

BIGGEST HONOUR TO BE ON THE TEAM

Conversation with Andrea Kesar | Intensive Care Nurse

[Point of view, intensive care nurse, Andrea Kesar]

[Andrea Kesar, Intensive Care Nurse, Jerusalem, Israel]

My name is Andrea Kesar, and my grandfather and Marc's grandfather were brothers. That's how we're related. At a very early age about 47 years ago, I moved to Israel. I live in Jerusalem and I work in Jerusalem, and I meet Marc all over the world to continue to help people all over. That's what life's about, helping. I am an intensive care nurse, and in the last couple of decades, I've worked in the recovery room. Not exclusively with children, but children as well. I live and work in Israel. The chief of pediatric surgery at my hospital trained with Marc in Cincinnati, and Marc comes at least once or twice a year to operate in Israel, colorectal. It's not ever a mission, he just comes by himself. And it's nice to see him there and of course to take care of his children in the recovery room when they're finished with their surgery. Very proud of him, very proud.

I would follow him in fire and water all over the world. I would be a member of his team. It's the biggest honor that I could imagine, ever, being considered part of CTO. The people that he gets to be on his team, each and every one is more remarkable than the next. We all have a common goal, just to help people. And with Marc as our leader, there's nothing we can't do.

Marc really has worldwide connections with everyone who needs to know about colorectal problems. It's not a problem that most people hear of unless they're hit with it personally, and when doctors in remote places all over the world have a case, they know who to contact, and that's Dr. Marc Levitt. So, they usually contact him. There must be a million people with his personal cell phone number, WhatsApp and email. And he gives them advice. If it's something he could fix on the phone, he'll gladly do that. If not, he'll have them come to DC [Washington DC], where he works right now, and he will do the consulting there. They're very generous where he works, and sometimes they're done either for much much less money or without a fee at all. If it's a group of doctors that he's in connection with that seem very keen and interested in colorectal cases, then he will invite them to come to do a rotation with him and teach them the work that he does and to get them involved and how to make the diagnostics beforehand, and then he might consider these places as appropriate for a mission, for a CTO Mission.

We're usually about 15 to 20 people from all over the world. Doctors, nurses, volunteers, lots of volunteers, that go gladly to help any child all over the world. It's an unbelievable experience. To see a child smile or a parent smile or even cry afterwards because you're changing their life.

Every single doctor is an angel with double wings, seriously, every single doctor. To me life has to have a purpose, a positive purpose. Just to swim through life doesn't seem very exciting or very emotional, and it's a great feeling to become involved and passionate about something, something good, for the good of people, humanity, religion, race, creed. It doesn't matter who or what you are, you're a person. And if you need help, the next person has to give it to you. It's their commitment and their moral conscience has to affirm that they do it. It's just that important. And personally, I don't think anything in the world is more satisfying than that. That's what it's all about, giving.