



His World . . . Our Calling

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

Asbury United Methodist Church 6767 South Mingo Road Tulsa, OK 74133 (918) 492-1771

Volunteers In Mission News

Donations Needed

- Eyeglasses, travel size soap, shampoo, lotion for missions

Donations can be dropped off in the mission office.

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 21, VIM Leader Training in Oklahoma City, contact Marilene

Rio Bravo, Mexico Men's Construction Update

In November, I had the great opportunity to go on my first mission trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico. I went with 27 other men pretty evenly split between the "20 something" age bracket and the "old guys" being in the 40+ age group. Divided into three teams, our leaders planned for the construction of three casitas. We were only able to work half of the first day, due to rain, hail and lightning. The storms did finally pass so we could focus on helping these very needy families. I was humbled to see our family's home (a young mother & her 3 year old son) that consisted of a shack made of scrap woods, a dirt floor, no door, no water, and a light bulb with power generated from a car battery. I was very grateful to play a small part impacting these lives by providing a safe, sturdy cinder block home (12'x 20'). With some ingenuity, the three houses were equipped with solar panes (to power a light bulb) to be used until electricity is available in the area. The days consisted of a lot of hard work and the evenings some wonderful meals, great devotion times with worship, and new friendships built. It is truly life changing to step out of one's comfort zone. This was my first of hopefully many future mission trips. I'd like to say thanks to all the guys that made it so great and thank you God for allowing me to go.

By Joel Crum

Hurricane Ike Response Team Update

In late November a five man team set out to aid victims of Hurricane Ike. The team included Rex Smith, Steve Zenthoefer, Rob Marshall, Bruce Gumtow and Mike Mastraccio. Upon arrival the team was met by representatives of the host church, First UMC of Port Arthur, TX. We were their first Hurricane Ike team after hosting 46 teams for Hurricane Rita. Because the Texas conference had disaster relief offices established and operating, they were prepared to support the team with tools and materials from the onset. We were asked to replace the roof for a family of six.

The team worked well together, everything from ripping off the roof to installing the new, including weaving one of the valleys. We had a great reaction from passersby. Some stopped and wanted to know how much we charged!

While you never know the impact you have on those you are serving, we were heartened by the family's reaction when we asked to take their picture. Even though their daughter, Michelle, had not been there during the week, they wanted her to be in the picture.



For some on the team this was their first mission trip - for others it was their umpteenth. But ,all agreed that God provided extremely well for us. He provided us with excellent weather, a great host, willing workers, great food (thanks Rex). Most of all God showed us if we step out, He is right in front, leading the way.

The next Hurricane Ike Construction Team will be April 19-25.

Mary Ann Smith (GO)
392-1117
Beth McCalman (OKO)
392-1116
Marilene Long (VIM)
392-1164
Missy Sistrunk
392-1163

In 2008 Asbury was blessed to have 15 VIM teams and 175 team members serve locally and around the world in missions!
Thank you for your prayers and support of each of these teams.

Oklahoma Outreach News



**\$23,623 was
donated and 14,680
pounds of food was
collected!**

Thank you to Mosaic and PDF Communities for coordinating this effort! Thank you to Pack 10 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for taking the food to the truck! Thank you to the countless volunteers helping at Asbury and Sam's!



Thank You

Thank you for your generosity over the holidays! We were able to help 150 families from Youth At Heart and Operation Hope with food baskets at Thanksgiving. Another 200 families were helped at Christmas with Reasor's food gift cards. And, there were 450 children adopted through Christmas Child. Thank you for your donations and volunteering your time to help these families in need.

Redemption Dinners

Here is an opportunity for your small group or Community to serve by providing dinner for inmates from the halfway houses. Redemption Church meets at St. Luke's UMC every Sunday afternoon at 4:30 for inmates from the halfway houses. After the service, dinner is served at 5:30 like a buffet (pot luck) – entrée, salad, starch, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drinks (and ice). Asbury is committed to provide the dinner on the third Sunday of the month. July 19, August 30, October 18, and November 22 are open for volunteers to help serve. Contact Beth or Missy.

Global Outreach News

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement classes began on January 14th. There are over 55 new students from 13 churches in the Tulsa area. Classes will continue on Wednesday night at 6:30 pm in the Family Room (old student worship area-main building). **All Perspectives alumni are allowed to come again to hear the speakers at no charge.**

Those who have not taken the course are able to come for two classes without cost. Most of the speakers are new to our circuit this year so we would especially invite alumni to come hear them. There is also a new Perspectives reader which is available for purchase by alumni. Come join us!

Kami Ministry

Mark Dalton, Kami Ministry Team leader, Grant Miller, Ed Lusk, and John Simmons (from FUMC, Wagoner) will be traveling to Tanzania in February to do research on water well drilling and to conduct a Kids' Camp. Please keep them in your prayers as they work to find new drilling companies and sights for wells to be dug. The need for clean water is profound! We hope to drill at least 4 wells in Kami areas this year.

Sarah Adams Serving in Africa

Sarah Adams, one of our own Asbury members, is leaving February 17th to fulfill a long-time desire of serving full-time on the mission field. Sarah will be a part of the Serving in Mission (SIM) Team in Malawi, East Africa, for two years. She will be organizing and coaching soccer teams, day camps and other activities to develop the personal and spiritual growth of youth. Over half of the population of Malawi is under age 15, so this is a vital ministry. To quote Sarah, "I desire the chance to bring hope and love to situations where God is not known."



Sarah has been a coach at Holland Hall School the past five years so is well suited to this ministry. She has also been part of our children's ministry growing up and our youth ministry as a participant and as a leader. She asks for our prayers as she goes to serve God and the youth of Malawi. Please join us in praying for her in this ministry.

Look for the new Oklahoma & Global mission yearbook coming out mid-February!