

BLESSINGS
INTERNATIONAL

**MEDICINES
FOR MISSIONS**

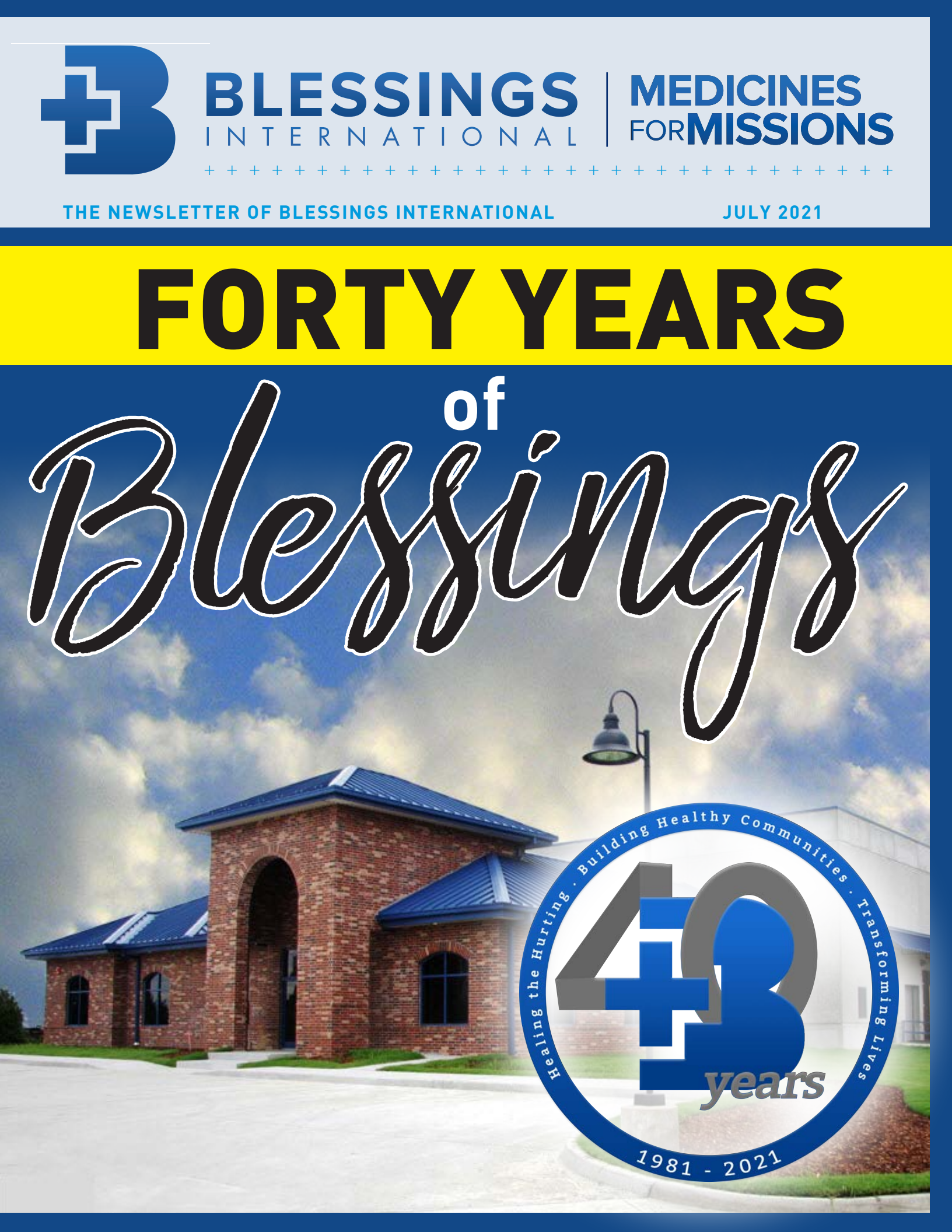


THE NEWSLETTER OF BLESSINGS INTERNATIONAL

JULY 2021

FORTY YEARS

of *Blessings*



Forty Years of Blessings

This year, we are celebrating the birth of Blessings International and remembering the work God did on one man's heart through one mission trip. Forty years ago, Dr. Harold Harder, a professor at Oral Roberts University's medical school, went on a mission trip that would change not only his life and career, but affect the lives of millions around the world.

In 1980, Dr. Harder volunteered for his church's mission trip to Guatemala. He was the team's appointed member to gather pharmaceuticals for the medical clinics they would host on their ten-day outreach.

Those ten days and the lead-up to them would herald a significant shift in Dr. Harder's life and calling.

"My heart was greatly moved," he said, "first, by a deep compassion for the great health needs of these people and second, by the difficulties medical missionaries face in securing adequate supplies of essential drugs on a minimal budget."

The struggle Dr. Harder faced in supplying his team's clinics opened his eyes to a vast need in the medical mission world. "The time required for me to solicit and obtain the drugs was six to seven times more than the hours spent during the clinic itself," he reflected.

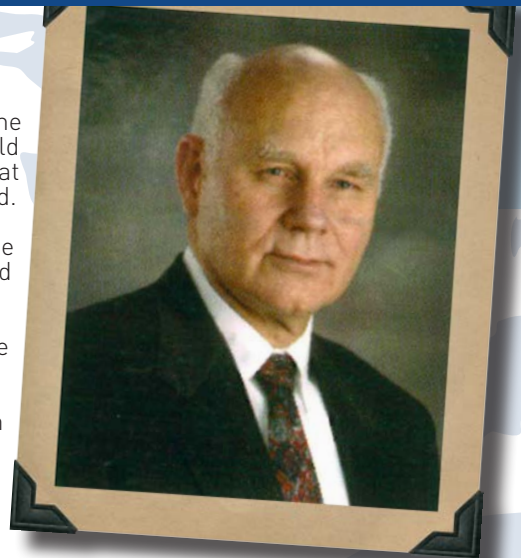
Simultaneously, Dr. Harder realized the scope of the need for medical aid in undeveloped nations. "During the trip, I saw with my own eyes just how greatly needed these medicines were and how the people responded to our care with much appreciation.

"As I returned to Tulsa [from Guatemala], I prayed that God would open doors with pharmaceutical companies so that I could help supply medicines to medical mission teams who were traveling abroad to developing nations.

"Before long," he continued, "other churches began to seek my assistance in obtaining medicines, and it quickly became apparent that a non-profit organization needed to be created...."

And so, Blessings International began! Within four years, Dr. Harder began working full-time with the ministry, using his home as the office and using donated warehouse space for the pharmaceuticals. By 1989, Blessings International had outgrown its previous space and Dr. Harder and staff began operations out of new facilities.

For the first fourteen years, all products were pharmaceutical donations. But as demand grew and needs expanded, Blessings began purchasing pharmaceuticals in 1995, beginning the path of becoming the wholesaler we are today.



By 2010, Blessings moved into a building designed specifically for its unique needs. A full warehouse, production area, and offices were built debt-free due to God's blessing on the organization and Dr. Harder's financial stewardship.

Thirty-two years after starting the ministry, Dr. Harder retired, ushering in a new CEO, Barry Ewy, PharmD, JD, MHA. Since then, Blessings has branched into new realms, from medication repackaging to the Haiti Orphanage Medical Support (HOMS) program, and now reaches an average of 7.5 million people in 101 nations each year!

Forty years on, we look back—from small beginnings to global impact—and celebrate how one man's faithfulness to a calling has demonstrated God's faithfulness to millions around the globe.



CEO Barry Ewy with some of the shipments of medicines sent to Peru for 1Nation1Day, 2019

1981

Dr. Harder begins working full-time at Blessings International, working from home and using donated warehouse space

1986

Blessings moves to a leased office/warehouse and begins hiring staff

1990

Blessings begins purchasing pharmaceuticals, marking the transition from donated medicines

2004

Blessings International is founded on July 6

1985

First natural disaster earthquake response: El Salvador

1989

Becomes a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

1995

Import for Export program launched



Because of You

How Donors Have Blessed Millions in Forty Years

If you have ever given to Blessings International in the last four decades, your gifts have touched millions of people worldwide and continue to have an impact.

As we reminisce during our anniversary year, there are many impact stories that have come up. Below are just a few that would never have been possible without our donors' generosity.

Tuberculosis Clinics – Northern Myanmar

In our early years, Blessings launched medicines to clinics in remote locations worldwide. Within the last fifteen years especially, donations helped Blessings accomplish effective, targeted programs, like the multiple Direct Observation Treatment programs in clinics across Northern Myanmar.

These programs were wildly successful, curing 94% of tuberculosis cases presented, in addition to addressing other grave diseases like malaria. "In fact," then-president Dr. Harold Harder said, "one community leader says that his village is being transformed and that many people are starting to move into the region because of the high quality of health care available there!"

1Nation1Day

Financial donations have allowed Blessings to come alongside large-scale evangelistic outreaches such as Mission.me's 1Nation1Day. Blessings International was the primary medical supplier for the 2019 Peru outreach, donating a cost value of \$60,000 of pharmaceuticals. We were blessed to hear of the miracles that happened as a result of this most recent 1Nation1Day outreach, with 1.1 million people reached, resulting in 13,722 salvations.



Harold and Linda Harder with Dr. John and Anna Brang, celebrating the initiation of the full-time TB program in 2009.

Papua New Guinea

In as recently as the last few months, Blessings has sought to help eradicate the presence of other threatening diseases in Papua New Guinea through a longstanding association with the Wycliffe Clinic in the Ukarumpa region. Blessings became aware of the dire need for proper tools to diagnose COVID-19 at this crucial time. With COVID cases rising steadily, the province lacked comprehensive help of this kind for hundreds of miles.

Because of donations received, Blessings contributed towards the purchase of a GeneXpert diagnostic machine, equipped and ready to go! A GeneXpert not only accurately diagnoses COVID-19, but also tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is rampant in PNG, where they have one of the highest prevalence rates in the world. We are grateful that this area of PNG is now comforted with the presence and utilization of accurate diagnostics.

And these are only a few examples of the practical ways your gifts have blessed millions around the world over the years! We haven't even mentioned the numerous disaster relief teams we've assisted, our annual antimalarial giveaway, the Haiti Orphanage Medical Service, and more! There is simply not enough space to describe the ways blessings are being spread across the globe through your generosity.

We thank you so much for your caring heart and friendship, as we look toward the next forty years of healing the hurting, building healthy communities, and transforming lives!



Administering a COVID test. The GeneXpert machine is on the lower left.

May 2006 breaks record with 211 shipments – over double what went out in all of 1987

2010

Barry Ewy, PharmD, JD, MHA comes on as Blessings' new CEO

2016

Medication Repackaging Service (MRS) is launched

2020

Blessings International marks forty years of ministry

2006

Blessings International moves into its newly constructed headquarters: 1650 N Indianwood Ave

2013

The Haiti Orphanage Medical Support (HOMS) project is founded to bring aid to Haitian orphanages

2018

Blessings products impact 1 million lives in the month of January alone

2021



Blessings International's name came from Dr. Harold Harder's impression of Hewbrews 6:14 (quoting Genesis 22:17), where God tells Abraham, "Surely blessing, I will bless thee," and promises to bless him with numerous descendants, as many as the grains of sand on the seashore.

The theme of descendants is not lost on us. Two generations ago, Blessings began, and in the time since, God has abundantly multiplied the original seeds of faith. In this life, it will be impossible to count the reach of every medicine ever sent and the doors for the Gospel that have been opened as a result. We can only estimate that Blessings' products have gone to a minimum of 170 nations again and again and again, reaching millions with hope and healing.

These grains of sand that have stretched far across this globe are not for our acclaim, but for Christ's glory. Blessings is His ministry, and all we do is for Him and those He loves. It's a joy to look back on what He's done through the work of everyone's hands, and we look forward to generations of blessings yet to come.

I invite you to partner with us and invest in our next forty years!




Blessed to be a blessing,

Barry Ewy
Chief Executive Officer

"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore..." Gen 22:17 NIV

HOW TO GIVE

Your gift of **\$40** to the Medicines for Nations fund in honor of our anniversary will provide forty individuals with one month's worth of medicines.

-  **GIVE BY MAIL**
Use enclosed donation card and envelope
-  **GIVE ONLINE**
Click "Donate" at www.blessing.org and choose the Medicines for Nations fund
-  **GIVE BY SECURE MOBILE APP**
Text "MEDS4MISSIONS" to 41444

Every Gift Makes a Difference!



Guidestar has awarded Blessings their highest rating of Platinum to reflect our level of accountability and transparency. We rank in the top 2% of all rated charities.



Blessings has been accredited by Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1990.



Federal employees can donate through the Combined Federal Campaign #11864. State and local government employees can look for us in their Charity Guide under the Neighbor to Nation federation.



Learn more at www.blessing.org