

Missionaries	Bob, Andrea, and Madison Parker
Field	Kenya
Birthplaces	Bob: Mooresville, Indiana Andrea: Fort Wayne, Indiana
Education	Bob: BS in chemical engineering, Purdue University (Indiana); MD, Indiana University School of Medicine; general surgery residency, Brown University/ Rhode Island Hospital Andrea: BA in philosophy and biology, University of Indianapolis; MD, Indiana University School of Medicine; general surgery residency, Brown University/ Rhode Island Hospital
Experiences	We are called to Tenwek Hospital where we will serve as general surgeons. Not only will we have the opportunity to provide surgical care to patients, but we will also have the honor of teaching young African Christian doctors to become surgeons and leaders of their community. As surgeons, we could impact the individual lives of many people, but we have the possibility to multiply that much further through discipleship and training.
Testimonies	<p>Bob: When I was a child, I recognized that I was sinful and needed forgiveness. Jesus became my personal Savior around age 10. I was baptized in the church at age 11 at the same time as my mother (who was new to faith early in my childhood) and older sister. I was young, but I understood.</p> <p>In high school, I stopped going to church because I felt like I didn't "fit in" and began to intellectually learn about religion and different faiths. As I read the gospel, I was fascinated that the Jesus I was meeting was not what I had thought. This Jesus I came to know, I came to love and developed a relationship.</p> <p>In college, I became more involved in Christian community. I went on a medical missions trip to Ecuador. I understood the reality of the love of Jesus for the poor and for humanity. Realizing that Jesus had called me to work with the poor, it was clear that I would pursue medicine as my avenue to serve.</p> <p>During medical school, I had my first opportunity to serve in Kenya, and I returned later to work at Tenwek Hospital from 2007 to 2008. I saw how a community of like-minded missionaries could provide compassionate care for people in need. I began to realize how provision of surgical care was necessary, and I felt called to pursue surgical training.</p> <p>Also during medical school, I met my wife, Andrea. I was amazed by our similar outlook and goals in life. I was inspired by her story of redemption and what</p>

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God was doing in her life. We were married and completed our training in surgery. Andrea and I are now set to begin serving as surgical missionaries with our daughter, Madison.

Andrea: I was raised in a Christian home and accepted Jesus Christ at a very young age. As a child, I was exposed to missions through our church missions conferences; and at that early age, I began to develop a love for people and missions.

Right before high school, I experienced medical missions for the first time on a short-term trip to the Dominican Republic during which our team worked with a family practitioner who lived and worked full time there. We set up a makeshift clinic in rural, mountainous areas; and the doctor saw hundreds of patients for hours and hours. These people had no access to medical care except for the rare times when the doctor would set up these clinics. Many of the diseases we were seeing had been left unattended and would have been easily treated in the United States. I had a powerful realization that this could not be what Jesus had in mind for us, and His heart must break to see the disparities. These people are the creations of God just as I am, and He loves them just as He loves me. I began to wrestle with my existence in affluence while others struggle to survive. I felt very strongly that God was calling me to medical missions with the purpose of being the hands of Jesus extended.

During college, I went through a very difficult period during which I experienced a tremendous amount of questioning, doubting, and having anger; and in response to those struggles, I made the decision to no longer be a Christian. Three days after graduation, I found out that I was pregnant. Over the course of the pregnancy, it became apparent that my then-fiancé was an alcoholic. Ultimately, I was able to escape that situation; and with the support, prayers, and love of my parents and the unrelenting love of God, I began to reexamine Christianity and the teachings of Jesus. I recommitted my life to Him my second year of medical school. I decided to pursue training in general surgery for my residency. I realized the impact that providing surgical care can have on a community and the doors that it can open to share the love of Jesus Christ.

We are called to medical missions. God has brought us to this point and has made it possible for us to be ready to serve at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya, East Africa. We are planning to go in January 2015. We're excited and look forward to sharing more of ourselves in the upcoming years.

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