



Osteens Conduct Second Annual Christian Camp in Kenya



Frances and John Osteen upon their arrival in Kisumu, Kenya

John and Frances Osteen returned to Kisumu, Kenya in August to conduct a second annual Christian Camp for the children supported by **Life for Children Ministry (LCM)**. The purpose of the camp was to interact, develop relationships and share Christ with the 142 children who attended. In order to accomplish this, the camp focused on the teaching the parables of Jesus.

After arriving in Nairobi, the Osteens had a chance to visit with **Michael and Lola Agwanda**. Michael, an HIV/AIDS orphan, is the founder of LCM. They then flew to Kisumu, where John was invited to preach at the Bible Fellowship Church. Afterwards, the Osteens split up to help prepare for the camp. John traveled with the five other U.S. team members to the Homa Bay/Wachara rural bush villages. There they met the children at the Agwanda compound as well as their guardians. Although the trip was only 70 miles, it took three hours due to rough road conditions. The LCM van is specially outfitted with steel reinforcement underneath and a vertical muffler for flooded areas. Frances stayed in Kisumu to purchase blankets, 2" thick mattresses, mosquito nets, food and sundries for the camp.

On Day 6 of the Osteens' trip, the camp was finally underway. The Wachara children were picked up at 4:00 a.m. and brought to Kisumu to join the other children living there. During registration, each child was given a bag of toiletries along with a blanket and other items mentioned above. Frances could not help but notice the stark contrast between the amount of "stuff" a typical American (*cont'd*)

child might take to summer camp and that of the Kenyan children, many of whom arrived with nothing at all. The camp began with introductions, prayer and singing before moving on to the parable lessons. The team utilized a variety of techniques to help get the messages across, including songs, skits and crafts.

On the afternoon of the second day, the children were taken on a bus tour of Kisumu and nearby Lake Victoria. Although they live but a few miles from the lake, most of the Wachara children had never seen it due to a lack of transportation. The purpose of the excursion was to broaden the children's view of the world and help them see how an education can improve their lives as well as the lives of their families.

On the final day of the camp, the children received photos of themselves taken on the first day. They also received a 3 lb. bag of dried beans provided by a donor from Atlanta. This is an important source of protein for the Kenyans since meat is rarely available in their diets. Another U.S. donor is making personalized blankets for the children and several of these were passed out as well.

Before leaving Africa, the Osteens had the opportunity to visit the Masai Mara game park in southern Kenya. Although originally looked upon by Frances as an unnecessary luxury, she was glad she went. According to her, the park, which is run by the Masai tribe, is "an awesome example of God's wonderful creation." John and Frances are planning to return in the fall of 2010 for a third Christian Camp and welcome anyone who might be interested in joining. The camps are partially supported by Faith Promise funds. (www.lifeforchildrenministry.org)



Some campers received personalized blankets provided by a donor from Atlanta

The Faith Promise Year in Review

Around Town

1. Aiken Community Outreach Ministry: \$5200

ACOM serves homeless ex-offenders by providing transitional housing and other support services. St. John's partnership with ACOM began in 2006 as an outgrowth of the Kairos Prison Ministry.

2. Aiken Pregnancy Care Center: \$2000

APCC is a non-profit, Christian-based organization that "strives to share the love of Christ by supporting women, especially young adults, teens and adolescents." St. John's support of this ministry is especially critical since they are unable to receive government funding.

3. Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS): \$6000

St. John's was one of sixteen local churches who partnered to form ACTS in 1986. Their mission is to provide "temporary and/or emergency aid, in the name of Christ, to persons in need in the Aiken, SC area." In today's tough economic times, ACTS' ministry is more vital than ever.

4. Christ Central of Aiken: \$5000

Christ Central offers food, shelter, counseling, learning opportunities and worship services to those in need throughout the community. Instead of merely distributing supplies, they seek to spread the love of Christ by building relationships and taking care of one another in His name.

6. Grace Kitchen: \$5000

The purpose of Grace Kitchen is to provide breakfast every Saturday morning from 8-9:00 AM for the hungry and less fortunate. Originally conceived by two of St. John's youth, **Thomas Osteen** and **Jimmy Rodgers**, the ministry is now St. John's largest volunteer effort.

7. Habitat for Humanity: \$2500

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, Christian housing ministry that seeks to "eliminate substandard and poverty housing in Aiken County."

8. Helping Hands: \$1000

Helping Hands is a non-profit organization that houses and takes care of children that have either been abandoned or removed from abusive or neglectful homes. Their mission is to "ensure that all children are afforded every opportunity to grow into healthy adults."

9. Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry: \$1000

The ramp ministry was formalized in 2004 when Jack Meeks became the first chairman of the ramp committee. The ministry continues to build 15-20 ramps each year for persons with accessibility needs.

10. Salkehatchie (Sand River): \$5000

St. John's hosts the Sand River camp each year. This summer, campers spent long hours helping to fix up five homes in Aiken County.

11. Stand at the Crossroads Ministry: \$1000

Founded by Deborah Lamb in 2007, Stand at the Crossroads Ministry aims to help and support those with low

income and/or unhealthy lifestyles. My Father's House was added to provide transitional housing for single women. St. John's became a partner with SCM in 2009.

12. Minister's Discretionary Fund: \$10,000

13. Emerging Missions (Local): \$974

Total (local): \$44,674

Around the State

1. Epiphany Ministry of SC: \$1000

Epiphany Ministry is a non-profit organization that seeks to "show Christ's love to incarcerated juveniles" by conducting three-day short courses in Christianity along with an ongoing follow up process for incarcerated youth.

2. Epworth Children's Home: \$10,000

The goal of Epworth Children's Home is to help break the destructive cycle of child abuse by offering a caring, accepting and safe Christian community for children and youth. St. John's has been a strong supporter for many years and provides funding with two annual collections.

3. Kairos Prison Ministry: \$1000

The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition to becoming productive citizens. St. John's had nine volunteers participate in Kairos #32 this fall.

4. Salkehatchie (PeeDee and Santee): \$5000

Salkehatchie is a mission of the South Carolina conference of the United Methodist Church. Each summer, nearly 3000 adults and youth go and repair over 100 homes in South Carolina, North Carolina, or Georgia for a week.

5. Salkehatchie (transportation): \$750

6. Tigers Go: \$3500

In April 2009, Tigers Go organized volunteers from St. John's and Christ Central and traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The groups are typically comprised mainly of youth with an adult support team.

7. Shirley Townsend-Jones: \$7000

Ms. Jones is a GBGM Church and Community Worker for ten churches in the Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry. Her mission is to reach out to these communities in Christian love, communicating through education, witness, spiritual growth, encouragement and service.

Total (regional): \$28,250

Around the World

1. Michael Agwanda (Kenya): \$9500

Michael Agwanda and *Life for Children Ministry* are committed to providing food, shelter, clothing, education, healthcare and spiritual nourishment to HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. **Frances and John Osteen** conducted their second Bible camp for the LCM children this past fall. St. John's has supported LCM since 2008.

2. Dan and Judy Armstrong (Southeast Asia): \$1000

The Armstrongs are Southeast Regional Directors with *Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment*. APMC helps churches mobilize their resources for effective involvement in world evangelism, focusing on planting churches among Unreached People Groups of Southeast Asia. St. John's partnered with the Armstrongs in 2008.

3. Charlie and Miki Chastain (Russia): \$11,000

In partnership with *The Mission Society*, Charlie and Miki Chastain work to meet the physical and spiritual needs of disabled orphans and street children in St. Petersburg, Russia. **Deedee Vaughters, Susan Callahan and Pam McCollum** went on a short term mission trip to work with the Chastains in St. Petersburg this past June.

4. Glory Outreach Assembly (Nairobi): \$2750

Founded by Bishop David Thagana in 1991, GOA aims to fulfill the Great Commission of making disciples, as well as compassionately serving the poor and suffering, providing conflict resolution and training new leaders for Christ. **George Howle** met Bishop Thagana during his trip to Africa and St. John's began supporting GOA in 2009.

5. Honduras Agape Foundation: \$2250

Founded in Aiken, SC following Hurricane Mitch in 1998, the Honduras Agape Foundation aims to "manifest the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Honduras by providing medical and health care, education, resources to construct homes and care for the children". St. John's members who served in Quimistan this past year include **Randy Shelley, Lauren Norton, and the Eberhard family—Beth, Brian, Christa and Annalise.**

6. International Leadership Institute (ILI): \$1000

ILI helps spread the Gospel around the world by training and mobilizing leaders to reach their respective nations. To date, ILI has equipped more than 7500 men and women in over 30 nations.

7. India Evangelical Education Trust-CSRA: \$1500

IEET-CSRA is based in Aiken, SC and serves to spread the Gospel by helping to train pastors in India in the areas of missions and evangelism. They do this by supporting the India Graduate School for Missiology, which provides necessary training and education for one-third the cost of schools outside the country.

8. The Mission Society: \$3000

Based in Norcross, GA, The Mission Society has been recruiting, training and sending missionaries both overseas and within the U.S. since 1984. They currently support more than 200 missionaries in over 35 nations worldwide.

9. Mike and Sherri Morrissey (Thailand): \$1300

Reverends Mike and Sherri Morrissey are the first United Methodist missionaries in Thailand and have been serving there since 2006. They are actively planting churches as well as providing mercy missions, such as safe and caring orphanages for HIV-affected children. In 2009, St. John's agreed to help plant a new church in Nakom Patom by helping fund the pastor's salary for five years.

10. Ben and Jenny Reyes (Paraguay): \$12,000

The entire Reyes family works as a team with *The Mission Society*. Jenny teaches at the Methodist Bible Institute in Ascuncion, Paraguay, and works locally in discipleship. Ben is the Regional Coordinator for Latin America, planting churches and teaching leadership development conferences and seminars.

11. Jerry Samuels (Nigeria): \$1000

Jerry Samuels works through New World Ministries to plant churches and share God's love throughout the world.

12. The Seed Company: \$1500

An affiliate of Wycliff Bible Translators, The Seed Company is working to provide the first Bible translations for over 2000 languages throughout the world. They do this by working with national colleagues, prayer groups, investors and like-minded organizations. St. John's decided to partner with The Seed Company in 2009.

13. David and Nancy Williams (Ethiopia): \$13,000

David and Nancy Williams work in partnership with *The U.S. Center for World Mission (USCWM)* as well as *Frontiers*. They are involved in church planting among an Unengaged Unreached Muslim People Group in Ethiopia.

14. Ron and Amy Smith (Italy): \$6000

The Smiths work with *World Team* to "glorify God by working together to establish churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world." Their focus is on Milan, Italy, where only 1% of the population attends mass on a regular basis. Their goal is to plant churches in areas where the Gospel is associated with the older traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.

15. Karen Ujereh (Senegal): \$4000

Karen Ujereh served through the GBGM in Dakar, Senegal, where she was the Area Financial Executive. She also supervised two women's prisons and one youth boy's prison. In addition, Ms. Ujereh directed the Agriculture Program, both rural (digging wells) and urban (Rooftop Garden technology).

16. Mark Wittig (Colombia): \$2500

Mark Wittig works with *OMS International* to prepare leaders for ministry at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia in Medellín. He also supervises a citywide sports program, which evangelizes and disciples over 1,000 children and Medellín youth through soccer every week.

17. Water Missions International: \$5000

After learning about Water Missions International at our 2010 GIC, St. John's agreed to help fund a water purification system for the earthquake-stricken people of Haiti.

18. Emerging Missions (International): \$1050**19. Missionary Care Program: \$406**

Total (international): \$79,756

Grand Total: \$152,680

*Note: Based on calendar year 2/1/09 through 1/31/10

St. John's Partners with WMI to Bring Fresh Water to Haiti

Following the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, St. John's donated \$5000 in Faith Promise funds to help pay for one of many water treatment systems from **Water Missions International (WMI)**. Within a month of the earthquake, WMI had assembled and shipped 60 Living Water™ Treatment Systems and 40 simpler purification units to Haiti.

Each Living Water™ Treatment System (LWTS) costs approximately \$10,000 and is essentially a miniature water treatment plant that utilizes filtration and chemical disinfection for production of safe drinking water. The units are very effective, and when operated properly, will provide a community with safe drinking water for many years. The LWTS is ruggedly built, simple to operate, and easily maintained. The LWTS treats 10 gallons of water per minute from raw water sources such as rivers, lakes, springs, ponds, or wells providing the daily water needs (3-4 gallons per person) for between 150-200 people each hour the system operates.

Based in Charleston, SC, Water Missions International is a Christian, nonprofit organization that provides clean, safe water to people in developing countries and disaster areas. Their belief is that no person should perish for want of safe drinking water. Through community development

programs, disaster relief efforts, advocacy, education and custom engineering solutions, they have been able to bring hope and relief to more than 1.5 million people around the globe. St. John's made WMI a full time mission partner following our GIC in 2010.



Water Missions International workers assembling a water purification unit in Haiti

PRAYER REQUEST BOARD

† May God give us each gentle reminders to pray continually for those suffering in Haiti and may God's loving presence be felt.

† May grace and perseverance be with the Smith and Williams families as they learn new languages.

† Thank you God for the births of Mike Agwanda in Kenya and Jasper Chastain in Russia.

† For Habitat for Humanity to have the resources and the organization to meet the upcoming need in Haiti for homes and may their presence open many hearts to Jesus.

† For all our mission partners to have safe travels.

† For each St. John's member to catch the vision "so that all may know" Jesus' great love and power.

† May the Epworth children and the Helping Hands children find joy in living and perseverance in their studies during these cold winter months.

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