



GOING PLACES

Personal discussions of what surgeons can gain from mission eye trips and practicing in developing countries.

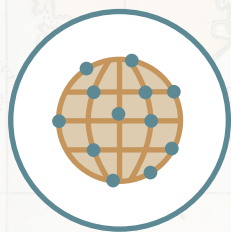
When you are expecting your first child, people like to tell you how much your world is about to change. How much love you will feel and how little sleep you will get. How many smiles you will share and how many struggles there will be. But no matter how many goods and bads you hear, the complexity of parenthood never really sinks in until you, yourself, are a parent.

In the moment in which I first held my daughter, it was almost like a flip inside me was switched. I instantly became more aware of the power of compassion and the fragility of life. Now I can no longer watch a sappy commercial without tearing up or turn my head blindly away from the older gentleman having trouble crossing the street. Likewise, my heart sinks when I hear of the horrific events happening around us, such as what is going on in Syria.

Given my mommyhood-sized sense of compassion, our cover focus this month especially hit home. The efforts and the lengths to which our contributors have gone to help fight world blindness are no short of heroic. Their dedication to this fight is admirable. In the following pages, each contributor shares a story unique to his or her objective to fight world blindness. Some have gone on mission eye trips, some have started not-for-profit eye care institutions, and some have dedicated their lives to research or epidemiology. All, however, have made a huge impact on world blindness and should be commended for their good work.

DO YOUR PART

If the personal encounters shared by our contributors have inspired you, consider supporting one of the many organizations and initiatives dedicated to combatting world blindness. To get you started, on the following page is a short, by no means exhaustive list of worthy organizations, some of which are mentioned in the articles throughout this series.

Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM)<http://www.cbm.org>**Essilor Vision Foundation**<http://www.essilorvisionfoundation.org>**Global Sight Alliance**<http://www.globalsight.org>**Himalayan Cataract Project**www.cureblindness.org**International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness**<https://www.iapb.org>**Optometry Giving Sight**<http://www.givingsight.org>**Orbis**www.orbis.org**Organization for the Prevention of Blindness**<http://www.opc.asso.fr/?lang=en>**Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust**www.jubileetribute.org**SEE International**<https://www.seeintl.org>**Sight Aid International**www.sightaidinternational.org**Sightsavers International**<https://www.sightsavers.org>**USAID Child Blindness Program**<https://www.usaid.gov/childblindness>**Vision Aid Overseas**www.visionaidoverseas.org**Visionshare**www.visionshare.org**Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity**<http://vosh.org> ■*—Laura Straub, Editor-in-Chief***Did You Know?****>2.5 BILLION**

People in the world who require refractive correction

**1 IN 7**

People with clinical need for spectacle correction who lack access to glasses

**80%**

Total global burden of poor vision that has an immediate cure

**15%**

World population that is unable to effectively learn or work because they cannot see clearly

**28%**

People living with moderate or severe visual impairment who are in their working years

**20%**

Increase in productivity if glasses are accessible—the equivalent of an extra day's work each week

**90%**

World's visually impaired who live in developing countries

**\$4 TO \$12**

The yield of every \$1 invested in improved vision on the local economy

Source: VOSH International. <http://vosh.org/our-mission-why-vision/>. Accessed April 12, 2017.