AFRICA MISSION TRIP
by Wolf Jedamski

The Collegedale Church’s mission statements says; “To invite ALL people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ ...” Taking the word “all” seriously, when we become aware of a need for the Gospel, wherever that need may be, if at all possible, we as a church respond. That is exactly what happened when two of our physicians David Winters and Dennis Thompson, shared with me the need for a fully functioning operating room at a bush clinic deep in the heart of Massai country. Hearing stories about major injuries needing surgeries for patient survival or C-sections needed for difficult births and the outcomes being tragic because of the inability to treat or transport, gave us the motivation to take on a project that would require large financial commitments and even sending a team to help build the facilities. From this the recently completed church mission trip to Kenya Africa was birthed.

Contacts were made with potential donors in the Collegedale Church and in other churches willing to partner with us. Sabbath School classes came on board and chose this as a mission project. The project and plans were bathed in prayer. A team of our church members began to form. Others, some not even members of our church or even Adventists, were invited to join our team resulting in thirty-two individuals. The team represented a good cross section of young people and adults willing to spend their Spring break vacations, responding to the need to serve their fellow brothers and sisters, no matter where or how far away that need was.

Besides working on the construction of the operating room, (which by the way has grown to include a fully functional dental clinic with two chairs and all surgery supporting facilities such as sterilization, x-ray and pharmacy etc.) the team held two medical clinics every...
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Day. One team was at the clinic and the other went into the bush from village to village ministering to the medical needs. Dr. Joe Milholm held a daily dental clinic doing much more than pulling teeth. The patients coming had a difficult time understanding the new concept of receiving restorative work such as fillings and root canals without pain.

The team held a very well attended, excellently produced VBS each day in an outlying village usually untouched by short term mission groups. In addition our ladies spent time in that same village working side by side with the Massai ladies, forming relationships, learning from each other, and challenging each other’s culture and way of doing things. Team members rotated through the various projects to broaden their experiences and impact.

As hectic as a long distance mission trip can be, it was still good for all of us to slow down in terms of the stresses of life. To live, even if only in moments, the poli poli (slowly, slowly) lifestyle of our Massai friends was a blessing to us. To be able to learn from and minister to them and their needs while living in the midst of the African wildlife and beauty was truly an amazing experience. What a blessing it was to have it reinforced that “ALL” are part of God’s family and His Gospel commission and that we had the huge privilege of responding to Jesus’s call.

Do You Have a game table to donate to our youth room?
Our youth ministry is thankful for the new youth room! We are soon to (unofficially) open it as an afterschool youth and collegiate recreational and study center. We are thinking about calling it “CAYA Central.” It will have free food, games, and study areas. Our official opening won’t be for a while, because we still need some supplies.

Are you interested in helping our youth center get closer to officially opening up by donating any items (guitars, games, ping pong or pool tables, etc.)? Contact Pastor William Hurtado at hwilliam@southern.edu or Elissa Northup at elissa.nadeen@hotmail.com or (218) 689-0942.
JACK BLANCO DEPARTS FOR SOLUSI
by Olson Perry

Listening to Dr. Jack Blanco share stories about his recent trip to southern Germany to re-visit the concentration/labor camp sites where he was held and his grandfather’s farm near Hohenberg Marktleugast, Bavaria can give you an adrenalin rush. He was there to film the Germany segment of The Jack Blanco Story, a documentary being produced by Network 7 Media Center.

Jack is leaving May 14 for Africa to film another segment. He will visit Solusi Adventist University in Zimbabwe, when in 1965 he received a call from the General Conference to chair Solusi’s Theology Department, as well as train pastors in city evangelism.

Dr. Blanco remembers wonderful times, scary moments, and threatening circumstances in Zimbabwe. There were meetings where thousands attended and hundreds were baptized; times when he stared down the barrel of a rifle held by an enemy patrol guard.

He can’t forget the miraculous healings of an African lady in Salisbury. She had a leprosy-like disease and was being treated by a witch doctor. The evangelist’s team earnestly prayed and there seemed to be a miracle of healing, when suddenly the healing stopped. “What do I do now?” Jack asked himself, “What do I say to this little lady who had shown such faith?” Then miraculously, overnight, the leprosy-like symptoms totally disappeared and her hands and feet were like new. Jack says “It was fantastic watching God at work.”

The crew will visit where Jack’s family was almost swept away by torrential rains and resulting mud slides. There is the story of the proverbial cow in the ditch on Sabbath. Another time during a drought, prayers were offered for rain, and the rains came. And there was thanksgiving when Jack’s son, Steve, was spared from a broken neck with resulting paralysis, due to an unexpected fall.

Jack’s story reminds us that God’s providence continues in our lives. You can keep up on The Blanco Project at www.n7mc.org/blanco

IN MEMORY

Amy Knickerbocker, mother of Joy Breetzke, Cecil Rolfe, and Cynthia Vail and stepmother of Robert and Ron Knickerbocker, passed away March 18. Services were held March 22.

Walter Tate, stepfather of Kathy Hammond and Barbara Hunt, passed away March 14 in Florida.

V. Wayne Taylor, brother of Jolena King and son of the late Victor W. and Ruth Taylor, passed away March 17 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. A memorial service will be held April 13 at the Carmichael Adventist Church in Carmichael, CA.

APOLOGETICS CLASS

Want to study apologetics? Come to a practical 10-week course on presenting reasons to believe Christianity is true. This class in defending the faith is about increasing your confidence as a Christian by exploring the reasons and evidences for the faith, and preparing yourself to be a more effective ambassador of Jesus Christ. The class will begin June 1. Contact Pastor Sam Chetty at samchetty@southern.edu or visit instep4life.com.

FAMILY LIFE

Our modern culture tells us cohabitation is a great alternative to marriage and divorce is a convenient solution to difficulties--consider what some current research reveals: www.frc.org/marriwebsite/162-reasons-to-marry

Children in intact married families have the highest combined English and math grade point averages (GPAs.)

Engaged? Build a marriage to last a lifetime through thorough preparation! Contact Pastor Tim at timcross@southern.edu six months prior to wedding for more information.
THANK YOU for your prayers and visits while I was in the hospital and Life Care. —Roy Dingle

THE NEXT DINNER WITH THE DOCTOR is Monday, April 8. The topic is Disarming Diabetes: Type 2 Diabetes is the most common form of Diabetes. Learn how to prevent and even reverse Diabetes. The presentation includes a meal. The cost is $5. Visit www.instep4life.com or call 315-1950 for reservations.

ACADEMY DAY AT CA: Collegedale Academy invites new students for the school year 2013-2014 to Academy Day on April 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call (423) 396-2124 for more information and registration.

PARENT TRANSITION NIGHT at CA: Parents, Collegedale Academy wants to help as your 8th grader transitions to 9th grade. Staff members will share the spiritual, academic, and social opportunities for students next year at Collegedale Academy auditorium on April 3 at 7:00 p.m. Come learn what to expect next year.

COLLEGE ACADEMY’S ALUMNI WEEKEND is April 12-14 at the Academy. Friday vespers will be held at 8:00 p.m. with the CA Concert Band. Sabbath registration begins at 9:30 a.m., the service at 10:00 a.m., followed by the Alumni potluck luncheon. Saturday evening vespers is at 8:00 p.m. followed by the Alumni basketball games at 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact Matt Nafie at nafiema@collegedale-academy.com or 396-2124 ext. 431.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY: Enjoy a weekend with Dennis and Barbara Rainey as they share the most heartfelt, effective, and important lessons they’ve learned from their years of experience - being married for over 40 years, raising six children, and leaving a legacy of 19 grandchildren. The Rainey’s humility, warmth, and stories will encourage you and your spouse regardless of where you are in your marriage. You’ll leave encouraged, hopeful, and full of practical tools to grow and build your marriage. Join them May 3-5 at Winshape Retreat in North Georgia. Cost: $535 per couple (Includes program guide, meals, and lodging). Call (877) 977-3873 to learn more.

DIVORCECARE meets 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Fridays at the Church. For more information, call Richard at (407) 970-3127.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED a major change or a loss in your life recently? Join us for an educational discussion group that meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Collegedale Community Church, Second Floor Room 205 (Park near entrance at back of Church) Contact Lance Pritchard, Masters Level Counseling Intern, at (423) 615-9214 or lancep@southern.edu and RSVP.

THE GCSS (AWS/CAMS/CA) is now accepting applications for all students. This includes returning students and new students. Be sure to get your application in now if you are planning to attend one of the three schools in the 2013-2014 school year.