



# MISSION MATTERS IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE

OGHS - 2010

**Mission Matters is a periodic update from the offices of Mission Support of the WVBC.**

#### This issue

- ◆ Updates WV Partners in Mission
- ◆ 2010 VBS Project Opportunities

#### Additional information:

- ◆ CAMP GLOBAL 2010
- ◆ OGHS
- ◆ MSMO
- ◆ Project Good Samaritan

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**West Virginia Baptist  
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P.O. BOX 1019  
Parkersburg, WV 26102**

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## ANSWERING THE CALL

Can you remember party line phones? Our house was on a 4-party line. Each house on the line had a distinct ring pattern so we all knew when the call was for us. It was not unusual for someone other than the person for whom the call was intended to listen in to the conversation. No one had answering machines or caller identification systems. When the phone rang – you answered.

I have friends that use their answering machine as a call filtering system. They let the machine answer every call. When the caller begins to leave a message, they pick up – IF they want to talk.

I know other people that use caller ID to screen incoming calls. If they do not recognize the name of the caller or the number from which the call originates, they do not answer. They ignore the call and go on with whatever they were doing.

It is often frustrating trying to call someone. With all of the technology and connectivity we have at our fingertips, it still depends on the one receiving the call to answer. The caller can call every known number – leave messages and call back numbers – but the receiver has to respond in order for the call to be completed.

Some months ago, God began calling JD and Rhonda Reed. Both had answered God's call earlier in their lives and they were serving faithfully. But God called again – this time it was a call to serve God overseas as missionaries. The call came – they answered, YES! As they continued to pray and seek counsel about the call to missionary service, they had lots of questions. They had many things to process and discern as they sought to answer God's call for their lives.

Where does God want us to serve? When does God want us to go? What does God want us to do?

Step by step, they journeyed through the process with International Ministries. Step by step, they sought God's guidance as they clarified the call. Each step they took in faith led them closer to clarity and further definition of the call. And then all became clear.

Just a few short weeks ago, International Ministries announced the endorsement of JD and Rhonda as missionaries to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. God has called them! The call has been clearly discerned and validated through much thought and prayer. JD and Rhonda have answered God's call – they are preparing to go to Bolivia to serve God there.

God is still calling people to serve as overseas missionaries! God is also calling people to support those who go. Will you answer the call? JD and Rhonda will depend on our support – our answering God's call as they go in God's name.

*Our mission is to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith, and to help them fulfill their mission by enabling and them to do together what they cannot do alone.*

# West Virginia Mission Partners

## **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS MY HOPE:**

It may be easier to give up on life and on my ministry now that I have cancer but, I know that the one who has called me will also sustain me even as I fight it. I am strong, I continue my ministry because He is walking with me! (Joshua 1:9)



Iris & Mario  
Morales - Bolivia

**DIAGNOSIS:** In June 2007, I was diagnosed with Hürthle cell carcinoma of the thyroid. The average age-adjusted annual incidence for thyroid cancer is less than 40 cases per 1 million people. Among thyroid neoplasms, Hürthle cell carcinomas account for about 3-10% of these cancers.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Due to the need for treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston Texas, we have made arrangements with our Bolivian Partners and IM to continue with our missionary ministry even as we stay both here and in USA and in Bolivia.

During this time of tribulation a great awakening is taking place among Bolivian leaders whom we train at the House of Hope. They discovered that if ministry was to continue it was up to them to take charge and apply their leadership skills as they were instructed.

The results are amazing. 100% of the people that we invested in as missionaries are now doing ministry and working alongside of us even as we go back and forth to the USA for treatments. These are the ministries we continue to work with at the House of Hope in partnership with the Bolivian Baptist Union.

In the last fifteen months, MD Anderson doctors identified CA metastasis in my brain and lungs. The approach to deal with this aggressive invasion was to use gamma knife brain surgery at the end of 2009 and a great dose of staying positive and focus in the promises of the Lord, as well as continue our ministry without giving up. The results were very encouraging. During the interventions they destroyed 99% of the brain tumors. On the other hand they started me with chemotherapy to fight lung cancer with the drug sorafenib.

In early March 2010, the last visit to MD Anderson, exams showed that all brain tumors were gone. However, that the lung tumors were not responding well and that a dose increase was necessary to fight them.

An upcoming visit to MD Anderson CA Center will take place in June 2010 and we shall keep you informed of the results. In the mean time we ask for your prayers and support as we continue our mission journey with cancer.

## **BEGINNINGS:**

After several days of living in a yellow dust haze from winds blowing through China, we can see more clearly and breathe more easily now. We are also getting a clearer spiritual vision of needs in the coming years.



David & Leslie  
Turley - Japan

We have heard their requests and seen their frustration. After praying about the needs and talking with some church and convention leaders, we found that everyone we talked to is enthusiastic about our starting a language school on the island that will provide English instruction geared to specific learner goals and perhaps later to teach Japanese to internationals on Okinawa.

Though not directly connected with the new language school plans, the fourteen elementary students David teaches at another Japanese Baptist church school is increasing to 20 with the entrance of five new first graders. He will also continue his weekly adult bible classes, youth English Bible study, and monthly preaching in Japanese and English at various churches.

The purpose for waiting until next year to fully launch the new school is to allow for good planning, but also so that Leslie can finish her full-time work at OCSI. 2011 is our scheduled home assignment year, so we are praying about God's plan for launching the new project and giving us quality time with our West Virginia Mission Partnership Team (MPT) and Mission Partnership Network (the churches and individuals who are supporting our work in Okinawa).

Please pray, especially for the timing for both of these events. We also ask for your prayers for the Baptist camp at Hokuzanso. Major maintenance problems are requiring extra expenditures just to keep the camp operating. Leslie was recently appointed to the camp committee (which delights her), and David will represent the OBC General Affairs Committee on a new camp project team. Similar to the recent improvements at Camp Cowen, the OBC is launching a new building and renewal thrust called "Project 120."

We will be happy to make speaking plans beginning in June, 2011 when we anticipate a longer stay during "home assignment," We are grateful to God, and appreciative of your prayers and support over the years.

## Dear Friends in mission,

Thank you for your prayers for us. As we looked back at the last months, we saw how God answered prayers! There is no doubt that prayer is an essential part of what we do.

### UMama

A dozen young chicks zig-zag and chirp behind their mother hen in the dust outside of the rondaval. Inside in the dim, smoky light a slim, ancient Zulu woman wearing a patterned blue dress sits with legs extended on a wicker mat. Flies buzz about her as she stares through cataracts from a mask-like face. She is motionless except for a rolling tremor in her right thumb and forefinger. The black smoke from the smouldering log on the floor near her makes our eyes water as we offer our greeting: "Sawubona Mama!"

Health builder Nomthandazo ("our prayer") tells us that Mama had a stroke. Together Devi, Kate, Nomthandazo and I spend some time with UMama and find that her blood pressure is 130/80, her sugar is 153, she can move all her parts and her pulses are good. Her ID shows that she was a baby while World War I raged in Europe.

We help her up as she uses a slender dry sugar cane to take short, barefooted steps down from the grimy concrete floor into the sunny dust amongst the chickens. As the sun illuminates her pearly cataracts, she smiles a toothy smile and calls for her snuff! Not bad for her 93rd trip around the sun.

This is one of the 1000-odd remote households served by our Zululand partners, where Devi, Anita and I continue to train about 28 people in health building skills. Each day now, about a dozen of these are going out to visit about ten households each. Riding over the hillsides in the back of an open-bed Toyota Land Cruiser along with 13 African women, bags of food and health supplies, I praised and thanked God for allowing us to share healing and His Word to this people who live in remote, rugged poverty.

Please pray for us as we continue to do health outreach and Bible Study in Zululand.



Rick & Anita Gutierrez  
South Africa

## A Great Morning,

### A Great Beginning:

Sunday was a big day for our family as it was our first time traveling outside our home church to share our calling to Bolivia. I should qualify the former sentence with two statements. First, we weren't really speaking to strangers since we went back to Rhonda's home church (Gassaway Baptist Church, EV Assoc.) Second, technically every single Sunday when we get together in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, it is a pretty big day if you ask me! (Can I get an "AMEN"?)

With that said it was an amazing experience. As we each shared God's call on our lives, and then how God has a call on the other one's life as well, it was as if we were both speaking the message that God has been writing on our hearts for a long time now.

I wonder if that is what it felt like for Jesus when he gave his first official message? I wonder if there was a moment when he looked up into the clouds as the breeze gently came across his face and he had an instant of clarity. One of those moments where time seems to slow down and you savor every second and all it holds within it. A time that you know you are doing exactly what you were created to do and that God was smiling. It was like that for us. It was a wonderful experience to share with the first of hopefully many churches and individuals about what God is doing in Bolivia and how we are going to partner with Him.

Both Rhonda and I would love to come and share with you about how God is working in Bolivia and how we are going to partner with Him. Not only that, but how you too can partner with us and be a part of God's work in Bolivia. If you would like information on where we are so far in our process of raising our support, please visit the International Ministries website at [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org).

If you would like to have us come and talk to your congregation, Sunday School class, small group, or just sit down over a cup of coffee, you can email Rhonda and me at [jdreedjr1@me.com](mailto:jdreedjr1@me.com) or contact Lisa Simmons at the WV Baptist Convention offices about how you can help with our deputation.



Reed Family  
Endorsed Missionaries  
to Bolivia

**Equipping Churches  
Reaching People for  
Jesus  
Building Health Skills**

#### FYI - for your information

##### **2009 Mission Support Annual Report**

Is available on line. Check it out and see what your church gave in 2009. Go to website, click on [2009 Annual Report](#).

##### **2010 Trip Information NEEDED**

More than 900 West Virginia Baptists participated in mission work last year. The Stewardship Commission would like to keep this information current. Contact Joan at [hall@wvbc.org](mailto:hall@wvbc.org).

# 2010 Vacation Bible School Mission Projects

## Suggested Ideas for Vacation Bible School Offering (Make sure checks are detailed for project)

### Camp Cowen VBS-CC-10

- ☀ Your gift can provide a "campership" for a child to attend camp
- ☀ \$50-\$100 to purchase balls for four square, volleyball & basketball
- ☀ \$50-\$100 help equip 2 small kitchens with appliances
- ☀ \$100-\$500 to help raise money for a new bathhouse

### Weirton Christian Center VBS-WCC-10

- ☀ \$25 for gift cards to provide needs for camp
- ☀ \$25 to provide back to school supplies
- ☀ \$75 gas for the van for 1 week
- ☀ \$100 to sponsor a kid to camp
- ☀ \$500 provide funds for a new computer
- ☀ \$1000 cost of the internet at the school for 1 year

### Hispanic Ministries VBS-HIS-10

- ☀ \$25 to provide Spanish bibles
- ☀ \$50 to provide resources for LaCasa in Ravenswood
- ☀ \$100-\$500 will provide resources to support our Hispanic Strategist
- ☀ \$500 to support a Hispanic church

### Bolivia — Missionaries Mario & Iris Morales VBS-BO-10

- ☀ \$50 for a bag of soybeans which feeds 100 children for one month! This will help feed the children at the House of Hope.
- ☀ \$100 for 100 pounds of rice for 1 month supply
- ☀ \$100 to provide funds to provide lights in the churches
- ☀ \$70 per month for 16 students in the Latch/Key Program-Cochabamba
- ☀ \$500 to support Mario & Iris Morales ministry

### South Africa — Missionaries Dr. Rick & Anita Gutierrez VBS-SA-10

- ☀ Help provide funds to purchase a CIMT tool, to provide early detection of thickening of the arterial walls and help detect cardiovascular disease
- ☀ \$50 to provide testing stripe for Health Builders
- ☀ \$500 to support Rick & Anita Gutierrez' ministry

### India — Missionary Debra Mulneix VBS-IN-10

- ☀ \$100 to provide a rubber tree and nursery caretaker for the trees
- ☀ \$2 to purchase a rubber tree sapling
- ☀ \$50 to provide school supplies for the students
- ☀ \$500 to support Debra Mulneix's ministry

Share these ideas with your VBS director !

## Greetings from Guwahati, India:



Debbie Mulneix - India

I would just like to catch you up with some of the things that have been going on here. You may have heard about the trouble that began in March in Manipur. In fact, everything actually started the day after the Phungyo Centenary Celebration. There are lots of political aspects here, but the bottom line is that the entire state is basically being held "captive" by neighboring states and people within, many of whom are students.

Fuel, rice, potatoes, and other basic needs are not being allowed entrance into the area. The long term problem is that crops are not being planted or harvested, which will really affect crops in the future, even next year. Most people cannot get to their jobs, if their employers are even open. Some fuel is being airlifted into the area, but it is extremely expensive.

Please keep these people in your prayers. The situation seems to get worse each day. Unfortunately, many of these people claim to be Christian and so the other religions are using this as propaganda. No end seems to be in sight.



For more information contact the office of Mission Support  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
P.O. Box 1019  
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102  
Phone: 1.800.879.9822

John E. Simmons, Associate Executive Minister  
[jsimmons@wvbc.org](mailto:jsimmons@wvbc.org)

Lisa Simmons, Associate of Mission Support  
[lsimmons@wvbc.org](mailto:lsimmons@wvbc.org) 1.866.309.2448

Joan Hall, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeping  
[hall@wvbc.org](mailto:hall@wvbc.org)



**MISSION MATTERS is available online at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) - Stewardship/Missions**



JESUS SAID,  
"DO YOU LOVE ME?  
FEED MY SHEEP."

*John 21:15-17*

This offering has provided help and hope  
to millions over the past 60 years.  
Sharing your resources really does change lives.



Please Give to One Great Hour of Sharing  
sharing resources · changing lives

Jesus calls us to tend his sheep caught in these situations of evil and nature run amok. And with love and energy, the Church responds! Through One Great Hour of Sharing,

- disaster victims quickly receive shelter, food, water, and medical supplies
- local communities develop secure sources of food and clean water
- minds and bodies grow stronger with new schools and medical clinics
- refugees receive housing and long-term help to construct new lives.

**In these challenging times, we often wonder how much we can afford to sacrifice to help feed Jesus' beloved sheep, when our needs remain pressing.**

Perhaps only our prayerful conscience can answer that. But remember the feeding of the 5,000: when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all.

**Heed Jesus' call to feed his sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Sharing your resources will change lives — including your own.**

Your gifts from the  
West Virginia Baptist  
Convention Churches  
for Haiti Relief  
as of June 8, 2010  
Totaling \$188,962

We thank you for your generosity.



sharing resources  
changing lives

For additional information go to [www.onegreathourofsharing.org](http://www.onegreathourofsharing.org)

Give It Away



**Mountain State**  
**Mission Offering**  
2010

WVBC Staff  
supporting  
local churches  
as we  
Advance the  
Kingdom of  
God together

Over 2000  
young people  
and adults  
walking the  
grounds of  
Camp Cowen  
this summer  
meeting Jesus

Training and  
conferences at  
Parchment Valley  
Conference Center

Equipping  
leaders  
through the  
School of  
Christian Studies

BCM on  
13 college  
locations  
across WV

Hispanic Ministries

Planting New Churches

Put on your shoes, get ready to go. . . Acts 12:8



**MOUNTAIN STATE MISSION OFFERING 2010**

100% Supporting the Mission and Ministries of the West Virginia Baptist