

June 2008

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WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING?

Notes from the Missions Symposium: *How to Develop a Missions Church*

Planting Seeds. Tom Hardin (Christ Church, San Antonio) talks about planting seeds. When you work in a region that isn't steeped in Christian tradition, it's necessary to be creative with the Gospel. That's what Tom and his team members have learned to do.

In the summer of 1998 Tom was part of group working with preteens in a Russian youth camp for orphans. Rather than downplay the Christian aspect of their mission, Tom and those working with him wove Bible stories into games and crafts and even had the children making crosses.

In the winter camp of 2007 Tom and other team members used New Year's Day as a witnessing opportunity. "Do you know about the calendar and how it originated?" they asked. With this simple question as a launching pad, they were able to talk about Jesus and His significance not only to time but to world history.

Tom Rickey (St. Thomas, San Antonio) was part of a seed-planting operation in Bosnia. Amid war-scarred buildings the missions team hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for villagers in the hillside community. As the feast was being served, villagers asked the obvious questions: "Why do you celebrate Thanksgiving?" "What's it all about?" "Why and when did it begin?" Again, the team used the interest created by the occasion to talk about special blessings and the Source of all blessing. They were planting seeds.



"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

Neither one of the Toms knows what has happened to the seeds that were planted. Nor do most of us in our homes or world missions. But we can be assured in our commitment to being faithful and planting—another will water, and God will give the increase (I Cor. 3:6,7).

Start at the Top: Involving the Clergy in World Missions

Ned Bowersox doesn't waste time getting to the point—a vibrant, effective world missions ministry begins with the preacher. As past rector at Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, Ned watched mission teams and programs blossom through *preaching, teaching, and commissioning* for missions. Good Shepherd works outreach and missions into confirmation programs and newcomer orientation urging and encouraging participation. "Let the *parish be the base camp* [for missions]," Ned suggests, "and stress *organization of the mission board*—goal setting, affirmation, proposal, and initiation. *Build relationships and discern where relationships exist* [outside our borders]. And *recruit—person to person. Don't compartmentalize mission* but work it into [every aspect] of the church." Finally, Ned asks, "What are the *core values* of your congregation?"

Recruiting Laypeople: Caroline & Curt Mowen



Caroline and Curt shared three basics for getting laity into world missions: learn, grow, go.

Let them *learn* from experiences shared by those who have gone. Be intentional in setting up opportunities to talk about mission trips and adventures. Use all media available to communicate

about upcoming trips and give full reports afterward. Provide the challenge to *grow* and *go* on a mission. Put the focus on God and why the team is going. Be patient with team members, nationals, and the circumstances of the mission realizing that you are an example. A short-term trip is a good beginning for a novice. There are frequent opportunities in Piedras Negras and other Border ministries.

Some people ask why we should go at all when there are needs

here at home, but that's really to deny the Great Commission to go into all the world—first in Jerusalem (at home), then in Judea (regionally), and into the uttermost parts of the world (internationally). The options are not *either/or*; we can and should be doing it all.

“And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?” Ro.10:14

A Thousand Smiles

Cynthia Drake (St. Stephen's, Wimberley), for 44 years a registered nurse, has worked for the Thousand Smiles Foundation for 13 years. The nonprofit helps poor children with facial deformities. Several years ago, Cynthia introduced the program

to St. Stephen's, and they have been sending volunteers to work in the program in Mexico ever since.

There are any number of ways people help—some are trained professionals,

some counsel, some scrub floors, and some man toothbrushing stations. To learn more about this life-changing work, contact Cynthia at cdrake@ststeve.org

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” Oswald Chambers

Youth in Mission Sarah Lillibridge, Amy & Emily Paschal, Rachel & Sarah Willcox

Would you like to know how to get your church youth involved in world missions? Just ask the Sarahs and Amy or Emily and Rachel. These girls are old pros at mission work—some of them have been at it for years. Besides changing the lives of those they work with in other countries, they each say that working with world missions has changed their lives. Four sage tips they shared at the Symposium will work anywhere:

- ◆ **Provide** a platform for youth to tell their mission stories.
- ◆ **Affirm** their passion for world missions.
- ◆ **Invite** youth to missions meetings.
- ◆ **PLAN** youth mission trips.

We Are Made for Mission by Mary Ann Garrett-Ashby

We are made for mission—all of us. Some go far afield; others support those traveling. No matter how you are involved—helping to raise funds, asking for medicines, medical equipment, supplies and the like, or being on the team that actually goes away—your involvement is important.

Jesus didn't say, "If you feel like it and are so inclined, take a few days a year to travel."

Jesus DID say, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

We are made for mission.

The public health team spent four days driving through the countryside, up and down hills, through rivers, into forests, groves, coffee and pineapple plantations, to schools.

Our message—in addition to simply sharing our Christian lives with the students, teachers, and parents—is of healthy living: Clean hands, clean teeth and hair—general hygiene—and respect for one another and the animals that surround us.

And we taught how to mix pure water, salt and sugar to make the life-saving liquid for people who suffer dehydration.

These are the dry facts. The sweet truth is that the precious faces of the children listening to us and the wide smiles stole our hearts and made us wish we had more time.

The Escuela Carita de Angel for special students was our first, and they were indeed special. This facility for some 80 students includes sign language training, cosmetology, and general life skills for students with Down Syndrome as well as reading, writing, and math classes.

The villages at the end of the road have the least in resources, as do their students. Our time in those places makes us acutely aware of their need and of our dependence on the generosity of others.

In a week of highlights, seeing the progress of construction of the Birthing Center was terrific. What a blessing! The current facility provides a clean, safe, and well-staffed place for women to give birth. The new one will be a modern maternity clinic.

On our first visit to the Birthing Center, we saw a new mother with her baby and its grandparents. On our second, we saw three women in labor. I blessed them and their bulges. By early evening, a tiny girl and robust boy had been born. Claudia Gabriela Nunez was still waiting. I pray for a safe delivery of a healthy baby for her. Betty Chumney and Marthe Curry—of the office for World Mission at the Diocese of West Texas—had sent 20 Rag Dolls 2 Love with us, and we presented three to those in labor and left the remaining 17 for others.



In a week of incredible moments, one came when we went to our third school of the day on Wednesday, down to only 25 gift bags containing toothbrush, comb, soap and a pencil. We were told there would be 30 students. We were downhearted but prayerful. On arriving, we were told by the teacher that he had 25 students; two were absent that day. Just enough, right on the nose. Could it get more perfect? God is so good.

The four veterinarian teams—made up of experienced doctors of veterinary medicine as well as university undergraduates and vet school students—including a sizeable contingent from Michigan State University—vaccinated 6,418 animals in four days! Those students are experienced practitioners now, having had the capable leadership of dedicated doctors who are generous with their skill and knowledge. We began as disparate persons and returned a Body.

Upcoming Mission Trips: Prayer List

June 27-July 29. CHINA. YWAM “King’s Kids.” Kymmie Lowe and Amy Natek (St. Mark’s, Corpus Christi youth).

July 7-17. UGANDA. VBS, Women’s Conference. Marthe Curry, Team Leader (210-824-5387 or mcurry09@sbcglobal.net). Mary Beth Epps, Debbie Gardner, Sallie Hackney, Laura Hardin, Sarah Judson, Melony & Jim Roche, Hillary Snedeker.

July 13-19. TISHOMINGO, OK, INDIAN RESERVATION. Youth Work Camps. Dripping Springs Youth Group. Adult Team: Kristen Carlton, Brooke Elliott, Beki Treadway. Youth Team: Ariel Axelrod, Willis Carlton, Grace Elliott, Ali & Tory Giles, Alex Payne, Megan Rose, Matt Sanborn, Davis & Thad Schneider, Justin & Tanner Treadway.

July 15-18. HARLINGEN, LOAVES & FISHES HOMELESS SHELTER. St. David’s Junior High Group.

July 20-August 1. RUSSIA. Youth Camps. Trent Timberlake, Team Leader.

July 29-26. MEXICO, PIEDRAS NEGRAS. VBS, Iglesia El Buen Pastor. John Harrison, Team Leader. For information, call Bobby Hausser (210-415-5597).

July 31-August 9. HONDURAS. Water Ministry. Louis Manz (210-492-4482, lmanz@satx.rr.com) and Weldon Hammond, Team Leaders. Boy Scouts and TMI students; ESL; hygiene; children’s programs. Maria & Anthony Byron III & Anthony Byron, Jr., Richard Corda, Kiersten Ellis, Jerry & William Fischer, Pamela Haines, Terry Hayes, Kathleen Manz, Arthur Meier, Janice & David Nichols, Barbara & Joseph & Robert & Walter Paulissen, Michael Pieprzica.

August 1-14. BELARUS. Good Shepherd (Corpus Christi), St. David’s (San Antonio). Erin Koehler & Greg Robertson (361-215-5559, firstrockinc@msn.com), Team Leaders. For information, call Elva Martinez (361-882-1735).

August 1-31 (weekends). MEXICO, PIEDRAS NEGRAS. ESL tutoring to youth at Buen Pastor. Judy Durbin, Sally Wiseman.

September 1-9. RUSSIA, ST. PETERSBURG. Russian orphanages. Mark Fowler, Team Leader (Christ Church, San Antonio).

October (TBA). SE MEXICO. Veterinary and Public Health. Bill Campaigne, Team Leader (830-379-3821, wcc711@hotmail.com). *Need veterinarians, public health team members, fluent Spanish speakers.*

October 5-13. SE MEXICO. Continuing Education for Clergy, Tapestry, Prayer Teams.

October 16-25. HONDURAS. Water Ministry. Drilling, Hygiene. Curt Mowen, Team Leader (210-493-5057, ccmowen@satx.rr.com). *Need team members.*

*It's not what you're going through that matters;
it's what you're going to that counts.*