

Missions Report- 2008

"Missions is not what we do for our missionaries, it's what we do alongside our missionaries."

Heart, Head and Hands: Missions at Grace Church is all about being the HANDS of Jesus to the world. Our goal is to see the HEARTS of people transformed by God as we share our lives with those from different continents, countries and cultures. This past year Grace Church extended its HANDS by sending out: one new missionary couple; four college-age summer missionaries; and four short-term mission teams. In addition, we open our HANDS by providing 10% of our resources to missionaries and mission partners through our unified church budget. Moreover, God enabled us to lend a HAND to several new refugee initiatives through our Mission Festival offering, and allowed us to provide special project and travel support to our missionaries; scholarships to Christian workers in Kenya and Ukraine; and support for an orphanage in Ukraine and a Christian conference at the University of Minnesota.

Highlights of 2007-2008:

- Dedicated "our" Good Shepherd Dalit Education Center in India, which was the culmination of four short-term mission teams and two church-wide special offerings. Grace Church provided the support for the purchase of 6-acres of land, the digging of a well, installation of electricity and water pump systems and the first phase construction of 8 classrooms for this English-language school.
- Expanded our partnership with the Kinyago Dandora School to enhance Christ-based education and transformation within this Nairobi, Kenya slum community.
- Partnered with 25 missionaries and national workers as we helped plant and strengthen new churches in Central America, India and the Balkans; supported vernacular Christian radio broadcasts in Bolivia and Columbia; helped with Bible translation and missionary aviation projects; and provided community development assistance, theological education, leadership development, and teacher training in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central America.
- Worked with World Relief to provide in Roseville housing, furniture, resettlement support and care through tutoring, English instruction, job placement and transportation for a refugee family of ten from Myanmar.
- Four Short-term Mission Teams (STMTs) and 48 Grace Church attendees to India, Ukraine and Kenya and allocated \$29,000 in project support to the Good Shepherd School in Gujarat, India.
- Our people volunteered with more than 15 local ministries, serving through such ministries as: the Somali Adult Literacy Training (SALT) program; several after-school tutoring programs; seniors and nursing home visitation; Urban Homeworks housing rehabilitation, and homeless shelter volunteering.

Expectations for 2008-2009: As we look forward to the coming year, we desire to further reach out our HANDS as we commit to:

- Host the 17-week Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Mission Course at GCR in January 2009.
- Visit and provide pastoral care to Grace Church missionaries in Eastern Europe and Central America.
- Resettle a second refugee family in Roseville.
- Send 75+ adults and youth on short-term mission teams.
- Support theological and mission students at Donetsk Christian University (Ukraine) and Daystar University (Kenya).
- Offer again the "Refugee Experience" and "City Ethnic Tour" at Grace Church as part of our Mission Education program