Paul W. Jones, MD’63

After spending a number of years in a traditional medical career, Paul Jones went on to devote two decades of his life offering medical care and hope to thousands suffering in some of the world’s most dangerous regions.

Jones served in the U.S. Army for three years and worked in private practice as a neurologist in Eugene, Oregon, for 18 years before embarking on overseas mission work with his wife Jan, primarily through humanitarian organizations, such as Samaritan’s Purse.

Their work began in 1989 in a United Nations Cambodian refugee camp, where they trained Cambodian medics and nurses to care for the camp’s 40,000 refugees. The couple remained there for more than three years, leaving after the refugees were repatriated.

In 1993, Jones served with a Samaritan’s Purse medical team in Mogadishu and Bardara, Somalia, while the country was in the midst of civil war and anarchy. That year he also led a team into Southern Sudan to investigate reports of a deadly epidemic. The team gathered blood samples and discovered the epidemic had been caused by relapsing fever, a lice-born infection. In addition to using an antibiotic to treat the disease, garden dusters were used to dust 25,000 people with non-toxic pyrethrum, thus eradicating the lice and wiping out the epidemic.

While living in harsh conditions and treating patients in Sudan, the Joneses and their team also put their own lives at risk, at one point finding themselves caught for two days in a gunfight between two warring tribes, and another time they were captured briefly by a rebel group.

The Joneses then joined relief efforts in Rwanda, working there from 1993 to 1997, a time period marked by civil war and the horrific 1994 Rwandan Genocide. The couple’s work while in the country included treating patients in a clinic located near a refugee camp and later helping to reopen the country’s major hospital in Kigali, which had been abandoned and severely damaged by war.

Jones went on help Frontier Labourers for Christ establish its Barefoot Doctor Program in Myanmar. He developed a more comprehensive and effective curriculum for the program, which trains community health workers to provide care in areas where no medical care is available.

**Education:** Lewis & Clark College, University of Oregon Medical School, Duke University School of Medicine

**Training:** University of Oregon Medical School Hospital and Veterans Affairs Hospital

**Current Title:** Retired