Sr Nina Underwood
Medical Missionary



Sr Nina Underwood was born in Boston, Massachusetts in the USA. After she finished school, she joined the **Sisters of the Medical Missionaries of Mary** because she wanted to dedicate her life to God through nursing. In the early 1960s she was sent to Ireland to the Medical Missionaries' hospital in Drogheda to begin her nurse training.

During this time, the Medical Missionary Sisters were working in the Turkana region of northern Kenya. There was a famine and the people there needed a lot of help, but the region was huge and travel across it was difficult. The leader of the Sisters – Mary Martin realised that the only way to get around was by plane. So, she asked Sr Nina to learn to fly a plane.

Sr Nina, who by this time was 24 years-old, completed her training as a pilot at Dublin Airport and gained her flying licence in 1967. Almost immediately, she travelled to Kenya. When she arrived, she was told that a wealthy person in the USA had given the Missionary Sisters a gift of the small plane, and soon afterwards Sr. Nina began her work. She flew the plane for over twelve years taking to the sky on a daily basis visiting the clinics, health centres, dispensaries and hospitals which had been set up by the Medical Missionary Sisters across the Turkana region.

Every day was an adventure.

