

July 2009

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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSIONS

Where in the world are we going?

Internally Displaced People in DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), violent conflict between rebel forces and the government has caused massive displacement in the province of North Kivu in the eastern part of the country. Rebel groups have focused their attacks on innocent civilians, and rapes and murders have dramatically increased in this region. Reports also indicate that more than 7,000 families from the city of Goma and surrounding communities have been forced to flee their homes.

The majority of the displaced people are women and children. Many are now vulnerable to disease due to poor sanitation and health conditions in the temporary camps.

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is partnering with the Diocese of Bukavu to provide critical emergency assistance in the form of food and sanitation supplies to displaced people in the North-Kivu region.

“The threat of attack persists in the regions surrounding Goma and it is uncertain when families will be able to safely return to their homes,” said Janette O’Neill, Senior Director, Africa Programs for ERD. “We remain in close contact with our partners in the DRC and ask for people around the Church to join us in prayer for a peaceful end to the conflict.”

To support people who have been displaced by this disaster, please make a contribution to ERD’s “Disaster Response Fund” by visiting www.erd.org or calling 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: ERD “Disaster Response Fund,” PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Around the Diocese

From September to May you will find Kim Dozier from Trinity Pharr handing out shoes and clothing to the poorest of the poor in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Kim and her small team cross the border twice a month to make sure the children and adults have shoes to wear and clothing to cover their bodies. In the winter, coats and blankets are critical. Here is a perfect example of “mission”: “seeing the need, heeding the call.” Call Kim (956-787-3502) if you can help.

Save the Date: Aug. 22, *Engaging with Islam, Summer Mission Symposium*

This Symposium will offer a variety of speakers who will share ideas for touching newly-immigrated Muslims; relationship building; personal experience as a Muslim-background believer; and challenging overlaps between Islam and Christianity.

Register online or call 888/210-824-5387.

Save the Date: Aug. 7-8, *Fishin’ for Mission*

Join the fun this summer at the first annual **Fishin’ for Mission** fishing tournament and family fun weekend at Rockport, Texas. St. Peter’s Rockport will host this diocesan-wide event. Funds raised will go to support world mission projects through the Diocese of West Texas.

The Missionary Society of San Miguel contributed by Tom Brunns

The Society was founded in 1998 with a focus on education for those who couldn't pay their own way in the San Miguel area of Mexico. We have tried to mainly support college level students but have also supported younger children whose parents can't provide for their educational needs. Additionally, we've supported some elderly individuals. We have one annual fund raiser.

Currently, we make about six trips a year to Mexico and will be returning at the end of June. This past March we disbursed funds to support 10 students—five college students and the others in lower grades. We gave support to 10 other individuals. In September and January we will give larger amounts to help the students begin the school year.

The Society helps a few students in Texas and supports a number of local charities and church organizations. We have been giving Texas students about \$500 per semester which covers books while university students in Mexico receive about \$800 per semester which covers all their costs.

To know more about *The Missionary Society of San Miguel*, email Tom at tcbruns@satx.rr.com. Tom is the acting rector at Emmanuel in Lockhart.

The Rev. Robert Woody (Church of Reconciliation, San Antonio) has been awarded a grant by the Lilly Foundation to visit and participate with five different faith-based ministries of reconciliation, working with the perpetrators and victims of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Robert began his sabbatical on June 18 and will later be joined by his family. For updates see www.churchofreconciliation.org

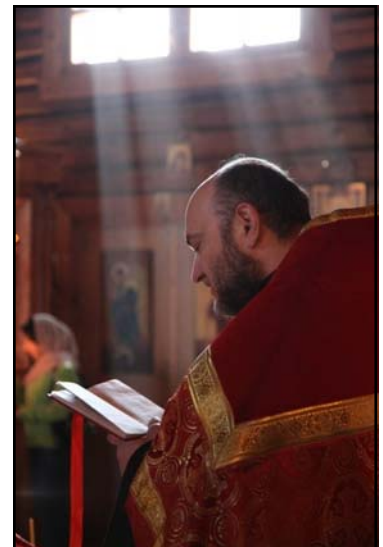
St. Petersburg in the Spring Steve Denney

Steve Denney and Trent Timberlake were joined by two interpreters as they visited three orphanages, a shelter, and three transitional homes (supported by our parishes and DWTX). A highlight of the trip was Easter Orthodox with some of the children attending worship. Two of the orphans were baptized following the second Easter service.

Old relationships were renewed and new ones established as Trent coordinated a summer mission trip to one of the orphanage camps. Steve renewed acquaintances with three older hearing impaired children, a result of what he described as “friendship evangelism.” Another young twenty-something came to visit, and they learned that he is working and is a committed Christian.

All of the orphanages are suffering under reduced government subsidies, and the three transitional homes needed food. Before each visit, Steve and Trent shopped for groceries and were able to bring armloads of food to their hosts at the transitional homes. Without any governmental support, the need for additional funds is great in these homes.

Even so, our missionaries continue to return to their friends in St. Petersburg and to do what they can to make a difference in these lives who so need their help.



Feeding a Village at San Lorenzo by Marthe Curry

Our missionary Jeannie Loving asked if I'd like to visit the playground that is being developed by Mother's Day funds for the children at San Lorenzo, a village of 85 families where people starve if the crops fail. *Of course, I wanted to go.* We picked up the Peace Corps architect, Nathan, and after 45 or so minutes of bumping over Honduran back roads, we reached San Lorenzo.

Our little dream from February had now expanded to the villagers' clearing the plot, building the stone walls, and incorporating three wide terraces around the play area. *Could we make a community garden on the terraces?* I asked. The smiles I saw told me Jeannie and Nathan had already discussed this. In fact, Nathan had leveraged the work the villagers had done as well as the gift from

DWTX to encourage the Peace Corps to install a water

catchment system from the *palapa* including a *pila* (storage tank) to irrigate the crops. All the play equipment will be built from local materials by the villagers.

While we were reveling in the emerging project, some of the village farmers joined us. We discovered that they weren't planting during this tiny window of time before the rainy season because they had no seeds. The last crop had been washed away by the floods—no seeds. *Why not buy seeds?* was my ignorant quandary. No money. The acceptance with which those farmers met their fate was incomprehensible to this Westerner.

I told the team about my findings at that night's devotions. By the time I was en route to San Antonio, our missionaries had collected enough *lempiras* to buy seeds for San Lorenzo and food for the interim. The priest told them there were three conditions to receiving: thanks to God, cooperation, and sharing leftover seeds.

All this because of an invitation to visit a little Honduran village back in January...



Children picking up spilled seeds

Making "Old Things" New. "Pennies from Heaven" has a new Friend, **The Green Door**. World Missions has opened a Special Account (D 100) to add to our fund raising capabilities. Take your gently used clothing and good household items to the thrift store located in Alamo Heights at 1030 Nacogdoches Rd. Wednesday through Friday (10:00–11:30). If you can't make it during those hours, bring your wares to the Bp. Jones Center and call Chris Dohoney (210-479-8257 or email seedohoney@sbcglobal.net) for help.

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List:

June 18-August 25. RWANDA. Reconciliation Sabbatical Study. The Rev. Robert Woody, Reconciliation (San Antonio).

June 22-July 4. INDIA, Diocese of Karimnagar. Good Shepherd (Corpus Christi). The Rev. Steve Bilsbury & Dr. Anantha Babbili, Team Leaders.

July 1-26. UGANDA. Nebbi Diocese, Diocese of Mityana, Hoima. Helen & Garry Schnelzer, Team Leaders.

July (tba). MEXICO, Monterrey. Ninos Heroes VBS.

July 6-21. UGANDA, Nebbi Diocese. St. Luke's (San Antonio). VBS & Renovations. Elizabeth Allen, Team Leader. Matthew Bewley, Marthe Curry, Juliana Huff, Annie McAllister, Sallie McAllister, Samuel McAllister, Trey McCarty, Camilla Morrison, Michael Mortensen, David Prehn, Jordan Smith, Taylor Williams, George Witte.

July 7-29. UGANDA. SOMA Australia. Helen & Garry Schnelzer.

July 19-August 1. RUSSIA. Summer Youth Camp. Trent Timberlake, Team Leader.

July 20-24. MEXICO, Piedras Negras. Bobby Hausser, Team Leader. Multi-church Project: VBS at Iglesia El Buen Pastor.

July 30-August 8. HONDURAS. Water Ministry. Curt Mowen, Louis Manz, Team Leaders.

September 2-19. VIET NAM. Medical. Dr. Bill Smith (St. Mark's, San Antonio).

September 7. LIBERIA. Dental Clinic. Mary Chapman.

October 14-23. HONDURAS. Water Ministry. Don Lee, Team Leader.

October (tba). SE MEXICO. Veterinary trip. Dr. Bill Campaigne, Team Leader.

October 18-November 1. INDIA, Siliguri Diocese. SOMA trip. Edwina Thomas, Team Leader. Ruthanne & Chuck Sharrow.

November 16-23. SE MEXICO. Continuing Education for Clergy. Rev. David Chalk, Team Leader. Women's Tapestry Program. Brenda Kingery & Helen Schnelzer, Team Leaders.

Trips in Planning Stage:

ECUADOR. St. Thomas, San Antonio. Tom Rickey, Team Leader.

RUSSIA. St. Thomas, San Antonio. Steve Denney, Team Leader.

NORTHERN MEXICO. St. Thomas, San Antonio. Wayne Currier, Team Leader.

MADAGASCAR. St. Matthew's, Universal City.

DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE. Bp. John Chew Hiang Chea. Looking for mature Christians to teach ESL.

PLEASE ALSO CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Alison Barfoot (Uganda); Harry Gunkel and Sharon & Duane Miller (Israel); Jeannie Loving (Honduras), Ginny & George Olson (Philippines www.reachthetribes.com); and Beth & Tony Price (Mexico).