

# *From the Missionary Mailbag* for February 2006

*Excerpts from letters received from missionaries during the past month. Original letters may be found in the missionary notebook in the foyer of the Christian Education Building. Magazines are in a separate binder in the same location.*

## **Missionaries**

### **Ken and Marilyn Blake**

Thanks, Christmas thoughts and family update including daughter's wedding and son Matt's new son. Visited the two German churches in December. On Home Ministries, they are visiting over 50 churches this year. Attending church planting training seminar in Florida in January. Pray for full support level.

### **Tom Boland**

Celebrated Christmas in a new culture with new traditions. Preparing classes for next semester; anticipating a less demanding schedule. Requests prayer for himself, the college, Sierra Leone Christians and churches

### **Rod and Ellen Casali**

Christmas card of thanks for support. Family news. Rod in Dallas in November in connection with Bantu language work. Anticipating move to Canada Institute of Linguistics (CanIL) in summer to assist in the training of translators. Praise for several new financial partners; pray for additional support so that new assignment can be realized. Pray for Andy as he explores college options.

### **Steven and Krista Cox**

With the Eagles soccer ministry, Steve is seeking support partners. Pray that God will prepare him for ministry, provide prayer partners, assist in raising financial support. He is stationed in Canada and working to get tax credit for support money given to MAI, a sports missionary ministry. Works with Summer Academy (soccer training program) in Chicago, local outreach programs, Bible studies and discipling of college athletes and soccer camps.

### **Bill and Sandy Emmett**

CD of reports from all regions which were presented at yearly meeting Emmetts experiencing a \$300/month shortfall in support., resulting in implications for future plans. Thanks for support.

### **Bill and Daphne Foster**

With Global Partners as missionaries-in-residence at IWU. Support level at 31% of budget. Involved in creative fund raising for missions--Habitat for Missionaries.

### **Ray and Lillian Gordon**

Picture diary of family travels and activities. This year marks 40 years of service with Wycliffe. Thanks for support.

### **Bruce and Donna Hess**

Card of thanks for help in time of transition. Working with new OMS Northeast Director and Associate Director as well as with Campus Ministries.

**Hudson and Lucy Hess**

Left West Palm Beach December 13 to fly to Haiti. Thanks for support.

Report on 50th Houghton College class reunion, family reunion, grandsons Nathan Pocock's and Rueben Samuels' weddings.

One hundred fifty families involved in FLO/FARMS program. Several churches using Biblical Counseling materials in classes. Pray for FLO personnel needs, political stability in Haiti, resolution to tree nursery dispute, church growth that is occurring in response to the great needs in the country. Thanks for support.

**Alfred and Muumbe Kalembo**

Completed first residence component of Ph.D. program at Asbury. Began working as Executive Director of International Leadership Institute of Southern Africa in January. Pray for success of two conferences in January. Muumbe's Early Learning Center growing--40 attending. Requests for similar centers in Lusaka and Choma. Generous gifts received for launching orphan care ministry. Son Lumba to enter college in US in 2007. Pray for additional prayer and financial partners, orphan project, move from Ndola to Lusaka, spiritual growth and effective ministry.

**Andy and Natasha Lytle**

Former Go-Netter, his Russian wife and their two children appointed to Russia as career missionaries. Raising funds.

**Andy Norton**

Preparing for one-year ministry term in Brno, Czech, beginning in June 2006. Raising financial and prayer support.

**Bill and Joyce Oden**

Fall visit to Asia was encouraging. Pray for Christians in Indonesia, seminary in Hong Kong, plans for 100th anniversary in Korea in 2007, moving of Spirit among youth in Japan to replace aging pastors there, leaders and pastors in Taiwan, Philippine churches involved in the Church Planting Movement.

Bill left January 11 for last trip to Hungary as regional director. New director will receive orientation for his assignment. Will meet with English-speaking neighbor Marta and her family. Pray that gift of C. S. Lewis's book, Mere Christianity, (in Hungarian language) will be a means of spiritual help for Marta and family. Pray for new director, John Fraser, and for a much-needed building to serve as ministry centre.

Joyce's oil painting sale netted \$1500.00, buying 50 radios that will touch the lives of 1000 Haitians.

Thanks for support.

**Ogedi Newsletter**

Wonderful ETSA graduation ceremonies in May for 35 students. National publicity. Samaritan Aid, a short-term incentive program to assist and empower widows in place. First group successful. Computer ministry helping young Christian school at Uyo. Daughter ready for college next fall. Pray about options for her.

**Jon and Ruthie Ortlip**

Poster page of family pictures on church bulletin board. Christmas greeting card. Fall team didn't go to Kabul but Afghan team met US team at Tajikstan; stayed in same hotel for a week; asked team to return for expanded tournament. One team member praying about possibility of moving to Tajikstan to play professionally.

**Anthony and Nancy Petrillo**

Report of a doctor in Nigeria who took computer course from EICSI and is now working with Family Health International on HIV/AIDS project. Pray for Anthony as he guides expanding SIM-TEC ministry.

Introducing new missionary family Ken and Cora Klay--Ken serves as business manager. George and Kathy Cail--George is Francophone coordinator

**Greg and Shannon Rast**

Introducing new Global Partners missionaries to Germany where there are opportunities to witness to the 3 million Muslims living in the country.

**Jon and Pat Shea**

Responsibility as Deputy International Director for South America passed to Eldon Porter in September. He will be DID for the Americas. Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko will become new DID for Europe and West Africa in September 2006. Jon will pick up "more general administrative needs." Made official trips to West Africa in fall 2005 to help implement new "Faith Effects" program.

Pray for a second short-wave transmitter for ELWA to cover Liberia, license(s) for Benin radio, Shea support needs.

**Brian and Wendy Sheets**

Work as Global Partners missionaries-in-residence resulting in student interest and involvement in missions, partnering opportunities with college departments. Global Visioneering (resourcing local churches for effective missions ministry) presented to 22 District Directors of Wesleyan Church in October.

Scheduling Home Ministry visits for 2006 in preparation for returning to Russia. Support level at 63% Family update and news of family involvement in community service.

New web page: [www.globalsheets.net](http://www.globalsheets.net)

Pray for missions trips in February and during Easter break.

**Jim and Karen Szymanski**

Developing literature for SIM ministry of Technology and Education. Continuing to travel in attempt to raise support (currently at 83% level) and spread the word about the mission of SIM-TEC. Pray for vision and wisdom in carrying out responsibilities.

**Cory and Kris Thede**

Progress with date palm work. Varieties purchased from Europe doing well.

Kris taking restricted hours at hospital to focus on Eli's schooling and prepare educational papers for Haitian nurses.

Pray for election process in January and February; safety and effectiveness of missionaries and hospital staff.

Christmas letter of thanks.

**Tim and Kathie Trezise**

Spring semester canceled due to low enrollment. Will complete a staff house and recruit. Edu Venture Mexico staff visas granted. Thanks for support.

### **Joel and Barb Trudell**

Logged 20 weeks of travel in 2005, eight of them with one another. Spent entire month of December at home, which allowed them to get more settled into Kenyan house. Pray for upcoming trip to Dakar for translation and UNESCO projects. Pray that Ghanian colleague will be granted visa to attend meetings in the US. He is an expert on community-based literacy work. Pray for political stability in Kenya.

### **Dennis and Lois Wright**

Includes calendar of ministry events through March 2006. Report on Euro-Adventure held in Croatia last summer. Pray for Croatian pastor Zdenko, first national pastor of church in Split.

Pray for new Wesleyan congregation in Poland and their pastor Piotr, as well as for Dominik, pastor in training. Thanks for support.

## **Missionary Organizations**

### **Allegheny Hope**

January 2006 Newsletter reporting mentor Training Workshop, summary of year's events, statement of purpose as an arm of World Hope International.

### **CompassCare**

Article on legality of abortion under state law should Roe v. Wade ever be overturned. Pray that Sanctity of Life Month observance in January will heighten awareness of issues relating to abortion and sanctity of human life.

Reflection on the financial cost of abortions in Munroe County and in the nation--shocking figures! CompassCare stories--two with happy endings--included in letters.

### **Genesee Valley Habitat for Humanity**

Statement of purpose and appeal for new members. Planning stage for twelfth home. Need a "partner family" who is interested in owning a home. VALU Home Center support campaign successful--local chapter benefits from stores in Olean and Hornell. Coins for Katrina Concert in fall. Lawn sale in Wellsville nets \$2500 for Habitat.

### **Habitat/Buffalo**

Picture record of the twelve families whose homes were dedicated in 2005

### **Hephzibah Children's Home**

"The Great Smoky Mountains Gathering," featuring music and speakers, scheduled April 24-28, 2006, at Pigeon Forge TN

### **OMS International**

Summary of 2004 report: 126,064 decisions for Christ; 362 churches planted; 6,278 students in Bible institutes and seminaries; 485 Every Community for Christ teams; 346,636 Gospel presentations; 7,055 organized churches; 8,122 national co-workers.

**Powerhouse** (Fillmore Christian Youth Center) Center was open 800 hours and served 200 different young people and children during 2005.

Houghton College senior and Americorps worker Amber Klebes is now on staff.

Looking for volunteers for various roles.

### **Southern Tier Youth for Christ**

Rushford Youth Center, the "Rock," dedicated November 27. Pray for leaders Ann Brooks and Matt Thuringer. Building in Galeton rented to serve as youth center in that community. Schedule of activities, monthly prayer calendar, invitation to remit finds.

### **Wayfarers Ministries**

Newsletter and report for 2005

New address for receiving used postage stamps for missions.

### **Wesleyan Native American Ministries**

Reflections and tribute to the late Ed Rose who volunteered for years with WNAM and with World Hope International.

Introducing new team members Terry and Susan Brown and Larry and Dale Salway and their son Eric. Larry went to Brainard Indian School, and will pastor First Nations Fellowship.

Pray for efforts to address the problems of sexual abuse on reservations. (One estimate is that 60% of Native American men and 90% of women have been abused.)

### **World Hope International**

Letter of thanks and certificate of recognition for contribution to the Katrina Hurricane Relief Fund.

Hurricane Relief news: Wesleyan churches in Pollock LA, Bayou La Batre AL, along with Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church and Family of Faith Community Church in Kenner LA were World Hope relief centers. Stories of volunteer relief workers.

Hope Festival held in Zambia in November as outreach to challenge young people to radical commitment to Christ.

### **Wycliffe**

Dynamic Literacy Fund provides financial support for locally-developed projects in Papua New Guinea. Thirty-five language groups will receive seed money for literacy-related projects this year. One such project is SALT, a course that encourages church leaders to use their vernacular scriptures effectively.

2004 Annual Progress report