

Fixing broken hearts

Recently asked to help in a new heart centre focused on paediatrics, Deidre*, a MECO nurse, found herself acting as hospital manager, pharmacist, nurse in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Step Down Unit (care for patients who have undergone surgery), and Ward ... and everything in between. Though she felt her skills being stretched, God enabled her and the medical team to help so many families.



Deidre*, a nurse serving with MECO, describes some of her experiences where God answered prayer and worked in extraordinary ways.

* Picture disguised and names changed for security.

"I was running to every unit - morphine to the Operating Room (OR), clamps to the ICU, water to the patients on the ward, calling a plumber for all the backed up toilets, mechanic for the air-conditioning, and pulling chest tubes (and all of this at the exact same moment it seemed). I wanted to assess all the new patients, but it was just not the priority, and no one expected me to, as we were all so busy.

Quick responses are vital

But then one little 7-year-old girl came in and I dropped everything to assess her.

She didn't look right ... or something just didn't feel right. She got short of breath just holding the thermometer in her mouth ... her heart rate was too slow, and her lips and fingers and toes were blue. I ran to the OR where two people already had their chests open. Our lead doctor happened to walk out before I burst in, and he listened to my concerns for the girl. We called for tests to be done immediately, and got her on the list for next surgery.

She was very critical, and no one would have caught it where she was. There were no other nurses trained to do adequate

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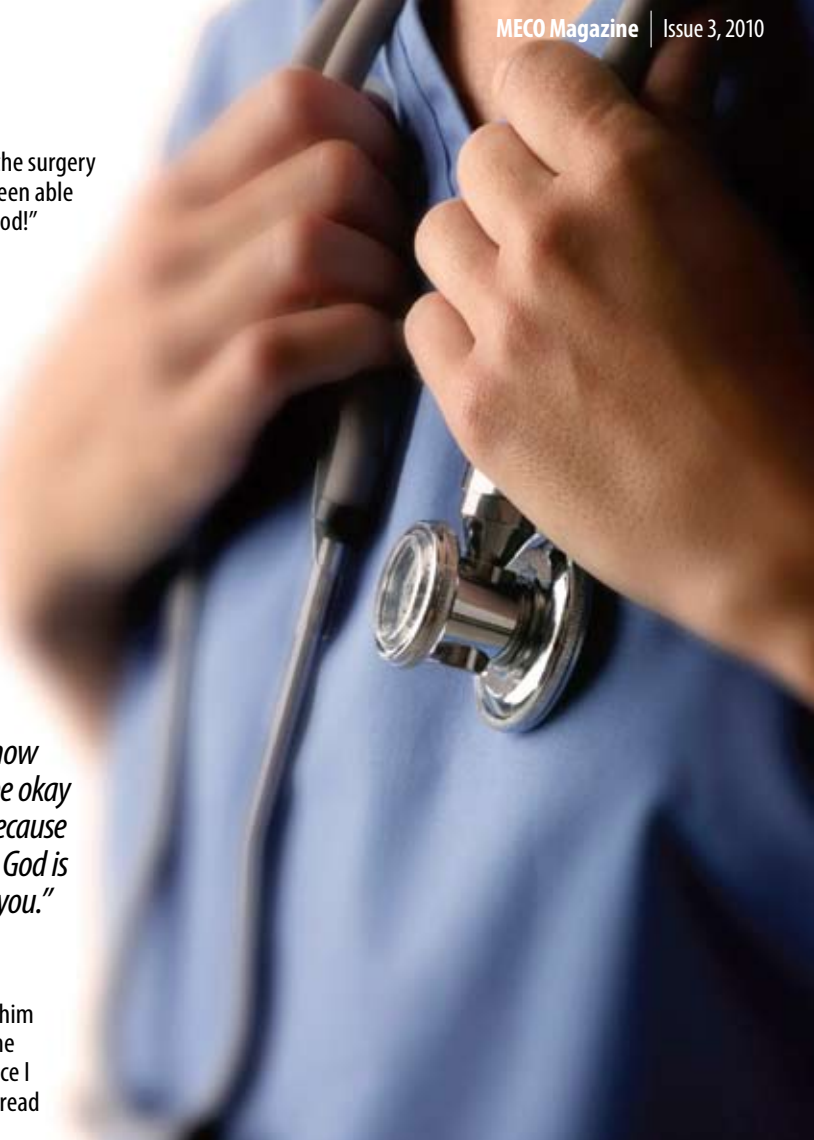
assessments! However, the surgery went well and she has been able to return home. Praise God!"

God makes His presence known

"The next day I noticed one of the ward patients having problems breathing. After a quick assessment, I realised I could not hear most of his right lung. The doctors acted quickly and determined that because of fluid build-up around his heart and lungs, a hole they had fixed in his heart had re-opened. He was scheduled for emergency surgery as soon as the OR was free.

As I was transferring him to the ICU, I felt my phone vibrate in my pocket. Once I got the patient settled I read

"I know it will be okay now because I know God is with you."



How many will not get the medical care they require?




MECO seeks to meet medical needs

the message. It was from my friend who wrote: "God told me there was a critical situation and to pray. He said yes." I took this as 'yes, the patient would be ok'.

The patient's twin brother was next to me and I showed him the message and explained in Arabic. He started sobbing and said, "I know it will be okay now because I know God is with you." We then showed his brother (the patient), he got teary-eyed too.

I had to leave soon after this - it was hours past my shift. When I came back in the morning, the patient was smiling and waving to me across the room. He did not have surgery after all! Incredibly, the hole closed and he was okay! Praise God!"

As long as there are medical needs in the Middle East, there will be opportunities for nurses and other medically trained personnel to serve the Lord here. Please pray with us for more nurses to come, so that more Middle Easterners will be moved by Christ's love and compassion! 

Action!

Do you have medical skills God could use in the Middle East? Want to find out more? Contact your local office, email info@aboutmeco.org or visit www.aboutmeco.org/opportunities

Could God use you to change lives in the Middle East?

MECO is looking for people who could serve as:

Paediatrician - Arabian Peninsula

Description: Working alongside a clinic attached to a church. **Length:** 2+ years
Language: Willingness to learn Arabic. **Qualifications:** Medical qualification.

Community Based Rehabilitation Worker - Iraqi Kurdistan

Description: Working with disabled children through vocational training, training teachers, literacy training. **Length:** 1 month - 2+ years.
Language: Willing to learn Sorani Kurdish.
Qualifications: Hold appropriate qualifications from their home countries.

Nurse - Beirut, Lebanon

Description: Serving in a large Christian school. **Length:** 2+ years.
Language: English. Willingness to learn Arabic would be useful.
Qualifications: Internationally recognised qualifications.

Nurse - Jordan (near Syrian border)

Description: Working with TB or diabetes patients in remote hospital.
Length: 3+ years. **Language:** Arabic is essential.
Qualifications: Internationally recognised qualifications.

Workers in Deaf Centre - Jordan

Description: Administrators, audiologists, teachers, management assistant etc.
Length: 2+ years. **Language:** Arabic is desirable.

For more opportunities and information, visit www.aboutmeco.org/opportunities

