

Western Louisiana missionaries visit Honduras and Uganda

ACTS Honduras, January 9-16

For the twelfth year in a row, the ACTS Honduras mission team from Western Louisiana ministered in Honduras the week of January 9-16. Their destination and base of operations for this year's mission was



Trinidad, Honduras.

As expected the team found great suffering among the people that is the product of the political unrest that has gripped the country for several years. The political upheaval has almost brought tourism to a standstill, resulting in significant unemployment. Poverty, already a significant problem, is on the rise, and the poor are becoming even more impoverished.

See page seven of this issue of ALIVE! for two other stories from the trip.



With a child on each hip, Lois Maberry is seen at the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home in Uganda.

Where is God calling You?

by Lois Maberry

I was born in Delaware, and when I was ten years old my family moved to Texas. When I returned to visit friends in Delaware, they wanted to know if I rode a horse to school and wore cowboy boots everywhere. I feel that's the perspective people have when I tell them I have been in Africa for three weeks. They seem to feel that I spent time in huts with half-naked people with large things in their earlobes.

My experience at the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home in Uganda was much different.

While there, the lack of creature comforts was not difficult to adjust to. I did have a comfortable hotel room to live in that occasionally had hot running water, always had a flushing commode, and if the electricity was on, I had a cool fan.

Rather, for me the difficult thing to

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Where is our Lenten journey leading us?

"They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him,

saying, 'See, we are going to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him;

and after three days he will rise again.'" [Mark 10:32-34]



The Bishop's Message

For those who shared in the Ash Wednesday liturgy, you will recall well the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." [BCP p.265] We then departed from our respective places of worship and embarked upon our Lenten journey having also heard the words, "He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent,

and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel." [BCP p.59] Prayerfully we have taken these words to heart, in order "that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy ..." [BCP p.269]

Looking ahead as we travel this Lenten road, we look forward to that time when we relive the events of Jesus' suffering, death, and triumph. Jesus invites us to join him on the road to Jerusalem in the days ahead; to walk with him in the procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; to share in that final meal on Maundy Thursday; to see his sacrifice on Good Friday; and to experience the great victory of Easter.

"When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which

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THE RT. REV'D D. BRUCE MACPHERSON'S
AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Rev'd **Richard Bates**, canonically resident in the Diocese of South Carolina, is presently serving in a chaplaincy capacity at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Pineville, and as his schedule permits, is doing some Sunday supply work in the diocese. We welcome him and his wife, Dawn.

The Rev'd **Michael E. Bertrand**, St. James, Alexandria, and the Rev'd **George Gennuso**, St. Michael's, Pineville, have both been providing for some of the Thursday morning services at Mount Olivet Chapel. I am most grateful for their willingness to share in this ministry.

The Rev'd Dr. **Wayne E. Carter**, St. John's, Minden, and the Rev'd **Elizabeth R. Ratcliff**, Calvary, Bunkie, will join Susan and me for the Louisiana Interchurch Conference annual assembly in Monroe this next week. It is my honour to preach at the Ecumenical service at the First Presbyterian Church, Monroe in the context of the gathering.

The Rev'd **George J. Hampshire**, retired priest of this diocese, died the evening of January 25, 2010 following a lengthy illness. A Requiem Mass was offered at Epiphany, Opelousas on January 29 with me presiding and the Rev'd **J. Peterson Smith** preaching.

The Rev'd Deacon **Don C. Leger** has been restored by me to his ministry as a deacon in good standing effective March 1, 2010. He has been appointed at this time to serve at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Opelousas.

The staff joined me for a farewell luncheon for the Rev'd Canon **Larry G. Wilkes** prior to his departure from Diocesan House staff on January 31, 2010. He is presently serving as interim priest at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, New Iberia.

The Rev'd **Carl W. Wright**, canonically resident in the Diocese of Northern California, is serving as Staff Chaplain with the Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City. Lt. Col. Wright is one of the candidates for the Bishop Suffragan for Federal Ministries election that will take place during the House of Bishops meeting this next month.

The members of **St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff** are excited with the ground breaking and beginning of the construction on their new administrative building. In addition to office space, the new space also provides accommodation for classrooms and meetings. Our congratulations to the Rev'd Dr. **Mitzi G. George** and the members of the mission family on this accomplishment.

The past few weekends have provided Susan and me with a great round of visitations. Our travels have taken us to **Grace, Lake Providence; St. Paul's, Abbeville; St. Paul's, Winnfield; St. Barnabas, Lafayette; and Epiphany, New Iberia**. In addition to our visit to St. Paul's, Abbeville, the afternoon brought about a grand gathering in recognition of the Rev'd **Keith L. Milligan's** ministry as he prepares for retirement in the not too distant future.

It was my privilege to speak at a conference sponsored by the Anglican Communion Institute in Dallas this past month. The gathering, which included a wide variety of speakers from a broad ecumenical spectrum, addressed the issue of "Hierarchy and the Church," and I spoke from the perspective of the Communion Partners.

Once again Susan and I had the joy of hosting the annual **Bishop's Ball**, our sixth and probably most successful to date. **St. Timothy's, Alexandria** was the setting of this delightful semi-formal event with the youth of the diocese. The spirit and fellowship, to say nothing about the delicious food, set a model of community for all. We give thanks to God for the opportunity of sharing in this way with the youth and young adults of our diocese.

A highlight of the past month was the an-

nual **Clergy Pre-Lenten Retreat** held at Hardtner Camp and Conference Center prior to Ash Wednesday. More than forty clergy joined with me for this important time of Lenten preparation. For the meditations this year, I invited three of our diocesan clergy to provide these based upon the theme of "*Betrayal, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.*" I am grateful for the Spirit-led words provided by the Very Rev'd Dr. **Jacob W. Owensby**, dean of St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport; the Very Rev'd Canon **Gregg L. Riley**, rector at Grace, Monroe; and the Rev'd Canon **Larry G. Wilkes** of Epiphany, New Iberia. (*Canon Wilkes was ill at the time of the retreat and his meditation was presented by the Rev'd Michael W. Millard, curate at St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport. I truly appreciate him responding to my invitation to deliver this important meditation.*)

In addition to the usual round of meetings that are held each month, it is my pleasure to offer the Wednesday morning Lenten service at **St. James, Alexandria**; and to present a parish development workshop with the vestry and members of **St. Timothy's, Alexandria**.

Until next month, I leave you with this prayer, "*O God, the only source of life, in the beginning your breath and Spirit drew forth the world until the earth was filled with your creatures. At the last your breath shall gather us in, each in our time, to the shelter and mystery of your love. We praise you, God, for the certainty that in death, as in life, we are sustained by your love. Amen.*" [All the Seasons of Mercy, 1987]



THE BISHOP'S CALENDAR

Bishop MacPherson's Calendar for March and April 2010

March		28	Epiphany, Opelousas - <i>visitation</i>
1-2	Louisiana Interchurch Conference Annual Assembly, <i>Holiday Inn, Monroe</i>	30	Mass of Collegiality with Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oils, <i>St. James, Alexandria</i>
3	St. James, Alexandria - <i>Lenten Eucharist</i>		
3	Standing Committee, <i>Diocesan House</i>	April	
4	Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville - <i>Eucharist</i>	1	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
5-7	Men's Retreat Conference, <i>Diocese of Central Gulf Coast</i>	2	<i>Good Friday</i>
10	St. James, Alexandria - <i>Lenten Eucharist</i>	3	<i>Holy Saturday</i>
10	Northern Region Office, <i>St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport</i>	3	St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport - <i>The Great Vigil of Easter</i>
11	Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville - <i>Eucharist</i>	4	<i>The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day</i>
12-13	Province VII Daughters of the King Spring Assembly, <i>St. Timothy's, Alexandria</i>	4	St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport - <i>The Sunday of the Resurrection</i>
14	Redeemer, Ruston - <i>visitation</i>	6	Shreveport Convocation Clericus, <i>St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport</i>
16	Diocesan Council, <i>St. James, Alexandria</i>	7	Standing Committee, <i>Diocesan House</i>
17	St. James, Alexandria - <i>Lenten Eucharist</i>	8	Commission on Ministry, <i>Diocesan House</i>
18	Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville - <i>Eucharist</i>	11	Calvary, Bunkie - <i>visitation</i>
19-24	House of Bishops, <i>Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas</i>	11	Cursillo 140 Clausura, <i>Hardtner Camp and Conference Center</i>
25	Mount Olivet Chapel, Pineville - <i>Eucharist</i>		
26	St. James, Alexandria - <i>Lenten Eucharist</i>		
28	<i>Palm Sunday</i>		

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TO CHANGE YOUR ALIVE! SUBSCRIPTION

Contact Ms. Dianne White at Diocesan House 318-442-1304 or e-mail LadyDiWhi@aol.com



The season of Lent

Epiphany is followed by Lent, the season of the church that runs for forty weekdays and six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The penitential tone of the season is reflected in part by more subdued worship. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of our hearts and minds for Easter through concentration on fundamental values and priorities.



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Wednesday, March 17, 2010**



The Episcopal Church Women will sponsor their annual spring retreat, a **Time for Joy**, on April 16-18, 2010 at Camp Hardtner. The Joy weekend is for young women and this year's event promises to be fun, relaxing and an event even better than its forerunners. It will be an awesome weekend, because the staff will focus and work hard to make it a very special weekend for each of our guests.

Time For Joy was conceived by Bishop Robert Hargrove years ago as a time for young women to be away from the demands of both work and family. Time for Joy was conceived as a time for our guests to renew or revive their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Bishop MacPherson is an important part of the weekend, because he allocates quality time to the young women in attendance. He's a lot of fun, and it's interesting to get to know the Bishop and his wife, Susan, on a personal level in an informal and relaxed setting.

The central concept of the Time For Joy (Jesus, Others, Yourself) weekend centers on providing young women with a time to get away from the pressures of an overly-busy life. Once at Camp Hardtner, the message of taking time

for themselves and making time for a relationship with God is emphasized. The weekend is joyful and carefree, with the message that life is our gift from God and that He meant for us to enjoy it! It is a "stop and smell the roses" type of



weekend. There are fun activities that have no message, but equally important are the activities that stress the importance of slowing down and enjoying life and sharing a personal relation with God.

There will be lots of activities, but the emphasis on this weekend is relaxation. Taking part in any of the activities is always strictly optional. The participants can sleep, read a book, stay in the bubble bath, or just hang out by the lake if they wish. The porch swing is a favorite of many who attend.

Each candidate is treated as a very special guest! They are given a T-shirt, bubble bath, a hand & foot massage, a goodies bag containing all kinds of neat items, a gift basket, a dish garden and a group photo. Each woman will experience God's love and healing in different ways, and this weekend is meant to provide an opportunity for that to happen.

Applications have been sent to each parish in the diocese, with a request that each congregation send one or two women who will benefit from a weekend away from the stress and strain of their lives. They will be nurtured and receive the message that life truly is a gift from God, and it is meant to be enjoyed. We can't wait to see you there!

For more information, write or email:

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Fourth annual healing conference set for Lake Charles March 19-20

Building on the success enjoyed by prior offerings, the Calcasieu Chapter of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician will hold a two-day healing conference, March 19-20 at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. The conference will begin with registration, Friday, March 19 at 5:00 p.m. and conclude on Saturday with the final Program and Healing Service scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m.

The conference will be led by the Rev'd Josh Acton, executive director of Desert Call Ministries, a teaching and conference ministry of healing and spiritual renewal. Father Acton, rector of Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church in Yuma, Arizona, has pastored Episcopal and Anglican churches for over 20 years. He is also the former director of Region 7 (western states) for the International Order of St. Luke the Physician. He leads retreats

and conferences on healing and spiritual renewal across the country.

Father Acton is the author of *A Powerful Joy: Lessons in Healing* (Bethany Press International 2008) and creator of the *Disciples in Healing* mentoring program, a self-



Acton

study course with CD's and guidebooks.

The Calcasieu Chapter of the International Order of St. Luke the Physician has been active for more than five years and began with the study of the healing ministry of Jesus at three different churches in the Lake Charles and Sulphur area. The chapter has since expanded with the inclu-

sion of members from various denominations including Roman Catholic, The Episcopal Church, Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians and members from area non-denominational churches. The chapter is made up of clergy, health professional, and lay people who feel called to make a Christian ministry in healing a part of their vocation.

Conference Registration:

The deadline for pre-registration is March 12. Pre-registration cost is \$20 per person, which includes snacks, drinks, and Saturday lunch. Registration after March 12 is \$25 per person. For registration and conference information, please contact: Pastor Charles Miller, St. John Lutheran Church, 600 University Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605, (337) 478-5666 or e-mail: pastorcharlesm@bellsouth.net



Diocesan "Daughters" to host Province VII Spring Assembly, March 12-14

Province VII Daughters of the King will hold their annual Spring Assembly in Alexandria, March 12-14 with the St. Timothy's, Alexandria chapter acting as host for the gathering.

Province VII president, Brenda Amos, will welcome Daughters from the twelve dioceses that comprise Province VII of The Episcopal Church.

The three-day assembly will include worship and workshops on leadership and faith interspersed with social events.

Special guests of the Assembly include the Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson of Western Louisiana, who will be the celebrant and preacher at the opening Friday night Eucharist.

Daughters National Council members, Marjorie Rogers and Carolyn Booker, will be guest speakers at the Assembly.

Marjorie Rogers, from the Diocese of Long Island, has a B.S. in family and consumer science education, and has done

graduate study in adolescent education. A member of the St. John the Apostle chapter of St. Ann Episcopal Church in Sayville, New York, Marjorie is now completing her second term on the National Council. She will conduct leadership training at several sessions of the Spring Assembly.

With a B.S. in home economics and a master's in social work, Carolyn Booker is from the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is a member of the Mary and Martha chapter at St. Martin's Anglican Church in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. Carolyn is currently serving her third term on the National Council. She will speak on the topic of Daughters membership.

Denise Rox, Western Louisiana Daughters of the King president, suggests that those interested in attending the Spring Assembly should go to the Diocesan News section on the Western Louisiana Web site (www.diocesewla.org) for complete information on the Spring Assembly.



Bishop MacPherson's Office Days



In order to provide a more convenient setting for those in the northern portion of the Diocese, Bishop D. Bruce MacPherson continues to be available for appointments with members of the laity and clergy on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Mark's Cathedral in Shreveport.

With the closure of the regional office in Opelousas, those in the southern portion of the diocese are encouraged to make an appointment with Bishop MacPherson at Diocesan House in Pineville.

For an appointment at either location, please contact Dianne White, Assistant to the Bishop, 318.442.1304 or ladydiwhi@aol.com.



Workshop attendance needed for licensure by Diocese

"Each of the Diocese's five convocations will be the site of a workshop on lay ministry to be conducted by the Commission on Liturgy and Music, in cooperation with the Institute of Lay Ministry at the Bishop's Centre for Ministry," announced Canon Jim Boyd, M.D., director of the diocese's Lay Ministry Institute.

Participants must register for the event and each must have the endorsement of their priest to participate in the event.

Although an exact timetable has not been announced, all of the workshops will be held in spring or early summer. This year's offering will be patterned after workshops initially held in 2009. Registration forms will be available in all parishes and missions in a timely fashion.

As was the case in 2009, attending one of the workshops will qualify an attendee, upon recommendation of his/her priest to Bishop MacPherson, for a 3-year license in any or all of the following lay ministries: Eucharistic minister, Eucharistic visitor, or Worship leader.

For reasons of convenience, attendees need not attend the workshop in their specific convocation, but may attend the session that is most convenient.

Conducting the workshops will be Canon Boyd of St. Mark's Cathedral, Robert and Pat Brown of Ascension in Lafayette, Reece Middleton of Church of The Holy Cross, Shreveport, and Dr. Frank Fuller of Trinity, Natchitoches.

Questions concerning the upcoming workshops should be directed to Canon Jim Boyd at 318-222-1902 or by email: jdbgyn@aol.com.

Watch ALIVE! for the announcement of the Workshop schedule.



Cursillo #140 is scheduled for April 8-11 at Camp Hardtner

Maybe you've heard of Cursillo, but have never really known what it is. Cursillo is a movement that's been a vibrant part of the Episcopal Church in Louisiana for the past thirty-six years. Since the Diocese of Western Louisiana came into being some thirty-one years ago, Cursillo sessions have been centered at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center in Pollock, LA.

By definition, Cursillo is a short, intense course in Christianity. Cursillo weekends are conducted by lay women and men with members of the clergy acting as spiritual advisors.

Definitions and descriptions can't really describe the actual experiences of a Cursillo weekend. It has been said many times that the only way to truly describe Cursillo is to live it.

The three-day Cursillo weekend joins Episcopalians from different backgrounds from every area of the diocese to worship and share experiences while broadening their knowledge of the church. What's expected is to build a foundation of leaders in the lay order of the church by stressing the concepts of piety, study and action.

If you have been to Cursillo, please pray for guidance on who would benefit from the gift of the Cursillo weekend.

If you're interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, ask someone in your home parish who has attended Cursillo to sponsor you. Cursillo #140 will be held at the Hardtner Camp and Conference Center April 8-11. Lay Rector Jeanette Leger of Epiphany, Opelousas and her staff will welcome Pilgrims for a weekend that could shape the balance of their lives. Applications are available online at the Cursillo of Western Louisiana Web site, www.wlacursillo.com.

St. Timothy's, Alexandria parishioner transforms church pew in DOK Cross



Gary Barbee with his recently completed "DOK" cross

by Suzie Butler

It all began with St. Timothy's office manager, Loulie Middleton's ongoing effort to tidy up the clutter and reorganize all aspects of St. Timothy's parish house. Seeing the need for additional storage, She made requests to members Gary Barbee, Matt Matthews, and Dwain West to build much-needed shelves for the library and storage closet in the parish

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

hall. In organizing the storage facility, she ran into the "old pew" that had been used by the choir. While serving as junior warden, a previous vestry asked that she get rid of the pew, but she had never found anyone that needed it, until she found Gary Barbee. He took the pew, and everyone was glad it was out of the way, but no one could imagine the rest of the story.

Diocesan Daughters of the King president, Denise Rox, and Judy Bordelon returned from a D.O.K. triennial convention recently. While there, Denise took a picture of a beautiful wooden cross depicting the necklace cross that each member wears. Being inspired with its beauty, she asked Gary Barbee if he could duplicate it in wood for St. Timothy's D.O.K chapter, Eunice. "He was very quiet about it, but ac-

cepted," said Rox. "I wanted it made because we are hosting the Spring Assembly at St. Timothy's in March. I tried to pay him, but he said it wasn't about the money. He wouldn't keep the check. Instead he put it in the Honduras basket during one of the fundraisers." As he and his wife Carolyn have been participants in the Honduras mission, this was dear to Gary's heart.

A close friend and fellow Honduras participant, Matthews added, "I was very inspired by its beauty, intricate details, and Gary's enthusiasm to help. Although he had to purchase a special saw to make it, the materials came from the old pew." Matthews continued, "I am not sure if he knew of the request at the time he was given the pew, but we were glad to get the clutter out of the storage facility, so we could construct needed shelves. And Gary is ever mindful of repurposing an unneeded item into something beautiful, all for the Lord."

The inscription on the cross is written in Latin meaning "With Heart, Mind, and Spirit, Uphold and Bear the Cross," reproduced the exact way the D.O.K. cross is done. This year's theme for the Spring Assembly is "faith" taken from Hebrew 11:1. Rox chose the fleur-de-lis as Louisiana's theme.

The congregation of St. Timothy's has been invited to the blessing of the cross the opening night of the Assembly, Friday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. The Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson will celebrate at the opening service and "really wanted it to be completed and ready to bless that night," explains Rox, "He is very interested and supportive of our endeavors."

St. James Episcopal Day School, Alexandria will hold Lobster Boil on Saturday, May 2

The 2010 St. James Episcopal Day School Lobster Boil will be held Saturday, May 1 from 6-8 p.m. in the day school gymnasium. The Lobster Boil is the main fundraiser held each year for the day school.



The \$45 ticket price for the Lobster Boil includes a boiled lobster, potatoes, corn, rolls, tea and dessert. There will also be live music. A cash bar is available and patrons may choose dine-in or carry-out.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Lobster Boil is the silent auction which always offers a variety of wonderful items. Popular items in the past have included accommodations at the beach and in mountain homes, private airplane flight tickets, spa packages, original artwork, golf packages, toys and birthday party packages, gourmet food, rare wines, and dinner arrangements at local and destination restaurants.

Year after year, the Lobster Boil has been a fun and lively night-out for parents, parishioners, and friends of St. James, Alexandria. Playground equipment, which will be installed in March, was purchased using the proceeds from past Lobster Boils.

To purchase tickets for the Lobster Boil, please contact Ms. Anna Theus, Director, at the school office. Ms. Theus may be reached at 318-445-9901.



St. Barnabas on-the-growth

At the Bishop's annual visit to Saint Barnabas in Lafayette, February 21, 2010, the Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson confirmed, received, or reaffirmed twenty-one parishioners.

Confirmed youth include: Laurent De Prins, Elliot Hamilton, Kate Lobdell, Zachary Bajat, Courtney Bajat, Mark McDonnell IV, Aimee LaFleur, Sarah Calhoon

Confirmed adults: Pearson Cross, Lisa Cross, Argyle Cross, Courtney Lentz, Christy Lamas

Received: Paula Tralek, Claire Lowry, Melodi Marchiafava, Julie LaFleur, Barry LaFleur, Randel Badeaux, Thomas Waligora, Jr.

Reaffirmed: Louise Mortimer

News of the Diocese

Happening #48 January 22-24, 2010

Happening #48, held January 22-24 at Camp Hardter is a sterling example of a youth retreat weekend designed for high school youth and held in virtually every diocese in The Episcopal Church. The Happening weekend seeks to bring young people to a fuller personal knowledge of and relationship with, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to a deeper level of commitment and discipleship.

During the three-day gathering, Western Louisiana participants experienced the love of our Lord Jesus Christ as shown through the sacraments and the ministry of fellow students, clergy and lay adults. The teens are encouraged to take a renewed faith experience back into their worlds, and to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.

Shown at the right is the Happening staff shortly before the arrival of the first participants on the weekend.



Christmas at The Shepherd Center in St. Joseph

Once again Christmas at The Shepherd Center in St. Joseph was a wonderland for children and adults in Tensas and surrounding parishes. Dozens and dozens of bicycles, loads of toys, good things to eat, and yes, even Santa and his elves brought the love of Christ and Christmas cheer to many.



Barefoot Girl I've always been a barefoot girl, so there was nothing unusual about me dashing from the house to the car to fetch a forgotten item. But, wow, it's cold out here tonight and our stone path is rougher than I remembered. As I later donned cozy slippers my thoughts wandered to another barefoot girl I had met in Honduras this year.

Suyapa is in her 80's and appeared at eye clinic shortly after lunch. She hoped she was in time to be seen—she would have been there earlier, but she had a three-mile walk to get here, and had gotten a late start because of the cold and the rain. Certainly her cotton dress would have been cool in the 60-degree mountain air and her rainwear (a towel) had not provided much

protection from the drizzle, but it was her bare feet that caught my eye. Broad and flattened from years of travel, leathered from rocky roads and dirt floors—another reminder of the endurance of these rugged people.

Suyapa seems indifferent to her hardships. One of her kinsmen explained to me that the Honduran people have always dealt with hardships. Hurricanes, mudslides, poor coffee crops, droughts—it's all part of the Honduran way of life. "We have one another and we have our faith," she explained. "It is enough." Would my family and faith be enough to see me through lifetime of unspeakable poverty and bitter losses? Could I walk a mile in Suyapa's shoes? I don't know.



BY GEORGIA WEST, A LEADER OF THE ACTS:HONDURAS MISSION TEAM

A God wink, plus "the Gizmo," equals a Godsend!

by Georgia West

On a flight to Central America, Brent Smith of our ACTS:Honduras team, sat in the wrong seat. A mistake? No, just a "God wink." As Brent and his seat mate chatted they learned they were both "water people." The man shared with our ACTS missionary that he had developed a device which converts salted water to hypochlorite which can be used to sanitize water. He had made a ministry of building the units in his basement and supplying them at cost to missionaries involved in providing safe drinking water to third-world villages.

Brent, a former member of St. Michael's, Pineville now living in another diocese, purchased a unit and brought it on our 2009 mission to Honduras.

In order to effect change among the suspicious mountain people, it is necessary to enlist the leadership of a trusted person within their community. Brent approached Conchita Paredes, a local teacher and the senior warden of Trinidad Episcopal Church. After spending time with Brent to learn how to properly use the chlorine producing unit (a.k.a. the gizmo) she began making potable water for her class. Then she sent home two-ounce bottles of hypochlorite with each student; enough of the substance to sanitize a week's worth of water for a family. The families were elated, and Conchita now had a mission! She approached the local public health clinic with the new discovery, and they were impressed with the prospect of a user-friendly, cost-free way to purify water.

Now that Conchita had sold the health unit, and they had developed a plan for distribution, she came back to us with a request



Safe water produced with the "Gizmo" On a small scale, chlorine can be quickly and safely manufactured in even the remotest of areas with just three components; water, salt, and electricity. With a 12-volt battery to provide the electricity and a small amount of salt, enough chlorine solution (hypochlorite) can be produced to purify the water of a family or small village. For example, a 5-gallon bucket of contaminated water requires only 2 tablespoons of concentrated chlorine solution to be safe to drink. A 1,500-gallon storage tank requires approximately one liter of the solution.

The "Gizmo," as named by Georgia West, comes in a small tool box kit which includes an instruction card, a chlorine test kit, 2 mixing bottles, a salt measuring cup, and a couple of solution droppers.

for 12 more gizmos. Each unit can make an unlimited amount of hypochlorite. You add a little salt to impure water and pour it through the gizmo three times. To sanitize a liter of water takes about five minutes. The hypochlorite will last about seven days before it degrades, so only a small amount is dispensed to each family. The gizmo is powered by a small solar panel or a battery similar to that of a motorcycle.

Nothing on the gizmo wears out, so the soda can-sized unit lasts a very long time. The catch? There's isn't one—in fact, there's a delightful surprise—each unit costs only \$250! The cost of the battery or a solar cell is an additional \$50-100, but one solar cell can re-charge several units. The total investment is a very small price to provide multiple villages with sanitary drinking water.

If you would like to help our friends help themselves, we would love to hear from you. Donations should be made payable to ACTS:Honduras and sent to 1636 Palmer Chapel Rd, Pineville, LA 71360.



WELCOME to the new Hardtner Board of Trustee members recently appointed by Bishop MacPherson. The newly appointed members are: Charles Adkins, Lake Charles; Dudley Beene, Shreveport; André Bordelon, Woodworth; Karen Nash, Mansfield; and Ed Ryland, Monroe. They join returning trustees Deacon



Pat Higgins

Boo Kay, Lake Charles; Terry Clason, Alexandria; Mike Endicott, Shreveport; Carllene MacMillan, Lafayette along with Bishop MacPherson. The trustees give guidance and oversight to the operation and ministry of Hardtner Camp and Conference Center. They work closely with the executive director to develop policies and procedures. The board also helps to market and finance the Center. We thank these dedicated folks for accepting this responsibility to keep this wonderful facility a great resource for the diocese. Trustees serve three-year terms.



SUMMER CAMP reservations are coming in strong. Please remember that reservations made by April 1 with full fees paid get a discounted rate. "NO FOOLIN" you get a discount of \$10-20 simply by registering and paying your fees by April 1. It is also easier than ever to register because you can now do it **directly online** from our Web site (www.camphardtner.org) with a credit card. You will receive an immediate confirmation package by email. This is all part of our new Bunk1 services. You can still register the traditional way if you chose. Applications are available at churches, online or from the camp office. Register early to save money and make sure you get the session you want. Some sessions fill early and there will be waiting lists. There is some scholarship money available to assist campers with

financial needs. Contact your priest or the camp office for more information.

The 2010 Summer Staff is quickly coming together. These young people, all of whom have at least one year of college, serve as counselors, and make sure all the campers have a fun, safe and faith-filled camp experience. Many of last year's fantastic crew are returning for 2010! This year's Summer Staff so far includes Head Counselor James Bordelon, Sydney Galland, Bruce Bordelon, Will Phelps, Jacob VanHoof, Anna Broussard, Gil Gonzalez, Julie Nieto, Martin Marak, Daniel Chapman, Eric Carter, Becky Woods, Ashley Holiday, Rebekka Veith, Emma Benton, Lauren Guillory, Sean Keough, and Haley Harrington. Applications are still being accepted for counselors in training (CITs) who must be graduating from high school this year. Applications are available online.



FILL THE CANOE- Has your congregation had your **Hardtner Sunday** to kick off the Fill the Canoe Campaign? The campaign is held each year to spread the word about what a wonderful place Camp Hardtner is and to raise much needed funds to support operations. The campaign raises funds beyond what camper fees cover. Most churches are hosting a Hardtner Sunday where friends of camp tell the story and ask for support. Some churches have a Sunday where camp veterans are encouraged to wear their Hardtner T-shirts or bring in old camp photos to share. Some actually have canoes at church that Sunday! The value of Camp is talked about during the sermon or during social hour. This annual giving campaign kicks off each year on the Sunday nearest to St. Patrick's Day. Donors are recognized on the Camp webpage. The lose collection that Sunday is given to Camp also. Let's all help "Fill the Canoe."

FACEBOOK- I encourage you to become a fan of the "Official Hardtner Camp and Conference Center" page on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and happenings. So far the site has over 200 fans. Let's keep it growing! "Because of Camp" is another interesting page and a great place to tell the wonderful stories of what the Camp Hardtner experience means to the rest of the world. I love seeing the Camp Hardtner name right up there with other fine camps from around the country. "Because of Camp" is sponsored by the American Camp Association.

HARDTNER

NEWS

THE HARDTNER CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER



Hardtner Activities

Even though Camp got covered with snow it was a busy place in February! We hosted the Louisiana Native Plant Society Annual meeting, the Acadiana Writers Project, Dead of Winter retreat for high school students, the Clergy Pre-Lenten retreat, A Kairos Overnight and the Son Rise youth retreat. We look forward to hosting SOLO, Young Life, Cursillo #138 Reunion, Rainbow Girls and Kairos Outside in March. Please remember to make your reservations early and note we need guaranteed minimum attendance numbers at least a week in advance so we can be properly prepared for you.

The Camp Hardtner Wish List

Canoes, life jackets, office supplies, a small stepladder, tables, chairs, a food warmer cabinet, laptop computers, park benches, and bed spreads for the Holy Day Inn.

Upcoming for the Youth

C.L.E.Y....Grades 9-12

Hardtner Camp & Conference Center

April 16-18, 2010



C.L.E.Y. is a high school retreat weekend staged by the Diocesan Youth Commission and staffed by high school and college-age youths and adults. Each C.L.E.Y. has a design team from a different convocation which is responsible for the content and character of the weekend.



DANCIN' WITH THE STARS

6TH ANNUAL BISHOP'S BALL

"Dancin' with the Stars" was the theme for the 6th Annual Bishop's Ball held Saturday, February 13 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

Admission to the Ball was two canned goods per person, and hundreds of pounds of food was collected for the local Alexandria area food bank!

Ball attendance increased again this year, with over 100 young men, women and sponsors dancing the night away. There were also various prize drawings with prizes such as gift cards for itunes, for gasoline, for Best Buy products, and even Starbucks!

Music was spun by Mike Wiley and Michael Bordelon! Many thanks to the members of the Diocesan Youth Commission and to St. Timothy's parishioners who made the night one to remember!



More lawsuits may emerge involving the Diocese of South Carolina

by Douglas LeBlanc

Parties to one of the longest-lasting legal disputes involving the Episcopal Church have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the matter on appeal.

The petition for a writ of certiorari asks the Supreme Court to rule in a legal battle involving All Saints, Waccamaw, S.C., which separated from the Diocese of South Carolina after its rector, Charles H. "Chuck" Murphy III, became a founding bishop of the Anglican Mission in the Americas.

The petition involves the consolidated cases of *All Saints Parish, Waccamaw v. Protestant Episcopal Church* and *Green v. Campbell*.

The Rt. Rev'd Edward L. Salmon, Jr., Bishop of South Carolina from 1990 to 2007, was a party to *All Saints v. Protestant Episcopal Church*. The Rt. Rev'd Mark Lawrence, who became Bishop of South Carolina in 2008, has never been a party to the dispute.

Meanwhile, the Diocese of South Carolina's former chancellor, Thomas T. Tisdale, has sent a series of letters to its current chancellor, Wade H. Logan III, regarding four other parishes, some of which have distanced themselves from the Episcopal Church.

In the letters, which he began sending on Jan. 25, Tisdale identified himself as "South Carolina counsel for the Episcopal Church." Bishop Lawrence challenged this description in an open letter to the diocese on Feb. 9.

"He may be an attorney retained by the Chancellor for the Presiding Bishop, but it is hardly accurate in regards to the polity of this Church to claim to be an attorney of The Episcopal Church, as if the parishes, Standing Committee, and

Bishop of South Carolina are somehow something other than The Episcopal Church," the bishop wrote.

In the letters, which the diocese has distributed through its website, Tisdale asked the current chancellor for extensive material, including:



Lawrence

A list of all ordinations to the diaconate or priesthood by Bishop Lawrence since Oct. 24, 2009, and a copy of the declaration of conformity signed by

each ordinand. That date reflects when the diocese, meeting in special convention, voted to amend the declaration of conformity.

The transcript of the diocese's special convention on Oct. 24, 2009, and copies of resolutions to be considered at the annual convention on March 2-5. Bishop Lawrence, citing his prerogative under diocesan canons, has postponed the convention until March 26.

Copies of amendments to bylaws by parishes or missions since 2006.

Minutes of the standing committee since Bishop Salmon concluded his leadership of the diocese.

Documents regarding the property at St. Andrew's, Mt. Pleasant. The members of St. Andrew's voted in December 2009 to leave the Episcopal Church and join the Anglican Church in North America.

Documents regarding the property at St. Luke's, Hilton Head.

The Rev'd Greg Kronz, rector, wrote in the December issue of the parish's newsletter, *St. Luke's Messenger*: "We will be having two parish-wide meetings [this month]: the first regarding changes in our by-laws, and our deed and title." The clergy and vestry of St. Luke's signed "Where We Stand," a statement that dissociated the parish from the 76th General Convention.

Documents regarding the property at St. John's, Johns Island. The congregation voted on Jan. 17 to remove references to the Episcopal Church from its sign. Another resolution, which said the parish was in a spiritual but not a legal relationship with the diocese, passed on a simple majority. The parish planned another vote on that resolution six weeks later.

Documents regarding the property at Trinity, Myrtle Beach. The Rev'd Rob Sturdy, Trinity's rector, wrote on his weblog, *Awakening Grace*: "The stated motive behind this action is the claim that we have threatened to leave or have left the Diocese of South Carolina due to the revision of our bylaws. This is of course absurd. Currently I ... serve on the Diocesan Council of South Carolina. I serve on the Board of Examining Chaplains of the Diocese of South Carolina. I serve on an advisory council to the Director of Youth Ministries for the Diocese of South Carolina. This past fall I spoke at a Diocesan-wide youth retreat. This past summer I spoke at the nation-wide Renewal Conference, sponsored by the *Episcopal Church* at its retreat center in Kanuga, North Carolina. Furthermore, Trinity pledges to the Diocese of South Carolina

and has registered delegates to Diocesan Convention."

In his letter, the bishop stressed that the four parishes have not separated themselves from the diocese. The parishes, he wrote, "have not made these changes with the intention of leaving the Diocese of South Carolina, nor have they left. I have been working with their clergy and lay leaders to find appropriate ways to resolve their struggles with the recent decisions of the General Convention in ways consistent with the Holy Scriptures, our common life and fellowship in Christ, as well as with the canons of the Church and the laws of the State of South Carolina."

The bishop added: "As the Bishop elected by the Convention of this Diocese, duly consented to and consecrated in accordance with historic precedent and polity, I am the only bishop with canonical jurisdiction here. Thus the Standing Committee and I believe this action is an unjust intrusion into the spiritual and jurisdictional affairs of this sovereign diocese of The Episcopal Church. This provocative interference has been pursued without the Presiding Bishop having communicated with me in a manner consistent with the Constitution of The Episcopal Church and the historical polity of this Church."

Bishop's Calendar

continued from page 2

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 12 | Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade - Board of Trustees |
| 14 | Northern Region Office, St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport |
| 16-17 | Episcopal Church Women - Time for Joy, Hardtner Camp and Conference Center |
| 17 | Closing Eucharist for CLEY, Hardtner Camp and Conference Center |
| 18 | St. Timothy's, Alexandria - visitation |
| 20 | Diocesan Council, St. James, Alexandria |
| 21 | Diocesan Board of Trustees, Diocesan House |
| 23 | St. Mark's Cathedral School - Feast Day Eucharist |
| 24 | DYC - Commission on Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Hardtner Camp and Conference Center |
| 25 | Polk Memorial, Leesville - visitation |
| 26 | The Living Church Foundation, Milwaukee, WI - Board of Directors |
| 27 | Hardtner Camp and Conference Center - Board of Trustees |

Church of England affirms breakaway Anglicans in United States

by Lillian Kwon

The Church of England has voted to recognize an Anglican body in North America that was formed by breakaway conservatives.

Bishops, clergy and laity approved a resolution that acknowledges the distress caused by recent divisions in churches in the U.S. and that further affirms "the desire of those who have formed the Anglican Church in North America to remain within the Anglican family."

The vote was taken by the General Synod, the national assembly of the Church of England, during its Feb. 8-12 meeting in London.

Though Anglicans in the mother church of the worldwide Anglican Communion have chosen to recognize the ACNA - which was established last summer by

those who severed ties with The Episcopal Church (the U.S. arm of the Anglican Communion) - they rejected the original motion that would have declared the Church of England to be in communion with the ACNA.

Still, ACNA head the Most Rev'd Robert Duncan said the vote "is very encouraging." Duncan was among thousands of conservative Anglicans who made the unprecedented move of forming a new national Anglican province in an area where a national church already exists. Hundreds of parishes had left The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada, discontent with what they saw as a departure from Christian orthodoxy and Anglican tradition.

The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada have both been

wracked by controversy over scriptural authority and homosexuality. The breakaway Anglicans saw no hope in reforming the two national bodies but wanted to remain aligned with the rest of the Anglican Communion.

Immediate support and recognition came from a number of Anglican provinces, including the provinces of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Nigeria. Individual bishops from England, Sydney and other parts of Africa also celebrated the ACNA - which represents some 100,000 Anglicans - and recognized it as authentically Anglican.

Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams, considered the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, at the time did not indicate his decision and said it

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News of the Diocese

The Bishop's Message continued from page 1

was very large, had already been rolled back." [Mark 16:1-4]

As we continue to read Mark's Gospel account, we read the above. Their discussion and question on the way were important; the stone was large and far too heavy for the women to move. What a surprise to be found, the stone had been rolled away, and not by human hand. God's power of life over death is not thwarted by any sealed tomb. He breaks the bonds of death.

These stories remind us the Easter message of the victory of life over death is not relegated to that scene at the tomb some two thousand years ago. Each of us needs bonds to be broken, stones to be lifted — weights which hamper us from the new light and life as experienced in our relationship with the ever-living Christ. By ourselves we cannot remove such hindrances, but then, the Gospel message reminds us that God has done it for you and for me. Yes, he is there with us as we walk with him in the course of this Lenten season, as we make

our way to Calvary, and on the road to victory—the Resurrection of Christ Jesus, Saviour and Lord.

My prayers embrace each of you, and I pray that as we walk with him in our worship, may we also walk with him in our lives.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as you participate in your Lenten discipline, the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, and as you receive the Risen Lord into your hearts in your Easter Communion, my prayer for you is that Christ's victory is truly experienced as your victory also. May you and those you love receive the joyful blessings of this Holy Season.

Faithfully in anticipation of the Risen, Living Lord,



The Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce MacPherson,
D.D.
III Bishop of Western Louisiana

"I don't see it as an attack on TEC but an opportunity to be positive about ACNA and celebrate its presence and intentions, and to stand with it through its future," the Rt. Rev'd Michael Scott-Joynt, bishop of Winchester. "It is important Synod has the opportunity to understand the good and godly life of ACNA and the ways in which God is using it at present."

Mustard Seed continued from page 1

adjust to in Africa was the kindness of the people, the time they spent on the important things in life such as providing for meals, being gracious to those they meet and desiring information, not to be nosey, but because they had a genuine concern and interest in you.

As I spent time holding children, hug-



The children at the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home "ham it up" for the camera.

ging children and just showing them they are loved, I found myself to be profoundly changed as a person. Allow me to spend a few minutes telling you of some of my adventures.

With great excitement our mission team arrived late on January 14. We were 150 feet away from the wall surrounding the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home when the van driver tapped his horn. We could hear squeals and cheers from all 57 children as they awaited our arrival. We could not get off the bus fast enough to begin receiving more hugs than I ever thought possible. They did not know me, but wanted to right away. "How are you?" they questioned. "What is your husband's name?" "Where are you from?" "Did you come to see me?" "Do you sponsor a child here?" "Oh, you are the sponsor of Ruth. Let me get her for you." Because of our late arrival, we could not spend much time with the children that evening, for they needed to get to bed. After that initial warm welcoming experience, I could not imagine how the rest of the days to be spent there would go.

Friday, our first full day, was spent just getting to know the kids. There were so many, many names. Each child has an African name plus a Christian name given them when they are baptized. I had enough problems remembering who was who with the Christian names, so the African names had to wait. I would greet each child and then just ask them, "What is your name?" Thank goodness they would tell me and not be offended, as I was wrong so often or had just forgotten when they had only told me their name minutes before. They soon knew all about me and remembered it all: that I was married and my husband was Ron; that I was from Louisiana and the mother of three children. They also learned that I was a physical therapist and would be

doing special exercises with some of the children. What seemed most important to them was being close to me, touching my skin, my hair, wearing my sunglasses, using my camera, and sitting in my lap. No one wanted more time than another, and they would wait patiently for lap time. If children were holding both my hands, another child would hold the hem of my shirt or would tug at my pant leg. They seemed to understand that the smaller children had a place on my hip reserved, and sometimes I had one on each hip. It was great weight-work.

Soon, we began Vacation Bible School. Gayle De Rose from New Mexico had planned a great VBS. With puppet shows she taught the kids songs, and had crafts, snacks and games. All the children, whose ages spanned 7 months to 23 years, participated. Just like in the States, some of the kids enjoyed the program more than others, showing much more enthusiasm. The music was wonderful, the snacks delicious, the games so much fun and the crafts imaginative. We all enjoyed learning about the "Armor of God" and we wore it proudly.

I chose to make this trip because as a Pediatric Physical Therapist, I felt there were gifts I could provide to some of the children who had special needs. On Sunday afternoon I examined eight of the children. One child needed skilled physical therapy treatments, and these were provided several times while I was there. Three other children were taken to town to a clinic for x-rays, which I brought home to take to a local orthopedic doctor for consultation. One child was provided with special equipment to assist her with getting around the grounds easier. I hope to provide another child with a special brace when I return next year.

All the children now have medical check-ups each year provided by our own Tom Dalton. He was assisted by Sandi DeSalvo, a nurse from New Mexico. Under the new administration for the Babies Home, medical records will be kept. Copies of each child's current health status and my evaluations will be placed there for any other volunteers to see. We also provided an evaluation for another child to take to a special school that he attends.

A special thanks goes to St. John's, Minden, which provided a gift to St. Luke's Mobile Medical Van that made possible the purchase of a battery-powered printer. That printer was used to copy our evaluations. Having this great printer meant that I was able to leave copies of home exercise programs that several of the children will now do daily. I was also able to provide the resident nurse and manager of the home with copies of these programs.

Later in our visit, we participated in the adventure of gathering school supplies. Several of the children were about to leave for boarding school. This is part

See Mustard Seed, page 12

ACNA continued from page 10

will likely take years for the rest of the global body to officially recognize ACNA. In a debate Tuesday, Church of England delegates were told that approving the resolution to affirm full communion with the ACNA would not constitute an attack on The Episcopal Church.

DIOCESAN DATES OF NOTE

March	
1-2	Louisiana Interchurch Conference Annual Assembly, <i>Holiday Inn, Monroe</i>
3	Standing Committee, <i>Diocesan House</i>
10	Bishop's Northern Region Office Day, <i>St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport</i>
12-14	Province VII Daughters of the King Spring Assembly, <i>St. Timothy's, Alexandria</i>
14	Bishop's visitation, <i>Redeemer, Ruston</i>
16	Diocesan Council, <i>St. James, Alexandria</i>
19	St. Luke the Physician Healing Conference, <i>Lake Charles</i>
28	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
28	Bishop's visitation, <i>Epiphany, Opelousas</i>
30	Mass of Collegiality with Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oils, <i>St. James, Alexandria</i>
April	
1	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
2	<i>Good Friday</i>
3	<i>Holy Saturday</i>
4	<i>Easter Day</i>
7	Standing Committee, <i>Diocesan House</i>
8	Commission on Ministry, <i>Diocesan House</i>
8-11	Cursillo #140, <i>Hardtner Camp and Conference Center</i>
11	Bishop's visitation, <i>Calvary, Bunkie</i>
14	Bishop's Northern Region Office Day, <i>St. Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport</i>
16-18	Episcopal Church Women – Time for Joy, <i>Hardtner Camp and Conference Center</i>
16-18	C.L.E.Y. Youth Retreat Weekend, <i>Hardtner Camp and Conference Center</i>
18	Bishop's visitation, <i>St. Timothy's, Alexandria</i>
20	Diocesan Council, <i>St. James, Alexandria</i>
21	Diocesan Board of Trustees, <i>Diocesan House</i>
25	Bishop's visitation, <i>Polk Memorial, Leesville</i>
27	Hardtner Camp and Conference Center - <i>Board of Trustees</i>



INTERNATIONAL MISSION



Mustard Seed *continued from page 11*

of the educational plan for Ugandan children. When children enter the upper levels of school, if they can afford it, they are expected to attend boarding school. Several children, because of the generous donations of their sponsors, were about to continue their education at boarding school. To attend, all must wear black shoes, so off to town I went with four children in-tow to get black shoes. At the market in town were tables of black shoes in all styles and sizes, and none of them were matched as pairs. Patiently we would try on shoes, and finding one that fit would then begin to dig for its mate. What we experienced was an adventure and treasure hunt all at the same time.

Another joy was attending church services with the children. St. Luke's Hospital Chapel was within walking distance of the Mustard Seed home, and that's where the children attend church. What joyous services the Rev'd Flossy held. We experienced great singing with native drum accompaniment, wonderful heartfelt prayers in Runyorn, the native dialect, and heartfelt greetings from the parishioners. There are three services each Sunday. The younger children attended Sunday school during the 7:00 a.m. service, while the older children attended at 9:30 a.m. Everyone walked to church, and because the windows were opened, you could hear the singing and preaching as you approached the church. What a wonderful call to worship.

As with any effective team gathering, we needed to talk and discuss plans and ideas. There were many late night team meetings at the Crown, our hotel, as we prepared for the next day's activities. It was at the Crown that we were fed and we rested. Our mission team had members from Louisiana, New Mexico and Pennsylvania. Louisiana members included Tom Dalton and Matthew, his 12-year-old son. What a joy it was to have

Matthew as a leader for the children. "Bible Bob" in the puppet shows, Matthew was often seen with his friend Nick playing board games and forming a close bond.

The Rev'd Deacon Polly Anderson also joined us. How great it was to have a veteran missionary with such a love and heart for the children of the Mustard Seed Babies Home and the people of Uganda.

Being a new person in this Ugandan adventure, I was quickly gathered into the fold and made to feel comfortable and a full member. Friendships were formed and bonds strengthened. The giving and receiving, were a blessing.

I'm asked why I went on this adventure. I have replied that various scriptures instruct us in "doing unto others," feeding those in need, and specifically our mission scripture, Matthew 19:14, in which Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I feel that I am most motivated by the closing prayer of each Eucharist. The statement "Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord" is what motivated me the most.

In closing, let me challenge you to realize as I have that mission work is here, mission work is also there in Africa, mission work can be found everywhere. God is calling us all each Sunday to go out from our pew and do mission work. Look around and see where that call leads you. The opportunities are endless.

Talk to your Lord and find out where you are being sent. Talk to someone who you see doing mission work, whether its work at a homeless shelter, as part of a medical mission, or in a day care, a school or a nursing home, anywhere God's people need God's love. Go out and give God's love to others. The mission field God has called us to can be as close as our next-door neighbor or as far away as Africa.

Where is God calling you?

Left, An informal team portrait; Above left, sorting shoes brought by the visitors; Above right, "Laps" are never large enough suit all the children.

Editor's note: *What's your mental picture of a Christian mission worker? Do you even have one? Dealing with mission stories each month, I admit I had one, but that mental picture underwent extreme alterations when I was told that "Matthew" intended to go to Uganda, to minister at the Blessed Mustard Seed Babies Home. Here is a "bio" of Matthew Dalton, written by his mother Brenda, who knows him best.*

After you asked me to write some information about Matthew, and I listened to the Lenten lesson... it showed me how much God has blessed my life with the gift of our son.

Matthew Asher Dalton was born on February 17, 1998.

We chose his name because of the meanings: Matthew means "gift from God" and Asher meaning "Happy blessing." He attended his first church service when he was just eight days old, on Ash Wednesday, and was baptized at St. Paul's, Shreveport at five weeks of age. He recently celebrated his twelfth birthday.

Matthew is currently in sixth grade at Calvary Baptist Academy in Shreveport. His favorite class is "Bible," closely followed by "Science." He is a very good student, but the greatest honor in my opinion, is that for each of the last three years (third, fourth, and fifth grades) his teachers have selected him as "Best Christian Example."

He has been an acolyte at St. Paul's for the past two years, and enjoys serving in the church. Last summer he enjoyed assisting with Vacation Bible School. This year he was willing to endure additional immunizations to make it possible for him to make his first mission trip to Uganda.

This special little boy does enjoy watching TV, especially football and baseball games and playing on the Wii and other video games.

Taking after his father, he is learning his way around in the kitchen too.

