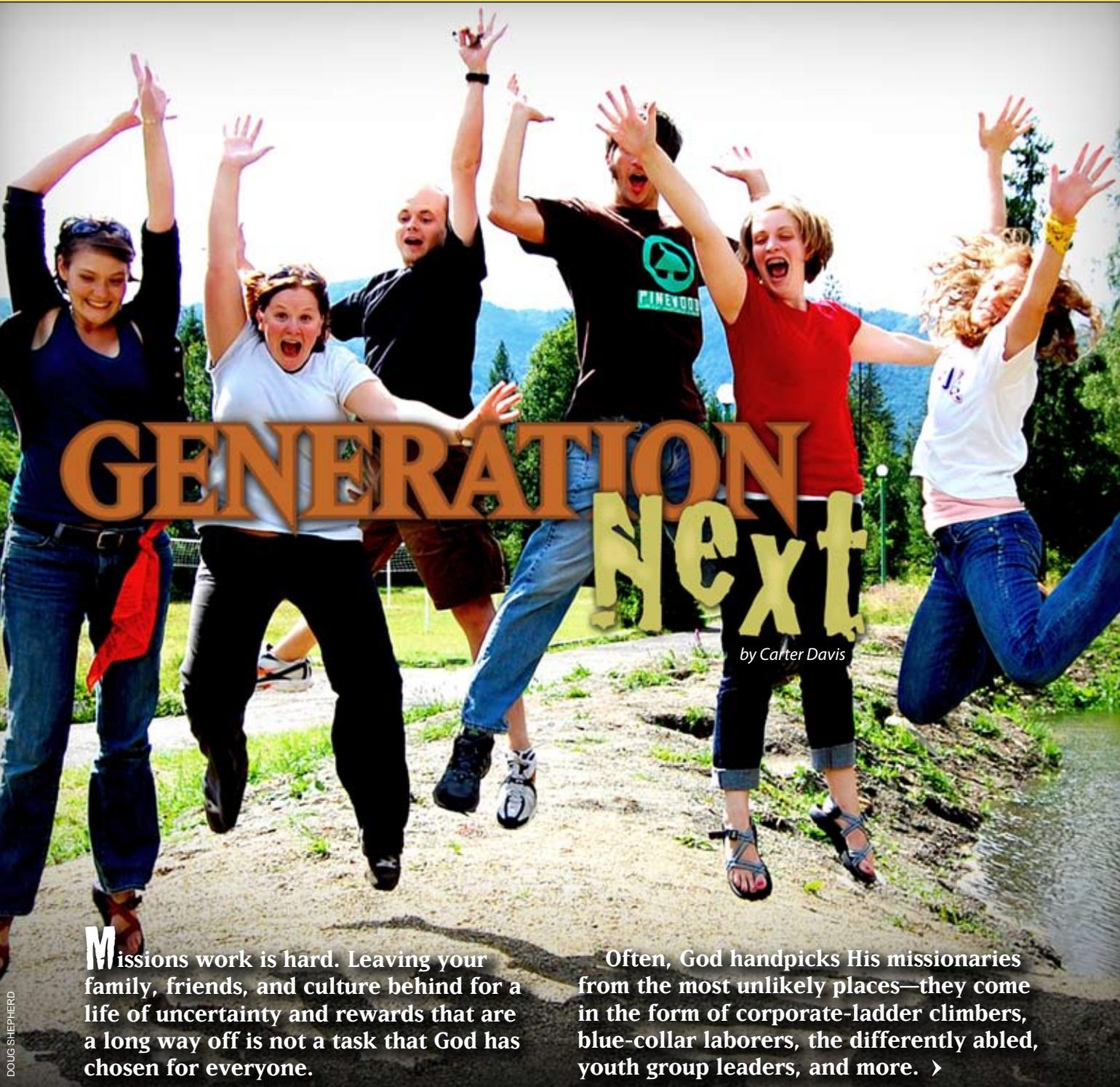




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Missions work is hard. Leaving your family, friends, and culture behind for a life of uncertainty and rewards that are a long way off is not a task that God has chosen for everyone.

Often, God handpicks His missionaries from the most unlikely places—they come in the form of corporate-ladder climbers, blue-collar laborers, the differently abled, youth group leaders, and more. >



In the midst of this, however, are many young adults who consistently stand up and say, "Send me, send me!" Many are in college and have yet to decide

on a major, much less discover God's plan for their lives, but they step up nonetheless.

In the last five years more than 1,000 college students have gained a firsthand perspective on missions by participating in summer missions internships through MTW. But recently MTW has identified a new desire of summer interns—being intentionally mentored and shepherded while on the field.

"We've had the Internship Department for many, many years, and it's been great," said Opal Hardgrove, who works in new ministry development and mentorship development for MTW. "But a lot of college students kept saying that they wanted someone to speak into their lives; they had a lot of questions that they wanted answered while they were serving and didn't have an opportunity for that to happen. A lot of the evaluations we conducted said, 'I wish someone had mentored me.'"

New Beginnings

Last summer marked the implementation of MTW's new mentoring program—conducted in Brussels, Belgium; Dublin, Ireland; Nairobi, Kenya; and L'viv, Ukraine. The Internship Department designed

the program to more fully immerse interns into the role of missionary.

"The mentoring program gives the students the opportunity to be in a cross-cultural setting outside of their comfort zones, alongside missionaries or nationals, and to see where their gifts fit in," Opal said. "We're hoping that the Lord will raise up missionaries to add to the team,

to help the missionaries in their work, and to bring extra hands and feet to help them with what they're doing in their country."

Heather Waugh, a student at Covenant College, interned with the team in L'viv this summer.

"I joined the mentorship program because I was interested in seeing if God was calling

me to missions," she said, "and I thought the best way to look into that would be to serve on the field with the guidance of people who have served on the field for a number of years."

Throughout the eight-week mentoring program, along with the rest of the team, Heather was able to teach in a summer camp, host an English club, and form relationships with her Ukrainian peers. In fact, merely having college-aged interns present can be a means of spreading God's Word.

"One of the churches we visited kept telling us how encouraged they were to see young people with a desire to serve the Lord," said Christiana Fitzpatrick, special programs and mentoring coordinator for Covenant College and a part of the mentoring team in Brussels. "They felt like the young people in their own church really needed that

encouragement, and interacting with young people, whether it's playing a game of soccer or having coffee, is a really meaningful interaction."

Finding Purpose

"The goal is to minister to interns personally, to help them grapple with God's world mission, learn what their gifts are, what the gospel is, and what it means to all areas of their lives," said Doug Shepherd, an MTW missionary in L'viv, and one who has seen plenty of interns come and go in his many years in Ukraine. "The goal is not to have more missionaries with MTW, but to have more worshipers of God in all areas of life."

Next summer, MTW plans to expand the program to at least 10 internship sites (possibly more), and to grow the program from there.

"You don't get a chance to get this involved when you're there for 10 days," Christiana said. "It's all a blur. But in a two-month internship, the interns are thinking more critically and are more observant. At the end of the summer, their observation skills had grown



tremendously by being able to reflect on their observations, which helps in any setting."

If early returns are any indication, the program is off to a great start, and even if none of the interns return to the field, the lessons they're taking with them—as evidenced by





Adam Hancock, an intern from Illinois, served in Nairobi, Kenya, this summer.

the responses given on the post-trip debriefings—show a group of young people thinking about the world, and God, in much larger terms.

"You're part of something much bigger than yourself," Christiana

said. "It's not about 'What did we accomplish this week, or in these 10 weeks?' Instead, it's about how is the church moving forward, and how did I get to play a part?" ■

To learn more about MTW's mentoring program, email opal.hardgrove@mtw.org.

BY THE Numbers

Of the interns who participated in MTW's internship program from 1996 to 2001, 37 percent returned to the mission field for further service. Of these 37 percent:

- * 29 percent returned with MTW
- * 16 percent returned for another two-month stay
- * 16 percent were accepted as two-year workers
- * 11 percent returned as career missionaries

Minuteman for Missions

by Amy Glass



Minutemen were an elite, handpicked, highly mobile force assembled from the militia during the founding days of the U.S. They had to be ready to march to battle within a moment's notice and were key to the victory of the American colonies in the Revolutionary War.

Likewise, MTW has an elite force that will quickly respond to any crisis worldwide, and are aptly named "Minutemen." The 4,600 people in the Minuteman program promise to send at least five dollars to help alleviate a crisis up to four times a year.

For more than 20 years, these faithful have enabled MTW to advance funds to areas of need. The generosity of Minutemen has been great, with \$327,428 given to Katrina victims, \$56,164 for Hurricane Emily relief in Mexico, and an amazing \$2.1 million given to tsunami relief in Southeast Asia.

"Minuteman is a marvelous tool to help us do things we probably couldn't otherwise do," said Oscar Aylor, director of mercy ministries for MTW. "It is a major resource."

Horror in Haiti

The most recent Minuteman call went out in September for Haiti, which was practically leveled by four hurricanes in a row. In the northwestern city of Gonaives, a 16-foot wall of water and mud slid down from the deforested mountains, destroying homes and hundreds of lives.

MTW's longtime national partner Charles Amicy feared for his and his family's lives when Hurricane Ike slammed his village of Messailler, sweeping away some of the walls of the ministry compound, \$300,000 in prescription drugs from the pharmacy, his library, and five vehicles used by the ministry, including a school bus and a dump truck. Many in the village did not survive.

"I want to give praise and glory to God for saving my life with my family," said Charles. "I want to express my gratitude to everyone who lifted us up before the throne of God while we were in extreme danger. It was the darkest night of my life."

MTW missionary Esaie Etienne and his family walked to the U.S. Embassy and were evacuated from Gonaives with only the clothes on their backs.

But the Etiennes are eager to return, and Charles and his partners are determined to rebuild their church, orphanage, and school. Minuteman funds may be used to send teams to help rebuild. In the meantime, though, Charles has used the initial advance to buy food and water for hundreds in his community, and to help others with clothing and medical needs.

"Because of these funds," Charles said, "God receives glory from those who received aid, and it is another way to preach the gospel. The whole community is blessed by the funds and this gives a positive impression of what we are doing." ■

To learn more, visit www.mtw.org/minuteman, or check the tick box on page 15.

In Ethiopia:

Healing Through Counseling

by Melanie Benedict



“Our theology has to become practical,” said Angela, who hopes to go back to Ethiopia some day. “We are to be healers of the world.”

In Ethiopia, a mother and her six children live in a room the size of a double bed. The mother is dying of AIDS after having contracted the HIV virus from an unfaithful husband who then abandoned the family. She is shunned by society. And she is just one of thousands of women who share a similar story, women in desperate need of psychological help, but with almost no access to it.

This summer, an 11-member team comprised primarily of counseling students, faculty, and recent graduates from Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS) traveled to Ethiopia to participate in MTW's first ever counseling-focused medical missions trip.

Dr. Jon White, MTW missionary to Ethiopia, emphasizes the need for such a focus in a region so affected by HIV. “We probably need a counselor out here more than anything else,” he said. “In this culture, if you have HIV, you’re shunned.”

For most people, access to psychological help is a virtual impossibility. In Addis Ababa, a city of five million, only one hospital has psychiatric care.

CTS students and faculty spent most of their time in Ethiopia counseling women and families affected by HIV. The experience left a profound impression on counseling professor Dr. Dan Zink. “You definitely get stretched when a 25-year-old mom’s prayer request is to live long enough to raise her 6-year-old child,” he said. “It forces you to see if you really believe what you’re saying. The main thing we offered was care and presence, not answers.”

For Dan, the trip was a much-needed opportunity to see the world beyond the scope of Covenant Theological Seminary, both for himself and his students. “I recognize that the impact of this brings a perspective you can’t get any other way.”

Traveling to Ethiopia was the perfect complement to theological education for Angela Heirendt, a CTS counseling student who participated in the trip. Angela has a vision to incorporate counseling with international missions and came to seminary specifically to receive training so that she could go back to the field as a counselor.

Angela described the valuable role counseling can play in communicating the gospel. “In Ethiopia, we met with Muslims, Orthodox Christians, and people from all different backgrounds. They felt our compassion for them just as they were. And at the end of the sessions we had the opportunity to ask them if we could pray with them.”

Covenant Seminary is already planning to take more trips to Ethiopia with MTW in the future. As a result of this summer’s trip, an informal partnership seems to have formed between MTW’s team in Ethiopia and CTS. Both parties see the potential for long-term impact as the critical need for psychological care—especially among those with HIV—is prioritized and addressed.

“Our theology has to become practical,” said Angela, who hopes to go back to Ethiopia some day. “We are to be healers of the world.” ■



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MISSION
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BUILDING A FOUNDATION OF MISSIONS

by Tim Horn

A church plant may have limited resources, but establishing an early involvement in missions work and giving will help ensure that the church is always missions minded. An experience like the one our church [Cheltenham Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Cheltenham, England] had in Romania this past April is enlightening, sobering, rewarding, and energizing for a church.

Following a fact-finding visit by two church members last October, the Cheltenham church decided to make formal links with a fledgling Presbyterian church in Mangalia, Romania, being planted by a Brazilian Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Gilberto Campos Coehlo. Although very small and strapped for resources, the Mangalia church undertakes ambitious programs to reach out to poor people around the town. In April a team of eight from Cheltenham visited Mangalia to bring encouragement, practical support, and to learn about the mission firsthand.

Much of the week was spent helping with the church's new program, called "This is My Chance"—a literacy effort for Gypsy and other disadvantaged children who cannot read or write, to enable them to join mainstream education from which they are currently excluded. We took a gift of £1,000 raised in our church to pay for the teacher's salary for a year, took the eight children on educational trips, and organized a sports day for them. They were treated to a visit to an ice cream parlor and McDonald's—a first-time experience for them.

It was exciting to see the program in action and the progress made since October when the children were learning how to hold a pencil and draw lines. Now they were writing neatly and reading coherently. In addition they hear a Bible story every day, and several come to the church's Sunday school.

Some of the men built two large picnic tables to be used outside the front of the

church building, which is in use every day. It was a challenge to find the right tools and make the best of the timber available in the stores, but they were completed before we left.

We joined with the church's regular activities, including the prayer meeting and youth group. I preached at both Sunday services through interpreters (a first for me), and our team led the Sunday school. On our return, the session decided to raise funds to invite the pastor and his family to Cheltenham for a vacation this summer—he has had no vacation for eight years, and they are often exhausted.

The mutual love and affection between Cheltenham Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the church in Mangalia continues to increase as they realize we are not a drive-by deliverer of aid, but keen to form a lasting partnership. ■

Tim Horn (fourth from left) is an MTW missionary in England.





GUANAJUATO: A New Model for Missions

by Susan Fikse

Beau Bryan recently completed his second year of medical school in Augusta, Ga. After two years of Power Point presentations, classroom lectures, and board examinations, he finally got exposure to the real practice of medicine on a short-term trip to Guanajuato, Mexico, with Mission to the World. What was most impressive to him was not the number of people his team treated or the equipment he was able to operate for the first time. Most impressive to him was the example of the Christian medical providers he served alongside and how they incorporate their faith into the practice of medicine.

"It's neat to see how Christian physicians practice and conduct themselves in this environment," says Beau. "They balance the healing they

do physically with the ministry they do to the spiritual and emotional needs of their patients." This was in stark contrast with what he sees in some American hospitals back home. "That was a powerful thing to me—what a ministry to medical students!"

Ted and Sharon Kuhn, medical directors for MTW, explain that one of the goals of MTW's 50 short-term medical teams each year is that medical students like Beau Bryan would "get the vision of Christ-centered medical care." As a result of mentoring by Christian medical providers and experiencing medical ministry overseas, students like Bryan return to their work in the U.S. with a new vision for what it means to be a Christian medical professional. In Guanajuato, MTW has developed an ideal new setting to enable the Kuhns

and others to work toward ministry goals like these, helping to transform both American and Mexican culture.

From Campground to Launching Pad

Earlier this year MTW purchased a campground facility in Guanajuato, which became a launching pad for ministry this summer with the first short-term team based there—a medical missions team from Augusta, Ga. "There was nothing in this part of Mexico for MTW previously, though we're certainly building on the foundations other missionaries have laid before us," says Opal Hardgrove, director of emerging ministries for MTW. "We are excited about the fact that we can serve in a place where MTW has not served



CONNOR BONEY

vacation Bible school (VBS), counseling, and other ministries.

The summer team, comprised of 96 members, provided a clinic on-site at the Guanajuato facility as well as clinics at local churches throughout the region. "We were surprised at the amount of need right there in the Guanajuato area," says Sharon Kuhn. "In two years, this village could be transformed by the gospel and the presence of this MTW facility." Andrew Lamb, MTW's regional director for Mexico, agrees. "There is no national Presbyterian church in the region, so we hope this will eventually develop into a base for a church-planting site."

However, Opal says work on the facility itself is needed in order to prepare it to be an effective launching pad for ministry. Site development is crucial for accommodating the needs of short-term teams from the U.S., particularly constructing new housing

us increase the number of opportunities for short-term teams, which helps us develop hearts for missions and for what God is doing around the world."

The Guanajuato site joins two similar facilities MTW runs in Cherokee, N.C., and Fairmont, W.Va. MTW's goal is to eventually operate five of these properties—one on each continent—to exponentially increase its ability to train churches in how to do short-term missions and to expand its outreach into new communities.

Transformation— Inside and Out

Angie Fountain, a pediatric nurse and co-leader of the summer medical trip to Guanajuato, says the primary goal was to help medical students see how their faith could be an integral part of their medical practice. But she sees the benefits of the trip extending far beyond what God does in the students.

"It's a bonus that we get to be in a place like this where we can be the hands and feet of Christ to people who aren't loved by anyone." As they serve, short-term teams are helping to transform a small farming community in Mexico that may otherwise never have adequate healthcare nor hear the gospel truths of God's Word.

At the same time, God is transforming the hearts of those who serve, readying them to return to U.S. culture with a new vision for how they can integrate that same gospel into their professional lives. As Angie testifies, "Anytime I am overseas on a short-term trip—particularly with students—getting to really love and serve and walk alongside people, I see Jesus in a new way. ... I go back being able to love my patients well; I go back being able to love students well; I go back with a deeper sense of compassion and empathy. And ultimately I know my Savior on a deeper level." With this new MTW facility in Guanajuato, many more short-term missions participants will be able to say the same. ■

before." Hardgrove envisions multiple teams serving simultaneously out of Guanajuato in the future. The new facility can accommodate 800-1,000 people per year on short-term teams that will reach out into the surrounding communities by teaching English, tutoring, medical missions, construction,

facilities so that existing buildings can be used for meeting space.

This new facility is particularly appealing for churches who want to take groups on a mission trip to do VBS or construction, says Opal. "As other sites fill up, this new site is ideal for church groups," she says. "This facility will help

To learn more about short-term missions opportunities in Guanajuato, email mitch.gindlesperger@mtw.org.



REACHING THE REMOTE

IN *Peru*

by Paul Schwarz

Little Beltran was found in his home next to the dead body of his alcoholic mother. He was 5 years old but weighed less than 20 pounds—his mother would nurse him in the morning and then leave him to return to her intoxicated stupor. Besides this, Beltran also suffered from spina bifida and had scaled-over eyes that had left him almost completely blind. This emaciated boy was a neglected child in a neglected land, seemingly as far removed from love and care as a human being could be.

Then a physical savior emerged in the form of Josephine House, a home for abandoned children in the Andes Mountains of Peru—portions of which are so remote that they can only be reached by mule or motorcycle. The Josephine House was founded by Keith and Ruth Powlison, longtime MTW missionaries who lead the organization's Hinterland Ministry in South America.

"The Hinterland ministry was started in 1994 by a team of MTW missionaries," said Keith Powlison. "They saw that while the rest of South America was one of the fastest growth areas for evangelical Christians, some of the indigenous groups in remote areas were still relatively untouched."

The Powlisons, based in the Peruvian city of Cusco, are one of four Hinterland couples in various stages of legally adopting some of the abandoned children in the area. Keith and Ruth trust that their adoption of two children from the region surrounding their mountainous location will become official in the coming months.

The Powlisons and these other MTW missionaries are setting a countercultural example of how God's people have been rescued from a helpless state and have been adopted into His family. "Among many rural communities, adoption is a horrible thing," Keith explains. "To them it's either an

excuse for slavery, or in some cases children are adopted and sold into slavery."

Josephine House, named after an aunt of Ruth's who ministered to orphans in Brazil for many years, promises to help provide homes for hundreds of these abandoned children in coming years.

The Hinterland . . . And Beyond

MTW's Hinterland work in South America focuses primarily on the Quechua people. The Quechua represent several ethnic groups found mainly in the Andean regions of Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. These groups share a common inaccessibility both geographically and culturally.

The Powlisons and their team members minister in the context of two host cultures—they have learned Spanish in order to function in "mainland" South America, as well as Quechua in order to reach their target audience. Add in the navigational challenges of physically visiting Quechua villages, and you have a recipe for an uncommon missionary challenge—one Keith and Ruth have been facing for at least a decade.

"Keith has been a groundbreaker in the Hinterland region in Peru and in Ecuador," says Bill Yarbrough, who directs MTW's work in Latin America. "He has also been a good team builder not only with national leaders but also with our expatriate missionaries."

One of the fruits of the Powlisons' faithful labor is Josephine House. The home is designed to provide a place for abandoned children to go to receive physical and spiritual nurture until they can be adopted. "We, our neighbors and colleagues, learn more by hands-on experience than by teaching things as we would understand it in an American context," Keith explains. He notes that the Quechua-speaking believers who do work in the home have captured the concept that the children there, considered worthless

by much of their culture, have been created in God's image and have eternal value in His eyes.

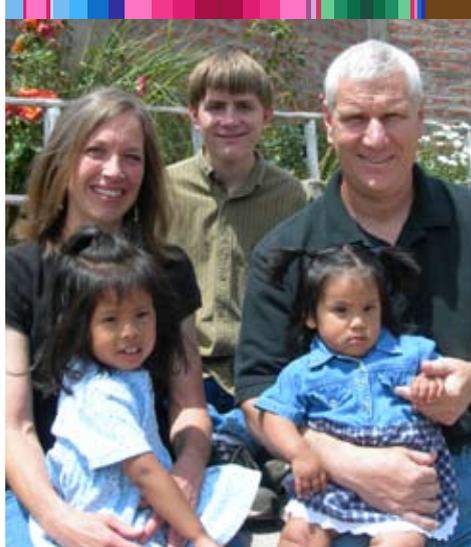
Josephine House is one of many facets of mercy ministry characterizing the Hinterland work. The Powlisons' team members are in the process of obtaining and installing water purification systems in surrounding villages to provide people with clean drinking water, as dehydration is one of many health problems there. Other initiatives include medical clinics and natural disaster preparedness programs.

Alcoholism has been a major health issue in the community as well. The Powlisons established an enclosed sports complex where people can go to play soccer and participate in other activities that provide an alternative to drinking. Keith has observed the alcoholism rate decreasing there.

Encouraging the Local Church

When Keith and his team members visit villages, they find that their church-planting efforts more often take on the form of encouraging and equipping existing churches than planting new works. "When we first came to Cusco, we found that most village churches we encountered had either folded or were very weak," Keith says. "At this point we find that for every five villages we visit, four have churches needing encouragement and one actually needs church planting done." Six village churches have been established, though others have had to fold in the past two to three years.

The challenges of long-term church planting among the peoples of this remote region of the world have given the Powlisons some personal lessons in the nature of God's grace. "When you're in another culture," Keith said, "you learn that your grasp on the gospel is rather shallow and that you've hidden behind words and catch phrases. But we're all children of God." ■



(Top) Beltran with a caregiver from the Josephine House.

(Bottom) The Powlison family in Peru.

To learn more about this ministry, email Keith Powlison at kppowlison@mac.com.

VIEW FROM THE CHURCH: Short-Term Investment

by Kenneth Klett

When our missions committee proposed a short-term mission trip to Mexico some of us were excited. We have certainly had success with work projects in our own country. But to think of going to a place so different in so many ways sparked a real interest in pursuing the possibilities. There were lots of details to work out, but without a doubt, the biggest potential obstacle was the price. It was daunting: nearly \$22,000.

Certainly we wondered if we would ever be able to raise such support, and we, like many others, wondered if such an expense was justified. We decided it was, and the monumental task of raising funds began.

God provided and blessed our efforts through hard work and the generosity of many, and after several months of individual support-raising and large, church-wide fundraisers, we finally met our goal.

Thinking back on that experience and the trip that followed, I think this was money well-spent. Why?

First, the impact on the people we met in Queretero. We worked primarily with MTW missionaries Dick and Ann Dye. They were tremendously hospitable to us. But what did our investment bring them? I guess, in a word, encouragement. We were used by God to affirm them and the Lord's work they have been doing in that area.

We also encouraged the local church. First thing Monday morning we hit the amazingly muddy construction worksite. We worked steadily in the slippery, drizzly area for the next four days. Bending re-bar, making frames, and twisting wire after wire was our regular employment. For many hours we worked alongside believing and unbelieving nationals, some of whom spoke no English. Without question our diligence in our job showed our fellow workers and folks in the community both a good work ethic and a real desire to see the church prosper. If time is at all money, ours was well spent.

Second, the impact on us. All of us have a new respect for saints who worship in another culture in what we consider "less than ideal" circumstances. One revelation we had while in Mexico was the presence of some prejudice against Latinos back home. This was a hard realization, but it was faced head-on in our weeklong setting. To be delivered of bigotry was invaluable. We also hope our congregation is inspired by what took place and is even more eagerly on board with missions than before.

Third, potential future benefits. If any are inspired to further support missions because of this trip, that will be a tremendous asset. And what if one or more of our members are compelled to consider serving on the field themselves? Our outgoing costs will seem like a pittance compared to what may be accomplished through someone sent out from among us. ■

Kenneth Klett is the pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Holland, Mich.

Sending 15 short-term missionaries to Queretero, Mexico, for one week:
Approximately \$22,000.

Impact for the kingdom of God:
Priceless.

Email Scam Targets MTW Donors

What should you do if you receive an urgent email from an MTW missionary with an emergency request for funds? Both MTW and your missionary hope you would respond by contacting MTW.

Recently, the email account of an MTW missionary was taken over by hackers, and very quickly, emails began going out to supporters in the missionary's name. These emails described an emergency situation in which the missionary was allegedly in a different country for a conference and had lost both money and a plane ticket. If they could help with a loan, recipients were asked to reply for instructions about sending funds by Western Union. Unfortunately, the scammers were able to steal a significant amount of money from generous and sympathetic donors,

even though MTW took quick action to close the door of opportunity. And not only were donors affected, but a conscientious and faithful veteran missionary is grieving for the harm caused to partners of long standing.

MTW wants supporters to know that we are here to stand behind our missionaries who are in crisis. Missionaries also know to contact MTW for assistance in crisis, and they are completely aware that they may not send out unapproved requests for funds. Our financial policies also require that all funds provided to a missionary must come through MTW. In light of the recent cyber attack on our donors and one of our veteran missionaries, the value of these policies becomes even clearer.

Many people do not realize that an email account, especially if not properly secured, can be taken over and messages sent in the name of the account holder. So, even

messages from a trusted friend can be fraudulent. And funds obtained through these means are often used to support criminal activities or even more sinister causes.

Be careful and be wise. And always contact MTW.

OneChild Sponsorship Program

Can you minister to a child's spiritual needs when their physical needs are unmet? Tom Stewart, head of MTW's StreetChild ministry, doesn't think so. StreetChild's child sponsorship program, called OneChild, provides for the physical needs of "the least of these." OneChild partners with existing MTW ministries in the Philippines, Kenya, and Ethiopia that can effectively provide food, clothing, housing, and medical care for sponsored children. "When you realize that a significant portion of the children's physical needs comes from this program," says Tom, "it's encouraging."

Sponsoring a child through OneChild costs \$30 per month. And while other prominent sponsorship programs use about half of a sponsor's gift on staffing and overhead expenses, almost 80 percent of OneChild's sponsor contributions go directly to a child's needs.

Tom and his OneChild team are working steadily with local churches and missionaries in program locations to grow the ministry, one child at a time. "Our goal is to reach 1,000 children sponsored," he says. "This is truly a word and deed ministry," affirms Tom.

To learn more about OneChild, visit www.streetchildinternational.org, email streetchild@mtw.org, or call (678) 823-0004 x2452.

Challenge
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Contact Opal Hardgrove at opal.hardgrove@mtw.org.

VIEW FROM THE FIELD: *Seven Days in the***CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS**

by Heero Hacquebord

"I have read these Bible stories before, but no one has ever explained them to me like you have."

"I am a new person after this English camp."

"This was the best camp of my life!"

These are but a few of the many positive comments that L'viv university students made during and after our English camp this summer. We recently returned from seven days in the Carpathian Mountains where 52 students and 23 American and Ukrainian staff members filled up the picturesque campsite that we rented for the week. Our meals were prepared by four women from a nearby mountain village. Getting all the food to the camp was a challenge, but not as big a challenge as cooking for 80 people in a dilapidated kitchen with no ventilation system! It was good, hearty, heavy village cooking coming out of an often smoke-filled kitchen.

We started each day with an English lesson in six level-specific groups. This was followed by an English Bible lesson where students read a story or parable from Scripture that related to the day's theme, and considered both the English and the spiritual meaning of the passage. This discussion was finished off with a time for individual journaling on a specific question. After a large lunch, students had the opportunity to attend various craft and special interest classes where they could draw, paint, sing, and act, or learn more about managing their personal finances, organizing their time, or applying and interviewing for a job.

The rest of the afternoon was filled with organized sports (including American football on a muddy field) and group games. Since we had rain almost every day, many afternoons were spent watching thought-provoking movies in English and just hanging out with new friends. Closing the day off was the popular "Party Zone," a time for skits, games, and just enjoying being young and energetic (the students, that is).

Making the camp possible and a great success were an excellent team of five men from a church in San Antonio, as well as six gifted American students who have been participating in our "Leopolis Green" summer internship. About 40 of the Ukrainian students have already indicated an interest in attending Bible discussion groups this fall, and many of them want to continue studying English with one of our team members.

We are looking forward to creating and enjoying many opportunities for getting to know these students better and talking with them about life's burning questions. ▣

Heero Hacquebord (L) is an MTW missionary in Ukraine.





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STRENGTH THROUGH WEAKNESS

In the first chapter of I Corinthians, Paul greets the church and reminds them that not many of them would be considered gifted by worldly standards. At first glance, you might think this is odd. You might think Jesus would want the brightest, most talented, most charismatic leaders He could find to represent His kingdom here on earth.

Yet the Incarnation itself reminds us that God did not choose the worldly splendor that surrounded most monarchs in the era in which Christ, the King of Glory, moved. Paul had to learn this. As a persecutor of the Church before believing in Christ, he was a young "up and coming" leader.

He tells us that God sent an illness of some sort (I Corinthians 12:7-10) to keep him humble. Christ spoke to him in this illness and taught him one of the greatest lessons for ministry he could learn: "My grace [Christ] is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul

responded to these words with this testimony, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecution, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

The foundational principle of grace is that God's kingdom priorities are completely inverted from those of the world. God's plan is to magnify His saving mercy and grace not through human strength, but rather through its weakness.

In Romans 5, Paul tells us that God loves His people through the Holy Spirit by bringing suffering into their lives. This suffering in turn makes them fit for service by producing endurance and character. It seems that often God must wound us so we bleed pride and self-sufficiency before we are any good for His service.

How does He do this? With Moses, who at the age of 40 was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds, God

had to send him into the desert for 40 years. Only when he was 80 and could say, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue," could God use him.

Chuck Colson, reflecting on his ministry said, "My greatest humiliation, being sent to prison, was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life."

Often young ministers and young missionaries wish they had the greater gifts they observe in someone who has a greater ministry in the eyes of others.

The gospel of grace would remind us that we can't be used until we operate not out of our own strength, but in weakness, as we depend on Christ's Spirit to show the reality of the cross.

We should pray not for great importance or great ability, but for great faith. ■



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