

Making A DIFFERENCE

Medical Ministry International

International headquarters for Medical Ministry International are based in Allen, Texas. Many may be surprised to learn that an international ministry that began in 1969 and provided \$82M in services last year to over 543,000 people is right in your own backyard. We thought you might like to know and be open to helping support such an amazing organization...

Recently, documentary maker Phil Cooke sat down with MMI CEO Samuel Smith.

Phil Cooke: You're a nonprofit leader with a long background in business. Has that been a help or hindrance?

Sam Smith: It's definitely been a help, and I believe it is the reason I have been called into ministry. There are a lot of really good non-profits operating out there that have good--if not great--intentions. Unfortunately, many of them were started by a charismatic person who through sheer will and determination were able to achieve good results, but lack the business acumen to optimize all the gifts they have been provided. I am not a doctor, but I have the ability to provide the processes, accountability and execution to ensure that those with medical skills can use their gifts.

Phil: MMI has experienced significant growth in a short time under your leadership. What new ideas and leadership techniques have you brought to the table?

Sam: MMI started out as primarily a relief organization, but we have refocused



the ministry to more of a development mindset. This means that every one of our health centers, project teams, or training programs are developed for the long-term benefit of the communities we serve. We have staff on the ground working 365 days a year to provide assessment of need, execution of services, and follow-up and analysis of our work.

Phil: Are you seeing an impact where MMI has been? Can you give us an example?

Sam: I have thousands of stories, but one is related to our dental work in Bolivia. We are working with the Bolivian Ministry of Health to address the lack of dental care in a community just outside of Santa Cruz, where once we had a three extraction to one restoration ratio on dental patients, we have seen a total reversal with smiles being saved. The presence of sugar cane, cola, etc. in the diet causes major tooth decay, and we are seeing our dental focus totally reversing the trend. We want to prevent disease as much as address the current illness.

Phil: Tell me about the book you've written about your experience so far with MMI.

Sam: *When Love Heals* is a book that tells the stories of the work of MMI. It has provided an opportunity to take the reader on a journey through the eyes of our volunteers and patients. The book is a love story of how God has engaged those with talents and gifts to dramatically change the lives of others through love.

MMI Volunteer Spotlight: Fairview's Lori Kruzich

How long have you been with the organization? I have worked at MMI as a project coordinator since 2008.

What exactly does the organization do? MMI provides healthcare to the poor in over 20 countries through one- and two-week mission projects and also through permanent healthcare centers. The Allen office helps our volunteer participants prepare to go on mission projects as well as assist our international project directors to plan and assess the needs in their communities in order to execute successful projects.

How can others get involved/help with this organization? We have



several ways that you can get involved with MMI. You can serve on a short-term medical mission project, make a donation to the ministry to help fund ongoing needs, and pray for our teams and leaders. Please visit the website at mmint.org for a full listing of medical projects scheduled for 2014. If you live in the Allen area, we welcome you to visit our international office in the Vida Building on Allen Drive. We might even have some volunteer administrative work for you to do in our office!

What benefits do people get from this organization? Serving on a project team is unlike any experience I have ever had. Just seeing the smile on the patient's faces makes all the hard work and investment of time and money all worthwhile!

In my position as a project coordinator for MMI, I am privileged to hear stories and see photos on how people's lives are being changed all over the world.

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