

# SERVE

“Those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.” Acts 8:4

Summer 2008  
Family Missions  
Company

## The Right Place at the Right Time

by Genie Summers

**CALENDAR**  
Mission Formation  
Big Woods  
Every Wed.  
6:00 pm

Lafayette Charismatic  
Conference  
July 25—27

2008 Intake  
Sept 7 — Dec 8

Missionary  
Year End Review  
Dec. 2 — 7

FMC  
Donor's Dinner  
December 7

Short Term  
Mission Trips

St. Norbert's to  
General Cepeda  
July 6—14

St. Elizabeth Anne  
Seton to General  
Cepeda  
August 1—8

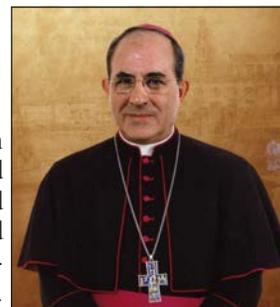
Medical Mission to  
General Cepeda  
Nov. 22—29

St. Anne Group to  
Allende, MX  
November  
(To Be confirmed)



Padre  
Gamma  
and FMC's  
Spain Team:  
Kristin,  
Sheila  
Bridget &  
Maria

Bishop Juan J. Pelegrina,  
Diocese of Cordoba,  
Andalusia, Spain



For several years, Frank has been praying for the Lord to send our missionaries to Asia. Pope John Paul the Great said Evangelization of Asia should be the top priority for Catholics. And I was convinced that the Church in Europe is desperately in need of a new evangelization. My concern was that the European Catholic Church is in survival mode in a “Post Christian Era.” So, my fervent prayer had been focused on sending FMC missionaries to Europe.

Our God is God. He has a plan for all of us and He can even answer Frank and my prayers simultaneously. Joseph Summers, in the summer of 2007, took seven FMC missionaries to India. While they were in Calcutta, working with the Missionaries of Charity, they met some Spanish priests with a short-term mission group from Cordoba, Spain. Father Gamma and the Missionaries of Charity were really impressed with the formation and serious dedication of FMC's India team. Fr. Gamma asked Joseph while they were together in Calcutta, “Do you think FMC could send some missionaries to Cordoba to inspire our youth to become missionaries?”

On his return to Spain, Padre Gamma wrote us. He invited a team of missionaries to come to Cordoba. (Sheila's article in this Serve gives more details.) Our courageous missionaries in Spain take my breath away. The cost of living is extremely high, and they sacrifice so much. It is hard to be so poor. Support them! Pray for them.

Already, they are essential to the Diocesan Youth Ministry, run by holy priests. These priests extolled their virtue to us. They told us, “They are so ‘disponible’ (Spanish for available). Their joy authenticates their mission. Their zeal and love win the hearts of all.”

We visited with the Bishop in Cordoba and he welcomed Frank and me and told us he had been informed of the effective service of our team. He said to them in our

presence, “I am only concerned that you not become discouraged and leave our Diocese.” He gave us his blessing and assured us of his prayerful support of our team. His homily on Pentecost moved me, so I am sharing with our SERVE readers some precious jewels from his homilies:

*“Now more than ever you, the laity are necessary for serving the Gospel, for bringing it closer to the men and women of today with intelligible words and convincing voices. Today we have embarked on the New Evangelization, new in its ardor, in its methods, and in its expressions. It must break out of old routines, go out into the roads and byways, grow and extend itself, for there are many who do not know the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who are not seated at the warm and familiar table of the Church.”*

*“The rights and duties of the laity in the apostolate are born of their union with Christ, and of the sacraments of baptism and confirmation that they have received, and qualify them for testimony and proclamation of the Gospel.”*

*“The world and its realities need to be transformed by the values of the Gospel.”*

*“Never forget! You are First of all missionaries. Rediscover the greatness of your mission. Renew your missionary enthusiasm.”*

*“Like the Church, you exist to evangelize. This is your reason for being!”*



Outreach into a Spanish town

## Kevin Granger Commissioned as a Missionary



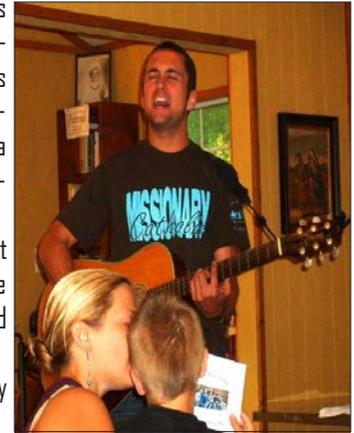
A special commissioning Mass was held at Big Woods Mission on June 4th, 2008. Kevin Granger officially became a missionary. Kevin began his Intake formation in January and has already served in missions. He is originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Kevin home-schooled until his Sophomore year when he entered a Catholic school until graduation. His university degree is from ULL in General Studies and Music.

With FMC, he went on a short term mission trip. Soon, he surrendered his life completely to Jesus. From that surrender to God's clear call, he began a discernment process. Kevin discerned a call to full time missions. He knew missions

was an answer to his prayer and was where he should be. In 2007 Kevin and Sarah Summers began a relationship. On Valentine's day they were engaged. They will be wed in January 2009. God has already provided a house with free rent and a wonderful site for their missionary service — General Cepeda, Mexico in community with the Browns.

During his first mission to Spain and Portugal, Kevin could not speak Portuguese, but reported that he ministered effectively with his music. He exclaimed, "I had the blessed opportunity to play music on the very spot where Mary appeared at Fatima! Fr. Jose asked us to play for several First Communion Masses. God is using me in missions through the language of music."

Kevin says, "I can't imagine God calling me to a more exciting vocation. I so look forward to my next step, serving God in missions with my family."



## Raising Children in the Missions by Andrea Brown

I think that most mission families get it all the time: *"What! Children in mission with you? What are you thinking bringing your children there? Aren't you afraid they'll get sick?"* Or my personal favorite: *"You're going to live in Mexico? Are you bringing your children with you?"*

When we originally left for missions, we were faced with many such questions. We answered that we were not being careless about the safety of our children, that this life was going to be good for them, and that, no, of course we were not going to live in a different country from our children. However, these answers were based on faith in God's providence, not experience. We, too, felt a little nervous, but we knew God would be taking care of us. After all, as Genie Summers told us during our formation, the very safest place for us is in the center of God's will. In fact, it is when we stray from God's calling that we reject the grace He wants to give us and put ourselves in the most danger - and a worse danger at that: spiritual danger.

So, in 2005 we put our family in God's hands; and because we did, He was able to shower upon us all the abundant graces He had in store for us. And what have we learned? We have learned through experience that raising children in the missions does them no disservice. Quite the contrary, it enables them to realize the child's great potential for loving and serving God! Christ consistently encouraged His followers to become like little children, and now I know why!

Had we never become a mission family, I never would have seen the extent of what God can do through children. Baby Anthony is a real "missionary magnet," drawing people to us, breaking the ice, and opening the doors for new relationships and evangelization. Maria has evolved from "missionary magnet" to active missionary! She prays over the sick, and is always wanting to give her toys away to the poor children. When the needy come to the door she runs to bring them a cup of cold water (without ever having been asked to). Recently, of her own accord, she even got up in front of the congregation at a rancho chapel and gave a stirring testimony about how much she loves God! Of course our own eyes were teary with parental joy, but even more consequential was the impression this made on the people of the rancho! She has become quite a dynamic little missionary, and I know God has much more in store for this tender heart that is so open to Him!

Now, when people doubt the wisdom of raising a family in missions, we can report how faithfully our Heavenly Father has cared for our children! We can share with them what a profound impact children make on our family's ministry, as well as how much their own lives are affected by being raised in an atmosphere of prayer, simplicity, community, and service. God knows what He is doing - we need only trust! We must never take the seemingly "safe" route by deciding that we know a better way than what God may be asking of us (remember what happened to Jonah?). Here, in the center of His will, this is where the grace is... tremendous grace for us *AND* tremendous grace for our children.



## Evangelization in the Everyday — by Sarah Kosnosky (FMC Missions Coordinator)

“So I hope that answers your questions about long term missions. I’d be glad to drop an information pack in the mail for you, and Mr. Frank Summers will be giving you a call,” I said, concluding what I thought was an absolutely compelling presentation about becoming a full time missionary with Family Missions Company.



The caller on the other end responded with a half-hearted, “Thank you”. Hmm, perhaps my delivery needed to be tweaked a bit, I thought, noting the less than enthusiastic response.

As the conversation seemed about done and my less-than-what-I’d-hoped-for delivery left me a little down-hearted, I felt a nudge in my being by the Holy Spirit, “Sarita, you didn’t pray with her yet!” A momentary struggle, “Lord, do I have to? I had seen others do it and it certainly is what a missionary would do, but this isn’t the mission field, this is the office. Maybe next time....” Amidst my silly excuses, a nudge, “Sarita, you didn’t pray with her yet!”

“Damn it, Lord! You sure are persistent,” my spirit uttered in the torrent of interior conversation that took place in that split second. I cleared my throat, “Well, um, Hallie why don’t we say a prayer.” I proceeded to pray that the Lord guide the discernment of the caller, that He bless this restlessness that she had in her heart for “something more”, and that He lead her clearly to where her call to serve Him could be fully lived out.

After a somewhat relieved (on my part) “Amen”, a deep sigh came from the caller, “Oh, thank you! Thank you so much!” Hallie said with great depth and sincerity.

“You’re so welcome!” I said with a bit of surprise, “God bless you, Hallie. Good-bye,” I said. “Good-bye,” said Hallie.

I have seen my fellow missionaries fly to the ends of the earth. I serve their needs on a daily basis, with emails, phone calls, reports, newsletter formatting and mailings, and a multitude of other services. I know that my call is the same as theirs – to “GO” to the ends of the earth. And yet, the Lord’s word to me was a “GO” that necessitated a much shorter distance of travel – from the main house to the office (about 200 feet) if you want to get technical.

At times I wrestle to live my call to evangelization in the midst of this much more “ordinary” kind of existence. The

day that I prayed on the phone with the caller interested in long term missions, I understood a bit what it means to be a true missionary and an evangelist in the **everyday**. To be a missionary means that I am an evangelist not just when I am “in the field”, and not just when I am “on” in giving a presentation or an orientation, or in a foreign land. To be a missionary means evangelization in the everyday - to be a missionary means that I am an evangelist ALL THE TIME.

When I prayed that day with Hallie (note: the name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual involved) I realized that to be a missionary means to bring those with whom I come into contact to an encounter with the LIVING GOD, not just an encounter with “Sarita”. My words, no matter how educated or polished, and my delivery, no matter how compelling, are nothing in comparison to an encounter with the living God. That encounter we find first and foremost through prayer. I understood that day that one of the most powerful ways that I can evangelize in the everyday is through the “ministry of prayer.”

Now, don’t get me wrong, the missionaries around me do this as naturally as they breathe. It just takes me a little while to catch on. One missionary frequently says, “I may not know the answer to your problem, but I know who does! Let’s pray....”

The essence of evangelization is not the proclamation of doctrine or morality; rather, it is the proclamation of a person, JESUS, who wants an intimate relationship with every soul! And where do we come to meet Jesus? - in prayer.

Although I am not in a foreign land, my call to mission is no less relevant, and my commission to evangelize no less urgent. From “God bless you!” to the cashier who hands me my change, to sharing the testimony of my conversion with a fallen-away Catholic over chips and salsa,

my life must be lived radically for the Lord in consistent evangelization in the everyday. The character of a missionary is such that evangelization is as natural as breathing, as spontaneous as utterances about a young love.

Evangelization in the everyday flows from a deep life of prayer and sustains that loving relationship with Jesus so that the “everyday” does not become simply ordinary, but absolutely extraordinary in the Lord. God bless you!



“....to evangelize does not mean simply to teach a doctrine, but to proclaim Jesus Christ by one’s words and actions, that is, to make oneself an instrument of His presence and action in the world.”

*Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization (Vat. Cong. For Doctrine of the Faith), 2.*

“The proclamation of the Word of God has Christian conversion as its aim: a complete and sincere adherence to Christ and His Gospel through faith.” - *Mission of the Redeemer*, 46.



## Finding God in Trinidad

by Holly Luczak

We recently went on a short trip from Grenada to Trinidad, and it was so blessed! We stayed with Auntie Babsie Bleasdale and a small part of her ecclesial community, “Living Word”. She was instrumental in spreading the Charismatic Movement all over the Caribbean. Starting more than 350 prayer groups; and she has been an international speaker to many parts of the world. Auntie Babsie is an amazing story teller and a holy woman of God. I was especially impressed with how well she knew the Scriptures, and how she has found a balance between meditative and charismatic prayer.

Everyone was taken with our baby, Elijah, and it was really nice to have so much help with him throughout the trip. We visited a prayer group, and they had us share our testimonies; we visited a community that broadcasts EWTN and does Food for the Poor and other humanitarian aid; and we had daily Mass with Auntie Babsie's community. Anthony was invited to help do a presentation on the Grenada Diocese's Abstinence program, which is one of the projects we have worked on. He was also blessed to visit a prison in Trinidad for young men, and he witnessed to them. He talked about how Jesus is the Truth, the Way, and the Life; and no matter what you have done, He gives each of us our share in His Victory (Jn 14:6). The young men in the prison were moved by Anthony's testimony, and asked many questions.

I was especially blessed by riding around in the buses (that's the real way to see how the people live and to soak in the local scenery!) and visiting the Missionaries of Charity. The Mother Superior, Sister Lucinda, is a beautiful woman, and she has such a contagious laugh. She looked like she couldn't have been more than 30, but she had already been an MC for more than 30 years! She showed us



around their place. It's in a really hard part of town, but they seem to have a little haven (or fortress, depending on how you look at it). It has a huge wall and barbed wire surrounding the top. We saw their chapel, met the sick, and then went to see the heavily disabled kids. Mother Lucinda told them to sing for us, and put on some religious music. These kids, some lying on cots, some sitting in wheelchairs, and others in chairs at the table playing, all lit up as the music played on. They bobbed their heads, and a few tried to sing. One little girl named Lorraine had a great sense of rhythm. (Better than most people I know!) She began to clap, and although she couldn't pronounce words, she sang noises to the beat of the music. Then she wheeled over and put her hands out to me. I held them, and we danced in our chairs and sang. It was such a beautiful moment. The joyful glow on her face was something that I will never forget. The time flew by quickly, and it was hard to leave. I came away wondering how a parent could look at a child like that and think "I don't want you". I still tear up thinking about it. Please pray for her and the rest of the kids that the MC's take care of. They were so beautiful.

Our trip was very blessed, and I feel refreshed. Please continue to pray for us and our ministry. May God never cease to surprise you with His love! (Read more about the Luczak Family in Missions at [www.lmissions.com](http://www.lmissions.com))



For He has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

*Luke 1:48-49*

## Life Changing Mission by Wendy Lane (St. Pius X Parish, Lafayette, LA)

**SEÑOR DON PABLO!!!!** Never, never, never will I forget you. I was a different person in your presence; a willing, embracing, loving servant within the cool darkness of your home. YOUR HOME - just the word "home" changed with meeting you. This scene wasn't on T.V. anymore, it wasn't someone else's experience, being relayed to others that haven't seen the reality of "life other than their own". This was HOME. It was your four crumbling walls, rough dirt floor, single light bulb hanging from a wire. No kitchen, no bathroom, no windows, no closet, no table, no sink, no "comforts"...only your bed, with your belongings piled on top; your WORLD. So simple, so basic—but you didn't demand more. You are JOY, you aren't depressed or angry because of what I would view as your "lack". You, Don Pablo, had words of encouragement and wisdom for US!!!



I know that we brought you joy, we brought you human contact. You physically felt our embraces and caresses. You heard our attempts at trying to tell you how happy we were

to meet you, you heard our song, our prayers. We were appreciative to be able to offer these things—but it was YOU who GAVE. You've burned a memory into our hearts and minds forever. At 94 years old, my chances of being with you again are practically impossible. But you've touched me, and I'll pray for you and petition our Lord for Mercy for you — whether it be in this life or the next.

I thank you truly, Blessed Mother Theresa, for your hugely amazing example of TRUE CHARITY. It was only through your prayers to the Holy Spirit that I was not my same self within those four walls - not seeing, not smelling, not judging, not recoiling, only feeling real compassion and Charity---Love.

**MEDICAL PRAYERS WITH ROBIN TOUPS**  
*Lo siento no hablo Espano* — Touching a person, putting a Rosary in their hand, looking into their eyes, smiling and making the sign of the Cross — we spoke the same language. *Gracias Jesus, Gracias Dios, Dios te Bendiga* — this is all we could offer that they could grasp onto...other than our Faith. Precious Father your Holy Spirit is awesome!!!! We felt like we were actually contributing, by the warmth, sincerity and manner they responded.

So much need, but also so much HOPE!!! Visibly the Hands and Feet of the Lord were at work behind the doors of the Mission House. The OPEN doors, offering smiling faces, people desiring to pray for those in need, medical care, supplies, food, clothing, and Christian Charity. We felt honored to be part of that "post"; we were rewarded with thanks, hugs, etc. There was absolutely no sacrifice in what we did....WE RECEIVED!!!

Besides...we are now FLUENT, RELIGIOUS, OPTICIANS!!!! (Our job was to fit and give out eyeglasses.)

Jesus, this week has been a BLESSING, easily outweighing the sacrifice-Thank You. I've seen the virtue of Charity in it's truest form. But Father, this week has been solely dedicated to this---Mission Work. There have been no grocery lists, dance lessons, errands, apostolate schedules, school, bills, phone calls, emails, suppers to cook, etc. All of that starts again Friday. How will You show me how to incorporate this week into my other 51 weeks this year? I pray that Your scheduling of my life shows me how to "work even more diligently" for Your Kingdom. I love You. I know this is meant to have a lasting effect, please work with me. You know my heart, my personality, my relationships, my life. I love You and I truly want to become more pleasing to You. Let there be more of You and less of me. Amen.

## The Lord's Helpers by Albert Josef Zalewski

With Brother Luke, I work in Mother Teresa's parish, with Father Wilfred. He wants us to visit all Catholics in the parish, 280 families. I don't know how many families we have visited but the number is very many. The people here in India are good and hospitable. They are always happy to welcome us and offer us something to eat or drink. We collaborate with Mother Teresa's sisters going around with them to visit poor people in slums. It is difficult to describe this poverty. It is really hard to believe that today so many people live in such horrible conditions. It is really very sad, but true. I do as much as I can to try and help them, even financially by giving them alms, food, clothes. They are so happy to receive some help. How happy are poor kids when I buy them candies. My goodness, they go crazy, just because of one candy!!

When I can I visit the hospital, I visit patients with AIDS. How sad it is to see young people about to die. I don't know Hindi yet, so I don't know how to speak with them, but there is always a way to communicate something about Jesus. I bought a small picture of Jesus Crucified that has a nice sentence about His love; and then I go to visit them one by one with one of the sisters, and she translates what I say into Hindi or Marati. Yes, it is sad to see them dying, but how happy they are, how big their smiles are in exchange for my short visit. Most of them are Hindu. They are not Catholic. But many Hindus love Jesus and are happy to hear something more about Him. They like His picture because they say that in his face is something that attracts them to Him.

There is a lot to do here!! Everywhere I go I see people in extreme poverty looking for help. In this big sea of many different kinds of needs, I am trying my small best, to love, to smile, to help those who, as Mother Teresa said one day, are the lasts among the lasts.



## Let Thy Kingdom Come (Spain Mission) by Sheila Agresta

“There are millions of people in the world who reject Jesus Christ in this way: ‘We do not want this man to reign over us! WE WILL NOT SERVE!’ or rather, they reject His shadow, for they have not seen the beauty of His face, they do not realize how wonderful His teaching is!” - *St Josemaria Escriva*

When we first arrived in Cordoba, and found ourselves in the middle of one of the most beautiful and ancient cities of Europe - a city founded on the lives of many saints and martyrs for the faith, a city illuminated with the light of Christ made present in the holiness of the Bishop and Priests of the diocese. We missionaries, each of us, stood in awe of the love of Jesus, that He would call us here to this beloved city to labor for the spreading of His Kingdom. The Bishop, Juan Jose Pelegrina, has welcomed us with open arms, providing for our housing free of charge, and encouraging us in our ministry to raise up a youth serious about Jesus and dedicated to holiness.

We are working with five young and holy priests: Father Antonio Gama, Father Antonio Reyes, Father Pedro Cabello, Father Jose Almedina, and Father Manolo Roldan. Our weekly schedule is overflowing: We have Bible studies, theology classes, Catholic Action groups, praise and worship, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, talks, movie forums, monthly retreats, missions to nearby towns, pilgrimages, and more. We are also engaged in a daily outreach to the university campuses, inviting the youth who are not participating in the Church and those already living the faith to know Jesus better—we give testimony to all that He has done in our lives. It is a very chal-



lenging ministry.

Spain is a country of many great traditions and by tradition and culture it is Catholic; but in large part it is lacking in a true and living faith. Everyday we encounter many youth who have rejected the Faith in favor of a worldly education that leaves no room for the things of God and the Church. But they have rejected not Christ

Himself, as Saint Josemaria says, but only His shadow. Our mission here is to make Jesus present and alive **today** and to bear witness to His action in our lives, to re-evangelize those who call themselves Catholic, and in so doing to invite them to the fullness of life in Jesus and His Church.

In these four short months we have helped to or-



Spain Mission Team with Bishop Pelegrina

ganize and present five retreats and two mission encounters! This summer, Kristen and Maria will be accompanying a group from the diocese of Cordoba

to Calcutta, India, to work as missionaries alongside the Missionaries of Charity, while Bridget and Sheila will be helping to organize a conference for the youth of Andalusia that will coincide with World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. As we step back from all the busyness of the day-to-day, we can see that Jesus is working through our poverty and littleness to reveal the beauty of His face, the wonder of His teaching. We daily thank the Lord for calling us to build His Kingdom here on earth in such a blessed, though challenging, mission. We rejoice in the opportunity to call others to the wondrous freedom found in living under the reign of Jesus! In His goodness, He has allowed us to see the fullness of His face, and in response to His love, we say, “WE WILL SERVE!” May He continue to purify us and work through us in our mission... **MAY HIS KINGDOM COME!**

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28 19—20*

## Suffering in Southern Sudan by David Fruge, R.N. (FMC Medical Mission Board)

Southern Sudan is one of the poorest most neglected places on earth, with possibly the worst health situation in the world. Even by African standards it is unusually underdeveloped. Disease after unimaginable disease (almost a biblical plague), all come to rest in this pitiful region of a vast African country. This hostile environment continues to support exotic diseases that have been stamped out in the rest of the world. HIV/AIDS/STD is rampant because of unbridled immoral behavior.

Two million people were killed and four million people have been displaced by the 21 year civil war between the northern Muslims and southern Christians. An entire generation lost the chance to go to school, instead spending their childhood fighting or protecting their families. Heinous crimes and murders are common. Currently a fragile truce exists.

I was blessed to be chosen by



MERCY WORKS for a 3 week medical mission this spring. I returned the week of Easter. The fourteen members of the missionary team were from Tyler, TX, Phoenix, New Jersey, Missouri, Washington, and Australia. I was the only one from Louisiana. We met in Amsterdam and flew together to Entebbe, Uganda. We spent a day in Kampala securing Sudanese travel visas. The team members were very experienced, focused, and had tremendous talents. This trip was not for the weak. We all bonded like gorilla glue: "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing...having among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus." Philippians, 2:1-5 We were all there to SERVE JESUS

CHRIST and His poor.

We flew to Juba the capital of Southern Sudan, on a chartered plane. My first impression was that we had landed in hell. It is the most inhospitable place imaginable. We traveled 45 miles into the bush by landrover (took 5 hours) to our campsite.

Our tents and campsite were already set up. We had 2 Dinka women for cooks and an armed guard with us at all times. Our diet consisted of oatmeal for breakfast, beans and rice for lunch and dinner every day. The weather was extremely hot, with daytime temps at 110 degrees. Our campsite was 4 miles from Terakeka, on the White Nile River.

Clinic was every day except Sundays, and the construction team cleared land for a new orphanage. We treated 700 plus from the Mandari and Dinka tribes. These people were the sickest most destitute people we had ever seen. They had malaria, tuberculosis, amebic dysentery, parasites of every kind, syphilis, HIV, malnutrition, polio, typhoid, and on and on. There is cruel poverty and starvation.

The only factor that distinguishes them from being primitive is that the adults wear clothes. A lot of the children are naked. They live in mud houses called Tukels. They scar their faces, bodies, and breasts by cutting themselves in patterns they think add beauty; their 4 lower middle teeth are removed; and they commonly coat their faces with cow dung ashes mixed with yellow clay; cattle urine is splashed on their heads as an insect repellent and to dye their hair slightly lighter. The men have multiple wives and treat them like servants, almost cruelly.

For the last days of our mission four of us flew to a remote orphanage in Yei. There are 120 plus orphans cared for by a missionary couple from Wisconsin. They started HARVESTERS REACHING THE NATIONS, and have been there 7 years. I could spend hours just on stories of our time there (had a land mine explode). We helped with clinic for the kids and the locals. The

last morning I was there, a set of 4 week old triplet girls were brought to us. Their father and an aunt came to us for baby formula because the mother was very sick and unable to breast feed them. Surprisingly, they were almost 4 pounds each. We examined them and gave them several months supply of basic formula. Get this, dad had named



these angels GRACE, BLESSING and REJOICE!! Praise God, Satan can't have these girls!

Death is a way of life there, and conditions for us were hard to endure. Two team members came down with malaria. The mission was very hard but we offered everything up to Jesus for these people. Satan has his talons deeply impaled in this country. We prayed day and night over the people that God would lift them from spiritual oppression and bondage. We distributed the Bible written in Bary, their native language.

Thank you, thank you for all the prayers for our safety and welfare. Believe me, they were felt every day. Please continue to pray for God's children in the Sudan and for an end to the atrocities and suffering there. God is their Divine Deliverer!



## A Mission From Heaven by Andrea Brown

It was January, and we were trying desperately to leave our home in Maryland and get on the road to return to our mission post in General Cepeda, Mexico. However, it seemed there was a roadblock at every turn. We had finished everything we had intended to complete before leaving. We had assisted at our parish's large, annual Confirmation retreat weekend. We had said goodbye to family and friends. We had even managed to pull off a potluck dinner featuring a special slide show presentation of what we do in missions - despite the blizzard that threatened to foil our efforts!

Yet - as ready as we were to get going, the way was not yet clear. Issue after issue kept coming up, preventing our departure. Car problems, necessary paperwork held up in the mail, you name it - we just couldn't get on our way!

In the midst of all this, several people had called to request that we come to their homes and share the slide show from the night of the blizzard, for they had been prevented from coming and still wanted to see what we do in the mission field. We apologized, saying we were out of time, trying to get on the road, and therefore couldn't make any more commitments. However, one family in particular seemed especially eager. It was the Krammers, parents of a teenaged girl named Alex Kowalczyk whom I had known as a teacher and youth minister before entering the missions. They were willing to come anywhere we needed them to in order to meet with us, for they felt God speaking to them about missions and wanted to know what this meant for their family.

I remember feeling I needed to meet with this family, even if it was hard and I had no time. I made plans to meet them at a mutually agreeable restaurant and brought a laptop to share the slide show. I sat with them for a couple of hours to discuss all their questions about mission work and their call to participate in missions as a family. Returning home, I said to my husband, "I am glad we were able to do that. I feel like God wanted that meeting to happen." A couple of days later we were finally on the road. At last, God had made our path clear to leave.

We had to stop off at Big Woods, our mission base in Louisiana. We planned to stay only a couple of days, but once again the roadblocks started coming up! We struggled to trust that God was manifesting His plan for us, and that our trip was in His hands, but we kept wondering why He was delaying us from returning to the work He had for us in Mexico.

Soon He gave us an insight. I received news that Alex Kowalczyk, whose family I had met only 6 days before, had been killed in a tragic car accident at the age of 16. I was shocked - what was God doing in this? They had been so willing and eager to do missions together, and spoke of how excited Alex herself was to serve in Mexico! Why would God do this to a family so willing to serve Him? What could I say to relieve their pain? I knew God had crossed our paths for some reason, but now I just couldn't see how I could serve them from so far away. I didn't even

feel comfortable calling the family in the midst of so much grief! I didn't know what God was asking of me - so I just prayed.

God WAS moving in this difficult situation, and He began to bring all the pieces of His perfect plan together. A couple of days later, Kathy Krammer, Alex's mom, contacted me by e-mail. She wanted to have memorial donations made in her daughter's name toward our mission work, for Alex had become very interested in the missions - especially mission work in Mexico.

Aha! Here was the connection; this was what God wanted! All of a sudden, bit by bit, through dialogues with Kathy, leaders at our home parish, and Frank and Genie Summers, God began to effect His plan for this beautiful family. Alex's desire to serve in missions was going to be honored, only now in a very special and lasting way!

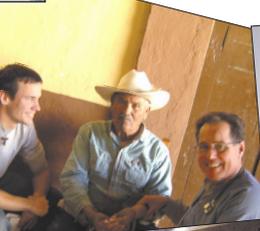
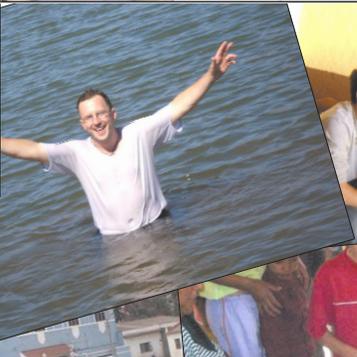
I spent our remaining days in Louisiana trying to arrange details for a memorial mission project fund in honor of Alex. The project would take shape as we determined what sort of needs could be met with the available funds. Everything seemed to fall into place easily! Our parish's LIFETEEN program even began to plan a fund raising event for the project, which would give Alex's friends a healthy outlet; a way to channel their grief positively.

God's hand in launching Alex's memorial mission project was very apparent. I should not have been surprised that the initial details and necessary phone calls for beginning the memorial mission project were completed just about the time our "roadblocks" disappeared. It was time to get back to Mexico.

It has been four months since Alex passed away. She is well loved and missed by her family and friends who have helped to honor her through contributing to her memorial mission project fund. Plans are now underway to complete, in her memory, a beautiful chapel in a rancho (village) outside of General Cepeda. For years, members of this very faithful community have met in one of the family's homes for worship, catechesis, and scripture study. Their prayers will be answered with a chapel named, "St. Faustina," after Alex's patroness.

As construction on the chapel draws toward completion, Alex's family, friends, and other members of our parish plan to come and spend a week in mission at the rancho, sharing Christ's love and teachings with the people there, while working together to finish building St. Faustina chapel. Upon its completion at the end of their time here, they will gather together for a special Mass to dedicate the chapel in honor of their beloved daughter, sister, and friend. Alex, even after her death, will serve as a spiritual missionary to this community for years to come through the presence of this chapel, built as a fruit of her desire for missions.

Please pray for Alex and her family, for the mission trip from St. John's Catholic Church in Westminster, MD, and for all the particulars surrounding this project which God is bringing to fruition out of love for His precious daughter, Alexandria Mary Kowalczyk.



*“The grace of renewal cannot grow in communities unless each of them expands the range of its charity to the ends of the earth, and has the same concern for those who are far away as it has for its own members.” Vat II, Missionary Activity, 37.*



## Jesus is the “Common Thread” by Lori Harvey

I am in awe of how far Christ has brought Russ and me in less than one year!! Big Woods feels as if it has always been our home. We are truly blessed to be living in the center of God’s will and offering our lives in His service. Has it always been easy? No, but it is a life I have always yearned to live. One filled with prayer, love, service, and dedication within a community where our main focus is Christ!! In answer to my prayers, our prayer lives have blossomed and we pray together seeking God’s will, something we had never done before as a couple. We have grown tremendously closer even though we have been married for 26 years – such a peaceful place to be! We await in excited anticipation, what the Lord wants us to do; today, tomorrow and in the future – knowing nothing can go wrong in His will. This doesn’t mean that we won’t have challenges; it does mean that Jesus will always be there to help us and the outcome will be for His Glory!!

Some wonderful opportunities to serve the Lord have presented these past few months. I was able to go with the Philippine Mission Team to start their Mission Post, and Russ was able to accompany Genie with the Therisian Mission Trip to General Cepeda. During my time in the Philippines I was filled to overflowing with God’s Love for His People and their love for Him. Every daily aspect of their lives seems to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ!! The vehicles they use for public transportation are decorated with Jesus and His Sacred Heart and with the Immaculate Heart of Mary!! All the Masses we attended, whether in a large Monastery or a quiet village church, were attended by Spirit-filled Catholics who were truly there to worship. Their simple yet fulfilled lives reminded me of how America must have been in the 1940’s, where family was the most important part of life and manual labor was a common thread; a time when people took pride in whatever they did and were totally content with whatever they had. A simple, peaceful, God-centered life is what the Filipino families live –we can all learn a lesson from these wonderful people.

I was able to leave money to buy Bibles for a Public School - can you imagine how wonderful our schools would be if our children were able to study the Bible there? I was blessed by being able to visit the Bobong Tribe - Joseph Summers and David Crain helped in baptizing this entire tribe - we witnessed their hunger to know more about Jesus Christ!! Please pray with me that Jesus will send a missionary family to live with this tribe to bring them more Gospel teachings! Their joy to hear the little we shared with them was absolutely wonderful. In America, we take for granted our Catholic Faith and all the access we have to learn more about the won-

derful God we serve. I was told that there were other tribes who wanted to be baptized but had no one to teach them the basics about Jesus and His Church. As Pope John Paul the Great tells us, “the call to a mission life is Urgent.”

When we were leaving the tribe, one of the ladies showed us an open wound in her abdomen that was oozing and asked for money to have an operation to properly close the wound. May God Bless abundantly our benefactors - because of them, we were able to leave money for the woman to have the surgery, only \$100 (US). I know if she hadn’t had the surgery she would have died. We are so blessed in this country to have medical aide for people. Many countries do not and so they suffer and die silently without any care at all. Please pray for her continued healing and for the entire Bobong Tribe.

Russ’s trip to General Cepeda, Mexico was to help in any way he could, and he was especially blessed by being in the Rancho’s in the evenings. He gave his testimony and Genie said it was just perfect!! He shared with the people, his conversion to Catholicism. When we moved back to Lafayette in 1997 he wanted to go back to the Baptist church of his youth. So for over a year we went to Mass on Saturday and to Baptist Services on Sunday. He asked me many questions about the differences in our faiths. So when I heard our priest announce the next RCIA course encouraging adult Catholics to attend if they hadn’t had any study on their faith since school years, I was very excited and signed up for the class. Russ asked if he could attend too, but wanted to make sure the

priest understood that he was NOT becoming Catholic. Our Associate Pastor, Father Mario Romero, was teaching the class and was in the process of publishing his book, *Unabridged Christianity*, and he followed that format. (It is an excellent book for people to read and learn about our faith.) When Father Mario reached the teaching on the Holy Eucharist and Gospel of John Chapter 6, Russ was struck by the truth of Jesus being fully present in the Eucharist, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. No one was happier than me when Russ said he HAD to become Catholic!! The truth about the Eucharist was something he could not turn away from.



*Psalms 25: 1-5*

*"I wait for you, O Lord; I lift up my soul to my God. In you I trust; do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me. No one is disgraced who waits for you, but only those who lightly break faith. Make known to me Your ways, Lord; teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my savior. For You I wait all the long day, because of Your goodness, Lord."*

FMC visiting the Philippines



## Letter to FMC

Jen shared our FMC life during her school years, she now lives a consecrated life with Regnum Cristi:

"I learned so many valuable lessons from FMC, lessons which have helped me immensely in accepting, living out, and loving my vocation. I learned the importance of the mission that God has given me and that no one else can fill it. I learned that God really never can be outdone in generosity, a lesson that is constantly proven to be true. I learned that happiness is only found when you stop seeking yourself. And of course I learned from my very first day of missions that the steadfast love of the Lord is renewed every morning!

"..It is very exciting to live a life completely abandoned to God's providence. It doesn't matter where I go, it only matters that Christ will always go with me."  
*Jen Hardey*

## Letters from the Philippines:

### From Colby Dupre':

While being here in the Philippines, the Lord has blessed me in many ways. The Lord says the second commandment is "Love your neighbor as yourself."

All my life I have been taught this, still I never really noticed this to a point that it stood out. One of the first things that I noticed when I arrived here was how to bring that commandment to life. One afternoon as I was riding my bike home from town, the pedal broke off. I tried to fix it a couple of times, but the last time it came off, I gave up. I stopped and said a short prayer and I was going to walk the bike home. Just as I started to walk off, an older gentleman walked up to me and asked the problem. So I told him. He just smiled and told me that was no problem. He told his son to go get his tools. Within a matter of just a few minutes, my bike was fixed; and as I started to ride off, this same nice man came across the street with his bike and said "*adfo na ta*", it means "lets go". He rode the rest of the way home with me just to make sure that I made it alright. The point to my story is this, just because you do not know someone does not mean that you can not help them. That man had no idea who I was, but he saw that I needed help and without hesitating he helped. God answered my prayer by sending this man. You could be the answer to someone's prayer. I challenge you to go the extra mile to help someone in need, whether you know them or not. God bless each one of you!

### From Christopher Alexander:

I want to begin by saying thanks for all your support with prayers and donations. For the first three months we were stationed in Malaybalay. When we were there we helped out at San Isidro College with the English Department. We also did street ministry with some of the beggars, reading the Bible and giving out rice.

Then God called us to Camiguin and we now live in a small *barangi* named Bobong, in an old restaurant building. We are working with the parish priest, Fr. Joe, to restart programs at the Catholic high school.

The culture here is so God centered. Everyone helps everyone without hesitation or complaining. And just being here really made me think about what God is calling me to do.

### From Team Leader, Eric Baquet:

We are now on Camiguin Island and things are going great. I never would have imagined all the work there is. Our biggest task is teaching in the parish high school.

I'm not an experienced teacher, and it scares me to think that so many children look to me for knowledge, but I know the Lord will use me.

I ask that you pray for me and my team. I will be teaching religion. Pray that I always be faithful in my own life to the things that I teach.



Philippines Team (left to right): Chris Alexander, Sarita Kosnosky, Eric Baquet, and Colby Dupre'

## Owner's Manual For Life

by Tanya Falcon (Secretary at Big Woods Mission)

During the nearly forty-four years of my life, my relationship with the Lord has not always been as strong as it is today. Like many of you, the struggles of life intruded upon my faith. Living among non-Christians, as well as working in and with the public, it wasn't always easy or even allowed for me to speak of Him. There were times when weeks went by that I didn't say His name aloud.

It was during a really low period in my life that I discovered, quite to my disgrace, that I had never even read through the entire Bible. One day as I sat at work, an acquaintance came in carrying a Bible with him. I remember thinking that it was strange for him to be carrying it around that way. Little did I know that my life was about to change.

During our conversation, he never lifted his Bible toward me or indicated it in any way, but he quoted several scriptures, which either addressed issues or gave guidance to parts of our conversation. I was in awe of how easily he found answers to questions pertaining to day-to-day life within those pages. Could I find answers there?

That night I dusted off my Bible and prayed for guidance, an open heart, and for Him to clear my vision of any obstacles that might prevent me from becoming completely engrossed in the passages. I began to read and suddenly – without heed to my hesitation – He answered my prayers. One after the other, I found the answers to my questions as I devoured the words of the Old Testament. Within days I had finished

it! I celebrated inside myself. I now understood why my friend had been carrying it with him and using it in his daily routines. What I still didn't understand, however, was that God was nowhere near done with me.

As I turned the first pages of the New Testament my life would change forever, but my heart was still cautious. I read each sentence attentively – looking for the meaning of life, and then I re-read the passage. Each paragraph, every chapter chipped away my old self. The thoughts, patterns and self-inflicted guidelines I had previously been living by were blown away with each new scripture!

I had discovered the true "Owner's Manual For Life" and it was a wonderful and life-giving discovery! I had before understood that I must live by the commandments handed down to Moses by God, and I had tried to do so, but failed - and I had carried the guilt of those discrepancies with me. But what I discovered in the words of Christ was that I was forgiven. To be forgiven – and to understand that you can forgive yourself - is a true blessing!

Could it be that simple? Could I live simply by that truth and have real happiness and the love of the Lord, as well? My heart swelled to the point of nearly exploding. I read through the entire New Testament and then read it again, and again; each time, the answers stared back at me from the pages and with each new discovery, the trials of my life disappeared.

Money problems were – without any logical explanation - taken care of, job issues which had been eating at me were resolved, family troubles were replaced by family joys; and my heart, which had been heavily burdened by all of these troubles, was now light and utterly filled with joy – the joy of Jesus Christ had replaced all my sorrows!

How can I repay Him I asked myself? How can I show the Lord my thankfulness? After much deliberation, I consulted my Bible again. Low and behold the answer! **"Sing His praise"** – tell others what you have experienced. That is the purpose of this testimony. I hope – no I *pray* - that each of you will be touched by my witness here and pick up your Bible. Look for the answers – *your answers!* Ask the Lord to help you with the question or trouble you are facing and *open your heart to His answer!*

*"Precious Jesus, send to each of my friends who are so desperately in need of your guidance, the exceedingly wonderful gift of Your presence in their lives. Show them, Lord what you have shown me. Amen!"*



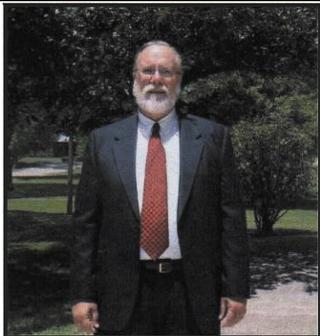
## SERVE Appeal by Elizabeth Edwards (FMC Bookkeeper)

The pastor of a local parish recently made an appeal for funds to repaint the inside of our church building which had been damaged by Hurricane Rita. At each of the six weekend masses, he asked for donations/memorials of 10 saints that would be painted on the ceiling of the church. The paintings would cost \$10,000 each. The next weekend, he announced that all of the saints had been donated after the six masses. I started thinking about the importance of this in terms of the greater Church. The members of any church are quick to give to their own comfort and proud to memorialize their ancestors/relatives in beautiful ways. But how quick and generous are we to give to the living Church - to those doing God's work in not so comfortable places. Would we be excited to give \$10,000 to living saints who meet the same day to day challenges that Jesus did in proclaiming the Good News to the ends of the earth? I challenge us all to take a good look at what and how we give, and to prayerfully consider giving to Family Missions Company and its missionaries more than we have in the past. Would you be a \$10,000 donor to add a saint to heaven?



## Frank's Note:

**EVANGELIZATION:** Recently I learned of the Vatican's "Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization", published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The document calls us all to be fervent in our commitment to missionary evangelism:



- "...[T]o evangelize does not mean simply to teach a doctrine, but to proclaim Jesus Christ by one's words and actions, that is, to make oneself an instrument of His presence and action in the world." (2)
- The primary objective of evangelism is "to help all persons to meet Christ in faith". (2)
- "There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and speak to others of our friendship with Him." (A quote from Mass homily by Benedict XVI.)
- "Evangelization also involves a sincere dialogue that seeks to understand the reasons and feelings of others." (8)
- "Evangelization does not only entail the possibility of enrichment for those who are evangelized; it is also an enrichment for the one who does the evangelizing, as well as for the entire Church.... Every encounter with another person or culture is capable of revealing potentialities of the Gospel which hitherto may not have been fully explicit and which will enrich the life of Christians and the Church." (6)
- This apostolic commitment to which everyone in the Church is called is "an inalienable right and duty." (10)
- **Public preaching** of the Gospel and **personal witness** ("whereby an individual's personal conscience is reached and touched by an entirely unique word that he receives from someone else") are both essential. (12)
- "Throughout the entire history of the Church, people motivated by the love of Jesus have undertaken initiatives and works of every kind in order to proclaim the Gospel to the entire world and in all sectors of society." (13)

In His Message for World Mission Sunday 2007, Pope Benedict XVI talks about the urgency of the missionary mandate. The theme chosen for World Mission day was "All the Churches for all the world". This is meant to incite an awareness of "the urgent need to relaunch missionary action in the face of the many serious challenges of our time."

Missionary activity allows a providential "exchange of gifts" which benefits the entire Mystical Body of Christ — "the most will be made of the potential and charisms of each one...all the Christian communities...every baptized person."

He repeats that "missionary commitment remains the first service that the Church owes to humanity". All the Pastors should promote this "pressing concern to proclaim and spread the Gospel."

He exhorts the Church to pray for the priests, religious and laity serving in foreign missions. He asks God that their example may inspire new missionary vocations and

renewed mission awareness, noting that "it is precisely on the basis of the courage to evangelize that the love of believers for the Lord is measured."

"For the individual members of the faithful it is no longer merely a matter of collaboration in evangelizing work but of feeling that they themselves are protagonists and co-responsible." Working together we "use the means necessary for evangelization today", "working out appropriate spiritual and formative itineraries", and "training new missionaries to spread the Gospel in our time".

**THE GREAT CHARISMATIC RENEWAL:** Genie and I have recently read **Sober Intoxication of the Spirit: Filled with the Fullness of God**, an excellent book on the spiritual life by Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM; he is the preacher to the papal household. Fr. Cantalamessa teaches on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our journey to holiness and fruitful service to God. He affirms the experience of "BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT", and of "THE CHARISMS", "SPEAKING IN TONGUES" and prayers for "HEALING". As I read the book, I wondered, "Where was this book at the height of the Charismatic Renewal in America?" The Charismatic Renewal is so *Catholic*, so rooted in sound doctrine — why couldn't we (the Church, the people who go to churches, me) see that? I've asked all of our FMC missionaries to read the book.

### **LECTIO DIVINA is SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:**

In our last issue of SERVE, I wrote an article on the importance of LECTIO DIVINA. And during Lent Cantalamessa gave a talk to Benedict XVI and the Roman Curia on the same subject. I found the transcript on Zenit, March 7, 2008.

Fr. Cantalamessa quotes St. Ambrose (my confirmation saint): "The word of God is the vital substance of our soul; there is nothing else that could give life to man's soul apart from the word of God." He recalls that John Paul II recommended Lectio Divina to all Catholics in his "Novo Millennio Ineunte" letter (where the Pope outlines an authentic Catholic spirituality for the Third Millennium).

Fr. Cantalamessa says we come into contact with the word of God in the liturgy; in Bible schools and with written aids; and through "something that is irreplaceable — **personal reading of the Bible at home.**"

In Lectio Divina there are three steps or successive actions: (1) "welcoming the word"; (2) contemplating and meditating on the word; and (3) putting the word into practice; and for teachers, a systematic study of the Bible. A purely impersonal or academic reading is dangerous, as is a reading without meditation ("fundamentalism").

More than "searching the Scriptures", we must allow ourselves to be searched by the Scriptures, coming to self-knowledge and knowledge of God.

Fr. Cantalamessa teaches on the value of Scripture in providing SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: "To every soul that desires it, the word of God assures fundamental, and in itself infallible, spiritual direction." Ordinary and everyday spiritual direction is assured by meditation on the word of God accompanied by the interior anointing of the Spirit. "There have been souls who have become holy with the word of

God as their sole spiritual director.” There are occasions when powerful, true spiritual direction comes from prayerful “random opening” of the Bible. He cites the guidance St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Therese of Lisieux received in this way.

He says we must not just read and study our Bible word, we must “swallow” it, so that it truly becomes “the substance of our soul,” “that which informs our thoughts, forms language, determines actions, creates the ‘spiritual’ man”. This swallowed word is “the most powerful of life principles”, similar to the Eucharist.

We must “Be doers of the word and not hearers only.” “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.” St. Gregory the Great wrote that the word of God is only truly understood when one begins to practice it. “Listening to” the word means one carries out what one has heard.

The New Testament calls us to “OBEDIENCE”. Studying this holy obedience, “one makes a surprising discovery, and that is, that obedience is almost always seen as obedience to the word of God.” “The obedience itself of Jesus is exercised above all through obedience to written words. In the episode of the temptations in the desert, Jesus’ obedience consists in recalling the words of God and of abiding in them: ‘It is written!’”

“Jesus’ life is as guided by a luminous wake that the others did not see and which is created by the words that were written for him; he gathers from the Scriptures the ‘it is necessary’...that governs his whole life.”

We should all be guided by God’s word in Scripture: “The words of God, by the present action of the Spirit, become the expression of the living will of God for me in a given moment.” When we receive a special word during prayerful Bible reading, we can understand that though the word does not apply universally in all cases, certainly in that moment it applies to us, and we obey it.

“Obeying visible orders and authorities, is something that we do every so often, three or four times in a lifetime, if we are talking about serious obedience; but there can be obedience to God’s word in every moment. It is also the obedience that applies to all of us, inferiors and superiors, clerics and laity. The laity do not have a superior in the Church whom they must obey – at least not in the sense that religious and clerics have a superior; but they do have, in compensation, a ‘Lord’ to obey! They have His word.”

## Walking with Jesus

Song lyrics by Frank Summers II

*Walking with Jesus, living in the light,  
Trusting in my Savior, day and night.  
Walking in His Spirit, going where it blows,  
Trusting in His graces, that’s how a Christian grows.*

*Focus on this day, don’t worry about the next,  
Put on the yoke of Jesus, and give it your very best.  
First love the Lord God, with all your might,  
Then love your neighbor, you’ll be walking in the light!*

*Speak out the Good News, help those in need.  
Have a servant’s heart, and die to worldly greed.  
Be kind and gentle, always do what’s right.  
In this world of darkness, you’ll be holding up the light!*

*I’m walking with Jesus, living in His light,  
Trusting in my Savior, day and night.  
Walking in His Spirit, going where it blows,  
Trusting in His graces, that’s how this Christian grows!*

## ASK! by Frank Summers II

As followers of Jesus, we have a duty to come to know and discern God’s will for ourselves, for His Church, for others, for creation - we seek wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. When we understand God’s will, we are instructed to pray for His will to be done:

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”  
“Let it be done to me according to Thy will.”

The Lord expects us to labor in prayer asking Him to do all the good things that need doing and to prevent and deliver us from all evils. “You do not have because you do not ask.” “Ask and you shall receive.” Jesus said it many times, in many contexts.

“If you who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him” (Mt. 7:11); “how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Lk. 11:13b).

In instructions Jesus gave at the Last Supper, He urged: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.” John 16:23b—24.

Our missionaries learn to seek the Lord concerning His will; we study His Word and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are committed to obey God’s will and work at conversion and transformation in our own lives and for others—we seek and receive the grace and power of the Holy Spirit to be sanctified, made holy. And we PRAY for everything that the Lord wants to do, so that His Kingdom comes and His will is done on earth, as it is in heaven.

What are the things the Lord wants to do in you and in the world? Pray with faith and perseverance; God will do them!

## *In Loving Memory of*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ Remy &amp; Louise Hebert</li> <li>~ William Bourne</li> <li>~ Mr. &amp; Mrs. Adam Guidry</li> <li>~ Clayton Beadle</li> <li>~ Mr. &amp; Mrs. Edmond Bourgeois</li> <li>~ Larry Crosson</li> <li>~ Joshua Wilkinson</li> <li>~ Bill Desormeaux</li> <li>~ Claire Bourgeois</li> <li>~ Eloise Freyou</li> <li>~ Winnie Miller</li> <li>~ Lillian Hebert</li> <li>~ Hazel Mitchell</li> <li>~ Evelyn Fontana</li> <li>~ The deceased members of St. Joseph Parish</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ James Vinson, Sr.</li> <li>~ Joanne Beno</li> <li>~ Gerald Beno</li> <li>~ Lorraine Holmes</li> <li>~ Alexandria Kowalczyk</li> <li>~ Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Cross</li> <li>~ Fr. Martin Patrick Carr</li> <li>~ Mary &amp; George Thomas</li> <li>~ Fred &amp; Florence Thomas</li> <li>~ Jennie &amp; Joseph Kaurer</li> <li>~ Jane &amp; Ed Sullivan</li> <li>~ George &amp; Mary Dowalily</li> <li>~ Joseph Sion</li> <li>~ Mary Bell Summers</li> <li>~ Carlene Gremillion</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

If you would like your loved ones to be written in our Memoriam Book, which is kept in the Chapel and remembered in our prayers and Masses, please contact us at (337) 893-6111 or email us at [office@fmcmissions.com](mailto:office@fmcmissions.com).

*FMC's Ambulance has finally made it to General Cepeda at a total cost of \$4154.43. Please consider making a donation to assist with these expenses.*

**FMC NEEDS:**  
Mini-Van or Sport Utility Vehicle  
Laptop & Desktop Computers  
Letter Folding Machine

Volunteers:  
woodcutters, carpenters & mechanics

FMC Mugs—\$5.00  
FMC T-shirts—\$15.00  
*Go, You Are Sent (Book)*  
by Genie Summers—\$10.00  
**Contact us to order**

*“Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, That he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.” Isaiah 2:3*

### Do You Need Speakers?

**Conferences, Retreats, Seminars,  
Parish Missions:**  
Family Life, Holiness, Mission, Lay Apostolate  
Contact Frank and Genie Summers

### Prayer

If you are in need of prayer,  
contact us and we can include  
you in our daily petitions.  
Remember:  
**Jesus Loves You!!!**

## CONTACT US:

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*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:19 — 20**