

MEDICAL MINISTRY

INTERNATIONAL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



Geyli: The Little Girl Who Stole Our Hearts

SERGEY'S RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

A MESSAGE FROM LEANNE

Donors like you are at the heart of everything we do, and I want to thank you for your compassion and generosity. Now that we are well into 2023, my team and I are focused on reviewing our programs and their impact.

We track every patient and record every service. That's how we're able to tell you that you provided 222,619 services valued at \$73,106,532 CAD in 2022 on Projects Teams and in partnership with Health Centers.

In 2023, we'll be working to improve how our programs monitor and track the types of diseases that we see and treat on our project teams, through local initiatives, and at Health Centers.

One of our goals is to monitor and report how we contribute to initiatives like the Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The Kigali Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases is a political declaration that strives to inspire stakeholders at all levels to participate in ending unnecessary suffering from NTDs .

Already, we know a recent project team was able to provide relief to a community suffering from an outbreak of Scabies, which is one of 20 NTDs.

This year, we will also be asking for input from our international directors and long-time participants to determine how we can better report on the excellent work being done by Medical Ministry International.

I hope you enjoy seeing your gifts at work in the stories and impact stats shared in this newsletter. It's because of your dedication and generosity that we're able to provide health care to patients around the world—thank you for your ongoing support.

In Him,

Leanne Ferris



Leanne Ferris
Executive Director

SERGEY'S RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Your Christmas Gifts at Work

This past Christmas, many of you chose a gift from our Christmas Gift Guide. From everyone here on our team, we'd like to thank you. We thought the best way to show our gratitude was to show you the impact of your gifts.

We'd like you to meet Sergey, a 65-year-old man from Ukraine. Before the invasion began, he was living in Severodonetsk with his wife and granddaughter.

But when the invasion began, they were forced to flee, leaving everything behind, including important files Sergey was using to trace missing people from World War II. For a whole month, Sergey stayed in a shelter with his wife and granddaughter. Then, they received terrible news. Their home had been destroyed.

Everything was lost, including all of the photo archives for Sergey's work.

In those devastating days, Sergey said he was still grateful. Grateful that his family was alive—they still had one another. He prayed constantly as they travelled along perilous roads that were also being bombed.

Eventually, they arrived at a local evangelical church in the Izmail region, and there they met the local Medical Ministry International team.

Thanks to your gifts this Christmas, Sergey and his family received a food basket, supplies, and much-needed clothing.

Today, Sergey is receiving pension from the government. He's living in a small home with his wife, granddaughter, and another family. It's a bit cramped, but instead of focusing on what they've lost, Sergey looks for ways to support others.

Every day, he helps with Medical Ministry International's lunch program. And even though he's there, he never eats.

"I have my pension and we will survive. I want those who have nothing to eat the lunches and receive more food," he says.



Sergey lives out his Jewish faith by continuing to trace missing people from World War II. When the weather got especially cold this winter, your generosity provided Sergey's granddaughter with a warm blanket. *"She sleeps with her blanket all the time,"* he says.

The impact of your generosity is incredible! Thank you for supporting Sergey and so many others who've been displaced in Ukraine.

**GIVE TO HELP
MORE UKRAINIAN
FAMILIES!**





GEYLI: THE LITTLE GIRL WHO STOLE OUR HEARTS



Something beautiful happens when a person's sight is restored.

For the first time, they take in their surroundings. A little girl beams at the sight of her mother's face. A rainbow of colors suddenly burst into existence, from yellow and green to red and blue. Everything is engaging and new. It's deeply moving to watch a child see for the first time. This past fall, your gifts made a moment of sight, and a million more to come, possible for a boisterous little two-year-old girl named Geyli.

Geyli was born with bilateral congenital cataracts, and her first years were difficult.

The sad truth is that the outlook for Geyli's future was extremely limited. Although she learned to walk at a normal age, without eyesight, she needed a guide everywhere she went.

Her mother prayed for her daughter every night, and when she learned about our eye surgery project, she knew it was an answer to prayer. "Maybe," she thought, "this is the miracle I've been asking for."

Geyli's mother traveled all night from their small Mexican town to bring her daughter to our surgical team.

When we first saw Geyli, she was clutching her mother, and her eyes were shut tight because the light bothered her. Without her vision, the world was a scary place. She shied away from strangers, and it was difficult to know if she had any sight beyond light perception.

Geyli's mother felt a surge of hope when Dr. Lopez said, "Geyli is a good candidate for cataract surgery." But there was an obstacle. She needed a special intraocular lens, and unfortunately, there wasn't one available, so the surgery would have to wait.

Before leaving, Geyli was given children's sunglasses to help with her light sensitivity.

In the weeks that followed, our team organized everything so Geyli could receive her surgery. And your generosity helped make that possible!

Not only was her surgery covered, but Geyli's family was also given financial help for transportation, food, and lodging.

On surgery day, the surgical team decided to operate on both eyes simultaneously. The procedure was very complicated, but thanks to God's guiding hand and our skilled team, the results were excellent!

The following day, Geyli returned with her mother to Dr. Lopez's clinic for her post-operative check-up and to have her eye patches removed. I wish you could have been there. For the very first time, Geyli looked with wide, shining eyes into her mother's smiling face.

It's astonishing how so much can occur in just a few seconds.

Geyli's mother gently grasped her daughter's precious little hand and her eyes pooled with tears as she said, "How can I thank you? My daughter can see, there's no greater gift!"

At two years of age, Geyli couldn't talk yet, but she didn't need words at that moment. Her mother's voice anchored her to all that was familiar and good. We could see the wonder in her eyes, as she began to explore the world around her.

Then the most surprising thing happened.

We watched, amazed, as she hugged her mom, then eagerly toddled over to shake another patient's hand — it seemed she had lost her shyness toward strangers!

Thanks to the surgical team and support from donors like you, these surgeries will enable Geyli to see for life! Thank you for being there for Geyli and her family. Your generosity made miracles possible for one little girl, and so many more.





RELIEVING PAIN & RESTORING SMILES

Dentistry in the Amazon

The inspiring generosity of supporters like you has brought dental care to people living in distant places, like the Amazon, where medical and dental care is impossible to find.

In these areas, our dental teams see many patients suffering from cariogenic disease, which is better known as dental caries. This disease causes people intense pain when it reaches the dental nerve or sparks other infectious conditions.

The impacts of your gifts are amazing—and immediately apparent. After years of terrible pain, patients who receive oral health care feel better and their pain goes away!

“It’s a blessing that comes from heaven through Medical Ministry International. Their prayers have been heard and their hearts are full of love and gratitude. Behold the love of Jesus,” says Carlos.

“Dentistry service is one of the most required services for the Indigenous communities we visit.”

—CARLOS JURADO B, LOCAL DENTIST IN COLOMBIA

SUPPORT HEALTHY SMILES BY GIVING TODAY!



How Lola Supported Patients

WITH CUSTOM HAND-SEWN BAGS!

Have you been on a Project Team with Medical Ministry International? If you have, you've felt the joy that comes from serving, and know what it feels like to participate in something bigger—a team effort that radically improves quality of life for patients, showing them in practical ways God's immense love for them.

There are numerous ways to help. Take Lola, for example. At 11 years old, she's learning to sew. When she heard one of our Project Teams needed bags, she felt moved to contribute. *"Maybe I can hand-make bags for people in need,"* she thought.

Immediately, she enlisted her grandmother's help, and it turned out she was a very quick study!

Rapidly, she learned the basics of sewing and the proper way to cut out a pattern, and in no time, she was sewing and putting together the sides and straps for bags.

Together, Lola and her grandmother finished 20 bags for the 2022 Siltepec team in Mexico! She couldn't have been more proud or humbled to help her aunt and uncle who were serving on that Project Team.

Lola's bags were filled with medication and post-operative instructions for patients after receiving

care. For primary care appointments, they included the patient's prescription medication and things like toothbrushes, health education information, and the gospel message. Every patient's bag was individualized to support their aftercare and health.

We want to say a BIG *thank you* to Lola and her grandmother for hand-sewing these beautiful bags to support patients in Mexico. Your generosity moved our entire team and was so appreciated by all the patients.

If you would like to join a Medical Ministry International Project Team, we'd love to hear from you. Every trip is life-changing, both for participants and for patients. You can learn more about upcoming Project Teams by emailing our Program Team at projectinfo@mmi.org.



HERE'S A SNEAK PEEK OF OUR UPCOMING PROJECTS:



 Peru

April 15 - 22

 Ecuador

June 3 - 10

 Ghana

May 13 - 27

 Cambodia

May 13 - 27

A GLIMPSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK

Delivering Health Care Worldwide



PATIENTS SERVED THROUGH PROJECTS & LOCAL INITIATIVES:



BOLIVIA 2,397



CAMBODIA 135



COLOMBIA 25,067



DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC 4,392



ECUADOR 3,881



GHANA 1,079



HONDURAS 1,978



MEXICO 2,239



PHILIPPINES 97



PERU 2,314



UKRAINE 75,935



PATIENTS TREATED AT HEALTH CENTERS:



AZERBAIJAN 3,828



ECUADOR 24,878



GHANA 28,703



PERU 8,514



HONDURAS 22,400

That's a total of **207,837** patients who received health care, thanks to YOU! We're grateful to God and donors like you for breathing life into this important work. Together, we're truly making lasting change possible through health care.