

# GlobalConnections

at PARK CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December, 2011



## Events

### Feeding the Hungry

Thank you Park Chapel for your hearts of compassion and your willing hands to help. Our Food Bagging/Africa relief project in November was successful because you cared.

### Introducing...

In February the church will introduce two of our newest mission support areas in Iran and India. These new ministry areas are exciting, challenging and engaging. AND, we want you to know all about them. The founders of these missions will join us on Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12. ***This is a really big deal... please Save the Date!***

### Missions Overview Class

On Sunday, January 22, 2012, Missions Team Leader Dave Combs will lead a class highlighting where the church is as it strives to fulfill God's Great Commission. Learn what is happening in the world and what still needs to be done.

### Fresh Touch Prayer

Join us in Reach, Connect, Grow, Serve, and Honor prayers for our church, our community, and our world as David Woods leads us. First Tuesday of each month.

*A recent e-mail from Bobby Bechtel, one of our ministry partners in Mombasa, Kenya, expressed some thoughts about the Gospel in Africa.*

## Dear Prayer Partners,

I thought that you would find this article by David Taylor interesting as it clearly explores thoughts about Africa and the importance of indigenous church planting and developing projects that will outlast the missionary. I want the things we do to help the people of Kenya for the long-haul not be a quick fix. This is why we are taking the time to do our church planting (5 churches in nine years) and schools (2 kindergartens, 2 primary schools, 1 high school in 9 years) plus a sugar cane farm, dairy farm and in 2012 a "farm" farm for growing produce. All of these things benefit the children of Kenya and will go on even if Lisa and I have to leave. Africa needs God and He is using Kenyans to reach their people and hopefully to make changes in the lives of other African nations.

—God bless, Bobby and Lisa Bechtel

*[An excerpt from the full article Bobby shared]*

## Finding God in Africa

According to the Hollywood film *Blood Diamond*, God apparently left Africa a long time ago. Another recent film on Africa, *Tears of the Sun*, had its lead make a similar remark. But unlike Hollywood's depiction of the hopelessness of Africa, the truth is quite the opposite: God is alive and well, and moving everywhere on the continent. Africans are beginning to come together in a spirit of unity that may soon become a model for the whole world, and the Church is leading the way.

If 20th century missionaries did one thing right in Africa, they planted churches—a lot of them. Africa has over 175 million evangelicals and 1.5 million churches. Whatever may be its deficiencies, Africa's churches are thriving and poised for action. Most importantly, they are actually beginning to work together, side by side. Today, Africa is the one region on earth where you can find Christians from differing churches working harmoniously together in multiple networks and projects. Perhaps it takes a real crisis to bring about real unity.

One of the most successful church-led initiatives in Africa today is the Rwandan Peace Plan—the very place where Christianity seemed to fall flat on its face just over a decade ago. Though initiated from the outside, it has become owned by the Rwandan Church. When an American consultant came to investigate the progress of the Peace Plan, he



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"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white, ready to harvest."

— John 4:35

## Pray for our missionaries

### BURKINA FASO

Felix and Nema Kohol  
Brian and Tabitha Hauser  
Andrew and Pulcherie Gordon

### KENYA

Crossroads Fellowship  
Bobby and Lisa Bechtel  
Teri Crane

### SOUTHEAST ASIA

Advancing Native Missions

### THAILAND

Rick and Kathy Walden

### CHINA/NORTH KOREA

CY and Patricia Kim

### INDIA

Empart

### IRAN

Elam

### UKRAINE

David and Annette Dryden

### HAITI, HONDURAS,

EL SALVADOR, CUBA

Lifeline Christian Mission

### CLOSED COUNTRIES

Because of the sensitive nature in the work and location of some of our missionaries and national contacts, we cannot provide names and places for all of our mission work.

### CHURCH PLANTING

Legacy Christian Church,

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

NorthPointe Christian

Church, Rhode Island

SouthPointe Christian

Church, Rhode Island

Rafael and Rut Tirado,

Hispanic, northwestern IN

### CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Johnson University

Campus House—BSU

Campus House—Purdue U

Campus House—Indiana U

Paul Bertsch—ISU, R. Hulman

Caroline Wade—IUPUI

Luke and Erin Turner, CRU

Matt and Debbie Bazemore,

CRU Academic Initiative

Lowell Kosak, Impact, South

Bend campuses

### CLOSE CULTURAL MISSIONS

Alexander Christian

Foundation

Christian Missionary

Fellowship International

Care Center, Indianapolis

Wheeler Mission,

Indianapolis

ARM Prison Ministry

Royal Family Kids Camp

Brian Gioe CrossRoads

Missions

## Special Project Completed

If you joined the short-term team that traveled to Kenya this past June at their September 25 presentation, then you saw the photographs of the Tumaini church community near Tanzania and the nearby green pond. This crocodile infested, lily pad covered, unclean pond was the only water source for an entire community. Due to the severe drought even that was drying up. The community was expecting to lose their water source in 2011. We are pleased to let you know that through compassionate hearts both here at Park Chapel and in other churches, funding became available so that a clean water well was dug for this community, church and school that was in such desperate need.

*Top photo: Joe Smith and Dave Combs view the pond in June 2011;  
Bottom photo: The new well was dedicated November 23, 2011.*



*AFRICA continued from page 1*

asked the committee of African leaders running it, “What makes this work?” They replied, “Because it’s ours.” Nothing happens in the Peace Plan without the leadership of the indigenous church. When a UN-affiliated delegation learned of the success of the Peace Plan volunteer program, they approached the leaders and asked if they would be willing to reproduce it throughout southern Africa. They had just one condition: leave out the Christian orientation. The Peace Plan declined. “It is the volunteer’s commitment to Jesus that makes this possible!” explained the Rwandan leaders.

Another significant move of God on the continent is MANI (the Movement for African National Initiatives). The goal of MANI is to mobilize and equip the African church for completing the Great Commission in this generation. And they aren’t just thinking about Africa. Some are actually thinking about how to bring the gospel back to Europe. Indeed, the largest Pentecostal church in Europe is now led by a Nigerian, and the congregants are not Africans! They are Ukrainians, many of whom were former drug addicts and criminals. Not only is Europe in the sights of African Christians, but in the sovereignty of God, doors are opening to reach into Asia as well. For various reasons, India has taken an interest in improving the educational system of Africa. The result has been that African Christian students can now be found studying in many universities in India. As you might expect, they aren’t keeping their faith to themselves! They are actually leading Hindu students to Christ

through demonstrating the power of Jesus to heal the sick. Fellow students have remarked, “The African God is very powerful!”

Last September, leaders gathered from all over Africa to talk about how to finish the task of reaching the remaining unreached peoples on their continent. The country of Kenya has led the way by becoming the first country to engage all its unreached peoples with national missionary teams. It is very likely that based on the momentum we are seeing in Africa, all of the unreached peoples on the continent will be fully engaged and reached in the next decade. In spite of all they have been through—in spite of wars, plagues, famines, and natural disasters—the gospel of the Kingdom is being preached to every ethnic group and the finish line is well within view. For the first time in history, this generation of Africans will actually be able to say, “every nation, tribe, people and language” on our continent has been reached. Does this sound familiar? Like something straight out of the Bible! Jesus said it was going to be like this, and if Africa has given the world one thing to remember, it is this—whatever you are going through, as dire as it may seem, God’s purposes will stand. He will accomplish His work, because it’s His work. He will build His Church, and His Church will prevail.

References and the entirety of this article can be found online at <http://www.missionfrontiers.org>  
For more information, see <http://www.gmdata.info/africa>  
and [www.joshuaproject.net/africa](http://www.joshuaproject.net/africa).