

Unfinished

A publication of The Mission Society

Summer 2007 | 37



Thy will be done, on earth ...

Cultivating God's Kingdom by lessening hunger, poverty, and sickness

UNFINISHED

Summer 2007, Issue 37

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Our vision: The Cross of Christ within arm's reach of everyone in the world;

Our mission: To facilitate obedience to the Great Commission by the Body of Christ;

Our strategy: To create self-reproducing, indigenous, discipling Christian communities by mobilizing cross-cultural witnesses for Christ in partnership with nationals.

Cover photo by Jim Whitmer

BRISTOL HOUSE

Your Partner in Discipleship



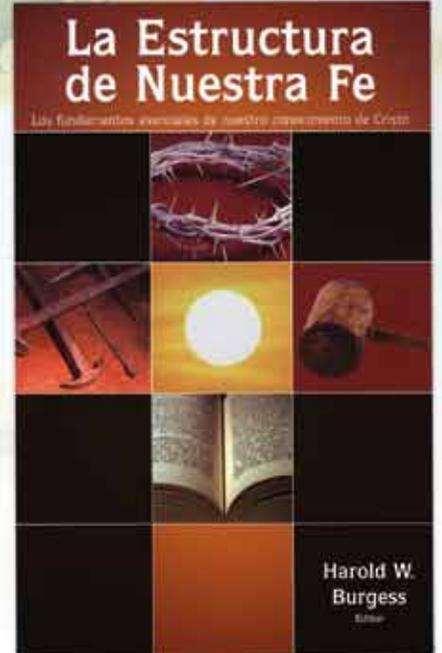
OUR FAITH TODAY
April 2006

Leading United Methodists Answer Your Questions

Q Why should Christians read the Old Testament?
A The simple answer to the same question that readers of the last chapter of Today's *Our Faith Today* need to read the rest of the book. We use the word *chapter* with enjoyment, but we say the real meaning and significance of that last chapter only if we have read what leads up to it. The same is true for the new Testament: it is the conclusion to a book which begins in Genesis. The only church continued this when they came to call the post-Christ writings the "New Testament." They were saying that this was the second part of a nation—the second part of the Old Testament "age."

Q Why do we pray in Jesus' name?
A As the youngest child in my family (and the only boy) I didn't always get my way. In overtime my older sisters, I could always say, "But Mom said so," then invoking an authority my sisters recognized. But I had not if ever I said, "Mom's name is vain, choosing something shows her that was contrary to her character or her will for us kids. Daddy (and in the Divine Company) defines prayer as a conversation with God about matters of mutual concern. It's telling God what's important in our lives and listening to what God wants in our lives. To pray in Jesus' name is to proclaim that Jesus has the final authority over our requests and desires in our relationship with God. We are submitting to his authority and power because his name is significant to his character. It's appropriate to the place in the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." When Jesus said out of 72 disciples, they reported that "even the devils submit to us in your name" (Luke 10:17). The name of Jesus is powerful in making God's Kingdom real in our world today.

Q Why is it so important to be a church?
A When we consider the New Testament we find that



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Harold W. Burgess
Editor

OUR FAITH TODAY

THIS MONTHLY BULLETIN INSERT answers questions about United Methodist practices, the Scriptures, personal and social holiness and more. A new section, written by **The Mission Society** staff, offers informative and inspiring stories from around the world.

Mission Society President and CEO, Philip Granger, says, "This bulletin insert is a way to minister to your congregation as you seek to offer the love and message of Jesus Christ in your own community and in communities at the ends of the earth."

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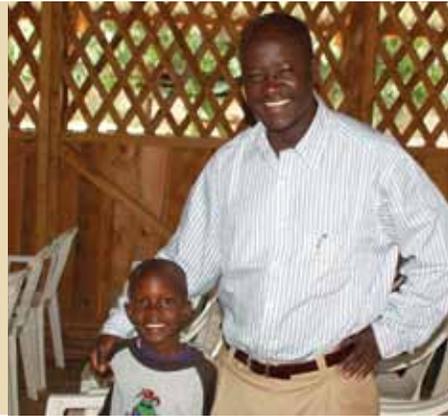
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Outward displays of affection

When you combine the Great Commission with the Great Commandment, you get tangible demonstrations of divine love

What does a missionary look like? When I ask this question, the answers I get are almost always the same. Most people think a missionary lives in a remote area among native people who have never heard about Jesus. This is certainly true for some of The Mission Society’s missionaries. (Be sure to see Jim Ramsay’s article on page 19 about Grant Miller’s ministry in Tanzania. Grant, who ministers among the unreached Kami people, is one of those who serve in a “traditional” missionary setting.) Many other missionaries live in settings that are not only remote, but which can be dangerous. As a security precaution, we don’t even publish

settings? What about the the Hicks family, for example? The Hickses minister in Japan among businesspeople, who are coming to Christ and are spreading the Gospel to others in Japan’s business community. Then there are the Smiths. Although they minister in Brittany, France, they live further away from other evangelical believers than any of our other missionaries. The Hickses and Smiths are missionaries in environments very different from the stereotype.

So what does a missionary’s ministry look like? Many people I ask think missionaries spend most of their time reading the Bible and sharing the Truth

sustain, disciple, and empower them as witnesses to others). That is the goal, but the means are as varied as the missionaries themselves.

The Mission Society works from a Wesleyan understanding of sharing the Gospel. We hold firmly to the Great Commission to go, teach, and disciple, so all might come to know Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior. We also hold firmly to the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe that these two teachings of Jesus are tightly bound together. Our work on and off the field is firmly rooted in our love of God and our love for God’s



Whether they are curtailing a cholera outbreak in remotest Ghana, or organizing horse camps for teens in Hungary, or discipling and mentoring artists in Paris, your Mission Society missionaries are a visible sign of Christ alive in His world, loving His world. (Missionaries shown in above photos from left to right: Juliana Jernigan, Beth Greenawalt, Sandra August)

the names of those who serve in areas where Christian ministry is discouraged or prohibited.

If a missionary is one who lives in remote, unreached area of the world, what do we make of the many other missionaries who do not serve in the “traditional”

of Jesus with people, “so they can become Christians.” It certainly is the end goal of all of the ministries of The Mission Society to bring individuals to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (and then to introduce these new believers to communities of faith, which then help to

people. Consequently, we seek to express God’s love in very tangible ways – ways that help meet the felt needs of communities and individuals. These “ministries of compassion” then become bridges by which the Gospel is shared. So, as you partner with The Mission Society, you help

operate hospitals and schools; you provide nutrition programs, mobile medical clinics, vocational training programs, and many other ministries as an expression of your love of God and His world.

Some missionaries of The Mission Society are involved in some non-traditional, innovative ministries of compassion. In this issue of *Unfinished* you will read about your Agrimissions program (missions through agriculture); about a ministry to AIDS orphans; about your CHE (Community Health Evangelism) and microloan programs. All of these ministries represent God's love for the world and some exciting ways God is leading His people to respond to physical needs. In the process, people all over the world are meeting the risen Lord.

Perhaps you are experiencing the call of God in your life. But maybe you have been discouraged because you are not well suited to wilderness living and your gifts are not in preaching or teaching. As can be seen in this issue of *Unfinished*, there are many other ways than the "traditional" to share God's Word. Enjoy some time with this issue and consider whether God might be calling you to love His people in some innovative ways. Contact us, and let's partner together in God's mission to reach the world for Christ. ✝

The Rev. Dr. Philip R. Granger, *The Mission Society president and CEO, is an elder in the North Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.*

Join us in The Mission

When you partner with The Mission Society, not only do you join us in The Mission to offer Christ to the world, but you join us in embracing these, our core values.

INCARNATION

The Mission Society seeks to minister to others by following the example of Jesus, who fully entered the human experience. In our cross-cultural ministry, we are committed to learning the local language, living among the people, and ministering in culturally appropriate ways, demonstrating love for God and neighbor, and disciple-making among the nations.

INTEGRITY

The Mission Society desires to reflect the holiness of God in all we do. Personally and corporately we endeavor to make the character of Christ manifest in our lives and our ministry.

PASSION

We are not complacent about the One who matters supremely or the work God has given us to do; nor is our ministry prompted simply by duty, or even obedience. Our life together and our ministry are marked and motivated by passion for God and God's mission. We are passionate about Jesus, our mission, and all those involved in the journey with us.

PEOPLE

The Mission Society believes that people are of primary value. Because people matter to God, people matter to us. Our cross-cultural workers, staff, donors, volunteers, prayer partners, and those we seek to reach are of greatest worth to us. Because "relationships" and not "formulas" are our method, The Mission Society exudes an entrepreneurial culture where every member is encouraged to discern and pursue God's unique direction for his or her ministry.

PARTNERSHIP

Since it is the Kingdom of God that we are called to express and extend throughout the world, our ministry is about more than ourselves and our organization. We believe that working together enhances our witness and strengthens our ability to make disciples of all nations. The Mission Society therefore pursues partnership in ministry endeavors – with churches, nationals, Christian organizations, and individuals.

PRAYER

It is only through the power and presence of the Spirit of Christ that we can live up to the high and holy intentions embodied in these values. We acknowledge our absolute dependence on God and seek both His guidance and His strength each day. Therefore, The Mission Society is a praying community.

God's garden party

Cultivating trust among agricultural communities and tending to people's physical needs, "Agrimissions" is planting seeds for God's Kingdom

By John Michael De Marco

Photo by Jim Whitmer



Jesus prayed for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Bodies, as well as souls, are important. Matter matters. God's mission involves redemption of the spiritual and the physical. This means His people have a unique mandate. Read here some unique ways you, through The Mission Society, help relieve hunger, poverty, and sickness in communities around the world.

Jesus made Himself known in an agrarian age. His parables and teachings teem with metaphors of soils, seeds, and harvests. And in the midst of His ministry, Jesus met people's physical needs as well as their spiritual hunger.

Today, in regions still living amid an agrarian age, The Mission Society seeks to make Jesus known and meet people's physical and felt needs. Skilled agricultural experts are coming alongside missionaries to help them prepare soil and plant seeds, both physical and spiritual, with the hope of reaping a harvest that can feed, clothe, and shelter communities, while nourishing them with the love of Christ.

This ministry that supports agrarian regions is known as the "Agrimissions," and its purpose is to glorify God through the use of agriculture skills and talents. The ministry's motto, "First the bread, then the Bread of Life," underscores The Mission Society's commitment to both the practical and the spiritual challenges faced by the world's people.

Spearheaded by Global Resource Team (GRT) Director Larry Williams, this ministry helps nationals and missionaries begin and advance agricultural projects. Profits from these projects benefit communities and often help further ministries. Agrimissions projects are currently underway in countries such as Ecuador, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru, and areas of Central Asia.

The Global Resource Team's broad function is to extend and enhance field missionaries' abilities to better serve those with whom they are working. Agrimissions offers pilot agricultural projects; national assessments; one-on-one technical assistance, and technical publications. It also recruits full-time agricultural field missionaries and participants for short-term mission trips.

"We always have a spiritual component to every short-term trip: 'First the bread, then the Bread of Life,'" Williams asserted. "Our primary goal is two-pronged: to help people improve their lives through agriculture and to introduce them to Christ. If we didn't offer them Christ, we would be no different than any other government agency that helps people."

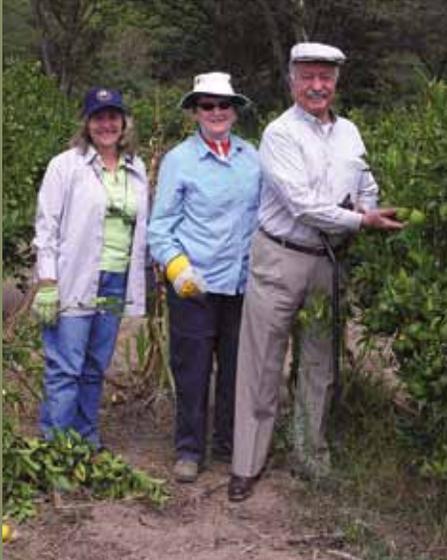
Added Rick Roberts, The Mission Society's vice president for emerging ministries and special projects, "Part of making disciples is that people follow you, and they'll only follow you if they have trust in you and respect you. You can only have that if you reach into their world as a servant and a learner, as Jesus did. That's the incarnational model."

Churches, seminaries, and other ministries of the non-Western world struggle to be self-sustaining, Roberts noted, and micro-enterprise development – including agriculture – is a means to assist them in this plight.

"Just because these people live in the



Mission Society missionary Daina Datwyler (left) with the bishop of Ecuador's Methodist Church. The Datwyler family helps raise funds for local churches in rural Ecuador by helping nationals improve agriculture efforts.



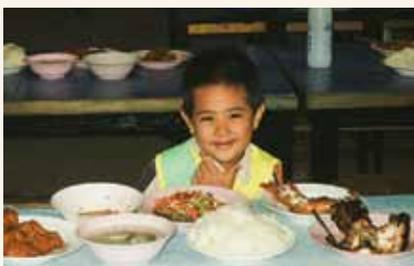
The Centro Agritecnico Metodista Del Paraguay (shown here being built), is a resource center, where the Guarani (native people of Paraguay) are taught better agricultural methods in order to provide more for their families.



Hunger happens

- More than 850 million in the world go hungry
- Poor families in developing countries spend on an average more than 50 percent of their total income in procuring food
- More than one billion people worldwide currently live below the international poverty line, earning less than one dollar a day
- In developing countries, six million children die each year, mostly from hunger-related causes*

**Information gleaned from Bread for the World*



most prolific agricultural regions of the world doesn't mean they have the training, culture, aptitude, or resources to get that land to be as fruitful as it could be," he said. "For example, Ecuador, on the equator, grows everything and anything – multiple crops per year. Yet we observed one gentleman getting only one crop per year. We've recommended how he could get three cash crops per year, as opposed to one. We went around to the Evangelical United Methodist Churches in Ecuador, looked at their land, and came up with recommendations as to how they could get cash crops out of that land."

Agrimissions in Central Asia

Williams, who grew up on a small farm in Alabama and has a professional background in both pastoral ministry and agriculture education, still remembers when God planted the idea for Agrimissions in 1985. "I was driving up in Tennessee, and it seemed like the Lord spoke to me," Williams said. "The way that Agrimissions is set up now is the way it was given to

me then. The reason it didn't launch immediately was that I had to learn a lot of things. I had to grow spiritually."

As Williams' spiritual journey ensued, he sensed the Spirit prodding him to "do something" with his agricultural skills. He continued to pastor, while holding onto the vision for Agrimissions, but he struggled to find a niche or opportunity where he could launch the ministry. It was not until 2000 that the first tangible exploration of Agrimissions' potential took place in Kazakhstan, at the direction of The Mission Society.

"It was an exploratory trip," Williams said. "Former Mission Society President Dr. Al VomSteege asked me to go to Kazakhstan and to start looking for some other people to go with me. That was a miracle in and of itself; three people I'd never met went with me on the team."

The miracles continued upon arrival in Kazakhstan. Williams and his team "were the only white-skinned people there," with the exception of a young woman they met who just happened to be working on a

Globe-trotting specialists

Traveling to nations worldwide, Global Resource Team members provide valuable assistance to missionaries and nationals.

The Mission Society's Global Resource Team (GRT) includes specialists in the areas of agriculture, water quality, child advocacy, and microloan administration. It presently seeks to add medical specialists to the team.

Typically, GRT specialists are invited to a country by missionaries serving there. It took some time for field missionaries to embrace the GRT concept, admits GRT Director Larry Williams, but missionaries have begun to realize that GRT's specialists can offer valuable help.

"It's great to have someone who has this particular type of expertise," observes Frank Decker, a vice president of The Mission Society and former missionary to Ghana. "So often missionaries may get out in a village or somewhere, and see a need for something for which they simply have no

training. Many of the areas where mission pioneering is still taking place are very much agrarian societies. People there still get their food out of the dirt, rather than from under a piece of cellophane. But a lot of missionaries grew up in suburbia."

Global Resource Team (GRT) members are individuals with specialty skills who use their expertise on various fields, globally. GRT members reside in the United States and spend one to three cumulative months annually directing projects on a field. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a GRT member, please complete The Mission Society Interest Form at <http://www.themissionsociety.org/go/interest> form or contact us at 1.800.478.8963, ext. 9025.



Debra Buenting

Specialty ministry: Media productions and communications



Charles and Becky Jackson

Specialty ministry: Leadership development (concentrating in Brazil)



Steve Nikkel

Specialty ministry: Agriculture and microloan administration



Patrick Cummings

Specialty ministry: Safe water and sanitation



Sue Kolljeski

Specialty ministry: Child advocacy



Larry Williams

Specialty ministry: Global Resource Team director and Agrimissions specialist



Jim and Barbara Gray

Specialty ministry: Teaching-English-as-a-second language (TESL)



Doug and Becky Neel

Specialty ministry: Agriculture, health and wellness, children's ministries

Not shown: Dan Godwin, the National Coordinator of the United Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador. In addition, two other families serve with the Global Resource Team in specialty ministries of child-advocacy and evangelism among Muslims.



In Chaingrai, Thailand, Agrimissions assists in providing sustainable agriculture at the Bannan Immanuel Orphanage, where this young woman once called home.



Agrimissions is working on a model to increase food in areas of Central Asia through Tilapia farming and sustainable agriculture.



The orphanage's director of agriculture, Ron Miller and Agrimissions director, Larry Williams in front of a "soy cow" machine, purchased in India, which supplements the protein intake of the children by producing 18 liters of soy milk in 25 minutes.

Ph.D. in agriculture. A couple days later, in an Internet café, the team met a Jewish attorney from New York City who learned the purpose of their trip and gave Williams a list of locals to contact. The team members visited a large collective farm still in operation from the Soviet era and talked with several agricultural and governmental leaders.

At this meeting, the team learned of a small city in western Kazakhstan and traveled there. Soon Williams and his colleagues ministered in a city where nearly 50 individuals were baptized and a woman was released through prayer from spiritual warfare.

"When she was delivered, it was like they turned a flashlight onto her face. I'd never seen anybody illuminate so much," Williams recalled. "Another woman in her 70s came to Christ for the first time. She said, 'Thank God you're here. We had forgotten our faith.'"

Layperson Wilson Lee of Alabama accompanied Williams on the 2000 trip to Kazakhstan and recalled the intensity of

the worship among believers there. "Even though we didn't understand their language, we could sense the love the people had for Jesus and what God was doing in that area," said Lee, who worked extensively in community development during his career and who has an advanced degree in agriculture.

Since 2000, The Mission Society's ministry in Kazakhstan has expanded, but Agrimissions has made little progress there. Wilson went back in 2001, and believes the lack of progress is due to government bureaucracy and the inability to order necessary supplies and parts.

Agrimissions in Paraguay

Williams and Lee used the ideas generated from their trip to Kazakhstan for their next trip to Centro Agritecnico Metodista Del Paraguay, an agricultural resource center in Paraguay.

"Things were a lot different in Paraguay," Wilson noted. "Some land had been contributed to The Mission Society, and we received cooperation from The Methodist Church for our efforts. At the agriculture

resource center, the locals are taught better agricultural methods, as well as cooking and canning skills. Several rooms are there, allowing for other types of training sessions and retreats. Getting this center built was difficult, because funding was so hard to secure, but it has been a help to many people.

"In Paraguay, we met with pastors from all over the nation to envision the work there," Williams added. "I asked them, 'What do you see as the need?' There was no answer, and I sat there until someone spoke up. Finally, one of them said, 'We know we've got to make changes for the sake of our children.'"

Agrimissions in Brazil

Doors in other countries continued to open, as the Lord unfolded the potential for Agrimissions one step at a time. Williams preached in Brazil and met a pastor from a Methodist Church, who invited him to speak at his church. Williams accepted, and it just so happened that the topic he chose for his sermon was exactly what the church had been studying. Since that initial

meeting, the Methodist Church of Brazil has received proposals from The Mission Society and Agrimissions on ways to advance its mission. The Mission Society's plan would take advantage of the 1,000 acres of land the church owns in Tocanins to build an agricultural training and exhibition center. Agrimissions' proposal would provide a facility for troubled teens to learn farming trades and study the Bible.

Agrimissions in Ecuador

Looking back over his visits to Ecuador and Peru during the last year, Williams said, "The Lord seemed to lead us from one village to another, and things seemed to dovetail where different villages wanted to do the same thing. The locals are always grateful for something that will help them.

When I go into a country, I never make any recommendations the first time. I'm there to visit, ask questions, and get to know the people and their culture. Ultimately, our goal is to help them improve their lives through better nutrition, better food, and better production, so that they will have more produce to sell. There are no two countries where we are doing exactly the same thing."

Missionaries Tim and Daina Datwyler have recently taken up residence in Quito, Ecuador, after having served for several years in Mexico. The couple, who lived on a farm in Northern California, has been given charge of about six acres owned for many years by the Evangelical United Methodist Church. Despite the 180 lime trees, the land has been "very uncared for," according to Daina. She described the trees as "all surrounded by weeds and morning glories. I never thought I would hate morning glories, but they're strangling our trees."

"We hope to partner with the church and put the land into production," she

It's only pocket change

But it's changing the face of world poverty

A simple, one-day experiment 31 years ago has been affecting millions of lives ever since. In 1976 Bangladeshi economics professor, Muhammad Yunus, lent the equivalent of \$26 to a group of 42 workers. With their 62 cents, the workers bought materials needed for a day's work. At the end of their first day of making pots and weaving chairs, they sold their work and soon paid back the loan, which would provide for other small loans for other workers.

Thus began the microcredit movement, an idea for which Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. Microcredit's resulting collateral-free banking system (Grameen Bank), established in Bangladesh by Yunus, operates with the belief that credit should be accepted as a human right, and that all human beings, including the poorest, are endowed with endless potential. As of March 2007, Grameen Bank had 7.06 million borrowers, 97 percent of whom are women.

Today, your Mission Society missionaries in Ghana, Kenya, and Central Asia administer microcredit loans to some of the poorest ("unbankable") members of church communities. These small loans allow the recipients to begin businesses, which provide financial stability for their families, and help support their local church ministries. "I give all glory to God," writes one microcredit recipient in Kenya. "I have planned to increase my rates of giving and tithing, because our God is so faithful."



Poverty has reached an unprecedented level in world history. Mission Society missionaries are working to change this; once-destitute families are now self-supporting and able to give to their churches.



Conditions are harsh in the Andean Mountains for the Quechua people, for whom even old age brings no relief from hard labor. Agrimissions is working to improve harvests among one community, and is working with a school to help produce food to supplement a feeding program.

said. “Most of the money for the pastors comes from the United States. The people here haven’t learned to tithe; the church is very young. There’s not really a huge membership, so the pastors are not being supported. While we progress in teaching about giving, we hope to put, not just the limes into production, but also the honey from beehives. It’s a pretty big estimate – how much honey will come in, and it will be a year-round income.” In addition, there is strong potential, said Tim Datwyler, for tilapia fish farming.

The land is located in an “isolated, good-sized community with a lot of kids,” added Daina. “We want to plant a church here. That’s a vision God’s given us.”

“We’re breaking some paradigms, as far as supporting pastors in the church,” said Tim. “I think it’s all very scriptural what we’re doing. It’s new ways of looking at how we can be self-sufficient. As missionaries, we have been obedient to the call, but in a lot of places we’ve created a dependence upon us. That’s something we really don’t want to do. Our hope is for nationals to take on ownership from the very beginning.”

Agrimissions among Muslims

Agrimissions has a strong presence in some Muslim areas of Central Asia, working within the “Insider Movement.” (The Insider Movement is a movement among Muslims

who become disciples of “Isa” [Jesus] while remaining culturally Muslim. By not renouncing Islam, these new Christ followers maintain opportunities to further engage other Muslims in conversation about Christ.) In these areas there is often limited access to traditional missionary resources and structures. This situation lends itself well to a focus on developing industries (i.e., fish farming and tea businesses) to support the ministries there.

“Those involved in this effort use a humanitarian aid approach to meet people’s real needs, and help support the work of those who are carrying out the ministry,” said Frank Decker, Mission Society’s vice president. “Larry Williams has done a lot of work there. For example, he provided some expertise in a certain type of vegetation to grow around one of the fish farms to provide a natural fence.”

On the horizon for Agrimissions

Williams hopes to expand the Agrimissions ministry into Cuba and nations in Africa. Doug Neel, a previous missionary with Servants In Missions (SIM), is joining the Agrimissions team as an associate director this year. Doug and his wife Becky reside in Texas. The Agrimissions ministry needs persons willing to serve on short-term teams. Williams finds that it’s easier for churches to organize short-term

mission teams from their own congregations, rather than coordinating with other churches across different geographical areas.

“You don’t have to be a farmer or an agriculture expert to be involved in helping others,” he emphasized. “People go on teams with me who are not agriculture experts. We do things everybody can be involved in.”

Concerning funding needs for Agrimissions, Lee conceded it is “probably harder to wrap your mind around this ministry than a medical ministry, for example. But when missionaries get in situations where they need to teach people about gardening, Agrimissions can be a very big help. . . . When you’re teaching new methods of growing food, giving people an opportunity to have a better lot in life, it’s a really good way to share the Gospel.”

Added Tim Datwyler, “What we hope to accomplish by Agrimissions is to share with people a way they can provide something for their families, whether income or food. I’d like to see people understand that there is more to missions than sharing the Gospel through [study of] the Word or a tract with the ‘Four Spiritual Laws.’ I think we reach more people when they see that we’re just like they are – just trying to help them.” ☩

John Michael DeMarco is a United Methodist deacon and a freelance writer, speaker, and trainer based in Central Florida.

Community Health Evangelism (CHE): A model of transformational development

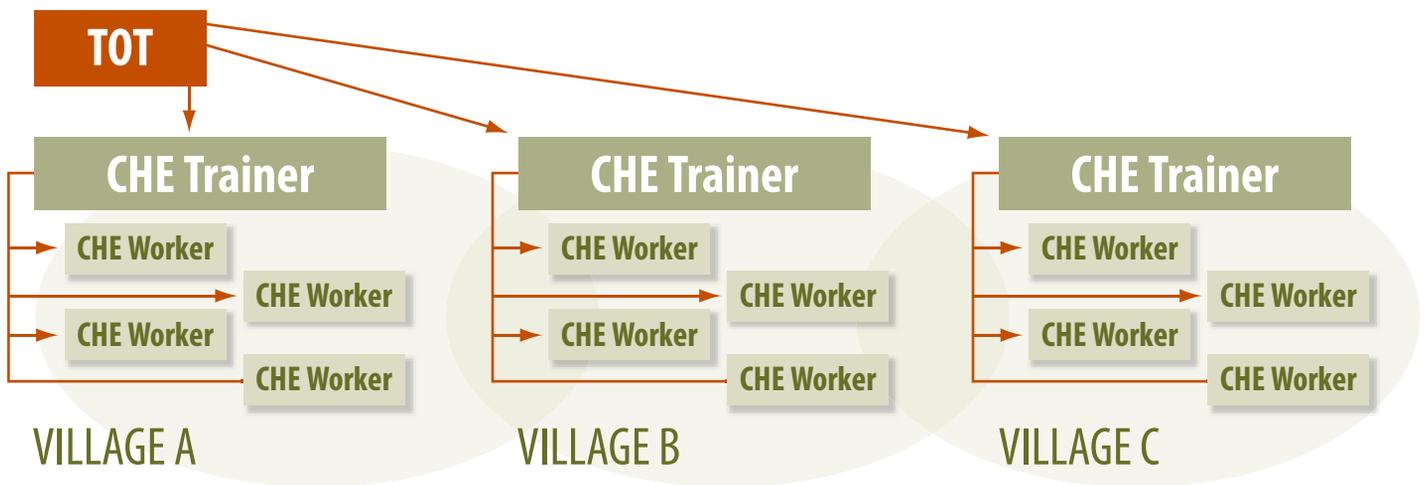
CHE begins with the CHE Trainer of Trainers (TOT). This person is often a missionary who teaches evangelism, discipleship, and preventative medicine to a CHE Trainer, who is a national worker. The CHE Trainer then disciples the CHE worker (also called "a CHE") who is a national from the target community.

The CHE Trainers, along with the TOT, select the target villages and live in them,

or visit them frequently in order to train the CHE Worker. Each CHE Worker is assigned 10-15 households in his/her neighborhood. As the CHE Worker teaches preventative medicine and spiritual lessons to the village families, a church is planted. As the CHE Trainer disciples the CHE Worker, eventually some will become new candidates to be CHE Trainers, resulting in the multiplication of the mission.

No technology is needed. No medical degree is needed. The nationals take ownership of the program, and they define and address their own needs. The Mission Society presently has CHE programs operating in Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, and the 10/40 Window.

**CHE is a model devised by Stan Roland for Medical Ambassadors International.*



A strategy for healing the nations

Missionaries Reid and Lola Buchanan serve in Ankaase, Ghana. Lola works with the nutrition clinic, helping to treat severely malnourished and sick children. For the mothers of some of these children, getting the necessary daily treatment means walking everyday for hours – back and forth from the clinic – in tremendous heat. How many sicknesses and diseases could have been prevented if only these mothers had training? “We needed a way to get healthcare training out into the villages,” says Lola. “CHE was that tool.”

Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is a program to reach villages and remote communities with basic community-health training, while spreading the message of Christ. Reid Buchanan heads the CHE program in Ghana. Here, Lola Buchanan tells of the effects of this holistic ministry.

John, a CHE Trainer, was making a visit one day with one of the CHE Workers. The two men visited an 81-year-old lady. After they shared a physical lesson, they shared a spiritual lesson, about who Jesus Christ is.

The woman felt comfortable enough with her visitors to share her story. From childhood to early adulthood, she had regularly attended church. However, soon after she married she found she was unable to conceive so her mother took her to see a fetish priest. Although she later conceived and gave birth to a healthy child, from that time on she felt dirty and unworthy, and she could not return to church. For 61 years this woman had not been in church.

After she shared her story, John explained that Jesus Christ came so that we could be forgiven. So that day, this little 81 year-old woman prayed and accepted Christ as her Savior. Later, through tears, she asked, “What took you so long to come?” She realized that for 61 years, she had missed a life of walking with Jesus.

God is using CHE to transform individual lives with the message of Jesus, which transforms whole communities, and whole nations.



One life at a time



**A survivor of
history's worst
pandemic,
Kenyan native
Michael Agwanda
returns home
to care for AIDS
youngest victims.**

By Reed Hoppe
Photos by Rick Roberts

Long before organizations such as ONE.org, World Vision, and others made the African HIV/AIDS epidemic global news, Michael Agwanda experienced the ravaging effects of the disease firsthand. Born in eastern Kenya, Michael was fortunate to escape contracting the deadly disease before birth. Although he began his life with the odds stacked against him, Michael is a true testament to what God can do with a life surrendered to Him.

When he was eight years old, Michael's mother died of HIV/AIDS. Several years later, his father succumbed to the same fate. His father's second wife (Michael's step-mother) now suffers with HIV/AIDS.

After the death of his parents, Michael was left to care for his two sisters and five brothers. They grew up in what Michael describes as a "semi-slum area." The entire community shared one bathroom. Michael remembers begging for food and often going hungry. Childhood, for Michael, didn't include playing with toys. Instead, he worked to try and help support the family from a young age. Now in his early 30s, Michael has joined the fight to stop AIDS in Africa. He is passionate about helping other orphans have the opportunity to a healthy and promising future.

HIV/AIDS around the world*

More than 38 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

25 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

More than 15 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

12 million African children have lost one or both parents to AIDS.



Michael moved to the United States in 2004 after being offered the opportunity to take a course in church leadership and management. His pastor in Kenya encouraged Michael to pursue ministry training so that he could help lead the church in Kisumu, Kenya. Michael was already active, serving on the church worship team, as a youth leader and church librarian, and as head of evangelism and discipleship ministries.

After arriving in Georgia, Michael learned that the program had been postponed for one year. He lived with a friend in town and began to look for a church. North Springs United Methodist Church was within walking distance from his temporary home, so Michael began to get involved.

While attending North Springs UMC, Michael was encouraged to enroll in the Lay Missionary Training Program, hosted by the North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. The program requires each participant to write a proposal for a mission project with which the student wanted to be involved. From that assignment, the Life for Children Ministry (LFC) was born.

Michael founded Life for Children in early 2006 with the help of boards of advisors in Georgia and Kenya. LFC's vision is "To give hope and life to HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children." Their mission is, "To identify orphans whose parents/guardians have died of HIV/AIDS and to support them physically, spiritually, and socially by providing food, housing, healthcare, education, and spiritual nourishment."

Now in its second year, LFC has grown to support 60 orphans in the Kisumu and Homa-Bay areas. LFC provides food, clothing, education, healthcare, school uniforms, mosquito netting, Christian teachings, and placement in a home with relatives so the orphans can enjoy growing up in a family environment. LFC uses the funds donated from churches and individuals to support the orphans in its care.

In 2006, more than 500 pairs of shoes were collected and shipped to Kenya for distribution among the orphans and the surrounding community. Fifty-three shoeboxes full of supplies were assembled, packaged, and delivered before Christmas. Several short-term mission teams travel to Kenya each year to provide medical care, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and help with facility construction for LFC and its participants.

It is expected that there will be 25 million AIDS orphans worldwide by 2010.

AIDS is the leading cause of death for adults age 15-59 in Sub-Saharan Africa.

AIDS is the world's fourth leading cause of death.

More than 25 million people have died of AIDS since it was first discovered in 1981.

**Statistics from ONE.org and World Vision*



Michael is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Theology with a concentration in Christian Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity College. Upon graduation he will return to Kenya and reside there full-time to coordinate the ministries of LFC.

Joining Michael in the fight against AIDS is Julie Campbell, a resident of Pennsylvania. Julie and Michael were commissioned as missionaries with The Mission Society together in August 2005. Like Michael, Julie is called to provide hope and health to Kenyan orphans. A school social worker for 23 years, Julie will now assist LFC in connecting orphans with extended family members and performing regular house visits to check on the children and families.

In Kenya alone, more than one million children have been orphaned from HIV/AIDS-related illnesses to date. In a nation of nearly 35 million people, 10 percent suffer from the HIV/AIDS virus. Recent estimates indicate that Kenya is one of the few African nations to report a drop in HIV/AIDS cases. It's believed that this decrease is the result of the United States' abstinence campaign, Voluntary Testing and counseling (VCT), and education regarding preventing infected mothers from passing the disease to their unborn child.

Worldwide, more than 38 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS, and 25 million of those are in Africa. Twelve million of the more than 15 million AIDS orphans around the world reside in Africa. Since AIDS was first discovered in 1981, 25 million people have died from the disease. AIDS is now the fourth leading cause of death worldwide.

When faced with such staggering statistics, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and incapable of making a difference. Thankfully, Michael, Julie, and many others like them around the world have committed themselves to the fight. As Michael can attest, there can be hope and a bright future for anyone, even those born into the most unpromising of circumstances. ✝

Reed Hoppe is The Mission Society's online editor and a commissioned deacon in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. She has served as a missionary intern in Ghana, West Africa.

Kenya

Kenya sits in the heart of Safari country. The word 'safari' comes from Swahili for 'journey.'

Kenya has more than 120 different ethnic groups. More than 40 percent of Kenya's 35 million residents are under age 15.

Mission Society missionaries serving in Kenya



Michael Agwanda

God has called Michael to work with HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya and neighboring countries through the Life for Children Ministry. His vision is to bring hope

and life to children who have lost everything by providing food, shelter, clothing, education, healthcare and spiritual nourishment. Michael desires to mobilize the Body of Christ to respond to the overwhelming demands of Kenyan orphans.

Before becoming a Mission Society missionary and International Partner, Michael worked with street boy's homes, research organizations, community development, and taught behavioral change seminars. Michael is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Theology with concentration in Christianity and Apologetics from Trinity College in Indiana.



Julie Campbell

Julie worked as a school social worker for 23 years before becoming a missionary to Kenya, where she spent the last three years. She returns to Kenya to join The Mission Society

team and work specifically with the Life for Children Ministry. Julie will work to locate homes in which to place children, disciple orphans and new families, as well as serve as a Christian advisor.



Don and Laura Dickerson

The Dickersons and their two sons, Zack and Drew, were called to serve in Kenya as disciplers, encouragers, and prayer warriors. They assist in planting

new church congregations and training national missionaries to be sent out into other unreached, resistant, and forgotten people-groups. Don is trained as a chemical engineer and also works with fresh-water systems in the region. Laura is trained as a critical-care nurse and is currently enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary.



Rick and Deb Slingluff

Rick and Deb are seeking to return to Kenya, where they met and married years ago. Since returning from Kenya, Rick has attended Asbury Theological

Seminary and has been serving as a local pastor in the Alabama-West Florida conference. The Slingluffs and their three children, Bethany, Timothy & Josiah, have a vision to minister in Kenya through the local church providing leadership development, orphanage care, and pastoral care.

About 75 percent of Kenya's work force is engaged in agriculture, mainly subsistence farming. More than 50 percent of Kenyans live below the poverty line.

An estimated seven percent of Kenya's population is infected with HIV/AIDS.



Amanda Smith

Having served in various countries throughout Africa, Amanda returns to Kenya to partner with Glory Outreach Assembly (GOA), a church comprised of many congregations throughout

this East African nation. Because of her background in pediatric oncology, Amanda is experienced in the care and advocacy of children and their families. Her call is to share the transforming love and freedom found in Jesus Christ through mentoring, discipling, and providing community-health outreach and support.



David and Joyce Thagana

Bishop David and Joyce Thagana oversee Glory Outreach Assembly (GOA) in Africa and direct the International Leadership Institute

(ILI) in East Africa. GOA ministry plants self-propagating churches, develops leaders, and works to reach unreached people groups in Kenya and beyond. In addition, GOA ministers to individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, cares for hurting street families, and works to foster peace and reconciliation. ILI equips leaders around the world to reach their nations with the Gospel. David and Joyce are joined in ministry by their children, Timothy, Grace, Mary, and Dennis.

UNIQUE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHURCH

Michael Agwanda serves as an "International Partner" with The Mission Society. International Partners are non-U.S. citizens who have established ministries in their home countries. For these men and women, partnering with The Mission Society provides opportunities to more effectively mobilize resources of prayer, people, and finances through an expanded network of relationships in the United States and elsewhere. International Partnership agreements also provide U.S. churches unique opportunities to work jointly with non-U.S. faith communities in ministry ventures that would be difficult to accomplish separately. For more information about International Partnership ministries with whom your church might partner, email us at info@themissionsociety.org.

Missionaries needed in new locations

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Community health workers

Motivated and creative people are needed to help implement a program of community development among villagers and their families. While there are no medical or professional skill requirements (training in Community Health Evangelism is available), leadership and relational skills are a must.

Ghana, Mexico, Paraguay, and Tanzania

Community health nurse

As a part of Community Health Evangelism, a nursing medical professional is needed to work in preventive care in the area of nutrition and general health in the village setting for children six years and under. Physical and spiritual care is given to the mothers and children as they visit the outreach clinics. Training in Community Health Evangelism is available in country.

Ghana

Healthcare workers

Doctors, nurses, dentists, ophthalmologists, and pharmacists are needed in rural settings where very little medical care is available. Offer physical as well as spiritual healing to thousands of patients around the world.

Ghana, Paraguay, Peru, and Russia

Medical personnel

Work alongside missionaries and nationals in variety of settings to administer First-Aid and some curative and preventative care as part of the holistic outreach of the team and the church. Emergency Medical Technicians and nurses are especially needed. First-Aid in villages does not require any special license. Village curative care is needed to work in Christian hospital and clinic settings in tropical conditions with limited resources and high volumes of patients. Visits as short as two weeks are welcome, but longer terms are encouraged. Physicians who specialize in family, internal or emergency medicine, as well as Pediatric, OBGYN and general surgery are needed. Physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, medical residents, and four-year medical students are also welcome.

Ghana, Paraguay, Peru and Russia

Hospital chaplain

A chaplain is needed to minister in a rural Christian hospital. Work with healthcare professionals in this village clinic and minister to both the patients and their families. Pastoral experience required.

Ghana

Literacy teacher

Act as a teacher's assistant to cross-cultural witnesses, teaching both English and native literacy. Students learn their own "mother-tongue" reading and writing skills while reading the Bible. Education majors and ESL teachers are especially encouraged to apply.

Ghana and Peru

Teachers for young, cross-cultural witnesses

School teachers are requested for some of our cross-cultural witnesses' children in rural settings to facilitate home schooling for children.

Ghana

English teachers (TESL)

Individuals are needed to teach English-as-a-second language. Relationships formed in educational settings can open doors for sharing the Gospel with students.

Hungry, Kazakhstan, Paraguay and Peru

Children & Youth Ministers

Work with cross-cultural witnesses and national workers to provide spiritual nurturing and mentoring for fledgling youth and children's ministries.

Hungry, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, and Peru

Orphanage workers

Abandoned children in Russia are in need of persons called to ministries of compassion, evangelism, and discipleship. Work in and among orphanages in the Russian Far East.

Russia

K-12th-grade teachers

Teachers are needed yearly for a variety of grades and subjects in several schools overseas. In some areas, classes are taught in English and a modest salary is provided. In Monterrey, Mexico teachers are needed for a bilingual Methodist School. Spanish is required for some positions.

Hungary, Kazakhstan, Mexico, and Paraguay

Engineers

Workers with engineering experience are needed to work alongside national drillers of water wells, as well as hosting work teams that come to help drill water wells.

Paraguay and Tanzania

Agricultural worker

An agricultural worker is needed to offer help regarding farming techniques and seeds to national pastors and evangelists who are also subsistence farmers. Also work one-one-one with local farmers in improving yields, marketing, and soil. This individual should be self-motivated, a strong Christian, with a deep calling to missions.

Ghana, Paraguay, and Tanzania

Missiologist

There is a need for a theologically and missiologically trained teacher at the Instituto Metodista de Formacao Misionaria in Teresopolis, Brazil.

Brazil

Retreat-center administrator

A person with administrative experience is needed at a retreat center in Telemaco Borba to run the retreat center and pastor a small church.

Brazil

Training-center director

A couple is needed to work in a cross-cultural-training center/seminary in Curitiba, Parana, Brazil. Administrative and teaching skills with past missionary experience is required. Vehicle and furnished housing are provided.

Brazil

Administrative-assistant

Ben Reyes, The Mission Society's regional coordinator of South America, is in need of an administrative assistant to assist him.

Paraguay

Director of short-term teams

A coordinator of short-term mission teams is needed to organize, communicate with, and minister to teams traveling from the United States, and to facilitate projects to help the community. This individual should be highly organized and motivated.

Paraguay and Peru

Pastors and theological educators

Opportunities abound to teach courses, seminars, and conferences in local seminaries throughout several nations. Leadership development training of pastors and other theological leaders are needed. Applicants should have pastoral experience and/or seminary-level training.

Ecuador, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Paraguay, Russia, and Tanzania

Camp workers

Camp counselors and administrators are needed to revitalize a Mexican Methodist campground ministry. Spanish and appropriate camp or youth ministry experience is required.

Mexico

Chaplain/dorm-resident assistant

The Monterrey Theology School needs a single male to serve as a chaplain and residency hall chaperone. Applicant should have prior ministry experience.

Mexico

Teachers needed in China

International Schools of China (ISC) are vibrantly Christian; the staff teaches a biblically-based American curriculum and openly shares the Christian faith. Presently, several ISC schools are seeking new staff personnel, including: grade 1, grade 2, grades 2-3 ESL, band (grades 6-12), marketing, library, music (preferred) or art, principal, elementary vice principal, high school AP English teacher. In addition six ESL teachers are needed in a private Chinese school. ISC schools are a ministry of Leadership Development International, one of many organizations with whom The Mission Society partners.

If you are interested in these or other positions, please contact The Mission Society. Visit us at www.themissionsociety.org or call 1.800.478.8963, ext. 9025.



God causes the growth

Tanzania: a study in the spiritual synergy of Kingdom ministry

I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. – I Corinthians 3:4-7

The Apostle Paul was writing in these verses about divisions in the church, and about people being worried about who gets the credit. One of the values that attracted me to The Mission Society years ago was its statement, “We don’t care who gets the credit as long as the Kingdom is advanced.” To live that statement requires that we be willing to look beyond those things that could divide us, so that the cause of Christ is better served.

As I write from the interior of Tanzania, I am experiencing a great example of the Body of Christ partnering together, abandoned to the cause of Christ. Several years ago, Asbury United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma had a vision to reach out to the Kami people in Tanzania. Through a series of God-guided events, Asbury United Methodist Church (UMC) connected with a veteran missionary from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). This missionary was working with the ELCA’s sister church in Tanzania (ELCT) in the region where the Kami people live. It became clear that Methodists from Oklahoma and Lutherans from Tanzania had the same heart for reaching into this area.

Grant Miller, a member of Asbury UMC who was, at the time, a student at Asbury Theological Seminary, felt called to move to Tanzania upon graduation and

coordinate his church’s ministry there. Although the church members had quite rightly taken on the responsibility of the mission, they sent Grant to The Mission Society to assist in logistics, missionary training, and to generally assist in facilitating this call. The result has been a true partnership between Asbury UMC, the ELCT, and The Mission Society. “I planted, Apollos watered, ...”



In Tanzania, Christian community is displayed as Methodists and Lutherans partner together to reach the once-unreached Kami tribe with the love and message of Jesus Christ. Grant Miller has served in Tanzania among the Kami since 1999.

Now, seven years later, Grant is continuing his work here in Tanzania. He supports, encourages, and mentors 30 local evangelists, who are sharing about Jesus in small, Muslim communities in the surrounding area. He helps train Christian leaders, so that the new, resulting churches will have pastoral leadership. In his work in the surrounding villages, Grant encourages

the Tanzanians to take the primary role in evangelizing to avoid having a foreigner be on center stage when people first hear the Gospel. Grant told me, “We don’t want to do anything that would create an obstacle to the people hearing the true message.”

Grant’s work extends beyond his time with the evangelists. He also teaches Bible two days a week in the local boarding school run by the ELCT. He coordinates a weekly communion service for the facility, which also houses a language school in Swahili. He also coordinates medical and other teams that visit annually from his home church, Asbury UMC. And in his spare time? He visits children at the local Catholic orphanage.

As I look at the impact of Grant’s work, I realize it is due in no small part to the willingness of Asbury UMC to be open to whatever means the Lord provided for reaching the Kami people; to the willingness of The Mission Society to “play second fiddle,” allowing Asbury UMC and the ELCT to take the lead; and to the local Lutherans’ willingness to let a bunch of Methodists partner with them. Interestingly, through the involvement of Asbury UMC, several Lutheran churches are now interested in working with the Tanzanian Lutherans. When we come with an attitude of Kingdom rather than worrying about credit, God causes the growth! ✠

After 10 years on the mission field in Central Asia, Jim Ramsay now serves as The Mission Society’s director of field ministry.



LIFESTYLE GIVING

MAKING YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT A LAST WILL AND TESTIMONY

History well remembers Patrick Henry. He was involved in the Revolutionary War, and became famous for his statement, "Give me liberty or give me death."

We also can assume that Patrick Henry believed in Jesus Christ. He made a statement to that effect in his will.

He told his heirs in his last will and testament, which is on public record today, that if he had left them no worldly riches but had given them a faith in Jesus Christ, they would be of all people most wealthy.

And he added that if he had left them all the wealth of the world and had not left them a faith in Jesus Christ, they would be of all people most destitute.

Another man, not quite so well known, left his wife something much more valuable than his estimated \$200,000 estate when he died. He left her his love, publicly declared in a probate court filing. According to a will signed 45 years earlier, all of his property went to his "dearly beloved wife and companion."

The will read: "The above bequest is so made by me for the reason that it was through her untiring efforts that I achieved whatever success I have and for her comforting aid in time of sickness, trouble and sorrow, and also to make more apparent and public the ardent love and deep admiration that I bear for the sweetest and dearest wife and pal in the world."

If you were to die and 200 years from now one of your descendants

wanted to find out if you were a man or woman of faith, could that fact be determined from an examination of official records and documents you left behind, as it was from the will of Patrick Henry?

If your will does not contain a personal testimony or an expression of love, you might want to consider this addition.

Or if you do not have a will, this will serve as a reminder that this important document needs to be prepared.

*We have available for you a **Guide to Planning Your Estate** that can serve as an important tool in the design or review of your will. We will be happy to make it available to you at no cost or obligation.*

PLEASE SEND ME A FREE GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR ESTATE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO OBLIGATION.

For additional information on estate tax and business planning, please indicate if:

- Your estate is over \$2 million, or You own your own business.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____

Work _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____

Spouse's Date of Birth _____

- I have remembered **THE MISSION SOCIETY** in my estate plan.

THE MISSION SOCIETY
6234 CROOKED CREEK ROAD, NORCROSS, GA 30092-3106
PHONE: 678.542.9037 E-MAIL: dbrown@themissionsociety.org

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Taking “member care” to the next level

The Mission Society announces the launch of its pastoral care department

Member care has always been a priority for The Mission Society. This spring, The Mission Society upped its intentional efforts to care for its missionaries by launching a pastoral care department. “The creation of this department only reinforces one of our core values – people matter to us,” says the Rev. Lauren Helveston, who heads this new ministry. “We are being given the privilege to initiate and develop proactive and intentional ministry focused on caring for our missionaries and staff.”

Helveston moved into this position after having served as director of mobilization and candidacy since 1999. During his tenure, the number of Mission Society

new role,” says Helveston, “especially about coming alongside our folks to encourage, refresh, resource them, and pray for them.” The Helvestons will start visiting missionaries in their places of service later this year, with a goal of 6-8 visits per year starting in 2008. Helveston also serves as chaplain to the home staff in Norcross.

As Helveston transitions, Richard Coleman assumes the position of director of mobilization and candidacy. Coleman, who holds an M.Div. from Oral Roberts University, served for three years as the director of missions at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church (a large congregation in the Atlanta area). In 2006, Coleman joined

Need a mission speaker?

The following missionaries presently are, or soon will be, in the United States for up to a year of homeland ministry: Arfaras, Bakers, Buell, Cravens, Eisenbergs, Herrins, Hicks, Hopkins, Johnsons, Mozleys, Wilkos, Wysongs.

To schedule a missionary or missionary speaker for your church, contact Debbie Finney, itineration coordinator at: 1-800-478-8963, ext. 9027 or dfinney@themissionsociety.org.



Left: Lauren Helveston, who has served on staff since 1999, heads The Mission Society's new pastoral care department.

Right: Richard Coleman assumes the position of director of mobilization and candidacy recently vacated by Lauren Helveston.

missionaries more than doubled. Helveston himself (along with his coworker, Janice Colvin, manager of candidates) helped facilitate the missionary call of 63 percent of the missionaries presently serving (which gives this new department a head start in establishing trust and relationships).

Helveston's wife, JoAnn, will serve as a volunteer in this ministry. Former missionaries to Ghana, the Helvestons have served together in pastoral ministry for many years. “We are excited about this

The Mission Society staff along with his wife, Amanda, who serves as coordinator of field services.

Coleman is joined in this department's ministry by Janice Colvin, who has served on The Mission Society staff since 1990; and Anna Drewry, who joined the staff of The Mission Society in 2006, after having served as a teacher in Atlanta and in the Dominican Republic. †



“Homeland ministry” is a time for reconnecting and sharing the stories of God's work in the world with family, friends, and supporting churches in the United States. Career U.S. missionaries return to the States for a year of homeland ministry following four years in overseas ministry.

Grateful for her witness among us

Remembering former missionary, Mary Boggan



"Mary's life was all about pointing people to Jesus, and she lived in such a way that people would want to know the One whose love was so evident in her life. We will miss Mary. But we will see her again. Thanks be to God," spoke Mission Society Vice President Dick McClain during the celebration of the life of Mary Boggan held in a sanctuary filled to capacity in Hoover, Alabama. For information about making a gift in memory of Mary, call The Mission Society at 1.800.478.8963, or call Riverchase United Methodist Church at 205.987.4030.

The Mission Society mourns the loss of former missionary Mary Boggan who passed away on April 15, 2007. Called into ministry at the age of 10, Mary attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky in preparation for Christian service. When asked about what area of the world she felt called, Mary replied, "To me it has been more of a way of life than a physical location." This simple statement exemplifies Mary's humble approach to obedient service to the Lord.

Mary was married to the Rev. Austin Boggan for 33 years, two of which they spent serving together in Paraguay before returning to the States because of medical concerns. They moved to Paraguay at a time when the Methodist Church was just being formed and worked alongside Paraguayan pastors. Pastor Pablo Mora, bishop of the Methodist Church in

Paraguay, said of Mary, "She knew how to give worth to every national worker and never lost the opportunity to testify to her faith to the neighbors around her house whom, even today, ask about 'Maria the missionary.'"

After retiring to their home in Alabama, Austin and Mary continued to remain active in ministry. They led short-term mission trips to South America, volunteered in their local church, served as Mission Society mission representatives, and continued to raise awareness and support for the ministries in Paraguay.

Mary joined the great communion of saints after a battle with cancer. She leaves behind her husband, six children, and 17 grandchildren.

Mary, how grateful we are for your life and witness. We won't forget you. †



Introducing your newest missionaries

On April 14, 2007, six new missionaries were approved for service with The Mission Society. They are (clockwise from top left) Steve and Shannon Mersinger, whose field is yet to be determined; Rose Blank, from Florida, who will serve one year in Brazil; Jennie Clements, from Georgia, who will serve two years in Mexico. Welcome, friends! We thank God for you.

Presently, 207 missionaries serve with The Mission Society.

Looking for a summer read?

In May, the editors of Christianity Today released CT's "Book Awards 2007," a list of 22 book titles that "bring understanding to people, events, and ideas that shape evangelical life, thought, and mission." Here are just three of CT's picks.

WINNER: APOLOGETICS/EVANGELISM

The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief

Francis S. Collins (Free Press)

CT's judges said: "Faces head-on the most tactically challenging issues that keep people from Christian faith in our time with both clarity and charity. And by showing a Christian who loves creation, science, his neighbors, and his Lord, it presents a rare and welcome picture of mature Christian character."

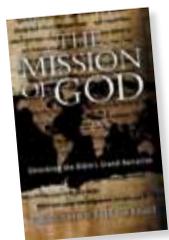


WINNER: MISSIONS/GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative

Christopher J. H. Wright (IVP Academic)

CT's judges said: "Completely fresh with new insights presented in a lucid and compelling way. This is an important work of scholarship that will likely give future generations a firm foundation for thinking theologically about the church's mission in the world. Likely to affect the way that biblical theology and exegesis are done in evangelical seminaries."



WINNER: THE CHURCH/ PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples

Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger (B&H Publishing)

CT's judges said: "This very practical book addresses a big gap in most evangelical churches: the lack of a functional process for actually making disciples (not just incorporating church attenders)."



Want to develop a mission strategy or plan a mission event in your church?

Mobilizing your church for greater outreach can begin with the Global Outreach Weekend. The Mission Society team is available to come to your church and present the six-hour **Global Outreach Seminar**, as well as to minister during your worship services on Sunday. This seminar is designed to cast a greater vision for outreach and introduce effective means of mobilizing the entire congregation.

In addition, three essential strategies that are taught in the Global Outreach Seminar are now being presented in a more in-depth interactive workshop format in:

Developing a Global Outreach Plan

September 7-8, 2007

Atlanta, GA

This workshop will provide each participant with the training and tools needed to implement an effective missional structure and strategy that will be a unique fit for your local church.

Cost is \$99 per person.

Equipping Short-Term Mission Leaders

October 26-27, 2007

Simpsonwood Retreat Center, Norcross, GA

This interactive training will equip leaders to develop and execute an effective short-term missions plan, and to train and disciple the members of your short-term mission teams.

Cost is \$99 per person.

Conducting a Global Impact Celebration

April 11-12, 2008

Norcross, GA

This workshop will equip church leaders to plan, promote, and execute an annual high-impact missions celebration event in your local church.

Cost is \$99 per person.

For more information and to register online, visit us at www.themissionsociety.org or contact us at 1.800.478.8963 ext. 9046 or cr@themissionsociety.org.



We really do need each other

How your church can build strategic partnerships

Local churches are increasingly getting involved in global mission. As this happens there comes a growing realization that none of our congregations has all the gifts and resources needed to accomplish God’s mission.

That realization, combined with the acceleration of global change in recent decades, sets the stage for God’s people to begin to connect in new ways. Spurred on by changes in communications and transportation and by increased globalization, churches and organizations are joining hands to finish the task as never before.

Partnership is as old as the Bible. At the heart of Jesus’ prayer for His disciples was the desire that the Body of Christ function in unity to let the world know of His love. (John 17:23)

Author Henry Blackaby suggests that radical diversity and maximum unity are the critical components of Kingdom partnerships. Radical diversity implies each person using his or her unique gifts. Maximum unity suggests that working together we can accomplish more than the sum of our individual efforts.

Here’s the goal we need to be working toward: the whole people of God engaging in the whole mission of God in the whole world that God so loves. When it comes to cross-cultural witness, working in partnership with others is imperative. Here’s a practical and critical rule of thumb: The further you reach out geographically or culturally, the more you need experienced partners to help you negotiate the unfamiliar territory.

Who might some of these experienced partners be?

- Other local churches
 - Missionaries
 - Mission agencies
 - Para-church organizations
 - Health and community development organizations
 - National workers
 - Educational institutions
- The possibilities are extensive

Four critical elements:

The bottom line is that effective partnerships don’t just happen! They are the result of building strong relationships,

developing trust, and prayerful planning. Practically speaking, the most productive partnerships involve at least these four vital elements:

- Mutually-agreed-upon vision
- Shared goals
- Collaborative strategies
- Committed resources

Jesus said that He would make us “fishers of men” when we follow Him. For many of us, that conjures up an image of a child with a fishing pole. However, the model Jesus had in mind probably looked more like a group of people fishing together with a net.

The magnitude of the unfinished task demands that we join hands to make Christ known to the lost in our community and to the 1.8 billion people who still do not have access to the Gospel. The job is too big for any of us to tackle on our own. We need each other! ✚

Dick McClain is The Mission Society vice president for ministry operations and an elder in the North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

FOUR MODELS OF PARTNERSHIPS*

CONNECTING (Low intensity)

Commitment Some vision to work together

Prayer

Giving Special offerings and one-time gifts

COOPERATING (Mild intensity)

Commitment Some project involvement

Prayer

Giving Ongoing support; project-specific support

Participation Stand-alone short-term teams

Planning for teams

COORDINATING (Medium intensity)

Commitment to joint projects

Prayer

Giving Greater ongoing and project-specific support

Participation Multiple short-term teams for medium- to long-term projects

Planning Joint project planning

Decision-Making Some joint project-related decision-making

COLLABORATING (High intensity)

Commitment High commitment of time, people, and funds

Prayer

Giving Major ongoing support; major long-term project funding

Participation Regular short-term teams for long-term strategic projects

Planning Joint strategic planning

Decision-Making Understood process for collaborative decision-making

*Adapted with permission from © REACT Services

Note that as the level of commitment increases, the intensity of the partnership escalates.

What's working for us: Michigan congregation reports

Fund-raising for missions can leave a good taste in your mouth

Maybe you've heard this before at your church: "We're excited about our short-term mission service trip, but how will we cover the expenses?"

Our church (Faith United Methodist Church, Delton, Michigan) encourages short-term mission teams by helping to provide funding for team members. For people going on their first mission trip, the church covers half of their expenses. For all others (those who have previously served on a short-term team), the church covers one-fourth of their expenses.

The church monies that provide for short-term missionaries is provided by Faith Promise Giving, which is voluntary and not part of the general church budget.*

As for covering the remainder of the expenses, short-term team members are encouraged to write letters, inviting family and friends to partner in the mission event by providing prayer and financial support. Team-members also help organize church

fund-raisers. We have enjoyed pizza sales, Super Bowl weekend activities, special dinners followed by auctions (for crafts, food, and services), Christmas home tours, and pie sales. When you know your money is going to feed a spiritually hungry community, a \$25 cherry pie never tastes so good.

Called to short-term missions? Don't allow fears about covering expenses to keep you or your church from doing what God has called you to do. ☩

**To request more information about Faith-Promise Giving, email cr@themissionsociety.org or read more online at https://www.themissionsociety.org/files/793_HB_Summer_Answers_About_Promise.pdf*

By Patty Harrington, Faith United Methodist Church mission team chairperson, Email: GHarr15716@aol.com

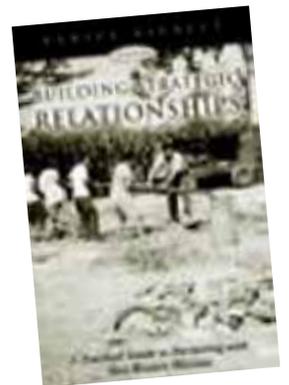
Go global

How your church can partner with churches half way around the world

The Church is in a new era. Today, the worldwide Body of Christ has the unprecedented opportunity to work together to advance God's Kingdom. But partnerships—especially cross-cultural ones—can be difficult and messy. This is natural. Partnerships reflect the diversity of God's people and the diverse needs in the world.

Building Strategic Relationships: A practical guide to partnering with non-Western missions provides practical help for local churches in establishing strategic relationships. It offers guidance for assessing intercultural partnerships and building effective, collaborative relationships for cross-cultural outreach. The step-by-step direction of author Daniel Rickett is an invaluable tool for global ministry. Every church could benefit from his wisdom.

Cost is \$10.95 plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling. Call (800) 966-5515 to order directly from Partners International.



Reviewed by Rick Roberts, vice president for emerging ministries and special projects

With the good news of the Christ child born among us, The Mission Society missionaries and their families minister in 32 nations around the world. We offer their names here. How we thank you for your prayers for them!

The Mission Society missionaries:

Michael Agwanda, Ari Arfaras, Sandra August, Ed & Linda Baker, Jose & Audrey Banales, Erica Beeles, Jim & Angela Beise, Rose Blank, Liz Boggess, Reid & Lola Buchanan, Margaret Buell, Debra Buenting, Doug & Brooke Burns, Julie Campbell, John & Sandra Carrick, Chris & Sue Champion, Charlie & Miki Chastain, Amantha Claxton, Jennie Clements, Cathy Coburn, David & Carol Cosby, Patrick Cummings, Tim & Daina Datwyler, Don & Laura Dickerson, Christian & Angelica Dickson, Caren Dilts, Billy & Laurie Drum, John & Colleen Eisenberg, Micah Eldridge, Sue Fuller, Dan Godwin, Cam & Anne Gongwer, James & Barbara Gray, Dave & Beth Greenawalt, Alicia Grey, Justin Grogg, Florencio & Maria Guzman, Charlie & Chris Hanak, McLean & Colleen Hawthorne. Kevin & Laura Heikes,

John & Katheryn Heinz, Jon & Jeanne Herrin, Neal & Mari Hicks, Ron & Bonnie Hipwell, Ronnie & Angi Hopkins, Andrew & Margaret Howell, Arthur & Mary Alice Ivey, Charles & Becky Jackson, Charlie & Mary Kay Jackson, Andrew & Juliana Jernigan, Trevor Johnston, Wilson Kendrick, Esaho & Beatrice Kipuke, Clay & Deborah Kirkland, Sue Kolljeski, Joetta Lehman, Ash & Audra McEuen, Cheryl McGraw, Steve & Shannon Mersinger, Grant Miller, Mike & Claire Mozley, Dondee Nations, Doug & Becky Neel, Steve Nikkel, Ron & Michelle Olson, Donald & Carol Paige, Peter & Esther Pereira, Len & Betsy Phillips, Martin & Tracy Reeves, Leon & Vicki Reich, John & Rosalie Rentz, Ben & Jenny Reyes, Ruben Rodriguez, John & Bess Russell, Wendi Schambach, Michael & Jannike Seward, Kirk & Nicole Sims, Rick & Debra Slingluff,

Amanda Smith, Mike & Valerie Smith, Nancy Stelow, David Thagana, David & Jennifer Thompson, Ron & Belinda Tyler, Bill & Beth Ury, Reed Walters, Mark & Johanna Waltz, Tate Welling, Larry Williams, Steve & Heather Wilson, Dai & Neva Wysong

In addition to those listed above, 38 missionaries serve in areas where security is an issue for Christian workers. For that reason, they remain unnamed here. Thank you for praying for these dear brothers and sisters, as they face unique challenges.

For more information about The Mission Society missionaries or fields, visit our website at www.themissionsociety.org.

May we pray for you?

Each morning at The Mission Society, we start by praying. We pray for the world. We pray for our missionaries. And we pray for you. Do you have prayer concerns that you would like to share with us? We invite you to do so. Here's how: Write your request on the response card included in this mailing and return it in the envelope provided, or

- Email us at prayerrequest@themissionsociety.org, or
- Call us at 770.446.1381 (ext. PRAY or 7729) and leave your prayer request message, or
- Write us at: Prayer, The Mission Society, 6234 Crooked Creek Road, Norcross, GA 30092

Your shared concerns will be handled with care and prayed for by our staff and visiting missionaries. Thank you for the privilege of joining you in prayer.