

talents, both doctors and nurses, to help treat West Africans in terms of eye surgery and plastic surgery. **BUT THEY PAY FOR THEIR OWN TRIP on Africa Mercy Ships.** Imagine, these medical professionals pay to be able to offer their services to thousands - over 30,000 to date.

H. P. Blavatsky pointed with high praise to the compassion of Tolstoy. The inscription in H. P. B.'s presentation copy to Tolstoy of *The Voice of The Silence*, reads: Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, "one of the few", E. Blavatsky. You will recall she dedicated *The Voice of The Silence* to the few.

From H. P. B.'s translation of Tolstoy's *On the Science of Life*: "Our life, ever since we became conscious of it, is a pendulum-like motion between the two limits. One limit is an absolute unconcern for the life of the infinite Universe, an energy directed only toward the gratification of one's own personality. The other limit is a complete renunciation of that personality, the greatest concern with the life of the infinite Universe, in full accord with it, the transfer of all our desires and good will from one's self, to that infinite Universe and all the creatures outside of us." In a footnote: This is what the Theosophists call "living the life" — in a nut-shell. We have translated this rather lengthy fragment from the Report of Count Tolstoy's superb lecture, because it reads like the echo of the finest teachings of the universal ethics of true theosophy."

In *The Key to Theosophy*, H. P. Blavatsky writes of Father Damien, a young Catholic priest who served the lepers in Hawaii. On the Hawaiian island of Molokai, lepers were literally dumped into the ocean and left to fend for themselves without food or shelter or hope. Whatever supplies had been sent with them were thrown in the water, relying on currents to carry them ashore or the exiles to retrieve them. In 1873, Father Damien was sent to the lepers by his church for a time period of 3 months and ordered not to touch anyone. He never left once he arrived; he used his carpenter skills, learned in Belgium, to build homes, churches and coffins; he arranged for medical services and funding from Honolulu. Father Damien worked to restore human dignity and respect for life to each leper. He taught the lepers how to grow crops so they could eat better. He provided medical attention for the wounds and sicknesses that could be healed and, when they couldn't be, he organized burial details and performed funeral rites, so that death might be seen with some dignity.