

The Christ for Humanity Newsletter

THECFHCHRONICLES

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2005 GLOBAL MISSIONS TRIPS ARE COMING SOON!

G U A T E M A L

A ...*MOBILIZING FOR MINISTRY*



Last summer the First Baptist Texarkana Church in Pryor, Oklahoma, sponsored a medical/evangelism trip to Guatemala. Sixty (60) Christians spent a week in the mountain village of San Raymundo and in neighboring communities, meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the Maya Indians and the Guatemalan people. Due to the positive response from participants on the 2003 trip, the number of "believers" traveling to Guatemala in 2004 increased by 33%. On June 11th eighty-three (83) mission-minded Christians (primarily healthcare workers and students) departed from Oklahoma and Texas, heading to Central

America to impact lost and hurting people for Christ.

Once again news of the week-long medical clinic traveled like wildfire throughout the San Raymundo Mountains. When the clinic doors opened on Monday morning June 14th, long lines of Indians, many of whom had traveled great distances on foot, were patiently waiting. The evangelism team prepared the way for doctors, nurses, and eyeglass teams by washing the feet of the Indians as an outward expression of Christ's love for them. The foot-washing event was an emotional and spiritual experience for many Indians.



As in 2003 Christ for Humanity provided medication and medical supplies from its on-site pharmacy to help team doctors fight infection and disease in Guatemala. The medical team saw approximately 1,200 patients over a four day period. Men, women and children stood in line for hours seeking eyeglass screening and glasses. During the week, surgeons performed 76 operations, the most dramatic being the removal of an ovarian cyst the size of a bowling ball. The Spirit of God was evident in the clinic as very real physical needs were being met!

For most of the week, the evangelism team traveled Guatemala's highways and byways, spreading the Gospel.

· **Tuesday, June 15th:** In Guatemala City team members preached the Gospel in the central market and distributed Christian tracts during street evangelism. God blessed with souls for His kingdom!

· **Wednesday, June 16th:** God worked in mysterious ways to advance His kingdom. In route to a remote village, the bus broke down in front of a school. The principal allow team members to present the Gospel to his students while repairs were being made. The response from the students was tremendous. God then lead the bus up a road few vehicles (only 4) had ever traveled to a remote jungle village. Keyno, the native pastor, informed the young people that they were the first evangelists to visit there. The poverty of jungle Indians was overwhelming, and villagers gratefully accepted flip-flops as gifts, for many didn't have shoes. The Gospel message was presented through song, testimonies, drama, and preaching. Again God moved hearts for His glory!



· **Thursday, June 17th:** Team members hiked around the San Raymundo Mountains, presenting the Gospel to people they met in numerous small villages. Many hearts were pricked for Christ. Thursday evening God arranged something truly remarkable; He opened wide the door for witnessing. Not only did God give the ministry team villages and cities as a mission field, He also provided a microphone to the entire nation via radio. During the 1.4 hours of airtime, students shared their Christian testimonies, and the salvation message was clearly preached. Praise be to God for the His loving kindness and desire that none to perish!

On Friday everyone worked together to clean the clinic before boarding buses for Guatemala City and the flight back to the

States. Forty-five(45) people made public decisions to follow Christ as a direct result of the medical/evangelism ministries. However, the true purpose for the mission trip to Guatemala wasn't to count souls saved but rather to plant seeds of faith in Christ within the hearts of lost people and let the local missionaries and pastors do the watering and harvesting. God's will be done! [For More Pictures](#)

w e s t a f r i c a "H I G H C H U R C H"

The words *High Church* bring various visions to mind. For some *High Church* refers to a steepled building topped by a shining cross. For others colorful stained-glass windows depicting the life of Christ epitomize the *High Church* experience. For still others *High Church* includes a pipe organ reverberating Christian music and favorite hymns. However, for Ronda Tyson, Christ for Humanity's missionary to The Gambia in West Africa, *High Church* is none of these things. In fact, Ronda would tell you she enjoyed *High Church* in a remote African village in a room constructed of rough hewn wood and filled with crude, handmade benches – a place open to the heavens above and to God's creatures below, should they decide to wander through.

During the last week of May and the first week of June, Ronda Tyson led her 5th team of Christian believers to The Gambia. Their mission: to help Edmond Martins, Pastor of New Life Fellowship International (NLFI), spread the Gospel of Christ throughout this primarily Muslim country. Though the group Ronda took to The Gambia this year was small, their impact for the "Body of Christ" was mighty. Team members included: Pastor Melvin Raspberry from Denver, Colorado; Pastor LeRon West from Tulsa, Oklahoma; Ashley Schaeffer (19) from Clovis, New Mexico; and Myiesha Gordon (22) of Tulsa – a member of the Girl Scout team that made the trip with Ronda in 2002.

Since 1997 Pastor Martins has struggled to have his church "registered" as charitable organization within The Gambia – all to no avail. Without this certification, New Life Fellowship International cannot receive shipments of humanitarian aid from CFH or any other organization. On several occasions Mark Rollins, President of Christ for Humanity, tried to facilitate this matter by phone and mail, but every effort was met with no response. However, in His perfect timing, God used Ronda and her team to help accomplish this long sought-after goal for NLFI. For three days, Ronda and Pastor Martins visited one Gambian official after another until every necessary name was penned in ink on the dotted line of necessary documents. A victory for the Kingdom!

"In Africa due to the lack of reliable primary services, including electricity, trying to work with governmental bureaucracies by phone, mail or fax just isn't feasible. The wheels of authority move slowly and can only be greased by face to face interaction. I believe my status as an American helped the accreditation process. I praise God that this hurdle has finally been overcome! Now Pastor Martins can receive humanitarian relief to help not only his congregation but the unsaved poor within his community and in neighboring African countries, as well." (Ronda Tyson)

This year the team visited a number of remote villages, providing CPR training to healthcare workers and other interested people. Naturally, while showing people how to save lives, opportunities arose to discuss eternal life through belief in Christ. People expressing interest in Christianity receive follow-up visits from members of New Life Fellowship International. Pastor Martin's staff members regularly engage in visitation and prayer with people in the community – an important ingredient for discipling new believers in The Gambia. In fact, Myiesha Gordon was so impressed by Pastor Martins' discipleship program in 2002, she arranged to remain in The Gambia for several months this year to continue working with the church.



Pastor Martins took Ronda's team to visit one of his satellite churches in Guinea Bissau. For years this small African nation has been plagued by civil war and extreme poverty. "Guinea Bissau is the most oppressive place I have ever visited. I felt such despair from this people, and I never saw anyone smile during our time there," Ronda commented. The church of 35 believers is shepherded by a member of NLFI's congregation who chose to leave family and friends in The Gambia to advance the Gospel in Guinea Bissau. NLFI planted another satellite church in Sierra Leone which now boasts a congregation of 75 believers.

Illiteracy is extremely common in The Gambia. As the Bible is not readily available, God often uses "miracles" to get people's attention. This year eighteen-year-old Marciano Mende, a deaf-mute from birth, came into town

from his village and began attending New Life International Fellowship. One Sunday he miraculously regained his hearing. Marciano returned to his family compound, praising God for what He had done. When Marciano's cousin witnessed his recovery, he believed in Christ and gathered all of his family together, starting a little church in the village. The extended family meets to praise God in a roofless shack constructed of scavenged wood. Members of NLF now visit regularly to share the Word of God with these new believers to grow them in the faith.

When Ronda and her team worshiped with this tiny congregation, she experienced *High Church*. "You could feel God's presence in the place as simple testimonies and songs of praise and thanksgiving were lifted up to the Father. Truly, *High Church* isn't where you are, but Who is in you and Who is with you."

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH – *The Kenya Woodruff Story*

"Sometimes reality throws a few curves into a person's life. In the end though, it is all up to you as to how you deal with the life God has given to you." Kenya Woodruff



Most of us would consider Kenya Woodruff's life more than just a little difficult. This 35 year old Seminole Indian woman could have let sexual abuse, rape, cancer, depression, and financial insecurity paralyze her outlook, and Kenya would be the first to admit that for many years these factors did adversely impact her life. However, the simple faith of Kenya's single-parent mother in God's sovereignty, repeated consistently to her two daughters over the years, became the glue that changed Kenya's life from tragedy into triumph.

Though Kenya lost twins in a miscarriage, she would eventually have two children with her husband, Scott. In 1992 a diagnosis of uterine cancer meant that Kenya could have no more children of her own. But God was working in her life, using the tragedy of childhood abuse and her inability to have more children to challenge her to help special needs children within the Tulsa community. Romans

8:28 states: ". . . God causes all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." This passage was especially true in Kenya's life, for from her own experiences she knew how it felt to be "abused and unwanted." God instilled in her a desire to prevent other children from suffering as she had. God's call to action would be the balm that ultimately would sooth Kenya's tortured soul.

When their youngest child turned 6, Kenya and her husband decided to open their home to foster children, providing a loving environment for crack babies, failure to thrive babies, and even a child with severe heart problems – a black baby the Woodruff's later adopted. At this time God also pricked Kenya's heart to become involved in a "helps ministry." She began volunteering at Christ for Humanity, keeping the CFH staff apprised of her prayer needs as well as the miracles God was working within her family, particularly in the life of adopted daughter, Malaiza. Doctors told the Woodruffs that Malaiza would die before age one, yet God has continued to preserve this little girl through several heart surgeries and numerous procedures. Now age 4, Malaiza enjoys life much like other children her age.



Several months ago when Scott lost his job and the family car broke down, Kenya dropped by Christ for Humanity's office for prayer support. The ministry blessed her family with a donated '91 Ford Aerostar. The Woodruffs had six children living with them at that time, so having a van filled a tremendous transportation need. The ministry also helped cover the cost of the title and tag and provided the family with some food as a stop gap until Scott could find a new job.

In her own words Kenya wrote, "I thank God for Christ for Humanity – for their willingness to help, for their support and compassion, and for their love. The ministry staff is a true blessing to many families just like mine who at times need help. How thankful I am to God for Christian people who are doing the service of our Lord.

"No matter how bad the reality of life may be, I believe it is up to you to deal with the life God has given you. Sometimes life is bad and very hard, as mine has often been. But regardless, you must do all you can for God and His people. In the end you will be blessed because of your obedience, perseverance and love. Remember, God always mends what is broken if you allow Him the opportunity. To some my life might appear to be a waste, but I am making a difference in the lives of others, turning tragedy into triumph one child and one situation at a time."



FROM THE CFH MAILBAG

KIRK OF THE HILLS PRESBYTERIAN

Dear CFH Staff, I would like to thank you for all of the wheelchairs and walkers you have given to the Kirk of the Hills. As you may know, we are giving them to *Wheels for the World*. After they are refurbished at a prison in Cushing, Oklahoma, they will be distributed to people in Third World countries. In most of these areas, the price of a wheelchair is more than a year's salary. Receiving a wheelchair is a dream come true. They will also receive a Bible with their wheelchair and will be plugged into a church in their area. Just think of all the people that will now have the gift of mobility when they receive one of your wheel chairs. Thank you so much. May God bless you and all the work you are doing at Christ for Humanity. ---Crystal Tulda

The Choice

One Sunday the pastor of a small New England church introduced a visiting minister who was a dear friend to his congregation. The pastor asked his friend to greet the congregation and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. An elderly man stepped to the pulpit and began to speak.

"A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Atlantic coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright, and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued.

"Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the other end of the life line. He only had seconds to decide. The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves, as the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' He then threw the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His boy's body was never recovered!"

By this time the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously awaiting the next words to come from the old minister's mouth.

"The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Him. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save his son's friend.

"How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us. Our heavenly father sacrificed his only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take hold of the life line He is throwing out to you in this service." With that the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

The younger pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal.

Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely stated one of them. "But I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hope that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face. He once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up his Son for me. You see . . . I was that father and your pastor is my son's friend."

A Real Friend Test

True friendship is an integral part of the Christian walk. The word "Christian" could easily be substituted for the word "real" in this piece. Based upon the criteria mentioned below, how many people consider you a "real" friend and who do you count as true friends?

- A simple friend has never seen you cry. A real friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

- A simple friend doesn't know your parents' first names. A real friend has their phone number in his address book.
- A simple friend brings a hostess gift to your party. A real friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.
- A simple friend hates it when you call after he has gone to bed. A real friend asks you why you took so long to call.
- A simple friend loves to talk with you about your problems. A real friend seeks to help you find solutions.
- A simple friend wonders about your personal history. A real friend could blackmail you with it.
- A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest. A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps himself.
- A simple friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument. A real friend calls you to reconcile after a disagreement.
- A simple friend expects you to always be there for them. A real friend expects to always be there for you.

On the Light Side

God thought it.

Jesus bought it.

The Holy Spirit brought it.

The Apostles taught it.

The Devil fought it.

I caught it.