

## MATERCARE INTERNATIONAL/ DR R. L. WALLEY BIOGRAPHY

Dr. R.L. Walley founder and executive director of MaterCare International, is an emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of England, and has a Masters degree in International Health from Harvard University.

Dr. Walley was appointed a Consultor to the Pontifical Council for Health by Pope John Paul II in 1985 and has been reappointed twice, most recently in 1996.

Dr. Walley has a particular concern about the levels of maternal mortality and morbidity (obstetric fistula) and has been working in West Africa since 1981. From 1989 - 1996 he directed a maternal health and obstetric fistula project in Nigeria, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and recipient of favorable peer reviews.

In 1995, Dr. Walley initiated the formation of MaterCare International (MCI) to breath life back into maternal health care. This organization of obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives and general practitioners is dedicated to reducing the tragically high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity throughout the world, through new initiatives of service, training, research, and advocacy. MCI is legally established in Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia.

Presently, MCI is evaluating an emergency obstetrical service in rural Ghana, West Africa and has been asked to consider other maternal health projects in East Timor, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda. MCI is also building a 60 bed birth trauma centre for the west African region to provide treatment and rehabilitation for mothers with obstetric fistula and training for doctors and nurses in their surgical and nursing management. In June 2001, Dr Walley organized a workshop of 140 Obstetricians from 40 countries in Rome who were received in a private audience by Pope John- Paul II. In October 2003, MCI taught a Critical Actions in Labour Management Course in East Timor to medical personnel and Traditional Birth Attendants.

MCI was a finalist for the achievement award for gender equality, from the Canadian International Development Agency and the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters of Canada. MaterCare also received an award from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada for excellence in research in the treatment of post-partum haemorrhage.

Dr. Walley has received a number of awards, in particular, an award of honour to a person of, Science and Faith from the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations at its world congress in New York in 1998 and also an honorary chieftaincy from the Anang people of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria (1982). Dr. Walley is married to Susan, who is his rock and his biggest supporter for his work in Africa. They have lived in Newfoundland since 1973 and have seven children and eight grandchildren.