

WORLD MEDICAL MISSION®

SPRING 2022

# ON CALL

## A RESTORED LIFE

*No wounded soul is beyond the healing  
power of God's grace.*

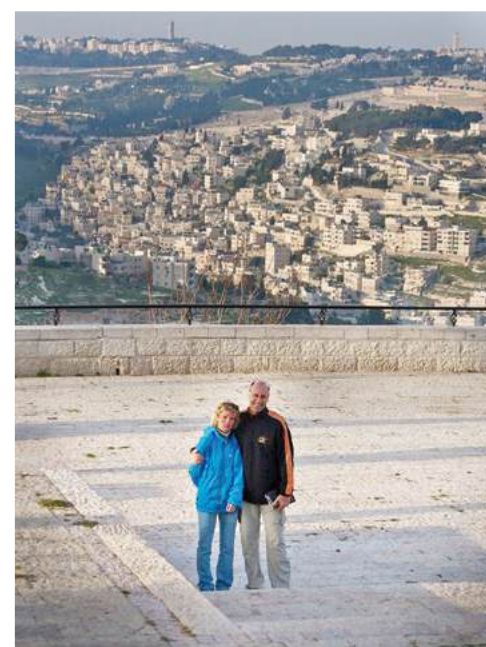
**INSIDE:** KENYA • BANGLADESH • HONDURAS

A MINISTRY of SAMARITAN'S PURSE®





ABOVE: Jimmy and Dr. Chase Ann Miller with their children, Aaron, Isaiah, and Hunter in the Holy Land in 2010. BELOW: View from Abraham's Ridge.



# THE POWER OF SAYING YES *to* GOD

**I** A family vacation to the Holy Land becomes the catalyst for a fresh anointing from the Lord.

**A**s they stood atop Abraham's Ridge, gazing at the sweeping view of the Old City of Jerusalem, Dr. Chase Ann Miller and her husband, Jimmy, knew God was speaking to their hearts.

They listened intently to the Israeli tour guide's retelling of the events in Genesis 22. It was near this summit some 4,000 years ago that Abraham responded to God's voice, answering "Hineni," meaning "Here I am" (vs. 11).

Abraham was ready to do whatever God asked of him, even to the point of sacrificing his son, Isaac, on an altar until an angel intervened. He demonstrated complete trust and submission to God.

The Millers, who were vacationing in the Holy Land with their three children, didn't set out to accomplish anything particularly noteworthy when they recommitted their lives to God's service on that March afternoon in 2010. They only desired to be faithful to whatever He might ask them to do.

"We called out to the Lord on that ridge. Jimmy and I said 'Hineni' to the Lord," recalled Chase. "We knew the trajectory of our lives was going to change. We didn't know exactly what that would look like, but we knew mission work would be a part of it."

"We were searching and asking the Lord, what's next, not just for Chase and me, but for our whole family," added Jimmy. "We cried out to Him, 'Here we are, send us.'"

God had already begun to plant those seeds for future mission work two months before their Israel trip, when a powerful earthquake demolished portions of Haiti. Dr. Miller, a faculty member in the otolaryngology department at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, felt compelled to help. With no prior missions experience, she served with an organization for 10 days, treating injured Haitians who had sought refuge in the Dominican Republic.

"The Lord was rending my heart for the poor, the sick, and the lost," she said.





Dr. Miller and her family have built a strong bond with the staff at Tenwek Hospital and the Kitoben children's home after making more than 20 trips to Kenya over the past decade.

After the Millers returned from the Holy Land, they prayerfully researched Christian organizations and applied to serve with World Medical Mission.

"It was exactly a year later that the Lord called us to Tenwek," said Jimmy.

Originally Chase was planning to go to the Kenya hospital by herself as an experiment to determine if mission work was truly what the Lord had called her to do. Instead, God revealed to the Millers that He wanted the entire family to be involved in the experience.

That mission trip would prove life-changing in a myriad of ways. Since then Chase and Jimmy have made two or three trips annually to Kenya, usually with at least

one of their now grown children.

### STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

Even with 27 years of experience in the U.S., Chase's initiation into practicing medicine in Africa was somewhat unsettling.

She saw patients who had infections and tumors of the ear, sinus cavity, and esophagus that she had never treated before. There were also patients with facial and mandible trauma from motorbike accidents, as well as injuries to the nose and ear caused by human bites. Many cases were complex and life-threatening, as patients had delayed seeking medical care.

During those two weeks at Tenwek she

bonded with a 12-year-old boy who came to the clinic with an ear infection. The infection had spread to surrounding tissues and to his brain. Treating the infection and draining the abscess from tissues around the ear were just the start. A series of three surgeries were undertaken, including a craniotomy.

"We pulled back the bone flap and found necrotic tissue in his brain from the infection," said Chase. "I think my tears dropped into the wound. I had given everything and done everything I could for this boy." The doctors removed the dead tissue, covered over the flap of his skull, and prayed.

Breaking the news of the child's dire situation to his family was very difficult for her. The next day the Millers were scheduled to fly home. Chase left with a heavy heart.

A few days later she received an email from the hospital. "The staff said they were rejoicing. They had visited the boy that morning during rounds and he was doing well and recovering from the surgery. The Lord was healing him!"

That miracle story became one of many over the years as Chase frequently witnesses the power of prayer and God's healing handiwork in seemingly hopeless situations. It was also a valuable lesson for the doctor, as she admits she tried to work in her own strength

*"I think my tears dropped into the wound. I had given everything and done everything I could for this boy."*

during that first trip. More than 20 World Medical Mission trips later, she has learned to rely on the Lord to accomplish His purposes in the lives of each patient.

Although she cannot always eliminate



Dr. Miller helps train family medicine residents when she serves at mission hospitals.

their physical suffering, Chase considers her spiritual ministry to the patients vitally important. Nothing brings her more gratification than to share in the joy of seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

During a visit to Tenwek in August, on the first day at clinic, Chase saw a teenage patient who had lost her voice. The girl was suffering from a functional voice disorder related to stress and needed counseling. Chase offered to pray with the girl and her father.

"Her dad didn't know the Lord. We presented the Gospel to him, and he gave his life to God. The chaplains at the hospital gave them a Bible and are following up with them," said Chase.

"I've made it a standard to pray with each of my patients. I have a resident or a nurse with me to help translate. It has been a ripe harvest."

Teaching brings Chase joy too, and part





Children's smiles and lives are transformed after cleft lip procedures. "God's redemption is so evident through this surgery," said Dr. Miller.

of her ongoing work at Tenwek involves training Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) general surgery residents in head and neck procedures. She also trains family medicine residents in the diagnosis and treatment of various ear, nose, and throat disorders.

In addition, Chase performs cleft lip and palate surgeries and has served several times at the children's hospital and the main mission hospital in Kijabe, about 115 miles east of Tenwek. In October she served for a couple of weeks at the main hospital, helping the staff otolaryngologist who was facing an onslaught of backlogged surgeries.

Children born with these facial deformities are labeled as cursed in Kenyan culture. The mother, child, and sometimes the entire family are cast out of their village and left to fend for themselves. One of the babies Chase operated on had a bilateral cleft. His family made a lengthy journey to the hospital to ensure their son would have a chance at a normal life.

"Although technically challenging, the surgeries are transformative for these children," Chase wrote in her blog about the trip. "God's redemption is so evident through this surgery."

Over and over again, Chase has seen God's faithful provision as she cares for patients, either by supplying just the right instrument needed for a procedure or sending knowledgeable people to assist her.

"Sometimes I ask the Lord, 'why are you sending me?' I'm a general ENT. But He tells me to go as I am. Just by being obedient, He brings surgeons or residents to help me. It's all by the hand of the Lord. He's orchestrating everything. He gets the glory."

### THE "BUCKET MAN"

Jimmy Miller wholeheartedly agrees. When they went to Kenya in 2011, he could not have imagined the path of ministry God would lay out before him.

"On that first trip, we knew what Chase would be doing since she is a doctor. I stayed with the kids those two weeks, and we spent time visiting the pediatric wards at Tenwek," Jimmy said. "But the next year only Chase and I went. I was in panic mode, wondering what I was going to do. I asked the Lord, 'what is my role?'"

For 30 years, industrial sales had been Jimmy's forte. He knew everything there was to know about glass and stone fabricating



TOP: The Miller family at the Sea of Galilee during their 2010 trip to Israel. ABOVE LEFT: Dr. Miller teaches head and neck procedures to general surgery residents. ABOVE RIGHT: Dr. Miller greets one of her young patients.

equipment. He had also been recently ordained as a deacon in their church in Rochester. What could he do in a foreign culture?

God revealed His plan to Jimmy through a YouTube™ video. Aware of the lack of clean water in rural Africa, Jimmy began researching water filters and wells on the Internet. He came across a video of a Kenyan village where children had been dying from diarrhea. After a small water filter was given to the community, the children stopped getting sick.

Jimmy said he teared up watching

the video. He knew this was his God-given assignment, even though he had no background in water purification. His response to the Lord was a simple but sincere six-letter word: "Hineni."

After some investigating, he purchased 40 filters to take on their trip to Kenya. Similar to a kidney dialyzer, the 4-inch-long filters fit easily into the Millers' luggage. Jimmy bought plastic buckets to complete the units when he arrived at Tenwek.

The only unanswered question—who



would receive the filtration units?

Karen Tanksley, an American missionary at Tenwek, invited him to come along for a visit to the Kitoben children's home the next day, some 20 minutes away from the hospital. "I hooked up a filter unit, gave a demonstration, and then offered the children a drink. No one took the cup of water," laughs Jimmy. "So I drank from the cup, and then one by one they took a cup and tried it. They called it 'sweet water.'"

The next year the Millers returned to Tenwek and visited Kitoben to see how the filters were working. The director's wife, Alice Langat, greeted them with amazing news. "She told us, no one has gotten sick for a whole year!"

That early success led Jimmy to create the organization "Pure Water for Africa" in 2016. His portable, gravity-fed system is easy to set up and includes the filter, a hose and hose connector, drill bit, and a syringe for backwashing the filter membrane. No sand or chemicals are used. The recipients need only a water bucket to attach to the filter. If the membrane is flushed out regularly, the filter

*Jimmy knew this was his God-given assignment, even though he had no background in water purification.*

system can last up to 10 years.

Jimmy has made 16 trips to Tenwek and given away more than 4,000 of the Sawyer PointONE™ water filters, primarily to children's homes and schools in the area and to hospital staff and their families. He also sent filters to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic after hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

Kenyans are both appreciative and amused as they watch him carrying around pails for his project, thus earning him the nickname



Jimmy Miller started the organization "Pure Water for Africa" in 2016. His son, Isaiah, accompanied him on a recent trip to Kenya.

"Bucket Man."

That description brings a bucket-sized smile to his face. "This is what the Lord wants me to do," said Jimmy. "I tell people I am bringing them two presents: the gift of clean water and the gift of Jesus, the Living Water."

#### BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH

Now the Millers' relationship with Kitoben has expanded far beyond water filters. They joined with other families in raising funds to help build an elementary school. They are also involved in sending financial support for school fees, uniforms, and other expenses.

Chase initiated a hearing aid ministry at Tenwek four years ago, providing hearing aids, batteries, and solar chargers to needy individuals. When their youngest son, Isaiah, accompanied them last summer, Chase taught him how to perform audiograms and fit patients for hearing aids. Isaiah is in a pre-med program at Houghton College in New York.

In February, Chase and Jimmy took their oldest son, Aaron, a third year medical school student who is studying to become a neurosurgeon.

And their daughter, Hunter, has cheered on the family from the start. Perhaps it was the trip to Israel, and the subsequent trips to Kenya, that inspired her to become a missions major in college. Now married to a pastor and living in Massachusetts, she has gone on



mission trips to South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Service for God is definitely in their DNA, but the Millers recognize that the blessings have been a direct result of obedience and faith in God, modeled after Abraham's example in the Old Testament.

"Our experiences overseas have affected all of us, and we would love to go back again to Israel as a family," said Chase. "God has drawn us together to serve. It's a generational blessing, and I hope what we have begun will continue. I'm already working on planning our next mission trip." ☺

Affectionately known as the "Bucket Man," Jimmy Miller has installed water filters for schools and children's homes near Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.

