

## The Road to Gratitude

Sometimes we have to be reminded how good we've got it. I retired recently, and my wife Eileen and I embarked on a two-month cross-country tour in a motorhome. As I write this sitting at a campsite on the gorgeous California coast, we're a month into the trip with 5,000 miles behind us. It's been an amazing journey, and I know we're truly blessed to be able to do this. Along the way, certain striking contrasts have turned my thoughts to Haiti.



- I've seen countless mountains, green with abundant trees and plants, and teeming with wildlife. *In Haiti, many of the mountains are brown and denuded of all vegetation because the topsoil is gone.*
- Here, the ocean is a treasured resource for recreation, tourism and commerce. *In Haiti, it is a barrier that isolates the country from the rest of the world.*
- We've driven through some towns that the world seems to have forgotten with many abandoned and boarded-up buildings. Yet as difficult as things may have been for the former inhabitants, there was some form of governmental safety net. *In Haiti, this does not exist.*

I'm going to continue to enjoy my cross-county trip and count my blessings for my good fortune.

*Rick Thibadeau, President & Founder of MATH*

## IN MY OWN WORDS

Kathy Aries, RN | Dame-Marie Medical Committee & Nursing Director



I have been a Labor & Delivery nurse for 35 years and going to the third world on mission trips with Dr. Bourque for the last 12. In the US, dire situations can arise during childbirth, but there is access to Cesarean Sections (C/S) which saves lives every day. This is not true in Haiti. The mortality

rate for women in childbearing years is an astounding 34% in the Grand Anse region. This rate was even higher in the Dame-Marie area, since the closest place for a C/S was in Jérémie, a 3-4-hour ride over some of the worst roads in Haiti and only if a surgeon and anesthesiologist were available and only if power was available.

When we started going to Dame-Marie, there was no trained staff and I could not imagine performing a C/S there. But our teams reopened the operating room, provided the necessary medical and surgical equipment and supplies, and on each of the past 23 mission trips, performed at least 1 emergency C/S during our 1 week of service. This beneficially gave me the opportunity to provide training to the Haitian nurses in pre-, intra- and post-op care. *Now with your support, MATH is funding an OB/GYN and anesthesiologist, and with trained nurses, are available for an emergency C/S when we are not there. Amazing!*

There are many mission stories, but a delivery I will never forget is with a woman in labor, who had arrived by boat early one morning while we were having morning coffee at the mission house. The woman had a prolapsed umbilical cord and had delivered a breech baby who did not survive the birth. But, unknown beforehand, there was a twin in a transverse position that could not be delivered, and the mother was bleeding heavily – a major obstetrical emergency! The hospital staff called for assistance and the OB team raced to the hospital to perform the emergency C/S. I remember how stunned the father of this baby was as we handed him his new, alive and healthy baby. *This is why I go.*

## Profile in Pediatrics at CMCQ – Dr. Sherly Pateau



Dr. Sherly Pateau (left) with young patient and mother

*Haiti lags in most key pediatric health indicators. As recently as 2017, childmortality.org estimated infant mortality rate was 10 times greater in Haiti than in the US. Dr. Sherly Pateau, pediatrician at CMCQ, provides medical care to an average of 60 children per week in a region with a population of 45,000. We asked Dr. Pateau to tell us about herself; her personal story presented here is profoundly inspiring. In partnership with MATH, and in fulfillment of her life-long dream, Dr. Pateau is a Haitian who is healing young Haitians.*

I was the fifth of seven children, and during my early years, my parents fought for my life and faced difficult times dealing with my health problems. Other sick children were abandoned for their parents' lack of means or for lack of pediatricians in the community. Knowing I could help families with these problems, my dream was to be a pediatrician.

I achieved my primary and secondary education thanks to the sacrifice of my parents. After passing the entrance exam, I was admitted to the Faculty of Medicine at Lumiere University in October 2003. I spent six years of basic studies followed by a year as an extern and one as an intern. In 2011 I received the license of general practitioner.

In 2012, I ranked eighth out of hundreds of candidates in the national

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## Support MATH through Travelers Championship



*Deadline June 23, 2019 -- Boost your giving power by 15% by donating to MATH through Birdies for Charity using the following link*

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*MATH will receive \$15 for each ticket purchased at a discount through Chip In for Charity using the code 7IRON and the following link*

<http://travelerschampionship.com/chip-in-for-charity>

**Watch for information on the Rochelle Bard Concert fundraiser planned for Fall 2019**

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competition, became one of 20 pediatric residents at the University Hospital of Peace (UHP) in Port-au-Prince, and was licensed as a pediatrician in January of 2016. During these years of hard work, but beautiful times of my life, I met and married my husband, Dr. Wilkens Gilbert, and gave birth to our daughter, Lilia, in 2010, the same year as the terrible earthquake.

Since 2016, I have worked as a pediatrician alongside my husband at CMCQ. I operate the pediatric care clinic, supervise the children's immunization program, and coordinate training of providers with weekly sessions on a medical subject or a problematic case. I am always working to improve my knowledge and skills through continuing education.

It is extraordinary and rewarding to provide accessible and affordable pediatric care in a community where people live on less than \$2 US per day and where the average pediatric consultation costs \$38 US. Requests for pediatric consultations continue to escalate and our work is possible with the support of our friends from MATH who share their generosity, as well as the MATH medical teams that share their techniques and experiences so that we can improve our abilities. Thank you!



*My greatest joy and satisfaction:* Seeing a parent leave happily with their child after receiving much needed care.

*My greatest motivator:* The pain of parents or relatives who do not have affordable access or face a lack of proper materials or medications to help their children.

*My greatest hope:* That CMCQ – Hôpital Bellevue La Montagne becomes a model institution in the field of health care, particularly pediatric.

Follow us on Facebook to see the progress at Hôpital Bellevue-La-Montagne and Hôpital de la Communaute Dame-Marienne.

### Calendar

#### 2019 Upcoming Events

Rochelle Bard Concert – Oct / Nov  
Craft Festival & Marketplace – Nov 16 – 17

#### Upcoming Mission Trips

Dame-Marie	Port-au-Prince
September 14 – 21, 2019	September 21 – 28, 2019
November 09 – 16, 2019	November 16 – 23, 2019
February 08 – 15 2020	February 15 – 22, 2020
May 23 – 30, 2020	May 20 – June 06, 2020
September 12 – 19, 2020	September 19 – 26, 2020
November 07 – 14, 2020	November 14 – 21, 2020

### TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER, ADVOCATE OR FOLLOW US:

**MATH** Medical Aid to Haiti, Inc.  
80 South Main Street | West Hartford, CT 06107  
To donate or for more information, please call 860-760-7009 or visit us at [www.medicalaidtohaiti.org](http://www.medicalaidtohaiti.org)

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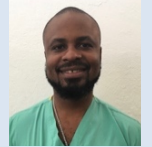
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## Haitians Healing Haitians – Dame-Marie Surgical Partners



Over the last several medical mission trips to Dame-Marie, Haitian medical professionals have joined our US surgical teams to conduct and assist in surgeries ranging from hernia repairs to C-section births. These young doctors leave families and comforts of homes to bring their hearts, skills, determination, and commitment in providing health care to their fellow citizens. We are pleased to introduce four of these missionaries.

**Dr. Reginald Paul Cadet, "Dr. Reggie"** – is a general surgeon with a certification in hernia repair and is in private practice. He works at OFATMA Hôpital, Hôpital COSECO (Croix-des-Bouquets) and Hôpital Dr. Raoul (Aranchon) and teaches at the Université Quisqueya (PaP). He attended Université d'Etat d'Haiti (UEH), with a rotation at CHU Brugmann (Brussels, Belgium). He completed his internship at Hôpital de UEH, with a rotation at Larkin Community Hospital (Florida, US), and his residency in General Surgery at HUEH. He worked at Hôpital Bienfaisance (Pignon) until 2016. He and his wife, Joamy Chery, live in PaP with their 2 year-old daughter, Karen-Ann Josette.



**Dr. Patrick Charlorin, "Dr. Patrick"** is a pediatric surgery fellow at Hôpital Saint Damien (PaP - the only specialized pediatric hospital in Haiti) and the Institute of Gaslini of Genoa (Italy) with the support of the Francesca Rava Foundation and the Italian Society of Pediatric Surgery. He graduated from UEH in 2011, completed a preceptorship at the Institute of Advanced Wound Care (Alabama, US) in 2015, completed his residency in general surgery at HUEH in 2016, and worked as a general surgeon at Hôpital Sainte Therese (Hinche). He is married to Dr. Danielle Benhamin (also a surgeon) and has a baby daughter, Ianick (9 months).



**Dr. Joseph Glavylove, "Dr. Joseph"** is an OB-GYN working at the Hôpital Christ Du Nord (Cap Haitien), Hôpital Bienfaisance (Pignon), and HCDM (Dame-Marie). He attended medical school at the Université Notre Dame d'Haiti, with a rotation in Rheumatology at CHU Amiens (France), and worked at Hôpital St. Michel (Jacmel) for three years before completing his OB/GYN residence at Hôpital Universitaire Justinien (Cap Haitien) in 2013. He was one of the first rotational OB-GYN's, funded by Bouvier Insurance, the Antoine Foundation, and the GoFundMe "Saving Mothers in Dame-Marie" project, to provide emergency Cesarean sections at HCDM. He and his wife, Vodie Mesidor, live in Cap Haitien with their daughters, Viodlee Dorah (6 years) and Kaylee (2 years).



**Dr. Djovensky Mathurin, "Dr. Djo"** is a general surgeon at the Hôpital Sainte Croix (Léogâne) and Hôpital Nicolas Armand (Arcahaie), and teaches Anatomy at the Université Quisqueya (PaP). He graduated from medical school in 2008, with a rotation at CHU Brugmann (Brussels, Belgium) for general surgery. After giving a year of social service to Haiti in 2009, he entered HUEH completing his residency in General Surgery in 2014, including a 3-month fellowship in Advanced Wound Care at Baptist Hospital in (Alabama, US). His first trip to Dame-Marie was in 2013 with Direct Initiatives to Support Haiti (DISH). He met his wife, Marie Louise, while in Brussels, and they have a 5-year old daughter, Kaina.

