



Uneasy Rider



Frances Osteen prepares for a motorcycle journey across Kenya's rugged countryside

Frances Osteen traveled to Kenya in mid-April. The purpose of her visit was to determine what would be involved in planning a mission trip for St. John's members. Frances met the **Life for Children Ministries** Kenya staff and Board members, learned about their ministry and got first-hand knowledge of their needs. During her stay, Frances visited Nairobi, Kisumu, Wachara and Homa Bay. She distributed a trunk full of shoes that were donated through Taylor Mabry's K.K.I.K. program to local children. She also visited several homes and talked with both the children as well as their guardian families. On Sunday, she attended Hope Fellowship Church, which meets outside under a large tree when the weather permits.



A family stands in front of their ramshackle home in a slum outside Kisumu

Life For Children Brings Hope

Michael Agwanda, an HIV/AIDS orphan himself, founded Life for Children Ministries (LCM). The organization seeks to provide food, clothing, medication, housing, schooling and spiritual nourishment for HIV/AIDS orphans and their guardian families. Their goal this year is to double the number of children in the program (from 100 to 200). St. John's is helping the cause by committing \$1750 per quarter in Faith Promise funds as well as a one time gift of \$7000. The quarterly amount will be used to support more children in LCM's program and the one time gift will most likely be used to help construct a church building in Wachara.

Frances came away from her trip with the following impression, "The highest priority for Christians is evangelism and discipleship. We must present the Gospel, mentor and disciple those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Everything I experienced confirmed that this is God's will." She added, "It is most important that we provide opportunities and resources for Kenyans to grow in their Christian walk so they can, in turn, disciple others. This is the only way we are going to make lasting improvements in their lives." Short Term Team coordinator **Archie Hargett** is currently working with Frances to organize a mission trip to Kenya. Projected dates are Nov. 28-Dec. 14, 2008. (www.lifeforchildrenministry.org)

Ten Year Old Tackles Bare Feet

Taylor Mabry, 10, of St. John's UMC, created a new ministry to provide shoes for the Life For Children orphans in Kenya. Named "Kicks For Kids in Kenya" (or K.K.I.K. for short), the idea came to Taylor after hearing **Michael Agwanda** speak during St. John's 2008 GIC. Taylor said she "freaked out" at the thought of Kenyan children living barefooted and worried about them stepping on glass or other sharp objects. "I felt the kids in Kenya needed shoes more than we do", Taylor explained. **Michelle Brown**, Director of Children's Programs, suggested that Taylor write a letter to the church explaining her idea. The ministry exceeded its goal by collecting over 60 pounds of shoes. Praise God that Taylor recognized this need and was willing to respond to it!



Hellen Anyango of Kenya tries out her new "kicks"



David Hallman and Allen Kelly applying texture to the walls of a Katrina home during the TigersGO trip

St. John's youth traveled to the New Orleans area in early April to help rebuild three houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Over thirty volunteers (including an adult support team) joined with the **TigersGO** ministry to make this a successful mission. **Thomas Osteen** shared the following thoughts, "When you see New Orleans in the shape it is, you see why they need the help." He added, "As many of you know, it is a great feeling to do God's work, but seeing the smiling faces of the homeowners is better than feeling happy for yourself."

Sydney Beckner also had positive feelings about the trip. "I thought we were there to fix up a few houses and go home," she said. "However, I never predicted that I would grow closer to God at the same time. The woman whose house I worked on was probably one of the most spiritual people I have ever met. She had lost everything she had yet she still managed to smile and be thankful."

From a homeowner's standpoint, the trip was a big success as well. **Barbara Mack** wrote in a thank you letter, "I have never seen such a sincere, loving and dedicated group of individuals. I have been a teacher for over thirty years and your youth are by far the greatest young people I have ever seen." She added, "Being with them has motivated me to begin working with the rebuilding of the youth group at our church (Cornerstone UMC)." Thanks to all involved for a job well done!

Seeing Clearly in Honduras

The **Honduras Agape Foundation** was able to purchase an auto-refractor for \$2100 due to the retirement of ophthalmologist **Dr. James Roberts**. This instrument, worth about \$10,000, is used to determine the correct prescription for eyeglasses. St. John's mission teams have rented these instruments on two previous trips. The auto-refractor will enhance the capabilities of the medical clinic even when our teams are not present. Thanks to your Faith Promise donations, St. John's funded over 50% of the auto-refractor's cost.

Jerusalem (Local):

► **Habitat For Humanity home:** Construction on the "Worship Build" home on Union Street is underway. Workers are needed to help build every third Saturday and to provide meals for the workers every third Friday and Saturday. Contact Dave Buchanan (641-1285).

► **Aiken Pregnancy Care Center 16th Annual LifeWalk:** The Aiken Pregnancy Care Center 16th Annual LifeWalk will be held on Saturday, September 20, at Odell Weeks walking track. Contact the APCC (642-3949).

► **ACTS:** Canned vegetables are requested for collection during the month of June. Peanut butter and/or jelly will be collected throughout July. Other donations are always welcome. Please use the blue collection boxes in the narthex.

Judea (Regional):

► **Trip to Bennettsville, SC:** A day trip to visit with Shirley Townsend-Jones and the ministry staff is being planned for June. Contact Bobby Coker (649-1511).

► **Salkehatchie camps :** Multiple opportunities are available for this summer. Contact Bobby Coker (649-1511).

Ends of the Earth (International):

► **Honduras Mission trips:** Jeff Ray is leading a trip June 12-22. Volunteer positions are available for another trip July 9-19. Contact Michael Norton (648-9740).

► **Short-term trip to Paraguay:** A trip to work with the Reyes' is being planned for the fall. Contact Archie Hargett (648-0617).

► **Short-term trip to Russia:** A trip to work with the Chastains is being organized for September 5-14, 2008. Contact Dee Dee Vaughters (439-5701).

► **Short-term trip to Kenya:** A trip to work with Life for Children Ministries/Michael Agwanda is being organized. Projected dates are November 28-December 14, 2008. Contact Frances Osteen (648-2548).

Global Impact Celebration:

The 2009 GIC will be January 21-25. Planning sessions are already underway. This year's theme is "*Whom Shall I Send?*" Contact Lee or Rene Boyleston (648-9242).

"Perspectives" Educational Opportunity

"*Perspectives on the Christian World Movement*" is a 15-week course which prepares Christians for service to God, especially in a modern, cross-cultural context. With guest lecturers whose experiences span the globe, it covers the **Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic** aspects of being in mission with God. With three different enrollment options, the course can even be taken for college credit! The course will be held Thursday evenings, August 14-December 2, 2008 at Millbrook Baptist Church. Contact **Jan Gilbert** at 646-0451 (cell) or janjacg@earthlink.net. Also visit: www.perspectives.org

Plan to attend an information meeting in Ward Hall on Sunday, July 13, from 10:15-10:45 am. As an added incentive, the **first five** St. John's members who sign up and successfully complete the course will be refunded half of their tuition.

Faith Promise Becomes a Reality

The 2008 Faith Promise is over \$231,000 and over \$54,000 has been collected to date. Since the GIC, **Michael Norton**, chair, and the rest of the Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT) have been hard at work developing a budget with which to allocate these funds. Over \$30,000 has been disbursed to date. The following are some of the trips and/or missionaries that have been funded:

- ▶ The TigersGO youth trip to New Orleans
- ▶ The "Worship Build" Habitat for Humanity home
- ▶ Local and regional Salkehatchie projects
- ▶ A Habitat for Humanity International home in Kenya
- ▶ Donation to Jerry Samuels/New World Ministries
- ▶ Monthly support for the Reyes family
- ▶ Monthly support for the Williams family
- ▶ Monthly support for the Chastain family

- ▶ Monthly support for the Smith family
- ▶ Monthly support for Shirley Townsend-Jones
- ▶ Donation to Kairos prison ministry
- ▶ Donation to International Leadership Institute
- ▶ Donation to TigersGO

Michael Agwanda was especially grateful for St. John's support. "On behalf of Life for Children Ministry, I want to say praise be to God. This money will be used for the glory of God and to support orphans and vulnerable children. It shall be used to buy food, clothes, school fees, medical service, discipleship and evangelism for our orphans and guardians. We will take more orphans now because of your assurance of \$7,000."

Thanks to everyone for helping make a difference here in Aiken and around the world. Please remember to continue your support for Faith Promise throughout the year so we can do even more!

2008 GOLT Proposed Funding Plan

Jerusalem (Local)		\$Amt	Jerusalem (Local)		\$Amt
Habitat for Humanity	5,000	Missions Discretionary Fund	2,000		
ACTS	6,000	Aiken County Outreach Ministry (ACOM)	5,200		
Helping Hands	1,000	St. John's Youth: Christ Central Meal Project	500		
Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry	2,500	St. John's Youth: One Day Salkehatchie	1,000		
Aiken Pregnancy Care Center	1,800	St. John's Youth: Christ Central Family Project	1,000		
Christ Central	5,000	Grace Kitchen at St. John's UMC	5,000		
Salkehatchie: Sand River	4,500	Emerging Missions Fund	2,800		
TOTAL (Jerusalem):			Represents 25% of total budget		43,300

Judea (Regional)		\$Amt	Judea (Regional)		\$Amt
Salkehatchie: PeeDee & Santee	6,000	Tigers Go	2,000		
Salkehatchie: Transportation	4,000	Tigers Go Trip: New Orleans	3,000		
Kairos	1,000	Emerging Missions	4,000		
Shirley Townsend-Jones w/ GBGM	6,000				
TOTAL (Judea):			Represents 15% of total budget		26,000

Ends of the Earth		\$Amt	Ends of the Earth		\$Amt
Karen Ujereh (<i>Senegal</i>) w/ GBGM	2,500	New World Ministries/ Jerry Samuels (<i>Nigeria</i>)	2,000		
Prison Ministry (<i>Senegal</i>) w/ GBGM	1,000	David & Nancy Williams (<i>Ethiopia</i>) w/ USCWM ☐	11,000		
Agricultural Program (<i>Senegal</i>) w/ GBGM	1,500				
Honduras Agape Foundation	10,000	Mark & Jeannie Wittig (<i>Colombia</i>) w/ OMS International	5,000		
Life For Children Ministry/ Michael Agwanda (<i>Kenya</i>) w/ The Mission Society	14,000			Charlie & Miki Chastain (<i>Russia</i>) w/ The Mission Society	6,000
Danny & Judy Armstrong/Field Missionary (<i>Indonesia</i>) w/ Globe International/Pioneers	8,000	Ron & Amy Smith (<i>Italy</i>) w/ World Team	4,000		
Ben & Jenny Reyes (<i>Paraguay</i>) w/ The Mission Society	12,000	Habitat for Humanity International	2,850		
		International Leadership Institute/Wes Griffin	2,000		
The Mission Society	9,000	Emerging Missions	12,950		
TOTAL (Ends of the Earth):			Represents 60% of total budget		103,800
TOTAL BUDGET: Based on 75% of Faith Promise (\$231,000)					173,000

Habitat Begins "Worship Build"



Carolyn Matthews (left) and three sons join the groundbreaking ceremony for her new home on Union Street

The groundbreaking ceremony for Habitat for Humanity's 70th home in Aiken County was held on April 7. Located at 321 Union Street, the project is called a "Worship Build" as four local churches partnered with Aiken County Habitat to pay the construction costs. St. John's donated \$1500 from Faith Promise funds along with \$8500 that had already been earmarked for the project. Pastor **George Howle** called the partnership a wonderful outreach. "It's a joy to be a part of the Worship Build and to be a part of churches coming together to serve the community," George said. Construction began on April 19 and is expected to take four months to complete. To help out, please contact **Dave Buchanan** at 641-1285.

(www.habitataiken.org)

Sports Ministry Gets New Stadium

MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA- On March 30, **Mark and Jeannie Wittig's** youth sports ministry celebrated the inauguration of a city wide soccer league in their new stadium. The near capacity crowd all received printed excerpts from the Gospel of John. The sports ministry focuses on discipleship and serves over 1000 youth each week. St. John's UMC has pledged a one-time gift of \$5000 through Faith Promise to help out the Wittig's ministry. (www.omsinternational.org/missionaries/mjwittig)



Nearly one thousand youth share the Gospel of John during a soccer game in Colombia

PRAYER REQUEST BOARD

Missionary Prayer Requests:

► Sand River Salkehatchie, Honduras, PeeDee and Santee Salkehatchie short-term teams: for the Holy Spirit to be upon each team and recipients, for needs to be met and for the safety of all.

► For those called to join future short-term missions teams: may they respond wholeheartedly, allowing God to accomplish His will through them.

► The Chastains, missionary partners in St. Petersburg, Russia: for 21 month old Isabel's health, for the Holy Spirit to comfort Charlie and Miki and for increased financial support to get on the field and to defray Isabel's unexpected medical costs.

► The Habitat "Worship House" currently under construction: pray for the family who will receive the home and for the safety of the builders.

► Aiken Pregnancy Care Center: for a new Director/Community Outreach to replace Angie Sanders.

► Kairos Walk #30 in September: that God will bring those to His table that He wants to be there.

► TigersGO: praise that our team to New Orleans during spring break was able to help those in need.

GOLT Contact Information

Jerusalem (Local): Sandy Miller	643-9084
<i>smillerreads@aol.com</i>	
Judea (Regional): Bobby Coker	649-1511
<i>bobby_coker@bellsouth.net</i>	
Ends of Earth (International): Michael Norton	648-9740
<i>norton905@bellsouth.net</i>	
Short Term Teams: Archie Hargett	648-0617
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St. John's Ministries: Jan Gilbert	648-6891
<i>jan.gilbert@stjohns-umc.org</i>	
Prayer Teams: Frances Osteen	648-2548
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GIC: Lee Boyleston	648-9242
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GO Newsletter: Brett Jarriel	642-5886
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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**".