

O N W A R D

MORAVIAN MISSIONS PUBLISHED BY THE MISSION SOCIETY, SOUTHERN PROVINCE

April 2008

Volume XXVIII Issue 3

To The Ends Of The Earth [Acts 1:8]

Our journey began as we gathered in the fellowship hall of a small Moravian Church in Winston-Salem. Many of us were heading out on different missions around the world, but we all met to prepare ourselves for ministering to God's children wherever our journey took us. One large group was leaving the following week for Mississippi, two young ladies were preparing to depart for Tanzania and I came in response to those affected by Hurricane Felix in Nicaragua.

The director of volunteer ministries, Mark Ebert, cautioned that we would be traveling and experiencing cultures that would be foreign to our customs. No matter where our respective missions would take us, an open mind, patience and flexibility were essential. Our Bible devotions focused on responding to the physical and spiritual needs of all we encountered with a servant's heart. Moreover, we were to prepare for God to do something in our lives, because mission work is, inherently, a life-changing experience, unlike any other.

Fully inoculated and thoroughly packed, the first team of Moravian Disaster Response (or MDR) eagerly awaited departure for Nicaragua on January 18, 2008. The team included Mickey Grose from Reidsville, Tim Trollinger from Rural Hall, my father Jennings Snider from Hilton Head, our faithful director, Mark Ebert, from the family farm outside Winston and me, out of Charlotte. Joining the MDR team was our Miskito translator and invaluable guide, Kevin Frack, as well as our brilliant logistics coordinator Ray Griggs. We were all on loan from our gracious wives and families.

After four days in transit we arrived after dark in the village of Sukatpin (Pronounced Sue-cot-peen, which means woodpecker) west of Puerto Cabezas. We had reached what seemed to be the end of the earth. Electricity and telephone lines don't reach this far. There is no running

water or any infrastructure outside of what resembled a road through the middle of town. There were no vehicles to speak of, with the exception of bicycles.



Ray had recruited a local team to assist in our efforts to set-up and operate two relatively small sawmills. (Relative in that they weighed nearly 500 pounds each and we were responsible for carrying them deep into the woods - no wheels on these models.)

We established camp on the floor of a community building similar to a raised, open-air picnic shelter. In the morning, we saw that throughout the village the Brahma cows, small horses, pigs, dogs, chickens and children all roamed freely. Not

a word of English was spoken. The villagers all spoke Miskito. We could occasionally bridge our communication gap with what little Spanish we spoke and they could understand. We would greet them by saying, "Nocksa Nockisma," which is Miskito for "Hello, how are you?" They responded with a friendly smile and would say "pine" which translates as "good."

Evidence of the hurricane surrounded us. There were roofs draped with tarps, trees uprooted or snapped in half and some still lying where they fell. Since there was no evidence of a single piece of machinery in the entire village, prior attempts at clean up were accomplished with the local tool of choice, machetes. Some buildings were left leaning, while others were blown off their

Continued on Page 4

Children Pray for Children

Want to engage a powerful ministry, either within the church, or in just your family? Spend a portion of every day teaching your children or grandchildren to pray for the world. Children love fellowship with other children and will easily build energy in a church ministry or draw a parent into what's going on in the 10/40 Window or in the new Global Christian South. Here are some ideas to get you going:

- ❖ Make a giant calendar with your children and put a new country or peoples on each week, then explore the internet/magazines for pictures of those children. Pray for them, their families, their schools, their church.
- ❖ Set a special time aside each day (or in your Sunday School class) where they pray for needs of children around the world, such as food, water, shoes, having a home to go to, etc.
- ❖ Take your child to the library and explore the global sections; exploring maps,

music, books in another language, artwork/crafts to try at home.

- ❖ Invite your children to bring home someone of another race or culture at their school and learn first-hand about their country.
- ❖ Thank God each day that children will be exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ somehow.
- ❖ Keep an ongoing list of things they can pray for for children that are forced to migrate, are abused, have no families, are hungry every day, seek love, and need Jesus.
- ❖ Ask God daily to open your eyes to see what is happening with children around the world; especially in war-torn areas. Petition God: How can we help? Show us ways to engage.



Glema J. Tasedan is a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Her husband is George and they have 3 children.

A Message From Our President

Animal Rights Group will tell you that if you throw a crab in a pot of hot water it is cruelty to crabs. But if you place the crab in warm water and slowly turn up the heat it might be more acceptable. There might be no differences in the flavor of the crab.

Looking forward to the mission trip season, as our youth participate in missions around the world we are faced with two fundamental challenges how do we attract their interest and how do we keep their interest. If their initial experience is similar to crabs being thrown in hot water it could be their last mission trip. After all it might be far more interesting spending the summer on the couch playing video games and watching their favorite TV shows. The competition is fierce with respect to the alternatives. This in no way suggests that mission

trips should be all fun and games. What is being suggested is that some consideration be given to missional needs of the young people relative to the trips objective. Share with them the objective of the trip and how their specific task fits into the overall plan. Treat them as equals in the group by soliciting their input, and responding to their suggestions. Keep them engaged in the whole process.

Sometimes it might be necessary to divide the group in several small groups and plan trips based on the interest of the youth. It also might be effective to pair youth with an adult for guidance and inspiration.

Keep in mind that there is a large, growing youth population in the United States. Graduation requirements have increased the youth awareness about community service. Scholarship and university entrance requirements encourage students to

ex-

that are reli-

ted volunteers when they find an organization that offers them meaningful activities and respectful support. It is our responsibility to keep the youth interested in missions and sometimes small steps might keep them out of hot water while maintaining interest.



gain volunteer perience. Studies show young people competent,

able, commit-

Evon Crooks, President, Mission Society, Southern Province and a member of New Philadelphia Moravian Church.

Under Thy Direction, O Father. . . All generations

I marveled as I read and re-read his handbook, *The School of Infancy*, written originally for mothers. Bishop John Amos Comenius had reached out across more than 375 years and tapped me on the shoulder. He opened his handbook with this letter:

To Godly Christian Parents, teachers, guardians and all who are charged with the care of children . . .

GREETINGS!

Beloved,

Since it is my purpose to speak to you all about your duty, it is necessary to show three things:

I. The preciousness of the treasures that God bestows on those to whom He entrusts children.

II. That He has an end and purpose to which He confers them, and a goal to which their education ought to be directed.

III. That youth demand good education so greatly that if they fail to get it they are of necessity lost.

Having established these three principles, I shall proceed to my purpose and explain in order the areas of your cares in this early age of your charges . . .

Under Thy direction, O Father! By whom every generation in heaven and on earth is ordained.

Perhaps you hear the urgency in his letter too? It reminded me of another letter, which my husband Chris and I wrote to our yet-to-be-born Anna Claire. For what did we pray? For what did we dream? Our most fervent desire for her was not necessarily that she be smart or successful, but that she would grow up into the likeness of our Good Shepherd . . . compassionate and kind.

When I join other parents and grandparents in our provinces I hear them speak in much the same language. When I ask them to name their one highest hope for their children, their first answer is not, "I want my child to grow up to play professional soccer!" but "I want my children to be a blessing," or "I want her to learn to give and receive love." Jan Johnson in her book, *Growing Compassionate Children*, writes:

"Part of the dreaming picture I have for my children is that God's love will shape them into compassionate people in a culture that is self-absorbed. I long for them to be individuals who like to offer cups of cold water to the thirsty, who dare to whisper words of life to the unreachable, who want to love all peoples the way God does."



It takes much discernment to be a parent these days. It isn't easy to keep the vision of God's reign always within our sight. This may mean that we carefully ask, "Whose dream is this?" "Is it the dream of a marketer who loses no sleep over enlisting children as 'guerilla peer-to-peer marketers'?" Or, "is it the vision of Nickelodeon which boasts, 'we own kids aged 2-12'?" I

must scrupulously look inward at my own way of life and diligently ask if I am modeling compassion, generosity and simplicity. We all know that children learn more from what we do, (or don't do) than what we say. If I am to be

"leaven" in God's beloved world, in order that all creation may flourish, my concern is not only for my own dear ones, but also for the parched Sudanese child who longs for a cup of cold, clean water.

Often the excruciating lessons of parenting come when we want to protect our child from hurt. Perhaps we are overprotective of those places and people who might help our child grow up in Christ. We don't want to expose them to the painful side of life. And, of course there is the opposite danger, where we run the risk of not being

Continued on Next Page (3)

“Clean Your Plate”; Our Child Reminds Us

Each of us probably heard at least once growing up an admonition to clean our plates because there were starving children in China (of which in fact, there were—and still are—many). I’m sure I was not the only kid who wondered what that had to do with the indigestible meal before me, since even as a child I realized how impractical it would be to ship my dinner to China. At the very least, it would be cold by the time it got there.



built-in capacity for identifying and empathizing with other young people. Our culture looks at a modern version of the China about which we were lectured at our dinner tables when young and thinks first about a booming consumer market opportunity. As a rule, when we are not thinking of those far away as exploitable (though we would never name it that), we are busy ignoring them altogether.

Inform your children about the world we live in, even—no,

especially—about its dark side. Show them on the globe where Sudan, Thailand, Colombia are, along with pictures of the children who live (and die) there. You may be surprised to find the generational roles reversed when, one evening around a particularly uninspiring supper, your child reminds you that there are starving children in Darfur.

Chris is an ESOL Teacher at Northwood Elementary and the husband of Lisa Mullen, BCE. They are members of Home Moravian Church and have two children; Anna, 14, and Isaac, 10.

If it were not for the increasing arrival of the world at our doorsteps, many of us might find those admonitions the closest thing we ever experienced to actually entering into the suffering of others, especially those so remote. As a teacher of English to children of other native languages, I have been privileged to have the world—the “China” of my youth—come to me, eager to be fed not just with food but with knowledge, warmth, and acceptance. Around my room are posters describing not only the plight, but also the courage and resilience, of refugees. I talk with my students, most of whom are not refugees, about what it means to be one. They listen intently; sometimes one or two of them in the class *are* themselves refugees. I encouraged my own daughter to enter a poster contest sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees because I wanted to raise her own awareness of the concreteness of their plight. She was only ten at the time, and the contest was only open to fourth graders and up, yet I feel this is a subject all children can grasp, but only if we put it within their reach.

The theme of that contest was “To Feel at Home.” Our children all know what it means to have a home, a place of safety and acceptance and provision for their physical and spiritual well-being. Children understand the circumstances of other children if we alert them to those realities, because it seems to me that, although we often hear of how cruel kids can be to others different from them, they also have a remarkable

Youth Column

Spreading the Love of Jesus Christ; Youth Perspective

This past summer, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to attend one of Laurel Ridge’s Mission Camps. This experience was an eye opener for me and I know I will hold those memories in my heart for the rest of my life.

While at Laurel Ridge Mission Camp, I worked with some people that were living in very unfortunate conditions. However, I realized, they were more grateful for what they did have, then I had ever been for the things I had. The people I worked

with loved the things we did for them, but what they loved most of all was being able to sit down and talk to us.

Through this experience, I learned what mission work was truly about. Mission work is not always about the things you do for people, but about spreading the love of Jesus Christ to others who may not always have that opportunity.

Meghan Peddycord is a member of Calvary Moravian Church.



Under Thy Direction

Continued from Page 2

protective enough around the most seemingly benign stores, video games or movies.

Chris and I would confess that we fail in our endeavor to model the Way of Christ, but we pray and we talk, we take our children to church, we read the Bible together, we try to listen. We hope our children will ask questions and yet, more often than not, our *children* lead *us*. Children’s prayers, you may have noticed, concern themselves with essential things. They have a better sense of bravely following the Lamb, than we do. *Lisa Mullen is a Moravian pastor serving the BCE as Director of Children & Family Ministries and is the wife of Chris Mullen.*

Next Month...

We will begin a four-part series on what a sending church looks like. We welcome your thoughts of what your congregation is doing. Send to:

moravianonward@yahoo.com

Anne Fagge working and seeking her ministry in East Africa

I'm becoming addicted to traveling, this is my second time to Africa (first was Tanzania with the BWM), and I'm still uncertain what I want to do with my life, but I know that it won't be in an office. I am 20 years old and the program I am on right now is called Go-ED with Food for the Hungry, based out of AZ. This month I'm living with one other girl in the Apac district of Uganda, specifically in Kampala working with FHI's Child Development program and their Church to Church program, which connects American churches to others around the world. I'm working in Barakalo and Tikoling. I spend my days shelling peanuts, carrying jerry cans of water on my head, riding on the back of motorcycles, and teaching kids not to have sex before marriage (extremely awkward).



Yesterday was one of my lowest points

since being here. I'm learning a lot, but it seems that the more questions I ask, the more confused I become. I've finally come to terms with the fact that there is no silver bullet for development and that NGOs aren't all they are cracked up to be.

I would specifically request a prayer for faith... not only because I've been lacking in that this past year, but also because it's hard to see God in a favorable light when I'm looking at an epileptic girl with her tongue hanging out, a gash in her neck and flies covering her body.

I've made East Africa sound awful, but there's another side also. There are gorgeous sunsets, beautiful banana trees, people that love to laugh and take time to talk instead of running off to a meeting or a club, delicious tea, such hospitable people that it would put the South to shame, and fabrics that are as lively as the music.



We'll travel to Rwanda for a few weeks (where a genocide took place in 1994 killing approximately 1 million people in 3 months) and we'll also have a month long practicum/internship. On the "fun side" we'll get to go on a safari and raft on the Nile.

Anne Marie Fagge is a junior at Converse College in SC from High Point, NC, majoring in economics. She can be reached at moravianne4@mac.com

To The Ends Of The Earth [Acts 1:8] *continued from P. 1*

pylons entirely.

Surprisingly, the spirits of these people were high and they readily helped us as we began to move the equipment into the woods to the nearest concentration of downed trees. We were to assist by training the locals in the use and care of the two saw mills and three chain saws, which we intended to leave with them. Willing men, women and boys from the village helped by carrying, rolling and dragging the 8, 10 and 12-foot sections of logs to the saw mills. It was quite a sight, as they were very enthusiastic and proficient in organizing teams and handling the formidable tasks.

One of my more favorite memories is helping to carry our second saw with nine local men. We laughed and chattered the entire way into the woods as we struggled to carry it across creeks, over log bridges and trails that were sometimes soggy and full of treacherous potholes. The Miskito people worked together very well and always seemed to be having fun.

Ray brought in our supply of food and arranged with one of the local

women to prepare our meals. Her kitchen was separate from her home and since most homes were elevated about six feet off the ground, it was accessed by crossing over a row of four precariously placed planks. On the floor were buckets of water from the well in the front yard. Their stove consisted of a U-shaped clay mound on a table.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner consisted of red beans, white rice, occasionally bread, and served with a coffee that was very sweet. We ate on her porch or the stairs and after we finished, we would exchange one of the only other phrases we had learned, "tinki pauli" or "thank you very much."

Unfortunately, due to the failure of the gas engines on both sawmills, we had to leave the village early. We took one of the engines to be serviced and planned for Ray to bring back tools to

fix the other.

Although our stay was brief, there was indeed a great deal of progress and provisions that have been made for the next MDR team to truly begin helping the village rebuild with supplies produced by the saws. Please pray for God to speak to the heart of willing and able servants to assist the people of Sukatpin.

Before we left, World Vision had sent a representative into the village seeking permission to use some of the wood to help build at least 50 environmentally safe latrines for the village's homes. In addition, upon our return to Puerto Cabezas, we were informed that Habitat for Humanity was committed to sending in teams to begin building new homes.

Scott H. Snider is a member of New Beginnings Moravian Church in Huntersville, NC. For further details, email Scott at: BigScootie@earthlink.net.



Our accommodations

Coordinator: Helen Gulledge

Pray Everyday Day

April 2008

1. Pray that the crisis in Kenya will be settled quickly. Keep Michael and Cecelia Tesh as well as the children in their care in your prayers for safety and comfort. Pray that all of their needs will be met.
2. Thank God for all of the students who attended last month's Greek Conference. Pray for Dustin Harrison, serving with Greek Intervarsity in Clemson.
3. Pray for doctors Bill and Peggy Hoffman from Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pa. who are serving through the HIV/AIDS ministry in Tanzania. Pray that the spread of this terrible disease will be abated.
4. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent from Friedland Moravian Church, serving with Campus Crusade in Texas. Pray that many young lives will be devoted to our Savior through this and other ministries on college campuses.
5. Pray for Charity & Kevin from NPMC, serving the Magi people.
6. SUNDAY - Pray for Br. Doug Rights and Olivet Moravian Church. Today is Olivet's birthday – 1851. Lord, help them to find and welcome many people that need Your salvation.
7. Pray for George Goff, a pilot from the Honduras Moravian Church serving with Alas de Socorro in Honduras. George ministers to patient's souls as he transports them from remote villages for health care.
8. We pray for Steve Marx from Christ Moravian Church serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Redlands, Ca.
9. Mark and Maddy Munn from Dillingham Alaska Moravian Church are serving in medical missions in Uzbekistan. Lift them in prayer today. Pray that their love of Jesus will be a light to all who come in contact with them.
10. Phil Raeford from Friedberg Moravian Church, Meredith Alexander from NPMC are planting churches with Anne and Robert Thiesen from Ardmore Moravian in Mexico. Praise God that there are those who are open to the gospel message.
11. Today is Enterprise Moravian's birthday (1898). Bless their pastor. Master, give them great opportunities and joy and success in winning souls for You.
12. Safiatu and Mohammad Braima from the Little Church on the Lane in Charlotte have returned to their native village in Sierra Leone where they are completing the construction of a church and starting to build a school. They have already held classes for Sunday school teachers and church leaders. Praise God for all the souls added to the Lamb's book from this wonderful work.
13. SUNDAY Jesus is the way-the only way. Thank Him for your eternal life. Praise Him. Worship Him. And let us also love one another.
14. Luis & Susan Sutton from Washington, DC are serving with WEC in Chad. This is not an easy area in which to live and serve. Pray for their god health and safety as well as for those to whom they present the gospel.
15. Father, let us pray for our neighbors that live around us. As I might drive or walk by each home, let me lift them all closer to You.
16. Grant and Lenna Funk in Hooper Bay, Ak are mentoring many of the youth who are stepping into leadership and discipleship roles in the church Samaritan's Purse volunteers constructed last year.
17. Pray for Billy Graham and his family. Pray for his health and for the extensive schools, libraries, and ministries he has fathered for our Lord.
16. Pray for Mountain Laurel Moravian Fellowship, being aided by Bob and Teresa Baldwin. It has been approved, is small, but has great hopes of growing in the coming year. Please pray for this young fellowship as they are being established in the Laurel Springs (Laurel Ridge as we know it) area.
17. Father, give me opportunities today to speak a good word for Jesus.
18. Pray for those who are hospitalized, ill, lonely, depressed in need of guidance or in general need of assistance for challenging issues of day-to-day living.
19. Pray for Neil & Anita Moree that God will give them opportunities to share His love & forgiveness. Praise that Elijah has adjusted to the move to France.
20. SUNDAY Pray for volunteers to serve in Mississippi, Honduras and Nicaragua throughout the year.
21. Pray for retired pastors, bishops and widows/widowers that God will bless their daily service to him.
22. Pray for the Board of World Mission as they mobilize people and reach out to those in need.
23. Pray for those organizing the Women's Consultation to be held in Herrinhut.
24. A little child shall lead them. Pray for children of the world to know Jesus and their parents to be led to Him.
25. Pray for our Provincial Elder's Conferences as they make decisions affecting our church.
26. Pray for Sunday School teachers that God will lead them in their studies and give them just the words to share with their groups.
27. SUNDAY Pray for pastors today as they lead their flock in worship. May worship be pleasing and joyful to Him.
28. Pray for seminary students to grow in wisdom and knowledge of God's word.
29. Pray God will miraculously fill people everywhere with a sincere reverence for life. Saviour, fill us with Christ-like life.
30. Today is observed as Widows Covenant Day. Pray for widows you know by name; for their safety, health and assurance that Jesus loves them.

Contributors to the Pray Every Day are Helen Gulledge and Glenna Tasedan..

Mailing Address here

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
-PAID-
Permit #570
Winston-Salem, NC

Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South,
500 S. Church St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-773-1732
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sawmill Project Update from Ray Griggs

On September 4, 2007 Hurricane Felix slammed into the east Coast of Nicaragua at a category 5 level. Although small in size the tremendous force of this extreme hurricane wind speed rating killed several hundred people and knocked down over 3.5 billion board feet of commercial lumber over an area approximately 60 miles wide (East to West) and 40 miles tall (North to South).

Praises...

Over 20,000 bf (board feet) of excellent quality Caribbean Pine lumber have been sawn so far. This is enough for 6 new houses here. My production goal was 1,000 bf per saw per day after a month of experience. The fellows were able to reach this goal after only 2 weeks of experience. Our goal for the next 2 months is to saw another 100,000 bf to help reconstruct 40+ houses (includes some partial houses) here in the village of Sukatpin.

The villagers of Sukatpin have been very helpful and motivated to haul logs, operate chainsaws, and assist in the operation of the sawmills while receiving NO pay. *Food for Work* is the way that we are motivating / slightly compensating the villagers of Sukatpin that are assisting with the hard work of hauling logs, sawing, and stacking lumber. Each volunteer receives between 2-3 pounds of food (combinations of rice, beans, flour, and/or sugar) per day.

Challenges to pray about

Pray for the individuals and families affected by Hurricane Felix. There are still lots of families living under plastic tarps.

Pray for the relationship between MDR and ADSIM. MDR is encouraging ADSIM to learn to be better stewards of the resources in their charge.

Pray for the relationship between ADSIM and INAFOR (the Nicaraguan Forestry Agency) as we continue to serve the needs of the villagers East Coast who are the rightful owners of this downed resource.

Pray for the continued health and safety of all the workers involved.

Pray that we all walk in God's grace and peace as we join Him in his work here among the folks of the East Coast of Nicaragua. *Ray Griggs*

ONWARD is published by the Moravian Mission Society, South, Inc. Subscriptions cost \$10./year. Mission Society membership is \$20./year/Seniors & Students, and \$25./year and includes Onward each month. Checks payable and mailed to: Mission Society, 500 S.Church St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Editor:: Glenna J.Tasedan . Submit news at: moravianonward@yahoo.com . Pray Every Day & Prayer Focus ministry inquiries at helngull@aol.com

ONWARD is on the world wide web at: www.bethabara.org/ONWARD.htm