



JUNE 2007

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

Volunteers In Mission News

Volunteers Needed

- Project Transformation volunteers needed (see article)

Donations Needed

- Paper goods, art supplies for Project Transformation (see article)
- White & color copy paper, white card stock (8 1/2 X 11), manila file folders, legal hanging folders, electrical tape, 1" view binders, blank DVD & CD for The Little Light House

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

Rio Bravo Update

Upon my call to go to Rio Bravo I was very optimistic due to what other people had told me. As we met at the airport at 5 am, I saw the team of fourteen MEN - most of whom I have seen around church, but never met. I was filled with energy as we traveled to do God's work. Once we crossed the border into Mexico, I quickly realized that we also crossed cultures. After we arrived on location to build our casita, I looked at the tall stack of cement blocks and started to wonder how within two days we would build a home. It didn't take long to see how God could make eight people into one; it was simply amazing. Watching the walls go up, you could see the enjoyment in the family's eyes. Every night the team joined for dinner (cooked by our famous chef, Kenyon) and worship. In this time of worship, the team not only grew closer together; we grew deeper in our relationship with God. Finishing the homes on the 2nd day and dedicating them on the 3rd was absolutely astonishing. The family prepared lunch on the 3rd day to celebrate their new home. I have never tasted tamales that delicious! After completion of the casita, I stopped and was delighted at God's work. In three days he used our Asbury teams to bring God's love to families in Rio Bravo - a wonderful trip suitable for anyone. "He is the one who will build a house for my Name." 2 Samuel 7:13 *By Matt Hester*

Cookson Hills VIM Update

I left for my first mission trip May 18th, headed to Cookson Hills. Although it wasn't far away and it seemed like a small mission, I returned home more blessed than I could have ever imagined. Our group of 10 left Asbury headed to Cookson, not knowing each other or what God had in store for us during the weekend. When we arrived at Cookson Friday morning, we were kindly greeted by the volunteer coordinator who quickly gave us a tour and started with her long "to-do" list. The biggest project was the garden...or what she claimed to be a garden. There were vegetables growing in it, but we weren't sure how it was possible amongst all the weeds, leaves and miscellaneous items. The food that is grown in the garden is used to feed the seniors at Cookson. Other tasks included washing vehicles used for transporting children and seniors to and from Cookson, cleaning out the greenhouse, painting the office, scraping paint of the floor of a trailer and mowing/trimming the premises. Honestly, I had zero knowledge about a garden, but thanks to my fellow trip mates I quickly learned. We grilled out a wonderful meal which was followed by a late night of dominoes. I remember sitting there at the end of the night, feeling like I was hanging out with my best friends, then recalling I had just met many of these people only hours ago. God is amazing! Saturday was another full day of work. By the end of the day, we had a beautiful garden filled with newly planted seeds of beans, squash, and cucumbers to add to the already growing carrots, beets, radishes, onions, potatoes, lettuce and spinach. The Cookson seniors will be well fed! Saturday night was spent around a campfire, eating s'mores, laughing, praying and enjoying our new friends. Sunday morning we went to a church in Vian, OK and then enjoyed one last meal before saying our dreadful good byes. God is wonderful and he works in wonderful ways. I never would have thought a weekend a few hours away, with 10 complete strangers, pulling weeds 8 hours a day could change my life and have me asking "where should I go for my second mission trip?" *By Nicole McCants*

Pray for these VIM teams that will be serving & check the website for updates:

- June 13-24-Quito, Ecuador, Construction and Mission Bible School
- June 13-25-Azerbaijan, Construction and Teaching
- June 13-25-Estonia, Lighthouse, Construction and Mission Bible School
- June 21-July 2-Estonia, Camp Gideon, Construction and Programs
- June 27-July 9-Tanzania, East Africa, Medical
- July 7-14-Pitorreal, Mexico, Construction and Mission Bible School

Global Outreach News

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITIES

The New Life Deaf Ministry (NLDM) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, is a non-denominational ministry that is supported by Baptist, Disciples of Christ, non-denominational, and United Methodist churches in the USA, including Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. NLDM operates "Manos Felices/Happy Hands" the only academic Christian school for Deaf children in Honduras. They began with a pre-k class in 2003 with 5 children and one teacher. Now it has a pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade classes totaling 40 students, 4 teachers, and 4 assistants; including the only certified Deaf teacher in Honduras and a teacher who has Usher's syndrome (Deaf-blind). The ministry was responsible in supporting an interpreter training program at the University of Honduras in Tegucigalpa. They also do community outreach in helping local physicians refer deaf children to Manos Felices and providing resources & training for parents of deaf children. The executive director of this amazing ministry (she's like the Thomas Gallaudet of Honduras) is Christy Owens. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches and has a master's degree from the University of Arkansas. A few years ago she adopted a precious Honduran girl, Lillian, who has autism. Christy will be in Texas during August 10-27 and would like to visit churches in Texas and Oklahoma during

that time. If a community has any interest in having Christy come in August, please let Mary Ann Smith or Missy Sistrunk know and arrangements will be made. There will be no cost to the community for getting her to Tulsa.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Nicole McCants and the Covenant Community for preparing layette kits that were taken to the United Methodist Committee on Relief truck at Annual Conference in Oklahoma City. They prepared ten layettes that will be given to families in times of crisis around the world.

The Global Outreach Leadership Team also sent a gift of \$1,000 to be applied to the Nothing but Nets campaign being conducted at Annual Conference in Oklahoma City.

PRAYER NEEDED

Please continue to pray for our college students listed in last month's Mission Matters. Prayer brochures are available from the GO office.

Pastor Tom (June 1-7) and Mary Ann (June 1-11) are in Tallinn, Estonia attending the graduation of the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary and the Board of Trustees Meeting. Mary Ann will also be visiting in our sister congregation in Parnu, Estonia.

Regional Outreach News

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION DONATIONS

Project Transformation provides a fun and educational summer day camp for deserving children. Selection is based on economic and educational need. They will be collecting markers, masking tape, construction paper, colored chalk, beads, leather ribbon, popsicle sticks, paint brushes, watercolor sets, pencils, glitter, stickers, clay, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, Zip-lock bags (sandwich size), brown bags, foil, and lunches for 7 interns at Southern Hills UMC. Donations can be dropped off in the missions office and lunches are taken to Southern Hills. The most important donation is time. We need volunteers to listen to children read the first three weeks of July. Contact Missy Sistrunk to volunteer.



Tony and Alicia, youth mentors with Youth at Heart, shared their experiences from the Asbury youth missions in Mexico with the Regional Outreach Council. Tony is a student at Booker T. Washington and Alicia goes to Edison.

COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL MISSIONS

Covenant visits Child S.H.A.R.E.

Covenant provided child care which enabled foster parents to attend a support group meeting.



Purpose Driven Fellowship visits the United Methodist Children's Home

PDF spent a day at the home fixing up the grounds and hosting a cookout for the girls. PDF participated in a Regional Outreach funded project with the Circle of Care facility. Contact Beth McCalman to see how your community can participate in this program.