

# MEDICINE FOR THE WORLD

## MAP Celebrates 65 Years of Bringing Medicine to the World

**The need was widespread and heartbreaking: Mission hospitals and clinics all over the world lacked the medicines and supplies they needed to treat their patients.** Missionary doctors did their best, but they needed the medical supplies and medicine they knew were available in the US but were seemingly impossible to find in remote parts of the world.



Dr. Ray Knighton

Ray Knighton had heard the stories in his role as administrator of the Christian Medical Society (CMS). And he'd mentioned the need to those he met. So one day Art Larson, from Schering Drug Co., called Ray and told him he had shipped 11 tons of medicine to Ray's Chicago office. Ray was shocked. "You did what?!" he famously responded. Ray had no warehouse and only a small office. The donation filled his entire office and the hallways.

But when he let doctors on furlough know the medicine was available to take back to their hospitals, they came to pick it up and take it back to where it was urgently needed. The need was obvious and the response was soon overwhelming. The Medical Assistance Program was officially created as part of CMS.

A timeline of significant events in MAP's history can be found on pages two and three of this newsletter or online



([www.map.org/history](http://www.map.org/history)). But the early years of MAP's work were characterized by rapid growth and incredible partnerships. More pharmaceutical companies became donors. An increasing number of mission hospitals and doctors became established partners in dozens of countries where trusted, top quality medicine was almost impossible to procure. And individuals began to donate as well, as grateful doctors and patients told their stories.

**As MAP's mission grew, a warehouse was established and both the storage and shipping of medicine became more complicated.** In 1965 MAP legally separated from CMS and by 1966 was established as a separate nonprofit corporation.



*Historical Map International Logo*

Meanwhile, MAP had begun to not only ship medicine for ongoing needs,

but in response to disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes and war. MAP's ability to procure and distribute medicines and health supplies quickly made it an important partner to other disaster response teams and even the US Agency for International Development (USAID).



Over the years, MAP complied with government agencies including the Federal Narcotics Bureau, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure that all medicines supplied met the highest standards and were appropriate to meet the needs in country. MAP was also one of organizations that formed the Association of Evangelical Relief and Development Organizations (AERDO) as well as a founding member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and a founding member of the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD).

**Over the years, the mission of MAP hasn't changed.** It

has become more and more efficient in its work, earning top ratings from Forbes, CNN, CNBC, the Better Business Bureau, GuideStar, and others. If anything, the work has become more focused.



# 65 YEARS OF HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

1954

A truckload of medicine is dropped off at the Christian Medical Society's office in Chicago. Ray Knighton and his assistant orchestrate the delivery of 11 tons of medicine to mission doctors traveling from the United States to serve people in countries around the world.



1965

The Christian Medical Society board votes to spin-off its 'Medical Assistance Programs' and MAP is founded as a separate 501c3 organization focused on delivering medicines and health supplies to people in need.



1976

MAP International partners with the Billy Graham Association to provide disaster relief for hundreds of thousands injured when a devastating earthquake strikes Guatemala.



Billy Graham

1979

Dr. C. Everett Koop, former U.S. Surgeon General, serves on MAP's Board of Directors.



Dr. C. Everett Koop and Ray Knighton

1985

To improve its operational efficiency and access to ocean ports, MAP relocates its Global Medicines Distribution Center from Wheaton, IL to Brunswick, GA.



1993

MAP International launches its Medical Mission Pack program to serve short-term medical mission teams. Since its launch, more than 45,000 Medical Mission Packs have been sent with medical mission teams to help people globally.



2001

With the fall of the Taliban, MAP airlifts medicine and health supplies to help people in Afghanistan.



2005

More than 225,000 people perish when a tsunami strikes Indonesia. MAP provides more than \$10 million in medicines and health supplies to help those injured in the devastation in Banda Ache, the Andaman Islands and Sri Lanka.



2010

MAP provides more than \$20 million in disaster aid following a devastating earthquake that leveled Port Au Prince, Haiti. MAP worked with key partners such as Love A Child, Harvard University and others to provide medicines and health supplies to save and restore lives.



2014

An outbreak of Ebola virus in Liberia captures global attention. MAP responds sending 33,000 personal protective health suits and more than \$18 million in medicines and health supplies to prevent the spread of Ebola and treat its victims.



2016

CNBC names MAP International as one of the top global charities changing the world.



2017

Through the generosity of thousands of donors, MAP provides Disaster Health Kits, medicines and other relief supplies to people in Texas following Hurricane Harvey, Florida and Georgia following Hurricane Irma and Puerto Rico and Dominica following Hurricane Maria.



2018

GuideStar, the world's largest source for information about non-profit organizations, awards MAP International its Platinum Seal of Transparency.



## MAP Provides Disaster Health Kits for the U.S. Navy's Hospital Ship Comfort

When the U.S. Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort departed Miami on June 18 for South America, the ship carried the work of more than 200 MAP International volunteers who packed 2,500 MAP Disaster Health Kits (DHKs) to aid refugees who have fled Venezuela.

MAP International's signature DHKs provides antiseptic wipes, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other essential items to prevent the spread of illness for people caught up in disasters. Many of those fleeing the upheaval in Venezuela have gone without both medicine and basic health supplies for weeks or even months.

Comfort medical teams will pull in to ports in Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago for working visits.



### Did You Know?

For every dollar you contribute, you help MAP International provide more than \$68 in donated medicines and health supplies to people in need. We can make this statement because MAP receives generous donations of medicines and health supplies and has relatively low expenses. Last year alone, we were able to provide nearly \$523 million in medicine and health supplies with just over \$10 million in total expenses, including \$7.6 million in program expenses.

## MAP Hosts 3rd Annual Bill Foege Global Health Awards

The third annual Bill Foege Global Health Awards presented by MAP International was held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the Delta Flight Museum. The award, named to pay tribute to Dr. Bill Foege, a global hero best known for eradicating smallpox, honors individuals and organizations for their commitment to making advancements in global health. This year's award recognized Ted Turner, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Ambassador Andrew J. Young, Jr. for humanitarian achievements in combating diseases worldwide.

Ted Turner has long supported causes that advance global public health, including significant contributions to the United Nations, the Red Cross, and the Better World Fund. He has advocated for the advancement of vaccines to eradicate measles and malaria completely.

The CDC, where Dr. Foege served as director for six years, contributes to global health efforts by detecting and controlling

disease outbreaks at the source both nationally and internationally. The CDC helps other countries build the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to various health threats, knowing that disease has no borders.

A champion of human rights, Ambassador Andrew Young, Jr. has dedicated his life to assisting challenged communities through programs that aim to improve life, health and well-being. Young has focused his efforts and the initiatives of his foundation on tapping into Africa's vast economic potential by advancing the quality of life in communities across the continent.

"Our Bill Foege Global Health Award winners represent some of the very best examples of outstanding service and leadership in improving health and well-being of communities worldwide," said President & CEO of MAP International Steve Stirling.



Ambassador Andrew Young, Jr. received the third annual Bill Foege Award for his contributions to global health at a ceremony in Atlanta on June 6.

# BY DIVINE APPOINTMENT

Excerpted from *The Crutch of Success* by Steve Stirling

"We have a perfect job for you as president and CEO of a nonprofit," the recruiter had said.

"What nonprofit?" I asked.

"MAP."

"Who uses a map? Everyone uses GPS."

She clarified, "No, it's not about maps. It stands for Medical Assistance Programs."

I was not interested and I told her so.

That evening, I told Sook Hee about the call. "What did you tell them?" she asked. When I told her what I'd said, she asked, "Aren't you going to at least pray about it? They're a Christian organization. What if God wants you to go there?"



CEO Steve Stirling and wife, Sook Hee

She was right to exert a little pressure. Together, we prayed on the spot.

My attitude began to shift. Maybe this was a perfect fit for me. After all, I'd had nineteen years of business experience, much of it with pharmaceutical companies, followed by thirteen years of nonprofit experience. I knew a lot about fundraising. **I had learned much about giving aid to needy families, not to mention having**

**the personal experience of being on the receiving end of medical assistance from abroad.**

I agreed to an initial interview for the position and that interview led to several more. Their search was very thorough. Long story short, it was a match all around.

The job of any managerial leader consists largely of solving problems and I shouldered the primary responsibility for that at MAP. Starting in 2015, we had to take a hard look at the organization's ongoing financial viability and make some difficult decisions. As part of our strategic planning process to focus MAP on the core mission that we do really well—acquire and dispense medicine and health supplies—we decided to consolidate our efforts. MAP used to maintain a presence in eight other countries, with paid staff and overhead expenses, but we now have transitioned out of direct implementation of country programs, relying instead on local entities, each of which can be its own boss. This is much more sustainable all around and it will enable us to expand our distribution into more countries, serving more people with the same resources. Each partner organization provides "boots on the ground" to distribute the medicines and medical supplies efficiently.

Over the years, MAP International has earned a reputation for being a **proficient organization that delivers high-quality medicines and medical supplies to needy people with remarkably low overhead.** This is a reputation I intend to maintain!

Sometimes, people ask me, "Would you rather not have had polio?" Of course, I would rather not have had it! Who would want it? But I'm glad God allowed me to get polio for a purpose. I believe I was "saved to serve"—rescued by Him and positioned to represent the Lord to people who can receive what I have to offer because I speak from first-person experience. I intend to keep reaching out to others as long as I have breath.

It's advantageous for me to be a Korean-American adoptee who had



polio and experienced the downside of life in a developing country like Korea in the 1950s. I was forced to deal with the overt discrimination against people with disabilities, such as the idea that you are being punished by God or your parents did something wrong. When I reach out, people listen to me. Whether I am dispensing medicines in a Third World country or speaking about God at a Christian conference, I do not come across as a privileged American. I am privileged only in that polio has been one of the crutches of my success. I've leaned on it, overcame it, and I've become stronger for it.

My success in the corporate world was the other crutch. The money and position it brought me didn't make me happy. It was only when I let go of it and made Jesus my Lord as well as my Savior that I could follow His plan for my life. **With Him leading me and listening to His still small voice, I have found true happiness.**

Getting older has slowed me down somewhat, especially since shoulders are not meant to be weight-bearing joints for a lifetime on crutches, but I can still travel to other countries and I can still speak out for MAP and for God. When people ask me, "Are you going to retire?" I can only reply, "Well, we'll have to see what God has planned for us." Sook Hee and I would like to retire someday, but we will never retire from being fruitful in serving our Lord, even in our golden years.

Excerpted from *The Crutch of Success* by Steve Stirling. ©2019. Used by permission. To learn more about this book go to [www.map.org/Steve](http://www.map.org/Steve).