



Reflections on How Not to Save the World

Global Health Course
Queens University

**Darryl Anderson Executive Director,
Mercy Ships Canada**

March 28, 2024, presentation to students
taught by Joseph Kangmennaang, Ph.D. Assistant Professor
School of Kinesiology and Health Studies



Mercyships.ca



Overview

- Introduction.
- How Mercy Ships Helps:
 - Who We Are,
 - Why Ships.
- Global Health Volunteerism.
- Medical Volunteerism.
- Volunteering Aboard Ethical Challenges and Dilemmas.





Who We Are

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international NGO that operates hospital ships run by skilled volunteers to provide direct medical care to patients with no access to safe surgical care.

- Mercy Ships International HQ based in USA,
- 16 international offices, including Canada,
- Mercy Ships Global Association based in Switzerland,
- Africa Service Center being created in Senegal
- Country engagement teams located in several African countries.





Direct Medical Services



Women's Health



Maxillofacial



Orthopedic



Reconstructive Plastic



General



Ophthalmic



Dental





Education, Training & Advocacy

Mercy Ships delivers capacity-building healthcare education programs to reinforce sustainable medical care in Africa.



Erin Muyres, Senior Director, Education, Training & Advocacy.

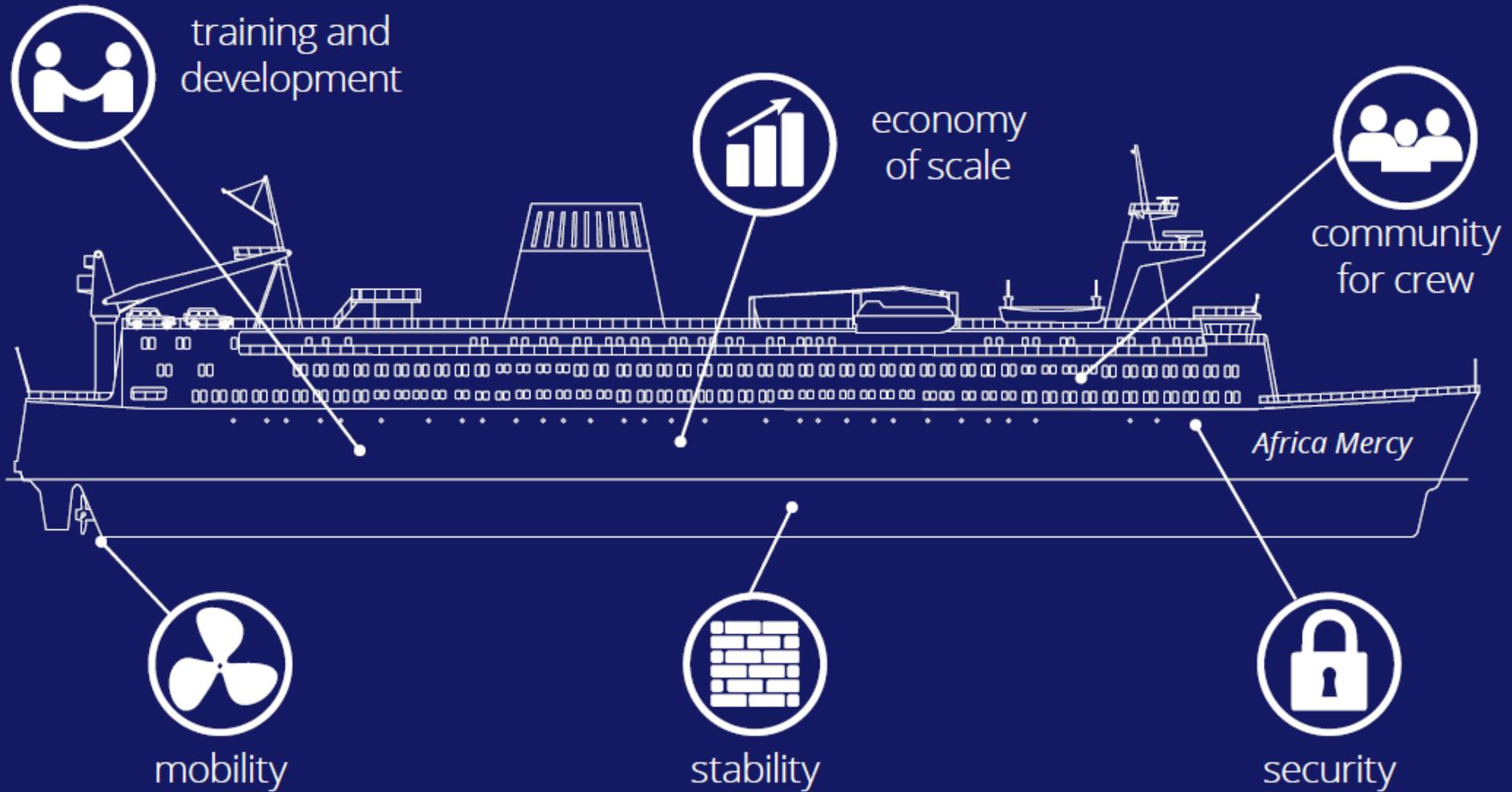




Why Ships?



Why Ships?





Global Mercy

World's largest and newest purpose-built civilian hospital ship.





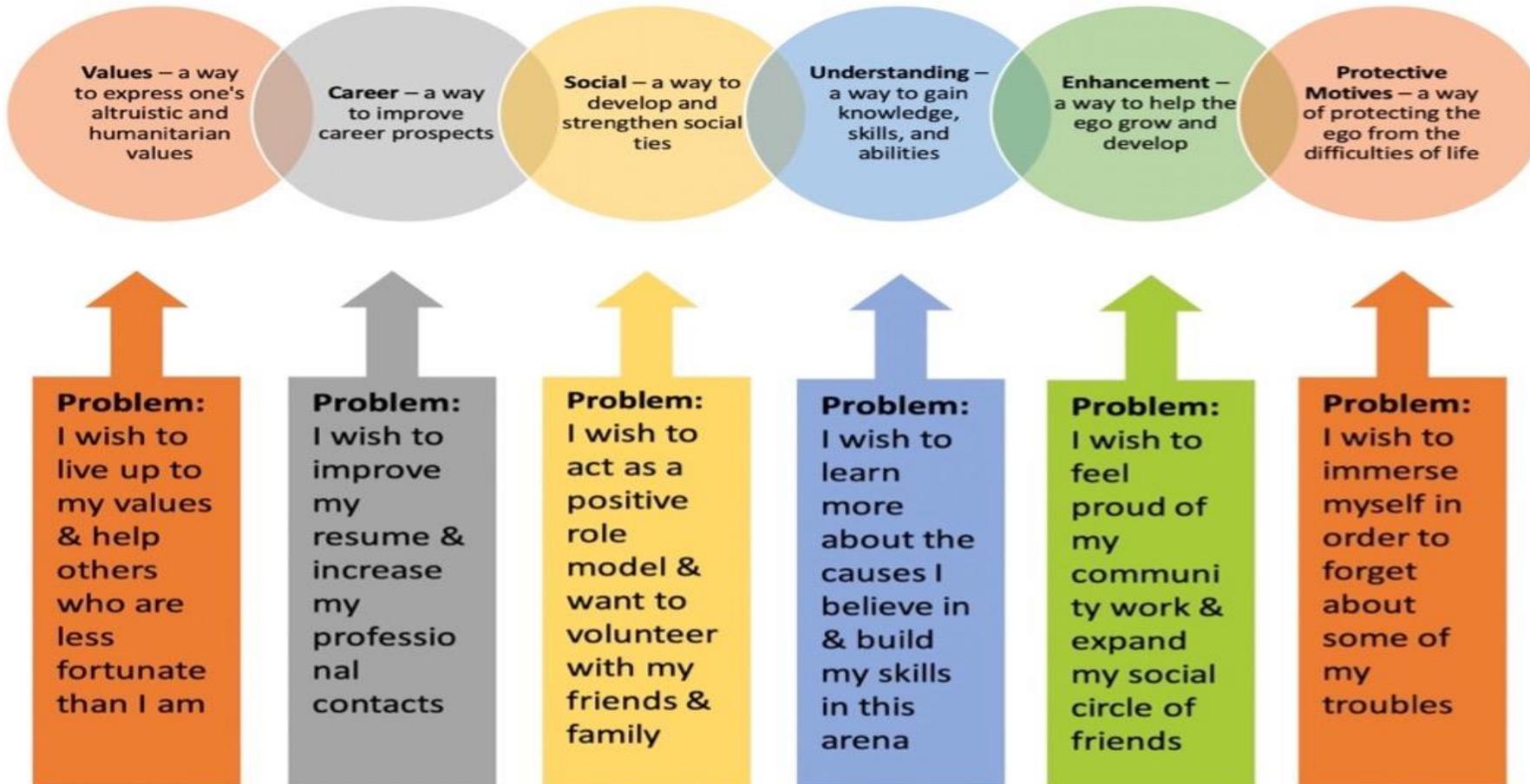
Africa Mercy

Hospital
ship
convert
ed from
Roll-on,
Roll-Off
vessel.





Global Health Volunteerism



Determining if a Volunteer Opportunity Is Right for You

Ask Yourself:

Are you running towards something or away from something?



Global Health Volunteerism

Examples of Volunteer Profile

Physician Volunteers

Physicians in short-term medical missions are more likely to be surgeons in full-time practice, anesthesiologists, or pediatricians, married with no children at home later in their careers. Physicians select organizations based on characteristics such as types of missions, ongoing facilities, and accountability.

- To help or to do something good.
- Adventure.
- Opportunity to educate.
- Special skills for this activity,
- Desire for spiritual interaction,
- Return to simple medicine,
- Need to give back/act on social justice, and
- Learn about cultures/gain world perspective.

Nursing Volunteers

Mercy Ships has a balanced mix of ages; young single participants with few social ties or financial commitments; married couples, some with children; and others who had retired from working in their home countries but had retained registration, including some who had adult children in their home countries. The average age of the Mercy Ships nursing volunteer is about 35 (range: 22–66 years).

Frequently, a nursing volunteer is someone who has experience in a low to middle-income country and has volunteered with Mercy Ships previously.

- Conviction: "I just knew I was meant to be here,"
- Confidence: "I know that I can help make a difference," and
- Courage: "Out of my comfort zone."



Volunteer Model

- allows for greater impact

More than 1,550 volunteers from 60 countries serve annually aboard our hospital ships in various medical and non-medical roles.

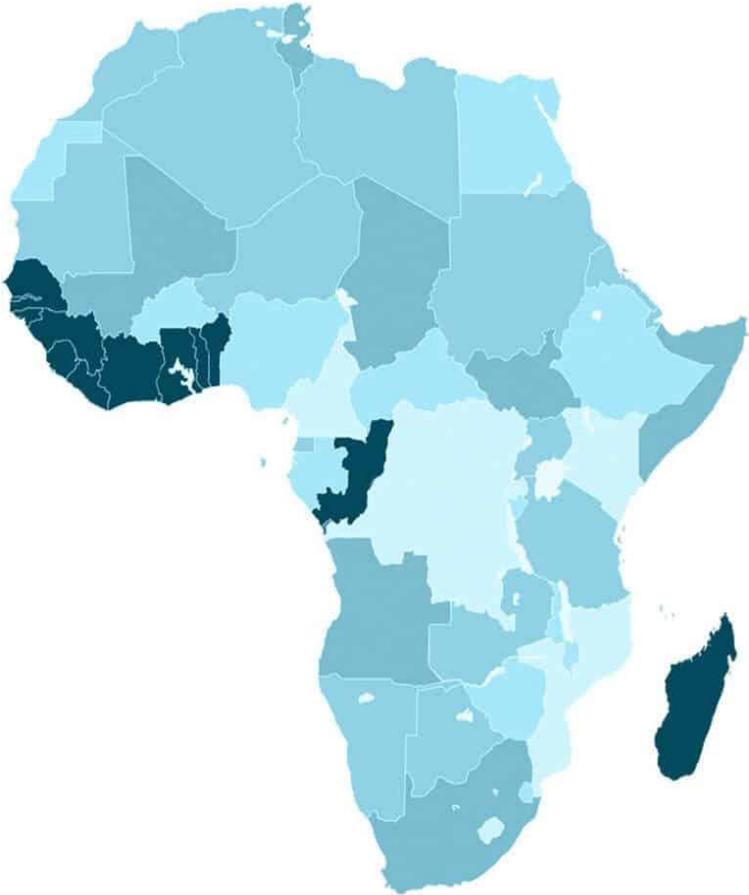


Mercy Ships Volunteers by Country





Practical Suggestions for Strengthening Global Health Volunteerism



Make a personal commitment to have your intentions and actions informed and shaped by global health ethical principles:

- Humility,
- Introspection,
- Solidarity,
- Social justice,
- Sphere sovereignty.

Be open to adapting how you apply your theory of change. Fall in love with a problem not your solution.

Prioritize time and money to invest in people.



Volunteer Opportunities

Examples of volunteer roles on the *Africa Mercy* or *Global Mercy*

Technical - deck officers, marine engineers, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, HVAC.

Medical - nurses, surgeons, OR sterile processing technicians, dentists, ophthalmologists.

General - teachers, IT support, hospitality, and more!

opportunities.mercyships.org



Medical Volunteer Opportunities Influenced by Several Issues

Availability of essential workforce,
equipment & supplies.

Infrastructure deficits:

- Electrical supply,
- Water supply,
- Medical waste,
- Road infrastructure,
- Port infrastructure (at least for Mercy Ships).





Factors Driving Surgical Medical Volunteerism

The literature suggests that charitable organizations deliver surgery via:

- Short-term surgical trips,
- Self-contained surgical platforms (i.e. Mercy Ships),
- Surgical hospitals.



Factors Driving Surgical Medical Volunteerism

Short-term Surgical Trips

- A collaborative model where surgical teams are transported into regions grappling with high burdens of specific diseases.
- They work with in-country physicians, sharing the responsibility of immediate follow-up care.
- These missions, often equipped with their own tools, often revisit the same region in subsequent years, fostering strong partnerships with local hospitals and ministries of health.



Factors Driving Surgical Medical Volunteerism

Self-contained Surgical Platforms

- The self-contained surgical platforms, stands as a testament to comprehensive healthcare.
- Mercy Ships operates hospital ships that carry an entire infrastructure, including pathology and radiology. This enables them to offer a wide range of surgeries, from general, plastic reconstructive, orthopedic, maxillofacial to obstetric fistula surgeries.



Factors Driving Surgical Medical Volunteerism

Speciality Surgical Hospitals

- A standard model for surgical delivery by NGOs is that these platforms establish an entire physical plant, either new or within an existing structure, dedicated to treating one or a few related surgical conditions.



Mercy Ship's Approach to Medical Volunteerism



Mercy Ships uses a collaborative approach to develop a customized 5-year partnership with every nation we are invited to support.



Volunteering Aboard – Ethical Dilemmas

5 billion
people lack
access to
safe, timely,
and
affordable
surgery





Volunteering Abroad Ethical Dilemmas

How Should You Frame the Opportunities & Challenges?

#FirstWorldProblems

#WorldProblemsFirst

#MakeYourMark

#HelpOthersMakeTheirMark



Challenges Associated with International Healthcare Work

Impact of Canadian Law:

- Canada Revenue Agency,
- Anti-corruption.

The Influence of Charity Rating Organizations such as Charity Intelligence Canada.

Board Governance in the Canadian Charity Sector.



How Do You Know if Volunteering Brings About Desirable Change?



Corporate Vision
Canadian Business Awards 2024

This is to certify that:

Mercy Ships Canada

Have been named within the Canadian Business Awards 2024

Most Dedicated International Healthcare Organisation 2024

CERTIFICATE
Awarded February 2024

J Henderson
Jane Henderson
AI Global Media Ltd

In June 2020, Mercy Ships Canada was named one of Circle Act's Absolute Top 99.5% Charities in Canada who bring high-impact positive change.





Continuing the Conversation

We invite you follow, like and share on social media



LinkedIn



Instagram



Twitter



Facebook

For more information visit our website at www.mercyships.ca



Darryl's Reading List

Darryl Anderson
Executive Director, Mercy Ships Canada



Global Health and Development

- *Epic Measures*, J. Smith.
- *Including Health in Global Frameworks for Developing, Wealth, and Climate Change*, Institute of Medicine.
- *Metrics What Counts in Global Health*, V. Adams.
- *Reimagining Global Health*, P. Farmer, J. Yong Kim, A. Kleinman, M. Basilico.
- *Scaling Impact, Finance and Investment for a Better World*, K. Hornberger.
- *Your Heart is the Size of Your Fist*, M. Scholtens.



Global Surgery – Reading List

- *Accountability in Global Surgery Missions*, E. Zitzman, H. Berley & R. Jindal.
- *A Global Country-Level Comparison of the Financial Burden of Surgery*, M. Shrime, A Dare, C. Alkire and J. Meara.
- *A Framework for the Monitoring and Evaluation of International Surgical Initiatives in Low- and Middle-Income Countries*, G. Ibrahim, D. Cadotte, and M. Bernstein.
- *Charitable Platforms in Global Surgery: A Systemic Review of Their Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Role Training*, M. Shrime, A. Sleemi, and T. Ravilla.
- *Cost-Effectiveness in Global Surgery: Pearls, Pitfalls and a Checklist*, M. Shrime, B. Alkire, C. Grimes et. al.
- *Ethical Considerations in Global Surgery: A Scoping Review*, C. Grant, T. Robinson, A. Al Ninai et. al.
- *Financial Contributions to Global Surgery: An Analysis of 160 International Charitable Organizations*, L. Gutnick, G. Yamey, R. Riviello et. al.



Global Surgery – Reading List

- *Global Surgery 2030: Evidence and Solution for Achieving Health, Welfare and Economic Development*, The Lancet Commission.
- *Global Surgery Pro-Con Debate: A Pathway to Bilateral Academic Success or the Bold New Face of Colonialism*, A. Scheiner, J. Rickard, B. Nwomeh et. al.
- *Global Surgery and the Sustainable Development Goals*, L. Road, D. Jumbam, E. Makasa and J. Meara.
- *Global Surgery Systems Strengthening: It is All About the Right Metric*, D. Watters, G. Guest and V. Tangi et. al.
- *Guidelines for Surgeons on Establishing Projects in Low-Income Countries*, R. Darko.
- *Innovate Financing to Fund Surgical Systems and Expand Surgical Care in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries*, C. Reddy, A. Peters, D. Tank Jumbam et. al.
- *International Organizations in Global Surgery: Challenges and Opportunities*, T. Kucchal, M. Pigeolet, M. Rolle et al.
- *What is 'Global Surgery'? Defining the Multidisciplinary Interface Between Surgery, Anesthesia and Public Health*, M. Bath, T. Bashford and J. Fitzgerald.



Helping Professions and Volunteering– Reading List

- *Access to International Volunteer*, A. Moor McBride, B. Lough
- *Africa: A Practical Guide for Global Health Workers*, L. Spielberg and L. Adams.
- *An Ethnographic Study of Nursing on a Surgery Ships Providing Humanitarian Care*, S. Dawson.
- *Bringing Leadership to Life in Health: LEADS in a Caring Environment*, G. Diskon and B. Tholl.
- *Compassionate Leadership: How to Do Hard Things in a Human Way*, R. Hougaard.
- *Crossing Borders and Pushing Boundaries: The Ethics of International Volunteering*, R. Cho, J. Edge and A. Keng.
- *Effective Practices of Internal Volunteering for Health: Perspective from Partner Organizations*, B. Lough, R. Tiessen and J. Lasker.
- *Ethical Considerations for Local and Global Volunteerism*, American Nurses Association.



Helping Professions and Volunteering– Reading List

- *Expatriate Motivation in Religious and Humanitarian Non-Profit Organizations*, A. Oberholster, R. Clarke, M. Bendixen, B. Dastoor.
- *Inclusion and Effectiveness in International Volunteering and Service*, A. Moore McBride, M. Sherrard and B. Lough.
- *International Volunteering*, B. Lough.
- *Legal Issues Related to Volunteering, Toolkit for National Societies*, Red Crescent Society.
- *Global Nursing in Low-Resource and Middle-Resource Countries - Challenges and Opportunities in Perioperative Practice*, K. Pettorini, M. Gullatte.
- *Global Surgical Guidelines for Surgical Volunteerism: How to Ensure that Your Surgical Placement Overseas Provides Maximum Benefit for You and Your Hosts*, CE Grimes and RHS Lane.
- *Guidelines for Responsible Short-Term Global Health Activities: Developing Common Principles*, J. Lasker, M. Aldrink. R. Balasubramanian et al.



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- *International Volunteering*, B. Lough.
- *International Medical Volunteering*, AMA Journal of Ethics.
- *International Volunteering with Mercy Ships in Guinea West Africa 2018*, R. McIlwraith.
- *Legal Issues Related to Volunteering, Toolkit for National Societies*, Red Crescent Society.
- *Measuring Volunteer Outcomes: Development of the International Volunteer Impacts Survey*, B. Lough, A. McBride, M. Sherraden.



Helping Professions and Volunteering– Reading List

- *Not Above the Law: A Legal and Ethical Analysis of Short-Term Experiences in Global Health*, V. Rowthorn, L Loh, J. Evert et. al
- *Nurses' Contributions to Short-Term Humanitarian Care in Low to Middle-Income Counties: An Integrative Review of the Literature*, S. Dawson, D. Elliot and D. Jackson.
- *On the Pros and Cons of Volunteer Abroad*, M. Palmer.
- *The International Volunteering Market: Market Segments and Competitive Relations*, S. Dolnicar and M. Randle.
- *The Role of NGOs in Canada and the USA in the Transformation of the Socio-Cultural Structures in Africa*, C. Quist-Adade and A. van Wyk.
- *Understanding International Volunteering: Who is the Most Likely to Participate?*, Y-J, Lee and D. Won.
- *Skills-Based International Volunteering Among Older Adults from the United States*, B. Lough.
- *Transformational Leadership for the Helping Professions*, J. Faust.



Faith-based Ethical Frameworks – Reading List

- *African Public Theology*, S. Agang, H. Hendriks, and D. Forster.
- *Born from Lament: The Theology and Politics of Hope in Africa*, E. Katongole.
- *Faith-based Health Justice: Transforming Agenda of Faith Communities*, V. Paivansalo, A. Ahmad, G. Zachariah, M. Stenlund.
- *Framing the Role of the Faith Community in Global Health*, M. Strand and A. Cole.
- *Redemptive Nonprofit, A Playbook for Leaders*, By Praxis.
- *The Justice Calling*, B. Hanke Hoag and K. Deede Johnson.
- *The Spiritual Dangers of Doing Good*, P. Greer.

