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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

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

Symposium Hits the Mark

Each presenter had a different story to tell: Betty Chumney's focus was *Expectations*. She asked why people went on short term mission. What is the purpose? There was a glimpse of team leader and member profiles and a look at team building. Throughout, Betty's emphasis was on Jesus as Team Leader and our sharing of him in all we say and do.

Elizabeth Allen (St. Luke's, San Antonio) shared experiences of *Fundraising* for mission trips. For two trips Elizabeth successfully raised over \$40,000 in campaigns that were informative, intergenerational, and that underscored fundraising as an investment in lives and God's Kingdom.

Last year's theme of *Empowerment* was addressed again this year by Maria Valdez, Executive Director of the Texas Water Mission. From the first well drilled in 2002 to the 52nd well now being drilled in Honduras, the Hondurans have been involved in the process of bringing fresh, pure water to their communities. TWM works to empower Hondurans to eventually take over the ministry, and during a recent hiatus of in-country work by our mission teams, the Hondurans carried on with drilling, health & hygiene training, and children's ministry, aptly demonstrating that they themselves were learning to fish. Marlene Barahona, Honduran Director of Health & Hygiene, shared her personal story of transformation through growth and empowerment.

After a delicious lunch catered by the San Antonio Food Bank, Patricia Perea (St. Francis by the Lake) described the development of the Manos de Dios ministry from door-to-door *Evangelism* to education to social ministries to church construction and to other ministries that continue to thrive. Patricia cautioned us that we should not expect conversions as a result of social action but that good works should be a visible manifestation of Christ's love expecting nothing in return.

The final presentation wove together some of the earlier topics in *Cross-Culture Ministry* (Marthe Curry). Since most of our work deals with people in collective societies, these characteristics were examined with illustrations and participants' discussion of how those factors present themselves in short-term missions. A provocative quotation should challenge us: "Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on men's dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was here before our arrival." (Max Warren, General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, 1942-1963)

Feedback from participants who came from all over the diocese included the value not only of the presentations but also of the networking that occurred among attendees. At least one-third of those present were new to mission ministries of the diocese and wanted to know more about the various opportunities for involvement. For those in your community who'd like further information, go to [dwtx.org>diocese>world mission](http://dwtx.org/diocese/world_mission) or call 888 (210) 824-5387.

If eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee were enough to launch the gospel to the ends of the earth, then a church with a handful of members can spread the gospel in and beyond a community, regardless of the amount of material resources it has. David Platt

Special points of interest:

- *Alison Barfoot's Visit*—Sept. 9-14, various locations. Alison is Mission Director for Global Mobilization Ministries (GMM) whose vision is to empower Africans to evangelize and holistically disciple unreached people groups. She lives in Uganda and ministers with native evangelists in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.
- *Bishops' Thanksgiving Reception*—Nov. 3, San Antonio Country Club.

Today Is the Day That Will Change Your Life by Steve Roederer

Ok, so you feel this tug on your heart. That is the beginning. God is already working with you. Poor people. Third world country. Jesus' own words, "Feed my sheep." Yes, you want to help. But, how? You have heard it before: mission trips are only for youth groups. And besides, you are not a doctor, dentist, or nurse. Not even a teacher. Certainly do not speak a foreign language. Have no really useful skills. So, what possible help could you be?

The next time you get water out of your tap, think about this. Most, no not most, but rather almost all of the rest of the world does not have fresh drinking water. Seriously. That stuff you spread on your lawn and plants. That stuff you bathe with every day. That stuff you never give a second thought to. It is just always there. Even in our worst drought conditions, we still have access to water.

Can you contemplate life without it? Imagine your life getting up every day, packing buckets or barrels on your trusty mule, and making a few miles' walk to the nearest stream to collect water. Not good water, mind you. Not anything you would even think about drinking. You try to ignore the smell. Once home again, you build a fire so the water can be boiled. Maybe now you can drink it. Imagine that you make this trek three or four times a day, each and every day.

Now, picture a slightly different scenario. Imagine yourself in a village in the middle of nowhere next to a drilling rig creating a fountain of water pouring out of a hole in the ground. Adults smiling and laughing, children frolicking in the spray. Tasting, for maybe the first time in your life, cool, sweet, clean water.

The Texas Water Mission. One well at a time. One village at a time.

Contact us. Today is the day that will change your life. We need your help. You do have a skill we need.

And a Light Shone... shared by permission from *Impact Europe*

One of our mission contacts in Eastern Europe, George Bajenski, was recently in Poland hosting a camp for Russian speaking Holocaust survivors from Israel. Each evening these amazing people told their stories. One man told a remarkable story of God's loving care:

"I was only a child when the War began. We fled from our home, hiding during the day and traveling at night. One night we heard loud voices — it was the police. They grabbed us and stood us next to a haystack. I still remember my father holding my sister in his arms and my mother holding my brother's hand. They aimed their guns at us.

My mother asked if she could first say a prayer. They agreed, and so she prayed, 'O God, do something! Please save our children!' At that moment, the moon appeared from behind the clouds, and light shone on my father's face. The man with the gun recognized him. 'You are the principal at the school! My daughter finished this school.'

And so he let us go..."

As he spoke with us, George added that the church in Eastern Europe is growing more rapidly in areas that are repressed than in those places where there is complete democracy. Many people are coming to faith in Christ; evangelistic outreaches are taking place; children's camps are being conducted; and much more.

Want to Be a Full-time Missionary? From Alison Barfoot, Uganda

How can I thank you for your prayers for me...! Truly and literally, they have sustained me. I have been in a remote part of southern Ethiopia for a training in sustainable agriculture called permaculture. The training was excellent and led by an Australian man who has been using the approach for relief and development work in East Timor and Aceh, Indonesia, after the tsunami. So, his experience in applying permaculture in the developing world was very applicable to our context in East Africa.

The challenge of the course, however, was the living conditions. We were staying at a so-called “Eco Lodge.” But our challenge was poor sanitation and hygiene at the venue. There were ten people taking the course, and by the end, all had fallen sick either with typhus or typhoid (the names sound similar, but they’re very different diseases). Only one Ugandan and I did not fall sick! So, it is literally your prayers that sustained me.

The course was supposed to be a month, but after two and a half weeks, and after we had completed the basic Permaculture Design Course, I realized that our time could be spent more profitably if we left early...not to mention being safer. Not only were people falling sick with typhus and typhoid, bed bugs and flea bites, but during our second week, there were three murders in the town...all quite near to where we were staying. The town government put a curfew in place that everyone had to be off the streets by 8.30 p.m. Sometimes that’s the time I would be heading back to our place... Well...because of your prayers, the Lord kept me in the palm of his hand.

There were many other challenges during the training, including lots of spiritual warfare and tension flying around. Our teacher seemed confused, but the most consistent thing he talked about was worshipping Mother Earth. Amazingly, out of ten classmates, six of us were strong Christians. So, I organized us to pray together every Sunday and also several times during the week so we could lift up the Lordship and Sovereignty of Christ over our lives, the place, and the course. Anyway...I could say a lot more, but suffice it to say that you can’t make up this stuff. The training content was excellent, and the four of us from Uganda who were there got A LOT out of it.

I leave Addis Ababa Monday morning for Kenya to help with our big annual August mission outreach. Approximately 75 youth, pastors, and evangelists will descend upon an area in a remote part of Kenya for two weeks of door-to-door evangelism, showing the Jesus Film, and gathering together new converts to begin a new church. The region has been experiencing horrible drought, so there is a lot of suffering. Please pray for the missionaries to be winsome in their communication of the Gospel, and for those with whom they will be sharing to be open and receptive. Pray for them to be able to drink from the springs of Living Water!

BEGIN NOW TO SAVE YOUR PENNIES FOR THE PENNIES FROM HEAVEN MINISTRY THAT FUNDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

Prior to Council 2012, those pennies can be taken to your local bank, and a check for the proceeds can be brought to Council. Hundreds of students, secondary and university, have participated and benefited from this ministry. **Save your pennies.**

*“Beware of pronouncing
any verdict on the life of
faith if you are not living it.”*

Oswald Chambers

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List

DATE	LOCATION	TEAM LEADER	DETAILS
September 23– October 8	Viet Nam	Dr. Bill Smith	Medical: teaching doctors how to do sinus surgeries.
October 13-22	Honduras	Jack Martin	Water ministry.
October 22-29	Guatemala	Jorge & Lorena Rojas	Medical mission.
December	Mexico	Sandy Graciano	Children's ministry.

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).



CRILA (Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center) in Honduras: New Facility is Opened



Love and hope are demonstrated on a daily basis in La Ceiba, Honduras, at CRILA, a rehab center for people with mental and physical challenges.

In 1988 two teachers from a Honduran nursing school began research in the region and discovered a number of special needs people. They were able to raise up support from the community and West Texas missionaries led by Elisabeth and Peter Engelfield. Finally, in 2005, the Center was inaugurated, and just this year a beautiful new facility was opened.

So far in 2011 over 8,600 people took advantage of the services offered; among them, 7,700 were children. A dental clinic, prosthetics laboratory, vocational development workshops for special needs people, classes for parents of special needs children, and training for schools of special needs children are all available at the facility.