

Story of Grace

This month's Story of Grace comes from Pasteur Nouh Ag Infa Yattara of Eglise Evangelique Baptiste/TNT in MALI

Kumba Barry, the Fulani's girl, attended the Timbuktu Women's Center fifteen years ago. When we called to conversion and to come to Christ after nine months trainings on sewing machines, embroidery, knitting, tie and die, literacy in Sonrai, health issues (hygiene, malaria, birth problems, family planning, HIV/AIDS) and Bible teachings, she raised hand like many, to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. But when we called for attending Churches meetings, none has raised hand. But Kumba stood up and said: "Becoming Christian in Timbuktu is too costly: you will lose your parents, your friends, hope to get hired and even hope to get married. We will be dead if we come to attend the church. Some will beat us and even some will threat us for death. Sincerely, we couldn't. But why you do not open a Men's Center too, so our young men will hear the same thing as we hear. So they will tolerate us and be comprehensive to us when we will decide to live Christianity? For myself, I promise to advise my children to be and to live with Christians."

Kumba' story leaded us to open Timbuktu Men's Vocational Training Center receiving each year 30 men for training on sewing machines, baking bread/donuts, literacy in Tamasheq, health issues and Bible teachings. Kumba's oldest daughter Gabdo came to Christ a year ago and get married last July 2011 to our church's choir member and both now are a great blessing to our community.

Strategic Mission Partners to Speak on September 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Our two Strategic Mission Partners for 2011 will be speaking to us about their ministries in Fellowship Halls 2-3 on Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 a.m. Come hear more about the vital ministries of Inner City Impact and the Last Languages Campaign (Wycliffe Bible Translators) and see first hand how your support of the Christ Church mission fund is helping to expand the kingdom around the corner and across the world.

LOCAL MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Bethany Christian Services

Bethany Christian Services is a global Christian organization serving children in more than 15 countries, spanning 5 continents. It is the largest adoption agency in the US and a prominent leader in social services, serving 50,000 children a year. Its goal is to serve 75,000 children per year by 2015.



The BCS Illinois office provides comprehensive social services that include pregnancy counseling, adoption, and post-adoption counseling. It partners with Safe Families for Children (SFFC), a national movement that provides safe, loving Christian homes for children whose parents are working towards creating a stable environment. This program gives parents an alternative to the child welfare system

In the past year, the local branch of BCS supported by Christ Church has facilitated the placement of 40 children into loving, Christian adoptive families. Since January, 2011, BCS has facilitated arrangements for over 50 children through SFFC.

Come hear more about BCS and the children and families it serves on Sunday, September 18, at 11:15 a.m. in room 152.

Fall Clothing Drive— One weekend only!

The annual Fall Clothing Drive will be here soon.

- **One weekend only:** Saturday, October 15 (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) and Sunday, October 16 (8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)
- **Drop-off location:** Fellowship Hall parking lot. To make it easier for you to drop off your donations, the parking lot outside the Fellowship Hall church entrance will have a white truck designated just for the donations. Volunteers will be there to help you unload your vehicle.

Donated clothing has become an important part of the church's food pantry ministry. Clients are often in need of seasonal clothing and have come to count on your generous donations. Thank you for meeting their needs. Please put clothing donations in plastic bags, labeled MEN, WOMEN, CHILD, or TEEN.

Watch *Pathways* for a reminder as the drive gets closer.

For information on getting involved, contact the Mission Office at 630.321.3921



Christ Church of Oak Brook
630.654.1882 OFFICE
www.cc-ob.org • http://my.cc-ob.org • www.lovechangeslife.org
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

September 2011

Mozambique Presentation



In September 2009, Christ Church hosted the *Step into Africa "World Vision Experience: AIDS"* exhibit. After viewing the exhibit, attendees had the opportunity to sponsor a child through World Vision in the community of Namanjavara, Mozambique. As a result of this exhibit, over 400 children were sponsored by Christ Church members and others who attended the exhibit.

This summer, a team of representatives from Christ Church traveled to Namanjavira to see the ways World Vision

is using our sponsorship funds and to further understand the needs of that community for possible future development. Team members John and Sandi Klingelhofer, Jim and Cindy Johnson, and Jim and Deborah Borsum had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with 14 children sponsored by our church members, see their homes and schools, and learn about life in Mozambique.

The team saw over and over again, how much the people in Namanjavira value the helping hand of World Vision. "They greeted us so warmly. Every time we left a sponsored child or a group presentation, these people who have so little, would present us with gifts of fruit, sugar cane, corn flour, even live chickens and guinea hens! It was truly humbling for each of us, and certainly brought to life the scripture messages about cheerful giving."

"World Vision accomplishes so much from the funds we send as part of our child sponsorship. We learned that when we sponsor a child, we also help their families and improve their communities with basic needs such as sanitation, clean water, education, and health services. These are



continued inside

worthy investments. It was a great personal expense for us to travel to Namanjavira, but meeting these lovely children, their families and visiting their community was truly priceless!" —Jim Johnson

On **Thursday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Chapel** the Christ Church team will share more about how our sponsored children live and what is happening through World Vision in Namanjavira. Once you've heard the stories of the children they met and the good work being done to help them, you will understand that your sponsorship dollars truly are life-changing.

UPDATE FROM THE MISSION FIELD

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

This month's featured missionaries are Steve and Margie Doty, serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Thailand.

What are two or three goals for the next 12 months for your mission?

One of our main goals is to keep up with the checking of Bible translations that are being produced. We're very glad that our efforts to increase the pace of translation have paid off. But now we're a bit of a bottle-neck as we have to check translations to make sure they're good quality. One of Margie's goals is to lead the linguistic -translation training program for the next year. Margie loves teaching, but had to put that aside for a year while the head of the linguistics training program went on furlough.

What are your current challenges?

One of our biggest challenges is that there are only 24 hours in the day, and more work than we can easily do. Please pray for more workers to come help us plant and harvest. Another challenge is being away from our three children who are living in the USA. They are 23, 21, and 18, and still need some guidance from us. We thank the Lord for modern communications that allow us to stay in touch with them a bit.

What are some prayer requests you might have for the Christ Church congregation?

Our number one prayer request is always for the governments in this region to allow more freedom to their people—freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, etc. The current lack of freedom in a number of countries is a significant barrier to our work. We also ask for prayer for our children in the USA, that God will guide them to make good choices in life that honor Him.

A Report from our Middle School and High School Ministries

Second City Serve

This summer, 31 middle school students traveled all the way to Chicago for a mission trip! We chose a location close to home for a couple of reasons. First, it allowed students to realize that you don't need to go overseas to find people in need. Instead, service is something that can be done every day in our own town. Second, it allowed us to get lots of parents involved. Instead of committing to a week away, parents were able to sign-up for single days in the city. Before starting our service, we spent two hours driving through the different neighborhoods with a member of the missions organization we were with. During our drive, we prayed over different aspects of city life and our eyes were opened to the need throughout Chicago. We spent the rest of the week serving the homeless and underprivileged at shelters and YMCAs. Our students learned that loving God means that we are actively loving others in our community, school, and even our own home, not just on a mission trip. We are really looking forward to a continued partnership with those we met in the city, and look forward to many more years of "Second City Serve."

Second City Serve



Second City Serve



Camp Restore

Camp Restore

This summer, 68 of our high school students and adult staffers made the journey to New Orleans to serve alongside Camp Restore to help people get back home who are struggling in a Post-Katrina world. We served in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans from July 31–August 8, living in a village of cargo containers located just five miles from New Orleans at Camp Restore. Our six teams served at three separate Build Sites:

- Teams 1-4 Served at Trinity Lutheran Church laying brick, doing general carpentry, and even installing an alarm system.
- Team 5 served at Patricia's home, working on the siding, roofing, and interior carpentry.
- Team 6 served at Sonia's home, reconstructing her fence, yard, and other general helping work.

These amazing build sites all had one thing in common—everybody was quick to tell you their story of exactly what happened to them on August 29, 2005 when Katrina stuck New Orleans and the levies broke. Engaging with the ongoing story of the rebuilding of the Lower Ninth Ward was overwhelming at times but always with an underlying layer of hope.

This summer we stepped away from our regularly scheduled Tijuana Project due to the violence that has overtaken so much of Mexico. We were blessed beyond belief as we served alongside our new friends in NOLA. The goal and hope is for Trinity Lutheran Church to re-open this coming Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012. On that Sunday, hope will return to the congregation on Claiborne at Trinity Lutheran as they worship together, six and a half years after Katrina. We are thankful that we were able to be a part of this hopeful story as we served in NOLA together.



Camp Restore