



Dylan and Jessica Nugent

ID: 07116 Country: [Kenya](#) Region: Africa

Biography

Dylan: I remember asking Jesus into my heart on several occasions as a child just to make sure I did it with a full understanding and belief that I was sincere. But the time I really look back on was during an AWANA meeting when I was 6 or 7. I thought I was already saved, but since I was in a Christian home, I wanted to make sure I made it my own. From that time forward, I can see how God has worked in my life more and more.

It was during this period of my life that I first felt the call to medical missions, so I knew God was speaking to me. Whether He had performed His saving work that night or earlier, I may not know until I meet Him face to face, but it was clear that He began to draw me closer in the years that followed. He continues to refine me and make His will known as I seek to follow Him.

As my years of medical training unfolded, I was drawn to orthopedic surgery because of the practical nature of the specialty and the tangible impact it can have on patients. I also enjoyed the opportunity to teach others as I grew in my medical knowledge and experience and considered an academic career. I did not immediately realize how great a need there is in other parts of the world in missions settings for both orthopedics and medical education.

Over the last several years, I have felt a renewed calling to medical missions in a full-time, long-term capacity, and I became aware of just how great the physical needs are in “limited resource” nations. One of the things that most stood out to me about [Tenwek Hospital](#) was the fact that we will have the opportunity to blend gospel-centered outreach with medical care while, perhaps more importantly, training and discipling residents and medical students from East Africa to continue and expand the work in their own communities.

Jessica: I was saved as a young girl of about 5 years when my mom prayed with me and I accepted Jesus as my Savior. I received sound instruction during my years growing up in church, and I sincerely desired and strived after a close walk with Christ. He has graciously grown in me a love for Himself and others over the years, and I have experienced Him molding me more and more into His likeness as I have sought to walk with Him by faith.

I never expected to be called to a foreign mission field, but I have learned that God often does things I don't expect. Now, as we serve in Kenya, I can see how this investment over the years has been serving His purpose for my life and the lives of those He has called us to serve—from my own family and the families of patients at Tenwek Hospital to the neighbor in need, other missionary families, and guests of the Tenwek community. I look forward to the opportunity to be used by Him however He wills.