

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

June, 2009

Lori and Amanda Potts - The Mission Society

In the United Methodist Church, June is the time for most Annual Conferences. As I oversee our representatives traveling to their own annual conferences to represent The Mission Society, I also will attend the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference to represent The Mission Society. Right now we have someone to represent The Mission Society in 11 conferences across the United States. Some of our annual conferences do not allow a representative of The Mission Society to be present, even though a petition was passed at General Conference to create working relationships with The Mission Society where possible.

My past work at Eastern Seminary in Philadelphia (now known as Palmer Seminary) allowed me the opportunity to meet many of our United Methodist pastors in the Eastern PA Conference. I look forward to renewing those friendships and making new contacts for The Mission Society.

It is hard to believe that Amanda has graduated from the 8th grade. She has been fortunate to excel in many things this year. She took 5th place at the Science Olympiad. She competed in "Reach for the Stars" and celebrated improving over last year's 10th place. She applied for a \$1000 Merit Scholarship and was one of 20 incoming freshmen from 4 schools chosen to receive this scholarship. The scholarship is given on the basis of academic performance, character, leadership and school and community involvement. Praise God for His goodness!

As most of you know, we moved on June 13 to our own apartment in Lancaster. With this move, many pieces of our lives came together from the far corners of the world. I am thankful for team members who brought trunks back to the States from Kazakhstan. We had to retrieve some furniture from siblings and friends and also from our storage truck. David and I gave things away, had a public auction, and then packed that truck about 10 years ago when we moved out of the EUM parsonage and began our journey to Kazakhstan. We stored things in that truck that we wanted to keep long term. At that time, I had no idea it would be 10 years later when I would open those doors without David by my side. The truck is full of memories, most of which Amanda does not even remember - she was only 3 or 4 years old when we packed that truck. Please pray for physical and emotional strength as I deal with all these memories associated with this move.

Our new address is: 26 Lepore Drive
Lancaster, PA 17602
717-431-8386

Mark and Kim Hough - Campus Crusade for Christ

It's hard to believe that another year has come to a close. For me personally (Mark), it's easy to constantly look ahead to the next chapter on the horizon, but I'd like to share some highlights of what God has done in the hearts of two of our students.

Ryan was a sophomore this year at Penn State. He tried the party scene for awhile but never felt satisfied. One night he jumped on Facebook (an online social utility) and saw pictures of a high school friend involved in Campus Crusade for Christ. Ryan said that every face looked different - happy and full of life. Not surprisingly, Ryan soon checked out Cru. He went on a weekend fund raising trip for kids with cancer. On the way home, Luke - a key Cru student leader, asked Ryan, "so when did you ask Christ into your life"? To Luke's surprise, Ryan answered, "never". Over the next two hours Luke shared the message of Christ's love and sacrifice on the cross with Ryan. Although growing up in a "spiritual" home, Ryan never understood the message of the Gospel. Since the day Ryan gave his life to Christ it's been awesome to see the life changes. He's a completely different person with new priorities, new relationships, and a new direction and purpose. The other student is Harry. A girl in Kim's Bible study asked Harry to check out Cru and his initial response was, "Cru, isn't that a cult"? Kara replied, "why don't you come and see for yourself?" He and I met for lunch and I learned all about his story. To be honest I didn't think much would come from our appointment as he didn't appear all that interested in spiritual things. But Harry showed up in my Bible Study the next week. At first he was quiet, just checking things out but over time he opened up. Harry became a regular at our weekly meeting, went on our spring break trip and threw himself into the Cru community. He has emerged as a leader in the freshmen class and is pumped to come back next year and gather as many of the new freshmen as possible for Christ.

It is exciting to see the life changes in guys like Ryan and Harry and we love seeing them taking the initiative to share their faith with friends. Thank you for helping take part in the life changes of students through your prayer and giving. Your partnership will have an impact on them for the rest of their lives.

The Mission Society

The challenge before us today is the Muslim world. Many of us look at Muslim nations with fear. We think "impenetrable." We wonder how the message of Jesus can ever reach these people, especially in areas closed to outsiders.

One of our missionaries serving in a Muslim nation told how one little girl encountered Christ in a way that may be more common than we know. While this young girl was in the basement of her apartment building, she noticed a Bible. She had never seen one before, but she knew what it was. She had heard stories. She took it up to her bedroom and began to read. As she did, the Person of Jesus became so attractive to her that she put her faith in Him. Later, she met missionaries, through whom she was able to learn more about Jesus. In many parts of the world, something incredible is happening among Muslim communities right now. Many Muslims are discovering the grace of Jesus in the context of their own culture. And your obedience is making a difference. Thank You!

Bruce and Elsie Lippy - Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc.

Greetings from CEF's International Headquarters in Warrenton, Missouri!

SUMMER MISSIONS TEAMS: This summer many young people will experience the "extraordinary life". Summer Missions Teams will be trained for two weeks here beginning June 5. A total of 21 college-age students, divided into teams, are scheduled to minister to kids for four weeks in Australia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Uganda, Zambia, Boston and Alaska. Thousands of children will hear the Gospel and have an opportunity to receive Christ as Savior. Please pray for safety, endurance, daily spiritual victory and many to be saved.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION: Teens all across the United States will be trained in their local areas to reach kids through neighborhood 5-Day Clubs. Many of these young people become soul-winners for life through this amazing ministry. A number of CYIAers come back summer after summer. As they get a taste of the extraordinary life, some go on to serve on Summer Missions Teams and even full-time missionary outreach. Pray for the hundreds of locations needed for the children to gather.

GOOD NEWS ACROSS AMERICA: A national CEF campaign to blitz large cities will focus on Little Rock, Arkansas, July 20 to August 1. Hundreds of CEF staff, missionaries and trained volunteers partner with churches in this citywide evangelistic thrust to take God's Word to children in the Little Rock area. Teams of workers from CEF chapters across the country along with the local church members will conduct 5-Day Clubs. Church volunteers will be equipped to follow up these clubs in public elementary school Good News Clubs in the fall. CEF will make ongoing training, support and materials available to the churches. Pray for 40 churches to partner with CEF and 200 volunteers to teach kids.

We want you to see and be encouraged, as we are, by the letters and notes we receive from students who have both their lives and their eternities changed through salvation in Christ, gained through CEF Mailbox Club lessons and the prayers and notes of encouragement from the lesson graders.

The following is a letter we received from the parents of a student of the CEF Mailbox Club: *"We just wanted to let you know that Brenda died on Dec. 17, 2008. She died from pneumonia. She was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy in 2004 and wasn't able to walk anymore. She really enjoyed doing your lessons with the Mailbox Club. She received "The Wonder Devotional Book" and studied and read a lot in this book. She received the "Heaven for Kids" book on Dec. 16 which she got to see and page through a little bit at the hospital. We were planning to bring her home on Dec. 18 because she really wanted to go home. But she died early morning on the 17th. She had a great faith and we feel the mailbox club helped her a lot. So we just want to thank you so much for all the lessons and books you sent Brenda."* A letter like this gives us reason to exist - to push on.

Thank you for your faithfulness and partnering with us as we provide the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to both children and adults through the CEF Mailbox Club courses. Thousands of lives are being touched and changed!

Bill Teate - India Bible Literature/Glad Tidings India

A person who recently visited India to see how God was working through India Bible Literature remarked, "I had an incredibly rewarding experience while visiting in India. It was very uplifting to witness how Jesus was transforming lives and communities through the efforts of India Bible Literature. The growth in the number of believers was staggering. A church of 600 congregants (including six converted witch doctors) with a Christian School of over 400 children had blossomed in ten years from a small group of ten believers who met under a tree in a remote village that was not accessible by roads. Other churches were dedicating their first building with a vision of reaching out to additional families planting other churches through the grace of God."

The strategy employed by India Bible Literature is strongly indigenous and emphasizes partnership rather than paternalism. These Church Planters trained will now continue under the authority of the mother church. They are taught to develop support from God within India rather than be dependent on foreign funds.

Since 1985 over 6,200 Church Planters have been trained through IBL. They have planted over 18,000 house churches and have trained under them an additional 20,000 "Timothys". We praise God for the fruit being borne for His Kingdom and for your part in helping this to happen. May these servants of God continue in the years ahead as they labor to reach for Christ the teeming millions of people in the land of India.

Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services

Please pray for the Board to have vision, discernment, and wisdom as they lead SVPS. Continue to pray for the addition of new board members who love Jesus, honor the sanctity of life and embrace transformation of our region.

Pray for the abortion-minded clients we have been seeing and will see, that they would choose life for their children and would realize the value God has placed on their lives as well as their babies. Praise God for those who have accepted and decided to walk in relationship with Jesus Christ as their Savior.

We need to fill two positions within the Sexual Integrity Ministry in our expansion of services so please pray for God's direction as we seek the right people to fill these positions. We have three current Sexual Integrity groups nearing completion and we are praying that each student will openly receive His truth and will apply that truth to their lives.

At our Ephrata Pregnancy Center we have several clients who are nearing the end of their pregnancy and preparing for childbirth and parenting. Please pray for them.

In the Lancaster Pregnancy Clinic we have a young couple weighing whether they will abort, parent or make an adoption plan. Pray that the right decision will be made to parent this child or else work on an adoption plan. There is also a young student at our Lancaster Clinic who is going to deliver twins soon. Pray for her family that they would be supportive.