

# MOST MESSENGER

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES SHORT TERM

**WINTER 2011 ISSUE**

## Thank You Lord for Changing Lives in 2011

By Carly Hatcher / Executive Director

"I'm a Life that's been Changed" was the theme of our fundraising luncheon this year, and as I read what Rev. Heitshusen wrote about his mission trip, and reflected on this year, that theme hit home!

In 2011, MOST hit record highs, sending more teams, sending more people and working in more countries than ever before! Please praise God with me that these lives were, as it says in our mission statement, "Impacted for Jesus Christ"!

This year ...

16,000 people heard the Gospel message or witnessed the love of Christ through one of our 2011 MOST Ministries teams!

306 people responded to the Great Commission by joining a team and serving the Lord in 18 countries!

139 individuals gave 2,646.5 hours of their time volunteering at the MOST office.

9,587 people received the gift of sight or corrected vision through Eyeglass clinics!

3,169 people received medical / dental treatments or health education!

371 students heard about Jesus and furthered their English skills through Bible-based ESL or VBS teams!

73 water filters were installed, providing clean water for people living in two Nicaraguan communities.

MOST Ministries is "Committed to Impacting the World for Jesus Christ, through Short Term Missions, by Empowering the Found in Reaching the Lost". In twenty two years, MOST Ministries has Empowered 4,153 individuals to Reach 148,338 people across the world!

Thank you, Lord for Changing Lives!



## Changing Lives for Eternity in Tanzania

By Rev. Scott Heitshusen

Senior Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church &amp; School-Houston, Texas

In July, 2011, one single pastor and five pastors and their wives traveled with MOST Ministry's Executive Director, Carly Hatcher, to Mwanza, Tanzania, to run an eye-glass clinic through the local Lutheran church body there. I am one of those pastors who was privileged to go.

This was not my first trip overseas or even to Africa. Yet, without a doubt, it was the most fulfilling and God-led trip I have ever experienced

We were told to expect to serve 400 individuals through the vision clinic. God blessed us with serving 600! To see someone who has not had adequate sight suddenly be able to see is heart-warming! We served grandparents who were crying because they would finally get to see their grandchildren's faces; mothers who would get to read their Bibles again to their children, and children who could now see the chalkboards in their school classrooms. These clinics were literally life-changing for so many who came through them. But, by far, the most important and life changing part of the clinics was the "witness station" at the last part of each person's clinic journey. At that station we got to share the Gospel story with each of those who came through. We got to share the Word of God and, through the Holy Spirit, have Him lift the veil of their hearts so their souls could see the love of God through His precious Son! Because MOST weaves the Gospel throughout the clinic and process [including Scripture as some of the vision testing materials in the clinic itself!], this clinic was not only changes people's lives, it changed their everlasting life! What a tremendous blessing!

For me, however, the greatest and most moving moments came, not from the clinics, but from two other opportunities we had through our MOST mission trip: two trips to some rural villages and Sunday worship at "the church at the tree."

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## Changing Lives for Eternity in Tanzania *(continued from page 1)*

By Rev. Scott Heitshusen / Senior Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church & School-Houston, Texas

On two evenings we traveled with church leaders to some rural villages and went out in teams to visit with some of the people outside of their homes. We were welcomed warmly and were able to share the Gospel message of Jesus. After sharing we had the chance to see if they or anyone else in their family wished to be baptized. Between those two evenings, several people were baptized - in some cases, whole families! This was the book of Acts taking place before our very eyes!

On Sunday, July 24, we traveled for two hours to reach another village who worshiped outside "by the tree." This was a literal rendering. As they did not have a building or structure for their worship, they did so outside, which afforded the opportunity for others in the village and surrounding community to hear the service and "listen in" with their curiosity, or even just when they passed by. As they knew we were coming (and when "Americans" are around, it is a draw!), they also had a special choir/dance group come in and a recently wedded couple come for their marriage to be blessed. The service was three hours long but we could have easily stayed longer! It was a wonderful service with some liturgy, wonderful singing and dancing, and a moving message. After the message was delivered, the question was asked if any desired to be baptized. At least 12 people came forward and we, as visiting clergy, were asked to do the honors!

Between the villages and that Sunday, we were privileged to baptize 44 people into the Triune name of God and saving faith of Jesus Christ! I look forward to seeing these brothers and sisters when the Lord calls me Home!

MOST stands for "Mission Opportunities Short Term," but I'm not sure that meaning accurately reflects what happened on my MOST mission trip. Certainly the trip, itself, was comparatively short in nature, but the impact the trip had on me - as well as those whom I was blessed to minister to - has been anything but short. This mission trip will continue to have a long, deep, and sustaining impact upon me, my life, my family, my congregation, and my missiology. It will have a lasting effect on my vision and outlook for ministry and for people the world over. It will have eternal impact on those I got to share the Gospel of Jesus with. It will continue to have a most profound impact on me.

As Christians, we do not have the "option" to share the Gospel of Jesus. It is embedded within Christ's call to us and His desire for us. However, there are times when He allows us the honor and privilege to share the Gospel with those beyond our usual environment. If you have the opportunity to go on a mission trip, I highly recommend you consider doing so through MOST Ministries. Their core values and passion for mission, service, and most importantly, the Lord Jesus Christ, is evident in what they do and how they do it. They will keep you focused on the Lord and serving His people and, I guarantee, you will return changed and more energized for ministry upon your return.



### Mission Opportunities Short Term **WE'VE GONE DOMESTIC!**

Stateside Teams Now Being Offered to:  
ALASKA, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN & TEXAS  
Check out our 2012 Team Schedule!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Contact Debby Suchyta  
dsuchyta@mostministries.org  
734.994.7909



MOST MINISTRIES  
www.mostministries.org  
734.994.7909

# SERVING ABROAD IN GUATEMALA

By Adam Gottula / Guatemala 1112 Team Member



Las Pacayas is an inspirational town in Guatemala, however, it is devastated beyond belief. The people of Las Pacayas are extraordinary people who find hope and joy amidst the unfortunate circumstances and their limited resources. Located six hours outside of Guatemala City, a village of subsistence, farmers struggle with each passing day to keep food in the bellies of their children.

A team consisting mainly of members from St. Lorenz LCMS Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan

along with myself ventured to Las Pacayas. We were able to provide slight relief and increased the quality of life for the people while simultaneously having the privilege of introducing many to the Gospel. Our crew of 15 included two doctors, two registered nurses, two pre-med students, a microbiologist, and a dentist. Over 900 medical and 85 dental patients were triaged, assessed and treated in the local one-room Lutheran church, while being encouraged to attend the church. Lives were literally saved. Many serious conditions were presented in addition to minute conditions becoming exponentially more severe due to a lack of resources and treatment while at the same time seeds were concurrently being planted for the eternal cure to their spiritual needs.

Words do not give justice to what was done through our trip to rural Guatemala. Many lives were changed, including those who participated in the trip from the states. So why stop with one trip? Why settle for just helping a group of people on an annual basis? If we can have such a profound impact in a minimal amount of time, imagine the potential that is at our fingertips.

In 2012, MOST Ministries has several trips planned to assist the people living in and around Las Pacayas. Please take a moment of your time to check out our 2012 schedule. If you are interested in joining a team or simply want additional information, please contact Debby Suchyta at [dsuchyta@mostministries.org](mailto:dsuchyta@mostministries.org) or 734.994.7909.



## HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

3rd & 4th Quarters

By Yvette Patrick (Finance Administrator)

### HONORARIUMS

- In honor of Jacob & Elona Hecker's 50th Anniversary by George & Elise Locke.
- In honor of Hulda Goecker's 89th birthday by Terry & Shirley Hoese.
- In honor of Aunt Nancy & Uncle Tilly's Anniversary by John & Mary Gohsman.
- In honor of Sandy Hardies by Willis & Barbara Hoffmeier.

### MEMORIALS

- In memory of Jack Moeller by Kathleen Dickerson.
- In memory of Howard Hatchel by Gerald & Jean Christensen.
- In memory of Neil Stuhr by Renwood & Sandra Hardies.

If you would like to honor or remember someone special in your life, consider making an online donation to MOST Ministries. For additional information, contact Yvette Patrick at 734.994.7909 or [ypatrick@mostministries.org](mailto:ypatrick@mostministries.org).



## VOLUNTEER VIEWS

By Lynn Wrightson (Volunteer Coordinator)

I know I say this all the time, but seriously can it be the end of the year already. It just does not seem possible.

We have had an interesting year at MOST Ministries, one of excitement and joy as we hear the wonderful stories coming back from the field. It is so heartwarming for me, a sender, to hear how the Lord is working all around the world through the work of MOST Ministries. Our team members come from all over the country and Canada and are awesome in their dedication to the team projects on which they are working.

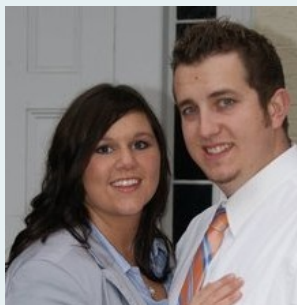
Our volunteer base continues to grow both in the office and with those who work from home. At this time, I would like to talk about a volunteer who came to us last year at the nudging of long time volunteer, Nancy Reichenbach. Nancy knew we were looking for a bulletin board designer for our large bulletin board that has often been simply a "catch all" for all sorts of announcements, menus, etc.

Nancy brought her friend, Margaret Neblock from Living Water Lutheran Church-Whitmore Lake, into our office. At Living Water, Margaret provides the set design for the worship area to coincide with the message and provide a visual that people will remember throughout the week.

Margaret is so sweet and unassuming as she goes about her task of first devising a quarterly theme, for the bulletin board and then creating something eye catching that will reflect that theme. Margaret tell us that she has met some really "cool" people in the office, who are dedicated in their efforts to reach lost people with the message of Christ. Margaret believes that her contribution to that same effort is in visuals and design. We thank the Lord for Margaret and the God-given gifts she is using here.

I pray and thank God for all of you as we strive to tell the world about Jesus and His love. God bless you during this beautiful season as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with Christians around the world.

## MEET LEANNE PROUT



Leanne Prout is a graduate of Spring Arbor University, with a degree in Christian Ministries. She has a heart for missions and feels called to work in development. She has experience working at Spring Arbor University in the advancement office and has now joined our team, as the Development Director.

Leanne was recently married to Daniel Prout, Worship and Programming Pastor at Jackson Free Methodist Church in Jackson, Michigan. They both have a passion for impacting the world for Jesus Christ.

Leanne is looking forward to continuing the development that MOST Ministries has already set forth, and is running with it.

## RECRUITMENT NEEDS

If you are looking for a unique short term mission experience considering joining one or both of these short term mission outreach teams heading out to the mission field in 2012:

### **1219 Dominican Republic Sports Team** **1232 Nicaragua Sports Team**

These teams will offer baseball, American football or soccer clinics, followed by an evangelism outreach activity for the youth attending the clinic. This project is about establishing positive Christian relationships on the playing field and utilizing those relationships off the field as an opening to discuss the wonderful promises that God has in store for His faithful.

For additional information please visit our website at [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org) or contact Debby Suchyta at 734.994.7909 or [dsuchyta@mostministries.org](mailto:dsuchyta@mostministries.org).

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES SHORT TERM



PO Box 130678 Ann Arbor, MI 48113  
Phone: 734.994.7909  
Email: [MOST@mostministries.org](mailto:MOST@mostministries.org)  
Website: [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org)

## OUR FUNDRAISER WAS ONE AMAZING EVENT

By Leanne Prout (Development Director)

Sunday, November 6, 2011 was a very special day for MOST Ministries. On that day we hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising luncheon. At this event we shared the great things God is doing through MOST Ministries and the ways in which we will continue to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

The event was graciously sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and also some wonderful individuals. We were blessed with incredible speakers, who shared from their hearts how their lives were changed through their participation on a MOST Ministries' mission team.

From distributing eyeglasses and clean water, to forty-four baptisms, MOST Ministries has changed lives in Jesus' name in 2011 and will continue to do so in the years ahead thanks to our wonderful MOST Ministries family. The luncheon was an amazing event full of old friends, great stories and impactful funds raised.

Thank you again to all who helped and participated in making the luncheon such a successful event.

## 2012 TEAM SCHEDULE

### KEY:

JA-January, FE-February, MR-March, AP-April, MY-May, JN-June, JL-July, AU-August, SE-September, OC-October, NO-November, DE-December

1201 Paraguay Eyeglass / JA 5-13	1221 Katrina Construction / FE 24-MR 3
1202 Mongolia Pastor Training / JL1-13	1222 Guatemala Women / NO 9-17
1203 Guinea Eyeglass / MR 16-25	1223 Katrina Construction / MR 24-31
1204 Philippines Eyeglass / AP 2012	1224 Guatemala Farm / TBD
1205 Guinea Eyeglass /TBD	1225 Alaska VBS / TBD
1206 India Eyeglass / MR 8-19	1226 Guatemala TBD / TBD
1207 Costa Rica Quilting / FE 24-MR 3	1227 Michigan VBS / AP 9-13
1208 Nicaragua Eyeglass / MR 9-17	1228 Guatemala TBD / TBD
1209 Panama Medical / TBD	1229 Kenya Eyeglass / TBD
1210 Costa Rica Health / JN 29-JL 7	1230 Guatemala Construction / TBD
1211 Nicaragua Water / TBD	1231 Cambodia Eyeglass / TBD
1212 Panama Dental / TBD	1232 Nicaragua Sports / TBD
1213 Costa Rica Music / NO 30-DE 8	1233 Texas Construction / TBD
1214 Nicaragua Eyeglass / JN 2012	1234 Nicaragua Women / TBD
1215 Panama Sports / MR 2012	1235 Poland ESL / AU 2012
1216 Dom Republic Medical / TBD	1236 Nicaragua Medical / AU 3-11
1217 Latvia ESL / JN 29-JL 9 or 10	1237 Michigan Construction / TBD
1218 Haiti Eyeglass / TBD	1238 Nicaragua Water / AU 3-11
1219 Dom Republic Sports / TBD	1239 Nicaragua Eyeglass /TBD
1220 Tanzania Eyeglass / TBD	

Please contact Debby Suchyta at [dsuchyta@mostministries.org](mailto:dsuchyta@mostministries.org) or 734.994.7909 to join a team or for additional information.

## MOST MINISTRY NOW HAS TEN DESIGNATED PARKING SPOTS FOR VISITORS AND STAFF

As many of you know, this past Fall the parking lot directly in front of our office was resurfaced. As a part of the resurfacing project, signs have been installed designating ten parking spots for our visitors and staff. In order to park in these spots individuals will be required to have a MOST Ministries parking permit. These permits can be obtained in our front office and will need to be visible from the outside of your car. If you have any questions, please contact us at 734.994.7909 or [most@mostministries.org](mailto:most@mostministries.org).