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## CMMB Reports

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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# CMMB Reports . . . .

During 1962 the Professional Placement Service of the Catholic Medical Mission Board, 10 West 17th Street, New York 11, New York, processed 117 volunteers for overseas medical service. At year's end, 84 of these were at varying stages of CMMB's placement procedure. The remaining thirty-three — physicians, dentists, nurses, medical technologists and one pharmacist — were placed and have served or are now serving in medical installations throughout the mission world.

Seventy-four of the volunteers were doctors — 19 general practitioners, 13 dentists, and 42 specialists (including 17 surgeons). The next largest group were the registered nurses. There were 27. Fifteen medical and paramedical technicians and assistants constituted the remaining number. More than half (60) of the total 117 volunteers — whether doctor, nurse or medical technician — were people whose ages ranged from 30 to 39.

Most (92) of the 117 volunteers are from the United States. And of those 92, 21 are from the State of California. (This latter fact is explained largely by the activities of the Sacramento County Medical Society which has group-sponsored the hospital run by the Sacred Heart Fathers at Quiche Mission, Chichicastenango in Guatemala. The Society has been supplying the small hospital with a physician on a monthly rotation basis since last April, and is presently raising a fund of \$25,000 to improve the

physical facilities of the medical installation in which its members are serving.)

Beside California twenty-three other states furnished volunteers. All but 17 were U. S. citizens. Seven came from Canada, four from the Philippines, two from Britain, two from Germany, one from Ireland, and one from Switzerland.

## WHO REFERRED THEM TO CMMB?

Most of the volunteers came directly to CMMB, but a few were referred by other organizations. The largest percentage (18.8%) of referrals came from the American Medical Association's Department of International Health.

## AND SINCE JANUARY 1963 . . . .

. . . Until the last meeting of the Catholic Medical Mission Board's Medical Advisory Council on March 23, 21 members of the medical profession offered to serve in overseas missions. There were 6 volunteers in January; 9 in February; another 6 in March. The majority (13) of these volunteers are Catholic doctors who are married with wife and children. Their classifications, ages, etc. are grouped as follows:

*Classifications:* 7 general practitioners, 2 surgeons, 1 internist, 2 dentists and 1 pathologist.

*Age:* 2 under 30 years, 10 between 30 and 50 years, and 1 just 64 years.

**MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN THE MISSIONS — 1962**

**— WHERE THEY SERVED —**

Country	No. of Missions	No. of CMMB Placements	Service Period
Bolivia	2	2	3 years
Brazil	1	1	More than 1 year
Chile	1	1	More than 1 year
Congo	1	1	2 months
Guatemala	1	10	1 month each
Haiti	1	2	1 month each
Honduras	1	2	2 years
India	1	1	More than 1 year
Jamaica	1	1	2 months
Mexico	1	2	1 month
Nigeria	4	4	2 years
Pakistan	1	2	2 years
Taiwan	1	2	2 years
Tanganyika	1	1	1 year
Zululand	1	1	1 year
Totals	19	33	

*Mission Period Volunteered*

1	1 month
2	To be arranged
2	3 months
3	6 months to 2 years
5	2 years or more*

\* One of these offered up to 5 years.

*Citizen:* 9 U. S. (2 from Hawaii), 2 Philippines, 1 Canada, and 1 Pakistan.

Eight of the 21 volunteers are nurses and technicians (all single, all female and all U. S. citizens). Here are the interesting statistics as they apply to them.

*Classifications:* 5 registered nurses, 1 infant care technician (baby nurse), 1 medical technician, and 1 nurses' aide.

*Age:* 1 18-years old, 6 over 20 years and 1 over 35.

*Mission Period Volunteered*

1	1 month
3	6 months to 1 year
2	1 to 2 years
2	more than 2 years

**HOW ARE VOLUNTEERS PLACED  
(The Placement Procedure)**

Before the volunteer is introduced to overseas medical installations by the Catholic Medical Mission Board he is carefully screened and processed. This begins with completion of CMMB's Information Form. The latter asks such important questions as: What overseas area would you prefer? Are there any specific areas you would reject? What length of time are you willing to devote to this work? When can you start? The Form also provides CMMB with the volunteer's vital statistics, education, and professional experience.

With the help and cooperation of the National Federation of

Catholic Physicians' Guilds, the next important and significant steps in the placement procedure are taken. Through arrangements made by Dr. Eusebius J. Murphy, Chairman of NFPCPG's Medical Mission Committee, each volunteer is given a physical examination and is asked to provide a psychiatric evaluation of his personality, to the extent that it will shed light on his probable adaptability to life in a typical medical mission. Meanwhile, references are sought from professional people who are in a position to comment upon the candidate's character, temperament, professional competency, and general personality.

While these matters are in process, there may be a number of exchanges, via telephone or the mails, between CMMB and the volunteer. The latter may visit CMMB's New York offices and be interviewed by Father Anthony F. La Bau, S.J., CMMB's Director, and by Roy H. Hessen, the organization's Professional Placement Director. Such face to face interviews often elicit or clarify information which may not have been included in the completed Information Form or in earlier exchanges.

Catholic Medical Mission Board provides visa and passport information and advises immunization needs. Prior to and after departure for the overseas medical installation CMMB gathers facts, figures and photos and publicizes them. Often CMMB sends medicines and medical equipment along with or in advance of the volunteer. Later, when the volunteer is in the mission, CMMB's Professional Placement Service continues to exchange correspondence and to

provide an additional material or assistance requested.

In all its activities since June 1961 the Professional Placement Service of the Catholic Medical Mission Board has tried to retain the position and function of a coordinating agency. Wherever possible it has cooperated with the activities of all the religious communities actually staffing overseas missions, and with each of the various lay organizations in the U. S. concerned with helping to provide personnel for overseas service. It is working with the Sacramento County Medical Society, various individual Guilds of the NFPCPG, the Grail, Association for International Development (AID), and the International Catholic Auxiliaries. It has also worked with the Women's Volunteer Association (WVA), and is concerned with making referrals to both the Mission Doctors' Association of the Los Angeles Catholic Physicians' Guild, and the Papal Volunteers for Latin America.

In the performance of its prime function as coordinating agency in the recruitment and overseas placement of medical personnel, CMMB has reported 1962 as a year of accomplishment. A splendid beginning has been made in Placement, and this will be continued. Special emphasis is being put now upon the very important matters of Recruitment throughout the United States through publicity in appropriate media, as for instance, CMMB's special meeting at the AMA Convention, on Wednesday, June 19, to which all physicians are invited. His Excellency, Bishop Sheen will preside.