

January 2010

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS WORLD MISSION

Where in the world are we
going?...thanks to YOU...

2010: World Mission Opportunities

MANOS DE DIOS (Honduras). The team will conduct 3 vision clinics in 3 different locations; will conduct train-the-trainer workshops in music, sewing, gardening, soccer, and immigration; continue the scholarship program (selecting candidates, awarding scholarships, and meeting college scholarship students); conduct a shoe clinic; and work on construction projects. JANUARY 14-21. Contact Patricia Perea (perea@gvtc.com).

RUSSIAN CAMPS AND ORPHANAGES. Steve Denney is departing on 5 January and returning 15 January. He is meeting Greg and Renee Sethness (Christ Church, San Antonio) who leave 1 January and leave 9 January. They will be in St. Petersburg and visiting the transition homes and as many orphanages as possible. Several of the orphanages have their children at a winter camp, and if transportation is available Steve will go to them as well. In general, they are taking arts and crafts, some clothing (hats, gloves, etc) and will purchase some items of clothing once they are in St. Petersburg. Contact Steve Denney (sdenney@satx.rr.com). TMI students and teachers have knitted blankets for the orphans which will be presented.

HONDURAS WATER MINISTRY. Four trips each year are conducted by volunteers who drill for water, teach health and hygiene, and conduct children's Bible classes with arts and crafts. Training is available, and newcomers are welcomed. Trips are scheduled for January 28-February 6, May 27-June 5, July 29-August 7, and October 14-October 23. Contact Terry Hayes (terry@projectservices.org).

HONDURAS VETERINARY AND PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY. One trip is scheduled for this team, May 15-21. Due to the persistent efforts of this team, rabies has been almost totally eliminated in the area where they work. For more information, contact Dr. Bill Campaigne (wcc711@hotmail.com). Deadline for signing up is almost upon us.

MEDICAL MISSION TO HONDURAS (St. Andrew's, Seguin). Angie de Los Santos (angie5902@aol.com) will lead a team to Danli and the surrounding area on June 4. Doctors and dentists are part of the team as well as a surgeon who will be working with a local doctor performing orthopedic services. Translators, pharmacists, dental assistants, and technicians are expected to join the missionaries, and others who feel called are invited to contact Angie.

MEDICAL CLINIC/CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (Mexico). St. Mark's (San Antonio) will staff a medical clinic and build a house in Piedras Negras from June 13-18. They will be partnering with El Buen Pastor. Contact Dr. William Smith (wsmith@att.net). (contd. on p. 4)

The Faith of Babes Emails shared by Greg Sethness, Christ Church, San Antonio



Pasha is an orphan in the Family Homes who before this year had only seen his alcoholic mother twice in his life. He learned that she was in an accident and needed surgery on her leg to help her walk. His siblings were not interested in helping. After trying to get assistance from others, Pasha decided to pay for the \$2,000 operation himself out of the money he'd saved by working at McDonalds and making purses.

Pasha was called and told he should not pay for the surgery because even if it went well, his mother would live only five years. He said he would do it anyway because this is his mother. He said the doctors don't know how successful the surgery might be, but Pasha wants to spend eternity with her since he didn't have that chance in this life. He said she needs to get to know Jesus to be saved. And his mother prayed with him.

Surgery went well. The doctor brought Pasha to his mother's room in the hospital and told her that her son paid for everything. She cried.

Please pray for Pasha. He is in such pain for his mother, but I believe the wonderful family he stays with will help him.

Christ Church (San Antonio) and DWTX have supported work in two transitional homes in Russia for many years. If you'd like to contribute to this ministry, call Marthe Curry (888/210-824-5387) or write mcurry09@sbcglobal.net.

Just Another Day at the Office by Brenda, Dr. Keith Chapman's assistant (Liberia)

Yesterday morning I had a 26 year old female patient come into the clinic requesting a cleaning. She was acting very shy and timid and would barely speak. I figured that she was trying to hide her teeth for some reason and when I lifted up her lips to look at her teeth, this is what I saw.



Nothing really surprises me here anymore, but this one threw me for a loop. I had no idea if she even had teeth underneath 26 years of calculus and debris. Not to talk shop but this stuff was a few centimeters thick at least. When I got to the heart of the issue with the woman, like *how did this happen*, she said that as a small girl her auntie hit her in the mouth (probably the reason for the missing lower tooth). From then on, every time she would brush her teeth they would bleed, so somewhere along the line she just decided to stop brushing her teeth all together.

This is what her mouth looked like after a few hours of hard work. She was shocked at how white and nice her teeth were underneath. I pray that she will have the confidence to smile again after years of shame and embarrassment.



The Art of a Thankful Heart by Randy Melton (Continued from December)

One distinct difference between Americans and Ugandans is that we exude self-importance, and they practice humility. In Ugandan culture, every personal encounter is an opportunity to learn more about the *other* person. Every meal or social time is another lesson in generosity and hospitality, an event that serves as an opportunity to seal or cement new relationships. This is a very biblical way of living, one which honors relationships above all else in human experience. It's also a model that's become somewhat counter-cultural in American society.

Another clear difference is our affluent society which worships things, versus their simplicity of life and reverence for relationships. We Americans have a very skewed idea of what necessities are—cell phones, computers, iPods, DVD's, daily Starbucks Java jolts, climate-controlled environments, material wealth, and all the trappings that go with it. Our societal expectation is the self-deception that we need these and other things to progress and be happy, even though much of our technological advancement comes at the expense of relationships. What's really important? What is it that truly brings us joy and fulfillment?

We've lost our ability to come to the table, which is the core of the Ugandan social life. "We'll get to business later," I was often told. "But tea time comes first. You can nap...but after tea." Stop and smell the roses. Stop and stay connected. Here in America, we're so separated as a society because we've forgotten what it's like to share the table. We're so hurried that we no longer make time for communion in our own homes...and sometimes not even in our own church.

Americans tend to view our world through the eyes of "haves" and "have-nots." We pity the "have-nots" and hold up the "haves" as the ideal. One easily observes that the people of Uganda have nothing (materially speaking) yet possess an extraordinary faith and a joyful countenance. Seeing the joyful faces of these folks who share themselves so openly, it's painfully obvious that they possess something that we lack. They live their faith by continually giving God thanks and praise.

While we tend to complain about the few things we don't have, Ugandans choose to be grateful for the few things they do have. They recognize as the Lord's blessings what we take for granted. The longer I was there, the easier it became to shed my American biases and start seeing as the Ugandan sees and grow closer to viewing reality through God's eyes of grace, with thanksgiving in everything.

May the Lord open our minds and hearts...to perceive the blessings of God's hand that perhaps we've been too blind to see. Let us pray for renewed and inspired insight. As Wilbur's blind, one-legged grandmother said to me, "My physical eyes are blind, but the eyes of my heart are wide open." May we receive such eyes. "*Imana ibane namwe!*" God be with you! (Randy is rector at Messiah, Gonzales.)

Honduran School Needs Teachers

Lynn Bouterse (Lynnbouterse@sams-usa.org or 724-266-0669) reports the need for teachers in the 2010-2011 school term. Subjects are: math (including algebra, geometry, and trigonometry), science, American history, world geography, English, Christian education, and art (for 7-11 grades). Minimal Spanish is required at Holy Trinity Episcopal School (La Ceiba) which will provide housing. Teachers raise their own support for the remainder of their expenses.

La Ceiba is modern, relatively safe, and offers beach living.

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List:

January 1-9. (St. Petersburg, Russia) Renee and Greg Sethness (Christ Church, San Antonio). Orphanages and transitional homes.

January 5-14. (St. Petersburg, Russia) Steve Denney (St. Thomas, San Antonio). Orphanages and transitional homes.

January 5-9. (Honduras) Louis Manz and Weldon Hammond with graduate student. Water research.

January 7-10. (Piedras Negras, Mexico) Trip with seminarians from Seminary of the Southwest. Denise Trevino and Bobby Hausser, Team Leaders.

January 14-21. (Honduras) Patricia Perea, Team Leader. Chit Chittenden, Fr. Allan Conkling, Gloria and Dwain Glass, Donnelle Goach, Cesareo Guadarrama, Tatiana Hoecker, Donna Jones, James Kasterko, Kevin Lee, Amanda Moore, Dr. Henry Moore, John Panther, Betty Roederer, Tish Sutton, Ray Thompsett. *Manos de Dios* Team.

January 15-18. (Piedras Negras, Mexico) Trinity (Victoria) youth construction team. Dee Dee Hudson, Team Leader, with Bobby Hausser.

January 16-17. (Piedras Negras, Mexico) Sally Wiseman and Magdalena Crittenden. ESL.

January 28-February 6. (Honduras) Water Ministry. Terry Hayes and John Martin, Team Leaders.

February 22-29. (Chiapas, Mexico) Dori Zubizarreta and Rev. Charles Parker.

May 15-21. (Honduras) Drs. Dickson Bain, Bill Campaigne, Rodger Kleisch, Randy Lynn, and Lynn Campaigne. Veterinary team.

May 27-June 5. (Honduras) Honduras Water Ministry.

June (TBA). (Piedras Negras, Mexico) St. Mark's (San Antonio) Medical/Dental trip. Dr. Bill Smith, Team Leader.

July 29-August 7. (Honduras) Honduras Water Ministry.

October 14-October 23. (Honduras) Honduras Water Ministry.

2010: World Mission Opportunities (contd.)

UGANDA. John Harrison (jrhshr@flash.net) is in the process of planning a trip to Uganda. Email John, a veteran missionary, if you'd like to join him.

SOUTHEAST MEXICO. Bp. Benito Juarez requests that we send a youth team this summer to Hogar Infantil Orphanage to conduct VBS for the children there. Please contact Marthe Curry (888/210-825-5384) or mcurry09@sbcglobal.net if your youth group is interested.