



# HEALTH STRATEGIES

*Find your place*

## Health Care Missions and the Missionary Task

THE MISSIONARY TASK INCLUDES ENTRY, EVANGELISM, DISCIPLING NEW BELIEVERS, TRAINING LEADERS, AND FORMING HEALTHY CHURCHES. CARING FOR NEEDS OF PEOPLE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EACH OF THESE. HEALTH CARE MISSIONS GIVES ACCESS TO THE UNREACHED, ALLOWS INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS, MEETS NEEDS, MAKES DISCIPLES, AND EMPOWERS THE CHURCH.



## Trauma-healing ministry provides new hope and emotional health

For years, local believers and IMB representatives in a European country had engaged in health strategies in a secular context to reach people, but it was not always easy to find a bridge from health to gospel conversations. After asking

God to show them the bridge, they realized that the common denominator in all their work was mental and emotional health. They pursued training in New Hope, a trauma healing ministry, and formed the first group.

In New Hope small groups, participants can share their stories of hurt in a safe environment and hear about people in the Bible who faced trauma and walked through it with God. “We need this so badly,” one participant said. The first group asked to start another and get the materials translated. In just four months, multiple groups have gathered, and locals have been trained. One local leader is now starting a group in a neighboring country.

Praise God for what He has done through this ministry. Pray for more healing, spiritual conversations, and new followers of Christ.

*“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.”*

(Matthew 9:35, ESV)



**1 EAST ASIA.** The pandemic has brought about much change and provided opportunity to rethink how work is done. Ask for the Lord's wisdom as workers in hard-hit countries consider new ways to express Christ's compassion and share His truth during this recovery time.

**2 SOUTH ASIA.** Many women in South Asia have difficult lives. During the COVID crisis, restricted supplies, money, and movement have made their plight worse. Pray for six women using New Hope trauma-healing curriculum in small online groups to share Bible stories and bring healing.

**3 NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST.** The spread of COVID-19 and the reality of death have highlighted the inability of local, dominant religions to provide the hope and eternal security that people need. Pray that people's fear will drive them to seek truth and hope that comes only from the gospel.

**4 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Workers have used electroencephalograms and seizure diagnosis to gain access to closed Muslim communities. These patients were no longer treated as outcasts after treatment, and their communities became open to the gospel. Pray that their hearts would turn to Christ.

**5 SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Believers are going house to house around a Southeast Asian village area, teaching about COVID prevention and boldly sharing their faith. Pray for many who are choosing to follow Jesus. Pray that the first church in this area will be established.

**6 AMERICAS.** In Venezuela, medicines and medical supplies were distributed to 35,000 people through local pastors and churches. Hundreds of people became believers. Ask God for follow-up opportunities with these new believers, and for opportunities to meet ongoing health needs.

**7 EUROPE.** About 25% of people in the United Kingdom have been diagnosed with a variety of mental health issues. Christ is able to heal the broken. Pray that IMB representatives will be equipped to effectively address such needs, having a deep dependence on the Spirit of God.

**8 GLOBAL.** Pray for open doors and opportunities that may come in conflict areas around the world. Such places need believing healthcare workers to rebuild infrastructure, provide urgent care, and share the gospel. Ask God to provide medical workers and resources to be ready.



**9 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Over the last 15 years, medical dental clinics have served many villages on the islands of Lake Victoria, bringing hope to people without healthcare and without Jesus. Pray for new believers to be true disciples of Jesus and share their faith, making more disciples.

**10 EAST ASIA.** Pray for trained community health educators throughout East Asia. Ask that as they care for their neighbors and bear other's burdens they will also share the gospel of Jesus Christ, working to see His kingdom established.

**11 SOUTH ASIA.** Pray for the Institute of Nursing at Bangalore Baptist Hospital and the 300 students enrolled. Pray for the personal, professional, and spiritual development of these young women. Pray that the course time lost due to COVID will be made up smoothly.



**12 EUROPE.** The state of mental health across Europe prior to the global pandemic was already a crisis. Now it is critical that believing medical workers share hope where anxiety, depression, and suicide are rampant. Pray for effective strategies to meet these needs.

**13 CENTRAL ASIA.** The medical classes in one country are being held online until in-person classes can resume. Students working long hours in hospitals are encouraged by the messages. Pray for the opening of a Family Support Center to minister holistically to entire families.

**14 NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST.** Witnessing violence, being displaced, and losing homes and family members have resulted in much trauma. Pray that believers will be able to provide Biblical trauma counseling that transforms hearts and minds, leading to genuine restoration.

**15 AMERICAS.** During the COVID-19 pandemic, relief containers were sent to Cuba. Local pastors distributed some food to pregnant women, the elderly, and the disabled. Pray that many who received this food will also receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**16 GLOBAL.** One result of the pandemic is the increased role of telemedicine in healthcare. Pray that ways will be developed to use telemedicine in health strategies and carrying out the missionary task. Pray for new avenues to meet needs and introduce people to Jesus.

**17 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Pray for the medical and spiritual ministry of Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania, that all patients will experience the love of Christ. Pray that believers who came to faith during the COVID crisis will connect to a local church and be discipled in their new faith.

**18 EAST ASIA.** Pray for local health workers in one country to reach villages and cities with health information and the truth of the gospel. Pray for open doors and open ears. Pray that health workers will be emboldened and that their integrity will be protected.

**19 NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST.** Pray for believers as they face threats of war, terrorism, disease, and starvation as well as opposition from their family and authorities. Ask that they will press deep into the Lord as their refuge, take courage, and not be afraid.

**20 SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Workers are providing the rural poor in Southeast Asia with clean drinking water through water filter distribution and health-hygiene education. Pray for healing and salvation in this impoverished, Buddhist area. Pray for workers to boldly share their faith in Jesus.

**21 EUROPE.** The elderly and people with special needs and disabilities are particularly vulnerable in Eastern European countries. Pray that IMB representatives and local partners will have more opportunities to educate and provide care in Jesus' name for the underserved.

**22 CENTRAL ASIA.** Treating a pregnant woman with malnutrition is vital for her health and her baby's health. Pray that through home visits in a maternal health project, health workers can intervene in these women's lives to impact them physically and spiritually.

**23 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Pray for the Home Visit Team as they share the hope of Jesus with Tanzanians who are bedbound, terminally ill, and neglected. As they receive a bucket of supplies to help in their care, may they know that Jesus and His followers love them.

**24 GLOBAL.** In many places, local believing healthcare workers are being challenged to witness in their workplaces and to be available for going to the unreached in other places. Pray that they will be effectively equipped as they respond to God's call.



**25 AMERICAS.** The Medical Fellowship (Companerismo Medico) of Cuba recently met together to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Pray for them as they serve their churches and communities with their professional skills.

**26 EAST ASIA.** There is a huge need in East Asia for healing heart wounds from past and present trauma. Online trauma-healing groups have been hungrily received by believers. Pray that local believers will facilitate many more groups to provide discipleship and healing.

**27 NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST.** Pray for a mental health clinic in northern Africa. Pray for wisdom and professional resources for treating patients in the clinic and during home visits. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with patients and families.

**28 EUROPE.** Thousands of people have been displaced from homes and towns because of conflict in eastern Ukraine that has overwhelmed the healthcare system. Local churches and volunteers have conducted medical clinics, resulting in new believers. Pray for clinics planned for 2021.

**29 SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Workers and local healthcare personnel distributed packets of food, hygiene items, and COVID prevention information in urban slums. Of the 50 families helped, six families are attending church and want to follow Jesus. Pray that they will grow in faith.

**30 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Pray for the Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana. Pray for the Baptist convention and the local administrator to manage the hospital with integrity and wisdom. Pray for more physicians, both missionaries and locals, to staff the hospital.

**31 GLOBAL.** Many new healthcare professionals are being sent out to reach people in need with their skills and the gospel. Others who are still in training are preparing to go. Pray for God's protection, direction, and provision. Pray for more laborers for the harvest.

## Medically trained believers ‘sprang into action’ to treat village man



Believers traveled to a village in Africa to share the gospel where no churches existed. They first visited the home of an elderly man, Mutanda,\* and his wife, Kyala.\* Mutanda was very ill with malaria, and his family was attempting to cure him with blood from a slaughtered white bird. The visiting believers had received malaria training, and they sprang into action, getting him the correct treatment and supportive care that he needed. As Mutanda recovered, he and Kyala became the first persons of peace in that village. They invited the visiting believers into their home and allowed people to gather in their yard to listen to the believers sharing Bible stories to teach truth about God.

Mutanda and Kyala were the first in the village to trust in Christ, and a new church soon gathered under a tree near their hut. The couple soaked up God’s Word and shared it. Within a year, over 60 believers were meeting together. This new group of believers were disciplined and trained to use Bible storying and health skills. Pray for them as they take the good news to surrounding villages.

## Local churches leverage a health initiative for gospel conversations

A health initiative provided unique and timely opportunities for believers in East Asia to train local school-age children, families, government workers, and churches on the damaging effects of air pollution and the importance of wearing respirator masks. Two months into the project, the Covid-19 pandemic provided even more opportunities to teach about respirator masks and proper hand washing.

The local church was involved as often as possible to leverage this health initiative for gospel conversations and ongoing relationships. Ask God to provide the churches who are ministering in these areas with follow-up opportunities to share the good news. Pray that the practical health lessons will be a means of God’s protection over these people who are living in economically depressed areas. Ask for God’s favor with local authorities so that even more work can be done for the sake of His kingdom.

## Interested in using your skills to meet physical and spiritual needs globally?

Healthcare missions gives you access to the unreached, allows for intimate conversations, meets needs, makes disciples and empowers the church.



# MEDADVANCE 2021



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\*Names changed