



St. Louis
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Surgeon Heeds Call for Medical Mission to Haiti

ST. LOUIS (*February 12, 2010*) – Dr. Keith J. Odegard, an experienced orthopedic surgeon at St. Louis Orthopedic Institute, is traveling to Haiti today to assist with relief efforts in the city of Port-au-Prince. Odegard will be serving with a team of 13 medical personnel from across the country, providing medical assistance and general aid. The trip has been organized by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care organization.

“I am both excited and nervous about this trip, but above all, my desire is to be of service and be able to help those in this devastated part of the world,” says Odegard. He goes on to say that being able to make the trip has really been a group effort. “The physicians, staff and patients at St. Louis Orthopedic Institute have made great sacrifices in order for this to happen. Without other physicians covering my clinic hours, the staff helping with scheduling concerns or the patients being flexible, this wouldn’t have been possible. Friends at church and co-workers have helped in other tangible ways as well.”

Odegard says that he doesn’t know exactly what his duties will look like upon arriving in Port-au-Prince, but he hopes to be of use in a surgical capacity. This is his second

medical mission within the past 12 months. Last March he was part of a team that traveled to El Salvador to provide primary care to those in need. “Being flexible is extremely important when making trips such as these,” Odegard states, “Everything is constantly in a state of flux.”

Odegard is a skilled orthopedic surgeon who treats a wide range of orthopedic conditions at St. Louis Orthopedic Institute. He retired as a full Colonel after 20 years of medical service in the U.S. Air Force. While on active duty he deployed many times to locations around the world providing medical care. He is currently Chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at St. Clare Health Center. He is experienced in treating orthopedic trauma in children and serves as team physician for Lutheran High School South.

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