



## St. John's Partners with Mike and Sherri Morrissey to Plant Church in Thailand

Reverends Mike and Sherri Morrissey are the first United Methodist missionaries to Thailand. The GOLT invited them to visit with us in July. After learning about their efforts in Thailand during their visit, the GOLT has decided to fund a church planting effort. We have committed to providing funds for the pastor's salary for a new church plant. This is a five year commitment, starting at a funding level of \$300/month. In year four, the support drops to \$200/month and in year five, the support is \$100/month. By the end of year five, the church is expected to be financially self-sufficient. St. John's also plans to fund small projects to support the new church as our Faith Promise funds allow. Rev. Sherri Morrissey recently provided the details of our partnership:



### The Reverends Mike and Sherri Morrissey along with St. Johns UMM President Steve Lathrop during their visit in July

“We would like to match St. John's UMC with the church plant that will begin soon in Nakom Patom, a community located on the west side of Bangkok. We will be traveling with Pastors Akarin & Dah to the area on the 16th of September to meet with some of the believers that will be part of this new congregational launch.

Both pastors Akarin and Dah are Bible school graduates; they have already completed the three United Methodist courses - History, Doctrine, and Polity; and they've been serving well while at Pradumri church months, *(cont'd)*

so we know they are going into their new situation with a good foundation. Akarin has family nearby in the region. This will provide an extra measure of relational support, especially important as they are expecting their first child to be born around January 15th. Please ask folks at St. John's to pray for pastors Akarin & Dah: for their baby, for eyes and hearts to be open to Christ in Nakom Patom, and that they may have a fruitful ministry.”

The Morrisseys have been serving in Thailand for three years now. At their presentation to St. John's in July, Mike explained some of the obstacles they face in spreading the Gospel. 95% of the Thai population is Buddhist, 4% is Muslim and only 0.5% is Christian. Most Thai households are multi-generational, having 8-10 members each. The people do not own cars, either, only motorcycles. Mike said it is common to see four people on a single motorcycle and the sight of up to eight riders per motorcycle is not unusual. Since transportation is so limited, it is therefore imperative to have churches in each village.

Thailand is also notorious for its sex trade industry, which often involves child prostitution. Not surprisingly, over 610,000 citizens have contracted AIDS and Thailand has the highest incidence of new cases in Pacific Asia. To help combat this, the Morrisseys have opened a shelter called Blessing Home which provides a safe haven for orphans and other children who might otherwise be abducted and sold into the sex trade.

Despite such obstacles, the Morrisseys have been blessed to see God working in powerful ways in Thailand. Churches are being planted, leaders are being trained and mercy ministries to assist HIV/AIDS orphans are being established throughout the country.



Please help pray for this new effort. The GOLT is very excited about this partnership and the potential that comes with it. If you would like to be involved with the Morrisseys' ministry effort (prayer team, travel to Thailand, missionary care support, etc), then please contact a GOLT member. Volunteer opportunities in Thailand include helping with a VBS, mercy ministry (such as the eyeglass ministry) or construction project.

To find out more about the Morrisseys and their mission, please visit: <http://msmorrissey.blogspot.com>

## Kairos: "God's Special Time"

The Kairos #32 long weekend took place at McCormick Correctional Institution in McCormick, S.C. September 16-19. St. John's had nine volunteers participating. **Dave Kelly, Jim Holly, Tom McCollum and Mick Ferrell** served on the inside team, called Kairos Inside Visitors, and **Beth Kelly, Charlotte Holly, Pam McCollum, Linda Ferrell and Nancy Fairgrieve** served on the outside support team.

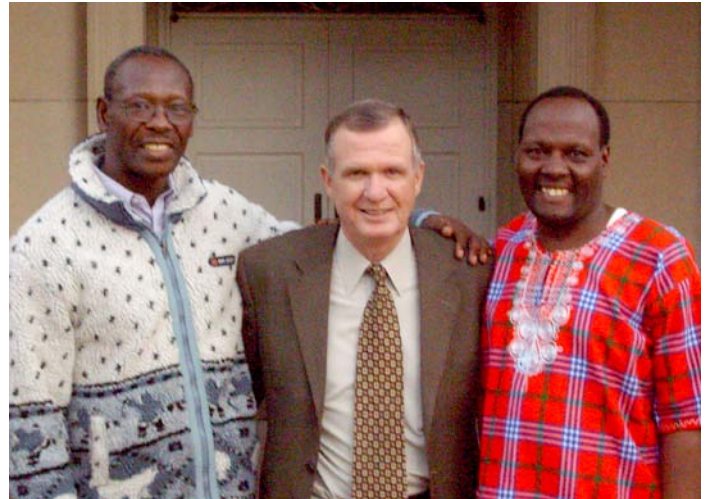
This 3-1/2 day event is designed to show Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals through one-on-one fellowship, the sharing of meals and a short course on Christianity. At a typical event, an interdenominational team of about 55 persons works with 42 residents who are carefully chosen by the chaplain. The ideal recruits are those residents who are currently leaders in the institution. One of the goals is to get the Kairos recruits to become involved with share and prayer groups. From there, these men can become Christ's agents for change and influence the attitudes and quality of life throughout the institution. The ministry also aims to help these men become better citizens upon release, helping to curb South Carolina's high rate of recidivism. Follow up visits include monthly half-day reunions with the prisoners during the year.



### **Nancy Fairgrieve and Tom McCollum share their experiences of Kairos #32 at the GOLT missions presentation in September**

St. John's supports the Kairos ministry through prayer, volunteering and Faith Promise funding. Each year there are more prisoners who apply for the program than there are volunteers to handle them. Volunteer opportunities include: inside team member, outside support team member, prayer partner and cookie baker. Kairos is famous for the 6,000 dozen cookies that are consumed by the inmates and Correctional Officers at each 3-1/2 day event. Please contact Dave Kelly (649-3591) for more details about volunteering. For more information about Kairos in South Carolina, visit: [www.kairossc.org](http://www.kairossc.org). Information about the international organization can be found at: [www.kairosprisonministry.org](http://www.kairosprisonministry.org)

## Missionary Profile: Glory Outreach Assembly in Kenya



### **Rev. Francis Maina Kibira, Rev. George Howle and Bishop David Thagana (l-r)**

**Glory Outreach Assembly (GOA)** exists to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commission, reaching out to both the church and unchurched peoples of Kenya, East Africa and beyond. Founded by **Bishop David Thagana**, GOA planted its first church in 1991 and has since planted over 70 others. The ministry has also started several orphanages in an effort to improve the quality of life of vulnerable children in their communities, including those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The following are the Core Values upon which all GOA ministry activities are built:

- ▶ **Embrace People:** treat all people as God's children; make disciples of all nations
- ▶ **Compassionately Serve:** use Jesus' model of caring for the poor and suffering
- ▶ **Pursue Peace:** Strive to bring an end to conflict within our communities
- ▶ **Embody Godly Leadership:** Our leaders are to practice ethical and accountable governance while managing our ministries with excellence

Rev. George Howle originally met Bishop Thagana on his 2005 trip to Kenya and was immediately impressed with both the Bishop and his ministry. St. John's partnered with GOA in 2009 and provides Faith Promise funding and prayer support for the ministry. GOA is also heavily involved with two other St. John's mission partners, The Mission Society and ILI. For more information, please visit: [www.goaweb.org/](http://www.goaweb.org/)

### **Faith Promise Update**

- ▶ 2009 Faith Promise Card Total: \$176,512
  - ▶ 2009 GOLT Proposed Funding Budget: \$144,100
  - ▶ Total Funds Collected Through 9-10-09: \$109,815
- Thank you St. John's for all your support that makes these important mission efforts possible!



**Rev. George Howle commissions the youth and adult volunteers for service at Salkehatchie 2009**

## Salkehatchie Summer

Salkehatchie Summer Service is a ministry for high school and college age youth. During each week-long camp, volunteers provide manual labor to accomplish much needed repairs and renovations to homes of needy families. During the process, they also reach out to the families and one another in friendship. St. John's supported three Salkehatchie camps this past summer through volunteers, prayers and Faith Promise Funding. The Sand River camp, which St. John's also hosts every year, was held in early June and worked on five houses throughout Aiken County, including Beech Island, Aiken, Jackson and Montmorenci.

Despite the heat and one-week time limit, the youth volunteers worked diligently with adult supervisors to accomplish an impressive number of renovations. At one home the crew achieved the following: put up vinyl siding, built two decks, tiled the kitchen floor, repaired sheetrock, painted inside, made plumbing repairs, repaired doors, cut the grass, donated a rebuilt lawn mower, bought a vacuum cleaner and installed a new set of tires (donated by Polk Tires) on the owner's car.



**Before and after shots of one of the Salkehatchie home renovations**



Houses are recommended for the Salkehatchie ministry by the United Way, homeowner requests made to the church and referrals from the city of Aiken. **Bob Kosky** of St. John's has been a Salkehatchie site leader for 13 years and assistant camp director for the past two years. Bob said he became interested in the ministry after hearing youth from the church speak about their experiences. "Salkehatchie is something that really has to be experienced," he explains. "It's hard to tell people just what it's like and how rewarding it is. Our family has been blessed and it's a reminder of those blessings."

St. John's youth generally attend either the PeeDee or Santee camps, held in late June-early July. At a recent GOLT missions dinner, two St. John's youth volunteers described their respective Salkehatchie experiences. **Ryan Fogle** talked about how humble and appreciative the family was at his site. **Kaitlyn Mikes** related how close she became with her site's family, making friends with their five year old daughter. All in all, close to 3000 youth and adults participate in 48 Salkehatchie camps throughout the state each year. For more information, please visit: [www.salkehatchie.org](http://www.salkehatchie.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Jerusalem (Local):

▶ **ACTS Monthly Collections:** October: soap (bar, liquid or laundry); November: grits; December: macaroni and cheese

### Ends of the Earth (International):

▶ **Operation Christmas Child:** Boxes are currently being collected and are due at the church by November 15.

▶ **GOLT Missions Presentation:** Deedee Vaughters, Susan Callahan and Pam McCollum will give a presentation on their recent trip to St. Petersburg, Russia on Sunday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Ward Hall.

### Global Impact Celebration:

The 2010 GIC will be January 27-31.

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on any of the events!

## Shirley Townsend-Jones Update

We received several photos from **Shirley Townsend-Jones** recently. The attached picture is of an unused church building near Bennettsville, SC. The old sanctuary is on the left and the activities building is on the right. Several years ago, three small churches came together and built a new combined church. This older church, referred to as the "Tatum Site", is therefore not being used by any local organizations.

Shirley's ministry has been using it "on loan" for food distribution events. She has received permission from the local church leaders to use it on a permanent basis. Although she still has to get conference permission, since they actually own all buildings, Shirley would like to start an ACTS-type ministry in this facility.

In her recent e-mail to GOLT chair Michael Norton, Shirley explained, "These are the pictures of the site we will be using for our ministry. There are some repairs that need to be done to the roof and the air conditioning units need to be replaced. We are trying to get the facility ready for our after-school program."

There are many ways that St. John's could contribute to getting this new ministry started. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kevin Buchanan or Michael Norton.



**The "Tatum Site", an unused church building in Bennettsville, SC, is slated for service in Shirley Townsend-Jones' new ministry**

### PRAYER REQUEST BOARD

† Praise God for the Epiphany and Kairos ministries, may those in prison stay strong in their faith through God's word and prayer.

† There is a food shortage crisis in Kenya. May God's power end the red tape and bring food to those who need it most.

† Thank you for the Christ Central Mentoring program. May volunteers step forward and may all children on the waiting list have a mentor by Christmas.

† May the GOLT team work together in God's will to publicize and support the mission partners of St. John's

† May God bring peace, order and a just government to the peoples of Honduras.

**"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."  
I Thessalonians 5:16**

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For an online version of this newsletter and links to our mission partners' web sites, visit: **[www.stjohns-umc.org](http://www.stjohns-umc.org)** and click on **"Missions"** then select **"Global Outreach"**.