



# McKendree Missions 2011

## Mid-Year Update

*Youth on Fire for Missions!*

*...in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Missions is an active part of McKendree's WTL youth program. Over 40 youth have participated in one or more of FOUR short-term mission trips coordinated this year. Many youth also participate regularly in monthly Angel Food distributions, work at the co-op, volunteer for Great Day of Service and are continuously involved in various local mission activities year-round.



**Spring break** – Students had both local and international mission opportunities to serve this year:

- The Dominican Republic team of 18 youth and 5 adults worked with UMVIM missionaries to paint two churches and help with construction of a new church.
- Locally, 17 youth and 5 adults served our surrounding community in a number of McKendree supported missions, including:

Lawrenceville Co-Op, Angel Food, Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, and the Taylor Brooks Foundation.

The young missionaries held a car wash fundraiser for their local trip and shared a mid-week evening of fellowship and laughter with our Prime Timers, who prepared and served dinner for them.

Turn the page for more Youth missions



# Clarkston VBS & Day Camp

*Vacation Bible School Bridges Cultures – Builds Community*

*A total of 30 McKendree Youth and chaperones partner with Friends of Refugees and local UMC*

In June our youth traveled to Clarkston, Georgia to serve and spread God's love. With refugees from around the world, Clarkston truly has an international feel, yet is only a 30 minute drive from Lawrenceville.

Our McKendree mission team worked with Friends of Refugees to lead a summer day camp for more than 100 children. After camp during the day, the fun



continued into the evenings, when the team was joined by additional McKendree volunteers, to reach 90 children for Christ through VBS.

This was our first "away" VBS and the kids (even the older ones) didn't want it to end. It was wonderful to see the church filled with children and praising God. There is much work to do there. On the last evening a 14-year-old

boy shared a heartfelt letter expressing his gratitude for VBS and how it helped his family friends. The local church in Clarkston who sponsored the VBS activities, experienced a revival of sorts for its members through community outreach for the first time in many years. We are very encouraged to return again.

## Friends of Refugees

in Clarkston is an ongoing McKendree supported mission, including tutoring during the school year and periodic block parties.

## Africa-Well

### *Youth Restore Fresh Water*

When our youth learned of McKendree's well projects in Liberia last year, they wanted to participate and began planning for contributions to build additional wells.

Then, when they discovered one of the existing McKendree wells had been vandalized, leaving surrounding families once again without clean water, **our youth were able to send a financial gift to repair the well.**

The unexpected blessing of this gift provided not only a new pump, but also a timely answer to the earnest prayers of the local congregation.

In this letter from rural Liberia, we feel the depth of gratitude in Rev. Weah's message of thanksgiving for the faithfulness and generosity of our teens.

*July 6, 2011*

*Fellow United Methodist of our Church, we greet you with love in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*We are extremely grateful to God and also to you wonderful United Methodist of the McKendree UMC Lawrenceville USA.*

*Our church was hosting our District three days fast and prayer when the local coordinator informed us about what God was about to do again for our church; those of us who were present started praising God and also thanked him for the McKendree family*

*We recalled at our District conference in December when we received a call that the hand pump was stolen, we felt as though a family member had died.*

*The scripture says, "I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward" you will not lose your reward in Jesus name*

*With warm and loving hearts we say many thanks. You have made us happy again.*

*May God also make you happy in Jesus' name.*

*We always remember you all in our prayers.*

*Yours In Christ*

*Rev. Esther Weah*

*Senior Pastor, Charles A White UMC*



## Urban Ministries

*Youth Go Downtown Birmingham*

Our youth have chalked up yet another “Judean” mission experience, this time taking the face of McKendree and the hands and feet of Jesus into Birmingham. Our kids are TIRELESS!!

The Youth mission team coordinated with Urban Ministries and traveled to Birmingham in July. They assisted with painting a house, worked with the Tornado Relief Center, and served in a soup kitchen.

**VBS** is providing an early intro for our kids to learn the importance of generous giving and taking care of other people in need. This year the children attending VBS collected and gave thousands of items for various causes, and more than \$1000 to support VBS in India.

Co-Op ..... Canned Food..... 1100 Items  
Kid-Friendly Items (including B-Day Boxes)

Rainbow Village .....	Sun Block .....	200	Bottles	
Clarkston Refugees.....	Toys, Shoes, Clothing ....	1400	Items	
UM Children’s Home....	Books .....	1200	Items	
India .....	VBS			
Zambia .....	Chickens & Chicken Coop	}	\$2000	
Stop Hunger Now.....	Freeze-Dried Food Packs			

Just over \$1000 in monetary donations received during VBS for mission projects, was matched by the Mission Council – through your Faith Promise – to further support needs in around the world, for a total of over \$2000.

Thank you to our many, many Vacation Bible School leaders and volunteers and precious Christian children!



## Egypt

We continue to make a difference through our support of the **International Leadership Institute**, and we share in the excitement of being a part of training Christian leaders in Egypt. The Middle East has been a prayer target for over a year and God has opened a door to begin to impact in this region.

### Live from the Middle East

Sitting in front of us are leaders from seven Arabic-speaking nations. Fifty leaders were expected. Seventy (70) came.

Yesterday twenty NATO strikes occurred in Libya. In Yemen, the US government has asked all Americans to evacuate. Syria is in chaos. Thousands demonstrated in Egypt’s Tahrir Square only a few hours from our location. It is God’s perfect timing for us to be here.

From this leadership training conference, two leaders will return to Libya. Four leaders will return to Yemen. Ten will impact the future of the Gospel in Syria. Every region of Egypt will be touched. We have listened to story after story of God’s power being poured out on the Middle East.

Someone in the USA asked us, “Why are you going to the Middle East at this time?” The answer, “God is here and is asking ILI to cooperate with this strategic moment of history.” ***The only true security in life is living in the center of God’s will.***

In the spiritual realm you are here too because of your prayers and financial support. Thank you for impacting the world for Christ through ILI. The leaders in the room tell us that their life and ministry will never be the same after this week. Your support has changed their lives. You are God’s instrument to impact the Middle East at this critical moment of history.

Gratefully Yours . . . Until All Worship,

**Wes and Joy Griffin**

## Disaster Relief

*When Weather is News*

Brave, strong, and passionate McKendree volunteers have made three (3) tornado relief trips so far this year to help with the gargantuan task of clean-up.

- Ringgold, GA
- Griffin, GA
- Barnesville, GA (full weekend)

We continue to help our neighbors in need, with more opportunities in weeks/months ahead for day-trips and weekends in partnership with Lawrenceville 1<sup>st</sup> and Snellville UMCs, and independently as we are led. For more information, contact Cal Jones:

- 770-891-6058
- calvinj@charter.net

**UMCOR 8 Hour Early Response Training**  
September 10 | 8:30am | Chamblee UMC

# Storm Troopers

*Tornado Relief - Barnesville, GA – June 3-5, 2011*

## Sandra and Johnny Lawler

A dedicated core of McKendree volunteers set up camp for the weekend in the yard of their new friends, Sandra and Johnny Lawler. The Lawlers experienced severe damage to the property surrounding their home as a result of the string of tornadoes ripping through their area in May.

Sandra and Johnny were fortunate that they were not hurt, and although their home was in the direct path of the tornado, it was remarkably undamaged.



The surrounding debris however, made dirty work for our “Troopers” – But with THIS team, you know they had a blast! And the Lawlers could not have been more grateful for the help God sent them from McKendree Church.

Before



After



# African Worship Service

*Celebrating the Diversity of God's Children*

*Sunday • August 21 • 11am – Then Lunch*

In recognition and celebration of the diversity of our church family, we will have our first-ever African Worship Service Sunday, August 21st.

The service will involve the full participation of all its members – praising God in true African style! (*except shorter and with A/C*)

There will also be highlights on McKendree's Mission projects, presence and relationships in Liberia, Kenya, Eritrea, and Zambia. After the service we'll

share a delicious African meal in the true *Methodist* tradition of food and fellowship.

Please don't miss this opportunity to ignite your love of the Lord with a new perspective of worship. Brother Aaron Preston and Sister Adeola Yunusa are organizing the event, if you'd like to help with the planning and details.

Let us all come together and make this a grand occasion to remember.

## Sponsored Mission Trips

When a mission trip plan is approved by the Mission Council in advance, the trip may be partially funded through the **Faith Promise Mission Trip** budget. The percentage of per-person expense that may be approved for McKendree sponsored trips depends on our Faith Promise pledges and faithful giving – which to date have been generous and enabling for those called to go.

## Mission Scholarships

For a mission trip not sponsored through McKendree, you may apply for a mission scholarship to augment your own fundraising efforts. Scholarship requirements and the application can be downloaded from our website. Submitted applications are reviewed by the Mission Council and when approved, are funded from the **Faith Promise Scholarship** budget.

## Liberia News & Plans

### E. Harding Smythe Church Construction

Our sisters and brothers of E. Harding Smythe UMC have been worshipping and praising God in the new church at every stage of construction since the 2004 ground breaking when it was simply a sand floor.

Now the building is nearing completion. Framing for sliding glass windows has begun and it is expected the installation of the windows will be completed this summer. Although the final construction tasks are expected to continue into 2012, progress is continuous.

**Our dedication trip is tentatively planned for February 2013.**

### Wells Spawn University Possibility

We have recently learned that as a direct result of the fresh drinking water provided by the two McKendree wells constructed on the property donated by the Preston family, the district of Grand Basa is seriously evaluating proposals for a University in the area. Please raise this initiative in prayer as we participate with God in his plans for Liberia.

### So What's Next ...

We will be returning to Liberia with a delegation of six missionaries this year, Nov 29 - Dec 8, with open hearts and three objectives:

- Inspect the wells and under-construction toilet, and celebrate with local beneficiaries
- Inspect a prospective kitchen facility for the school near the well in Buchanan
- Explore future mission efforts/needs in Liberia

With the E. Harding Smythe church construction nearing completion, we want to explore other areas where God is at work in Liberia and prepare to join Him there in His plans. We have already expanded our outreach beyond Congo Town and Monrovia to Buchanan and Paynesbury and wish to further strengthen the relationships begun there with the pastors of the Preaching Point and Charles White UMC as well as the school near one of our McKendree wells.

### Donation Container & Bibles

We will be shipping a container in October, as has become the annual McKendree custom, providing clothing, shoes, and other items donated for Liberian families. This year we are excited about the chance to be present in Africa to participate in the distribution of those items.



We will also be including in the container approximately 450 Bibles and about 12 boxes of seminary books. The Bibles were purchased with a wonderful, unexpected gift of \$2000 received anonymously early in the year and designated specifically for "Bibles for Liberia." We are touched by the gift and honored to be able to personally deliver them.

Our plan is to give most of the Bibles to the School of Christ (elementary) we visited in 2009, to be used as teaching aids for reading practice – while planting His Word in their hearts.



We will also give some Bibles to the Monrovia UM Conference and to E. Harding and Charles White churches.

# Evangelism



## Community Health Fair – July 30<sup>th</sup>

Our 1<sup>st</sup> McKendree UMC Community Health Fair, a new outreach event this year, was a tremendous success! **Hats-Off to Pastor Diego** and the **Evangelism Team** – for organizing an amazingly comprehensive group of service providers, fun activities and for getting the word out to our surrounding community. The fair included the following offerings and more:

- Clinical Screening (**BP, Glucose, Cholesterol**)
- Dental Screenings
- Nutritional Consultant
- Arterial Disease Screenings
- Weight Loss
- Smoking Cessation
- Healthy Cooking
- Women's Health
- Men's Health
- Physical Therapy
- Hair Cuts for Children
- Makeup for Women
- Water Safety
- Skin Care
- Bike/Skateboard Safety
- Self Defense
- Literacy/Library

Families were lined up on our sidewalk at 7:30 Saturday morning! **Backpack** and **Bicycle** give-aways were a huge hit and will further McKendree's presence in the homes of those recipients, serving as a reminder of the kindness they experienced from us. Surplus backpacks were (or will be) given to the Clarkston ministry.



## Fun Fair Facts:

112	Families
500-600	People Participating
20+	Vendors/church ministries
50+	Volunteers
20	Bicycles
187	Backpacks (with supplies)
20	Angel Food boxes
\$1,295	Donations
20+	Haircuts
Many	Massages
Many	Prayers/Prayer Requests

A very special **Thank you** to all who donated gifts, time and talent to planning, recruiting, marketing orchestrating, volunteering, repairing & cleaning bicycles, and especially for covering the Health Fair with Prayer.



Be watching for more information from our bike enthusiasts who made the bike give-away such a success, and who are organizing a new

**BICYCLE CO-OP** ministry here at McKendree.



What a wonderful new opportunity to get involved and make a difference!



Loads of Love is a group of Sunday Schoolers and recruits who meet after church and go to a local Laundromat with pockets and bags full of quarters and a stack of RACK cards.

Our mission? To spread Christian kindness and lend a helping hand for those who are stuck with laundry on a Sunday afternoon.

We open doors, offer to carry baskets, pay for laundry, entertain children, chat, listen, and when led by the Spirit, invite someone to church, talk about Jesus, or pray with them.

Watch your bulletin for the next scheduled Loads of Love. Or contact: Bernie at 770-513-8300 brichardson@charter.net

# Mexico

## Casa De Misericordia (House Of Mercy) Beale Family Adoption Update

On their first mission trip to Mexico, Sheila and Sam Beale immediately bonded with the children, of **House of Mercy** orphanage, and by the end of that first week, had decided to adopt Cinthia and Angel. The Beales returned to Mexico as a family on four subsequent McKendree sponsored mission trips over the next two years and now, three years later, are completing the final stages of the adoption process.

Sam and Sheila traveled to Piedras Negras in August to visit with the two children, Cinthia (now age 10) and Angel (age 6), who are sister and brother living at House of Mercy, the orphanage many McKendree saints helped build, and which David and Karen Smith made their home for more than seven years. In preparation for the trip and its purposes, McKendree lifted the Beale family in constant prayer, both privately and openly during worship services. Our prayers have been answered in an incredible way!

### Adoption Agency Approved

Two days prior to the Beal's departure to Mexico, the governing authority for adoptions (National D.I.F.) approved their proposed adoption agency, International Child Foundation. Approval of the adoption agency ensures the Mexican authorities will 'recognize' as valid, and will process and approve adoption documents submitted from this adoption agency. International Child Foundation is only the second adoption agency to obtain approval from Mexico City since the Hague Treaty was enacted several years ago.

### Productive Meetings with Authorities

Our Brother in Christ, Pete Magnus of McKendree, traveled to Mexico and arranged for the Beale family to have meetings with appropriate professionals associated with the adoption process, both in Piedras Negras and in Saltillo, the State capitol of Coahuila. He and Alfredo Martinez, the manager of the hotel where missionaries from the U.S. often stay, not only arranged meetings with these politically connected individuals, but also accompanied Sam and Sheila, and participated as translators. As a result the meetings were constructive and very encouraging. All indications are that Cinthia's and Angel's adoption documents will be processed and approved without delay when received.

### On A Personal Note

*We are extremely encouraged by the recent developments in our adoption process. Although we are now three years into the effort, we now see an end/beginning in sight and feel that we owe all the thanks to our prayer family at McKendree, so many thanks, and more to come soon!*

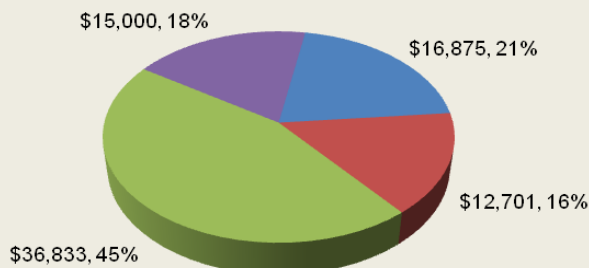
*Sam, Sheila, Erica, and Alison*

## Lawrenceville Co-Op

In addition to your faithful support of our quarterly food drives for the Co-Op, McKendree also stepped into the gap this year, both financially and with materials and labor, for desperately needed building repairs, including:

- Pantry floor support
- Carpet squares
- Exterior painting
- Pew recovering

### 2011 Mission Spending —Thru July \$ 81,409



- Mission Apportionments, Disaster Relief, and Administrative
- Missionary Support
- Mission Ministry Support
- Mission Trips

**Faith Promise Giving**  
**\$ 86,916**

# 2012 Mission Impact Celebration

It's not what you expect. It's more.

This time we're celebrating by **DOING**. And we need you to **do** it with us **January 22-29, 2012**.

*God doesn't require you to be a superstar, just faithful and obedient, by praying, loving, serving, giving, forgiving, healing, and caring—**doing** small things with great love.*

*How are you **DOING** your faith?*

# Rainbow Village

Serving Family Dinner Each Month Enables Effective Evening Program



McKendree has expanded its support for Rainbow Village this year. We now provide the family dinner once each month rather than once per quarter.

Each month a different McKendree volunteer group plans and provides the meal, serving 30-40 women and children.

This family meal not only nourishes the moms and kids, but also enables them to spend valuable time together, stress-free, in the transition time between jobs/day-care and the evening classes and activities sponsored by and integral to the Rainbow Village ministry.

This year the following groups have been blessed in their provision of food and fellowship for Rainbow Village families:

- Beatitudes Class
- Stewardship Committee
- Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study
- Stephen Ministers

We need to fill the calendar through the end of the year and beyond with one volunteer group per month. Please talk to your small group and **contact Dick Aul to sign up:**

- aulr@bellsouth.net
- 770-822-9723

Rainbow Village offers transitional housing, support and education for qualifying families that have suffered from abuse and/or other defeating circumstances.

Our Great Day of Service this Spring on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May, consisted of 13 projects, including:

- McKendree building/ grounds
- Lawrenceville Co-Op
- Habitat for Humanity
- Gwinnett Senior Services

Almost 100 volunteers gathered for breakfast and prayer before going out to the mission field to do God's good work.

Most of the tasks allowed folks to enjoy the great outdoors, grooming lawns, polishing windows, and fixing/cleaning up. While others painted, plumbed and took care of indoor chores. Cal Jones and his Tornado Relief team journeyed to Griffin to cut, drag, separate and pile debris left in the wake of the Spring storms.

**Thank you,** to everyone who came out to serve our community on this vital Day of Service.

Make plans now and reserve your day to participate in the **NEXT Great Day of Service – October 29, 2011**

Great Days of Service

## Action Ministries

In Partnership with Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church

As you may know, McKendree partnered last year with Hamilton Mill UMC to sponsor a family in the Action Ministries transitional housing program. Here is an update on our family:

Natasha and her two children are doing well and taking very good care of the home McKendree and Hamilton Mill helped prepare and furnish.

The priority now is to help her secure full-time employment. We have worked with Natasha on her resume and provided resources necessary to assist with job searches, augmenting TANF support where she learns job readiness and interview skills.

In April, we sponsored a birthday party for 8-year-old Sharyan at Stars and Strikes. We support the family

routinely with AngelFood and gas cards as well.

If you would like to contribute tangibly to our sponsored family you may leave your items in the Action Ministries basket in the Giving Room in the Fellowship Hall. At present she needs laundry detergent, bleach, and toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, tissue, deodorant, toothpaste, etc...



**October 1 – Candler Park**  
10:00 am Check-in  
11:30 am Start Time

If it were not for the support of McKendree UMC, NAMI Gwinnett would be drastically limited in the services and support it provides to families and their loved ones struggling to live with the impact of brain disorders. The 2010 McKendree contribution enabled NAMI to maintain a cell phone dedicated to the assistance of members in need of mental health assistance. Church space has been provided for our Family-to-Family education program, allowing us to reach more people in need of support.

- Please stop by our booth at the Ministry Fair, Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> to learn more
- If you or anyone you know is dealing with a mental illness, please call us at 678-982-5354