

## LOCAL MISSIONS

This is the first in a series of articles to introduce Christ Church members and friends to our Local Missions partners. This month, we feature LOVE Christian Clearinghouse, a long-time partner of Christ Church.

Did you ever wonder what happens when someone contacts the church, needy, perhaps living just at the poverty line, wondering how to pay the rent after an illness kept him from working for a week or how to keep a job when the car that gets her there needs a new battery?

We can connect them with **LOVE Christian Clearinghouse**, a non-profit non-denominational network of churches, working together as the 'Body of Christ' to unify the Church around the needs of the poor.

Our primary program – the LOVE Help program – provides emergency financial assistance to people facing possible eviction or loss of basic needs such as lights, heat, or water, due to a temporary, verifiable "bump in the road". Car repairs are provided to ensure access to employment. When the need is chronic and longer term solutions are required, we connect callers to the appropriate local or government agency to address their needs.

We often speak to our callers during some of the worst days of their lives. We arrange pastor visits for our callers who need someone to minister to them in person. Additionally, our Bible Distribution Ministry provides a Bible to callers who long to hear God's word.

Our Helping Hands ministry reaches out to refugees from Africa and Myanmar who need to learn basic daily living skills, language, budgeting, communication, and conflict management.

Finally, each Christmas we compile a list of children from the families we have assisted throughout the year to participate in the annual Toy Express program. Many of these children – who will receive up to 3 gifts each – might otherwise not have had the joy of opening gifts Christmas morning.

### Towns We Serve

Addison	Downers Grove	Lombard	Willowbrook
Bensenville	Elmhurst	Oak Brook	Wood Dale
Burr Ridge	Hinsdale	Oakbrook Terrace	Woodridge
Clarendon Hills	Itasca	Villa Park	
Darien	Lisle	Westmont	

### Volunteer Opportunities

LOVE Christian Clearinghouse is a true example of the church reaching out into the community. Our volunteers are recruited from our partner churches and represent the many different denominations of Christian churches in Eastern DuPage County. They are the backbone of LOVE, and as the Body of Christ, they are using this opportunity to put their faith into action.

The mainstay of volunteer work at the Clearinghouse Call-In Center is the phone call—listening to our callers, completing the assessment form, and sharing the love of Christ. Data entry positions are vital to tracking our client statistics and maintaining our church and agency databases. The receptionist "on duty" answers phones and does light office work.

The Helping Hands program is also volunteer-based and many hands are needed to assist with the Wednesday morning sessions.

If you have the desire to put your faith into action and reach out to the people in need, consider giving 3 hours a week to the ministry at the LOVE Christian Clearinghouse Call-In Center in Westmont or to the Helping Hands Program. Call the Clearinghouse Director at 630.512.8665 for more information.

### Call-In Center Help Line

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact the Call-In Center at 630.512.8665.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### Military Ministry Thanksgiving Care Packages October 9–30

The Military Ministry is requesting your help in providing care packages to the Christ Church military family members and members serving in the military in Afghanistan. These care packages are one way we can demonstrate our gratitude and support to those making huge sacrifices on our behalf. Please stop by the table in the foyer to pick up a box and instructions. Boxes must be returned to the church no later than October 30 to insure that the troops receive them by Thanksgiving. Contact: Cynthia Gronwall 630.964.3663 / cann46@comcast.net

### 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 noon) and Sunday, October 16 (8:00 a.m.–12:00 Noon)
- **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.**

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

October 2011

### Sponsor a child in Africa through World Vision

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 Namanjavira, Mozambique.

World Vision's child sponsorship program transforms the lives of children in need by helping their entire community find lasting solutions to poverty. Thanks to your caring commitment, we work side by side with people in Namanjavira to provide children and families with life's necessities—things such as clean water, health care, education, and hope for a better future.

Children often are the most vulnerable members of impoverished communities and are the first to succumb to disease and hardships. To ensure children are healthy, they need not only food and medicine, but also love and support of adults around them. World Vision helps build these healthy environments by working alongside families and communities to provide resources and to nurture skills needed to become self-sufficient.



To learn more about how to sponsor a child, please visit the World Vision table in the Narthex after worship today.

## Welcome Christ Church of Oak Brook Missionary Jean Baptiste Mugarura

On **Sunday, October 30**, Jean Baptiste Mugarura, National Director of Rwanda Youth for Christ, will be visiting Christ Church.

When Jean Baptiste's pastor challenged him to help the church begin a youth ministry, he answered the challenge by asking the pastor to help him assemble a team so that they could also minister to the unchurched youth who lived in the country. In 1991, the team began these ministries and in 1994, Jean Baptiste became associated with Youth for Christ. Today, Jean Baptiste is National Director of Rwanda Youth for Christ and the Regional Director of Youth for Christ International for Eastern Africa.

He and his wife Marina serve youth who are the victims of wars, genocides, HIV/AIDS, poverty, illiteracy, and oppression. Their ministry includes youth evangelism, discipleship, education, young leader development programs, and social programs supporting those who are infected or affected by AIDS. The ministry plays such a key role in Rwanda that they are now permitted to go into all the schools and share the Gospel with the students. They have four children: Anysie (17), Andre (8), Abiya (6), and Adielle (3).

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Join us on **Sunday, October 30 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 260** to hear more about Jean Baptiste and Marina's work in Rwanda.

## Husinec GO Team

Those from Christ Church who have been members of the Czech Republic GO Team fondly refer to the trip as an "English Camp." In August, a group of nine "Czech Mates" from Christ Church embarked on a mission to lead another English Camp, but teaching English was not their sole purpose. In reality, English Camp is so much more.

*English is an important component of why we go, but it is only one reason why we keep returning to camp. This year, we had an incredible group of "campers," which included students from grade school through university and adults whose careers focused on teaching and dentistry. Their skill levels varied from emergent English language learners to those whose grasp of English grammar was nothing short of amazing, so much so that our advanced level needed to be split into two groups. Regardless of level, all the campers came with one goal in mind: to improve their knowledge of English grammar, written and spoken. To that end, we had grammar classes, reading sessions, and wonderful conversations about timely topics and Scripture, all in the beautiful surroundings of Zadov, a small village in the Sumava Mountains. We also had the staples of any summer camp: hikes and crafts, sports and games, campfires, and fellowship throughout the day and evening. Add all those things together, along with homemade treats from the most delicious Czech bakery and the grace of a merciful and generous God, and you have English Camp.*

*The most important reason we travel to the Czech Republic is to be witnesses of the greatest gift we can bring to our Czech brothers and sisters—our faith in God. In the Czech Republic the percentage of atheists/non-believers is estimated to be somewhere between 54-61%. The country currently ranks 6th on the list of the most atheistic countries in the world.*

*How we act, how we speak, and how we demonstrate God's love for each other and the students who attend English Camp is of the utmost significance. The camp is on good footing, as the Czech team, who follows-up with those who attend camp, is strong with faith-driven young people and is blessed with Pavel Fer, the new pastor of the Cirkev Bratrská (Brethren Church) in Husinec, who is a vibrant and dynamic faith leader. The Spirit is working through us and with us, nurturing not only the team from Christ Church, but the Czech team and campers as well. How wonderful it was to witness one young man, the son of non-believers, joyfully singing praise songs and taking part in Pavel's hands-on scripture messages. How awesome it was to hear that one young lady who had expressed interest in the youth group at the church was in attendance at Sunday worship the weekend after camp had concluded.*

*In Acts, Chapter 16, we read about a vision Paul had that changed his travel plans. "So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there" (v. 10). Take out Macedonia and replace it with Czech Republic, and then consider the stories of the two young people in the previous paragraph. Each "Czech Mate" brings unique talents and faith experiences to the team. We are Christ's body. That is what our mission to the Czech Republic is all about.*

—Eileen Johnson

## Inner City Impact Mission Trip

*Mission trips provide a good deal of incongruity, depending on your perspective. While baking in 100 degree heat with 70% humidity, or scrubbing a pot that is soaked with something sticky and hardened, it's easy to forget the purpose of the trip. Then, a 13 year old boy walks by and tells you how much fun he had playing baseball or tubing, and a 12 year old girl tells you how great the food is that you are serving. That is when you realize the eternal significance you are making in the life of these kids.*

*That is what 20 of us from Christ Church experienced in early August while serving together at Camp Friedenswald in Southwest, MI, a camp hosted by Inner City Impact (ICI) of Chicago. One of our primary responsibilities was to feed about 65 people, including 40 kids and 25 staff and team members. We did all our own shopping, and did the cooking in a residential-style kitchen. In addition, some of us drove 15-passenger vans to activities off-site. Others taught swimming lessons, set up tents in the woods, tie-dyed shirts, photographed, and decorated the entire camp with a "Spiritual Battleground" theme. We drove the speed boat, pulling kids in tubes on the lake. We also ran "Olympic" events, and hung out with each other and with the kids.*



Some of these kids are from rough family situations. Most have had to make the choice between joining the gangs and spending time at ICI, and they chose ICI that August week. That makes it critical to provide an environment in which the kids see us as their surrogate families, something they can get either from the gangs at a high price, or from ICI where they learn that Christ paid the price for them. This was a great week and a terrific exposure to local missions right in our backyard.

—Mark Myers

## Story of Grace

### Sworn To Kill

*This story begins with a young man named Jorge, who I did not know when he came walking slowly and carefully, with his hand on his stomach, to my gate. I greeted him and as we sat down he blurted out that he wanted to receive Christ as his Savior. I was very surprised since no one here had ever been so brave concerning Christ. I shared the Gospel with him and he prayed to place his trust in Christ for his salvation.*

*Then he looked up and told me that he had a Contratio (enemy) and asked me what he should do about it. Jorge told me that his enemy had stabbed him in the stomach. In Paraguay, to have an enemy means that you have sworn to kill each other. Bewildered, I told him that I didn't know, but Jesus said we need to forgive our enemies.*

*About a week later, another young man showed up on my doorstep and told me that he was the one who had stabbed Jorge. He said he couldn't understand why his enemy—Jorge—had come to his house and said he forgave him completely. He asked me how anyone could possibly do that. I told him of the life-changing story of Jesus and how Jesus says we need to forgive our enemies. He then too prayed the sinner's prayer.*

*Later, another young man, named Luis, also showed up on my doorstep. He had the same experience as the two young men above. Now these three men sit together on the same bench in our church and sing praises to the Lord. Only the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ can explain a miracle such as this.*

Brad Word • San Juan Nepomuceno, Paraguay

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Spirit Village**

Saturday, December 3 • 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. • Fellowship Halls