

Youth Column—Jessica Jelinski, Ebenezer Moravian Church, Wisconsin

Coming Up Short for Words

After spending a month in Tanzania on my first international mission trip and returning to life in Wisconsin, I realize how much these two worlds don't know about one another and how much we have to gain if we can bridge the gap geographically and culturally. In my attempt to do that for my congregation, I still feel that I come up short trying to explain to people what it is like to live in Tanzania and what effect doing so for a short time has had on my life and my faith. I hate the old cliché "you have to see for yourself to understand" but sometimes simple language is all we have to explain profound spiritual and emotional experiences in our

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lives. However simple it may sound, there is no better way to understand what I mean than by immersing yourself in another culture. You will trust God, hate him, and cry out for him as you are twisted and stretched out of your comfort zone, and then you will be thankful you put yourself in the hands of a God who loves you and takes care of you. My experience in Tanzania showed me how valuable I really am and how much I am needed in this world. While people in third world countries like Tanzania are struggling with disease and starvation, people in America have just as great a problem with feeling unloved and unimportant. In Tanzania, I met many people and

learned about their individual



struggles and kept coming up with the same response. I have something they can use and I know something they should know that could help them, and I can never feel useless again now that I know that. My first taste of mission work has given me a way to live with purpose and hope in a world that is sad and full of despair. There are many opportunities to participate in mission work through the Moravian Church, and so I encourage you to inquire so that you will know what I mean when I say you will just have to see for yourself to understand.

Jessica works as a welder in Wisconsin and was present at the 2007 FEET FIRST Youth In Mission Summit.

S.O.S.....Onward Needs Your Help !

To those who faithfully read their monthly copy of Onward that comes in their mailbox, they are probably aware of the immense amount of prayerful work that goes into not only each issue, but into the individual copies themselves. The process begins, again prayerfully, with the editing of incoming information from around the Unity, getting the Onward to the printer on time, and then ends up in the faithful hands of a computer tech, and then a folding coordinator, who joyfully brings a lot of people together and they spend a happy hour folding, stamping, and collating by zip code over one-thousand

copies of the Onward..... each month.

One can't thank these faithful coordinators and folders enough for what they do to get the BWM and Mission Society Southern Province news to the doorstep of that many people for the past 50+ years.

Our current Folding Coordinator, the Rev. George Chiddie, is retiring from active service come January 2008, and Onward will need the assistance of a new 'someone' to assume this coveted position. Some of the tasks of the Folding Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- picking up the collated Onward at the printer,
- separating mailing labels,
- buying stamps,
- sending copies to Moravian Seminary,

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