



## Home Building in Honduras



**Christa Eberhard and Collin Ray shovel concrete for a new home's foundation in Quimistan**

In June a fourteen-member team traveled to Quimistan, Honduras. Included on the team were St. John's members **Jeff Ray** (team leader), **Collin Ray**, **Bob Prather**, **Beth Eberhard** and **Christa Eberhard**. The mission trip was part of an ongoing effort by the Honduras Agape Foundation, a local organization dedicated to helping the people of Honduras. Specific areas of involvement include medical treatment, housing, education and support for the Agape Church family.

The main focus of the trip was to help build replacement homes for two local families. One existing house, dubbed "La Casa de Muchos Muchachos", was a two room shack that housed ten children plus their parents. The children slept on a dirt floor and cooking was done in an outdoor kitchen. The new home will be a simple 20 x 20' concrete block structure. In order to lay the foundation, the team had to excavate one end of the site three feet deep. After much digging, rock hauling and wheelbarrow work, the foundation was eventually laid. The second house already had a foundation prepared, so the team laid concrete block for the walls for several days.

The trip was not all sweat and hard work. The team had a chance to visit the Agape Church compound to play with the Compassion children, including several sponsored by St. John's. Many of these children were starved for affection and instantly bonded with the team's ten youth members. **Beth Eberhard** commented, "For those of you who may have doubted the wisdom of sending so many youth on this trip, doubt no more. They have proven themselves over and over again." It was also observed that the difference between the life of a sponsored child and one who is not sponsored is like night and day.

Another outing was a trip to the Honduras Independence Bilingual School, where the children performed a show for everyone. One of the songs they sang was "We Are The World." Finally, the team delivered tote bags filled with school supplies to a school in an especially impoverished area in Santa Clara. To get to this school, they had to cross a rickety suspension bridge that looked like something out of an Indiana Jones movie. Although not much more than four posts and a metal roof, the school has attracted thirty students from grades 1-6 since opening a few months ago. Congratulations to all team members for another job well done!

([www.hondurasagape.com/scpa/](http://www.hondurasagape.com/scpa/); click on "mission trip blog")



**Team Leader Jeff Ray gives a young local boy a wheel barrow ride during the excavation process**

### Faith Promise Update

- ▶ 2008 Faith Promise Card Total: \$231,052
- ▶ 2008 GOLT Proposed Funding Budget: \$173,000
- ▶ Total Funds Collected Through 9-2-08: \$92,557

Thank you St. John's for all your support! Please help us to continue this important missions effort made possible by your prayers, volunteering and Faith Promise donations.

## Habitat's "Worship Build" Completed **Salkehatchie Rebuilds Hope**

The dedication for the "Worship Build" home was held August 24th as the keys were turned over to Carolyn Matthews and her three young sons. Located at 321 Union Street, the home is Habitat for Humanity's 70th home in Aiken County. St. John's United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church and St. Mary's Help of Christians Catholic Church all partnered with Habitat to build this home for the Matthews family. St. John's donated \$10,000, including \$1500 in Faith Promise funds, toward the project. Many thanks to St. John's volunteers for their construction time, food, and prayers. Also, thanks to the teens of Helping Hands for volunteering their time for the landscaping.



**George Howle and other pastors present the keys for Habitat's "Worship Build" home to the Matthews family**

**Richard Church**, executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Aiken County, stated, "In addition to supporting and building this home here in Aiken, each of these churches donated additional funds to build four Habitat homes overseas." St. John's will fund one home to be built in Kenya by Habitat International Build. \$2650 in Faith Promise funds have been allocated for this project. ([www.habitataiken.org](http://www.habitataiken.org))

### Grace Kitchen Open for Business

Grace Kitchen began serving breakfast for the first time on August 2nd in Ward Hall. 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 pair enlisted the help of **Bobby Coker** to help turn their idea into reality. The ministry now has eleven groups of volunteers who take turns serving. The number of individuals served each day has grown to thirty as of August 23. In addition to physical nourishment, patrons are also offered spiritual encouragement. Each place setting includes an explanation of the cross and individuals are given an opportunity to take home a Bible. Bobby said most choose to do so. Grace Kitchen is funded in part by \$5000 from your Faith Promise funds. The ministry is seeking donations of Bibles (either new or used) to distribute.

This summer, Pee Dee Salkehatchie had 160 participants, including several adults and youth from St. John's. Led by former St. John's Youth Minister **Neil Flowers**, this group helped make improvements to twelve homes. Likewise, the Santee camp had 120 participants and worked on ten homes. This team included several adults and youth from St. Johns as well. The Sand River Salkehatchie camp held at St. Johns had 63 participants and worked on six homes. One of those was the home of **Barbara Boatwright**, who has her 56 year old blind aunt, **Kashy Flores**, living with her. While the Salkehatchie workers were installing new windows in the home, one of the crew began singing "How Great Thou Art" in a low voice, almost to himself. "Miss Kashy" heard this singing and immediately joined in. The original singer quickly stopped and Miss Kashy amazed everyone around her with the power and beauty of her voice. Miss Kashy has since joined St. John's. She was a true witness to those who worked on her home that week and continues to be as a member of our church.

### Upcoming Events

#### Jerusalem (Local):

- ▶ **Grace Kitchen:** St. John's breakfast kitchen is collecting new or used Bibles. Contact Bobby Coker (649-1511).
- ▶ **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:** Beef stew is requested for collection during the month of September. Canned vegetables will be collected in October and soup in November. Other donations are always welcome. Please use the blue collection boxes in the narthex.

#### Judea (Regional):

- ▶ **Kairos Weekend:** Kairos #30 will be held in McCormick, SC from September 17-23.

#### Ends of the Earth (International):

- ▶ **Short-term trip to Russia postponed:** Due to political unrest in the region, the trip to Russia has been postponed. □
- ▶ **Short-term trip to Kenya:** A trip to work with Life for Children Ministries/Michael Agwanda is planned for December 4-16, 2008. Non-traveling volunteers are also needed to help plan Vacation Bible School activities for the children. Contact Frances Osteen (648-2548).
- ▶ **Armstrongs visit:** Our missionary partners Danny and Judy Armstrong will be visiting St. John's on September 28 and will participate in all three services. They will give a presentation during Sunday school hour about their work in Indonesia.

#### 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 if you would like to help out. (648-9242).

## Children in Missions



**Carmen Landy (left) and Renee Reid alongside some of the first aid kits donated by VBS to Helping Hands**

The children at St. John's have been very involved with missions this year. The following are just some of the ways in which they are serving.

**Vacation Bible School:** Collection money from VBS was used to buy first aid supplies and fourteen soccer balls. The children put together 117 first aid kits that were delivered to Carmen Landy of Helping Hands. The soccer balls were sent to Mark Wittig's Christian Union Sports Club in Medellin, Colombia. They have also used funds from the VBS offering to sponsor a Compassion International child in Ethiopia for the past five years. They pray for Tariku, now 11, and will be sending him one letter per month this year. **Renee Reid** was responsible for missions-related activities at this year's VBS.

**Operation Backpack:** Huge quantities of school supplies were collected during "Operation Backpack", run by St. John's Education Committee. The supplies were delivered to Christ Central, Shirley Townsend Jones in the Bennettsville-Cheraw school district and Jefferson Elementary in Midland Valley. One young mother looking for help was referred to St. John's. As it turned out, there were exactly three backpacks donated during the drive and these were filled with school supplies and given to each of her three sons.

**Spread the Joy:** Children will be working with adult volunteers to make unique gifts for St. John's members who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend church. This will take place from September 28 through December 7.

**Operation Shoebox Christmas:** Beginning in mid-September, classes will help to collect plastic containers filled with toys for less fortunate children. The containers will be provided to donors along with a list of guidelines to follow. There will be collection sites at the church's front office as well as outside Michelle Pearson's office (near the gym). The blessing of the shoeboxes will be held on November 16.

**Grace Kitchen:** Children are collecting Bibles to be donated by Grace Kitchen.

## Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos #29 was held inside McCormick Correctional Facility in McCormick, SC from March 12-16. The 3-1/2 day event was one of two long weekends put on by Kairos each year in SC. **Dave Kelly** of St. John's UMC was the Observing Lay Leader of the session which featured a full slate of 42 inmates, or "residents". **Jim Holly, Charlotte Holly** and **Beth Kelly** were also key team members, or "street people". A favorite aspect of these events is the distribution of home made cookies. Up to 6,000 (yes, six thousand!) cookies are handed out to inmates and Correctional Officers during the weekend event.

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them, as well as to assist in the transition to becoming productive citizens. Volunteers go into prisons to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, share meals, and have fellowship with the incarcerated on a one-on-one basis. The first visit is a three-day event, during which time the team teaches a short introductory course on Christianity. Subsequent visits are monthly half-day reunions with the prisoners over a twelve-month period.

The next Kairos weekend in McCormick will be September 17-21. **Dave Kelly** is Team Leader of the inside team that also includes **Jim Holly, John Stapleton, Tom McCollum** and **Ron Jernigan**. **Beth Kelly** is Kitchen Chief whose team includes **Nancy Fairgrieve, Charlotte Holly, Erin Kelly** and **Allen Kelly**. St. John's has committed \$1000 in Faith Promise funds to help support the Kairos ministry. Volunteer opportunities include: team member, prayer partner, support volunteer and cookie baker. (<http://www.kairossc.org/>)

## Whitney Simons Interns in Mexico



**Whitney Simons** will be traveling to Puebla, Mexico in September to begin a nine-month internship with Athletes in Action (AIA). Whitney grew up in the St. John's church family and eventually served as UMYF president before leaving for college. Whitney believes her experiences at the University of South Carolina were part of God's plans for her after graduation. "Could it be that majoring in International Business, with a minor in Spanish and playing on the USC

Women's Golf Team were God's way of preparing me to serve student-athletes in Mexico? I think so." AIA is a division of Campus Crusade for Christ and seeks to reach out to student-athletes in order to introduce them to Jesus Christ. Whitney's job will be to establish an AIA ministry in Puebla, which has a population of 1.4 million and over twenty universities. St. John's has donated \$6500 in Faith Promise funds to help Whitney cover her expenses. Whitney has asked that you pray that she will trust in God as she goes forward.

## First Annual GOLT Dinner

On July 23d, the Global Outreach Leadership team hosted a pot luck supper to review some of this year's missions efforts. Ward Hall was filled to near capacity and the term "pot luck" does not do justice to the delicious food items everyone brought. There were video presentations of Salkehatchie, TigersGo in New Orleans (**Lauren Norton, Virgil Sauls and Gene Aiken**), Honduras (**Jeff Ray**), Kenya (**Frances Osteen**) and Russia (**Susan Callahan and Deedee Vaughters**). In addition, **Michael Norton and Archie Hargett** highlighted other mission efforts and gave the status of several pending short-term trips. **Dave Kelly** wrapped up the presentations by describing the recent success of the Kairos and ACOM ministries in SC. Overall it was a fun and informative evening. Hopefully, many in attendance were inspired to participate in missions in their own way.

## Prayer Team Opportunities

There are several opportunities available on the GOLT prayer teams. Areas that need a prayer coordinator and team are Salkehatchie, TigersGO, Habitat for Humanity, Operation Christmas Child, Grace Kitchen and Whitney Simons.

A Ministry Prayer Coordinator communicates one-on-one with his or her missionary and relays the most vital information to the appropriate Area Prayer Coordinator. Prayer team members commit to praying specifically for their missionary as directed by the team leader. Please consider volunteering your time and talent to this most important mission function. Contact **Frances Osteen** for more information (648-2548).

## Youth Donate Books to Milca



**Belkis (Compassion Director), Milca Padilla and Michael Norton in Quimistan, Honduras**

During his most recent trip to Honduras, GOLT team leader **Michael Norton** delivered a gift of several Spanish books from the youth at St. Johns to Milca Padilla in Quimistan. Milca is a Compassion International Child sponsored by our youth group. Please pray for Milca and the Quimistan Compassion program.

## PRAYER REQUEST BOARD

- ▶ ACOM resident Allen Fellers: that his broken arm and collar bone will heal rapidly and that he will continue to come to know God at St. John's.
- ▶ Kairos #30: that the residents who participated in the program will see and feel God's presence and recognize their need for Him in their lives.
- ▶ Aiken Pregnancy Care Center: praise that the director's position vacancy has been filled by Jessica Loggins
- ▶ Whitney Simons: that she may trust in God as she begins her internship with AIA in Mexico.
- ▶ Russia/Georgia: for those persecuted people by the violence and for the aggression to end.
- ▶ For our missionaries: may they will be safe, healthy and open to the Holy Spirit's direction.
- ▶ The Matthews family: for Habitat's latest family as they move into their new home.
- ▶ Please pray that our church will answer God's call to servanthood.

## GOLT Contact Information

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

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**".