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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSIONS

Where in the World Are We Going?

Hands of Hope

Hands of Hope, a missions outreach that began about 13 years ago at St. Mark's (San Antonio), teaches women in Honduras, Mexico, and Uganda to design and embroider tapestries depicting village scenes, family life, and artistic fantasies. The products are then hand-finished at the Bishop Jones Center by members of the home team and exhibited and marketed at galleries, churches, and other venues. 100% of the sales are returned to the artists.

Recently, Hands of Hope learned about the impact this ministry is having on the lives of the native women and their families. For most, income from work with HoH is more money than they've ever earned or possessed. One woman was saving towards her wedding; several were buying medicines or finally visiting the clinic; some were buying seeds for their gardens; many were paying children's school fees; and others were beginning micro enterprises. The HoH ministry empowers women to develop their God-given talents to provide for themselves.



To become part of HoH, come to the Bishop Jones Center at 10:00 a.m. any Wednesday. If you're not a stitcher, HoH would welcome your donation for supplies (Hands of Hope, Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, PO Box 6885, San Antonio, TX 78209).

Water=Life (Port Aransas Marina)

- *The fundraiser benefiting The Texas Water Mission and another charity received more than 60 donations totaling \$13,000.*
- *Air temperature 50°, water temperature 73° (6:30 a.m. Nov. 8).*
- *Swimmers: Jeff Hammond, Jen Valla, Michelle Hammons, Mike Lauer.*

Congratulations, team, for a job well done and thanks to all the sponsors who made this happen.

Click on KRISTV news to see a video account: http://www.kristv.com/global/video/popup/pop_playerLaunch.asp?vt1=v&clipFormat=flv&clipId1=3117599&at1=Video

To Kenya with Love by Marthe Curry

I've just returned from a conference for small-business owners in Nairobi, the 4th largest city in Africa with a population between 3-4 million. But we weren't just in any part of Nairobi—we were facilitating the conference in the middle of one of the world's largest slums where approximately 600,000 people live. 80% of the people in the Kariobangi slum live well below the Kenyan poverty level, and “it is estimated that one in every three adults in this region is HIV positive... Because of...deprivation their life expectancy once diagnosed is less than 5 years” (GUA Africa, 2008).

People who live in these slums daily pass open sewage, and most don't even have access to the basic needs of life. Jobs are scarce, but a thriving church in the heart of the slum had a vision to empower their people to become entrepreneurs. That's where we came in. Two missionaries (Moses and Sarah) from Uganda, Alison Barfoot, an Ethiopian evangelist (Getachew), and I were called together to promote *Christian Business Principles for Small Business Owners*.



Moses talked about *Leadership in Business*, *Addressing Your Fears about Business*, and *Faith in Action*. He spoke straight from Scripture and challenged participants to trust God in all their ventures as his children. Sarah was brilliant as she drew from Nobel prize-winning economist Mohammed Unis' philosophy that *the poor can save*. Sarah added a Christian context by asserting that poverty comes from broken relationships—with God and with man—using the Garden of Eden as prime example. By the time she finished, the group was already setting forth policies for their own savings collective. I was asked to address three topics: *Christian Principles in Business*, *Customer Care*, and *Simple Records Keeping*. Using Scripture, role playing, drama, and a variety of methods the team presented issues common to businesspeople. Not only were high ratings given by the clergy and participants, but we were invited for a return engagement building on what had been established in the initial conference.

Incidental to the mission were numerous encounters with various unrelated parties. A taxi driver told me about learning to trust God re finances. He prayed about starting a micro enterprise but had no ideas and, of course, no capital. God reminded him that he had a driver's license, and the young man began praying for a vehicle (an obscene luxury for many in developing countries). At church one day a British visitor came up to him saying that God told her to give him a loan; she did; the vehicle was purchased; and the young man is now repaying the loan. As an aside, he told me that the taxi service is just a way to earn income so that he can share the Gospel with others—just as he had done with me.

Major X, a high-ranking man in the Kenyan military, witnessed to Jesus coming to him in a dream saying, “I am the Way.” After 40 years of reading the K...n, the major began his turn to Jesus. Meanwhile, his small son had a stroke accompanied by meningitis, which rendered him blind and mute. The child was hospitalized with tubes and oxygen. The local pastor came in and said the child would be speaking the next day and told everyone in the ward who did not believe to leave. He prayed. The (continued on p. 4)

Notes about Honduras from Missionary Jeannie Loving

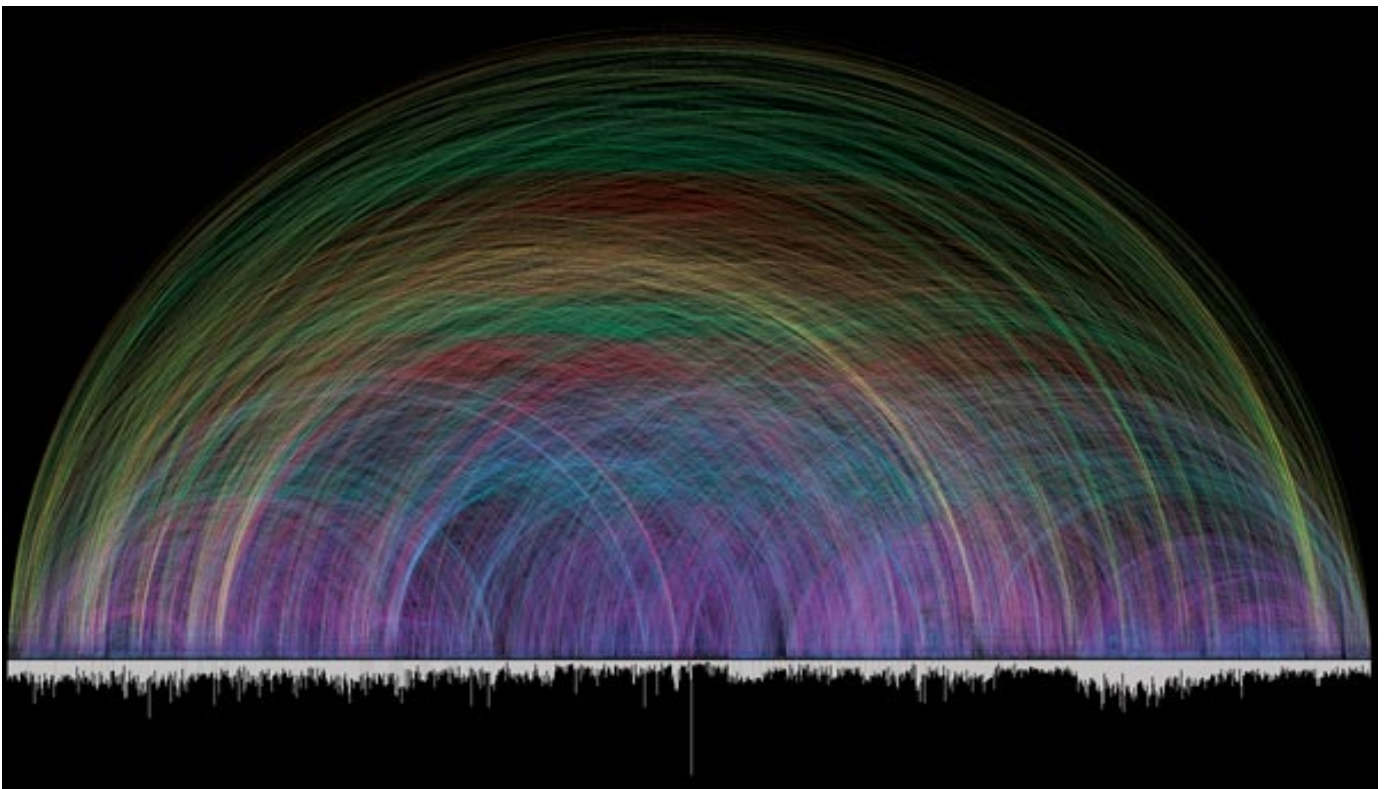
The cost of basic foods, beans, corn, and rice, has increased **50.8%** from January to August.

82% of Hondurans consider beans too expensive for many to eat; **66%** say meat is out of reach; and **55%** say that eggs are too expensive to buy.

And we think we have problems with our economy...



Reference Rainbow



When Christoph Römhild, a Lutheran pastor in Hamburg, Germany, sent Carnegie Mellon Ph.D. student Chris Harrison a list of 63,779 cross-references between the Bible's 1,189 chapters, the two became enthralled with elegantly showing the interconnected nature of Scripture. Each bar along the horizontal axis represents a chapter, with the length determined by the number of verses. (Books alternate in color between white and light gray.) Colors represent the distance between references. Graphic by Chris Harrison, Carnegie Mellon University

(“This article first appeared in November 2008 web issue of *Christianity Today*. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188.”)

URGENT Prayer Needs

JOS DIOCESE, NIGERIA. Christians in this diocese led by Archbishop Ben Kwashi are experiencing severe persecution with scores of people killed; tens of thousands of people being displaced in camps; and a severe shortage of food and water.

ORISSA STATE, INDIA. In anti-Christian riots, many Christians (including nuns) have been burnt alive; churches, houses, and shops have been gutted; Bibles and religious materials have been confiscated; and Christians have been beaten.

NORTHERN KENYA. New converts are often receive death threats and have to flee for their lives as relatives try to force renunciation of their new-found Christianity.

PRAY also for: Sally Weismann and Sally Scurlock who will be teaching ESL in Piedras Negras, Mexico, once monthly until May.

Don't forget **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS** as found in Nov./Dec. issue of **CHURCH NEWS: Women's Vocational Training School (Nebbi, Uganda), Casa Bethesda (Piedras Negras, Mexico), Birthing Center (Siguatepeque, Honduras), Russian and Belarusian Orphans**



To Kenya with Love (contd.)

following day the major came in and saw his little boy sitting up in bed, speaking, and seeing. As a result, the whole family has become vigorous in spreading the Gospel.

I met young people who have fled from their homes after becoming Christians due to severe persecution from their families. One young man told me that his grandfather, a sheik in Arabia, came to Kenya when he heard of his grandson's "defection" and ordered that he be given his head. Even with these persecutions, the faith of this beleaguered group of people continues to grow, and they continue to evangelize the region.

Not only have I left Kenya with a deep appreciation and admiration for this part of the Body of Christ, but I am also inspired and awed by the depth of their commitment to One who "has brought them from death to life." I encourage you to join me in praying for those not only in Kenya but around the world whose faith often costs them this life.

"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you..." I Samuel 12:23 (KJV)