



MEDICINE IN ACTION

Medicine in Action announces Our first Sugar Scholar's return from Jamaica

Georgia Bromfield

Mohandas Gandhi stated, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." This quote summarizes my trip to Jamaica with Medicine in Action. I am proud to be the first Sugar Scholar. I must admit after hearing about what a great man Sugar Chong was, I was nervous that I wouldn't live up to the legacy of Mr. Chong. I was born in Kingston, Jamaica but have not been back to the city in over 20 years, and as I landed in Norman Manely airport, I knew this was exactly where I needed to be. As a medical student, I was trained to work hard, to give myself to the field of medicine, but this trip was truly "Medicine in Action" and I was taught how to give myself to humanity. The first night I was introduced to physicians, nurses and volunteers from all



Georgia Bromfield at the breakfast table in Kingston, Jamaica November 2009



over America. It was refreshing meeting such a compassionate group of people. We were all there for a common goal and it was evident as we hauled all of our equipments and medicine into the Convent that this would be a wonderful mission. That night we organized, packed and prepared for the next morning. I spent my first working day at St. Joseph's hospital. We turned their Emergency room aka Casualty into a pre-op clinic. When we arrived there were a group of women and their families waiting patiently to be seen. Some

women have been living with fibroids for years that grew so large they looked like they were 4 months pregnant. What moved me most, were all the women who could not have children because of their fibroids. One woman told me she felt "less than a woman".

The clinics in Jamaica were set up in community centers throughout the city and the countryside in Port Maria. I remember vividly how we were greeted by a melody of men, women and children singing, "Yes, Jesus Loves You". It brought tears to

my eyes seeing how over one hundred people showed up at one clinic just to get basic health care. They were all so appreciative and it made me question how we look at happiness. As Americans we see success and happiness based on material items. The people of Jamaica did

not have cars and expensive clothes or homes, some did not have running water or electricity but was evident to me was that they had a sense of community and they all smiled. They smiled beyond their unmanaged health problems, they smiled beyond the poverty and destitution, they had life and that was enough. I can't speak for the other volunteers but we helped the Jamaican people we saw become healthier and they helped me become a better person.



Nurse practitioner Mureen Shaw at the clinic

I am now devoted to doing international missions and this will be a part of my personal life as well as my career. As long as I can serve I will be of service. Thank you Medicine in Action for allowing me to make a difference. See you guys next November.

Gratefully,

Georgia Bromfield

