



“There are few occasions in life when an idea takes off and leads to **achievements beyond our wildest expectations**; when a mission is driven by a vision so clear and compelling that it literally enables others to see it too. **ORBIS is one of them.**”

- Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations



“As teachers, we are perpetual students as well. **I have learned from our patients and fellow physicians in every country where I’ve had the privilege of representing ORBIS. My experiences have never been less than full and mutually rewarding.**”

- Dr. Rosalind A. Stevens
ORBIS volunteer ophthalmologist

“ORBIS has had an enormous impact on my life as well as on thousands of people around the world whose sight has been saved. This is not only a great medical project, but a demonstration of functional diplomacy and the creative use of aircraft.”

- Betsy Trippe-DeVecchi
ORBIS Founder and Board Member

-Geoff Oliver-Bugbee



“Thank you for supporting the work of ORBIS in the service of the blind. **My gratitude is my prayer for you. God bless you.**”

- Mother Teresa



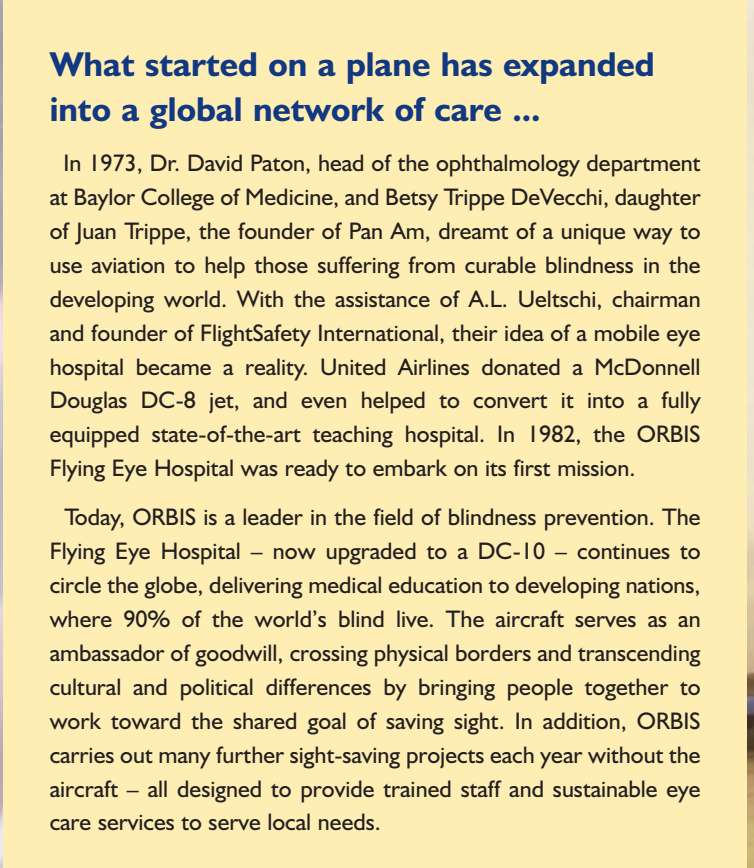
“Blindness knows no boundaries. Thus, ORBIS is a neutral organization, not aligned with any one government or country. This independence allows us to **work together with all people, regardless of their political or cultural backgrounds.**”

- Oliver Foot
ORBIS President and Executive Director

“I believe that each of us has **gifts that are to be shared with our fellow human beings**, and ORBIS provides that wonderful opportunity. I have seen hundreds of dedicated folks set aside their differences in cultures, philosophies and lifestyles, and bring their specific skills together to **focus on the goals of ORBIS.**”

- Capt. David Ormesher
ORBIS volunteer pilot

-Jonathan Crane



What started on a plane has expanded into a global network of care ...

In 1973, Dr. David Paton, head of the ophthalmology department at Baylor College of Medicine, and Betsy Trippe DeVecchi, daughter of Juan Trippe, the founder of Pan Am, dreamt of a unique way to use aviation to help those suffering from curable blindness in the developing world. With the assistance of A.L. Ueltschi, chairman and founder of FlightSafety International, their idea of a mobile eye hospital became a reality. United Airlines donated a McDonnell Douglas DC-8 jet, and even helped to convert it into a fully equipped state-of-the-art teaching hospital. In 1982, the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital was ready to embark on its first mission.

Today, ORBIS is a leader in the field of blindness prevention. The Flying Eye Hospital – now upgraded to a DC-10 – continues to circle the globe, delivering medical education to developing nations, where 90% of the world’s blind live. The aircraft serves as an ambassador of goodwill, crossing physical borders and transcending cultural and political differences by bringing people together to work toward the shared goal of saving sight. In addition, ORBIS carries out many further sight-saving projects each year without the aircraft – all designed to provide trained staff and sustainable eye care services to serve local needs.



ORBIS is a nonprofit global development organization whose mission is to preserve and restore sight by strengthening the capacity of local partners in their efforts to prevent and treat blindness.

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Celebrating 25 Years of Saving Sight Worldwide



ORBIS inspires world leaders to take an interest in avoidable blindness. After visiting a Flying Eye Hospital program in Peru, president Belaunde creates the country's first eye bank.



ORBIS expands work to include training programs in hospitals across the developing world in surgery, biomedical engineering, nursing and community health.

In Jamaica, ORBIS conducts first regional community eye care training program. Participants from 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean attend.



Mother Theresa visits Flying Eye Hospital during a program in Calcutta.

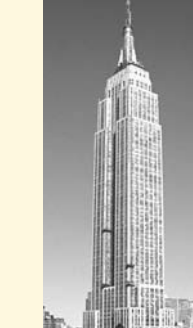
ORBIS establishes regional training center within Shanxi Eye Hospital in China, beginning strategy of capacity building and strengthening eye care infrastructure in priority countries.

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight campaign launches. ORBIS is founding member of this global initiative with the objective of eliminating avoidable blindness worldwide by the year 2020.



Cyber-Sight debuts, linking ORBIS volunteers with eye doctors around the world via the Internet, enabling ORBIS to mentor and train doctors on an ongoing basis while providing online educational resources.

ORBIS introduces EYESI surgical simulator, a virtual reality training system that uses advanced computer technology to simulate eye surgery.



"It is essential for the international community to open its collective eyes to the magnitude of avoidable blindness, its impact on the developing world, and the abundant yet tragically unfulfilled capacity to eliminate it..."

- Girma Wolde-Giorgis
President of Ethiopia

1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1990 1991 1993 1994 1996 1998 1999 2001 2003 2005 2006 2007

ORBIS takes flight March 1st. DC-8 Flying Eye Hospital carries out first treatment and training program in Panama. Volunteer ophthalmologists introduce local doctors to sight-saving microsurgery on board plane.

United Nations Secretary-General commends ORBIS for bringing Turkish and Greek Cypriot doctors together for training during Flying Eye Hospital program in politically divided Cyprus.

ORBIS Canada joins U.S. in fundraising efforts. Within four years, fundraising offices also set up in U.K. and Hong Kong.



ORBIS DC-8 makes historic visit to the Soviet Union, holding programs in both Moscow and Leningrad.



ORBIS flies first mission to Cuba. Fidel Castro tours Flying Eye Hospital.



After 150 sight-saving missions, ORBIS DC-8 replaced by much larger DC-10 aircraft.

Permanent program office established in Ethiopia to implement long-term blindness prevention initiatives. Within three years, similar offices established in Bangladesh, China, India and Vietnam.



ORBIS identifies retinopathy of prematurity as a cause of blindness in newborns in Vietnam. Medical equipment donated and training begins.



President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visits Flying Eye Hospital in New Delhi and arranges for Indian Satellite Research Center to link live surgeries with eye care institutes across the country.



ORBIS celebrates 25th Anniversary in New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg declares March 1st *ORBIS Day*.

Empire State Building shines blue and white in tribute to ORBIS and tower lights turn off at 20:20 (8:20 pm) for 28 minutes to remember the 28 million in the world who are unnecessarily blind.

President of Ethiopia is keynote speaker at ORBIS United Nations event. Opening BellSM of New York Stock Exchange rung in honor of ORBIS on March 2nd.