

MFMI: Your short-term missions specialist

WINTER 2007

ACTION

MEN FOR MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL
The Laymen's Voice of OMS International

Where
He
leads,
I
will
follow

MOZAMBIQUE

AFRICA

Where He leads, I will follow

By Troy W. Leasure

In August 2007, our Lord and Savior laid it upon my heart to go to Mozambique, Africa on a prayer team with five other people I did not know (except for my mother, Paula Leasure). For what purpose? At the time, I did not know. What, if anything, could God use me for? I struggled day in and day out trying to search the characteristics in my life that He might be able to use on a prayer team to Africa of all places, and I could not find one. I feel that my prayer life is weak, meaning that I am not one of those that pray and mountains move or the hairs on the back of your neck stand up as you listen. Due to this, I fought His calling, and I challenged it as well every step of the way. My old passport had expired, and everyone I

The MFMI Prayer Team prepares for mission to claim the provinces of Mozambique for Christ.

spoke with said it would take at least three months to get a new one issued. I challenged God, "If this is Your will You will make it clear, where You lead, I will follow." Exactly one week and four days from the time I filed for the new passport I had a new one in my hands. That's not our government working,

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MOZAMBIQUE

AFRICA

The MOZAMBIQUE PRAYER STRATEGY:



Karlene Clendenning

Karlene Clendenning is the Country Prayer Champion for Mozambique, having assumed that position from Dave & Ann Dedrick who are now full-time OMS missionaries in Mozambique. In

October, 2007 Karlene was part of a fly-around of Mozambique, touching down in 8 of the 10 provinces, standing on the ground and claiming it for Christ. A team member, Troy Leasure, felt the Lord's call to be Sector Leader for sector #7 (see map), and Karlene is recruiting for Sector Leaders for the other nine provinces.

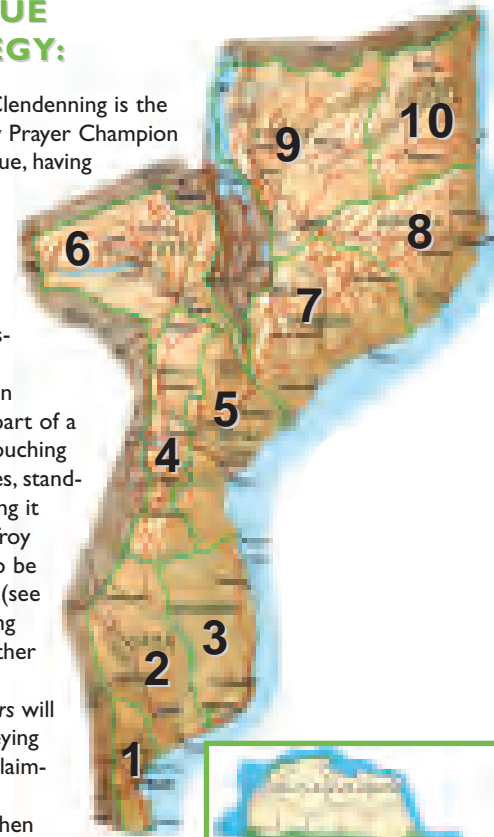
The 10 Sector Prayer Leaders will visit Mozambique, each surveying their respective Sector and claiming it for Christ (see map).

The Sector Prayer Leaders then recruit intercessors and organize them into cells, to pray for specific needs in the 10 Sectors.

Prayer information is gathered by visiting MFMI Intercessory Teams, by missionaries in Mozambique, and by searching internet sites and various publications. Information is communicated through the *Field Champion* and *Sector Prayer Leaders* to the prayer cells.

Do you see yourself in this picture? Together, with God's help, we can change nations. Call MFMI for details: (317) 881-6752, or e-mail Dick McLeish: rmcleish@omsinternational.org

An MFMI Prayer Team in Mozambique. See story beginning on page 2.



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Men For Missions International is the laymen's voice of OMS International. Through MFMI thousands of men from multiple church affiliations and every walk of life have found a channel for harnessing and releasing personal skills and abilities in practical, direct missionary involvement. Participation with overseas witness and work teams has fired them with new zeal for soul winning at home as well as abroad. No dues are required and membership is open to any man who pledges: I will do whatever God asks me to do; I will go wherever God asks me to go; I will give whatever God asks me to give.

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Troy Leasure and mother, Paula Leasure, interacting with folks at chicken farm outside Maputo.

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that's our God's hand at work.

Even though I knew He called and it was His will, I knew my warrior strengths and weaknesses. I am not articulate in speech, I did not know the language, and I had not even met the people that made up the prayer team, so how was I going to be a source of inspiration or encouragement to them? As I pondered upon this He delivered this verse, "The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land" Isaiah 58:11 Wow! Can He get any more clear?

Mozambique – what an amazing country. But what's more amazing is our God, how He shows us the

imperfections of our own lives and our own walk with Him when we let go of who we think we are, what we think we are capable of or not and say, "Where You lead, I will follow, when You speak I will listen, and when You call I will answer." What joy and peace overwhelms the one who lets Him guide their every step. The first thing that He revealed to me while I was in Mozambique was my own lack of giving Him the thanks and praise He deserves for what I have. "Forgive me, for everything I own is a blessing from You. Forgive me, for my selfishness in thinking that my desires and needs are more important than Thy praise." Second, He broke my vessel. What I thought was usable, He showed me the cracks that were letting His blessings slip through by my own silence. In Mozambique people live in stick houses, some have roofs, some don't, some are able to eat every day, and some can't afford to eat. Nonetheless, they shout His praises so that their neighbors hear. The Spirit moves upon a person who is willing to lift his voice in praise, to let go of what he thinks his neighbors might say. The spiritual blessings we receive when we let Him re-break us so that He can re-fill us. "Forgive me, for allowing cracks to empty the blessings You had in store for me." Thirdly, He tenderized my Spirit of sensitivity, empathy, and love towards others.

Justin Cockrell surrounded by "friends" in Gurue.



MFMI ACTION



Prayer team presenting stake with scripture and province name to airfield "chef."

I had the privilege of being part of a team of four people that flew to eight of the ten provinces of Mozambique to claim those areas for Jesus Christ. Each time I set my feet on the dirt of a province and shook hands with the individuals that called that area home, God showed me my spirit of compassion towards others. It was me who swung the whip that laid the stripes on our Savior's back. It was me who pushed the thorns into His scalp. It was me who sold the clothes that kept Him warm. It was me who humiliated Him as He hung on the cross. "Forgive me, for taking lives for granted, for not loving others as You love, for not giving of myself so others can benefit, and for not lifting another up when he has stumbled. Teach me to be the vessel that can be used for

Your glory let me not forget the people that have so little, but have so much in You, and thank You for breaking me so that I may love others as You have loved me." He is a wonderful God that we serve and He has so much He wants to show us, teach us, and gives us if we only say...

**"Where
You
lead,
I
will
follow"**

MOZAMBIQUE

AFRICA

MFMI ACTION

He Holds The Key

Taking the Gospel into South Asia

By John Cooper

MFMI Prayer Initiative – South Asia

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. – Matthew 28:18-20

The key to the missionary's work is the authority of Jesus Christ, not the needs of the lost. We are inclined to look on our Lord as one who assists us in our endeavors for God. Yet our Lord places Himself as the absolute sovereign and supreme Lord over His disciples. He does not say that the lost will never be saved if we don't go—He simply says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." He says, "Go on the basis of the revealed truth of My sovereignty, teaching and preaching out of your living experience of Me." (Reading from *My Utmost for His Highest*, October 14th)

When I travel to South Asia, my heart cries with compassion for the people. I look at their life circumstances and see that more than 80 percent of the people exist on \$2 U.S. per day or less. Water, food, shelter, education, and health care are below subsistence. It is a land plagued by yearly flooding and the associated devastation. It is a land where Christians are less than one percent of the population. There are souls in the balance.

The Key to the Work is not in our hands as we attempt to meet the humanitarian needs. It is in the hands of our sovereign Christ, who is anointing men and women in that land to share the Gospel. In 1989, God's Hand fell upon Brother Philip, one who was born and raised there. It was after one of the "great floods" that Brother Philip began to preach in a small rural village. Over a ten day period between 3,000 and 5,000 people traveled to his home village to seek God in the midst of great distress. Many were won to Christ and many were miraculously healed. From those days of revival, a church was born.

In the years that followed, the church not only grew, but it continued to mature. Its ministry spread across the land. The power of the Gospel to change was always foremost. In 1997 Brother Philip was joined by ECC (Every Community for Christ). Resources, training, and prayer encouragement reached across the world. Teams went out. Numerical growth became a growth of multiplication! From thirty churches in 1997 to nearly nine hundred today!

As you examine God's work through Brother Philip, you will be amazed at how the different facets function together as tools in God's Hand. There is a ministry to approximately 1,500 orphaned children. There are 100+ schools that minister to educate nearly 7,000 children. When the floods came this year, more than 2,000 families were helped with food and water. Economic improvement comes as 4,000 people are participating in the "Micro Economic Development" program. Short-term medical teams from the states

have ministered to the needs in different areas. Facilities have been built in different areas to be used for housing, schools, training, and humanitarian needs. It excites me to be in partnership with such a ministry! But that is only on the surface.

Last spring we attended the baptism of forty new believers in a small village in the north of one country. We were touched as new believers dedicated themselves to the Lord. Previously, I remembered God revealing to me in a dream the picture of an endless line of those desiring to come into Christ's Kingdom. What I dreamed became reality! In September and October of 2007, they registered approximately 1,500 baptisms! In fact, over the life of their church, approximately 50,000 believers have declared their dedication to Christ through baptism, and it is still growing!

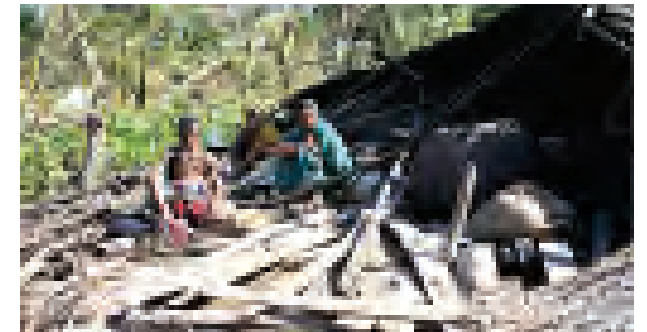
When I look and only see the humanitarian needs, my heart gets overwhelmed by despair. It has happened more than once. But when I look, I must remember that I am like a small boy with only my sack lunch to share. It is what I commit into the Lord's hands that can be broken and multiplied for "Kingdom" use. These are the true miracles!

Through our prayers and the sovereignty of God, the line of those to be baptized into the Church and be born into His Kingdom will continue. I believe that multiplication growth will become exponential in the next ten years. Would you join me in prayer for the work there? Even for the few that God may call there is an opportunity to join a medical team, a construction team, or a prayer team, just bring your lunch!

A number of years ago gospel recording artist Steve Green sang the song "He Holds the Keys." The power and authority to bring the kind of changes to that area

of South Asia can only be attributed to the "One who holds the keys." I stand amazed and am honored to participate in God's work through Brother Philip. To God be the Glory!

John is taking an MFMI Prayer Team to South Asia in March 2008. If you are interested in participating, contact MFMI for information or application: 317-881-6752 or bevans@omsinternational.org



BANGLADESH – Weeks after a killer cyclone struck the country, thousands of people remain homeless and much needed aid is slow to arrive. Unless vital relief supplies reach the survivors soon, the number of those who will die will doubtless exceed the thousands of people who have already perished following the storm that ripped through southern and central districts on November 15, 2007. Logistical problems are hindering the amount of relief reaching the survivors.

OMS International is partnering with Samaritan's Purse to provide emergency aid. To contribute, please make checks payable to OMS International and designate your tax receiptable gift: Project # 406900 – Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Fund. Mail to: OMS, P.O. Box A, Greenwood, IN 46142



John Cooper on recent trip ministering in South Asia.



Brother Philip has ministered to tens-of-thousands in South Asia over the past two decades through church planting, schools, and humanitarian relief.



MFMI Work and Prayer Teams frequently visit South Asia to assist with construction projects, medical aid, and hands on prayer support.



Baptisms throughout South Asia are frequent, usually en masse, and highly significant events.

BRINGING MISSIONS

To ALASKA

By Tom and Linda Harris – Alaska

Going to Brazil gave us some tools for better serving missions back home. Sharing our experiences, pictures, and personal stories about our missionary family in Londrina opened hearts and eyes in our local congregation to conclude that Homer Christian Church doesn't just send missionary support to a country, or to a ministry, or even to a missionary who was born and raised in our home church. Our offerings really support a part of Christ's body...an arm of His Church that happens to touch an area of the world quite different from our own. But that faraway place doesn't seem quite so far away anymore.

It's common to have predetermined expectations about the first trip to a foreign country, and at the same time have no idea what to expect. From the minute we landed on Brazilian soil and walked into the Sao Paulo airport, we relied on the blue folder gripped tightly in my hand. We had spent our last three weeks at home and the last half hour of our long Delta flight reading and re-reading Micah's printed emails, reviewing his detailed instructions for getting through customs, exchanging money, finding the airport shuttle, and purchasing bus tickets.

With our few Portuguese words and lots of gestures, we managed to get ourselves



OMS Extreme Walk missionaries, Micah and Marla Routon, serve in Londrina, Brazil.

Marla's parents, Tom and Linda Harris from Alaska, traveled to Brazil to greet their first grandchild, Samara.

onto a shuttle, across the vast city, and seated on a Garcia bus headed for Londrina. Friendly passengers greeted us with words we couldn't understand. We nodded and smiled, "Bon dia," hoping our accents would explain our ignorance. Had we been tourists just winging it in South America, it would probably have been time for a panic attack, but

knowing Micah, Marla, and Samara would connect with us at the end of our eight hour bus ride had the same effect as a double dose of Prozac.

We were instantly immersed in customs that looked quite different from life in Anchor Point, Alaska. We speak English;

Linda Harris with a Brazilian Sunday school class.



they speak Portuguese. We drive miles; they drive kilometers. We pump gas in gallons; they pump liters. Hot water flows from our indoor faucets; theirs is cold. We shop at a grocery store; they shop at street markets. We play basketball; they play soccer. Our rock hard avocados sell for \$2.00; theirs fall perfectly ripened from trees. We grow rhubarb and potatoes; they grow sugar cane and bananas. We flush our toilet paper; theirs goes in the trash. Our spiders are tiny, theirs are huge. We mop our linoleum floor; they hose down their tile. We have moose in the woods; they have monkeys in the trees. We pay our bills by mail; they stand in long lines. We take our garbage to the

dump; a horse drawn wagon picks up their trash bags. We drive to work; they walk or bike. We spend dollars; they spend reals. We roast hot dogs at picnics; they grill salted beef at chuascos.

Experiencing a different culture had many pieces, sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and language. But one word sums it up – people. Because of the network Micah and Marla have so capably woven with their Brazilian neighbors and church family, we were instantly loved and accepted. We were astounded that the language barrier could be so big, yet so small. What words could not communicate, spirits somehow revealed. We couldn't speak the same language, but through Micah and Marla as translators, we connected with the people. We shared Alaska pictures, taught Sunday school, joined hands in worship, sang together, prayed together, cried and laughed together. Our final Sunday evening was celebrated with a scrumptious duck dinner served to fifty plus beloved Brazilian brothers and sisters who swarmed Micah and Marla's little home to bid us farewell. Even with our limited understanding of Portuguese, smiles and hugs needed no translation.

Our trip to Brazil was a dream come true and was amazingly more than we could have ever expected. Saying goodbye to Micah, Marla, and precious baby Samara was agonizing and the pain doesn't go away. But to see the love and concern, feel the support and encouragement that Micah,

Marla, and Samara receive from their Brazilian family brings us joy and promises us they are in good hands. How thankful we are that God speaks Portuguese as well as English and that His love knows no borders and needs no passport.

Tom and Linda Harris with Pastor Diogo and wife.



THE FUTURE of HAITI LIES with HER CHILDREN!

The future of these children lies in the Word of God. When you support RADIO 4VEH you are giving to the future of Haiti.

Here is the story of one 12 year old girl:

Guivanette St. Jean is a twelve year old girl, who lives at "Cit  du People" (People's City). She is a young Christian, recommended to our Correspondence Bible Lessons by another student, Raymonde Josette Sayo.

Guivanette is not yet qualified, intellectually speaking, to work these lessons by herself,

according to the observation made from the first lesson she presented.

This is her testimony written in the lesson booklet:

"I have already accepted Christ in my life, walking in the Baptist Redford Church of St. Philom ne (in Cap-Haitien). I want to know my Bible and the Word of God. I am a 12 years old child. Satan wants me to become his servant. My parents are pagans. My grandmother is a female witch-doctor. Satan wants me to also become a female witch-doctor. However, I choose to be a servant of the Lord Jesus in my life. I long to be a special servant to God."

With special blessings to you,
Emmanuel Felix
Radio 4VEH

You can sponsor radios and/or air time. Complete and mail the coupon at right, call MFMI, or visit the website.

THE NEW DAY IN HAITI PLAN:

- Maximize radio potential through programming, distribution of radios, and new coverage areas.
- Build, equip, and train the 4VEH radio team to accept full responsibility for operations.
- Fully inform and involve existing and new partners in the radio ministry of Haiti.
- Continue the offensive prayer initiative that is largely responsible for dramatic changes there.
- Fund the budget of Radio 4VEH. Events like the one at left, increased fuel prices, and worn out equipment are seriously hindering the ministry. You can help by PRAYING, GIVING, and GOING.

Radios for Haiti

Thousands of solar-powered radios are needed in Haiti to distribute among the poor in rural and remote areas. These radios are fix-tuned to OMS Radio Station 4VEH.

To sponsor radios and/or air-time, or for more information: Call (317) 881-6752, or visit www.sonnysolar.com

YES, I want to help support Radio 4VEH in Haiti.

\$35 [U.S.] sponsors 1 hour of Radio 4VEH airtime. Project # 404890
\$30 [U.S.] sponsors a solar-powered radio in Haiti. Project # 404940

My gift of \$_____ for airtime radios
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip/Code _____
E-mail _____
Phones _____

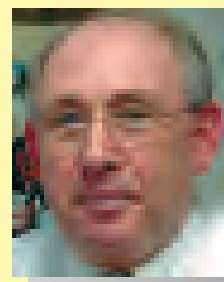
Please make checks payable to OMS International and send to the office in your country. Addresses on page 3.

NDB2006

MFMI ACTION

What is MFMI?

Men For Missions International (MFMI) is the laymen's voice of OMS International (OMS), a faith mission headquartered in Greenwood, Indiana, and serves Christ in 43 countries. MFMI consists entirely of laymen for the purpose of helping 375 OMS missionaries evangelize, plant churches, develop Christian leadership, and eventually partner with the national churches that evolve.



Warren Hardig,
MFMI Executive Director

MFMI accomplishes its task through men from every walk of life who are willing to make this spiritual commitment:

I will *do* whatever God asks me to do;
I will *go* wherever God asks me to go;
I will *give* whatever God asks me to give.

The commitment between an MFMer and God manifests itself through a variety of MFMI opportunities. Missionaries are served within the U.S. through MFMI area representatives and MFMI Action Groups (formerly called Councils, see page 9). A local Action Group is comprised of MFMs who meet periodically to pray for missionaries, help support their projects, and acquire greatly needed items. They also financially assist their members to join teams heading to foreign mission fields.

Known as "The Short-term Mission Specialists," MFMI has organized and helped over 20,000 men and women serve on OMS mission fields during its 50-year history. A current team list appears in this issue.

MFMs help missionaries by releasing their personal skills and abilities in a variety of practical, direct ways. Included are work and medical teams, teams which help with local evangelism, teams that go to pray and distribute literature, and other opportunities for those who are prepared to teach. Teams are often involved in one or more of these ministries.

MFMI has no dues nor formal trappings. We exist to serve Christ by assisting OMS. Our mandate is compassion, pure and simple. Our priority is establishing the Lordship of Jesus Christ in each man's life, and our goal is to provide opportunities for personal obedience to the Great Commission. For more information contact the MFMI office in your country (page 3).

About MFMI's ACTION Magazine

MFMI's ACTION magazine mailing list and readership continue to grow. We've been successful in keeping this unique missions-focused men's publication coming to you without a required subscription fee because you've consistently helped in its production and mailing. Please designate gifts for ACTION to proj. #444520 and send to office in your country (page 3).

Our goal is to make the ACTION worthy of its message and welcome in your home. As MFMs share their experiences, you can better grasp the magnitude of God's use of laymen throughout the world and also keep informed of major events, which impact OMS, MFMI, and the Great Commission.



A world of opportunity awaits you at www.mfmi.org



MFMI Prayer Team in a "closed country."

2008 World Ministry Teams

Dates	Field (Project)	Depart	Cost
Jan 17 - Jan 24	Haiti, Cap (Work)	Troy, MI	1250
Jan 26 - eb 02	Haiti, Jeremie (Work)	Dayton	1450
Jan 31 - Feb 08	Russia, Moscow (Prayer)	Cleveland	1800
Feb 02 - Feb 09	Haiti, Jeremie (Work)	Dayton	1450
Feb 09 - Feb 16	Haiti, Cap (Work)	Evansville	1200
Feb 21 - Mar 02	Ecuador, Yantzaza (Med)	Indy	1450
Feb 28 - Mar 09	South Asia (Prayer)	Indy	2300
Feb 28 - Mar 13	Haiti, Cap (Well Drill)	Minneapolis	1500
Mar 09 - Mar 23	Ecuador (Work @ Camp)	Indy	1350
Apr 01 - Apr 26	Russia, Family Seminar	Indy	2600
Apr 11 - Apr 26	Japan (Work Tokyo Sem)	Indy	1100
Apr 15 - Apr 29	Hong Kong/Asia (Prayer)	Indy	3000
May 10 - May 18	Spain, Madrid (Prayer)	Indy	1700
May 15 - May 28	Russia, Moscow (Prayer)	Indy	2500
May 16 - May 25	Japan, Tokyo (Prayer)	Indy	1850
Jun 01 - Jun 23	Russia, Borovichi (Work)	Indy	3100
Jul 12 - Jul 26	Ukraine, Kiev (Eng Camp)	Denver	2200
Jul 4 - Aug 04	Korea, Seoul (English)	Chicago	2750
Jul 15 - Jul 28	Russia, Arefino (Orphanage)	Indy	2750
Aug 01 - Aug 14	Russia, Moscow (Prayer)	Indy	1850
Aug 02 - Aug 16	Ukraine, Kiev (English)	Denver	2200
Oct 01 - Oct 15	Russia, Arefino (Orphanage)	Indy	2700
Nov 07 - Nov 22	Japan (Work Tokyo Sem)	Indy	1100

URGENT: Your help is needed in Haiti! OMS-Haiti is in need of a treasurer, construction & maintenance help, and grade school teachers. Can you give a few weeks, months, or a year to help with these urgent needs? For information or to apply call us today at 317-881-6752.

MFMI Ministry Teams are constantly forming or changing. Call MFMI at (317) 881-6752 for the latest information.

(TBA) = To Be Announced

Please send info about Team to _____ Dates _____

My Gift for ACTION budget: \$ _____ (Proj. #444520)

Please send ACTION to the names and addresses enclosed.

Please remove my name from the ACTION mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____

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State/Prov _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

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Please make checks payable to OMS International and mail to the office in your country (page 3).

Russia's "Rainbow of Hope"

By Laura Hendrickson – Grinnell, IA

From July 15-28, 2007, five people from central Iowa traveled half way around the world to experience many new things and hopefully, to be changed forever.

I think several of us were surprised how well the team worked together and got along. There were six Americans- five from my home church in Iowa, an Australian, four New Zealanders, and a North Irish girl, or should I say lass? After the newness of teasing each other for saying "lift" rather than "elevator" and "wee" rather than "little" we found different things to talk about—especially all that we were seeing and experiencing in this new world we found ourselves in.

This international team became the first MFMI/OMS team in Russia to work in an orphanage with a new ministry started by missionary Michelle Taylor called "Rainbow of Hope." We stayed with families from the church in Rybinsk, Russia and traveled daily one hour by crowded bus to a small village called Arefino. In this small, forgotten village we met little children who had also been forgotten, but whom we will probably never forget. Not all of the children here are true orphans. Many have irresponsible or abusive parents. They have been labeled with learning disabilities or behavioral disorders, but in the time we spent with them, only a couple displayed true learning or behavioral impairment. The rest were normal, active, fun-loving kids who wanted to be loved.

The Grinnell, Iowa "demolition crew" and some older boys from Rainbow of Hope orphanage take a break.



"Demolition is always easier and more fun than repair. The tiles flew off the walls for the older boys to haul out bucket load after bucket load and indescribably disgusting toilets were promptly removed from the building..."

Our goal was to show God's love, as well as our own, to the children. There was a planned work project for the men—to repair the children's restrooms, and a VBS program for the ladies—a chance to share the gospel through fun Bible stories, games, and crafts. Along with work and VBS, there was lots of free time to toss balls, give hugs, and share special treats.

The work started off with a bang. Demolition is always easier and more fun than repair. The tiles flew off the walls for the older boys to haul out bucket load after bucket load and indescribably disgusting toilets were promptly removed from the building. The tedious task of making even walls took the next 5 days of work. Onto the walls, 2x1s were attached in rows, leveled, drilled, and leveled again – what seemed a hundred times. Only on the last day did the paneling and ceiling tiles begin to go up. The hard work perfecting the foundation made the part that would actually show go faster and look better. All work was headed up by an independent construction worker, named Victor, from the Rybinsk church. A couple days other men from the church came to help. The Russians will finish the walls, ceiling, floors, toilets, and sinks. But more importantly – many of the men plan to return on a regular basis to work with the young men and teach them skills they can use when they leave the orphanage to live on their own. The involvement of the church, especially the men, is a great answer to prayer in the life of this ministry.

In the VBS program, we were able to talk about God's beautiful creation, including each child, Abraham, and God's promise of blessing, Jesus' birth, His teachings and miracles, and finally His death and resurrection. We played ball games, bingo and memory games. We made play-doh creations, buttons, and puff-paint t-shirts. The kids loved the craft time more than anything, usually because it included freebies—but who can blame them?!

The children of Arefino orphanage have one set of clothing, get weekly baths, and devoured every bit of extra fruit we gave them. They have nothing, but they showed us more love than we could sometimes handle. The trip was amazing, eye-opening, and life-changing. We also learned to freely give—love, grace, patience, and possessions – for we have freely received.



Nina and Tanya coloring their VBS color sheets.



Puff-painting the "Iowa" t-shirts we gave as gifts.



Our Iowa work team enjoying some sites in Moscow's Red Square.

Christmas with a Mission

It's Jesus' Birthday! The Children's Ministry might have a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party but it usually ends by the time they grow into junior highers.

Around Cornerstone Church we're trying to make Jesus' Birthday the focus of Christmas for the entire church, every age group from youngest to oldest.

Christmas has become about commercialism. It's the season that is looked to as the savior of the American economy. The average American goes further into debt purchasing Christmas presents each year. A few years ago we decided to take a radically different approach and make Jesus the focus of Christmas, not just at church, but in every family, in every home.

Starting in 2006, I issued a challenge to spend less on ourselves at Christmas. Give 1/2 of what we would normally spend and give Jesus a present by alleviating the suffering of some of those who live in extreme poverty in our world. The heart of Jesus is with the poor, and if we want to know Jesus better, we must get close to the poor.

One of the two missions Cornerstone partners with is OMS-Haiti.

The Christmas Offering has changed our church. Children bring their piggy banks to add in, families really do cut in half what they spend, teens tell relatives they don't want presents but rather money so it can go to the poor who are their sisters and brothers in Christ. Others use a month's worth of retirement savings and still others take what they earn in bonuses or consulting jobs and give Jesus a present on His birthday.

During a normal Sunday worship, we tell guests we don't want them to feel obligated to give as the offering baskets are passed. On Christmas Eve, we tell everyone they have the privilege of getting close to the heart of Jesus, and they should not leave with any change in their pockets, purses, or wallets. One hundred percent of the Christmas Eve offerings go to the Christmas Offering.

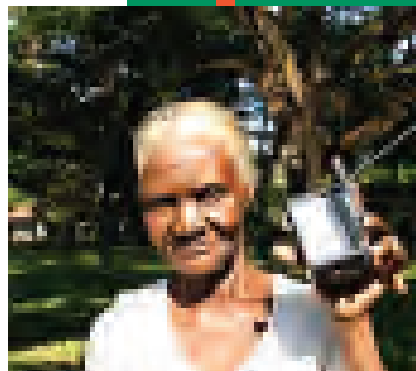
The point has never been the amount but the intent of the heart. It has changed Christmas for our congregation. We've taken Christmas back and made it a celebration of God's gift of Jesus and His plan of salvation. We can't alleviate the suffering of the whole world, but we can change our world by changing the lives of some of the poor. And we aren't just about global missions. We partner with an inner-city ministry in nearby Hamilton, Ohio, and they receive a tithe of this offering. This way everyone, whether they can travel to Haiti or not, can go to a place where the impact of Christmas is felt year round.

Christmas – It's Jesus' Birthday not your's. What present will you give Him this year?

– **By Jeffery A. Raker**

Lead Pastor, Cornerstone Church, West Chester, OH

To sponsor radios and/or air time on Radio 4VEH in Haiti, see page 10.



Christmas gifts for Haiti provided fix-tuned, solar-powered radios to poor and needy families. Their appreciation and thanks are evident.

In Action

THEY KEEP GOING

Those from U.S. going to OMS fields September – December, 2007:

Mike & Pam Bandy • Jose Banales • Rocky Barnes • Mark Bowell • Ken & Suzanne Bowers • David Clark • Karlene Clendenning • Justin Cockrell • DeVon Cole • David Cowen • John Dekker • Bill Evans • Matthew Evans • Seth Forwood • Maury Graham • Sonia Green • Stephen Grigsby • Vernon Hall • Russell Hanson • Chelsea Higgins • Tonya Holliday • Thom Hord • Greg & Angela Jenkins • Joel Jette • Cynthia Kampen • Jay Kelley • Ryan Kelley • Haley Kelly • Andrew Ketchum • David Ketchum • Bob Kumpf • David LaBay • Paula Leasure • Troy Leasure • Elton Lehman • Rosa Lopez-Avelino • Gary & Shelley Maze • Emma Maze • Dick & Judy McLeish • Cindy Meyer • Tom Moran • Marjorie Morningstar • Troy Morrison • Richard Norwood • Wilma Peters • Vince Petno • Gene & Shelba Pollic • Mikaela Purpura • Dennis Reifschneider • Cheryl Reiss • Tom Rodine • Keith Rudge • Emily Rudge • Laurie Sheriff • Bill Spate • Polly Spate • Shelley Spate • Christie Strahm • Andrew Stoddard • Steve Swigert • Vaughn Telfer • Joe Thiabeault • Don Thomas • Marty Tollefsen • Sara Walsh • Terry Walters • Doug Wolfe, Sr • Farrell & Ina Woods • Carol Wosnak • Kara Yoerger • Roberta Young

Those from Canada going to OMS fields September – December, 2007:

Greg Allen • Joel Andersen • Joel Andersen, Jr • Collin & Coral Bamsey • Ron Bartel • Graham Beer • Bonnie Bennett • John Cuming • Mel Dear • John Dueckman • Richard Elliott • Ron Elliott • Roger Epp • Jennifer Ford • George Foster • Ernie Frers • Kurt Frers • Joy Holmes • Wilfred Janzen • Marlowe Janke • Frank Kordyaka • Garry Gadson • Don & Colleen Leeson • Salvatore Leuzzi • Helmut Markeli • John McBride • Derek McCluskey • Kim Miller • Rebecca Miller • Ken Musselman • Wayne Neeb • Ron North • Alan Olsen • Nina Ooms • Hank Radstake • Lisa Rae • Elsie Ryan • Bob Salo • Michael Tinholt • Walter & Henny Tinholt • Jim & Joan Turnbull • Ted Vandermolten • Sylvia Vermeulen • Glen Wells • Robert Whitfield • John Wiebe



We in MFMI believe that powerful, warfare intercession can change lives and nations. We have seen God's power at work in Haiti in response to deliberate, specific intercessory prayer on behalf of people struggling to intercede for themselves. The type of intercession deployed for Haiti is outlined and explained in a 100 page, 4-Level manual which is designed for individual and group study. Level-1 (of the 4-Level manual) is also available as a separate guide. Each of the four levels is ideal for a quarter of group study.

For more information or to order, please contact Dick McLeish at (317) 881-6752, or e-mail: rmcleish@omsinternational.org

Tools for Warfare Prayer:

FREE brochures are available on request.

Level 1 book (\$2 U.S. plus shipping).

4 Level book (\$5 U.S. plus shipping).

Other Books from MFMI

The Story of MFMI: Of Guts and Grace—Fifty Years with MFMI (\$9.95 U.S. plus shipping)

Mighty Prevailing Prayer by Wesley Duewel (\$10 U.S. plus shipping)

Order from MFMI: P.O. Box A, Greenwood, IN 46142-6599, or call (317) 881-6752.

Making Disciples in Haiti

Bob and June Ewell, on staff with The Navigators' Church Discipleship Ministry, spent three weeks in Haiti teaching discipleship concepts to future pastors at the Emmaus Biblical Seminary in Cap-Haitien.

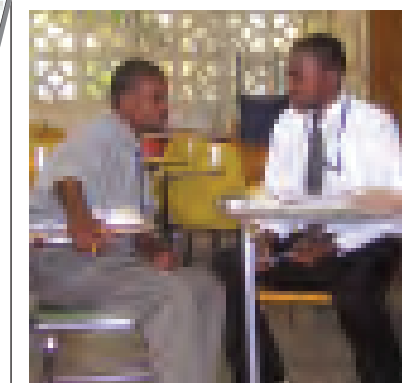
"I did there what I do here," Bob says. "I helped pastors learn to make disciples not by preaching only but also by meeting with and training individuals."

Bob worked with 12 students, teaching in the classroom three hours a day. "We spent an hour sharing our daily times with God, reviewing memory verses, and praying for our ministries," Bob says. Then he presented practical discipleship-related teaching.

"On the macro level, I was modeling a small group for them," he adds. "The main message was, 'You can reach the world, starting from where you are, but you can't do it by preaching. I hope you preach to thousands on Sunday, but on Monday, you'd better be meeting with people individually.'"

The director of the seminary wrote Bob about the importance of this training: "We need the kind of emphasis you brought, and I am deeply grateful. If it fits in with what God has called you to do, we would be grateful to have you come and teach again and again. These next few years will decide the future of the Haitian church."

Used with permission from The Navigators.



Haitian pastors learn how to follow up Sunday's sermon with Monday's discipleship.

For your Visit...

Simply check the list of MFMI teams and the reply coupon in this issue.

Men For Missions International (MFMI) has arranged a full slate of teams to go to OMS mission fields in 2008 to work, observe, witness, and pray. Utilization of laymen is critical to OMS as it seeks to expand its ministry throughout the world. Last year alone, over 259,000 came to know Jesus as their personal Savior through the efforts of OMS and its national churches.

Many laymen are now forming teams to go to the mission field. You can be part of this great movement of laymen as they seek to honor Christ by giving personal obedience to the Great Commission. Call MFMI (317) 881-6752, or the national director in your country (page 3), for team dates and costs.

Tax receiptable gifts may be mailed to MFMI, P.O. Box A, Greenwood, IN 46142-6599.

Will We Meet Again?

By Jerry Hogshead

One of the things about travel in India that I love, painful though it can be, is the opportunity to meet, pray for, and occasionally help in some small way, people in need. They are literally everywhere of course, so it is a daily experience. As I recalled some of those I've met on a recent trip, I thought of the book titled something like, *Five People You Meet in Heaven*.



The plight of women in India is obvious and often overwhelming to the outside world.

Here's one dear lady I hope to meet again. As I walked to one of the small shops on the train platform for a cup of chai, I noticed a poor woman squatting on the rough and dusty part of the platform that hadn't yet been finished. She was facing away from me so I looked back to get a better look as I passed. I was stunned as I watched her put a handful of dirt in her mouth! I couldn't believe my eyes. Never in ten years of traveling in India had I seen anyone do that. As if in denial, I walked on to get my tea and returned to where my friends and I were waiting for our train. The more I thought of her the more appalled I was. "Remember, this is India," one of my friends often reminds me. There are almost always beggars on a train platform, so this lady was nothing terribly odd. There were probably a couple dozen of us within sight of this poor woman, yet none of us moved to help her. But I was probably the only one who had seen what she'd just done. If I didn't help her, who would? There she was, once a beautiful young girl full of hopes and dreams, someone's daughter, perhaps a mother. What had gone so terribly wrong? The desolation of widowhood, the loss of children, malnutrition, mental illness? Only God knew.

I couldn't get her out of my mind. Finally, after a few agonizing minutes, I could stand it no longer and went to look for her. By then, she had moved to the other side of the tea stall. I found her squatting again on the rough, unfinished concrete. As I passed the same shop, I bought a fresh bottle of water and a pack of chips, then went and squatted next to her. The dirt was still in her mouth. I lifted her chin, gestured for her to spit it out, and began to pour water into her mouth. She awkwardly complied, and repeated the process several times until her mouth was reasonably clean. Then I grasped her dusty hands and began to pour water over them. As the water touched them, she immediately thrust them forward in the stream. She continued to wash reaching ever higher on her forearms. Yes, she still remembered what it was like to wash, feel clean. When my bottle was empty, I helped her stand. She rose awkwardly and wasn't steady. She started off, never really looking me in the face, for shame perhaps. She didn't want to eat the bag of food I offered, but did keep it. Clearly she wanted to leave. I steadied her briefly, helped her as far as the shop to buy her a fresh bottle of water, and watched her wander slowly, almost aimlessly towards the main part of the station. "Lord," I prayed, "Please help this dear lady. Lead her to your people in India, or them to her. Reveal yourself to her."