

April, 2011

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

Where in the world are we going? Thanks to you...

# St. Andrew's Missions Weekend

by Marthe Curry

A missions conference on the beach? Well, that's almost what we experienced with our invitation to St. Andrew's in Port Isabel. And we were joined by people from several local churches and a couple from Brownsville to learn and talk about God's work in the world.

Duane Miller, one of our diocesan missionaries to the Middle East (Jordan and Israel), was joined by his wife Sharon as they talked about outreach in the Palestinian communities of Nazareth and life in a Muslim context.

Duane teaches at a seminary in Nazareth and discussed contrasts and comparisons between Islam and Christianity using both the Bible and the Koran. He and Sharon speak Arabic and have chosen immersion in the local community rather than the isolation of an ex-pat society.

Sharon spoke about the unique characteristics of women in a Muslim society—dress, behavior, attitudes, opportunities—and the enrichment their family has received in the experience of serving as missionaries. The children are growing up in the Middle East, speak Arabic, and miss their favorite foods when they come to the U.S. to visit.

I got to talk about all the remarkable ministries in which DWTX is involved around the world and the way they have personally touched my life. I learned so much from listening to Sharon and Duane, and the people of St. Andrew's (under Eric and Janet Fenton's leadership) were superb hosts.

If your church is interested in conducting a missions weekend or conference, let us know. We have a number of inspiring speakers and people who would love to share the blessing of mission. Call or email us: Betty Chumney (chumneyb@aol.com), Marthe Curry (mcurry09@sbcglobal.net); 888/210-824-5387.



## Upcoming Missions Events:

- *Mother's Day Offering*
- *Fishin' for Mission—June 24 & 25, Rockport*
- *Summer Mission Symposium—Aug. 20, Bp. Jones Center*
- *Bishops' Thanksgiving Reception—Nov. 3, San Antonio Country Club*

## The Clinic at Rifiki Children's Center, Kenya

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The Rafiki Children's Center, home to about 70 HIV/AIDS orphans, is a ministry with which DWTX has been associated for a number of years. This past year, a one day free medical camp was held at the Clinic, and 117 people from the community received treatment in a single day.

In February 2011, an American team came to the Center for a 4 day medical camp. The camp drew in hundreds of people from within the community and beyond. A review of the medical records of 219 people showed that 43% of the patients reside in Nderi, the closest town. This area has a population of about

80,000 people and is home to some of the poorest people in the country with many of them living on less than one dollar per day. Hypertension, characterized by a systolic pressure of 140 and above was present in 39% of the adults who got their blood pressure taken. Arthritis and other joint related problems accounted for 21% of the patients seen during the medical camp.

Student graduates from the orphanage come back to help the Clinic nurse and lab

technician. As you can see, medical teams are needed as is financial support for medications and a physician's assistant.

To learn more, contact Betty Chumney or Marthe Curry (888/210-824-5387).



## Notes about Water (The Economist, 3/26/11)

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- An estimated 60 million people in Pakistan may not have access to clean drinking water, and 100,000 child deaths a year can be blamed on unsafe water.
- In India, between one-half and two-thirds of hospital beds are occupied by people suffering water-borne diseases.

## “Do come to Tanzania...”

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An Anglican priest from Tanzania recently wrote saying he's visited our web site and is “struck by [our] commitment to spread the Gospel to other parts of this world through the world mission.” He goes on to write that their district is one of the poorest in Tanzania and has been

hosting refugees from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda since 1970. This Tanzanian brother concludes his email with: “My diocese is in need of people like you. Our people are very generous, and Tanzania is the most peaceful country in Africa. We have

never fought. Do come to Tanzania, please, and see what is happening there.”



## Jeannie—Loving Honduras

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If you don't receive a copy of Jeannie Loving's newsletter, drop everything and email her at [jeannieloving@sams-usa.org](mailto:jeannieloving@sams-usa.org). Tell her you want to be on her mailing list, and you want to know what she's up to.

Here's a portion of her latest email:

"I had a great day today in San Lorenzo hauling water by oxcart to water the trees that are part of the reforestation. Not only was it my first ride in an oxcart, it was very relaxing. Tito, the oxcart driver, was surprised I hadn't ridden in oxcarts in the U.S. I had to tell him I couldn't remember ever even seeing an oxcart there! Maybe

some of you have?

"We filled up the barrels at the cattle trough and hauled them up to the school. Later, with some young girls, I watered the trees by the cattle tank and the compost pile that is called 'the cake' due to its square shape and layering. While I was there, a flock of parrots flew over the cattle tank.

"All that, and I got to witness, too. It turns out Tito wants to have his three children baptized and wondered what it would take to do that. He had been waiting for a chance to talk to me about it.

"I rounded off the day by helping to make another eco-stove up in the mountains at Dona Teodosa's house.

"I can't wait to do it all again next week..."

*Looking for a unique gift for Easter or any other time?* Threads of Blessing (aka Hands of Hope) has gorgeous, handmade tapestries on display at the Bp. Jones Center made by women of Uganda. All proceeds go directly to individual women. Call Helen Schnelzer (210-805-0692) or Brenda Kingery (210-829-4926).

### Hebrews 13:3

*Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

## St. George (San Antonio) Ministry Fair

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Chris Dohoney had a great day at St. George's annual Ministry Fair where all the ministries of the parish set up booths, and people took the time to visit back and forth to see what's happening. Chris was invited to represent diocesan missions and to provide information and literature on ways to get involved.

A number of our parishes have ministry fairs that showcase the work of the church and community with suggestions for ways to become involved. Our DWTX World Missions Department loves to be part of these events, and we are always gratified when people say, "I didn't know WE did all this in our diocese."

Please call or contact us. Wonderful things are happening in and through DWTX.

## Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List

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April 12 (New Orleans). St. Luke's, San Antonio. John Badders, Team Leader.

April 25-May 8 (Israel). Scott Brown, Ripp Hardaway, John Badders, Team Leaders.

May 21-27 (Honduras). Veterinary & Public Health. Bill Campaigne, Dickson Bain, Rodger Kleisch, Team Leaders. Randy Lynn, Lynn Campaigne. *Some slots are open for public health, and this team especially needs fluent Spanish speakers.*

Summer (TBA). Puerto Rico. Youth trip. Deedee Hudson, Team Leader. Trinity (Victoria).

June 3-16 (Honduras). Medical Team. Angie de los Santos, Team Leader.

June 10-July 7 (Guatemala & Honduras). Sally & Mark Keddal, Team Leaders. The Owen Project.

Mid-June (SE Mexico). Ron Graham (210-693-6868), Team Leader. Construction. Spanish speakers needed.

July 22-28 (Honduras). (St. David's, San Antonio). Murry & Victor Mux, Team Leaders. Lisa & Kirk Mason.

July (TBA) (Piedras Negras, Mexico). VBS. Bobby Hausser, Amanda Hagy, Team Leaders.

July 7-21. (Goli, Uganda). Elizabeth Allen, Team Leader. VBS. Youth Group of St. Luke's, San Antonio.

October (TBA) (Viet Nam). Dr. Bill Smith.

PRAY FOR OUR LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES: Olson Family (Philippines), Chapman Family (Liberia), Miller Family (Israel), Alison Barfoot (Uganda), Jeannie Loving (Honduras), Harry Gunkel (Israel), Dori and Pedro Zubizarreta (Mexico), Erin Cottos (Haiti).

**\*\*\*PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHAIN OF LOVE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY OR DISEASE IN EMERGING NATIONS. CLICK ON <http://www.saintgeorgeschool.org/> TO DONATE NOW.\*\*\***

**IF YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUEST FOR YOUR MISSION OR UPCOMING TRIP, PLEASE EMAIL US SO THAT WE CAN INCLUDE THIS ON OUR PRAYER LISTS.**