

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

July, 2010

Please read these mission highlights prayerfully and remember that what you read here are just summaries of the letters. The full letter is in the literature rack at the back of the church. Thank you for taking time to read these letters from your missionaries and mission organizations and let's remember to pray for them!!

Terry and Doris Ortman - Susek Evangelistic Association

It seems like I've been enjoying summer for quite awhile this year. The beginning of Spring found me returning from a very warm trip to Haiti. My ministry in Haiti was limited to Cape Haitien which is on the north coast. They did not have any earthquake damage but felt the tremors. My workshops began the day after school resumed. Because of the fear of another earthquake, attendance at my workshops was affected. We expected around 60 or more and only had 20. Despite the small numbers we had a great time learning how to teach and integrate Biblical values into daily lessons. They extended an invitation for me to return before the next school year with the promise of more attendees.

My puppet friends and I just returned from a trip to Gauyaramain, Bolivia. The location for the trip was in the low jungle area of the town of Beni. I was part of a team that was working on constructing a dairy barn and chicken pen for Hogar Andrea - a home and school for orphans of the area. We had a great time sharing Bible stories, crafts and games with the resident children.

While I was in Bolivia, Doris was busy with the J.O.Y. Chorale. They gave a performance at Chapel Pointe Home in Carlisle. Rehearsals were also held for more upcoming programs this summer. Before I left for Bolivia, Doris had cataract surgery on her sightless eye. The danger was glaucoma if it wasn't removed. Later Doris noted a change in the eye that had the operation. The doctor confirmed she had a detached retina and the eye hemorrhaged. She will need another surgery on the eye later this summer and after the surgery she will need to be face down for two weeks.

Central Manor Camp and Bible Conference will be held August 7 - 15 where Doris will be playing for all the services and I will be assuming my duties on the platform as spiritual director as well as teaching the 5th & 6th graders. We also enjoy the privilege of arranging for servers in the dining hall. We are still looking for some hard working youth who would be willing to serve.

I have been invited to Haiti, Micronesia, Liberia and India to do workshops in the upcoming months. The Lord has graciously provided for all those trips through the open hands of faithful servants like yourself. Thank you for your partnership in our ministry - for your faithful prayers and financial support. Please keep Doris in your prayers, especially for the upcoming eye surgery.

Bruce and Deb Heffner - Gospel Horn Ministries

Things are going very well with the group here in Hungary. After a week of preparation and work on the property, we opened up camp this week. It's nice for me that, even though I taught the staff here in Hungary the magic tricks and didn't even bring any props with me, they still want me to do their tricks with them in the meetings. So I'm doing a lot of magic presentations and playing my horn in all the Bible meetings.

The team is doing a good job with English and sports lessons. Thirty eight kids signed up for the American baseball games - perhaps more than for soccer, which is unusual, and they have been learning the fundamentals. Tomorrow the games begin. They love to learn this game and I've been told it is becoming very popular in Eastern Europe now. Who knew?

Tonight at camp was the invitation for campers to accept Christ. So many came to the Lord I could not count them. Each one that responded was individually counseled for about 30 minutes following the meeting. Once again, the effort and sacrifice by all of our team members to be here and get this summer rolling for Word of Life, has been well worth it, reaping eternal dividends! Blessing to you all!

Jessie Van Schepen - CrossWorld - Ireland

Yesterday (July 9) I went back to the Breast Check Clinic to find out the results from the lab following the surgery. Praise the Lord it was good news!! Out of the 19 lymph nodes taken, none were cancerous and the lab tests showed that there was no sign of cancer in the remaining breast tissue that was removed. God is so good!

The next step is to meet with an oncologist to discuss the chemo treatment. Because of the size of the tumor taken out during the first surgery I will more than likely have chemo. I will also meet with a radiologist to discuss radiotherapy. My friend, Melody, from Limerick, is staying with me for a few days and looking after me. I am so grateful the surgery is behind me. God has been so good and provided just the right surgeon and anesthesiologist! Thank you all for praying!!

The Mission Society

Late last month, 19 young people came to our home office for four days of missionary training. Most of them will serve this summer as mission interns in places like Peru, Kenya, Ghana, Thailand, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and the University of Georgia Wesley Foundation. I daresay, for many, this summer will be a watershed experience - one that will form them as people who will spend the rest of their lives committed to God's mission.

You may not realize that, with your gift to The Mission Society, you are investing in young people like these interns. God is using you to help shape tomorrow's ministers and mission leaders - the next generation of people who will take the Gospel forward to reach the world for Christ. Your financial gift is an investment in God's Kingdom today and in years to come!

Lori and Amanda Potts - The Mission Society

In February I represented The Mission Society at the first Mission Fest in Lancaster. I had an opportunity to visit with many friends and make new friends for The Mission Society. At this Mission Fest, I led a seminar on the topic of Missionary-Missions Committee Connection. I was able to share about the partnerships we have with so many of you as our financial supporters and our consistent prayer partners.

Also in February I celebrated my 50th birthday. For those who don't know, Amanda decided to send an email to many friends to invite them to surprise me with a card shower. And was I surprised? I received over 126 cards and emails. One of the things that has been particularly hard for Amanda since her Daddy's death, has been to be able to buy things for me without my knowledge. A gift from friends with whom I worked over 10 years ago sent a very generous birthday gift to Amanda so that she could do something special for my birthday. This gift allowed her to take me out for a special dinner at Red Lobster and surprise me with a few other special things. This was God's answer to a little girl's prayer! Thank you to each of you who sent me birthday cards.

The Lord has provided quite a few speaking engagements representing The Mission Society the past months. An August trip is planned for South Carolina and Georgia. We will combine some vacation time with some team building time with the entire home team and then one with the Church Ministries staff. Please pray as I continue to share the message of God's work through The Mission Society.

Bruce and Elsie Lippy - Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc.

CEF is now offering courses from its Children's Ministry Institute (CMI) online. Anyone, anywhere can receive specialized training in children's ministry. So far this year 125 individuals from seven countries have logged on to take a course. Four of our instructors from Warrenton recently taught in a CMI in India for a number of weeks. They were very impressed with the students who attended in 100-130 degree weather.

Help for Haiti has been a recent priority for CEF. 100,000 evangelistic booklets, especially designed for people in crisis, are being distributed in Haiti. CEF of New York City is hosting a Good News for Haiti Conference on Aug. 7, with the support of the home office. New York has 400,000 Haitian residents, many who visit their former homeland. This Conference will offer training and encouragement for attendance to reach their people with the Gospel.

Last year more than 250,000 people were trained to evangelize children in the 162 countries where CEF serves. Often workers cannot afford teaching materials. Since 1999, 72,000 boxes of books have been sent free of charge to many of these countries. Pray for continued support for this program by God's people here in the states.

"Good News Across America" will be held in Boston the last two weeks of July. Ninety 5-Day Clubs are scheduled with 163 volunteers from across the country and 300 volunteers from churches in Boston. Pray for this amazing event! Thank you for your faithful prayers and giving that enable us to be part of CEF ministry here at headquarters.

Mark and Kim Hough - Campus Crusade for Christ at Penn State

Kim and I are home from our 7 weeks in Kazakhstan. Even though our travel home was draining (16 hour train ride followed by back-to-back 7 hour flights), overall, our time living in Kazakhstan was incredible! We got to experience a culture completely different from our own by trying new food (anyone ever eat horse?), wearing Kazakh clothes, learning a new language, all the while trusting and seeing God do huge things in and through our team. Here's a snapshot of what we did.

Our team of 13 (Kim, myself, 10 students and another staff woman) worked alongside a long term team by taking over many of the ministry events that they ran for the past year. Some of those events included: 1) Movie Night: watch an American movie and discuss its characters, themes, and spiritual meaning in small groups. 2) Men's and Women's Night: explore the attributes of manhood and womanhood from a Biblical perspective. 3) English Clubs: teach about American culture and help students practice English. Even though their perception about American culture is often misguided, Kazakh students jump at the chance to practice English and learn about life in the States. Remember the reason we held all of these events was to create opportunities to meet and form friendships with Kazakh college students with the hope of sharing the Gospel. Kim and I can't thank you enough for giving us the opportunity to serve God overseas this summer. Your faithful giving enabled dozens of men and women from Kazakhstan to hear about the truth of Jesus Christ, many for the very first time. So thank you!

(We just found out this morning, we are having a boy!)

Stephanie Lowery (for Jeanie)

Some days it feels like everything is about numbers - how much our savings are worth, how the stocks are doing, how many miles are on the car, how many days until graduation, etc. So in the midst of continuing economic stress, here are some encouraging numbers we wanted to share with you:

763 - approximate number of miles from New Holland to Wheaton, IL, that Mom and I safely drove on July 5. 18 - number of cops we saw on the road. 0 - number of accidents or troubles on the drive! 4 - trips to Wal Mart for setting up house and multiple trips to Goodwill as well, much of it paid for with gift cards and money from family and friends. 6 - days to move, unpack and be completely settled into my new apartment. 8 - months and 3 weeks after the apartment building fire of last October. I am now in a new apartment, one larger and more

affordable than the previous! What we can't measure or count, and only God knows, are the number of you all who have been praying for us.

Pray for Mom's ministry with AIM that she will continue to have wisdom in how to advise missionaries, that they will be aware of her love for them, and that they will be encouraged by her willingness to listen and help however she can!

We know that throughout all this past year God has worked through your prayers to protect and provide for us. Both Mom and I are on Facebook: dfilowery@aol.com or knyagri@hotmail.com. Feel free to email, call or send us a Facebook message.