

July, 2011

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

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

## A MISSION POTPOURRI: Strengthening the Ministry

This year's Summer Mission Symposium will feature an interactive forum of mission veterans with Symposium participants. If you've been on a dozen trips or even if you've never stuck your toe in foreign waters, this is an event you don't want to miss.

Community is all about sharing of ideas, problem solving, bearing of one another's burdens, and celebrating large and small victories. We'll be doing that led by our own missionaries.

After an opening Eucharist with the Reverends David Chalk and Ripp Hardaway, we'll plunge immediately into the conundrum of *Expectations*. Do we shoot too high, too low; do we know what's expected of us as leaders or team members; are we clueless about diocesan expectations or even our foreign hosts' desires?

Then there's the sticky subject of *Fundraising*. The practical issue of money and how to appeal to potential donors will be put on the table.

Building on what we heard at last year's Symposium, the topic of *Empowerment* will again be addressed. Do we really want to empower our mission partners or do we want to retain ownership of the ministry?

And with mission, *Evangelism* is always an underlying principle. Everything we do as missionaries should be energized by our desire to share Good News in word and deed. How that works in world missions will be convincingly demonstrated on August 20.

Finally, *Cross-cultural Issues* must be addressed. Simple things such as the way we dress or the assumptions we make can impact our effectiveness in ministry. Bizarre and amusing examples will be shared.

This year's Symposium, "**A MISSION POTPOURRI: Strengthening the Ministry**," will be held at the Bp. Jones Center on Saturday, August 20, beginning at 8:45 a.m. and ending at 3:15 p.m. The \$20 fee includes a delicious lunch, snacks, and all materials. You may register online at [dwtx.org](http://dwtx.org) or call Marthe, Chris, or Betty to register by phone (888/210-824-5387).

### Upcoming Missions Events:

- **ORDERUP Fund Drive—May 1-September 1**
- *Summer Mission Symposium—Aug. 20, Bp. Jones Center*
- *Alison Barfoot's Visit—Sept. 9-14, various locations*
- *Arts Festival—Oct. 28-30, St. Francis, San Antonio*
- *Bishops' Thanksgiving Reception—Nov. 3, San Antonio Country Club*

## Whadda Ya Do with a Snake in the Kitchen? from George Olson, missionary in the Philippines

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George's newsletters always have remarkable tidbits. Consider:

"Yesterday morning I woke up to find a snake in the middle of the kitchen. Don't worry, it was not one of the very poisonous kinds. Yet nevertheless, it was a snake, first thing in the morning. I held the dog and sat there staring at it. For some reason I couldn't think of what to do. Probably because I had just woken up and was still a bit sleepy...

"Suddenly, like a light shining in the darkness came a voice out of the silence, breaking through with magnificent thought and reason. It was Ginny. 'Would you like me to hand you your machete?' Wow! I wonder how long I would have sat there staring at the snake if she hadn't prompted me! So I took the machete, chopped off the snake's head, and end of snake!

"The tribal people never chop off a snake's head. They think that if you chop it off and throw it out into the jungle, the next time you cook rice, the snake's head will magically appear in your rice pot, jump out, and bite you on the neck! So naturally I want to challenge this assumption...and so I took the snake with the severed head over to the tribal people's home next door and showed it to them. I asked them what kind of snake it was. 'Sawa manok,' they said (chicken snake). Later I came by and I told them I had thrown the snake and its head out into the jungle. There was a pause as they stared at me uncomfortably. So I asked, 'Do you think the head will appear in my rice pot and jump out and bit me on the neck?' That broke the tension, and they all fell over laughing!

"The reason they laugh is because they know it is a silly idea, but they still believe it enough to not chop off a snake's head. They have no basis for thinking that the snake's head might reappear, but they are still scared that it might.

"So, score 1 for the challenge, done gently and in love."



## Swords into Ploughshares from Alison Barfoot, missionary to East Africa

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Sometime ago, you forwarded to me a little more than \$2500 that had been contributed for war orphans in Northern Uganda. I wanted to give you a follow-up on what has happened with this money. A little over a year ago, we got a new bishop in the Diocese of Northern Uganda, and he is a wonderful, godly man of integrity and a good leader. He is based in Gulu, and this diocese was ravaged by the LRA. I wanted to give him a little time to get settled, but I knew he would be the best person in the north to receive this money. So we have sent the money to him, and it has been used to support child soldiers who have returned and are the first group to be enrolled in a vocational school and rehabilitation ministry the diocese has launched. At this school, they are literally turning their swords into ploughshares. They had laid down their guns from the LRA and are picking up hammers and saws and nails and learning carpentry, masonry, tailoring, etc. They launched this ministry in faith because the need was so great, and then your funds appeared. It was a big answer to their prayers.



## Missions and RMI story thanks to Julie Woody



Reaching Maximum Independence, Inc. is a nonprofit (based at Reconciliation, San Antonio) that helps adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the San Antonio area live and work as independently as possible through residential and vocational supports. RMI's Life Enrichment Day Program provides opportunities for adults with devel-



opmental disabilities to learn, work, volunteer, and have fun as active members of the community each weekday.

On Monday, May 16, Christine and Bobby Hausser brought 400 pounds of beans to the church, and the RMI community rolled up their sleeves and filled one-quart ziplocks with the beans. They finished the work in just a couple of hours! Those who could not scoop beans colored the back of cards – 100 in all – that said “The Lord bless you and keep you ...” on the front (in Spanish), as well as “We love you! With love from RMI” (also in Spanish). So everyone did his part.

A small team including the Haussers and Julie and Robert Woody headed for the colonias in Piedras on May 21 to distribute their bags of goodies.

*I would like to send my regards to you from the family members that they say they love you so much for all what you are doing to our daughter Polla Stella. May the almighty God reward you abundantly. From Janceyape Stephen (father of Makerere University, Uganda, scholarship student funded by Mother's Day offerings)*



## Road Rage (African Style) submitted by Martha Ann Franco



## Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List

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

July 1-18 (Goli, Uganda). Threads of Blessing. Helen & Garry Schnelzer, Team Leaders. Bianca & Chris Leonard, Melanie & Julianne Hardie, and Sue Hardaway.

July 6-21 (Goli, Uganda). VBS. Elizabeth Allen, Team Leader. Youth Group from St. Luke's, St. David's, Grace (San Antonio), and St. Alban's (Harlingen): Alexandra & Ashley Alfaro, CC Crowley, Bonnie, Benjamin, & Calvin Giddens, Andrew & Cookie Harris, Natalie Hines, Tally Jorn, Mary Hayden Manning, Trey McCarty, Camilla Morrison, Michael Mortensen, Amy Read, Rev. David Read, George Witte.

July 8-16 (Haiti). Projects at St. Benoit School including exploration for medical missions in the area. Jennifer, Jonathan, Patrick, & Ian Wickham, Jennifer & Greg Merritt.

July 18-22 (Piedras Negras, Mexico). VBS. Bobby Hausser, Amanda Hagy, Team Leaders.

July 18-29 (St. Petersburg, Russia, Camp Unistroidal). Trent Timberlake, Team Leader. Renee & Greg Sethness. For information contact Greg Sethness at 822-4160 or [goseth@earthlink.net](mailto:goseth@earthlink.net).

July 20-August 4 (Honduras). Elisabeth & Peter Engelfield. Visit new clinic in La Ceiba, Casa de Ninos Orphanage, and other clinics.

July 28-August 6 (Honduras). Water Ministry. Jack Martin, Team Leader. Pamela Haines, Doug Holmes, John Martin, Art Meier, David Spencer, John Villanueva.

August 11-18 (Guatemala). Construction. St. John's, McAllen.

September 23-October 8 (Viet Nam). Teaching doctors how to do sinus surgeries. Dr. Bill Smith.

October 13-22 (Honduras). Water Ministry. Jack Martin, Team Leader.

**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).

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves. Move us, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life and the bread of heaven. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery, wherein losing sight of land we shall find the stars. Push outward the horizons of our hope, and push us forward into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(shared by Rev. Ripp Hardaway)