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# WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING?

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### Mission of Hope in Belarus by Caroline Mowen

*Are you doing this for God's glory or your own?* When I thought about writing a brief article on our recent trip to Belarus, these words kept coming back to me. What is God's glory in a country where the government has citizens so worried that even opening their own business is foreboding...in a country where Vodka is \$2 a bottle and alcoholism affects 80% of its inhabitants...in a country where children are removed from homes due to parents being alcoholics and not being able to care for them...in a country where children, removed from their homes, are taken to orphanages and then turned onto the street at 18 with no life skills?

These are tough questions; but, through God's grace there are answers. One answer is providing monetary donations for homemade gifts by autistic and handicapped children at the Isle of Hope where donations help this private daycare for the autistic and handicapped pay bills for the month. Another answer is found in the face to face contact made with people and orphans. *(Read inside for more information.)*



### ANNUAL MISSIONS SYMPOSIUM IS AROUND THE CORNER:

**Saturday, June 14, 9:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Hear from clergy, lay people, and youth on how to develop a missions-minded church. Registration form at [dwtx.org](http://dwtx.org) or call 888/210-824-5387.**

## Russia/Belarus Connection

For about ten years churches in the diocese have been going to this region of the world working in orphanages and transitional homes as well as supporting long term missionaries. Through fundraising efforts and apportionment funds, we have provided computers, farm projects, an orphanage greenhouse, refurbished orphanage kitchens and bedrooms, bought a car and a washing machine, provided medical supplies, and paid salaries for support staff. Additionally, camping programs and trips to the United States have been facilitated by your generous giving.

This year alone teams from Christ Church (San Antonio), St. Matthew's (San Antonio), St. Luke's (San Antonio), Reconciliation (San Antonio), Good Shepherd (Corpus Christi), and St. David's (San Antonio) will have participated in five separate mission trips to Belarus or Russia. Not only have their home churches sponsored them, but additional support has come from St. Barnabas (Fredericksburg).



Seeing this huge amount of support in the diocese and love for the orphans in the region, Baroness Caroline Cox invited us to collaborate with HART (Humanitarian Aid & Rehabilitation Trust) in yet another ministry to create foster homes for institutionalized children. Building on the work that has already been done, our World Missions Department is studying the capacity of our resources to move into such an ambitious, broad-reaching ministry. It has the potential of reaching out and touching thousands of institutionalized children in the former USSR.

On May 29, our own diocesan experts in the field came together to listen to reports and exchange ideas for the way forward in the Russia/Belarus Connection. Topics of discussion were:

- Challenges
- Funding
- Current activities
- Communications
- Collaboration
- Governmental issues

Participants asked that another meeting be conducted within three months to pursue collaboration with one another and to discuss future initiatives. **IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS MINISTRY**, please contact Marthe Curry, [mcurry09@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcurry09@sbcglobal.net) or 888/210-824-5387.

## Jennifer Leber's Visit to DWTX

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Jennifer Leber, missionary to Uganda, has been an invaluable resource for our West Texas missions teams working in that country. We had an opportunity to return the hospitality when Jennifer accepted our invitation to have a taste of the diocese at the beginning of our summer season.

Lunch and lively discussion with the Northeast Clericus meeting in San Marcos was our first stop, and then the train moved on to St. Luke's in San Antonio to visit with the World Missions Committee and the Community of Hope who will be supporting this ministry as intercessors.

The next day we moved to the Bishop Jones Center and a devotional with the diocesan staff. Several hours later, we were in the parlor of Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, for a generous lunch and presentation to the World Missions Committee.

Next stop—many miles and another day later—Jennifer was introduced to Harlingen and the Senior Lunch Bunch for Eucharist and sharing of her ministry with traumatized women and children and Kampala-based Women of Purpose (founded by Mama Phoebe Orombi).

Laredo—Christ Episcopal Church—was our last stop. We participated in morning Eucharist where Jennifer talked about the loneliness of being in a foreign country with no friends and learning compassion by seeing and befriending the hurting. After Eucharist, the church handed out refreshments and bags of food for the needy. There was also an opportunity for them to browse in the thrift shop with its astonishing bargains.

Back at home base, the World Missions Committee of Christ Church, San Antonio, gathered to share Jennifer's mission for touching lives in Uganda with



the Good News. She extended an invitation to send teams for a variety of projects with women, children, in Internally Displaced Camps (IDPs), in schools, in worship ministry, and with the Women of Purpose.

*Thanks to everyone who hosted Jennifer and West Texas representatives.*

To learn more about the ministry of Jennifer and Phil Leber, check out their web site at:

<http://ugandamission.org/>

## Mother's Day Offering

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The total giving for this year's Mother's Day offering—to date—is

**\$22,000.00**

God bless everyone who participated. Funds from this offering will go to help children and vulnerable and suffering women around the world.

## Upcoming Mission Trips: Prayer List

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May 20-June 7. HONDURAS. Water Ministry. Curt Mowen, Team Leader (210-493-5057). *Need volunteers: drilling, hygiene, ESL, children's program.*

May 30-June 7. HONDURAS. Medical/dental. St. Andrew's, Seguin. Angie de los Santos, Team Leader (830-305-6029). *Needs: microscope, two portable examination tables/beds/folding screens.*

June 6 & 7. PIEDRAS NEGRAS. Group from Victoria. Bobby Hausser, Team Leader.

June 6-13. HONDURAS and GUATEMALA. Education in Siguatepaque, Honduras, and Comalapa, Guatemala. St. David's, San Antonio. Nena King and Murry Mux, Team Leaders (210-656-9213). Vicky and Ellie Gobel, Sally Hurd, Erin Koehler, The Rev. James Murguia, Victor Mux, Melissa Watkins.

June 7-14. HONDURAS, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara Area. Medical/dental. Rio Grande Valley Team. Vicki Knipp, Team Leader (956-605-8264, vknipp2@sbcglobal.net). *Medical personnel and interpreters needed.*

June 8-14. MEXICO, Piedras Negras. Medical mission using the CPC clinic and working with Padre Miguel Cristerna and Iglesia Buen Pastor; house construction in colonia working with CPC (*Constructores para Cristo*). Gene Alderman, Donna Bardgett, Bill and Peter Barth, Annette and Jim Burk, Marie Butterbaugh, Rod Haf, Jeanette Knight, Tina and Mike Kuykendall, Erin McCabe, John McClung, Tom McGehee, Jeff Rochelle and family, David and Jeanette Ross, Judy and Lee Rux, Andy and Deems Smith, Libby Spoede, Sue Todd, Linda Trevino, Jake and Rene Weller, Jonathan Wickham, Chica and John Younger.

June 11– July 5. MEXICO, San Cristobal de las Casas. Building Iglesia San Benito Nurcia. The Rev. Mary Ann Garrett-Ashby, Team Leader. Teams from DWTX and Louisiana.

June 15-21. BROWNSVILLE. VBS & Sports Camp Construction. Christ Church, San Antonio, Youth Group.

June 20. HONDURAS, Nueva Esperanza. Manos team.

June 21-28. SOUTHEAST MEXICO, Playa Vicente. Medical/dental. Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, and St. Mark's, Beaumont. Dr. John Navar, Team Leader. Contact Elva Martinez (361-882-1735).

June 27-July 29. CHINA. YWAM "King's Kids." Kymmi Lowe and Amy Natek (St. Mark's, Corpus Christi youth).

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