

News From the Field

Update from the Missionaries

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by Scott MacLeod, *Trips Coordinator for the Missions Ministry Team*

What comes to mind when you hear the words “missions trip?” The first time I went on one, I had tons of preconceived notions. Who am I to go on a trip? Only people that really know the Bible can go. What would I be able to give to the team? What would I have to do? Will I have to stay with ‘strangers’? What is the food like? Are they going to ask me to speak publicly? Would I have to wear a robe and a large gold cross like in the movies?

What I found is that once I took that step of faith of going on a short-term trip, my life and my family’s life changed forever. And not only were we changed, but the lives of the ‘strangers’ that we now call friends were also changed. The Message puts it this way in Mark 6:8: “You don’t need a lot of equipment. *You are the equipment...*” I realized that the main thing God was looking for was my availability.

Living in affluent America it’s refreshing to get outside of our comfortable bubble. Going on a short term trip helps us gain a biblical world view

and expand our personal and collective ministry potential. A ‘world Christian’ helps break the mold of a self-centered way of thinking. At the Chapel we want

When we go to serve, we end up being served. It’s funny how Jesus is on both sides of the equation. Jesus is the giver, Jesus is the recipient. We give because

“You don’t need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment...”

Mark 6:8

everyone to gain a perspective on cross-cultural and multicultural ministry. We use missions as a teaching event, further cultivating compassion and understanding of others in our own lives.

He gave; we give to those He represents. He is the love in all of us, and the need in all of us. We go to serve and share, to serve in all we do and share the Good News.



The Ghana Team will work and minister with Arnold and Gerri Polk from Oct. 26 to Nov. 6, 2007. The team includes Mark Berry, Jennifer Burrows, Enid Butler, Kelley Clark, Lisa Haag, Faith Halverson, Amanda MacLeod, Jim Murphy, Ted Polk, and Steve Stafford.

Experiencing Faith Through Short-Term Trips

by Tim Holcomb



There are some good “head” reasons for missions, but we also need the Lord to touch our hearts with His burden for souls.

When thinking of short-term trips, it’s helpful to look at Jesus’ example. When He sent out the disciples, what happened as a result of their going? Their faith exploded; their “faith bar” had been raised by their experience, so now they would take

greater risks for God with greater confidence. Jesus was able to take them deeper in their walk. From that point on, they were taking increasing steps on their journeys toward spiritual maturity. The “short-term trips”

BY GOING ON A TRIP:

- You see what God is doing to reach people
- You come alongside what a missionary is doing
- It gives you exposure to people who need the Lord
- It lets you experience another culture
- It’s biblical!

the disciples went on weren’t easy — harvesting isn’t easy ... and He sent out laborers, not spectators. Instead of praying for an easier job, the disciples were to pray for more laborers to join them. The disciples gained a better backdrop for what Jesus meant when He spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven. No longer was this something just for their inner circle. Now they had faces, names, and time with lost people

who had responded to the message. Finally, it gave them an appreciation that their own names were written in heaven.

If we pursue missions programs to get people exposed to overseas ministry, to rack up frequent flier miles, and to be busy, we’re barking up the wrong tree. The reason we have trips at the Chapel, and why we pick the ones we do, is so that people will grow in their journeys to spiritual maturity. Trips fit into the overall strategy of making disciples at the Chapel. People who go on missions trips come back deeply impacted personally, and that impact overflows into every other ministry they are involved in.

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Wendy Moog with an orphan girl from the Komarivka Orphanage.



BRIAN ELMORE

In the summer of 2006, Brian was part of the missions team that came alongside

Chapel-supported missionaries, Carlton and Shannon Deal, in Brussels, Belgium, to help with their outreach, *Serve the City*.

“Brussels was sheer joy. Finding myself doing God’s work and having so much fun simultaneously almost felt like cheating; I had thought those where two separate sensations. Returning from that mission, I felt compelled to share my service with the community around me.”

Based on what Brian experienced in Brussels, following the missions trip, Brian became the founder of *Serve the City Williamsburg*, in which volunteers work at Williamsburg ministries that serve the needy in our community.



KATHY HOLCOMB

Kathy and Tim Holcomb participated in a trip to a Muslim country in 2004

to visit and encourage Chapel-supported missionaries. Kathy and Tim have continued this ministry with several trips to remote areas in Central and South Asia.

“I went hoping to encourage the missionaries, but God broke the mold of what we thought ministry was supposed to look like. Sharing Jesus in a Muslim country had to look different than what I was familiar with. God crashed into my world to redirect us as a couple into something totally new. Now our family is working with



BRIGETTE WEIS

Brigette Weis was on the summer 2007 trip to Kherson, Ukraine, to work alongside the House of

Hope ministry to needy children.

“The purpose of our trip to Kherson, Ukraine, was to reach out to orphans, social orphans, and poor families. The trip to Kherson redefined everything I grew up knowing in the United States. I didn’t have a true definition of poverty or despair until I experienced this first-hand. I take nothing for granted now because I realize we are blessed beyond imagination in America. I truly understand for the first time the message of Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in.”



MARK BERRY

In 2001, Mark Berry participated in his first missions trip.

“When I

decided to go on my first missions trip to the Ukraine, I was unprepared for what was to come. I had heard from others their excitement about work accomplished so far from home. However, it didn’t take long into my first trip to see that it wasn’t about the work we were going to achieve but how God was going to work through us. God was able to touch the hearts of others while opening our hearts and minds to serve. The two weeks I spent in Ukraine are etched in my memory forever and I am still in touch with



Left: Men and women of the 2006 Chapel team and members of Tent Church work together to make a path to the church door. Right: Nancy Davis, “Narnian Lady,” and Kathy Holcomb



the people I met six years ago.

That first trip changed my life and heart for missions. Only by participating in a trip can someone truly understand the experiences to which I am referring. This is why I am leading a group of 10 people to Ghana at the end of October. We will work on detailed projects, building water catchment basins, working at schools and villages. But the relationships that are developed both within our group and those with whom we partner and meet in Ghana will be life-changing.”

DOUG MOOG

This summer, Doug and Wendy Moog led a trip to Kherson, Ukraine.

“Leading a team of 18 to Ukraine was extremely fulfilling for me because I was able to see the Lord’s strength and love in many dimensions. As a leader,



my role placed me at the intersection of the Chapel people, the ministry team in Ukraine

that we came to support, and the children God was calling all of us to serve. In that intersection, He showed me what unity really looked and felt like. He faithfully moved through my team and me with true compassion, and He showed us the difference between sympathy and empathy. Through each event He taught me humility and grace in an environment where I would never have been able to learn that lesson on my own. I see now that it was really He who was leading and making the relationships. All the long-term connections I made with the people of Ukraine are rooted so strongly in His love and tenderness and I know that those bonds are forever forged in heaven.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in.”

Matthew 25:35

An Invitation for You

Trips Planned for 2008

LONDON, ENGLAND

Paul and Lorraine Abeyta

Spring 2008

A group from the Chapel will travel to London to serve and work alongside, Paul and Lorraine Abeyta. The Chapel has supported Paul and Lorraine since they left for England in 1985. London Team 2008 will spend a week in historic London learning and praying about the multi-ethnic Muslim population and the variety of outreach ministries to them.



KIEV, UKRAINE

Evangelistic Biking Trip with Nikolay Ponomarov, Pastor of the Tent Church

Last week of July through first week of August 2008

This trip will include traveling in Ukraine by bike and participating in evangelistic outreaches along the way! Our host for this trip, Nikolay Ponomarov, is a Chapel-supported missionary with a fruitful ministry of evangelism, discipleship, and church-planting.

KHERSON, UKRAINE

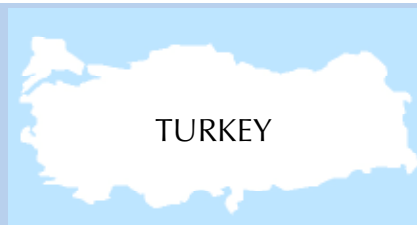
Family Trip to House of Hope with Andrey Revtov

Summer 2008 and Fall 2008 (2 Trips)

House of Hope is a multi-faceted ministry to orphans and homeless children in Ukraine. The Chapel has partnered with this ministry since January 2007. The team from the Chapel will touch the lives of children of all ages by teaching Bible lessons, engaging them in sporting events, crafts, and everyday tasks such as cleaning and cooking. The team will see God in action as they touch the lives of needy children and share the love of Christ.



For more information about any of these trips, please contact Faith Halverson, Director of Missions at 229-7152 or fhalverson@wcchapel.org.



TURKEY: BIBLE SITES TOUR OF THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Hosted by Chris and Angie

End of March 2008

Visit the sites of the Churches named in the first three chapters of Revelation.



**Yours in Christ,
The Missions Ministry Team**

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Tim Holcomb
Martha Karam
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Carter Murphy
Gloria Murphy
Shae Murphy
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Carol Sale
Shirley Smith
Barbara Stewart
Matt Leffler, *Chair*
Kathy Roper, *Deacon*
Butch Palmer, *Elder*
Faith Halverson,
Director of Missions



**Missions Information
ONLINE**

Learn about Chapel missionaries and where they serve on the Chapel Missions Portal.

www.wcchapel.org