



NOVEMBER 2007

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

Volunteers in Mission News

Donations Needed

- Monetary donations for Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Baskets
- Old cell phones
- Used printer cartridges
- Copy paper, art/craft supplies, food establishment gift certificates for Youth at Heart

Check the website under Regional Outreach for ongoing needs.

Volunteers Needed

- **Nov. 18,** Redemption Dinner (see article)
- **Nov. 19,** Thanksgiving Baskets assembly/delivery, contact Jamie Schaffitzel at 369-0631.

Prayer

- **Nov. 7-11,** Monterrey Medical and Rio Bravo Construction VIM Teams

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 10,** VIM Leader Training and Disaster Early Response Training (DERT) at Boston Avenue UMC, contact Marilene
- **Dec. 12,** 6 pm in the CLC, Global Outreach Dinner, all are welcome, contact Missy for reservations

Azerbaijan Updates

During my trip to Azerbaijan, I had an opportunity to see the body of Christ working together the way it was designed. My roommate Rachel and I joined a group from College Park Church (CPC) in Indianapolis, Indiana in September. Conflicts with work schedules and vacation kept us from joining the Asbury team, but through this I was able to see the Azerbaijani Partnership at work. Made up of a handful of different churches (including Asbury and CPC) in the United States and onsite missionaries, the partnership is focused on reaching the Azerbaijani people with the Gospel. It was refreshing that Asbury gave their blessing for Rachel and me to join the CPC group without hesitation and that CPC invited Rachel and me in as they would one of their own members.

In the country, I met people from all over the world working to build up the body of Christ. The most powerful way in which I saw the body of Christ at work was through the prayers of over 120 people who committed to pray for us during the trip. Even the fulltime workers in the country were astounded by the way God opened doors. In addition I know there was prayer support backing the Asbury team, whose trip overlapped ours by a few days. I wish I had space to tell you all the stories of how God opened doors for us to speak specifically about Jesus and how He provided for our every need, but I hope you can see a glimpse of what I was able to experience of the body of Christ. We really are just one church made up of millions of congregations that can reach the Azerbaijani people with the love of Jesus.

By Amie Lorson

I recently returned from an Asbury VIM trip to Azerbaijan & have been asked several times if it was a "good" trip. How does one define "good?"

Azerbaijan is a country which seems to be in the midst of an identity crisis. A former Soviet bloc republic, Azerbaijan would like to be considered part of Europe, but at the same time some wants to cling to its tacit Islamic roots. However, it is neither Islamic nor European. It is unfortunately, atheist. This unbelief in any higher being makes it an extremely difficult place to "enjoy."

Our team visited a missionary family in a city 5 ½ hours away from the major city of Baku. Here, they run an organization responsible for a vo-tech school which teaches children English, computers, carpet-making and carpentry. The goal of the school (other than expanding God's kingdom) is to meet one of the most important needs in which many Azeris are deficient; employable skills. While there, I spent most of my time in English classes, while others taught cooking classes which the children absolutely loved.

We also visited two different orphanages; one for infants to four years old, and another for children aged five to seventeen. In addition, we visited a psychiatric hospital which is also supported by the missionary's organization. The trip was difficult to "enjoy" for many reasons. First, the poverty in which many of the people live will boggle the mind of any western visitor. Second, the looks of despair and hopelessness on the faces of the Azeri people is truly saddening and will break one's heart.

On the other hand, the community of believers in this city is alive and well. They risk life and limb to practice their faith and I feel very humbled when I think of their strength and perseverance. There is also the hope on the faces of the kids at the school. They look at us and wonder why it is that we are there. Maybe someday, another believer can have the conversation with them that we could not.

So, was this a "good" trip for me? If good means fun, then no it was not. As I said, this was a very difficult trip for me to take. However, I think it was good for me to be reminded of all I have. I think it was good for me to see that maybe my college loans, car payments, credit cards etc. are problems that many people throughout the world would love to have. These are "problems" for us, but for many people it would mean that they actually were able to attend college and drive a car. Above all, this trip demonstrated to me that God is God in Azerbaijan, just as he is in Tulsa.

By Jordon Stone

VIM News (cont.)

Monterrey Construction and MBS Update

"Go on a vacation, come back happy; go on a mission trip and come back with joy." This line from Dave Wuellner, our team leader, stuck in my head as the nine of us stood at the Tulsa airport at 4:00 am bound for Monterrey, Mexico. Most of the team had been there before and some were new to this, but all of us were eager to get started.

Monterrey is the second largest city in Mexico and like many other South American cities, the differences between the "haves" and the "have not's" is substantial. We did construction work all day and presented a Mission Bible School with the neighborhood kids in the evenings. Our lodging was at the Episcopal Center where we were treated exceptionally well. Our work location was 20 miles outside of Monterrey in a town called Amilio Zapata. Here the church is reaching out to people who have little materially, but have large hearts for our Lord. We helped by painting and starting the second floor addition to the church building. In the future, this small church wishes to have facilities to house mission teams and an office for their pastor.

To say that the people have a lot to overcome is an understatement. With the extensive drug use and the poor living conditions, they struggle daily. They have electricity and well water, but that is where the conveniences end. What I'll remember most is how wonderfully they love God even though they have so little by our standards. They have a glow about them that made me smile just to see them. They care so much for each other that it made me sad for us back home. They are a beautiful people.

We worked hard, played hard and loved even harder. They are our neighbors and fellow Christians and they definitely brought great joy to me & our team.

By Kathy Owens



Perspectives Coming Soon!

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a 15-week course where you'll learn about God's nature, purpose, and ways in the world. You'll be enabled to let Him grip your heart with the things close to His... and become a vital part of them. This course is designed to equip and mobilize Christians to contribute their own unique abilities in their own strategic place of service to advance the Kingdom whether locally, nationally, or internationally. Students and churches benefit as God brings an increased vision. Classes start January 7th with options at Fellowship Bible Church (91st St west of Sheridan) on Monday nights or at First Christian Church in Owasso (on 86th Street North just east of 169) on Wednesday nights. Scholarships for a portion of the class fees will be offered by Asbury. For more information, you can go to www.tulsaperspectives.org or you can call Mary Ann at 392-1117. You will be blessed by participation in this class!!

Mary Ann Smith (GO)
392-1117

Marilene Long (VIM)
392-1164

Beth McCalman (RO)
392-1116

Missy Sistrunk
392-1163

Regional Outreach News

A & W Needs

Walt Whitman is in need of gently used children's clothing, sizes 4-12. Clothing is given to families in need and to children when they have an "accident" at school.

Volunteers are also needed in the first and fifth grades. The first grade volunteer is needed any day of the week from 12-1 pm and the fifth grade volunteer is needed any day in the morning. Contact Barbie Paige at 250-9194 if interested.

Redemption Dinners

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. Dinner is like a buffet (pot luck) – entrée, salad, starch, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drinks (and ice). Food and drinks to serve 80 people need to be provided. Asbury is committed to provide the dinner on the third Sunday of the month. This is a great community project. **We have an opening for a group to serve on November 18.**

Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets

Financial donations are being accepted for Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets that will be delivered to Youth at Heart and Operation Hope families. The cost for one basket is \$35. Any donation amount is accepted and checks are made payable to Asbury marked "holiday baskets." The **Thanksgiving baskets** will be assembled and delivered on **Monday, November 19**. Assembly of baskets will begin at 2 pm in the CLC. Delivery will begin at 5:00 pm. The **Christmas baskets** will be assembled and delivered on **Tuesday, December 18**. If you would like to volunteer to help with assembly or delivery, please call Jamie Schaffitzel at 369-0631.

Christmas Child

Adopt a Christmas Child by providing a gift for one of our Youth at Heart or Operation Hope children. Names can be selected Sundays, December 9 and 16 in your community or in the CLC Gallery.

Singles Ministry Christmas Shop

During the Christmas season, it becomes more difficult for some families to make ends meet, and many children do not get to experience the joy of selecting and purchasing gifts for others. The Asbury Singles Ministry Christmas Shop will offer some relief from that pressure. On Saturday, December 1, kindergarten children through fifth graders coming from single-parent homes will be "shopping" for their parents, grandparents & siblings, for just \$5 each! The Christmas Shop will be open to children of Asbury families, Grove Elementary, Walt Whitman Elementary and Youth at Heart. To offer your services or resources, e-mail Gretchen Valentine at information@asmtulsa.com ASAP.



Purpose Driven Fellowship spent a day at the Boy's Ranch helping with activities at the annual rodeo. Boys from the ranch and girls from the Children's Home participated in rodeo events.