

Global Mission Ministry

In 2008, the Global Mission Ministry continued the approach established in 2004 of giving with a consideration to personal ties and contacts between the recipients and Saint Mark, be it individual congregants, the church staff, or extended networks of friends and families. We continue to work to strengthen mission partnerships with some of the recipient groups to include direct sharing of work and spiritual growth experiences.

Through the generosity of Saint Mark members and friends, the Global Mission Ministry was able to help support the following in 2008:

- Ngoro Parrish, Cameroon
- Tchekos Dispensary, Cameroon
- Wycliffe Bible Translators, support-staff persons David and Leah Preston, Mozambique
- Hearts with Haiti/St. Joseph Family Ministry Orphanage
- Hearts with Haiti/St. Joseph Family Ministry Child Sponsorship
- PCUSA Comprehensive Development Project (CODEP)-- Haiti Reforestation
- Bread for the World, Covenant membership
- Disaster Relief to China (earthquake), Haiti (hurricane) and Burma (cyclone)
- Hunger Relief to Afghanistan
- Living Waters for the World
- Eric and Becky Hinderliter, PC(USA) Mission Coworkers, Lithuania
- Lithuanian Christian College, scholarship fund
- Seed money for Tchekos, Cameroon Well Project (see below)

Highlights from 2008

A Water Well for Tchekos, Cameroon: We will be working to help fund and find a way to have a well for clean drinking water constructed in Tchekos, Cameroon. There is currently no well for water in Tchekos. The people have to walk two (2) miles to get water and carry it back in various containers on their heads. Tchekos (pronounced "check os") is a village of about 2,000 people in the Center province of Cameroon, about 80 miles from the capital, Yaoundé. It is one of many small, rural villages in Cameroon and the home village of Battokok Bityeki. Battokok and his wife, Julienne, have been members of Saint Mark since 1986. We hope to bring clean drinking water to this village.

Saint Mark's relationship with Tchekos dates back to 1990. We have been supporting the Tchekos Dispensary, a health care facility operated by the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, (known by its French initials: EPC (Eglise Prebyterienne Camerounaise). Pastor Roy and others visited Tchekos in 2001.

Equal Exchange Fair Trade Products: We continued to sell Equal Exchange fairly traded products to Saint Markers and their friends. The sale of these products helps farmers in some of the poorest areas in the world earn a living wage, learn environmentally sustainable techniques, and develop community cooperatives that build local schools and clinics. In addition, the Presbyterian Small Farms project benefits from each order we submit.

Bread for the World: Saint Mark continued its giving as a Covenant Church with the Bread for the World (BFW) organization. Saint Mark pledges an annual donation to BFW to be used in the fight to end global hunger. Under the leadership of Saint Marker Sandy Champion, who is the Hunger Action Enabler for the NCP, Saint Mark again participated in the "Offering of Letters".

Mission Visit with St Joseph's Family Representative: We had the honor of spending an evening with the Director of St Joseph's Home for Boys, an orphanage in Haiti, to hear about this ministry

in Haiti, one of the most impoverished countries in the world. It was an opportunity to feel and witness first-hand the strength that comes from being part of a global community in faith.

The Global Mission Ministry

Our core committee members are Heather Banks, Julianne and Battokok Bityeki, Dan Blum, Felicia and Alfred Detchou, Pam Gunn, Carol Henig, Lyn Hill, Ray Hodges, and Ellen Kiel. Many other members of Saint Mark provide invaluable support on a project-by-project basis, among them June Colilla, Rob Temps and Kofi Edoh.

Thank you to all Saint Mark members and friends who give time, talent and monetary support to the programs of the Global Mission Ministry. We welcome anyone who might feel called to participate in the life of Saint Mark by being involved in Global Mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Irons, Elder, Global Mission Ministry