



JUNE 2008

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

Volunteers In Mission News

Donations Needed

- Paper products-toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, paper plates, and Kleenex for Project Transformation
- Eyeglasses, travel size soap, shampoo, and lotion for missions
- Campbell's Soup labels

Volunteers Needed

- July 7-10, Project Transformation
- July 31-Aug. 10, Estonia Parnu VIM Team openings

"Every heart with Christ is a missionary. Every heart without Christ is a mission field."

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

Cookson Hills VIM Update

Before I left on my first overnight mission trip to Cookson Hills, Marilene Long reminded me "to focus on the relationships, not the tasks"; then, she asked me to present a short devotional to the group – my first task. As I prepared the devotional, I went to *The Bible* for inspiration and found this passage (John 6:28-29): "They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Marilene's words rang true - to do tasks for the Lord, first in involves a relationship with the Lord.

We met on a Friday morning at Asbury, said a prayer, packed into vehicles and were off. I discovered that several participants had worked together at Cookson Hills the previous year – wow, they must have liked it enough to sign up, again.

Once we arrived at Cookson Hills, we unloaded our bags, and Verna set out the lunch buffet. Before we could start eating, a stranger walked up to the mission asking for help – he said he was hungry and looked like he could use a shower. My task was to make a sandwich for him. (Colleen, mission director at Cookson, made sure that he got a shower and washed his clothes.)

After lunch Tony and Jenny were to repair tears in the gym wall and ceiling "lining" and use a gigantic cherry picker which had been rented for the task; Paul, Michael, Tony and I were to start patching and painting in a new medical clinic; and Verna was to work on the food preparation. We all set about our tasks.

Tony and Jenny did not know how to use a cherry picker – Jenny wanted to read the instructions, and Tony wanted to play with the gears in a trial-and-error way; so, they compromised. With a few jerks and starts, they figured out how to operate the large machine and started their task of taping the gym lining on the ceiling. Those of us in the medical clinic divided the painting tasks into repairing, trimming and rolling. By mid-afternoon we realized that we were painting with oil-based paint and were covered head-to-toe with the sticky stuff! We laughed so hard, but were still finding bits of paint on us days later.

On Saturday four others joined us in our tasks on a "day" mission. At the end of the day, we sat around a huge bonfire, joining in devotional, praying, singing and roasting marshmallows. The tasks had been assigned and accomplished, but, in the process, we had created relationships: laughing together, sharing together, celebrating and eating together and praying together. From our relationships with Christ, came the outpouring of work for Him, our relationships with each other and our relationships with those who will be greatly helped by the tasks which were performed. We all found the following passage to be the truth (II Cor 9:7-8): "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed..." At the end of my first mission trip I knew that it was relationships, not tasks, which were at the heart of mission work.

By Kathy Bunting



Rio Bravo VIM Update

When I committed to the Rio Bravo trip, I thought it'd be a good excuse to hang out with the guys - something I've been sorely missing. There's no substitute for Christian men fellowshiping & working together. Little did I know, but God wanted me there for something else - to reinforce in me that being a Christian isn't about knowing - it's about living. I had volunteered to lead the devotionals each night and was led to the book of Colossians. In the Message translation, Colossians 2:6-7 says, "You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it!" I was confronted with the fact that I've been spending too much time studying and not enough living. God used the guys on the trip to do real teaching - they lived the gospel which was a much louder and clearer message than any devotional I've ever led. Thanks guys for teaching me with your actions what I was trying to teach you with words!

By David Hurd

Oklahoma Outreach News

Habitat Build Began May 17

The address of the site is 109 N. Olympia. Take BA Expressway to Denver Exit, north on Denver to Archer, west or left on Archer, Archer to Olympia and turn right. Habitat building update or rainout information number is 280-7125.

Congratulations!

Congratulations go out to Bob McNett who was Volunteer of the Year at Walt Whitman!

Walt Whitman

On May 1, the UMW at Asbury was treated to a musical program by students from Walt Whitman



Elementary. The children sang, drummed and there was a visit from the "Supremes." The children were brought here through donations of Asbury members. They were treated to pizza and A & W Root Beer. Mr. Thompson is a professional musician who has toured many countries performing. He has a desire to teach children and is with a program through the Arts and Humanities Council. He will be teaching the children math with the use of drums and will be teaching some musing as well.

Alissa and Katie enjoyed their time in Mexico on Spring Break Missions. Alissa is on staff at Youth At Heart and Katie is a high school student involved in the Youth At Heart program.



Picher Donations

Donations for relief in Picher can be mailed to:

American Red Cross
P.O. Box 995
Tulsa, OK 74182

Community Club Awards to Benefit Operation Hope

Receipts from the following merchants can be dropped off in the mission office to benefit Operation Hope Prison Ministry: Akin's Natural Food Market, Drysdale's, Mary Ruby Apparel, McDonald's, QuikTrip, Wal-Mart, Sanders Nursery, Yale Cleaners, Ziegler Art Framing. Pick up one of the Community Club Awards 2008 booklets in the mission office for more details.

Global Outreach News

ASIA RELIEF EFFORTS – HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations will be accepted to be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. A check written to Asbury and noted for China or Myanmar will be sent on to UMCOR. The latest news from UMCOR about relief efforts are as follows:

CHINA: Ten days after a massive earthquake struck China's Sichuan Province on May 12, the death toll stood at 51,151, according to the Chinese government, with 288,431 injured and another 29,328 missing. The estimate of those left homeless by the quake is a staggering 5 million. A United Methodist-supported relief team has been assessing the needs of earthquake survivors in several Chinese villages and distributing emergency supplies. On May 21, the Amity Foundation team distributed 6.8 tons of oil and 1,700 quilts in the villages of Penghua and Wolong. Other materials such as waterproof cloths and rice were being purchased. "Villagers were quite surprised at the speedy action as the need assessment was only done yesterday in these two villages," She wrote. "Villagers took active part in the distribution by helping unloading the goods and putting up Amity banner."

MYANMAR: UMCOR is taking part in a \$5 million appeal by Action by Churches Together to help up to 1.3 million Cyclone Nargis survivors in Myanmar. The resulting program will help the people of Myanmar recover from the devastating May 2 cyclone that has taken an estimated 100,000 lives and left at least 2 million homeless. ACT

partners have thus far been able to reach more than 100,000 people with direct aid and have established 21 assistance centers in the affected areas. UMCOR is also providing relief through the Methodist Church of Lower Myanmar. They are providing assistance to the most vulnerable people in their area. Immediate relief efforts will focus on providing water, food, medicine and temporary shelter. Families and orphaned children will be the primary recipients of the aid. Counseling will also be offered to traumatized children. There is only one child with us who has not lost one or both parents," explained Myo Lin to an ACT partner about the situation of his group that was displaced by the cyclone. "These children are traumatized. Some cannot talk about what happened yet," Lin continues. "But it is not just the children who are suffering. The eight families here have lost 12 children between them," he said describing the incredible loss of life.

Your prayers are also needed in both of these countries.

Pray for our VIM teams as they will be out serving this month:

- ◆ June 12-23: Estonia, Lighthouse Team doing Mission Bible School and Construction
- ◆ June 18-30: Tanzania Medical Team
- ◆ June 26-July 7: Estonia, Camp Gideon Team helping with Camps and Construction
- ◆ All college students doing summer missions are in the weekly prayer letter.