

# The Heart of Missions

August 2015



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

## ***August Missions Events and Meetings***

*August 4: Mission Team*

Noon in Westminster

*August 17: World Mission*

5:30 pm at the Stout Home

*August 10: Compassion, Peace and  
Justice Committee*

4:00 pm in Westminster



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# Go and Serve 2015: Cuba

By: Elizabeth Pippen

My desire to go to Cuba started about a year and a half ago. I had been attending The Gathering at First Presbyterian for a few months when I heard about the Cuba Study. I was intrigued and on a whim asked around to find out how to get involved. I am a shy person, so I was a little nervous at the first meeting. However, I walked away with a strong desire to learn more about our neighbors and their culture, history, and (most especially) their food. The group I studied with prepared for a trip in September, but I was not able to join them due to my work schedule. The following spring, I was asked to go on the March trip, but again was not able to go. Strike two. By this time I was determined to go on the next trip no matter what. Not long after making this decision, God intervened by the way of Kristen Plemons who asked me if I would consider going with the Go and Serve Team to Cuba. Finally, I updated my passport and it was time to go.

The trip was so much more than I could ever have imagined. I knew we were to spend the time with the people, but wasn't certain what to expect. From the time we made it out of the airport at Havana, we were welcomed. We were guided and spent the afternoon at the beach getting to know some of the people from the church. To start the trip, the high school girls with us were at first afraid to ask the youth to play ball with them. They eventually gained courage to go over to where they were seated, but diverted paths. They took the time to try and figure out how to ask in Spanish, but

were too nervous to follow through. However, after the youth asked us to go for a walk on the beach, everyone relaxed and they ended the day playing volleyball.

The language barrier was a little difficult throughout the week. I was able to pick up a few things, but there were times when I had no clue what I was being asked or told. However, both the Go and Serve Team and the Cuban youth worked as a team to understand each other. We used broken English and Spanish and pantomime. One of the more memorable experiences with our language barrier was we asked one of the Cuban youth "Como se dice 'train?'" The response: "Tren," when pronounced sounds the same in English or Spanish.

My favorite part of the trip was our home visits. We got to know the families of our hosts and share even more with them. We laughed together, danced together, and shared meals together. I know I speak for the group when I say how much we loved being with the church and the people. I am thankful for the opportunity to have gone on this trip. I am thankful to have spent time with the church at Luyano and with the group here in Champaign, growing in our faith together. In the end, I believe that's the point of the trip and of the relationship between both churches. We are all one in Christ. Through our time together building relationships, we are able to grow in faith and love, to encourage each other as we serve our respective communities, sharing the love of Christ.



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# The Community Corner

## News From Community Agencies

Agency	Agency Description	News
<p>Canaan SAFE House 404 W. Main Street Urbana IL 61801 217-344-SAFE canaansafehouse.org</p>	<p>Christian rehabilitation programs for men and women struggling with substance abuse issues.</p>	<p>In need of significant funds after a particularly difficult fundraising year. See ad at right for details for a benefit concert.</p>
<p>C-U Canteen Run 217-522-0957 www.cucanteenrun.org</p>	<p>Using the Salvation Army canteen truck, volunteers travel throughout downtown to distribute food, clothes, supplies, and information about programs to help those experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>August 13th (3pm-7 pm) August 14th (7am-1pm) August 15th (7am-noon or later) First Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser 3701 West Springfield Avenue Champaign, IL</p>
<p>Courage Connection 508 East Church Street Champaign IL 61820 217-352-7151 courageconnection.org</p>	<p>Provides housing and supportive services for families who are experiencing homelessness or are victims of domestic violence.</p>	<p>Currently in HIGH need of: 10 –15 new baby monitors, new twin comforters, double strollers, upright freezer, small moving truck, passenger van or minivan.</p>
<p>Jesus is the Way Prison Ministries 602 Liberty Avenue Rantoul IL 61866 217-892-4044 jesusisthewayprisonministries.org</p>	<p>Helps former inmates with housing, food, clothing, spiritual guidance, counseling, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job skills training, and job placement. Enables former inmates to become productive and responsible citizens.</p>	<p>Fundraising Banquet (see ad at right)</p> <p>Our church members are in the process of rebuilding the structure which houses the ministry's food. Full story will be in the September issue of Heart of Missions.</p>
<p>Salt &amp; Light Ministries 1512 West Anthony Drive Champaign IL 61821 217-355-5654 saltandlightministry.org</p>	<p>Programs aim to allow opportunities for those living in poverty to create lasting change in their own lives and the lives of others around them. Programs are varied and include: Two Trees Thrift Store, Financial Literacy program, Gleanings Food Co-op, Jobs for Life program, the Advocacy Program, and a Computer Lab.</p>	<p>Many families are planning to attend the school supply event this year, since it seems to be the only one of its kind in the city this year. Financial gifts, material donations, and volunteers are still needed. School supplies go on sale at Two Trees Monday, August 3rd.</p>



# GOSPEL



SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE  
FREE  
ENVIRONMENT

# JAZZ

FEST

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSES

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AT THE CONCERT OR ONLINE AT  
[WWW.CANAANSAFEHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.CANAANSAFEHOUSE.ORG)

**3-7 PM SUNDAY  
AUGUST 23, 2015**

**HELSEL PARK, CHAMPAIGN, IL**  
AT THE INTERSECTION OF GRAND & KIRBY AVENUE

*featuring*  
**LOVE FELLOWSHIP  
CHRISTIAN CENTER  
CHOIR** DIRECTOR - TIM SHELLEY

CANAAN PRAISE TEAM  
CANAAN PRAISE DANCERS  
ELDRIDGE CLASBERRY  
STEVE DAVIS & SPIRIT; AS ONE  
NEW LIFE, CANAAN, BETHEL COMBINED CHOIRS  
BANKS, BRIDGEWATER & LEWIS JAZZ GROUP  
VINCENT POWELL  
GLADYS WILLIAMS & CO



## Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry

### Lovin' Life Celebration Fundraising Banquet

August 28, 2015 at 6 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)

Fluid Event Center 601 N Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL. 61821

A banquet to celebrate the changes being made by the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry. Our ministry consists of 1) ministering in the housing units of the jails and prisons and 2) aftercare outreach. The ultimate goal is to bring people to Jesus while empowering them to become productive and responsible citizens in our communities.

We will have a wonderful meal prepared by Nelson's Catering. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Pete Leonard, Founder of *I Have a Bean* in Wheaton IL ([ihaveabean.com](http://ihaveabean.com)). Pete has a great testimony of what God has done in his life and how he is being used to further God's kingdom.