings credit to the profession, the church, and AIMS. Thank you.

What's a Moundou?
(Continued from page 6)

soccer field. The layout of the structure immediately lent itself to being turned into a surgery center in James’ mind. He requested permission to use the house and turn it into a health center if they could get the squatters off.

About that time, James received a notice from the LLU Women’s Auxiliary asking if Chad had any projects for the upcoming year. James wrote a one day proposal for turning the house into a surgery center and the Women’s Auxiliary donated $70,000. Eight months later, when the squatters finally vacated the premises the project was up and running.

Off and on over the next three years, James took time off from his full time duties as the only physician at the busy Bere Adventist Hospital to oversee the project in Moundou. With further support from the Florida Hospital health care system and the AMALF (Adventist Medical Association of French Language), the project neared its completion towards the beginning of 2012. Further delays due to red tape in the corrupt Chadian government put off the opening until June 2012.

Finally, on June 17, 2012, the new Moundou Adventist Surgery Center opened its doors after an opening ceremony presided by the Governor of the region. Within a few weeks, the government hospital went on strike and the new Surgery Center found itself as the only health care institution performing life-saving operations for this important city. In October, James was joined by Dr. Roger Muhemi, a young Adventist doctor from Democratic Republic of Congo who’s been working for the last two years at the Koza Adventist Hospital in northern Cameroon.

The surgery center faces many challenges as already the 26 bed capacity is filled to overflowing and the property and infrastructures are inadequate for the number of patients being served. Pray for them as the work of Adventist Health takes a new step forward in this Muslim majority country in the 10-40 window of sub-Saharan Africa.

Lights in Bangkok
(Continued from page 7)

students felt she could not take her exam on the Sabbath and we supported her in her attempt to petition the Thai nursing board to allow the 16 Adventist nursing students to take the boards on another day of the week besides the Sabbath. This complex and delicate process took many months and really tested the faith of the Adventist students. We prayed and supported the students through this difficult time and to make a very long story short, all the Adventist students were able to take the boards on Sunday and Monday and they all passed their exams. This made such an impression on the Thai nursing board they decided to let future years of Adventist nursing students take their exams on non-Sabbath days.

We believe God blessed these students and we were thrilled to be a part of the support process.

We asked for continued prayers on the part of those reading this as we try to shine our light here in Bangkok, Thailand.

Some DMAs have blogs where they regularly post updates about their experiences. You can find their stories at:

- Appels bereadventisthospital.blogspot.com
- Colwells billntrixy.blogspot.com
- Haytons rshayton.blogspot.com
- Netteburgs missionarydoctors.blogspot.com
- Priesters lifeinblantyre.blogspot.com
- Yoos pjmissions.blogspot.com
to do. We make many mistakes, but we learn and grow from these experiences. Despite all our challenges, it has been rewarding to know that we are part of a bigger work, an opportunity to serve as an active part of the medical ministry. We have been blessed to be able to help many patients who come with a variety of eye and tooth problems. I have used my training as a cornea specialist to begin a cornea service in a country where that specialty service previously was not available. I am blessed to be able to help many patients with dense blinding cataracts regain their vision with a simple surgical procedure. I have also been able to take part in teaching the very first class in the newly established ophthalmology residency program in Zambia. Paul, on the other hand, has been busy practicing dentistry and growing the Dental Clinic.

We believe that God has been blessing our two institutions, allowing patients to flock to be treated there and allowing the name of the church to be upheld and respected through the quality health care services provided. There is tremendous joy that comes from working in the mission field and bringing restoration of sight and teeth to many, knowing that we are making a difference, not because of the talents and skills we bring to the table, but because God has chosen to use us for His purpose. Please keep us in prayer as we continue to serve and witness for Him here in Zambia.

Miriam Appel with a friend in Moundou

Dreams Fulfilled
(Continued from page 5)

The board invites you to carefully consider one of the following six levels of membership. Don’t forget that your current membership is a credit toward your membership upgrade!

• $1,000 Local Life Membership
• $2,000 Regional Life Membership
• $4,000 National Life Membership
• $7,500 International Life Membership
• $12,500 Global Life Membership
• $25,000 Universal Life Membership

Remember, Life Memberships can be paid over a five year period! Visit www.aims-health.net to become a member!