

## Time to Pray

Please pray with us for the programs, staff and children we serve.

**March 12-18** Children of Promise board and office staff.

**March 19-25** Cambodia homes and plans for trip.

**March 26-31** Homes and free school in Haiti.

**April 1-8** Homes of Joy in Costa Rica and missionaries, Tim and Dena Stromstad and Barb Kofski.

**April 9-15** Homes in Guatemala, and the Easter teams.

**April 16-22** ABANSA homes and free school in Venezuela and Missionary Barb Decker.

**April 25-30** Homes in Nicaragua and Mexico. Missionaries Tyler and Connie Youngkin. Plans for teams.

**May 1-6** Peru homes and Colombia family assistance programs.

**May 7-13** Homes in Moldova, Ukraine and Romania

**May 14-20** Hong Kong Missionaries Roger Lai and Doris Kramer.

**May 21-27** Homes and free schools in Tamil Nadu, India

**May 28- June 3** Homes, free schools, and Bible school in Andhra Pradesh, India.

**June 4-10** Homes and programs in D. R. Congo, Kenya, and Rwanda.

## Raising A Village Destroyed By Tsunami

A remote jungle village, a six hour bone jarring ride from Nias, Indonesia, destroyed by the Tsunami in December of 2004, now has hope—thanks to *Children of Promise* partners, *Relevant Expeditions*.

Following the Tsunami, funds filtering in to *Children of Promise* were used for immediate relief in India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Since then we have teamed up with Jim and Pat Harris of *Relevant Expeditions*, called by God to Asia, to provide Tsunami funding to raise a village.

The first mission was a farming work trip. With only machetes, dull axes, shovels—all local-made products, which broke easily and took much

more work than using great tools from America—the team was diligent, never complaining, and worked hard every day during which it poured down rain most of the time. The rain made it muddy, but it was also cooler than the typical 100 degrees that it should have been with 100% humidity. All trees and brush had to be uprooted and then stacked and burned as the land was cleared. An estimated 1 and 1/2 acres was cleared. The native people are now trained to do this process so



*Tsunami team preparing to clear land with crude equipment.*

they can continue to clear many acres for farming. The team built a bridge of communication with the local people. Jim Harris says, “I feel very comfortable about taking many teams to this area in the future. I hope to do many projects such as painting the existing buildings, building more homes, helping



*Burning of trees and brush with farming, pouring concrete, getting a clean water supply, and other projects. The village was given a hand tractor, water pump, many hand tools, food, and gifts for children.”*

# Promise UPDATE

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Volume 6 Issue 3

### Board of Directors

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## “Oh, your God has big power!”

Mop was one of the first orphans in a Cambodia *Foursquare Children of Promise* home. He is now senior pastor of a 100 member church in a strong Muslim area, and has started four more churches.

He received a call from a remote church group that a member’s daughter died and they needed a funeral. When he arrived, the girl was still breathing. The girl had advanced Leukemia and had been taken to the best children’s hospital three times. They were given no hope. They knew she could not live long, it would take a long time for the pastor to reach them (bodies do not store well in Cambodia) and she wanted a Christian funeral.

Pastor Mop told the mother, “I have a great doctor and all He costs you is your faith!” “Where can I find this doctor?” asked the woman. “You know Him. He is Jesus,” explained Pastor Mop.

After they prayed for some time, there was no change, so Mop took her to the district hospital. The doctor knew the girl and said “There is nothing we can do for this girl! There is no way to treat the white blood. All we can do is continual transfusions and we have only one unit of blood...Let her die,” pleaded the doctor. “No, I can’t do that!” said Pastor Mop. “I will buy the blood.” Mop gave him more than half his monthly salary, and they no sooner began the transfusion than the girl died. “Now you see!” scolded the doctor. “You’ve lost your money and the girl is dead!” Mop insisted that the doctor allow them to pray. The doctor was disgusted with these Christians, but he agreed to allow them to pray if they would be quick about it and then remove the body.

After several minutes of prayer the girl opened her eyes, looked at her mother and said “Mama, I’m hungry.” “Oh, your God has big power!” exclaimed the very impressed doctor. She walked out of the doctor’s office and is in perfect health today.

(Story told by Ted Olbrich, Director of the Foursquare Children of Promise program)

## ORPHANS OF MALAWI

It takes commitment and sacrifice by Blantyre, Malawi’s Harvest Rock Church members to help care for orphans from a densely populated village a few kilometers away. The orphan outreach program is run by *Harvest International Ministries* and has

grown from 15 to 29 orphans, and increases as the Lord continues to provide the resources. These orphans are taken in by families and individuals, providing them with shelter and love. The members of the church gave as they could, but with the serious hunger crisis in Malawi, sourcing food became a very big challenge to them. *Children of Promise* has teamed up with *Harvest International Ministries* and is operating a sponsorship program to help take care of the needs.

Leonard Kananji, Project Overseer, writes, “These funds started coming at the time we desperately needed them for buying food supplies to save the dying children during the hunger crisis.”



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## Increase at Home of Life!

The Costa Rica government has granted permission for Home of Life in Atenas, Costa Rica, to receive 20 more children. They will now be able to care for 45 children. Tim Stromstad reports that he is building up staff and preparing to open a third home.

## Jeff Grisamore Launches ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS AND WIDOWS

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that *Children of Promise International* has commissioned our president, Jeff Grisamore, to launch a new initiative, hereby known as, the *Alliance for Orphans and Widows*. As President of *Children of Promise* since 2000, Jeff's legacy has been a consistent passion for the care of orphans and widows, a quality that will serve him well in this new endeavor. Jeff will assume his new duties as founder and president of *Alliance for Orphans and Widows* in April 2006.

The vision of the *Alliance for Orphans and Widows* is to help catalyze and enable more organizations to actively engage in orphan and widow care. Because of his commitment to this vision, Jeff will seek funding and programming opportunities not only for *Children of Promise*, but also for other organizations who share God's heart to care for orphans and widows. *Children of Promise* and *Alliance for Orphans and Widows* will seek continued partnership to care for orphans and widows, the poor, and those who have never heard the Gospel.



Dr. Lynn Wiens will be the interim President of *Children of Promise International* until a more permanent position can be arranged. Dr. Wiens, along with his wife, Dr. Ann Wiens, have been members of our Board of Directors since 2002. Dr. Wiens is a physician in Hutchinson,

Kansas where he resides with his wife and five children, Peter, Josiah, Abigail, Evangelina, and Amber Joy.

We are thankful to God for Jeff's six years of faithful service to *Children of Promise International*. Please join us in praying for Jeff, his wife Mary, and their children in this new venture.

Thank you for your continuing commitment and generosity to the mission of *Children of Promise*, as we care for orphans, widows, and the poor worldwide, in order to reach the unreached with the Gospel. Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated.

## WIDOW HOME FOR 50 DESTITUTE WIDOWS

For some time Geraldine Theurer, a former *Children of Promise* staff member from the early years of the ministry, had a desire to build a home for widows in India. On January 27, 2006, she and Jan McDaniel went to India and broke ground for the home.

Geraldine remained in India for one month to oversee the construction and to also speak a fresh message from the Word to the Bible

School students at the Emmanuel Ashram ministry complex, where the home is being built to house 50 destitute widows and a sewing training center. The widows who will live in the home come from surrounding villages and are currently staying in local prayer huts.



Geraldine (left) and Jan laying the first stone of the foundation for the new widow home.



Widow home being constructed at Emmanuel Ashram, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, India.

All religions, except Christianity, believe widows are a curse and they are therefore not allowed in public meetings, at marriages, or social gatherings. At Emmanuel Ashram these widows are given love, food, clothing, and shelter in a Christian environment.

There are three widow programs in India. Many of the widows are trained in sewing, and some become Bible women and go from house to house and village to village sharing the gospel and sharing their personal testimonies.

## MISSION MOMENT

People usually think of taking vacations that result in a rest to the body, but the Russellville Methodist Church short-term missions team from Russellville, Arkansas, decided to take their vacations working their bodies hard, while refreshing their spirits. How did they do this? By deciding to follow the Lord's instruction to serve others.

This Promise Team, after spending some time with *Under the Shadow of His Wings* girls in Guatemala, worked on the construction of the first duplex built at the new property in Monjas. They poured cement for the second floor, then worked on putting up walls.

"The work was hard and long, especially for those whose state-side jobs are behind a desk! Yet, in the midst of it all, the team literally glowed," says director, Joanne Simpson.

Their service overflowed into the community when team members took food to the neighboring girl and her family and one team member provided funds to improve the tin home of a local worker.

After working side by side with the locals, ministering in the homes, and spending time with the girls from the home, this team went back to the states as changed people. In fact, one member wrote: "I want you to know what a blessing the week I was able to be a part of your mission has been to my life. I have been a part of missions in the past that has had an effect on me, but the week with your team has had a greater impact. I know of several decisions I have made since my return in regard to family, church, business and personal that were factored by my experience in Guatemala."

Joanne says, "Isn't that what it is all about? We are to put ourselves in positions where the distractions of this life are set aside and we can more fully allow the Lord to speak to our hearts and change us. Short-term mission teams go to serve and be a blessing, but very quickly realize that in the midst of the process, they are the ones blessed. May more and more servants say "Yes!" to the Lord when He calls them to go."



Russellville Methodist Church team.



Team member loving on two of the girls at the home.

## CAMBODIA ORPHANS — GREAT COMMISSION TRIP

*Children of Promise* is teaming up with Warm Blankets Orphan Care on a mission trip from April 20 to 28, 2006, to celebrate and assist Cambodian pastors in baptizing a thousand Cambodian orphans. The itinerary includes:

- Fellowship with children, caregivers and staff from about 20 orphan homes who are invited for a retreat in Phnom Penh, climaxing in a day trip to the South China Sea for baptisms.
- See church orphan homes in operation.
- Visit historical sites and sightseeing spots.

We invite you to join us on this mission trip. Priority will be given to individuals who sponsor in Cambodia. This will give sponsors a chance to see the "fruit" of their efforts in Christ. It is estimated that the cost will be between \$2,200 and \$2,500 per person. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Judy at [judy.lieser@promise.org](mailto:judy.lieser@promise.org). If you are not a sponsor and have interest in this trip, you will be considered as room allows.

Taking 1,000 orphans and caregivers to the beach for a four-day retreat, centered on the special time of baptism requires \$16 per child/person. These children, who live so remotely and in such under resourced conditions, may have never seen beyond their villages nor traveled by car or bus. Yet, they will be together as one as we fulfill the Great Commission and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. If you cannot go, you can be a vital part of the event by giving a financial gift to help enable the children, who want to be baptized, to participate.

## The Joy of It All

Many of the girls at Rose of Sharon home never saw a dam, water falls or seashore until January 22, 2006, when home directors, Victor and Kiruba, took them on a tour.

They bathed in the falls, went into the sea in a steam boat to see the Vivekananda rock and saw the Statue of Thiruvalluvar (a historic poet). Their joy knew no bounds and the trip was a blessing to all of them. The directors express that their sponsors all have a definite participation in the happiness of the children.

