If you would like more information or to make a gift to MaterCare, please contact us.

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Who was Dr. Robert Walley?

Dr. Robert Walley was a Catholic obstetrician and gynaecologist whose experience of professional discrimination for his adherence to Catholic teaching helped inspire his founding of MaterCare International. In 1976, he published an influential paper in the British Medical Journal highlighting the ethical challenges facing Catholic physicians in obstetrics and gynaecology. His experience raised a vital question: how could Catholic doctors remain faithful to their beliefs while continuing to care for mothers and babies? This question helped lay the foundation for MaterCare International, established in 1995. He and his wife Susan moved to Canada and raised their family, fleeing professional persecution for his faith. Dr. Walley was appointed to the Pontifical Council for Health by Pope John Paul II in 1985 where he served until 2002.







CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE
MATERCARE INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
SERVICE
RESEARCH
TRAINING





MATERCARE INTERNATIONAL

A Catholic Mission for Mothers and Babies
Upholding the dignity of life. Improving maternal health. Serving mothers and babies around the world.

MaterCare International is an international group of Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists committed to a preferential option for mothers and babies, born and unborn.

Guided by the Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae), we work to improve maternal and newborn health through service, training, research, and education.

WHO WE ARE

Faith. Medicine. Life.
MaterCare International (MCI) exists to support Catholic healthcare professionals in providing ethical, compassionate care to mothers and their babies.

We believe that mothers and babies deserve the highest standard of care, rooted in respect for the dignity of every human life.

Our mission is to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity, while addressing the challenges facing women and their children, particularly in developing countries.

OUR HISTORY

A Vision Born of Conscience
In 1976, Catholic obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr. Robert Walley highlighted the ethical challenges facing Catholic specialists in his profession. His experience helped inspire a vision for an organization where healthcare professionals could remain faithful to Catholic teaching while continuing to serve mothers and babies.

The idea was presented at the Vatican in 1982, followed by an international gathering of Catholic healthcare professionals in Rome in 1986. In 1995, MaterCare International was formally established in Canada following an international meeting of Catholic obstetricians and gynaecologists in Liverpool, England.

Inspired by St. John Paul II's Evangelium Vitae, MCI developed an international network dedicated to the service and protection of human life.

OUR WORK: Compassion in Action

SERVICE
- Providing essential obstetric care in underserved communities.
- Developing maternal health services in rural regions. Responding to humanitarian emergencies.
- Supporting the prevention of obstetric fistula.

TRAINING
- Equipping doctors, midwives, nurses, and traditional birth attendants with essential skills through CALM and ALARM courses.
- Teaching the recognition and referral of high-risk pregnancies.
- Providing specialized training in labour management and obstetric care.
- Providing Napro Technology courses.

RESEARCH
- Investigating safe, effective, and affordable approaches to preventing and treating postpartum haemorrhage.

EDUCATION
- Hosting international conferences for Catholic healthcare professionals.
- Addressing ethical and bioethical challenges in medicine.
- Educating to ensure the dignity of mothers and their children.

A GLOBAL MISSION: Bringing Hope to Families

- MaterCare International operates programmes and projects in nearly a dozen countries, combining professional expertise with compassionate service.

Our work has included:
- Developing rural obstetric services in Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and other underserved regions.
- Providing emergency obstetric care following the 2010 Haiti earthquake.
- Supporting the development of an obstetric fistula hospital in Ghana.
- Conducting maternal health needs assessments in countries including Rwanda, Albania, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste.
- Through these initiatives, MCI works to strengthen healthcare services, equip local professionals, and improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

JOIN THE MISSION

Together, We Can Make a Difference
MaterCare International brings together Catholic and allied healthcare professionals who believe that the dignity of human life must remain at the heart of medicine.

Through service, education, and research, we work toward a world where mothers and babies receive compassionate, ethical, and life-affirming care. Discover our mission. Explore our resources. Help us bring hope to mothers and babies.

Visit: matercare.org

Explore our publications, educational resources, and international initiatives online.

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