

# INTERMED INTERNATIONAL

*(Dooley Foundation)*

## *Brief Overview of Our 50 Year Journey*



Dr. Verne Chaney and the Dalai Lama



The Dooley Mobile Health Unit in India



Dr. Chaney and Lobsang Samden at the U.N

***DOOLEY-INTERMED HAS MANAGED AND SUPPORTED AT VARIOUS TIMES OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS, MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN 15 COUNTRIES OF ASIA, AFRICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA...***

Like, in 1959, being among the first of the foreign non profit agencies to come to the aid of Tibetans in India fleeing the communist atrocities and the takeover of their traditional homeland.

It was then that Dr. Chaney had the privilege of meeting the Dalai Lama having been introduced by his friend, Lowell Thomas, the world famous author and explorer. A short time later, Dr. Chaney met the younger brother of the Dalai Lama, - - - Lobsang Samden, who later came to work for a year in Intermed's office while he was a student at New York University, at the same time assisting Intermed in raising funds for two mobile health units which were to provide medical care for the refugees trying to survive along the torturous Himalayan mountain roads.



Dr. Tom Dooley

Like, collaborating in 1960 with Dr. Tom Dooley who was then actively managing and supporting projects in Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, Africa and the Middle-East, even though his principal interests, at that time, were to provide medical help to the people of Laos. However, after Tom died in 1961, the Dooley Foundation took over responsibilities for his projects in Southeast Asia, which have continued to the present time. The Dooley Foundation has spent 30 years in Laos supporting various projects in community development, health worker and medical technician training, equipping hospitals,

managing the immunization programs, promoting public health education as well as providing two mobile health units to serve the medical needs of the villagers in the remote rural communities.



Dr. Dooley at his clinic in Muong Sing.

Like, providing in 1968, five boats serving the medical and educational needs of the Laotian villagers living along the Mekong River from Ban Houei Sai and Muong Sing in the north, near the China border, to Khong Island in the south, near the Viet Nam border. -- *Despite threats from the Viet Cong and the Pathet Lao.* Friendship was bonded with the villagers, always of uncertain allegiance, by the boat crew and the stewardess volunteers, showing Disney cartoons and staging puppet shows with a certain creative theatrical flair.



Project Showboat in Laos

*Like*, being the first non profit, international aid agency in 1972, permitted by King Birendra of Nepal to work in what was then a “forbidden Kingdom”, thereby permitting Intermed, together with the School of Public Health of the University of Hawaii, to carry out the country’s **First National Health Survey**. In addition, Intermed was permitted to design and equip the country’s first state of the art medical laboratory at the Royal Bir Hospital in Kathmandu, at the same time as it promoted training program protocols for medical technicians, as well as surgical and public health nurses.



The University of Hawaii team responsible for leading the survey, headed by Dr. Robert Worth, Professor of Public Health, and Dr. Narayan K. Shah from the University of Nepal along with the Project Administrators, Robert Murphy and Dr. Verne Chaney



A temple in Nepal



Essential transportation necessary to study all the diverse regions of such a rugged country.

*Like*, convincing the management of Pan American World Airways to allow its stewardesses to be granted a three month leave of absence without pay, to voluntarily work in the various projects of Intermed, which in turn agreed to provide them with room, board and health care while Pan Am provided transportation to and from the project sites. The stewardesses worked along-side Intermed’s doctors and nurses in its clinics, hospitals, orphanages and schools or wherever there was a need for extra help. They were assigned to Intermed project sites in India, Nepal, Viet Nam, Laos, Nicaragua and Thailand.



Pan Am



TWA

Eleven national and international airlines soon agreed to cooperate in this effort allowing their own stewardesses to work in Intermed’s projects. Over the 20 years of the program, 230 stewardesses from the various airlines participated in this humanitarian effort carried out by these courageous, dedicated ladies. The stewardesses were called upon to do tasks which most had never done before - - help the doctors in a Laotian clinic - - use puppets to teach hygiene and public health in Thailand - - assist the Intermed doctors in carrying out immunization programs in Nepal. I’m personally very proud of the Stewardess Program, and it is my belief, that this unique undertaking truly represented charity at its very finest.



United Airlines

*Like*, responding to the World Health Organization’s call for an international effort to eliminate avoidable blindness in the world, Dr. Vithoune Visonnavong, Professor of Ophthalmology at the Vientiane Medical Center in Laos, requested Intermed’s help in providing funds for the training of Laotian physicians and surgeons for the treatment of patients who were blind due to cataracts as well as other preventable and curable eye conditions.



Post-op cataract surgery patients

The need for more ophthalmologists continues to be critical in order to survey and treat the needs of the rural poor who suffer the highest burden of vision problems. Since 2003, the eye center has performed more than 3000 cataract operations per year. Intermed will, with your help, continue its support to Dr. Vithoune’s eye program in Laos.



Dr. Vithoune preparing for surgery

Like, providing support to an orphanage in Northern Nepal, near the China border. In the aftermath of a 15 year civil war in Nepal between the Maoist guerrillas and the Royal Government forces, there remained hundreds if not thousands of children left homeless by the senseless killing of their parents. These hungry, diseased, orphaned children were courageously rescued by a Nepalese mountain guide, Bibhu Thakur and his wife, Charu, who took it upon themselves to establish and help support a home for these children, which they named The New Youth Development Orphanage. Intermed has pledged itself to financially help Bibhu and Charu to provide food, shelter, books, clothing and such other necessities as may be required.



The main house and clinic for the children



Staff and children at the orphanage



Anastasio Somoza

Like, remaining a long time loyal and supportive friend of its Central American neighbor, Nicaragua, which since its independence from Spain in 1821, has experienced a seemingly unending period of recurring revolutions, assassinations, and oppression to such an extent as to require the intervention of the United States Marines in 1909, where they remained until 1933 as the situation demanded.

Among the first of the tyrants, and possibly one of the worst, was Augusto Cesar Sandino, who led a guerrilla war in 1927 against the United States.



President Chamorro & Dr. Chaney

In 1934, Anastasio Garcia Somoza, then head of the National Guard, assassinated Sandino and took over the Presidency in 1937. He and his two sons, Luis and Debayle, ruthlessly controlled Nicaragua until 1979. In that year Somoza was overthrown and assassinated by the Sandinista Liberation Front. In 1984, the Sandinistas won elections for the Presidency. However, from 1981 to 1990 the Contra rebels valiantly fought and defeated the Sandinistas with the support of the US Government and the CIA. This costly war was finally won in 1991, with the election of a very courageous woman as President, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Ironically in 2006, the country was again ruled by a Sandinista, Daniel Ortega, the dictatorial head of the Sandinista Party.

Intermed, throughout this tragic period of history, has continued its support of Nicaraguan hospitals, clinics and training programs for nurses, midwives and health providers, **especially caring for the long neglected and abused Miskito Indians, who long ago peacefully ruled all of Nicaragua.**



Dr. Maria Compte at the hospital in Rus Rus, Honduras

An important player in all of this was Intermed's Vice President for Programs, Dr. Maria Compte, who lived in-country and suffered through five years as Physician and Director of Intermed's medical programs in Honduras and Nicaragua.



Like, renewing a 40 year friendship with a legendary lady with a royal lineage to both the Kings of Laos and Thailand. - - Vanida S. Mongkhone, gave up her family associations and privileges to work with the poor, the hungry and the sick refugees who were fleeing into her homeland in Laos and Thailand, after escaping from the northern hills where the communist Viet Cong and Pathet Lao were terrorizing the country-side in their effort to conquer Southeast Asia.



Vanida at her workshop.

Vanida frequently visited the refugee camps in Laos to help prepare food and to teach public health practices and personal hygiene.

In addition, Vanida on her own, initiated a plan to establish a local industry of producing beautiful handicrafts that could be sold in the local market and at trade fairs in Japan and Bangkok, thereby producing an independent source of income for the village women, who would then be able to buy more food, to send their children to better schools and to pay for health care. All the handicrafts were designed by Vanida who supervised the women in their creation, teaching them skills of embroidery, appliqué and the weaving of silk on locally made looms.

Vanida has been continuing this work for more than 50 years, receiving very little for herself except the pleasure of helping her own people.



Vanida at her workshop in Thailand.



Vanida and her workers have produced beautiful appliqué pillows and embroidered purses as well as many other handicrafts. Vanida also personally made many sitting and standing dolls, each one authentically representing the traditional dress of a hill tribe in northern Thailand and Laos.

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