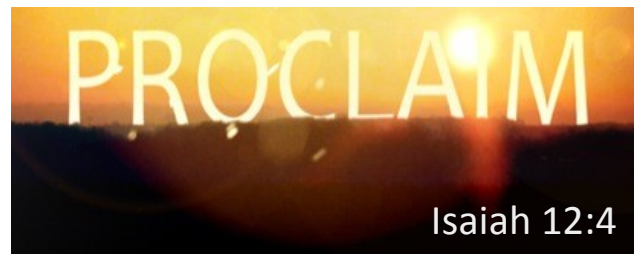


SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 2 - 4, 2016
CAMP GLOBAL 2016



Friday 6:00 PM through
 Sunday 1:00 PM
 Cost for the weekend \$90 per person
 \$350 max per family
 Saturday only \$40
 Watch the website for more
 information and registration.

Early plans include:
 Guest: Pastor Jesus Garcia from Iglesia
 Metropolis in Puerto Rico.
 Vespers: Jim Stinespring

Workshops will include:
 Making A Brazilian Music Machine,
 Weaving from Around the World,
 Hungarian Embroidery,
 Primitive puppets, Food Fun,
 The Work of Samaritana Transformation
 Ministries,
 Using and Reusing Mission Education
 Materials,
 World Games, Puerto Rico Partnership,
 Shadow Puppets.



For more information, contact the office of
 Mission Support
 West Virginia Baptist Convention
 PO Box 1019
 Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102
 Phone: 1.800.879.9822

John E. Simmons, Associate Executive Minister
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Contact Joan at hall@wvbc.org
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SPRING 2016

Mission Matters is a
 periodic update from
 the offices of
 Mission Support
 of the WVBC.

This issue

- ◆ West Virginia Partners
- ◆ J.D. & Rhonda Reed
- ◆ Keith & Debbie Myers
- ◆ Rick & Anita Gutierrez
- ◆ Debbie Mulneix
- ◆ WV Women's Philippine Trip
- ◆ WMC 2016
- ◆ Camp Global 2016
- ◆ MSMO 2016



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- www.internationalministries.org
- www.abhms.org
- www.judsonpress.com
- www.stewardshipresources.org



CALLED TO GO – CALLED TO SEND

In February we had mission teams on three continents. A team from Lubeck Community Baptist Church was in Nicaragua; the Russia Mission Partnership Team took a group to Ryazan; and the WV-ABW Ministries had a group go to the Philippines. You can read more about the Philippine trip in this issue and watch for stories in the July/August issue of *"The Baptist."*

It was exciting for me to watch the Facebook posts each day as our people were on mission – some for the first time out of the United States. It has been exciting to hear their stories and to see how God used their time on mission.

It is obvious to me that God is still moving in our midst and still calling people to mission. Over the past 13+ years, Lisa and I have been privileged to be prayer partners to many who have heard God's call and walk with them through the discernment process. Some have followed the call to full-time mission service and are now serving God overseas. Others are still on the journey. Still others have answered the call to do short-term missions or extended volunteer work.

To those whom God has called to go, we celebrate their willingness to be obedient to that call. We also celebrate those of us whom God has called to send.

While sending is not the same as going, it is just as important! Those called to send are just as critical to the mission as those called to go. For as Paul reminds us in Romans 10: 15, *"How can anyone preach unless they are sent?"*

West Virginia Baptists have been sending people on mission for 150 years. This continues to be our legacy. It is a legacy of faith in and obedience to God's word and God's calling.

God has not stopped calling! We cannot stop sending! We cannot stop going!

I am looking forward to the coming months when announcements are made that celebrate another one called from West Virginia to overseas work. I am looking forward to the celebration of commissioning when the ones called are fully funded and ready to go. I am looking forward to the quiet-confidential conversations with those who hear the call and begin the discernment journey.

In mission together,

Our mission is to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith, and to help them fulfill their mission by enabling them to do together what they cannot do alone.

MISSIONARY PARTNERS

West Virginia Women's Team to the Philippines



We arrived early Sunday morning at the Manila Airport and Debbie Mulneix, IM Missionary, was there to greet us. Debbie was all smiles and told us how happy she was that we were there. We traveled in vans to Quezon City where Samaritana Transformation Ministries is located. After taking a shower and changing into cooler clothes, we were off to the market. Debbie ordered four tricycles (not your typical tricycle) for our transportation! We all enjoyed the ride to the market and the "race" on our way back to Samaritana! The tricycle is a motor bike with a side car attached...one riding behind the driver and two in the side car. By the way, this is Debbie's favorite form of transportation! After lunch, we enjoyed a visit to Debbie's apartment. We sat and talked about what we would be doing in the week ahead and enjoying being with Debbie.



Monday morning we had an early breakfast so we would be finished before the women started to arrive. We were all excited to meet the women we had come so far to be with. Before the women begin their work for the day, they have Bible reading, prayer and singing. We got to join them for this special time and Sandra shared a devotion with them one morning. The women then went to work...some cleaning the facility and others were busy working on the cards they sell. These cards are hand-made with acid-free paper products, and are beautifully decorated in different designs. Debbie told us we couldn't do the cutting (they have to be very precise) but we could help with the packaging. We had other jobs we could help with...organizing donated material, sorting clothes and cleaning out a closet. Jeannie got to work right away checking out the many sewing machines to see what condition they were in. We stayed busy and still got to visit with the women. They were friendly and a joy to get to know. On Tuesday the day started the same as the day before with worship. Jonathan and Thelma Nambu, the founders and leaders of Samaritana, came to talk with us about the ministry to the women and training

they receive while they are trainees at Samaritana. The work the women do at the ministry center helps them in team building and leadership development. They receive counseling and spiritual direction and are encouraged to go back to school and continue their education and receive child assistance. The ages of the women range from 18 to older women and are usually in the program two to three years. Some stay longer to help assist the staff in cooking and housekeeping. There are 20 women at this time but it has been up to 30.

TUESDAY WAS PIZZA AND KARAOKE NIGHT!!!

The pizza and soft drinks were delivered and it was party time! We had so much fun singing and dancing! On Wednesday morning, the women completed their quota for their card orders, and it was time to have fun! Zola brought lots of colorful beads, findings and charms to make earrings...lots of earrings! The women had so much fun making several pairs of earrings they could keep for themselves, and then made earrings for the staff who couldn't be there because they were working. Then Jeannie was ready for them. She had beads, colorful strings and buttons. She taught them how to make necklaces and they were able to keep the necklace they designed. Thursday was a national holiday for the Philippine people...so we went shopping! We shopped for many things... gifts, a sewing machine and tee shirts to make necklaces.

The custom of Samaritana is to have a day of prayer on the last Friday of the month. We were invited to join them for this time of worship. There were prayers offered for the work at Samaritana, their country and for the US. We broke out into small groups and shared our thoughts about a picture we had chosen earlier. Sandra shared a devotion with the women. In the afternoon, Jennie taught the women how to decorate flip-flops. We enjoyed helping the women make different designs. Fun was had by all. We had cut strips of tee-shirts earlier and now Ammie was ready to teach them how to make necklaces. They were all different in design and the women had fun being creative.



After the program, they thanked us for being there at Samaritana and for the fellowship we had shared with the women. They presented a rose and a gift to each of us. This was a bittersweet time for us. We had learned to love these women and it was time for us to say good-bye.

Article written by team member, Zola Miller

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



Many Dominican and Haitian family men work 12 hours a day in the sugar cane fields to support their families. Everyday, the women and children walk to the nearest river or water source to collect water for cooking, bathing and drinking. The water is contaminated with bacteria and parasites, but it's their only source of water.

Project "Clean Water" will provide 100 families with a specially filtered bucket. Water that is poured through the filtration system will then be safe and clean. These five-gallon buckets help families like Marina and Profeta (pictured above)

to be healthier and have a better life. Being healthier means not missing work or school.

A gift of \$55 will provide one filter and bucket to a family in the "bateys" 2 villages of the Dominican Republic.

Mission Project Specifics

This project seeks to raise **\$6,000** in the next year to purchase **109 buckets** with special clay filters and a five-gallon container for each family to hold the filtered water. The purpose is to provide clean water for approximately 100 families in the Dominican Republic. This project will be managed by missionary **Madeline Flores-Lopez**, who will educate the people on the need for safe, clean water. It is anticipated that this project will improve the overall health of the community.

Madeline will be in West Virginia in April, visit one of the churches listed below and hear about this project.

April 9 – Fayette Association AB Womens' Ministries Rally - 10:00 am

April 10 – AM - Main Street Baptist Church, Point Pleasant - 9:30 and 11:00 am

PM – Emmanuel Baptist Church, Parkersburg - 6:30 pm

April 11 – Lunch time Meet and Greet at the Marshall University Christian Center, Huntington 11:00-1:00 pm

April 12 – AM – Spencer Baptist Church, Spencer - 10:00 am

PM – Open

April 13 – Rush Run Baptist Church, Normantown, WV - 6:30 pm

There are still speaking times available to hear from Madeline.

Please contact Lisa Simmons at lsimmons@wvbc.org or 304-273-9693 to reserve a time.

Attention American Baptist Women's Ministries

Mission Outreach Project 2016

BUCKS for BUCKETS OF CLEAN WATER

Goal \$6,000





Be Sure to Keep the Carpets Off of You

(Yes, the title is right!)

Carrie Smalley, International Ministries missionary in Hungary shares a great story. A language “goof-up” can be a moment of showing who you really are.

Carrie shares, “Now, don’t get me wrong - I don’t think God has a mean or nasty streak in Him, but I DO know He has a terrific sense of humor! He made platypuses for heaven’s sake!! He made us!! I think He gets a kick out of some of the stuff that happens that truly is funny.

So here in Hungary, we have the word for carpet, which is "sz?nyeg" (sz nye egg). Then there is the word for mosquito which is "szúnyog" (Sz oon yog). They sound VERY similar! A couple summers ago, we were at a next door neighbor's house for a barbeque/picnic and the mosquitos were terrible because of all the rain we had had! I remembered that I had some Cutter wipes at home, so I ran to get them. As I brought them back, I figured it would be good to show what they do (since they don't have anything like that here), so I started wiping the insecticide onto my skin, clothing and hair. I was asked what these were and so I explained (in Hungarian) as I passed around the container offering them one, that these were wipes to put some repellent onto your body so the mosquitoes don't bother you. As if orchestrated, everyone's head leaned over to the left at once and a curious look came over their faces... I thought, "Uh oh, what have I said?"

One of the younger people there said, "Carrie, were you trying to speak of the little insects?"

"Yes, I was - OH!!" So I replied once more in Hungarian, " Oh well, mosquitoes OR carpets...either way, these will work to keep them off you!" to the laughter of them all as they grabbed the wipes.

Language learning is an important part of being a career missionary and language goofs are part of the process! Usually a language goof shows those who you are serving that you are a “real person” and not afraid to be a beginner, a mistake maker, or someone who can get confused.

We often do not follow the leading of God to reach out to others whether at home or abroad because we do not want to appear “dumb”, “stupid” or “unsophisticated.” Could these fears be standing in the way of true ministry and service? Something to consider!

A Dream Came True



Debbie Mulneix-Philippines

In January/February, a dream came true. A group of women from the ABC-USA and a group of WV Women’s Ministries came to Manila and met my friends. Though the two visiting groups had different agendas, they both were intent on knowing the ministry here in the Philippines. Some of them traveled to Iloilo, Roxas City and Antique. The others spent their entire time in Manila. Some women had been on several mission trips, two had visited Cathy Holmes and me when we were at Woodstock. Some had never been on a mission trip. I attended school with two of the women, have been friends with several of them for 20+ years, and had never met some of them before they arrived.

The important thing is they each had heard God call their name..... and they said yes. Each woman brought her unique gifts to a different culture and used them as He asked. They asked questions, cleaned out closets, danced the “Chicken Dance,” cut and packed cards, visited other ministries, fell in love with children in need, attended worship, led worship, made jewelry, ate pizza and fish with heads and encouraged recycling by making “fancy” flip-flops. They even joined our staff for an outreach night, going to several bars to meet with some of the women who are not in our program. In this process, these “visitors” became “friends.” They listened, they comforted, they laughed, they cried and they prayed.

We are back to “normal” now. The Karaoke machine has been returned, and we are preparing for our celebration of Easter. But we have not forgotten. We invited strangers to join us for a few days, and they will now live in our hearts forever. A relatively small window of time, made a huge impact on our hearts. No one realizes the many changes that an experience like this can make upon your “normal” life. But we are trying, because the glimpses of “God Stories” that we experienced have changed our lives forever. And the women who visited have become more than new “friends,” they are “family.” And I believe that the ABC/ABWM women feel the same way.

Thank you to Angela, Jennie and Joan for your hard work and preparation for this visitation to happen. Thank you to Kate, Eileen, Tricia, Twila, Gail, Marcia, Jeannie, Liz, Amy, Sandra, Sharon, Zola and Regina. We will never forget that you responded to a call to challenge yourself in a different country, with unfamiliar traditions, strange food and IMPOSSIBLE traffic. And we will never forget the little pieces of your heart that you placed in our hearts.

May God bless you and your families in all you do.
Debbie
P.S. When are you coming back?



“On Earth as it is in Heaven”
July 3 - 9, 2016
Greenlake, WI

If you have never been to Greenlake,
here is your opportunity !

**Seats still available
to travel with us**



INVITED MISSIONARIES

- Ann & Bill Clemmer – South Sudan
- Becky Mann—Thailand
- Karen Smith – Thailand
- Madeline Flores-Lopez Dominican Republic
- Susan Hegarty – Costa Rica
- Jill & Mike Lowery – Congo
- J.D. & Rhonda Reed – Bolivia
- Ray Schellinger – regional
- Jeanine & Walt White – global

Cost for the trip
\$800

Double occupancy with all meals, except travel days included. Picking up in Parkersburg, Ripley & Dunbar. Staying overnight in Indiana going out and coming back.

Register on line with IM & pay the conference fee.
Deposit of \$200 (non-refundable)
Clergy scholarships are available.

**Call Joan to reserve
a seat at
1.800.879.9822.**

WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONARY PARTNERS



Keith & Debbie Myers Family - Mexico

The Myers family has been busy since I last sent a message. Keith had just left for a two week stint in Chiapas with four gentleman from the US. On his way back to Puebla (12 hour drive) he had with him two of the pastors from the Chiapas churches who are part of the CICEM Board of Directors. The CICEM Board met at Keith and Debbie's house for three days and agreed on several goals and projects for this year.

Keith and Debbie have delivered approximately 130 chickens to two different locations for the chicken project. They are deeply moved by the number of people who have given to this project and wanted to express their deepest thanks and appreciation for the interest and encouragement. Many indigenous families will now be able to sustain themselves with a healthy protein and also use and sell eggs for additional money. The people of Mexico are excited to partake in this project. Continue to pray for Keith and Debbie as they try to make sure there are hens in the deliveries.

Debbie and Keith have begun preparing speeches and discussions for the women's workshops they will be leading. They are requesting prayer with this need, as they are trying to incorporate the lessons we learn here in the States to be applicable to the ladies in Mexico. They will be heading out with a team to Sierre Norte the weekend of March 4th to teach and lead a ladies workshop. They taught the weekend of February 13-14 in Oaxaca on God's creation of marriage and the roles of each spouse.

There is a church dedication in San Juan Colte for a church building that has been being built for many years. It is a beautiful building, with the work all being donated by the members of the church. The materials have been gathered a little at a time and several mission teams have participated in assisting in building. A team from El Dorado, Kansas will be heading to Puebla and the Myers will pick them up at the airport and head out for the weekend to participate in the dedication ceremony. Please pray for their safe travels.

Please keep the whole family in your prayers for continued good health. There have been many very cold nights there this winter, some nights as low as 30 de-

grees with no furnace or heat source!! The days are warmer, around 65 or 70 degrees, but the temperature changes are hard for sinuses no matter where you are in the world.

Boyden has been accepted to and will be attending Biola University this fall. He is excited about the opportunity to go to his #1 pick for school and not be too far away from family either. This university has the curriculum he was wanting to get into, and the financial aid he has been provided is very good. Please continue to pray for him as he prepares for this separation from his family, as it is a life-changing event in every young person's life. Also remember his family as they too have to prepare for the separation.

Baillie auditioned for and has been accepted into the state choir that Puebla has. This choir began practicing this month for the Christmas program that they will put on this fall, and it is a huge honor for her to be selected and participate in this choir. She continues to sing with the praise band at the school, and is learning the guitar and sings praise music when the family is out in the communities. Her musical ability is a gift and talent that God has blessed her with and she continues to give Him the praise and glory. Please continue to lift her up in your prayers so that she keeps her focus on Him.

Debbie was able to get her three year visa while Keith was in Chiapas. However, Keith's visa expired and he is now on the verge of needing to travel outside of the country of Mexico for three days. While three days may not seem like a long time, there are many things that Keith is doing now that are in preparation for teams coming this spring and summer, and a three day unplanned vacation is not one of them. Please pray for this process to go smoothly. He went to the immigration office today to get his visa and had all of his paperwork with him. One word was incorrect on the form, so now he has to get new paperwork to get his visa. Keep in mind that all of this paperwork has to be translated into Spanish, and has to be notarized. The process is long and arduous, and they want to get it completed so they can focus on mission matters. Please pray that they are not thwarted in this like the devil is wanting. In all things God is in control, and they are trusting Him to complete this process.

In his service,
Karla Carr, Myers MTP member



J.D. & Rhonda Reed Family - Bolivia

New Opportunities To Partner with House of Hope

International Ministries has approved Global Servants J.D. and Rhonda Reed to begin raising funds for a ministry vehicle at the House of Hope. This vehicle will enhance the ministry in multiple ways. It will help to service short-term volunteer teams as well as transport doctors and dentists to their clinics, along with their equipment. It will also help to maximize ministry efforts as staff and volunteers reach out to churches and determine the best way to begin meeting the needs of the city.

The House of Hope is a ministry that supports and organizes numerous events and clinics almost every week to serve the working poor, women and children in and around Cochabamba, Bolivia. It is in desperate need of a van to aid in this ministry. A vehicle will help to service short-term volunteer teams from American Baptist churches. It will help to transport doctors and dentists to their clinics in the outskirts of the city, along with all the equipment they will need. A vehicle will help to maximize House of Hope's ministry efforts around the city as staff and volunteers reach out to churches and help determine the best way to begin meeting the needs of the city. Your generous gifts of any size will be applied toward the total cost of purchasing a vehicle.

This project seeks to raise \$25,000 to purchase a vehicle for the House of Hope ministry in Bolivia.

The purpose of the project is to provide transportation for volunteer teams, medical and dental personnel and supplies for clinics. This project will be managed by missionaries J.D. and Rhonda Reed. It is anticipated that this project will not only mobilize people and equipment, but also allow the House of Hope to build a continuity of work in its ministry.

Connect to this Mission Project

- ◆ Pray with J.D. and Rhonda Reed in Bolivia that the funds raised through this project will help share God's love with more people in the metro area of Cochabamba.

Your donations make this mission project possible. Send your donations on your church's monthly remittance form, on section H, write **HOPE - Vehicle**. As an individual, make check payable to WVBC, add to the memo line, House of HOPE – vehicle and mail to WVBC, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.



Rick & Anita Gutierrez
South Africa

Hello West Virginia Baptists. We recently graduated ten Health Builders from Amouti and Phoenix, who are serving in their respective churches and community to share God's word via Discovering God Together groups as well as improve the health of their neighbors. We are moving forward with new communities of Umlanzi, Port Edward and Warner Beach with new leaders sharing in our mission.

We are also training new workers with our old partners Izulu Orphan Projects in Zululand, where we are active today. Yesterday we have established another successful incubator partner who has the whole cycle of hatching, incubating, brooding and selling in his community of Amouti. We are working with four medical students from the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine on their community health rotation, who are assisting us with screening events in the community with a focus on vascular health. This is a skill which they can use in their medical practices to come. One student, Mohammed, is the younger sibling of a student we worked with three years ago, and another opportunity to share the love and methods of Jesus in healing to a learner from another faith tradition. It was his older sister who connected him back to us, which is an example of how Health Building is appealing to medical students and people who are curious about the intersection of faith and medicine.

We have secured 300 grafted Beaumont Macadamia Nut trees aged 18 months, and will be tending them with a partner until August when we will have a group from Michigan assist us in planting them. We begin a collaboration with another church this Sunday in Phoenix, where we have six new students who want to lead Discovering God Together groups and learn health building. Marc and Paul are going to join us in May after they have finished the school year in Ann Arbor.

We look forward to being with West Virginia Baptists in Hungary in late July, where we will be involved with a building project to be determined by the local church, health outreach work focusing on the Roma (Gypsy) community and also join them in their Discovering God Together groups. Thank you West Virginia Baptists for your strong partnership in mission and your many years of prayer and support. We hope to be able to join you again at Camp Global this coming September, if you allow people to come two years in a row!

Blessings, Rick and Anita Gutierrez