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As I attempted to write an article this month about my most recent mission trip to Tanzania and the people of Yulansoni I came up with several different topics. But when it came to type on of my handwritten journal entries into this newsletter I realized there was something else I was supposed to say.

You see this trip was a bit of an eye opener for me just as my first trip in 2001 was. You would think after 12 mission trips my eyes would be completely open, but in reality that will only happen when we go home to God.

That first trip I saw the same type of people I had seen on many trips for the military. I saw the same problems they faced as I had seen before. But this time I was there to do something about it. This time I was supposed to met them and get to know them. On that trip I worked alongside a man I could not talk to since I did not speak Kiswahili. Yet we worked together the whole day until they came to get him and tell him his daughter was sick. We used our vehicles to get her to the only medical clinic around that was operational but she died in route. We attended the funeral services and tried our best to convey our condolences.

Every trip back to Tanzania since I have enjoyed seeing people at the medical clinic receiving care. Now that we have added a overnight ward building, pre-school and well it amazes me how much has been accomplished with so little.

This trip I went back to employ my engineering skills just as I did the first trip. This time instead of designing a rainwater harvesting system for the

medical clinic, I was doing a site survey and creating a water distribution plan for the well water, existing three rainwater harvesting systems and the future rainwater harvesting systems. But most importantly I was looking to provide solar, wind or diesel generator electricity to the site so we could have lights and a refrigerator. The site has been approved to become a local immunization center but that requires a refrigerator unit and that requires electricity (actually you can do it without electricity but it will cost a lot more in the end).

But God opened my eyes in other ways on this trip that I was not expecting. On my first day I came across Julius Pallango who had slung concrete plaster on the walls with me in 2001. I also saw Lois, one of the nurses who was interviewed on that first trip in 2001. I spent time with the staff and the local villagers in ways that have not been possible before.

I dealt with the fact that they wanted to carry my bags, they wanted to carry the 5 gallon bucket of bath water to the toilet for me. No matter how much I tried to convince them I could do it, they were equally adamant that they would carry it. That is how they treat their friends.

So my trip may help put electric power on site, but the power of their friendship has helped me tremendously over the years. Just as the friendships I have developed with folks like Roy Rogers and Poochy in Peru make going back my favorite time of year.

That is why I feel God calling me to help more people make these kind of friendships-because this is how to change the world.

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40 NIV

Check us out on Facebook. The group's name is I Dig Peru. Discuss the trips, share photos, look at old videos and connect with interns from past trips.

Please feel free to copy this newsletter to anyone or any group you may think is interested. Go to our website to view past issues or to request the newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Item	Team	Date
Joe Corbi's Sampling at Traditional Services	Peru	February 14
Billy Clark Visit and Lunch	Peru	February 21
Give Up Change for Lent	Dunlap's	February 21-April 4
Joe Corbi's Orders and MONEY due	Peru	February 24
Downtown Coffee and Creamery First Friday	Dunlap's	March 5
Team Meeting	Peru	March 9
Full Dimension Ministry Annual Banquet	Tanzania	March 14
Joe Corbi's Delivery	Peru	March 17th
Wednesday Night Supper	Peru	March 17
Mutt's Night in Mauldin	Peru	March 18
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	March 20
Rev. William Makali visits MUMC	Tanzania	March 21 all three services
MUMC Spring Fling (Praise)	Peru	March 21
Wednesday Night Supper	Peru	March 24
African Palm Crosses at MUMC	Outreach	March 28
Deadline for \$500 raised individually	Peru	March 31
Downtown Coffee and Creamery First Friday	Dunlap's	April 2
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	April 10
Team Meeting	Peru	April 13
Blood Drive at MUMC	Outreach	April 19
Yard Sale Drop Off	Peru	April 24
Skate Night	Peru	April 25: 5:30-7PM
Downtown Coffee and Creamery First Friday	Dunlap's	May 7
Team Meeting	Peru	May 11
Yard Sale	Peru	May 15
Mission Sunday at MUMC	Outreach	May 16
Youth Dance	Peru	May 22

Peru Updates and Stats

As you can see from the calendar of events there is a lot going on this time of year just related to the mission field. Please make sure you mark these events in your calendar so you can participate in as many as possible.

It was all these events and their scheduling which held up the newsletter this month. We hope to be closer to our normal schedule next month.

One of the events added in at the last minute will be lunch with the Clark's on February 21st. Once we have a location tied down we will send it out via email so keep your eyes open.

This year's team has 30 people on it with 11 heading to Kimo and 19 to Puerto Alegria. A full third of the team (10 people) are first timers this year. This brings the total number of individuals who have gone on a mission trip through Mauldin UMC up to 97. With at least two different churches represented it also brings the number of churches who have participated by sending members to 9.

It seems our youth/young adults favor the Puerto Alegria site since all 10 of them are going there. However the majority of experience will be headed to Kimo again this year. The years of experience going to Kimo will be 30 years while the larger team to Puerto Alegria will only be carrying 22 years of experience.

Once again the overall count of ladies going outnumber the men. 63% of the team is female this year. Interestingly the numbers for Kimo and Puerto Alegria fall along the same lines.

Lastly is the Yard Work notice has changed to the following: Yard Work - Peru team Members will spread mulch (your purchase), rake leaves, pick up yard debris, etc. for a donation. Call Cathie Storey 627-9010 to arrange a date and time. Weekends preferable.

Also we have been asked by the church to pour a concrete walkway.