



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

The Heart of Missions: July 2015

Notes from Kristi

Kristi Corbin, Missions Coordinator

Summer is here! Some committees are meeting and some are taking a break. Plenty of amazing, God-filled work continues to be done through our church locally and around the world! In fact, so much is happening, this is the longest *Heart of Missions* to date! I hope you enjoy reading more about what is happening in Missions. As always, please feel free to contact me with submissions for publication and for any questions or comments.

July Missions Events and Meetings

July 7: Mission Team

noon in Westminster

July 12: Dr. James Tebbe, President, Forman Christian College, preaches

8, 9, and 10:30 services

July 12: Potluck Lunch for Dr. James Tebbe

11:45 am in Centennial

July 19-28: Go and Serve Mission Trip

Havana, Cuba

July 20: World Mission

5:30pm at the Stout Home

July 21: Compassion, Peace and Justice Committee

4:30pm in Westminster

July 27: Environmental Stewardship

3:30pm-4:30pm in the Parlor

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ESL Classes Offer More than English Lessons

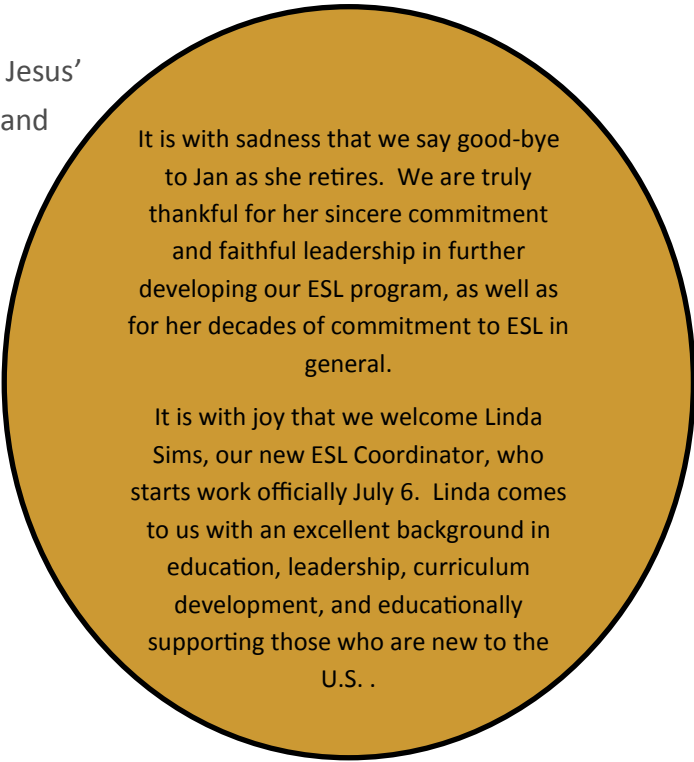
By: Jan Sabey

Language and culture go together. One must become “fluent in the culture” to communicate well and precisely. One must learn the nuances of a given language to truly understand the heart of a culture. Our English classes are so much more than just vocabulary building or conversation practice. Beyond culture and language are relationships. I would like to share a few examples:

1. K was a young woman from Japan who joined one of our conversation groups. She attended class for a few months and then left our program about a year ago. I thought perhaps she had returned to Japan. However, last week she came by to say good-bye to me (as I prepare to retire soon). She had heard about my retirement from some of her student friends. Then she shared the good news that she was pregnant, and that G, her ESL friend from Brazil, will have a baby in August. How did K know this? She had G had stayed in touch for all the months since K left our group. A strong and lasting friendship across geography was formed in our little conversation group. Continuing good feelings brought K back for a visit last week.
2. Z is a quiet, devout Muslim woman who regularly comes to class. She had gotten to know Gloria Read, who helped with our daily snack time until she broke her ankle and began a long, slow recovery following ankle surgery. Z inquired about Gloria, sent at least one card, and has visited Gloria in her assisted living facility in which she is living temporarily. Care and concern reach beyond the language barriers because first there is a relationship.

As I step down from the ESL Coordinator position, I, like Jesus’ mother Mary, find myself gathering all these memories and treasuring them in my heart. There are so many memories, so many lovely people, so many “cultural moments” that needed a little more language, and so many awkward conversations that need a little more cultural understanding. However, mostly I remember the people-moments...the many and varied relationships. Such is the way God works in and through us.

Jan Sabey
ESL Coordinator



It is with sadness that we say good-bye to Jan as she retires. We are truly thankful for her sincere commitment and faithful leadership in further developing our ESL program, as well as for her decades of commitment to ESL in general.

It is with joy that we welcome Linda Sims, our new ESL Coordinator, who starts work officially July 6. Linda comes to us with an excellent background in education, leadership, curriculum development, and educationally supporting those who are new to the U.S. .

Rock Bottom

By: Melissa Leichter, World Missions Committee Member

“Rock bottom” is not a term one usually associates with Bob Rice. He and his wife Kristi have been mission co-workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2010. They met in Rwanda in 2003 and their love of missions runs deep. Currently, they are helping to get a savings and loan program off the ground in Congo. Many women, children, and families could find a way out of unimaginable poverty.

When one reads all of the amazing things Bob and Kristi have done, it is hard to imagine a time when Bob was not a follower of Christ. He describes a time in 1995 when he wasn't sure he believed in God. He was reckless, anxious, and resigned to a life of depression. He even read about Hindu beliefs and mysticism, to no avail. His soul felt dark and uncertain.

A week later Bob returned to Colorado and he encountered a man, Stan Wagner, who asked him if he believed in Jesus Christ. He described looking into Stan's eyes and finding one thing - “love.” Stan had been in prison when he gave his life to Jesus. God used Stan to bring Bob to Jesus and has used Bob to

Every email I receive from Bob is full of love. He loves the people of the DRC and missions. Most of all, he loves Jesus. He allows God to use him to make a huge impact on the other side of the world. He was at one time lonely, depressed, worldly, lost, without faith, at “rock bottom.” Our loving God has used Bob to spread his word just like He used Stan to touch Bob. What a story!

***How will you let God use you?
That is the question at the heart of missions.***



DREAAM Project Kicks Off July 13!

By: Tracy Dace

I am anxiously anticipating the morning of July 13. It seems like yesterday when I was in Pastor Chuck's office talking about the idea of opening an early childhood school for Black boys. At the time, I thought it was an unrealistic vision and simply too ambitious. I simply filed the idea away in my mind. I continued to pray and to talk to God about community issues and goals. I have such sadness about the killings and the boys I mentor who are in juvenile justice and foster care systems. Then, HALLEJUAH, one night the acronym, DREAAM, came to me! God answered my prayers! I then started to work and talk about my "dream" of the DREAAM – Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males.

I must admit that I am humbled by the support from my church. Our church members not only care about each other, but also care about others outside the church walls. This is one of the main reasons why I chose to become a Presbyterian. Thanks so much for caring about our community children and youth. Your support, prayers and significant monetary gift through the Forward 150 Mission Fund have put into motion what many are calling a "very interesting" project. In addition to all the other mission projects we support, the DREAAM Project is another impact we will make in our community. Again, THANK YOU!

*At the time, I thought it was an
unrealistic vision and simply too
ambitious...then...
God answered my prayers!*

There is still more work to do to make this project a success. You are invited to join the DREAAM Volunteer Team. I would love to work with you in any capacity. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities that you can schedule based on your availability. Please email me at DREAAMProject@gmail.com for more information.

Volunteer Roles:

- Read a book to DREAAM learners
- Help with classroom instruction during the morning hours
- Help with lunchroom supervision from 11:30am-12:00pm
- Assist on a field trip on Friday afternoon from 1pm-3pm
- Prepare and serve an afternoon snack any day on Monday-Friday from 3pm-3:30pm
- Become a spiritual support to a DREAAM family upon request

DREAAM Summer Pre-K Academy Schedule July 13 – August 7

8:00am – 8:30am Breakfast

8:30am – 11:30am Academic Instruction
(Reading, Math, Social Skills)

11:30am – 12:00pm Lunch

12:00pm – 1:00pm Read aloud and Recess

1:00pm – 3:00pm Social Skills, Recreation, Music

3:00pm – 3:30pm Snack Time

Please check out the DREAAM article in the church newsletter. Have a happy 4th!



DREAAM Summer Pre-K Academy

Funded by Forward 150 mission tithes, the DREAAM Project's Summer Pre-K Academy is a pilot partnership to reach, teach, and support Black boys starting kindergarten in August.

We have enrolled 15 boys and their families! Please pray for the success of this project.

Program Highlights

- FREE program and meals
- Focus on reading, math, and social skills
- Fun activities and field trips
- Trained, experienced staff

July 13th – August 7th

8:30am – 3:30pm

**Location: Garden Hills
Elementary School**

**Thanks FPCC for your generosity
and support!**

**See church newsletter for more
details!**

DREAAM Project

*Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic
Achievement for Males*

Another Successful Mission!

In May, twenty-two Mission Possible participants traveled to Pinecrest Camp and Conference Center in Moscow, TN. Many jobs were completed including:

1. Painting two bathhouse interiors and installing doors on the toilets.
2. Painting the exterior of two cabins.
3. Making, painting and installing signs.
4. Extensive work in the gym including: Replacing all interior lights with more efficient ones, two double doors (handmade), and wooden door bars that keep doors closed. Painting all exterior doors. Repairing pipes, electrical outlets, and heaters.
5. Replacing ballasts with more efficient ones and T8 bulbs in the dining hall.
6. Gardening in front of dining hall.
7. Caulking and painting a ceiling.
8. Bill Gamble repaired rocking chairs with new “rockers.”



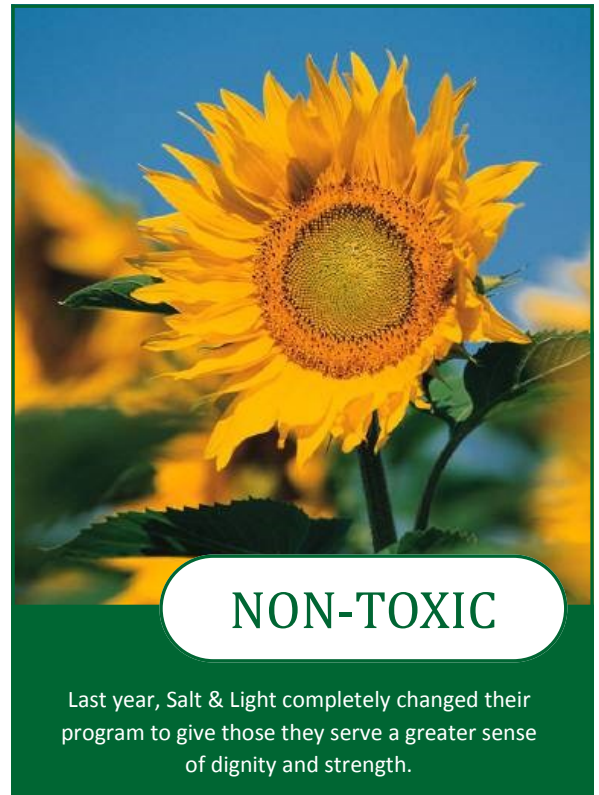
Devotions were held four of the five days from the book “Tattoos on the Heart” by Gregory Boyle AND participants somehow had time with all of the work they did to also arrange a tour of Memphis! They enjoyed stops at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Peabody Hotel (to see the ducks), Lorraine Motel (where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated), and dinner at Central BBQ.

2015 Participants were: Jim and Leland Andrews, Dave and Mary Lou Bauer, John Braden, Harry and Charlene Bremer, Richard Fiese, Barbary Fuller-Curry, Bill Gamble, Darrell Hatfield, Paul (Chi Ming) Huang, Morris Huck, “Itch” and Sue Jones, David McNattin, Gene Morgan, Jean Smith, Dale and Ginny Tutje, Ray Thomas and Wally Wynn. Participants included seasoned Mission Possible participants, new Mission Possible participants, and Safe House participants.

Salt & Light

2015 Back-to-School Week

Salt & Light needs our help again this summer with school supplies as students prepare to head back to school in the fall. This year, in keeping with the ideas in the book *Toxic Charity*, students and their parents will be able to buy their supplies at Two Trees Thrift Store at Salt & Light at a greatly discounted cost rather than just being given a filled backpack. Parents will be able to pay for supplies out of their own pocket as well as earning credit by volunteering at any non-profit organization in town. They can purchase the supplies their child needs and fit them to their student's likes. Two Trees is open to any family that needs help getting supplies to go back to school. Any proceeds from this year's Back to School Week will go towards supplies for next year's event.



Salt & Light needs our help to get all the usual supplies for a child headed back to school:

Want to buy a thousand pencils? No problem.

Rather fill a backpack for a fifth grader? Can do.

Can't go shopping but want to donate money and let Salt & Light fill in any gaps in supplies? That works too.

The community mission deacons have chosen Stratton as the school our church will support specifically. That simply means that supply lists for all grades at Stratton will be available in Westminster Hall beginning July 12. But again, this year it's all flexible, and you can buy for another school or buy all pencils if you like.

**Supplies should be dropped off in the box marked
SCHOOL SUPPLIES in Westminster Hall at the church by
July 27 (preferably), but as late as July 31.**

Restoration Urban Ministries Work Week

July 6 through 11, 2015

Workers will update the housing facilities provided at the ministry for those overcoming homelessness.

RUM workers plan on painting, replacing carpet, replacing tile, repairing walls,
and installing ceiling lights.

How Can You Help?

Provide hands to do the work

(both skilled and unskilled are welcome).

Provide materials to complete all these tasks.

Provide donations to cover the costs involved.

Provide prayer for it to be successful.

Have questions? Want to volunteer to help? Want to help buy materials needed?

Call Linda Cramer at 217-355-2662 or 217-841-4915

Email: info@restorationurbanministries.net



The 2015 Raindrop Project raised \$5,700 for a building to replace this one
which houses food storage for Jesus is the Way Prison ministry.

Thank you!

Potluck in Honor of Dr. James A. Tebbe,
President Forman Christian College in
Pakistan

“By Love, Serve One Another”

A potluck lunch will be held Sunday, July 12, at 11:45 in Centennial Hall. Dr. James A. Tebbe, President of Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan will be our guest.

Forman Christian College is where David Eades, Mary Gritten and Sallie Hutton stayed during their recent visit to Lahore. “By Love, Serve One Another” is their motto, and we were able to experience this action first-hand. Come hear more about our relationships to those in a country with a different culture. What do they really think of us?

Main dish and drinks provided by
Pakistan ChristCare Small Group

Transportation: Needed

We continue to welcome new people who want to worship with us but do not have private transportation. Bus service is limited on Sunday mornings. Are there times when you would like to drive someone to worship? Contact Bob Kirby to volunteer.

Wanted: Work

Need help for an hour or more for one time or more? Please consider hiring one of our teenagers or young adults who want to supplement their family income. Cleaning, yard work, babysitting...all can be done by these young people. Contact Bob Kirby.

Missions Official Business

Important items of note from committee meetings

- 1) Community Mission Deacons will not meet in July or August
- 2) Environmental Stewardship will now meet six times per year rather than twelve. The months are now July, September, November, January, March and May.
- 3) A committee to manage Courageous Conversations (CC) has been formed. Current members are Emily Beach (outreach), Ruth Craddock (adult education), Tracy Dace (Compassion, Peace and Justice), Claudia Kirby (Mission Team) and Sarah Laufenberg (Outreach).

Big Tent is Here!

Big Tent is coming July 30-August 1! This year's event will be on the University of Tennessee (at Knoxville) Campus. If space is still available, the fees are now \$450 per person. Fees include accommodations, seven meals, campus parking and programming. Fees for children and youth are up to \$150 each. There are even pre-conference events! Notable topics covered include: intercultural ministry, ministries for poverty, training ruling elders, congregations that thrive, inclusion of people with disabilities in a congregation, and calling a pastor.

Go to pcusa.org/bigtent for more information and a full downloadable brochure of events.

Relocation Ministry

By: Bob Kirby

Our Relocation Ministry is focused on new immigrants moving to their first American home (who are affiliated with First Presbyterian Church or referred by the Refugee Center). Our goal is to give the families a place to sleep and the basics to prepare and eat a meal in their new home. Currently our storage unit is depleted. But, the need has not diminished. If you can help by giving things you no longer need or talking to family and friends who may be reducing clutter, then there are a number of young families who will be very grateful. Please continue to pray for our neighbors beginning new lives in a very strange place.

Please take products to mission closet across from the chapel or call Bob to arrange pick up at your home. All gifts donated can trigger a letter from ECIRMAC that then can be used to claim them for purposes of taxable income reduction.

Bedroom:

Mattresses twin, full or queen.

Bed linens twin, full or queen. No kings please.

Pillows and mattress covers

Dressers or small bookcases and shelves for closet storage

Laundry baskets

Bath:

Towels

Shower curtains

Soap dish

Kitchen:

Dining table and chairs

(Units are small so think apartment size)

Eating utensils, plates, cups, water glasses

Table covers (many of our donated table tops are damaged)

Cookware and common cooking and serving utensils

Rice cookers

Kitchen towels

Microwave (no large appliances)

Other:

Table lamps

End or coffee tables

Sofas

LR chairs (think apartment size)

Basic tools such as hammer, screw drivers, wrenches, hooks, adhesive wall hangers

Basic cleaning items electric vacuum, broom, dust pan, water bucket.

Avoid:

Please avoid gourmet cooking things, electric appliances (except rice cookers) or other fancy stuff. Please no clothing or accessories.

Hate shopping like me? You can write a check to First Presbyterian Church with memo: New Americans-relocation

Schnucks

The Difference in
Community

Together, you and Schnucks make the difference!

There is no cost to you, and you still earn your fuel points if you use the fuel card! Proceeds go to feed hungry C-U individuals and families in need.

Easy!

Pick up a card and support our group

Select First Presbyterian Church of Champaign

- Visit Schnucks and request a Community Card.
- Register your card at www.escrip.com/schnucks.
- Present your card to the cashier when you shop at Schnucks.

*The more you shop,
the more we earn!*



for every dollar you spend, Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your purchase amount

To register your fuel card or community card go online or call

www.escrip.com/schnucks
1-800-931-6258

eScrip

Have you heard about Amazon Smile?

By: Kristi Corbin

Amazon Smile is an easy and free way to support missions!

How does AmazonSmile work?

“When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer’s selected charitable organization.” (source: smile.amazon.com website)

Start at <http://www.firstchurchchampaign.org/amazon>. Select *First Presbyterian Church of Champaign* as your charitable organization. After you do this, all eligible purchases you make will then be totaled by Amazon, and 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated by Amazon to the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign account. *Make sure that you start future purchases either by clicking again from our church webpage or going directly to smile.amazon.com.* Doing so will ensure that each eligible purchase you make on Amazon will count toward the fundraising for Mission work.

How is this money used?

Just like Schnucks, we use this money to benefit food deliveries. As many of you know, with the help of Empty Tomb who facilitates this program, volunteers from our church deliver food to area individuals and families in need. We don’t have a line item in the budget which fully funds this program. The Schnucks and Amazon Smile programs help cover the costs.

What if you don’t shop at Amazon Smile or Schnucks and you still want to support food deliveries?

As with any ministry of our church, if you want to support what is being done, you are encouraged to pray for it. If you have funds above your normal support of the church that you wish to be donated to this ministry work, you can make a check out to the church. Be sure to note in the memo line that it is to be allocated to Food Delivery.

Why haven’t you heard more about Amazon Smile?

Amazon has strict rules about how we can share information about Amazon Smile. We are, at this time, only able to promote it through electronic means. So, you can see information about it on Facebook and on the church website, but I can’t print this page or do a Minute for Mission about it.

Thank you for your prayerful support of Missions!