

## **From the Missionary Mailbag**

**January 2012**

**Ron and Marilyn Blake:** They expressed that for them, this year seemed to pass so quickly! They are very thankful for their time of ministry in the States and Germany. They have so many memories and saw God in many awesome ways. They expressed thanks for faithful prayers and financial gifts of love and they asked the Lord to richly bless all for their generosity.

**Southern Tier Youth for Christ:** Keith Chase, Executive Director, indicated that YFC had said goodbye to several that were working with YFC, and welcomed some new “family members” as well as new volunteers. He indicated that they have struggled with finances even as has been the case throughout the country. He summarized 2011 as sad, exciting, stressful, hard and rewarding. He indicated that in anticipation of 2012, he believes that YFC is in for an amazing time even with joy and stress in meeting all the elements of their plan. He expressed thanks for continued support.

**Phil and Lorna Chandler: One Mission Society:** Lorna indicated that a few weeks ago the OMS office in Hungary was broken into and the safe that was built into the wall was taken with important mission papers and the money to pay the Hungarian workers for that month. It was a loss in many ways. She ask that we pray that the Lord will show them how to make a more secure system in the office so that this won't happen again.

**OMS Prayer and Praise Guide for January** is included in the East to West Prayer Notebook. Missionaries are indicated for each day of the month, the country they work with, and the specific prayer request. Included also is a yellow monthly prayer sheet that indicates other prayer requests. The East to West Prayer Notebook is located in the Prayer Room at Houghton Wesleyan Church.

**Push the Rock:** Push the Rock uses sports as a platform to share the message of Christ and demonstrate the power of living a Christian life. In 2011 eight mission trips were funded to Costa Rica, Spain, the Czech Republic, Italy, Bulgaria, Zambia, and Miami where people had the opportunity to experience the love of Jesus through the Push the Rock programs and interaction with their volunteers.

**John and Carolyn Miller:** They indicated “Thanks to the Missions Committee for the lovely plate of fruit and cookies that was brought to them. They said that it was a real joy to be with us at the church in the services this Christmas season. They were richly blessed and they consider it a privilege of being a part of the church and the community.

**Donna and Bruce Hess:** They expressed thanks for the cookies and fruit and that they were delicious. They pray that the Lord will give each one of the Missions Committee a wonderful new year. Stated with love!!

**Human Trafficking Awareness Day:** In recognition of our need for God's intervention, the Church participated in National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on Wednesday, January 11. The Wednesday evening prayer group focused prayers on this great need. We are encouraged to continue in this prayer ministry.

**Missions – Al Smith Memorial:** Memorials may be made to Houghton Wesleyan Church on line. Designate “Missions – Al Smith Memorial.”

**Lauren Gross:** Lauren expressed thanks for our faithful prayer support. She indicated that being sick hasn't been any fun, but all of our cards, emails and prayers have helped pull her through. She indicated thanks for sharing this journey with her

**Anthony and Nancy Petrillo:** Anthony asked for continued prayer for TEN3 as planning for future events continues. Pray also for those writing curriculum for TEN3. Pray for those in Nigeria, especially those that the TEN3 staff know, for protection during these unsettled times of persecution by Muslims and prayer for more volunteers to help with the many responsibilities involved with TEN3.

**Hephzibah Children's Home:** The director reported that God is making a difference for many of their residents. He shared that only God's Spirit can make the changes needed in the lives of the children. He indicated that as they look forward to great days ahead, they recognize that they are ministering on behalf of those who are supporting them and he wished God's BEST to us in this coming New Year.

**Compass Care:** They ask for prayer support regarding all that is happening not only in our country but throughout the world and particularly a prayer request for Compass Care to reach and serve 20% of women at risk for abortion in 2012. Also, give thanks and pray for those members of our community who work to maintain a high quality of life and care for institutionalized and home-based seniors.

**John and Carolyn Miller:** John and Carolyn expressed gratefulness to the Lord for the Lord's help in bringing them through the serious illness of one of their local staff and in helping them to make progress in a number of translation projects, including the two they are personally involved in. They are excited by the prospect of new team members from four countries joining them in their work. They ask for prayer that all of these will find the place of greatest effectiveness and satisfaction in the ongoing attempt to reach out to the fifteen or more Katuic languages of which the Bru language which they work with is one.

**Genesee Valley Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat expressed appreciation for all the help they receive from many individuals and companies who strongly support Habitat and its mission. They indicated they are looking for a Project Manager, a person who coordinates getting materials and contractors to help with important jobs. This person makes many decisions and helps set up tasks that volunteers can complete with some guidance – a big responsibility.

**Ethan and Queena Mast:** Ethan noted that he was amazed to be this close to their financial support goal for their ministry with Wycliffe. He expressed thanks to everybody for helping them get this far! He said that he and Queena have been blown away at so many people giving and praying for them. Only \$950 a month left before they can go and they Praise the Lord for His care and intervention in their lives.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MISSION WEEKEND AS DESCRIBED:**

**Our Annual Mission Weekend: February 11,12: “Representing God in a Needy World” – James 1:27**

### Schedule

Saturday, 2/11

- Missions Brunch at the Houghton College Dining Hall 9:30 – 11:00 am, Cost - \$3.00/person RSVP after service in the foyer or contact the church office at 567-2264 or pstalker @hwchurch.org
- Session 1 – Update & Stories regarding our HWC Faith Promise offering and the ministries funded by it: 9:30-9:50 – Paul Shea;
- Brunch – 9:50-10:20
- Session 2 – Wellspring Ministries. 10:20-11:00 – Jim Arthur

Sunday 2/12

- Three morning services – Rich Avery, Director of WNM  
Commissioning of South Dakota Team from HC
- 9:40 Sunday School Hour  
Combined Sunday School Class: Jr. High through Adults in Community Room – Panel on Social Justice Issues of Foster Care.  
  
Wesleyan Kids For Missions learn about our Wesleyan Native Ministries and locate the States on our big map where we have Wesleyan Natives.
- Evening Session at HWC Community Room – 6:00 pm  
Rich Avery – Focus on WNM, especially with a look to “The Future? And Our Area?”

Apple Crisp, Ice Cream and Drinks (Free Will Offering at door)