



MED TO ONE

Newsletter

It's with real thankfulness that I am sending our second newsletter. Great blessings have come to MED TO ONE since the last newsletter 5 months ago. We have our first patients, we have added another member to the board, and we have been organizing with other charities. Thank you for making it possible to bring long-term care to those who could not live a normal life otherwise. Tauni Crefeld, President, MED TO ONE.

Finalizing the Process

In November, Tauni Crefeld returned to Lima, Peru to ensure the Lima-based team of MED TO ONE was prepared to support patients, and to brief short-term mission doctors with MMI (Medical Ministry International) on MED TO ONE's mission and resources. Tauni served as a translator, and while doing so, gave all of the mission volunteers MED TO ONE literature, and explained how to refer patients with long-term needs to MED TO ONE.

Raquel Fabian Naupari, the Lima-based coordinator for MED TO ONE, also participated on the MMI mission, making connections with the MMI staff, helping out in the mission pharmacy, and screening MED TO ONE candidates directly with the doctors.



Raquel, Tauni, and Raquel's friend Paty outside a clinic in Lima.

Three candidates were referred to MED TO ONE during the MMI mission. Prior to being officially accepted into the MED TO ONE program, each candidate needs to be economically certified. This means the coordinator visits each patient in their home to see their living conditions first hand.

While all of the patients seen in short term mission clinics are poor according to US standards,

there are definitely different levels of poverty. For example, when Raquel visited one candidate, she found that the candidate's husband was employed, as were her adult children. The candidate and her family also operated a tiny store, and their house was well constructed. Although they are by no means wealthy, they are able to sustain themselves and should be able to purchase their own medicines.

Although this level of economic scrutiny may seem harsh, MED TO ONE's goal is to use its resources for those who cannot afford their own medication. Of the three candidates that were referred during the MMI mission, one was economically disqualified. Raquel was unable to contact another, and the other, Sr. Aurelio, is a fully enrolled and supported member of Med to One (see feature below).

MED TO ONE plans to support additional patients by working with MMI to find additional patients during the March mission, and through a Team Healthcare mission in August.

Med to One's First Patients!

Lima, Peru is MED TO ONE's first designated location for supporting patients with chronic conditions. To date, three patients have been accepted into the program.

MED TO ONE is right now making an impact in each of their lives by providing them the medication they need. Here are their stories:

Señor Aurelio Villavicencio Diran, lives in the Carabayllo district of Lima, is 65 years old and is a diabetic. For many years his diabetes has not been well managed, and he had no diabetes medication.

When he came to the clinic in Lima, his foot



Sr. Aurelio Vallavicencio Diran, diabetic, at home in Carabayllo

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was gangrenous. He had been told that his foot would have to be amputated, but he certainly didn't have money to pay for the surgery. His foot was cleaned and bandaged and is healing, though a portion of it will still most likely have to be amputated. However, this did not address the core problem of a lack of medication. Since then, Raquel visited Aurelio in his home to evaluate his economic status and found that he required assistance from **MED TO ONE**. His situation was the worst of the three patients that Raquel visited. His simple wooden house contained one bed, one table and two chairs for him and his wife. He has several children, and his youngest daughter takes care of him by bringing him food. Raquel has since taken Aurelio to see the endocrinologist, and has provided him with two months of medication, an oral diabetic medicine called "Glidiabet" or glyburide. It is a great blessing that **MED TO ONE's** work has begun and that we are making an enormous impact on one man's life.

Jose Alarcon.

In Memorium. When Raquel agreed to be the Lima-based coordinator for **MED TO ONE**, she had a friend who was epileptic, and who could not afford proper medication. She had watched him suffer from the disease and hoped to be able to help him. Sadly, her friend Raymundo passed away in November right as



Jose in his thatch-walled house

MED TO ONE was preparing to take patients. Instead of being able to sign him up for **MED TO ONE**, Raquel had to attend his funeral. While this case is unfortunate, it is not unusual given the harsh conditions of life for many people throughout Peru and South America.

Fortunately, **MED TO ONE** is not too late to help Raymundo's son Jose. Jose also suffers from epilepsy, and currently has no medication to control his epilepsy. Jose is 31 years old and lives as an invalid, not being able to walk without falling. He has a sister who takes care of him a little, but she is a single mother ("abandoned mother" is how she was described by Raquel) with her own children. Jose lives in a room that is very poorly constructed, pictured above, the walls are made of a woven-thatch kind of material and plastic. He receives lunch from a meal service at a Catholic church. Jose is in need of several medical tests, including an MRI, to determine the proper treatment for him, which **MED TO ONE** is funding. Raquel will continue to work with him to get him the medication he needs.

Jorge is 73 years old and a widower. He has several adult children, and one of them takes care of him. The youngest child is single, so the other children have told her she should be the one to care for him. She studies and works all day so Jorge passes the day alone, virtually bedridden. He is also periodically visited by some people from a nearby evangelical Christian church. He does live in a room which has sturdy walls and is well constructed. He has a chronic bronchial condition which Raquel was told requires continual treatment with costly antibiotics.



Sr. Jorge suffers from chronic bronchial problems

Raquel is taking him to see doctors at "Agape" a Christian-run clinic in Peru to see if she can get a second opinion on his condition and the proper medication for him.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

MED TO ONE would like to introduce Dr. Chris Houlihan, who was added to the board of directors this month.

Dr. Chris Houlihan participated in the Team Healthcare short-term mission to Aoti in August, and has been helping to support **MED TO ONE** ever since. He is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick and lives in Montville, NJ. Chris will bring medical wisdom to the board, and also brings a heart for service, which is also a major factor in his selection for this post. Welcome Chris!! We are glad to have you on board!

Providing medicine for long-term needs, one patient at a time

MED TO ONE www.med2one.org

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What is MED TO ONE?

MED TO ONE is a new non-profit charity designed to provide long-term medicine and medical care for impoverished patients in third world countries who have specific medical conditions that require constant long-term care, such as epilepsy, diabetes, MS, or heart conditions.



While many organizations exist that provide medical visits and prescribe medicines on short-term missions, these organizations are not funded to provide more than a month's medication. Doctors in these organizations counsel patients to seek medical care or another prescription from a local doctor at the end of that month, but the economic situation of many of these patients makes it impossible for them to purchase more medicines once they run out. MED TO ONE will provide

that continued care and medication for patients with chronic conditions.

Update on Non-Profit Status

MED TO ONE applied for recognition of Non-Profit status during the summer. After approximately three months the IRS responded by stating that one of the documents was missing some specific legal language. The paperwork was corrected, filed again with the State of New Jersey, and once again submitted to the IRS.

Hopefully the Non-Profit Status will be approved soon, as there have been no further requests for additional filings. As soon as the Non-Profit status is received, MED TO ONE will send notices out to everyone who contributed so that they can still claim the deduction on their '05 taxes, as Non-Profit status is retroactive. MED TO ONE would like to thank all of its contributors for having the faith in what MED TO ONE is doing, and that all of the administrative hurdles will be overcome.

MED TO ONE Special Needs:

If you are interested in helping MED TO ONE, there are many ways to help:



- **Spread the word.** Tell friends, neighbors and family about MED TO ONE. Share MED TO ONE's mission with them. Many people here depend on long-term medication and are empathetic to other people who have long-term needs.
- **Pray.** MED TO ONE exists only through the Grace of God. I believe strongly that MED TO ONE was placed on my heart by God, and I believe the only way it can work is if it is done for Him and through Him.
- **Special Skills.** Know anything about bookkeeping? Accounting? Law? Website development? Graphics design? Willing to donate a tiny bit of your time?
- **Financially:** As always, you can contribute financially by sending checks to MED TO ONE to either 29 Fichter Street, or PO BOX 26 in Bloomingdale NJ, 07403.

Upcoming Events:

- March 18th - 25th MMI Short Term Mission to Lima -- identify candidates, strengthen in country team.
- August 13th - 18th with Team Healthcare -- identify candidates, strengthen in country team.

MED TO ONE Board of Directors

Tauni Crefeld, President
Jon Crefeld, Vice President
Jill Quillian, Vice President
Chris Houlihan, Medical Director

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