



Community of Christ

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Fall 2001

IN MEMORY

Ed Guy

August 28, 1934 to

September 14, 2001

Memorial services were held to honor the memory of Ed Guy at Samish Island, Washington, on October 6, and in Independence October 7. Churches were packed both times. The services were a celebration of the life of a man whose caring and compassion for others had no boundaries.

Ed was born in Santa Monica, California, the son of John and Florence Moorman Guy, and grew up also in Virginia and Oregon. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1955. He earned money for his education by working in high-rise construction, logging, as a riverboat hand in Alaska, and as a Forest Service smoke jumper in Idaho. He graduated from Graceland College in 1957, Central Washington University in 1961, and received his Masters of Social Work at the University of Missouri in 1966. He then worked 3 years as a family and crisis intervention counselor in Kansas City.

In 1971, Ed moved to Honduras to head up the La Buena Fe Mission. He moved to El Salvador in 1983, and worked tirelessly throughout Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to give spiritual and material aid to the poor and dispossessed of these countries. No one will ever know how many lives he saved or enriched with his selfless giving. He asked for nothing for himself, but was very persuasive in leading others to give financial aid and prayers for countless people in need. Though his ministry resulted in many conversions to Christ, he ministered without regard to a person's beliefs or life style. Anyone who was suffering was like a magnet to Ed. Children, the least fortunate, the ill and the bereaved received his greatest attention. At times, Ed's toes were poking through holes in his shoes, leading more than one of us on health missions to give him money with the stern admonition to buy himself new shoes--but finding later he had given the money to someone less fortunate. Ed lived in physical poverty by choice, but enriched immeasurably the lives of everyone who knew him.

Ed did not seek, and was embarrassed by, recognition. He received the Community of Christ's International Human Rights Award for Service to Humanity in 1994. He said of what motivated him, "When I realized this gospel was true, I knew it was worth giving my life for." What Ed taught, what Ed lived, we should all keep in our hearts and be inspired to greater love and greater efforts on behalf of others who need what we can give.

By M. Richard Troeh, M.D., one of Ed's many friends

NEW LOGO



This edition of the Newsletter features our new name and proposed logo.

"Serving a World of Need"

HMA EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Health Ministries Association welcomes Paula Rummel, RN to the position of HMA executive assistant. Community of Christ World Headquarters in Independence, Missouri will provide space and support in the office of the Presiding Bishopric at the Temple complex. Paula, husband Gary with their children, Amy and Hilliary, live in Oak Grove, Missouri. In 1979 Paula received her Associate Degree in Nursing and later earned her Registered Nursing credentials. In December of 2001, Paula will complete her Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Care Management from Graceland University. Paula has served as pastor of the Oak Grove, Missouri Community of Christ congregation. Paula will be working in the office each week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She can be contacted by e-mail at prummel@cofchrist.org or by calling 1-800-825-2806 extension 2262 or from within the area code 816 call 833-1000 extension 2262. At times when Paula is not in the office the phone will be answered by other staff or a voice mail message may be recorded. Also, Paula will be checking e-mail messages from her home.

As administrative assistant Paula will: (1) provide administrative support to the HMA Board, (2) develop a comprehensive communication plan, (3) develop a plan to increase membership and financial support, (4) coordinate health teams and (5) serve as liaison between the HMA and the Community of Christ.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING / BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

A general membership meeting of the Health Ministries Association will meet in classroom A & B at the Independence Regional Hospital from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on April 6, 2002. A roster of names of nominees to serve on the HMA Board of Directors consisting of officers and Board Members at large will be presented. The HMA membership is invited and encouraged to submit in advance names of nominees to serve in these positions during the 2002 - 2004 biennium. The names of nominees must be submitted to the nominating committee no later than January 10, 2002.

Please send names and a short biographical sketch of all nominees to Dr. Ron Edwards at redwards@cjnetworks.com. The positions to be filled: President-Elect for 2004-2006, Secretary, Treasurer and six Board Members at Large positions.

HMA BANQUET

The biennial Health Ministries Association banquet and program will take place at the Independence Regional Hospital on Saturday evening, April 6, 2002 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program will include an intercultural presentation and a keynote address by Bishop Steve Jones. Advanced reservations are recommended. The ticket price has not been set at this time. Contact Paula Rummel at prummel@cofchrist.org for reservations or more information.

HMA CONFERENCE BOOTH

Be sure to visit the Health Ministries Association booth in the Lower Assembly Room at the 2002 Community of Christ World Conference.

GRACELAND STUDENT CHAPTER

In January of 2001, members of the Graceland Chapter, Nikki Hancock, Hiwot Woldu, Emily Tripp, and Tara Butler accompanied the Health Ministries Association team serving at the La Buena Fe Clinic in Honduras. The experience provided impetus for other pre professional students at Graceland to take advantage of the same opportunity. In October, the Graceland Chapter hosted a breakfast reception at the Graceland Homecoming for pre professional medical and dental students. Thanks to those who attended the reception and are reaching out to help support students at Graceland. The students said they gained knowledge about the field of medicine and dentistry and thanked everyone for enhancing their hopes and desires for becoming health care professionals.

Tara Butler, Chapter President

GRACELAND STUDENT CAREER EXPLORATION

Graceland Students Hiwot Woldu and Nikki Hancock spent June 2001 rotating among the various surgical sub specialties at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Both students plan to attend medical school and apply for surgery residencies. One of the HMA objectives is to provide mentoring, shadowing and career exploration opportunities for members of the Graceland student chapter.

OCTOBER 2001 LA BUENA FE TEAM

Dr. Ron Edwards led a team to work at the La Buena Fe Clinic in Honduras from October 14th to the 21st. Team members were Norman Nelson, M.D., Ruth Humbert, RN, Sue Edwards, RN, Paula Rummel, RN, and Hillary Rummel. In addition to providing health care at the Clinic, the team set up village clinics at Sauce, Buena Vista, Monte de Dios, and Laguna Seca. Besides providing health care, team members provided the clinic medical staff with information on skin diseases, the differential diagnosis of an acute abdomen, dental care and cleaning, caring for bedridden patients, diagnosis and treatment of swelling. Patient education centered on teaching breast self-examination and promoting visits for pap smears at Honduras Health Centers. Ruth Humbert, RN used a Focometer to measure refractive error and fitted 110 people with glasses donated by the Lion's Club. Improved vision will allow for reading, sewing, sorting beans, repairing tools and safety in walking on the mountain roads.

CATARACT AND PTERYGIUM SURGERY

Paula Rummel, RN, while serving at La Buena Fe recently, conducted a feasibility study regarding the need and practicality of cataract and pterygium surgery at the La Buena Fe Clinic during a future team visit. Briefly, the outcome of the study is that these ophthalmologic surgical services are needed and the project is feasible. A written report has been provided to the HMA Board of Directors. For additional information contact Dr. Ron Edwards at redwards@cjnetworks.com.

LA BUENA FE CONFERENCE

During the Labor Day weekend of 2001 a meeting of all the organizations and individuals involved in support and operations at La Buena Fe came together for a two day conference. Participants included representatives from World Accord, La Buena Fe Foundation, Program for Rural Reconstruction (PRR), the PRR staff, Community of Christ and the Health Ministries Association. The conference was convened to coordinate activities and goals of all the participating entities.

HEART EVALUATION FOR HONDURAS CHILD

In January of 2000, two HMA team physicians while working in Honduras, discovered a seven year old girl, Karla Castillo, with an abnormal heart examination that turned out to be a large ventricular septal defect. The two physicians who discovered Karla were second year pediatric residents from St. Louis Children's Hospital participating in an elective co-sponsored by the HMA. Karla was followed-up by subsequent team physicians. Plans are being put in place for Karla to be brought to Children's Hospital of Des Moines for surgical repair. HMA member, Dr. Ron Edwards, is coordinating the effort. The surgical service will be provided without charge. The Southeast Illinois District of the Community of Christ has set aside funds to cover the cost of bringing Karla and her mother to the U.S.

Update: On 12/6/01 Karla underwent successful heart surgery in Des Moines and has returned to Honduras with her mother. The HMA will provide follow-up and supply her with heart medicine (digoxin) for two months after which she will no longer require medications.

EL REFUGIO CHILDREN'S HOME HEALTH CARE

A new project for the HMA is to provide health care support to the El Refugio orphanage in Honduras. The second HMA team to work at the orphanage will take place January 6th - 7th, 2002. The team will evaluate and treat children with acute, chronic and recurrent health problems as well as provide complete physical examinations on all 73 children. An infirmary and a small pharmacy will be supplied and teaching sessions will be offered to the nurse. A basic medication guidebook in Spanish for each medication in the pharmacy will be developed.

MOBILE CLINIC PROPOSED

Bob Paschall with the assistance of Bob Dimmitt of the RLDS Recreational Vehicle Club are researching the idea of building a mobile medical-dental clinic in the U.S. to be used in Honduras specifically to serve 2-3 orphanages and a village. Preliminary ideas include: purchasing a used pull-behind travel trailer, rebuilding the inside to be interchangeable between a medical and a dental clinic. The mobile clinic could be moved from site to site as needed by in-country towing and when not in use the mobile clinic would be parked at a secure location. The travel trailer could also provide sleeping quarters for 2-3 people. The major advantages would be: the trailer, equipment and supplies could be maintained and available for use by the Health Ministries Association teams at multiple locations depending on the need. Funds would need to be raised to purchase the travel trailer and hitch, purchase materials to reconfigure the interior, supplies, equipment, furnishings and the cost of shipping it to Honduras. If you have comments or suggestions regarding this proposal, please forward them to Bob Paschall at his e-mail address: paschall@kids.wustl.edu or call him in the evening and weekends at 618-632-5689.

This proposal will be on the agenda of the January 2002 Board of Directors meeting

2002 HMA TEAMS TO HONDURAS

Three medical-dental teams to Honduras are planned for 2002.

January 5-13, 2002 - Mission Coordinator: Bob Paschall

February 23 - March 3, 2002 - Mission Coordinator: Ron Edwards

July 2002 (Dates to be announced): Mission Coordinator: Sannon Hattey and Bob Paschall

TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

Pediatric nurse practitioners, pediatricians, family medicine nurse practitioners, family medicine physicians, nurses, dentists, laboratory technicians, dieticians, pharmacists, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and assistants.

RESOURCES

World Neighbors: Helping people help themselves, finding practical, innovative, and sustainable ways to improve lives and communities. www.wn.org/

World Accord: Works with partners in Canada and overseas to provide educational and self-help programs for the poor in the developing world. www.worldaccord.org

Outreach International: A human development agency striving to alleviate the injustice of hunger, poverty and disease in the world. www.outreach-international.org

El Refugio Orphanage: A home for up to 75 children in Honduras. www.elrefugio.org

Community Partners in Progress for International Development: “Our mandate is to relieve poverty by assisting economically deprived populations inside and outside Canada in the fields of health, education and sustainable livelihood”. Contact Hazel McDonald, Executive Director @ 519-676-2474.

International SOS Assistance, Inc.: Provides assistance services for international travelers. www.intsos.com

Traveler’s Emergency Network, Inc.: Provides assistance for international travelers. www.tenweb.com

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Internal links to health advisory for foreign travelers. www.cdc.gov/travel/

Global Medicine Network: Created to establish personal and professional contacts among individuals and organizations working in international and global medicine. The aim is to promote cooperative relationships in areas such as humanitarian service, medicine and supply donation, research, health education and visitor exchange. www.globalmedicine.org

ERRATA

In the summer 2001 edition of the newsletter in the section “MDA Board of Directors Meeting schedule” April 7, 2002 was listed as the date for a HMA general membership meeting. The date should be Saturday, April 6, 2002.