

THE SANDHILLS SCRIBE

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER – MISSIONS WEEK JANUARY 18-25, 2009
"REACH, EMBRACE, DISCIPLE"

JANUARY 2009 – VOL 4

A NEWSLETTER OF SANDHILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Dear Church Family,

Great news-Missions Week is upon us! Changes have taken place under new leadership on the missions committee. There is a tremendous amount of work ahead for the committee and there are still openings for those that feel called to serve in this capacity. Please pray that God would show you how you can be a part of this great work. Pray that God would place a growing burden for the lost on your heart.

The Missions Committee is excited. Why? Because we believe that God is going to do a great work with our meager beginnings, because God will be glorified as our passion for Him grows, and because we have the opportunity to spread the great news of God's saving grace around the world, beginning here in Southern Pines.

If you have taken missions for granted over the years, I challenge you to consider these statistics and what others have said about missions and how God looks at missions.

In the Mission to the World handbook "*Establishing an effective Missions Program for your Church*" published in 2002 the following statistics were given:

- 95% of the people training for full-time Christian service plan to stay in North America and minister to 5% of the world's population (Most of whom have heard the gospel at least once)
- In North America, there is one full-time Christian worker for every 200 Americans
- For every dollar spent on sharing the gospel, 96 cents are spent in the US and only 4 cents are spent overseas
- Only 14% of all missionaries work with unreached people groups
- There are 1,595 unreached people groups
- There are 4,000 languages without scriptures
- Approximately 1.556 billion people still have not heard the gospel for the first time (International Bulletin of Missionary Research, January 2000)

At the time of this article, PCA Church Planter Scott Seton stated; "Successful missions ministries are founded not on an inspiring vision, passionate leaders, or an active program. Rather, our passion and our program must be grounded in the Scriptures. The word of God is abundantly and overwhelmingly clear that His heart is inclined toward those who do not know the freedom of the gospel. Therefore, our hearts must be similarly impassioned to reach and disciple those without Christ, such that our churches will be marked by our commitment to the Great Commission. The authority in heaven and on earth given to Christ compels the Church to be passionate about the Great Commission, that Christ would be glorified by the expansion of His kingdom to the ends of the earth. And that passion of God Himself is found in every book, every verse, every word of the Scriptures. "

Isaiah 49:6 "(The Lord) says: 'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

In his book, *Let the Nations be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*, John Piper (Sr. Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist church in Minneapolis, MN) states "The power of missions is worship." Piper notes three truths visible in verses from Romans 15: zeal for the glory of God motivates world missions; a servant spirit and a heart of mercy motivate world missions; and, the first truth and the second truth are one truth. "Zeal for the glory of God and a servant heart of mercy for the nations are one." He also adds; "Where passion for God is weak, zeal for missions will be weak."

May our prayer be for a Passion for God and His glory and all else will fall into place.

Sincerely, John Carter, Elder over Missions

We, the Missions Committee, are pleased to offer an update on each of the missionaries (local and foreign) that we support here at Sandhills Presbyterian Church. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with these folks as many of them will be presenting during missions week. In addition to in-person presentations, we will have some church fellowships including slide-shows of pictures submitted by the missionaries themselves.

We have established a theme for Missions for Sandhills Presbyterian Church that mirrors the Mission and Vision of the Church.

SPC Mission: Being transformed and reaching our community for the glory of God.

SPC Vision: For the people of Sandhills PCA to be so taken with Jesus Christ that their lives are being transformed to the glory of God in order to reach, embrace and disciple others in our community and the world.

2009 SPC Missions Theme: "Reach, Embrace, Disciple"

Under the leadership of Chairman, Gene Fuzy, the Missions Committee has a few vacant positions:

Treasurer	Missions Conference Subcommittee Chairman
Candidate Coordinator	Short/Long-Term Missions Subcommittee

The following positions have been filled:

Chairman: Gene Fuzy
 Vice-Chairman: David Blades
 Secretary/Public Relations/Communications: Barbee Decker
 Hospitality Subcommittee: Hal and Fran Harkess with Michael and Rachel Gilliam
 Prayer Coordinator: Betsy Fuzy
 Assimilation Coordinator: Dale Crisp
 Elder Oversight: John Carter
 General Members: Troy Decker, Jason and Kallie VanZee, and Jennifer Zmiewsky

We ask that you join us in reading two publications put out by Mission to the World: 30 Days of Grace Devotional and the Seven Day Faith Promise Devotional. Both of these are available at the church office and will be distributed by Missions Committee Members during the month of January.

We also want to make you aware of one upcoming Mission Trip in 2009: We will return to Dios Con Nosotros (God With Us) Church in Merida, Mexico (Yucatan Peninsula) April 11-18, 2009, to continue work on various projects at their church. This trip is open to individuals as well as families and is during Spring Break for Moore County Schools. For more information, contact Troy Decker at troyandbarbee@charter.net or 949-3335.

If we can answer any questions about Missions or the Missionaries we support, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Mission Committee.

Serving Him as we **"Reach, Embrace, and Disciple"**, The Sandhills Presbyterian Church Missions Committee

SANDHILLS TEEN CHALLENGE (STC)

STC is a residential faith based recovery program in Carthage for men ages 18+ with drug/alcohol problems. STC strives to help men who have life-controlling problems and initiate the discipleship process to the point where the student can function as a Christian in society. They apply spiritually motivated Biblical principles to relationships in the family, local church, chosen vocation, and the community. Teen Challenge endeavors to help men become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

We currently support the ministry of Sandhills Teen Challenge. The men from Teen Challenge will be with us for Sunday School as well as during our Worship Service on Sunday, January 18th.

LIFE CARE PREGNANCY CENTER (LCPC)

Serving Moore County in Carthage, NC, Life Care Pregnancy Center (LCPC) is a Christ-centered ministry that promotes the sanctity of human life by providing Christian direction, compassionate care, accurate information and practical assistance for individuals and families facing crucial decisions surrounding an unplanned pregnancy or pregnancy related crisis.

We currently support LCPC. They will be with us for Sunday School on Sunday, January 18, 2009.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY, INC. (HHM)

Based in Moore County, Helping Hands is a nondenominational Christian ministry that delivers goods at no charge to the poor all over the world, providing a link between those in need and the Christian churches or organizations that give to them. Founders Tony and Donna Haywood, made their first missionary journey 10 years ago to Haiti, where they saw many sick and living in poverty. Returning to the US, they appealed for relief medicines and brought back many boxes of antibiotics. They were told Haitian officials would never allow them to pass through customs, but God intervened, and the medicine was miraculously brought in and distributed. Since then, the Haywoods have traveled extensively to meet needs in many lands. From donated goods kept in 5 small warehouses, they distribute food, toys and other supplies to schools and orphanages; and medical equipment to emergency hospitals in Kenya, Ecuador, Russia, Panama, Honduras.

In 2009, HHM is working to become a sending agency for other missionaries. They are receiving contacts from other ministries already working in other countries and are supporting ministries in Togo, West Africa, Mumbai, India, Andaman Islands, India and Kenya. They are praying about others. **We currently support the ministry of Helping Hands. Tony and Donna Haywood will be with us for Sunday School on Sunday, January 25, 2009.**

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES (FCA)

FCA is touching millions of lives... one heart at a time. Since 1954, FCA has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA is the largest Christian sports organization in America that focuses on serving local communities by equipping, empowering and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ.

FCA's Vision is to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches. Their Mission is to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.

We currently support Southern North Carolina FCA with a monthly pledge to support their ministry.

SANDHILLS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (SCCS)

SCCS provides a classical, Christian education for grades K-High school as well as offering Preschool and Pre-K. Their unique education revolves around western liberal arts tradition focusing on reading great literature, Latin, persuasive writing and formal Logic. Teaching is complimented with enrichment through field trips, art, music and experiential learning.

SCCS's vision is to graduate young men and women who think clearly, listen carefully and reason logically and articulate persuasively, to develop students who are able to evaluate all of their experiences in light of Scripture, to foster learners who hunger for the truth and recognize cultural influences as distinct from biblical ones, and to cultivate children of character who are both socially graceful and spiritually gracious, and who possess humility and gratitude towards our loving God. We currently support SCCS in many ways.

SANDHILLS MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)

Sandhills MOPS (www.sandhillsmops.com), a charter of MOPS International, exists to meet the needs of every mom in the North Carolina Sandhills area - moms with different lifestyles who all share a similar desire to be the very best moms they can be! MOPS is about Celebrating motherhood, Meeting needs, Making connections, and Experiencing God's love through relationships and resources.

Being a mother of a preschooler is a wonderful and incredibly rewarding time. But, it's also very busy, exhausting and crazy! We all need a break once in awhile to relax, recharge and refresh ourselves. MOPS is the place to meet new friends and develop deep, meaningful relationships while learning about something interesting and discussing real life needs and issues with others who understand. In addition to ministering to moms, MOPS has a parallel program for their children, MOPPETS.

In addition to having many MOPS participants at our church, we currently support their local ministry.

REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP (RUF)

As a ministry of the PCA, RUF holds to the core beliefs of historic Christianity which motivate our heart for God and love for the university. Some of these beliefs include the need for new life in Christ, the authority of the Scriptures, and the mission of the Church to reach and equip all people with the message of the gospel.

RUF grew out of the passion of young, Presbyterian ministers in the Southeastern US in the late 1970's. What makes RUF Different? Although RUF is sent to the campus by the PCA, we welcome students from any and all walks of life. We are here for the "convinced" and the "unconvinced." Students from a wide variety of church and religious backgrounds are involved in RUF on over a hundred campuses in the United States.

We currently support, David Speakman, Campus Minister at Davidson College. A graduate of Davidson, David attended Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO, where he earned a Master of Divinity and has completed his course work for a Master of Theology. Upon his ordination in the PCA in 2003, David, his wife, Margaret Ann, and their two children returned to Davidson College to begin working with RUF.

IGLESIA DEL REDENTOR - MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA (MNA)

What is MNA? MNA strives to ignite a powerful church planting and vitalization movement that impacts all of North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and transforms the heart and face of PCA Churches and presbyteries. In addition to church planting, they offer the following ministries: African American Ministries – Church Planter Development, Church Planter Wives Ministry, Church Renewal, Haitian Ministries, Hispanic American Ministries, Korean Ministries, Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP), Native American/First Nations, Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches, and Urban/Mercy Ministries.

MNA Also has the following Outreach Ministries: Chaplain Ministries, Disaster Response, ESL Ministries, Ministry to State, MNA ShortTerm Missions, and Special Needs Ministries.

We currently support one MNA Mission: Iglesia del Redentor (Church of the Redeemer) in Monroe, NC (www.iglesiadelredentor.com). They are the ONLY Hispanic church in Central Carolina Presbytery (the Presbytery we belong to). They have had weekly Sunday morning worship services in a school since September 2007. They have about 20 regular attenders, but minister to up to 50 people a week in the community with a bread/mercy ministry and home group Bible Studies. This year, a Worship Leader joined their ministry.

Ernesto Fernandez is the Pastor of **Iglesia del Redentor**. His wife Awara and their two children also minister with him. They have shared the following prayer requests: that the Lord would bring spiritual and numerical growth to their church, for the resumption of our English as a Second Language program (they are still in need of a coordinator), for continued financial provision for this ministry to cover their operating expenses, and for grace and strength for their family as they continue in this cross-cultural ministry.

YOUNG LIFE (YL)

YL is a non-denominational Christian ministry that reaches out to adolescents through volunteers, staff, club meetings, and camps by building meaningful relationships that take time, patience, trust and consistency. YL Leaders spend many hours with kids sharing God's love with them. YL's mission is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. **We currently support Young Life in the Sandhills (our very own Brian Gronewoller), Alexis Kwamy (YL Tanzania), and Steve & Diane Laramey (YL Ethiopia).**

YL in the Sandhills celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008! We had a wonderful year! With 7 adult volunteer leaders and 20 high school leaders we have kids involved in our ministry from the following schools: Pinecrest High School, The O'Neal School (upper and middle), Union Pines High School, Southern Middle School, and West Pine Middle School. In 2008, we took 196 people to camp where they heard the good news about Jesus' love for them and how they can respond to Him. We have an average of 90 kids per week at YL Club (high school) and 20 kids at each Wyldlife Club (middle school). YL Club is held weekly at Sandhills Children's Center (next to the church), and Wyldlife Club is held monthly. On behalf of our Committee, Staff, and Leaders, Thank you so much for partnering with us to bring Jesus to high school and middle school students in our community.

YOUNG LIFE (YL) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Alexis Kwamy reports that 2008 was a year of grace, blessings, challenge and growth for YL Arusha (Tanzania).

Praises: 6 new leaders, 2 new clubs began, ministry to at least 200 kids, hosted our very own Cindy Boulton who accompanied over 200 kids to camp, completion of Youth Center and orphanage that we have been building (a team from our church started the foundation two years ago).

Prayers: for expansion to reach Legho and Simanjiro Villages, new leadership training (begins 1-19-09), for the strength to follow Him wherever He calls in 2009, and that God will raise up more female leaders.

PAN-AFRICAN ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN SURGEONS (PAACS)

PAACS is an international organization dedicated to developing quality training programs in general surgery at Christian hospitals in Africa, and to assuring a high level of professional competence among its members. PAACS offers specialty training in general surgery in Africa to African physicians. Two new programs in Kenya opened in 2008 and one will open this month. **We currently support this ministry.**

DANIEL AND STEPHANIE DIAS – GUINEA – NEW TRIBES MISSION

Through evangelism, Bible translation and discipleship, missionaries serving with New Tribes Mission plant churches among unreached people groups.

We currently support the Dias Family serving as tribal church planters in Guinea, West Africa. See their blog for updates/praises/prayer requests: www.danielandstephaniedias.blogspot.com. Daniel, Stephanie, and their two children have been in Guinea for 8 months. They are moving from Boke to Conkary.

They have the following prayer requests: that they will stay focused as they move, that God will make the way smooth as they travel to Conakry and communicate with churches, that God would direct them to a church that already has the vision to reach the unreached, for a suitable house with running water at a reasonable cost, for their son (Micah) as he leaves the friends he's made in Boke, that their car holds up and that they can move their things without having to make multiple trips on dangerous roads.

Stephanie Dias' parents will be with us on Sunday night, January 18th, to give us an update on their ministry.

RON AND GAYLE CLEGG – WORLD HARVEST MISSION (WHM)

WHM exists to see individuals, families, communities, and cultures so changed and renewed by the gospel of grace that they passionately pursue their role in the great story of redemption! Established in 1983, WHM is a missions sending agency with over 140 missionaries in 13 countries. We believe the motive and power for mission is the gospel of grace at work in the life of a believer. Their mission is to lay down their lives to proclaim the Kingdom of Jesus Christ through preaching, healing and equipping. Their vision is the movements of churches empowered by grace for the world's good and God's glory. **We currently support Ron and Gayle Clegg who work from the WHM Office in Pennsylvania. They previously served in Hungary.**

SERVING IN MISSION (SIM) USA

SIM is a community of God's people who delight to worship him and are passionate about the Gospel, seeking to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. Their purpose is to glorify God by planting, strengthening, and partnering with churches around the world as they evangelize the unreached, minister to human need, disciple believers into churches, and equip churches to fulfill Christ's Commission. **We currently support Brian and Chris Davidson and the Sports Friends Partnership.**

RICARDO SANTANA-RIVAS – MERIDA, MEXICO (YUCATAN)

Ricardo Santana-Rivas is a Church Planter, the Pastor at Corpus Christi Church, and plays an active leadership role at San Pablo Seminary in Merida, Mexico. He practiced medicine 1982. He and his wife, Ana, have adult two children. He worked with World Vision International until he attended Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, and has planted at least 5 "mission churches". We have been working with Ricardo for a number of years as we send Mission Teams from Sandhills Presbyterian to work in Mexico. **We currently support Ricardo in ministry. He will be closing out our Missions Conference as he Preaches here on Sunday, January 25th.**

MATT AND LAURA ACKER – KAZAKHSTAN – IN HIS IMAGE

Since 1989 *In His Image* has brought medical care and the love of Christ to the far reaches of our hurting world. In July 2005, In His Image International was formed as a non-profit organization overseeing our international medical missions outreaches around the world. Their short-term overseas outreaches include free clinics, disaster relief, orphanage ministry and a special emphasis on medical education through medical conferences.

We currently support Matt and Laura Acker through In His Image. The Ackers have served as medical missionaries in Kazakhstan for 8 years, but are now on furlough. While in the US, Matt is working with a medical program that they partner with in Kazakhstan and Laura is working on her elementary education degree and student teaching. They will resume ministry in Kazakhstan in July 2009 where Matt will lead International Medical Center and Laura will teach at the missionary school their kids attend.

Currently, Kazakhstan is facing political unrest and they are passing bills for religious law that could shut down mission work and illegalize Christianity. The Ackers ask that you join them in praying for Kazakhstan.

MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW)

What is MTW? MTW is the mission-sending agency of the PCA, helping to fulfill the Great Commission by advancing Reformed and covenantal church-planting movements through word and deed in strategic areas worldwide. MTW advances the work of the body of Christ worldwide through a wide variety of word and deed ministries by identifying, selecting, training and sending men and women and integrating these into church-planting movements. We minister among unreached people groups in world-class cities as well as hinterland areas, partnering with national churches and indigenous leaders whenever possible. MTW also partners with local PCA churches to glorify God through the discovery and engagement of their unique potential, purpose and passion for cross-cultural ministry.

MTW has 594 long-term missionaries and 6,484 short-term missionaries (2 weeks-2 years). They also have the following ministries: Street Child International, Medical Missions, International University Ministries, Teaching English Ministry, Global Youth and Family Ministry, and Disaster Response Ministry.

We currently support four MTW Missionaries and one MTW Ministry: Earl/Rosie Adams (Bolivia), Cheryl Crocker and Sandra Hart (Philippines), Jim/Sara Ward (Peru), and Street Child International (Philippines).

Earl and Rosie Adams and their two children have worked with MTW for 13 years. They serve as church planters with the Hinterland Ministry in Bolivia among the Hispanics and Quechuas (the largest unreached people group in all of the Americas, most of whom have never heard the gospel).

Cheryl Crocker is part of the church-planting team in Manila, Philippines, and uses her training as a nurse to perform mercy ministries with the people there. Additionally, she coordinates medical and short-term teams to minister alongside the missionaries there.

Sandra Hart also uses her training and experience as a Registered Nurse to help the Filipino church reach the community for Christ. Providing medical services opens doors for pastors to form relationships with the Filipino people that later lead to salvation. Her deepest desire is to reach the street children in Manila with the message of hope that is found in Christ Jesus.

Steven Scott is the team leader for the Philippines team. He and his wife are involved in church-planting and the street children's ministry there.

Jim and Sara Ward minister in Peru. He longs to preach the gospel, while coming alongside the Peruvian pastors and supporting them in their ministry. Her passion is to help those in great need; one way is by helping families provide income for themselves, by developing skills and creating job opportunities. Jim and Sara, and their three children, desire to help develop true relationships between U.S. and Peruvian churches.

Established by MTW in September 2000, **Street Children's International** is a Christian ministry to the world's 150 million abandoned, abused and homeless children. In addition to their orphanage in the Philippines that we currently support, they have orphanages in India, Kenya, and Mexico.

Rev. Jack Beall from MTW will kick-off our Missions Conference as he Preaches here on Sunday, January 18th.