

2010 Alumnus of the Year

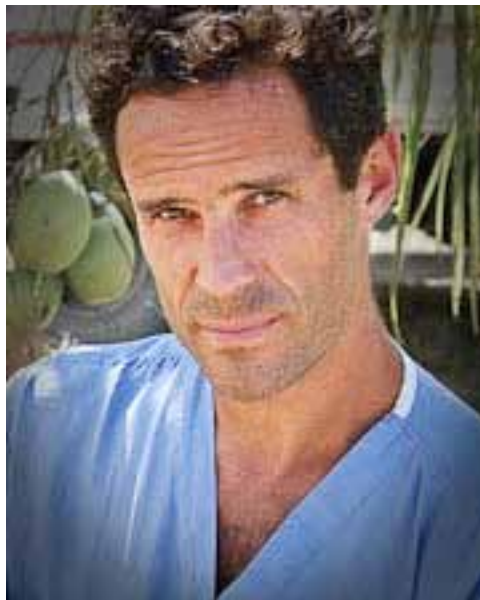
Scott Nelson, MBA Class of 1988, has led a life that clearly demonstrates God's hand and guidance since he left Monterey Bay Academy nearly twenty-two years ago.

Scott went on to graduate from Pacific Union College in 1992 and Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1996. He specialized in orthopaedic surgery. He and his wife Marni settled down with their two sons Chad and Alex.

But it didn't take long before Scott was answering the call to join CURE International, a Christian non-profit organization, whose mission is to transform the lives of disabled children through medical and spiritual healing. This organization is present in 16 developing countries and has performed more than 70,000 operations and cared for more than 1 million patients since 1998. According to Scott, *"Our goal is to give even the most economically-challenged patients the opportunity to have a surgery that is equivalent to what is performed in the best medical centers in the United States."*

In 2004, Scott and Marni packed up an ocean container and mobilized themselves for a new life in the Dominican Republic. They live in the inner city of Santo Domingo while Scott serves as the CURE International medical director for that area and Haiti.

Just a few months ago, on January 12, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake



rocked the country of Haiti, killing more than 217,000 people and leaving over 1.2 million homeless in the streets. Less than 48 hours later, Scott Nelson engaged an airplane, committing a significant amount of his own money, to fly with his surgical team from the Dominican Republic to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Scott had operated in Haiti more than 20 times over the past five years and few people were better suited to the task that was waiting for him.

Because he was one of the first physicians to arrive, he became the lead medical director throughout the intensive first weeks of this disaster.

Teaming up with Loma Linda University, Scott kept Dr. Richard Hart, President of the University, apprised of the situation and resources needed. The 70-bed Adventist Hospital in Haiti built in 1978 remained functional despite the earthquake. "Dr. Nelson is prepared to stay in Haiti for several months," Dr. Hart shared shortly after the quake assessment. "We are committed to backing him up with resources, including diesel fuel to keep emergency power generators working." Here are some of Scott's thoughts following the earthquake:

"On January 25, I returned to Santo Domingo for several days to be with family and attend to my responsibilities. On Saturday, January 30, Marni and I will be driving back to Port-au-Prince to continue the work and relieve those that are on the scene at the moment. We are living day-by-day and will focus our efforts where we are most needed during the ensuing months."

"It was a trip of physical endurance, emotional intensity, and spiritual contemplation. It brought my mind back to a scene several years ago of one of our Haitian patients who fell asleep with her Bible open to Psalm 46. *God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.*" PSALMS 46:1-3



"I often receive a lot of undeserved admiration and accolades for the Haiti disaster relief efforts as well as the medical work we have been doing for the last five years on the island of Hispaniola. I say 'undeserved' not just to be humble or deny that there has been some sacrifice involved, but because the credit should not be given to me.

FIRST of all God gave me parents that love me, a brain that functions most of the time, and a life of opportunity not known to all. Praise Him.

SECOND, I have a wife that supports my workaholic tendencies, handles risk, and tolerates discomfort. Her sacrifices have gone far beyond my own and the rewards have been relatively meager. Some have said she deserves a purple heart, others have commented that there is no one who could be more difficult to live with than me. Probably both are understatements. Most wives would not tolerate the gypsy lifestyle and a husband who has very little routine in life. Instead of complaining, she advocates for the poor and injured. She does what it takes to hold the family together and keep me working. She is amazing and deserves more accolades than she gets.



THIRD, there are many others that also deserve credit—many more than I can list here. All of the many devices that occupy the shelves of my surgical arsenal are gifts from companies and various individuals. All the expertise that surrounds me is a gift of time from many capable and generous individuals."



Dr. Nelson is humble.

Scott Nelson has made a mark on this world and it is now our privilege today to recognize Scott, on behalf of Monterey Bay Academy and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, for his humanitarian contributions, for his faith and service to God, and his loyalty to Adventist Christian education. For these reasons, we are proud to recognize Dr. Scott Nelson as the Monterey Bay Academy *Alumnus of the Year 2010*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CURE International

<http://www.helpcurenw.org/>

CURE video interview of Dr. Nelson (January 31, 2010)

<http://blog.helpcurenw.org/blog/2010/01/dr-scott-nelson-interview/>

Dr. Scott Nelson's Blog

<http://curecaribe.blogspot.com/>

Haitian Earthquake photos (may be of a graphic nature)

http://www.pbbase.com/scottnelson/haiti_earthquake/

