



## Summer 2008

- Isaiah 45:22-23
- Where would you like to see FPC go on global mission trips in 2009?
- AMO Ministries
- Chad and Becky White with Wycliffe Bible Translators and The Harpers in Croatia
- Mission Trip Reports: Dominican Republic & Guatemala Partnership

### WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear." *Isaiah 45:22-23*

### EXPERIENCING THE WORLD

#### Where Would You Like To Go In 2009?

With FPC short-term mission trips wrapping up for 2008, we are already thinking about where to plan trips for 2009. So far, we are considering the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Uganda, Israel/Palestine and Russia. Which of these places are you interested in going to? Is there somewhere else not listed here you would like to go? Do you know of mission organizations abroad that would be interested in receiving a team from FPC? Please send any thoughts or suggestions to [Alyssa Payne](#), or call her at 226.0215.

### WHAT'S NEW FROM FPC PARTNERS

#### [AMO Ministries - Report by Vija McDill](#)

When I stepped off the plane in Santo Domingo, I anticipated many things about my time in the Dominican Republic, but not what happened! This trip transformed my life in the most unexpected way. I had never before experienced such power of the Holy Spirit, which was visibly at work in a group of people and in me, as I did that week. I finished the AMO training energized, inspired, and called to commit myself to learning and then teaching this program. The doors that Christ had previously shown me on my trip to Croatia, now had one that clearly said "Enter." The other participants coalesced into a cohesive, expressive, and effective group that demonstrated love for one another and a desire to establish AMO in their geographic settings. I am convinced that this program offers a powerful, effective, and Biblical answer to many of the world's problems, and I am not just referring to the developing world! AMO has the potential to transform education in the United States, as well, by offering a system for developing a genuine and eternal identity, an uplifting vocabulary, and an ability for critical thinking and analysis. In addition, AMO, which means "love" in Spanish, is truly an instrument for sharing God's unconditional love with those who need it most - the millions of children around the world who are at risk!

# GOD'S SERVANT(S) IN FOCUS

## Chad and Becky White

Chad and Becky work with the Wycliffe Bible Translators internationally, translating the Bible into new languages all over the world. Additionally, Chad has been working toward his doctorate in linguistics. Recently, Chad experienced a long ordeal in trying to get the final approval for his thesis, with a number of difficult scheduling problems and obstacles in getting his thesis approved. We were excited to recently hear that Chad passed his thesis defense with flying colors and will now be even better equipped to make God's Word available to those who might not otherwise be able to read it in their own languages.



## The Harpers – Croatia – By Vija McDill

Before making a mission trip to Croatia, I certainly had no particular interest in nor desire to visit this Balkan country, and it definitely was not on my radar screen as a possible mission destination. But God has different plans and they usually catch us unaware. The Harper family (George, Anne, Meg, and Ruth) are serving in Osijek, in Eastern Croatia at the Evangelical Theological Seminary (ETS). Their main goal is to prepare those called to ministry and leadership in the growing churches of post-Communist Eastern Europe. The English language is an absolute necessity as classes are taught in English and most research materials are in English. Many of the students are fluent in several languages but are not able to function at the required level of English mastery.



When the Harpers requested help with teaching English as a Second Language, every one on the Global Missions Committee received the e-mail. God got my attention by making me aware of the similarities between myself and these students. Only 50 years separated us, when I arrived in the United States, from Europe, speaking several languages, but not English. So very much depended on my becoming fluent in English in the shortest time possible. If these seminarians did not receive intensive English instruction and especially the opportunity to practice English conversation in a natural conversation setting, they would not be able to adequately follow and participate in the class work.

The feeling of God's prompting persisted and grew to the point of my making contact and getting information about what this trip and service would entail. The amazing thing was that I had no uncertainty, no anxiety, and no reservations about going where I had never been- and even going on my own! That is another aspect of God's doing. I just knew that because it was His mission, it would work out the way He wanted it to, and I would learn what He wanted me to learn.

There were numerous highlights of the trip: Having dinner with Anne, George, and Ruth was wonderful! Many of the professors also were easy to meet and visit with and their backgrounds and experiences could fill many best sellers! A week-end trip through Serbia and into Romania had us sleeping in a 5,000 member church and participating in their 3 hour worship service! Their choir and orchestra consisted of several *hundred* members! The intensive English class that I helped teach was held for 2 weeks just before the start of regular seminary classes. The dorms and dining room were available as a place to get to know each student, which was a privilege and a blessing. What they received and learned from me does not begin to compare with the blessings God showered on me through them and the many other people who are there.

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP 2008

## 2008 Team Participants:

**Vija McDill, Brock Hewitt, Rachel Spencer, Brice Carter, Jim Thompson, Mary Margaret Tobin, Matt McCaleb, Courtney Biggs, Phyllis Griffin, Chelsea Kujawa, Grace Cox, Chelsea Garcia, Ben Quirk and Emily Lane**



*Quote from Brock Hewitt:*

The most amazing part of the whole trip was seeing the generosity of the Dominican Republic people. From Jose (our Food for the Hungry Liason) to Manuel (FFH volunteer) and especially the village people. The locals were so giving with whatever they had. I remember one lady offered us some of her corn crop because that was all she had to give; she was willing to give some of her food (of which she had little) as a token of thanks for us visiting and talking with her. It had a huge and lasting impact on me to see true generosity at work.

## GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP MISSION TRIP July 2008



### With Jeff and Amanda Hochenedel

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;  
And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.  
Genesis 12: 2-3

How would you like to hand a pair of glasses to someone who can no longer sew or read their bible and see the smile that appears when things are suddenly clear? Or to laugh and work hard side by side with people that start as strangers but become friends after only a week, even though you speak a different language? Or to see the joy you bring to children with mere balloon animals that fills the air so quickly that after starting with 2 or 3 children, you have 50 or 60 gather round within minutes?

These are some of the experiences we had in the jungle village of Los Angeles, Guatemala. It was our first time on a mission trip but we traveled with several brothers and sisters in Christ who had been to Guatemala many times as part of the Guatemala Partnership Team representing Mission Presbytery. We will always count them as friends having shared so many unique experiences.

How humbling it is to be blessed and thanked at least once a day by the people of the Eben-ezer Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles and told that you would always be a part of their history, especially when we are the ones who truly felt the love of Christ being expressed by their gracious nature. Would you share your food with strangers when you have barely enough to feed your own children? This is one of the many lessons of God's love they taught to us. And we thought that we went to help them!

Jeff & Amanda Hochenedel

For more information or to find out how you can help with missions, contact...

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