

April 2009

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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSIONS

Where in the World Are We Going?

What Hunger Feels Like

The Church of Resurrection EYC started the first weekend of Lent off with a 30-hour fast. They got a taste of what hunger really feels like and have spent the past two months working with the homeless and learning about hunger as well.

Around the world 850 million people are hungry. This includes 300 million children. Each day 26,000 children die because of hunger, disease, and poverty. 14,000 also die as a result of malnutrition.

So, not only did the youth fast, they lived like the homeless for the weekend. They set up boxes to sleep outside in the cold. They put together 1208 crosses and placed them on the lawn to represent each child who dies every hour due to hunger.

The EYC collected money and canned goods and helped raise community awareness of hunger around the world. Over 500 canned goods were collected and were presented to the food pantry along with a check for \$400. They also raised another \$400 that will be used to buy rice to go to Mexico.

Please go to @ <http://church-resurrection.com> for more information.



A White Dress as told by Charles Parker, Ph. D.

As a deacon of the Diocese of SE Mexico, the Rev. Dr. Charles Parker itinerates among the numerous missions and preaching stations in Chiapas. Some of the converts in San Cristobal asked if they could be baptized, and when he heartily agreed, they asked about the cost. "Nothing," was his response. "Do we have to wear white dresses?" they asked. "Only if you want to, but you can really wear anything," Charles assured the ladies.

It was only when the big day arrived and Charles proceeded to baptize the new Anglicans that he learned the impoverished community had come together to buy three white T-shirts which were passed from one to another so that everyone could be baptized in a white garment.

Because you care... from a letter written by Dr. John Nganga, Founder Rafiki AIDS Orphanage, Kikuyu, Kenya

Friends,

Because you care, these kids have a place to sleep, food to eat, and they have an education. Thanks for your continued prayers and support. They might not understand the current global economic situation, but your caring spirit keeps us going. Feel free to visit our website at marafikiaids.org.



NEW CHURCH SHOES



Bishop Elliott Society

Spring Bishop Elliott Lectures: Anglicanism—A Gift in Christ: The spring Bishop Elliott Society event will be a two day conference April 16-17 at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston, and include lectures by distinguished leaders and teachers from all over the Anglican Communion. Speakers will include former Abp. of Canterbury George Carey, as well as Abp. Bernard Ntahoturi of Burundi, Bp. Anthony Burton, former Bishop of Saskatchewan, Dr. Ephraim Radner of Wycliffe College, Toronto, Dean Philip Turner, retired, and Dr. Cheryl H. White of Louisiana State University, Shreveport.

The conference is sponsored by the Anglican Communion Institute and Communion Partners. Registration cost for the event is \$250.00. Bishop Elliott Society Associates receive a \$35.00 discount from the registration price. Send registration information with a check made to the Anglican Communion Institute to the Rev. Frank Fuller, PO Box 7544, Beaumont, TX 77726. For detailed information, call St. Martin's: 713-985-3821.

Mission Opportunities (also see bottom of p. 4)

If you are interested in ministry in Cebu City, Philippines, or southwestern China, please contact Mary Lynne Barrow (210-380-5431).

Dr. P. G. Vargis (India) will be in San Antonio April 27—May 5. His ministry of evangelism through indigenous Indian ministers is a powerful witness. Call Mary Lynne Barrow for information (above).

A Newbie in SE Mexico by Rosine Carter (Annunciation, Luling)

Recently, I was asked to join a team going to SE Mexico. Actually, I was tagging along—my husband Stuart was asked to go to evaluate livestock projects and the water issues associated with them. This being my first mission, I really didn't know what to expect. Everyone I talked to gasped and asked if we were worried about safety in Mexico. No, we weren't; however, after a while we did begin to wonder since so many were worried for us that maybe we should be, but that was not going to deter us one bit.

Our mission was a virtual tour of the Anglican Diocese of Southeast Mexico guided by Bishop Benito Juarez (*really*) and his staff. The geographical area of the diocese is larger than the Diocese of West Texas but functions with only 13 priests or deacons and about 16 missions. We flew to some locations and drove to the rest—2200 miles in eight days—and I *know* we walked at least three million steps. From celebrating the Eucharist in the home of a young family to a shelter on the mountain, it was evident that the foundation of Christ has been laid. The people, the country, all, are shining lights of Christ. Oh, and security—I forgot I was even supposed to be worried about that. Actually, there are cities in the US where I worry for my safety more. It is not to say that there are certainly no issues on the border, but I never once was afraid, except with the taxi drivers in Mexico City. (Actually, they really weren't much different from the drivers in New York City.)

Everywhere we went, people gathered to greet us and ring the church bells, truly joyous. In most of the villages we visited, the need for clean water was apparent. People were carrying water anywhere from ½ mile to several miles. There was a bread making operation in Arroyo Zacate where the women make bread to sell and where they have to carry water in a wheelbarrow about ½ mile uphill—just to make bread. This was common in many areas we visited. We visited the Hogar Infantil, and we were particularly awed by the happiness of the children and their carefree spirit. They are doing well, although there are many opportunities for us to help them in future missions. We celebrated the Eucharist in the chapel with the children, a wonderful service. They currently have a livestock project raising pigs, goats, and chickens run by the older boys of the center. They'd like to expand the pig project, and the benefits to the children are great.

There are so many opportunities for mission trips in SE Mexico, my mind is continually spinning. It was great to see the needs first hand and not leave them to our imaginations. Often, we can dream up things that we *think* people need—reality is that we don't need to impose *our* wants on them. We have to keep in mind that what works here doesn't always work somewhere else. In Christian life we must remember the common denominator, Christ. He is already there in SE Mexico; we need to listen and let him guide us.

Bishop Juarez truly loves the people of his diocese; it is apparent just watching him with them. The opportunities will reveal themselves as we continue our discussions. The joy and love of Christ these people have is an example to everyone.

Back at home as I busy myself with the everyday happenings of my life, I wonder what I can do for SE Mexico? What I really need to ask is, "What does *God* need me to do in SE Mexico?" There are many opportunities there; I just need to be still and listen to where he wants me to start.

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List:

April 17-26. RUSSIA & BELARUS. Spring orphanage mission. Trent Timberlake, Team Leader.

May 16-22. HONDURAS. Veterinary Team. Dr. Bill Campaigne, Team Leader. Rodger Kleisch, Randy Lynn, Victor Mux.

May 21-30. HONDURAS. Water Ministry. Jack Martin & Louis Manz, Team Leaders.

Summer (tba). UGANDA. Christ Church (San Antonio). John & Frances Harrison, Team Leaders.

June-July (tba) UGANDA. Hands of Hope Tapestry Ministry. Helen Schnelzer & Brenda Kingery, Team Leaders.

June (tba). ZAMBIA, Gaali. St. Luke's (Cypress Mill). Evangelism & Education. Tommy & Connie Bye, Elizabeth & David Manning, Team Leaders.

June 12-18. HONDURAS, Siguatepeque. St. David's (San Antonio). School & Orphanage Ministry. Victor & Murry Mux & Vicky Goeber, Team Leaders.

June 13-21. HONDURAS, La Ceiba and El Pital. Medical/Dental Team. Elisabeth & Peter Englefield, Team Leaders. (Need one dentist with instruments.)

June 18-30. INDIA, Diocese of Karimnagar. Good Shepherd (Corpus Christi). The Rev. Steve Bilsbury & Dr. Anantha Babbili, Team Leaders.

June 20-28. MEXICO, Piedras Negras. St. Francis (Louisville, KY). Bobby Hausser, Team Leader.

July 7-21. UGANDA, Nebbi Diocese. St. Luke's (San Antonio). VBS & Renovations. Elizabeth Allen, Team Leader.

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

July 20-24. MEXICO, Piedras Negras. VBS at Iglesia El Buen Pastor. Bobby Hausser, Coordinator.

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

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

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

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

The Rev. Chuck Sharrow is offering mission opportunities at St. Paul's, Brownsville, with the added possibility of work in Matamoros, Mexico, across the border from Brownsville. Teams going to Brownsville will have the opportunity of doing much-needed maintenance work at St. Paul's, and Father Sharrow would also be willing to organize day trips to Matamoros to work at a small orphanage in that city. Vacation Bible School, maintenance, work and medical/dental care in the orphanage and neighborhood are needed possibilities. Father Sharrow believes that working in Matamoros at this time is safe but will continue to monitor the situation. For further information call Chuck Sharrow: (956) 542-3869, church, or email at vicpablo@juno.com.