Story of Grace ...and gratitude

God's Protection is Amazing

While Praveen and I were doing language survey in South Asia, we met a believer at a church we visited. He told us there are some local people in need in his village. He invited us to come to his village and stay at his home that night. So Praveen and I went to stay in his remote hamlet in India. We planned to stay with him only that night and the next morning we would collect some data and return to town.

We travelled to his place on motorbike through the forest where we had heard thieves often attacked people. But by God's grace we arrived safely at his home. That evening we were able to share our vision about the value of local languages and possibilities for Bible translation. After some time I needed to make a mobile call but I couldn't get a signal inside, so I went outside in the dark to find a place where I might get a signal. But I wasn't successful.

While outside I decided to check on our motorbike, which we had stored for the night in a small room used for nursery classes for children. When I stepped through the door of the room, all of a sudden I thought I should have brought my flashlight. I stopped and felt like something was forcing me to go back and get the flashlight—it was like a sixth sense. So I went back to the house and got my flashlight and entered the room where the motorbike was stored. Imagine to my surprise when I saw a big poisonous viper lying under the bike! I was scared because it could have bitten me and caused my death. I quickly went back and called the house owner and we were finally able to kill the snake. I realized that it was the Lord that had caused me to get the flashlight—God had protected me from the evil and harm.

The next morning we collected the language survey data and we traveled back to town. On the way back we were afraid to go through the forest because the previous night we had heard so many stories about thieves who had attacked travelers through that area. But we went ahead anyway and finally reached the town safely. When we stopped to have breakfast, a person called us and said, "Look, your back tire is flat." We were surprised but had it repaired and resumed our travels. We were praising the Lord that the flat didn't happen while we were driving through forest—He protected us from the thieves. God is a great God, he has control all over the heavens and earth, but He knows all our footsteps.

Psalm 121: The Lord will watch over your coming and going now and forevermore. (NIV)

—Benson G. • Wycliff Bible Translators

Serve Opportunities

Together We Serve • Elim Christian Services
Saturday, February 19 • 9:00–11:30 a.m.

Work alongside Elim adults doing outreach activities by assembling school packs and food packs in Elim's Adult Services program. The packs will be distributed to children in need, here in the Chicago area and even out to other parts of the world. Join us on Saturday, February 19, at Elim's Palos Heights Adult Services Building, 13063 S. Monitor Ave., Palos Heights, IL.

To sign up for this event, please go to www.elimcs.org.
Contact: Bob Stine 630.334.7300 / bstine@elimcs.org.

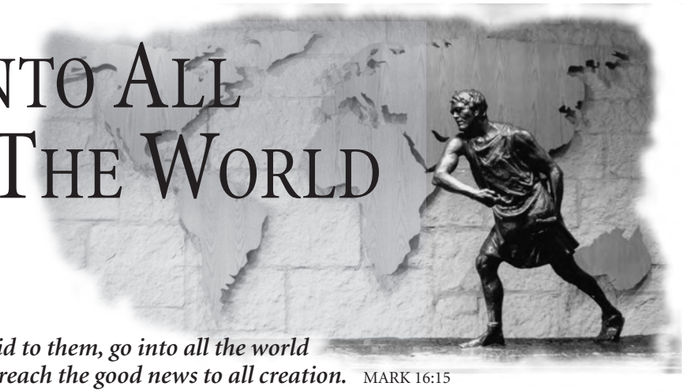
SERVE Day at Riverwoods Christian Center
Saturday, February 26 • 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

You can serve either by yourself or with anyone you invite to work alongside you. This is a great serve opportunity that the whole family can participate in.

Contact: Phil Carlson 708.246.5774 / pacarlson6@att.net

Christ Church of Oak Brook
630.654.1882 *OFFICE*
Mission Newsletter archives are available online: http://my.cc-ob.org/outreach
Thirty-First & York Road • Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Into All The World



He said to them, go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. MARK 16:15

February 2011

Egypt Update with Mama Maggie

Many Christ Church members will be interested to know how they can pray for Christ Church missionary Mama Maggie, her staff, and the people of Egypt. Mama Maggie and her team of 1,500 committed Stephen's Children staff members minister to the "poorest of the poor" living in slums and garbage dumps across Cairo, Egypt. The Mission department has been getting reports directly from the staff of Stephen's Children over the past few days. Their observations about Egypt are consistent with the news reports we are getting here in the States. There is particular concern as the pro-Mubarak demonstrators face-off with the anti-Mubarak demonstrators. Mama Maggie and her staff are all safe, praying, and fasting.

Please pray for God's protection over all of Egypt:

- Pray that God's grace and power would keep people safe, preserve order in the streets, and allow reason and wisdom to prevail.
- Pray that people will be patient with the process of change.
- Pray that the spirit of evil will be resisted by the teenagers drawn to the excitement of the protesting crowds.
- Pray for the poor whose voices are seldom heard.
- Pray for all Egyptian Christians, that they may be beacons of light and love in a crisis of uncertainty and conflict.

Most of all, pray that the words God spoke to Joshua echo in the hearts of Stephen's Children staff led by Mama Maggie and the children they love:

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

2011 Global Outreach (G0) Teams

We are currently in the process of finalizing our 2011 teams. If you are interested in participating on one of these trips please contact the Mission Office as soon as possible.

Constanza, Dominican Republic • June 4-11

For a seventh year, Christ Church will send a service team to the Ark, an orphanage located in the town of Constanza. We have helped build the facility from the ground up. We demonstrate the love of Jesus and build relationships with the children. Our work projects are being formulated and will depend on the makeup of the team. *Team Leaders: Bill and Alyce Grant.*

Kijabe, Kenya • June 16-30

This trip is our first outreach to Africa. The team will be serving multiple purposes while working with mission partners Leah and Paul Manyara and Moffit Bible College. We will have opportunities to work with children and teens in an outreach center, provide food and care packages for community distribution, and build a corrugated tin house for a needy family. The team will participate in a Kenyan worship service, Bible study, and spend time sharing our faith in homes with local families. *Team Leaders: Sandy Stoub and Caryn Baham.* Application deadline is February 28.

An informational meeting for prospective team members will be held Sunday, February 13, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 260.

Husinec, Czech Republic • August 3-17

This team will be working with the Brethren Church (Cirkev Bratrska) of the Czech Republic to teach English and present a Christian witness and message to students, age's high school through adult, using grammar classes, sports, music, conversation and the Alpha Course. *Team leaders: Rosemary Luther and Linda Graf.*

An informational meeting for prospective team members will be held Sunday, February 20, at 11:15 a.m. in Room 262.

If you are interested in participating on one of these trips or would like more information, contact Eileen Hoban at 630.321.6769 / ehoban@cc-ob.org.

SAVE THE DATES • April 28–May 1

MISSION FEST 2011

When China Is On Top Of The World: Christianity and the New Asia

Friday, April 29 • Congregational Dinner
Featured speaker, Mooi Steel
Christ Church missionary in Malaysia

Sunday, May 1
David Wang, President Emeritus, Asian Outreach International
General Director, Hosanna Foundation

UPDATES FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Christ Church of Oak Brook supports many missionaries around the world. Each month, we will highlight a different missionary so you can learn more about them and their ministry.

This month's featured missionary is Kellie O'Brien of The O'Brien School for the Maasai in Tanzania, Africa. Kelli is currently on a month-long work trip to further the school's mission.

What are your hopes and goals for the coming year?

- Bringing God's word to his people through good works—living the Gospel.
- Our trip to meet up with the 40' container filled with food and school supplies is held up at the Tanzanian port. We are hoping to leave any day to meet up with it and present it to our village. This container is filled with so many wonderful items donated by good-hearted people.
- Continue working with our Maasai children to discover their God-given talents by offering a good education. We also have hundred of Bibles for them to discover God's love.
- We plan to expand our horticultural projects to benefit not only our students, but also our local Maasai community. We hope to plant 1,000 Moringa trees. Discovery channel calls it the 'miracle tree.' Every part of the tree is beneficial. Our village is poor and the need to "teach them something" is great. The benefits of this tree will not only help them stay healthy, but also be a source of income.

What are some challenges?

- Our biggest problem is finding qualified people to help us manage our project in Tanzania. Their standard for doing things is so different than ours and yet, if we hope to make a change in their future, we need to have the right people in place to act as examples of hard work and commitment. Our teachers lack proper training.
- We desperately need funds for more classrooms. We have not been able to accept any new students for two years.

What are some prayer requests for Christ Church's congregation?

- We ask for prayers that God will continue to fill our hearts and minds with His will. That He fills us with perseverance and humility, to be witness to those He has given us to serve, and the strength to always do the right thing even when we are exhausted and discouraged to find things not going smoothly. And, at the end of the day, we praise God for his abundant goodness and love to all His people on earth.
- We are in need of "servants." We are especially interested in teachers, (all subjects, music, English, art). Teachers to work side by side with our Tanzanian teachers and show them how to be an effective, creative teacher. Also, anyone wanting to teach a 'trade' to some of our young people who are not able to go to school because of lack of school fees.
- Someone to minister to our children regarding our Christian faith and to help them know what it means to be a follower of Christ (there is a great need in this area).
- We need a person or persons to help manage our office and ongoing projects.

The O'Brien School for the Maasai extends a welcome to anyone who would be interested in joining their project. If you have questions or interest, please do not hesitate to contact them at their website www.obrienschool.org.

Chicago 4-Day Urban Immersion Experience • May 20-23

The first initiative of its kind for Christ Church, this 4-day urban immersion experience will provide participants a unique opportunity to listen to, learn about, and serve a variety of marginalized populations within our city through select Evangelical ministries.
While we are still in the early planning stages for this outreach, we envision ministry opportunities to the homeless, the prisoner, the immigrant, and under-resourced adults and young people. We are also exploring opportunities to dialogue with the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) community and to participate in the Salvation Army's ministry to those caught in the web of human trafficking. A seven-week Bible study on the topics of reconciliation, the city, poverty, justice, and courage will serve as a springboard for the experience itself. This experience will start with a Heart for the City bus tour hosted by Dr. John Fuder, Professor of Urban Ministry at Moody Theological Seminary and will involve several overnights downtown.

An informational meeting for interested individuals will be held Sunday, February 13 at 11:15 a.m. in Room 262.

Contact: Tony Lepore 630.321.3923 / tlepore@cc-ob.org

Mendenhall Ministries

On March 13, Derek Lane, President of Mendenhall Ministries, will be visiting Christ Church. We have been supporting this ministry among the poor in Mendenhall, MS, for many years. Many of you know of Dr. John Perkins who began this work. But how many of you really know what The Mendenhall Ministries (TMM) is about?

Dr. John Perkins founded the ministry in 1962 in response to the appalling conditions faced by the poor black community in this rural Mississippi area. His vision attracted many concerned people and grew into a ministry known for providing progressive local leadership within the community to address problems of poor housing, segregated and unequal education, lack of employment opportunities, and lack of financial institutions within the black community. TMM has fought for fair pay, advocated for children, and provided legal help for those who would have none. TMM reaches out to the community through childhood education and helping low-income families repair their homes. It established a community health center and conducts a summer enrichment program for youth.

Rev. Derek Lane was called to TMM in 2010 and is committed to TMM's focus on spiritual and racial reconciliation. He and TMM face great challenges. As Rev. Lane said, "For all intents and purposes, if Mississippi were a country, we would be considered 'third-world.' But our challenges are often overshadowed by the fact that we are here in the U.S."

If you want to learn more about Mendenhall, please join Rev. Lane in Room 262 at 11:30 a.m. on March 13 for a chance to hear about his vision and his challenges and to be challenged yourself.