

February, 2011

www.dwtx.org



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

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

What Can You Do with \$13,000?

Come with us, please, to the bright, airy conference room of the Women's Vocational Training Centre, Nebbi Diocese, Uganda, where we met last week with the diocesan Scholarship Committee. The Diocese of West Texas (DWTX) established this program ten years ago in response to the need of local pastors for help with their children's school fees.

In Uganda, secondary (high school) school education is typically administered by private schools where students must board because of the long distances from their village homes, and the fees are often beyond the means of pastors whose average salary amounts to \$15 USD per month. DWTX committed to paying fees for one student per pastor not to exceed \$13,000 annually.

Initially, the scholarship was available to any one student per pastor's family. As the program grew in popularity, the number of students grew far beyond our ability to fund. Two years ago, we met with the Program Director, Robbinah, and determined ways we could make the scholarships more competitive in order to equip Nebbi's most promising students. New requirements included interviews with parents and students, tracking of all grades, and submission of a current photograph.

And the program grew. With more students qualifying and the cap on scholarship funds remaining, we took the bold step of asking parents to "top up" the amount needed for each term. It worked, and parents were willing to sacrifice to assure their child's ongoing education.

In that conference room we learned that this year three students who have graduated from senior school are now at Makerere University in Kampala. So, what can you do with \$13,000 in this stressed economy? **At DWTX we are empowering 35 senior school students and 3 university students from Nebbi District to become spiritual and civic leaders of their communities.** That's at a yearly cost of about \$300 per senior student and \$650 for a college youngster (depending on currency valuations). Within two years 23 members of this group will be in university. Now, that's a bargain in any economy.

Your Pennies from Heaven are the basis of this life-changing program.

Upcoming Missions Events:

- Feb. 16-19 Annual Diocesan Council. Mission workshop on Saturday.
- Mar. 10 Diocesan World Mission Committee meeting. (Bp. Jones Ctr.)
- Apr. 1-3 Team Leaders' Retreat. (Mustang Island)
- May 10 Ladies' Luncheon Honoring Peace Kyamanywa. (Bp. Jones Ctr.)
- Aug. 20 Summer Symposium. (Bp. Jones Ctr.)
- Oct. 13 Diocesan World Mission Committee meeting. (Bp. Jones Ctr.)

Trinity Clinic, Liberia, Celebrates Two Years

We are so thankful we were able to see almost 3500 new patients this year (and hundreds who returned for a second visit) and provided over 6000 procedures, both of which were an increase from our first year. Severe dental conditions continue to present themselves, showing that the battle is far from over with dental complications. We treated over 400 patients with swelling of their face secondary to dental infection.

TDC has also seen at least three cases of osteomyelitis every month. This is the destructive process that, from a single decayed tooth, can destroy a patient's bone and causes sometimes permanent distortion of their face. We are very happy to be collaborating with Mercy Ships and Harvard Medical School in a study researching the potential causes of this terrible condition. www.trinitydental.org

Hats for Russian Orphans by Larry Heller, mission partner



I'm pleased to report that the hats made by TMI students arrived in Russia in good condition. I placed them in the capable hands of my friend and partner in ministry, Dasha Gutova. She makes regular visits to orphanages and has relationships with many, many children. We can be confident that Dasha will get these hats onto the heads that need them most.

Christmas in Piedras by Amanda Hagy

Christmas for Mexicans, in traditional homes and rural areas, is a very religious holiday. It is a celebration of the Nativity. This means the birthday of Our Lord Jesus.

In order to prepare for the day of symbolic commemoration, they have the "*Posadas*." These celebrations are a "*Novena*" or nine days before the 24th which is the "*Noche Buena*" or "Holy Night." They form parades, carry candles, sing carols, and walk to neighbor's houses. These *Posadas* are commemorating Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem according to Scriptures. In Spanish they are called "*Los Peregrinos, San José y la Virgen María*." Each family in a neighborhood will schedule a night for the *Posada* to be held at their home, starting on the 16th of December and finishing on the 24th on *Noche Buena*.



Over the past years DWTX has participated in La Posada with El Buen Pastor Anglican church in Piedras Negras colonias. Members from St. Luke's SA, St. Mark's SA, St. John's NB, St. Luke's Cypress Mill, and several others joined together for activities to happen throughout the season. 2010 was the biggest year ever. There were over 1,000 that showed up to follow Mary and Joseph to find shelter... at La Posada.

A Thank You to the People of the Diocese of West Texas

To the loving people of the Diocese of West Texas:

This letter is a bit difficult to write as it is not easy to put into words how thankful I am for your help and support to the Kids Foundation of Coatepec. The Kids Foundation is a small effort, but thanks to the people of the Diocese of West Texas, great changes have been made in the lives of many children.

The purpose of the Kids foundation is to show God's love to children in need of medical and dental care by providing that care to them. In the past two years, the Diocese of West Texas has provided funds that have made it possible to provide needed care to over 100 children in the Coatepec area. Each month that number grows.

I am so blessed to be able to work with these children and their families. To take a sick child to the doctor or a child with oral infections and many cavities to the dentist is such a simple thing to do. To see a child's suffering relieved and to see the tears in the eyes of his mama when she realizes someone values her child is just beyond words.

I tell these mamas that people in the United States who love God donate money to help the children. They are amazed and very touched by that love. I believe that this demonstration of your love is exactly what Jesus meant when he said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Manos Team in Honduras from Patricia Perea



The Manos Team just got back from spending a week in Danli, Honduras, from January 13-20, 2011. We had a total of 21 individuals going on this trip including people from different churches such as St. Francis by the Lake, St Andrew's in Se-guin, Emmanuel in San Angelo, Christ Our King in New Braunfels, as well as members from other denominations.

We have been working in the colonia Nueva Esperanza in Danli, Honduras, for the past 10 years. The initial commission for the Manos Team was to plant a church in Nueva Esperanza, an underprovided neighborhood in the heart of Danli. After many years of work, dedication, generous donations, and constant prayers, we have been able to plant and build a church. In addition, we have built a vocational center and worked in various social areas with the purpose of empowering the members of the community and helping them become self-sufficient. Specifically, this trip we worked side by side with the members of the community in the following ministries:

Scholarship Program (42 students, 7 in college), Youth Workshops (computer, study habits, discipleship), Vision Clinics (250 pairs of glasses fitted), Shoe Clinic (359 pairs distributed), Sewing Workshop (45 school backpacks stitched), Construction of Store for Small Businesses, Community Garden, Soccer Clinic (22 participants), Zumba classes, blessing of two houses built for flood victims from funds raised by the Manos Team, and purchase of food for flood victims.

In all, it was a busy and productive time.

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List

January 27-February 5 (Honduras). Pamela Haines and Jack Robertson, Co-Leaders. Water Ministry. Vance Crocker, Bill & Jerry Fischer, Terry Hayes, Karen Lee, and Steve Roederer.

February 6—22 (Russia, Belarus). Trent Timberlake, Team Leader. Pam Gouverne, Roberta Ficke.

February (TBA) (Piedras Negras, Mexico). Amanda Hagy, Team Leader.

March 1-7 (SE Mexico). Hogar Infantil. Leslie & David Guinn, Team Leaders. Dr. & Mrs. Zeek, Frank Deaderick.

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

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

May 21-27 (Honduras). Veterinary & Public Health. Bill Campaigne, Dickson, Bain, Rodger Kleisch, Team Leaders. Randy Lynn, Lynn Campaigne.

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

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

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 LONGTERM MISSIONARIES: (clockwise) Olsons, Chapmans, Millers, Alison, Prices, Jeannie, Harry

