

## 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 Nouh and Matala Yattara with Partners International in Timbuktu, Mali West Africa.



Nouh Yattara

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

- Extending our Evangelism vision by establishing a new missionary couple in Bambara Maoude (70 miles South of Timbuktu)
- Succeeding to have all our Christian leaders getting the SIM (serving in mission) libraries for pastors -Reinforcing our Christian women community by a Conference about micro-enterprise from Partners International
- Pursuing Christian literature distribution, synchronizing Christian messages on city radios FM, helping vulnerable kids (orphans and street children)

### What are your current challenges?

- Extreme poverty of most people
- Illiteracy of 80% of the population
- AQM/AL-QAEDA active in our region reinforcing fanaticism and fatalism among people
- Occultism, superstitions and spiritual warfare practices
- Social hierarchy keeping women in a low profile status and a lot of people in a slavery system

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

- Pray for Mali leaders training of HISG on disaster in Timbuktu.
- Pray for our large ministries to announce the Gospel on radios FM in Timbuktu.
- Pray for our national missionaries in Ahara-Kabara, in Goundam and now in Bambara Maouda.
- Pray for our effectiveness, efficiency, inspiration, health, protection, fruitfulness and availability to the Lord's concerns always.
- Pray for a revival ministry of TNT MALI and of partners in North Mali.
- Pray for an appropriate Board for TNT MALI.
- Pray for our Churches Federation planning to establish other missionaries in other unreached groups for the Gospel.
- Pray for a new vehicle for TNT MALI.

## GO Team Leadership Training

February 5–March 11, 2012 • Sundays 10:00–11:00 a.m.

This course is designed for the novice leader who is hoping to lead a GO Team in 2012. This interactive course will help equip each leader in areas such as team formation and cohesiveness, cross cultural issues, debriefing process, financial management, team members' spiritual formation, etc. Completion of the course is mandatory for all GO Team Leaders serving in 2012 but is also open to anyone interested in the GO Teams. Course instructors: John Klingelhofer, Sandy Stoub, Eileen Hoban, and Stacey Rocque. Registration is required.

Register online at [my.cc-ob.org/equipping\\_center](http://my.cc-ob.org/equipping_center) and click on the Six Week Classes link.

## INTO ALL THE WORLD



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

January 2012

## Spirit Village 2011 Update

On Saturday, December 3, Christ Church's Fellowship Halls were once again turned into an 18th century town. This was the setting for Spirit Village, our annual alternative mission Christmas program.



The holiday event included musical offerings from Christ Church's Acorn Choir and Kids of the Kingdom Choir, the Indigo Blue Jazz Duo, Rich Smrha, and the Lawndale Praise Team. Adding to the festive atmosphere were face painters, balloonists, and live animals.

Nearly 200 volunteers of all ages gave of their time. They baked, served food, built, decorated and staffed shops to help create a beautiful shopping experience in the village. A special thank you to all of our volunteers!

At the time of this writing, over \$150,000 has been raised through Spirit Village! On behalf of our missionaries and local partners, the Mission Leadership Team sends a heartfelt thank you for your generosity!

We are pleased to share with you some examples of where your Spirit Village gifts will be heading...



- 313 Daily meals for Sierra Leone blind and widows
- 115 Pairs of shoes for North Korean children
- 158 Prescriptions for preventable diseases in Africa
- 43 Ultrasounds for expectant mothers at CareNet Pregnancy Center
- 38 Days of group training for Foster families in Costa Rica
- 49 Birth lifesaving training in Afghanistan
- 161 Weeks of school for girls in Bangalore

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- 551 Daily food rations for widows in India
- 66 Weeks of Bible school for two children in Mexico
- 46 12-Step Bibles for participants in recovery program
- 160 Shares in a community family well in Ecuador
- 2,355 Copies of Dr. DeKruyter's *Basic Christianity* Book in Chinese
- 62 Months of adult literacy training in India
- 384 Meals for clients at Emmaus Ministries Center
- 20 Days of training for Bible translators
- 87 Riverwoods camp scholarships
- 54 Bible tracks and soccer balls for Mozambique outreach
- 556 Meal packs for Elim Christian Services Food Pack Project
- 149 Weeks of medicine for the elderly in Romania
- 72 Bibles for Dominican Republic First Steps Bible class
- 77 Toiletry kits for the homeless in San Francisco
- 42 Inner City Impact camp scholarships
- 39 DVDs of Gospel of John for Lisu people
- 315 Weeks of lunches for children in Cairo
- 783 Saturday meals for Horn of Africa Refugee children
- 144 Medical insurance for Maasai families
- 94 Shares of sewing machine for woman in Timbuktu
- 76 Thanksgiving dinners for DuPage families
- 37 Scholarships to reconciliation training for Israeli-Palestinian women
- 51 Weekly food vouchers for Partners With Youth



# Story of Grace

By Laura Fritz of Musalaha

"I love this camp," a pre-teen girl told me as we played in the pool, "I love everything it stands for and everything it's about, and it's so fun!"

This attitude was echoed throughout Musalaha's Israeli-Palestinian summer camp held at the Baptist Village in Petah Tikva by the 70 Palestinian and Israeli children and leaders this summer. The diversity of the camp's children was surely a rare sight to see, with Israelis, Palestinians, and Sudanese refugees, and even two sisters of mixed background, one of which asked me with pride "I speak both languages perfectly, plus two more! What can YOU speak?"

For me, after six months in the land, this camp gave me real *hope* like nothing else I have experienced. There was hope in the Bible studies, in the competitions, in the craziness and laughter, and in the worship. There was hope as the children were creative with their crafts and reckless in their play. There was hope as they were just being girls and boys—having fun, making friends, getting a break from the pressures of their everyday environment.

The leaders arrived two days earlier for training and final preparations of the summer camp. Over the course of the two days we got to know each other, reestablishing old friendships and making new ones and being in unity so that when Monday came and the children arrived, we were ready!

When they arrived, many of the children found friends they had met at last year's camp. A group of two Palestinian and three Israeli girls negotiated to be in the same room. Upon receiving permission, they pulled five bunks together to make one huge bed where they could sleep side-by-side (or rather talk all night together).

Profiling is natural. Many times I find myself doing it unconsciously even at times where I feel it is necessary. Do I speak Hebrew or Arabic with the person? I don't want to be unsympathetic or terribly offensive when I am with a specific group of people.

But, the oneness and unity evident at the camp made me realize that I wasn't noticing who was Israeli and or Palestinian. I saw my brothers and sisters from both sides of the conflict demonstrate a love of Christ and each other above their love of sticking with their side. Leaders cared for the children, loving and instructing them regardless of where they came from.

One day after craft time, a Palestinian boy from the West Bank proudly pulled me aside to show me his pencil case. On it, he had painted an Israeli flag. I am not sure how his parents would feel about it, but it showed me how much more simple this situation is

Petah Tikva



for the children. He loved his new friends and leaders and therefore had fond feelings about the place they are from.

As my coworker Tamara and I reflected on the camp, she said, "Innocence breaks down all this hatred that we have around us. You love the good things that you see in the other side. Like Jesus said, we should be little children."

Perhaps the only image that surpassed this beauty was watching these young souls form loyalties not based on race, nationality, or culture, rather on what every eight-year-old camper should: girls vs. boys and kids vs. counselors. Without even being aware, these kids set an example for all of us: through their uncomplicated and sincere love, they destroyed any tensions of this conflict through bursting a water balloon on a counselor's head.

The reality is that the conflict will probably get harder for these dear young ones as they get older. They will be pulled and they will likely have experiences that will confirm what their communities teach about the other. The conflict is real and they will likely come face to face with it before long.

But that thought is followed by remembering what I saw in the young adults who helped to lead the camp, many of whom have been raised as a part of Musalaha.

They are pulled, but they do not forget their friends. For them, the "enemy" will never be faceless, inhuman, or distant. For them, the situation will never be easy or black and white. That is good. With open eyes they can help bring change. They are the hope.

*He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

—Matthew 18:1-3