

## **MISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**February 2010**

### **Tim and Evie Conkling - China Ministries, Int.**

I never really understood what shepherding sheep meant until tonight. My job on the Thailand Bible distribution team this year was not to hand out Bibles to Chinese tourists, but to work the crowds and direct them to where our team was allowed to distribute the Bibles and Christian literature. I had quite a challenge on my hands! My job was to explain to the dozens of tourists hopping off their tour buses what we are doing standing there with the Bible packets and to direct the tsunami of people where they should go to take the Bible and the literature packets as our Chinese New Year's special gift.

What gets my attention is not the crowds but the individuals, for example, the 10 year old boy from Beijing who asked if could have a Bible. The 80 year old blind lady, led by her daughter to take a packet because she heard there was a Mandarin DVD of the Jesus film that she could listen to inside the packet. The 4 young ladies from Liaoning, and their brother and father, who wanted me to narrate New Year greetings and an explanation of what we were giving out so they could show their friends back home. The professor from Beijing who asked me why America, as a supposedly Christian country, would allow professing homosexuals and unbelievers to mount the pulpit in a church on a Sunday morning. The 5 year old girl perched on top of her 6' 3" father's shoulders directing her Dad to walk over so she could get a Bible. These are priceless scenes and cherished memories of what has happened this week because you are praying. Thank you so much.

Sometimes it is hard to believe that we are living in a Communist country. Christmas was one of those times. Our family was invited by four local churches to sing, "O Holy Night" in Mandarin on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day evening. We were only able to accept two of the churches' invitations. In the first church the sanctuary was filled two hours before the service. There were a total of 1000 indoor seats available. The people who exceeded that number had to stand outside in the cold. The emcee for the evening was a local television anchor with a living and vibrant faith. Before we sang, she interviewed me about how it was I got from Florida (fishing and music) to China, preaching and pastoring. I was given more than 5 minutes to share my testimony.

During the invitation time, the pastor asked whether there were any who wanted to receive Christ. Dozens of people came up and were ushered into a back room for prayer and spiritual counsel. It was a night to remember and a performance never to be forgotten. Christmas night service at another local church had a equally large crowd. It's exciting to be in China in partnership with you!

## **Jeanie and Stephanie Lowery - Africa Inland Mission**

### **Jeanie's Corner**

It's exciting to rub shoulders with a group of new missionaries being prepared for cross cultural living in Africa! My favorite part of the week is facilitating daily small groups discussing what was learned or what is most challenging personally. Learning together strengthens friendships that last a lifetime.

Every spring the Mission sends me south to the AIM Retirement Center for a packed week of connecting with our beloved powerful team of prayer warriors - which is now over 60 retired missionaries. Mission updates are shared with individuals and groups and we provide opportunities to interact with new or ill residents, encouraging and praying for those in life transitions.

### **Stephanie's Corner**

Most of you are aware of the fire in my apartment in October, which required me to move elsewhere indefinitely until my apartment is rebuilt. I praise God for His loving protection and His provision of needs and housing.

Please pray for me to be focused and diligent in my classes. With my Doctoral research and as a teacher's assistant, my schedule is tight.

Thanks for having a heart for God and what He cares about . . . people!

## **Child Evangelism, Int.**

On January 12, the island of Haiti was hit with a massive earthquake that left behind much devastation. While the death toll continues to rise, we praise the Lord for a brief email we received stating, "Everybody in CEF Haiti are okay and the office too!" What miraculous protection from God!

Although our CEF workers are alive, many have experienced the loss of family, friends and homes. Several have young children who are struggling as they try to cope with all they have experienced.

There are 15 paid staff in Haiti who lead 169 volunteers in Haiti in reaching and ministering to the children of this nation. During the last ministry year, these individuals trained 344 adults and reached 33,916 boys and girls in Haiti with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over 4,000 children were disciplined weekly through the various Good News Clubs held around Haiti.

These staff members now have an enormous job as they attempt to not only rebuild their own lives but also to minister to the spiritual needs of the children there. Pray that they can find ways to continue proclaiming the Gospel and ask God to comfort the hearts of the children of Haiti and draw them to salvation in Jesus.

## **Mark & Kim Hough - Campus Crusade for Christ at Penn State**

Mark and I are blown away by the generosity of YOU, our partners and are so grateful for the faithful giving that allows us to minister to college students. Thank you! We have so much to share!

“Radiate”, the annual Christmas conference Cru hosts, was an awesome time to spend with over 70 of our students. The theme was “Radiate His Life” and for 4 days we learned through speakers, seminars, and music how we can radiate the life of Christ to others. Here’s what students said: “Radiate was awesome! It helped me so much!” - Devin. “Thanks for all the work you guys did. It was incredible!”- Katie. “Radiate was amazing! God worked in so many ways.” - Jan

During “Radiate” Mark and I had the opportunity to share what we are doing this summer and invite students to go with us. We will be leading a team of staff and students to Karaganda, Kazakhstan! We’ll be there for 7 weeks in efforts to share Jesus with college students. We are thrilled and nervous to lead this team because we have never even been on an international summer project. But we know that incompetence is good because then we must rely on God at all times.

Here are some reasons why we’re excited to lead: 1) Kazakhstan is in desperate need of the Gospel. The country is Muslim and most people have never heard the name of Christ. 2) Kazaks love Americans. Building relationships in such a short time is possible because they are eager to meet and learn from Americans.

If you recall, Mark and I went to KZ last spring and fell in love with the people. I met Aki at English club in KZ and she was very excited to meet with me. She took me to a coffee shop and even invited another Kazakh girl to join us. We talked for hours about life, culture and spiritual things. She believed that Allah and God are the same so she didn’t need Jesus. I tried to help her see the differences and I’m excited to hang out with her more this summer.

Please be praying for this semester as we desire to see God use us to reach freshmen at Penn State and start planning for our summer project in Kazakhstan. If you are interested in knowing what summer projects are check out [www.sosummerproject.com](http://www.sosummerproject.com).

### **Paul Browne - CrossWorld, Int.**

I hope to go to Haiti with one or two technicians sometime around the week of February 22. We will be working at Beraca Medical Center, on the north coast of Haiti. This is the hospital where my family and I spent the last 12 years of our Haiti career. Beraca has cared for and is now caring for over 80 people injured in the earthquake. We will be making repairs to their electrical distribution system, preparing for the installation of a replacement generator, and repairing or replacing a lot of medical equipment. Of course, there will always be a few other things that will need to be done that at this point we are not aware of.

It is very difficult to get transportation into Haiti right now. Please pray that we will be able to get transportation in the time frame that works best for us and that we will be able to get all the equipment and supplies we need shipped in with us.

In the midst of the devastation in Haiti, people are worshipping God. One of our CrossWorld missionaries, Phyllis Schmid, said, "they are singing, praying and rejoicing in God's provision of protection." She said that worship services are being held all over Haiti and people are trusting Christ as their Savior. Phyllis said "today was a memorial/praise/prayer and worship time in churches all over the city. Our campus was filled this morning with songs of praise and people thanking God. God is at work in the hearts of His people, and others are searching for the peace that they see in the lives of His children. Pray for a mighty work of the Holy Spirit."

### **Bruce Heffner - Gospel Horn Ministries**

Thank you for helping us to stay on the "firing line" in the work to which God has called us. We had a tremendous 2009, with the Hungarian work particularly gratifying and your generous support toward that ministry helped us greatly. There were over 70 young people and adults who came to Christ during our ministry there last year! Our summer camps also yielded great fruit with "our kids". Lord willing, in April we will be heading back to Hungary for a concert tour and a trip to the new camp we are helping to establish in Slovakia.

In June we plan on taking another group to Word of Life Hungary. Hungary 2010 is a missions trip which will include a lot of fun, fellowship and hands on ministry in the Eastern European country of Hungary.

As most of you know, I am in the middle of a four month "hiatus" due to this health situation and I haven't been allowed to travel since mid-November. Now it looks like I will be getting some help with the medication costs - praise God!! I covet your prayers on my behalf and the Gospel Horn Ministries!