



Family Missions Company

SERVE

New Year
2012

Events

Mission Formation
Our Lady of the
Bayous
Every Wed. @
6:30pm

Summer School of
Missionary
Evangelism
Philippines 2012

Valentine's Dance
February 15

Hope Fest
March 10

Shoot with a Mission
April 21

Faith Camp
July 16-20

Mission Trips

Medical Mission -
Philippines March 2-11

General Cepeda, MX
April 9-16

Medical Mission-
Peru April 20-29

General Cepeda, MX
May 24-June 2



With the Eyes of Christ

By: Susanna deAlmeida

Five years ago I was working in an e-learning company in my city, Pune, India. I had my own little workspace, my own computer and a nice paycheck. My office was air-conditioned, protecting me from the uncomfortable wet monsoon weather, the chilly winters and the blazing summers. I could go through the whole day with my headphones on, with hardly any human contact, and with no idea of what the weather was like outside. But something nagged at me. I kept seeing myself living in a bubble, cut off from the "real world": the vast majority of people who worked outdoors, people who didn't have it as good as I did, people who had to deal with many discomforts in their daily life. I itched to leave, and within two years I did. I taught a third grade class in a village for one school year and then joined FMC as a foreign missionary.

Even after I left that job, I realized that I still lived in that bubble. I had lived in it all my life. There are so many social divisions in India. I'm sure there are the obvious caste distinctions to most traditional Hindus, but there are so many other subtle, and equally rigid divisions. A maid will not sit down for a meal with her employer. An English speaker laughs at those who speak "broken" English. A fair-skinned guy will rarely date or marry a dark-skinned girl. Nobody will ever notice or greet a street sweeper. Well, people in the city will almost never greet or smile or make eye contact with a stranger. No one makes small talk with office clerks or shopkeepers. No one will ever touch a beggar. Most of the time we won't even notice them, unless they tug at your clothes or thrust a begging bowl in your face.

That was my life too, living in my educated, English-speaking, Westernized, Catholic bubble. When I walked down a street, I wouldn't see people. I didn't even realize it, but if you were not "like" me, I didn't notice you. Not being able to speak much Hindi strengthened the division. I didn't dislike people, I just ignored them. God knew that He had so much more in mind for me. He began to open my eyes in little ways over the years. In 2007, when FMC missionaries came on their first trip to India, I remember being with them at a church in Mumbai. As we walked out, I saw an old partly crippled woman coming up the steps to the gate. I moved aside so she could pass, but the FMC missionaries immediately moved towards her to help her up the steps. It jolted me because the thought hadn't even crossed my mind.

In my time in Mexico and the Philippines, God kept challenging me to see people with new eyes. And I began to change, slowly and sometimes reluctantly. Old habits die hard. The real test came when I returned to India in November 2011 after a year and a half away. The Lord knew I would need help, so He arranged an FMC short-term mission trip to Kolkata and Pune to get me going. He used the missionaries to help me see my fellow-Indians through new eyes- His eyes.

Two evenings of the trip we went out with "dispensas" for the many homeless people, a guitar, and a willingness to tell





anyone and everyone that Jesus loved them and wanted them to know Him. As this bunch of Americans (and one little Indian) walked the streets of Kolkata, people flocked to us. Within moments of stopping to talk to someone, we would have a crowd around us. You know why? Because this was something different, something new. White Americans are akin to celebrities in India. They are on the top layer of the many, many layers in Indian society. Almost everyone will treat them with deference: "And these superstars choose to hang out with us, the common man? Not talk down to us, but be with us? Treat us with respect, not condescension? Treat us not just as equals, but as brothers?" Remind you of Someone?

At one point a man who was chatting to us asked me, "Are you their guide?" I said, "No, I am also a missionary. We work together." He couldn't get it. "You are friends?" "Yes," I said. "How do you like it? What is it like?" he asked. "It's good," I said, unable to explain with my limited Hindi that we are equals, we are friends, we are brothers and sisters with the same Father. I am no less than than them, and neither was he.

For the first time in my life, I looked at every passerby, every local sitting with a glass of *chai*, every vegetable seller, every ragged child, every old beggar, as a precious soul, as a beloved child. How could I ignore them? They were His, as I am His. They don't know Him by name yet, does that make them less precious or less relevant? No, more, because He desires them to know His name and His love. I heard someone say once, "If Jesus is true for anyone anywhere, then Jesus is true for everyone everywhere." What a thought! "Lord, You love each of these people with the same tender, intimate, passionate love You have for me?"

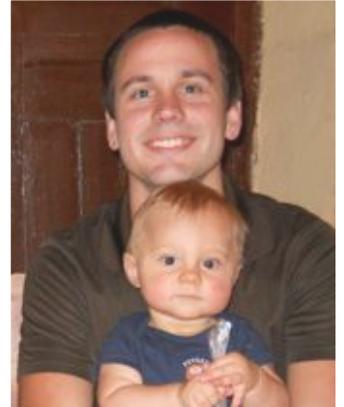
I don't think I had smiled at so many strangers in my life. The Lord blessed my Hindi, and I found it was not as bad as I thought it was. I prayed with people, I asked them about their lives, I saw them. One evening we stopped to help a poor woman begging for medicine for her son. We prayed for her, then took her to a pharmacy to buy the medicine. As I waited for them to get the medicine, I suddenly felt a pair of arms slip around me. "I'm so happy that you came," the woman said as she hugged me. A barrier broken.

This is the God we have - a God who destroys the barriers created by sin, prejudices and hard-heartedness, and gives us new hearts with which to love and new eyes with which to see the world. A God who gave up His privilege, and stepped out of His comfort zone to love us and show us who He really is and who we really are. You and I are called to do the same.

"Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave." — Pope Benedict XVI, God Is Love (Deus Caritas Est)

To follow Susanna's mission, check out her blog: suz-missionpossible.blogspot.com

Life to the fullest! By: Joseph Summers



So much has happened since my last SERVE article, it is hard to know where to begin. Jesus tells us that He has "come so that we might have life, and have it to the fullest" (Jn 10:10)! This is certainly what He has done in my life these last few years.

Three years ago, while leading a mission trip to General Cepeda, Mexico, I met Brooke. I was so impressed by her natural love for the poor and her missionary heart; I'd be lying if I told you I didn't also notice her beauty. Brooke had a profound experience on that trip and felt called to serve the Lord as a missionary. In February of 2009, she signed up for our medical mission to Ecuador. The trip was amazing, God did great things. The night after I returned from that mission, Brooke and I had dinner at the Olive Garden. I can't remember what I ate, but I will never forget her smile as we met each other in the parking lot. A year and 18 days later our lives were joined in holy matrimony! My life has never been sweeter.

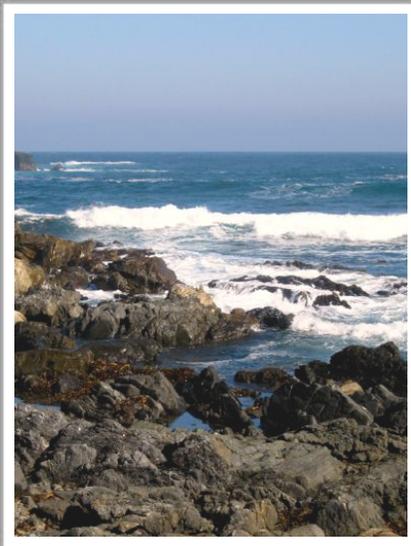
Our time of engagement was full as well. Brooke underwent her missionary training with Intake 2010, and we took a marriage preparation course with our dear friends, the Pagans. As if that wasn't enough to keep us busy, that fall we felt the LORD leading us to receive the gift of an old house to be moved onto property my parents generously donated to us. At the time, investing in a house seemed out of place for a young missionary couple eager to leave all to proclaim the Gospel and serve the poor.

Nevertheless, after much conversation, discernment, and a novena to St. Joseph, we felt God confirm his plan for the house. Built in the 1940's, the building had strong "bones" and loads of character, but lacked a few amenities, such as plumbing, electricity/wiring, and heat/AC. Even the roof had to be removed before the house could make the 42 mile journey to Bigwoods. By the grace of God, a lot of hard work, and countless heaven-sent volunteers, the house was ready for us to move in to shortly after returning from our honeymoon. We thank God often for the blessing of our house, and the many hearts and hands that made it a home for us.

While moving into our new home in May of 2010 was an enormous blessing, the greatest joy for our new marriage came with a positive pregnancy test in July. No amount of words could describe the profound exhilaration Brooke and I experienced welcoming Anthony into the world in the early hours of the morning, April, 3rd 2012. The fruit of Brooke's heroic twenty-four hour labor was 7lbs 15.4 ounces of pure blessing. This past year God has taught us a whole lot about being a missionary family as our involvement and leadership within FMC have increased. We took Anthony's passport picture at 2 weeks, and he has gotten more mileage out of his passport in the last nine months than most people do in their lifetime. Last year the LORD has used our family to serve in St. Lucia for SSME, Europe for World Youth Day, Mexico for Intake 2011 mission, and India on an advent mission. We experienced so much grace in each mission, along with the challenge of keeping up our marathon itinerary with an infant in arms. Anthony is a rockstar missionary, and opened hearts to Jesus with his irresistible smile everywhere we went. Brooke was "Supermom," taking each mission adventure in stride. All counted, Anthony visited 8 countries in his first 8 months of life!

God is doing so much, we are running to keep up! This year our family is beginning a new mission adventure, as Brooke and I step into our new roles as directors here at FMC. We hope that by assuming this role of leadership, we can serve our community of missionaries well, and even provide some respite for my parents who have "carried the load" since FMC was founded 15 years ago. (I know they will serve the LORD as His missionaries until they draw their last breath.) We also pray that God will use our "yes," to continue to bless the poor around the world who receive the love and mercy of God through the generous sacrifices of our missionaries. We pray God will grant us the grace to be faithful, so that He can be fruitful through our witness to the Church of her "supreme duty of proclaiming Christ to all peoples."

Glorious Beauty By: Rebekah Lillis



“As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” –Matthew 4:18-20

Jesus called Peter and Andrew while they were in the middle of fishing. For these men, fishing wasn't a Saturday hobby—chill out by the lake, shoot the breeze, catch a couple trout. It was a demanding and all-encompassing life. They had to keep their nets mended, know when and where to bring in the best catch, and lift heavy loads into the boats. Jesus had probably watched them labor at their profession, and knew their dedication and skill. When Jesus called them to follow Him, he was stepping into what these two apostles knew and did best; into a moment when they were fully using their natural talents. He invited them to abandon an earthly catch for a Heavenly one.

In a similar way, Jesus called me. I have always been captivated by natural beauty: painting, sculpture, literature, poetry, nature. This was my 'fishing.' I took every art class in my high school, and began college as an English Literature major. The day Jesus transformed this passion is forever etched into my mind and on my heart. It was summertime, and I was home on break from college. The nebulous question, 'what am I

doing with my life?', filled my mind. To sort out my thoughts and listen for clarity, I went for a run on an empty country road. In the midst of beautiful golden sunlight and rows of corn, the Lord spoke directly to my heart. He said, "I am the one who gave you a love for art. With paints and poems you can show the world the natural beauty of color, shadow and shape. Follow me and, through love, you can reveal to the world the Eternal Beauty of Jesus Christ alive in the hearts of men." Colors fade, sculptures crumble, but a soul consumed with the love of God is **"changed...from glory to glory."** (2 Cor. 3:17)

"Beauty is a key to the mystery and a call to transcendence. It is an invitation to savor life and to dream of the future. That is why the beauty of created things can never fully satisfy. It stirs that hidden nostalgia for God which a lover of beauty like Saint Augustine could express in incomparable terms: 'Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new: late have I loved you!'" –John Paul II 'Letter to Artists'

This was the answer! This is what my life was made for! Immediately I left my plans of pursuing earthly treasures and began to seek the "beauty so old and so new." Answering "yes" to following Jesus was just the beginning of a life-long



journey. On that summer afternoon, I couldn't see where He would lead me, and I still can't see beyond the next few steps, but I am certain that it will be glorious.

God created each one of us with unique skills and talents. He placed those gifts within us for a purpose. Pray about those talents; ask Jesus how He wants you to use them for His glory. Quiet your heart and listen. He is inviting you to use your skills to serve Someone beyond yourself. When we surrender our natural talents and interests to God, they are transformed. Peter and Andrew's natural skill of fishing becomes a supernatural vocation to bring souls to Christ. The discipline gained on the Sea of Galilee—patience, perseverance, strength—is redirected toward God. Christ will take the gifts that you bring Him—maybe musical talent, or an interest in computers— and raise them to supernatural tools for building the Kingdom of Heaven. There is no gift too small to be used by the Lord! In surrendering our lives to God, we lose nothing of what makes life great, and gain Greatness Itself.

Building an Earthly House and a Heavenly Home

By: John-Paul Papusnski

The first time I met Francisca we were standing at the door of the Casa de Misiones, in Mexico. I was living there at the time, and I had become quite familiar with the customary knocks on the door – the people of the small town of General Cepeda or the surrounding villages needing our assistance for food, medical bills, clothing – the basic necessities of life. Often they came just seeking prayer and Christian encouragement, something we offer every time we open our door to meet Christ in His “distressing disguise.” Francisca came that afternoon asking for food. She was quiet, humble, and obviously very poor. I offered to let her do some work around the house in exchange for food. Soon, she became one of our regular visitors, always very humble, asking simply for food to feed her family.

As time passed, I began to notice a pattern – when Francisca showed up at our door, a young man with his small children were stationed on the park bench across the street. They were there when she arrived, and they were still sitting there, waiting, as she would leave. It dawned on me – the proud young man, Chemo, was her husband, and the children, her own. She was feeding her family on the small work we could find for her at the Mission House. From then on out, when Francisca would arrive at the house, I would wave to the family, inviting them all in to share a meal with us – to act as one family around one table.

As we became closer, I felt a deep desire to visit our friends in their own home, to see how dire their circumstances were and to better understand their needs. It was not easy to convince my friends to allow me to come, and when I arrived at their dilapidated shack, I instantly felt their shame and understood. A tiny, one-room hut served as the only living space for the entire family; the roof was collapsing, caving in on them, and the filth



gave off an odor that made me gag and cough, my throat burning as I breathed in the stench. To see a family living in such unhealthy and miserable conditions broke my heart – it became apparent to me that they needed far more assistance than just the simple, joyful meals that we shared with them throughout the week. I wanted to build them a new house, but I had to wait on the Lord's timing. They were fearful of accepting our help, strangely attached to the wreckage of their home. Our year ended, and I was called to discern marriage (with my now wife) back in the United States. I left our dear friends, some of the dearest we had made in our mission, still living in shambles – my comfort being that the missionaries who were coming to live in the Mission House had promised to continue visiting them in our stead.

This past month I was asked to lead a short-term mission trip back to General Cepeda. As we were planning out the details of the trip we had to find several work projects for the Life Teen group to do around town. On the top of my priority list, and that of all the missionaries who had been privileged to know this family, was building Francisca and Chemo a new home. Despite their past resistance, our friends responded with joy and humility. Hardly ever in my mission life have I been so truly blessed – to turn and see Chemo, a rare smile spread across his face, working by our side to build his family a home. This Life Teen group gave our friends not only a new home, but also a new sense of their God-given dignity. As the week passed, and we gave our tired bodies to this service of love, a deeper, more beautiful gift was being forged in the hearts of our friends. Not only will they have a healthier environment in which to raise their children, but they will have a transformed understanding of their own worth in the eyes of the King of kings. If we could have given them a palace to live in, it would not have compared with the riches and glory that we all experienced that week, working side-by-side with our Mexican brothers and sisters, building a home for our Mexican kin, and giving them back their true identity as beloved Children of God. I am so grateful to have been a witness to my God, working through His missionaries, to build His Kingdom on earth!



Learn to Dance By: Staci Alvarez



This past year has been the greatest year of my life, as well as the most painful and the most challenging. It has been a year of learning what it truly means to surrender all to God, not just personal belongings, but personal expectations, ideals, and plans - not only daily, but minute by minute. **This year I learned how to dance!**

When Odilio told me 2 years ago that he felt God calling us to sell everything and be missionaries, I was confused. It was not that I was too attached to our material things, because really I had been longing for a more simple way of life, but it was that I was too attached to my idea of what a holy family should be. To my understanding, my personal sanctification and that of my children only was to fulfill my marriage vocation and anything more than that seemed impossible - but I found out that I was holding out on God. I've come to

realize that if you have any time at all, God won't mind taking it; and if you have any amount of money, God can surely use it. Whatever else you thought was necessary to spend these things on isn't worth the honor and privilege of watching them be used to bless someone else, because there are so many prayers from people all over the world being sent up to heaven everyday that need to be answered; and God is looking for whoever is willing, because **"Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours"(St. Teresa of Avila)**. And if you are silent enough to hear the music of His Spirit, then you can learn to dance with God!

While serving on Camiguin Island in the Philippines, we had the privilege of working with some of the Lord's most humble, selfless servants. One of these remarkable people is Mr. Ladao, principal of Holy Rosary High School. Although retired, he volunteers his days running the parish school because he values a good, Christ-centered education and has made it his mission to keep the school open regardless of the cost or sacrifice. Knowing the financial situation of the low-income parish, he agreed to take on the job without pay. Even when he became ill with a rare leg infection that left him struggling to walk, he was dedicated to being present at the school for the sake of the students. It wasn't until the parish priest insisted that he have his discolored and incredibly swollen leg thoroughly examined that he agreed to slow down his activity. At first the doctors were at a loss to explain the illness, and, much to Mr. Ladao's disappointment, he was admitted to the hospital to undergo further testing, which lasted weeks. He was finally diagnosed with a rare bacteria thought to be contracted while wading through flood waters to escape from his home during heavy rains months before. He is now left with an enormous hospital bill--84,000 pesos (\$1800)--that he has no way of paying. Because we admire his missionary spirit and are indebted to him for his donation of land for an FMC mission house on the island, we would like to do all we can to help him.



Mr. Ladao

If you would like to help Mr. Ladao, please send your donations to Family Missions Company, specifying **"Mr. Ladao."**
Thank you! Odilio and Stacie Alvarez

Back Again By: Albert Zalewski



Finally, I'm back to Family Missions Company after three years!

In 2008, I left USA for my mission to Pune City on the west coast of India. Brother Luke (my mission partner) and I rendered our service in a new parish church dedicated to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We had the chance to talk to many people and share the Good News with them. It was amazing to see how many of them are interested in Jesus and His Gospel. Some of our listeners were Hindu, but were still paying much attention to the Gospel. I was surprised to see how the Holy Spirit is working in their hearts, and bringing them to Jesus.

After six months in India, we had to leave to extend our visas. We went to Singapore to apply for an extension, but the Indian Embassy there said NO, no visa; so we had to stay in Singapore. The Lord was good (like He always is) and helped us in finding good people, a roof, and something to do - praised be His name. While there, we spent some time with Mother Teresa's sisters in a nursing home run by them. We also had the opportunity to meet with people and share our testimonies. After my service in Singapore, I served in Malaysia for a few months in Batu Arang, an hour and a half away from the capital city of

Kuala Lumpur. In this small town is a small camp for refugees from Myanmar (Burma). It was sad to listen to their stories about living in that poor country, where the government is run by the military regime (JUNTA). Many people are killed by soldiers from their own country. The director of this camp asked us to teach them English and basic computer skills, and of course we could also pray with them. Some were Catholic, most of them were Buddhist, but open to Jesus and His message. As I never go around with documents on me, one day my passport and U.S. visa was stolen. I went to the police station to report it, and to the Polish Embassy in Kuala Lumpur for a temporary passport. Without my visa, I could no longer come back to America, so I went back to Poland. In Poland, I had to apply for new documents. Everything was ok, but I had to wait for a long time to get another U.S. visa.

I was praying and hoping in God, ready to do His will, ready to stay in Poland, ready to go back in mission. His will was that I would come back to Family Missions Company. I'm happy to be back, once again. In this time here, I'm preparing myself for a new mission. I do not yet know where I will be going. Now, as you well know, we are sent forth by donations. If you would support me I would be grateful and the Lord will pay you back 100 times, for sure. I count on your generosity. God Bless you all.

A Father Who Gives Good Things

By: Erika Olsen



Many people ask me, “What’s the most difficult part about being a missionary?” My answer: In this past year in General Cepeda, I was often overwhelmed by the physical need of those who came to our door. So often I wondered “How can I help? I’m just one little human being.” It is the truth. I cannot assist them in their every need because I am just one person, His little missionary. However, God in His greatness **CAN** meet their needs. These are two stories that prove that “we have a **REAL** God, Who does **REAL** things, for **REAL** people, in a **REAL** world,” (as Mr. Frank would say).

One October morning, a young woman, Luz Maria (Light of Mary), came with her 6 month-old, explaining that she needed help. Her former boyfriend was physically abusive and he had left, taking one of her 5 children with him. She needed food, diapers, anything we could offer. She only had a lean-to shack for a house. Not having much to offer her, I gave her a few diapers and some of our food. Then I asked if we could pray. As we began to pray, I felt a desire to pray that God would bring her little boy back to her. Two weeks later, I heard a knock on the door. When I opened it she was standing there with the 6 month-old and another little boy by her side. She looked at me with a smile and said, “This is Tadeo (Thaddeus). This is my son that I told you about. He’s back!”

About a month later, another familiar face appeared at our door. Doña Teresa came often to visit. She always asked for food, rosaries, clothes, and above all prayer. We sat and listened while she talked with us about her life in her village. We offered her what we could, and then we prayed. One day in particular, she asked for prayer for a baby in her village. She told us that the baby had an inoperable heart defect. The baby was not even a year old. We prayed and begged the Lord to heal the baby. A few weeks went by and Doña Teresa came again. She did not mention the baby, but asked for more prayer for an elderly woman in the hospital in Monterrey. The woman’s family believed that the woman would die. We prayed again, like we had so many times, trusting that God would hear our prayer. When

FMC’s Intake missionaries came down for their three-week trip to General Cepeda, Doña Teresa came again. Since it had been a long while since we last saw her, I was not expecting such great news from her. She shared that both the baby and the elderly woman had been healed! Tears welled in my eyes as I was overwhelmed, not by their need, but by God’s goodness in hearing us.

How **GOOD** the Lord is to hear our prayers - to grant our pleas when we ask. In these situations we are able to “confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help” (Hebrews 4;16). These are just two of the many miracles God has done at the door of our mission house in General Cepeda, Mexico.



Meet our Staff:



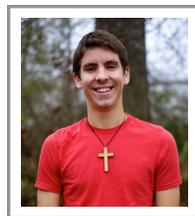
Joseph Summers
Director



Brooke Summers
Vice President



Elizabeth Edwards
Bookkeeper/Database



James Franke
Short Term
Missions



Erika Olsen
Missionary
Coordinator



Teresa Reardon
Hospitality & Events
Coordinator



Amanda Winch
Executive Secretary



John Paul Summers
Faith Camp Coordinator



Sarah Granger
Development Office



David Yarborough
Retreat Coordinator



ALL CATHOLICS MUST BE EVANGELIZED AND THEN EVANGELIZE OTHERS, BY OUR LIVES, OUR WORDS, AND OUR APOSTOLIC WORKS

By: Frank Summers

The Second Vatican Council has launched the Catholic laity into a new era of participation in the life and mission of the Church, and the mission of Jesus in our world. We must each live a **HOLY** life and engage in the **APOSTOLATE**, to evangelize and sanctify the world. Following the Council, Pope Paul VI published *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, reminding us of the centrality of the work of **EVANGELIZATION**. The Church exists to evangelize - that is the principal ministry which the Church owes to mankind.

"...[T]he mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their Baptism." Verbum Domini, 94. "...[A] member who does not work at the growth of the body to the extent of his possibilities must be considered useless both to the Church and to himself." Vat. II, "Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People," 2.

It is not enough to live silent religious lives. We must give vocal witness, we must proclaim the Gospel, even shout it from the roof tops:

"The Good News proclaimed by the witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of life. There is no true evangelization unless the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are proclaimed." Evangelii Nuntiandi, 33.

"The very witness of a Christian life, and good works done in a supernatural spirit, are effective in drawing men to the faith and to God... This witness of life, however, is not the sole element in the apostolate; the true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers to draw them towards the faith, or to the faithful to instruct them, strengthen them, incite them to a more fervent life..." Vat. II, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, 6.

"The principal duty of both men and women is to bear witness to Christ, and this they are obliged to do by their life and their words... Indeed wherever possible and needed lay people should be ready to carry out the special mission of preaching the Gospel and teaching Catholic doctrine..." Vat. II, Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, 21.

So, we evangelize by living holy lives, according to the Gospel, and we also speak the Gospel Word into the Church and into the world. We undertake the works proposed by the Gospel: we show love and charity to our neighbors, especially the poor; we struggle for social justice (peace, women's rights, civil rights, economic justice, church renewal, care for the environment, freedom, pro-life, cultural decency, etc.).

Of course, in order to evangelize or "gospelize" the Church and the world, we ourselves must be students ("disciples") of the Gospel. We have received God's Word as it comes to us in the life and liturgy of the Church and through the witness of others. We become disciples ("students") of Jesus; He is our Teacher. We pay prayerful, careful attention to His words: we listen, we accept them into our hearts and minds, we ponder and come to understand as we put them into practice, we live the Word - then the Lord Jesus teaches us more. We dedicate ourselves to the study of Church teaching and Sacred Scripture. Westerners are inundated by words, words, words... God's Word and wisdom is different from the world's words and "wisdom". The world thinks God's wisdom is foolish, but **"the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."** **1 Cor. 1:25.**

The Church has been saying for years that we need a new evangelization, a springtime of evangelism. Benedict XVI has just declared 2012 to be the "Year of Faith" and urges all Catholics to appreciate and proclaim our faith - Catholics are summoned to stand forth to actually be evangelized, and to evangelize our world today.

"Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." **Romans 12:17.** Well, if faith comes by hearing the word of God, and if we are entering the "Year of Faith", then it is very right that Benedict XVI has also recently published an apostolic exhortation titled *Verbum Domini: The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*. He points to the centrality of the Word of God in the Church, and the irreplaceable importance of Scripture in the life of Catholics.

Benedict says the time has come *"to renew the Church's faith in the word of God."* *Verbum Domini, 27. "I wish once more to encourage all the People of God, pastors, consecrated persons and the laity, to become increasingly familiar with the Sacred Scripture. We must never forget that all authentic and living Christian spirituality is based on the word of God proclaimed, accepted, celebrated and meditated upon in the Church."* *Verbum Domini, 121. "May the Holy Spirit awaken a hunger and thirst for the word of God, and raise up zealous heralds and witnesses of the Gospel."* *Id., 122.* Pope Benedict urges us to practice *Lectio Divina*, which draws us into a personal and intimate dialogue with God, through daily private prayer and Bible reading. The synod of world bishops that met to review the place of the Word of God in the life and mission of the Church *"frequently insisted on the need for a prayerful approach to the sacred text as a fundamental element in the spiritual life of every believer."* *Id., 86.* It is so clear: the Lord and the popes are urging us to become very Evangelistic, to read and study God's Word, to prayerfully read the Bible, and to speak God's Word to others, everywhere. We must sow the indestructible seed of God's Word, it will not return empty, it accomplishes God's purpose. *"It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received."* *Id., 91.*

"Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel." **1 Cor. 9:16.**

God Sent Me to China

By: Genie Summers

Shannon Walsh and Susanna Summers were in the same household at Franciscan University – The Love of the Lamb. In 1998, after having been on the first Franciscan University Spring Break foreign mission trip, Shannon decided to become a missionary with Family Missions Company. The whole Intake process then was very new, and we grew close to those young missionaries in training at the time. Michael VanVickle was also in Shannon's Intake. Actually, it was just the two of them at that time. Mike became our son-in-law after serving as a single missionary in Northern Mexico, Thailand, the Yucatan, and giving witness in other countries as well. After Shannon discerned that her time with Family Missions Company was up (we had no set length of commitment in the early days), she soon began to serve in China and did so for seven years.

Last winter, I invited Shannon to accompany me on my outreach trip to Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. She was not able to do it. This fall she invited me to accompany her to Beijing, China to revisit her Chinese Catholic brothers and sisters, the Children's Home for abandoned and terminally ill children, and to see and visit other cities and bishops outside of the capital. My family and I prayed about it and could hear the Lord Jesus clearly saying, "Go! Go to China! I have things to teach you there."

To use a slang term, this trip for me was a "myth-busters" trip. My eyes were truly opened to the reality of China. China is soooo BIG! It's not just physically big, but it's culture, lifestyle, economy, infrastructure, cuisine, and self-awareness is really huge. The two Chinese Characters that make up the word China, literally mean, "The Middle Kingdom." For the Chinese, China is the center of the World. All the rest of the world is on the periphery. I was so impressed with it as a country and a civilization. I did not see any Child Labor Sweat Shops, I did not see any human trafficking. I don't think that was why God sent me there. I think He sent me there to see "good news." He wanted me to come back with a good report.

My good report and some myths that got busted for me are:

-The language could be learned in a year with determination.

-The Catholic Christians working there are effective and happy.

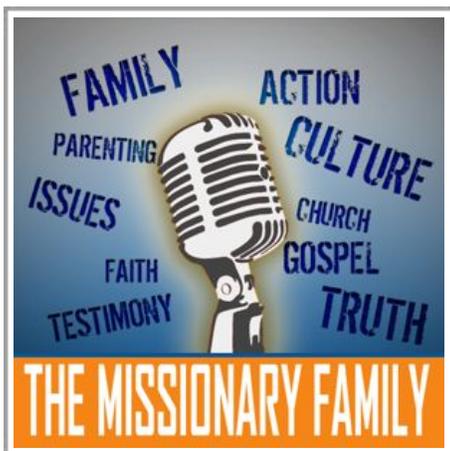
-Their cities are clean and beautiful. Housing is booming. Transportation is awesome. The people are well presented and well dressed, polite and respectful of people with grey hair (me). When you smile, they smile too.

-Their family life is close knit. The Chinese are themselves totally disenchanted with the one child policy.

The saddest realization of my trip was that this amazing culture and billions of people don't know Jesus. I would highly recommend that Family Missions Company send families and singles to the Center of the Earth – to God be the Glory!



The Missionary Family Podcast



Family Missions Company has an exciting new outreach! The Missionary Family podcast. Our Serve readers will love becoming listeners and subscribers to our new half hour teaching and sharing show. The premise behind the podcast is that we are two generations serving one purpose, to Build God's Kingdom by living out the Great Commission.

My youngest son John Paul and I have a burning desire to see the media become fully used for the spread of the Kingdom of God. After a long consideration of the possibility of a podcast, we have decided to "just do it." John Paul's degree is in Broadcast Journalism, so the technical side is taken care of. His radio presence is also compelling. It's been a challenge and blessing so far, and a little bit of learning curve, but God has blessed the content of the show and we are super excited about it.

Our first series of topics included our Five Point Catechism, a wonderful barometer on gauging your Catholic life. Lively sharing and inspiring testimonies round out the half hour program. We have been so pleased with the positive feedback and eager subscribers. We hope to be a resource for laity, raise awareness of Catholic missions, encourage listeners to live lives of faith in action. Check it out on our website: www.TheMissionaryFamily.com, and find us on iTunes or check us out on Facebook; and be sure to subscribe. A half hour with The Missionary Family Podcast is a great way to be inspired for your week! Be sure to email us with your feedback.

FMC is Welcomed to Peru

By: Andrea Brown

Christ sends His Family Missions Company missionaries to the ends of the earth, and FMC is always looking for ways to bring the Gospel to more and more of God's beloved souls. When it came time for the Brown family to leave, once again, on mission, we felt that, although we had left part of our hearts in General Cepeda, Mexico, perhaps this time He was asking us to "put out into the deep," and move on to new territory. Through prayer and discernment as a family, we found ourselves saying "YES!" to His call to serve in Picota, Peru. Picota is part of the Prelature of Moyobamba, which is an extension of the archdiocese of Toledo, Spain. It is located in the north-east of Peru, in the Amazon Jungle region.



Our family made ready to leave for the mission field all over again. We purged many of our belongings, then packed up and left the little house we had called home at Big Woods Mission base. On a bittersweet day, we left our beloved missionary community. Partings between disciples are a great sacrifice - an offering that, burnt in the all-consuming fire of His great love, provides the fuel necessary for the spreading of the Gospel. You and I heard the Good News about the God-man from Galilee because of such sacrifices. In a seeming paradox, leaving our missionary friends behind is precisely what strengthens our bond with them in the work of foreign missions. Missionaries course through the veins of the Mystical Body of Christ, compelled forward by the very beating of His own Sacred Heart. The movement brings Life to the Body, and therefore, so do the goodbyes...

More goodbyes followed as we left "mother, father, sister, and brother" (cf. Matthew 19:29) to follow after Christ. In the midst of this sacrifice, we turned our eyes to Him who made the promise to bless both us and those who send us, and thus received the strength to push-off to a new land. His

promises never disappoint. He will not be outdone in generosity...we gave a little, and in return He gives us **EVERYTHING**.

We arrived in a green land of palms and birds and flowers, welcomed by new missionary companions. Here, we work alongside two priests from Cordoba, Spain, and five Compassionist sisters who hail from Spain, Cameroon (Africa), and other parts of Peru. Each one of us left home and family to follow Christ, and somehow, according to His perfect will, our paths became intertwined in a little town in a jungle far from anywhere we had ever been. The Lord has gone to great lengths to arrange these dozen lives in such a way...Now to see what His plan holds for this mixed bag of servants?!

We are still in the early days of our ministry here, but already feel that God has made a good match for our particular talents and experience. Our ministries so far include varied kinds of work with marriages and families, as well as some work with the youth, and even school tutoring. We look forward to diving in deeper and deeper as God's plan for our family unfolds.

We know that our spiritual strength and fervor is greatly aided by your prayers, and so we ask that you continue to raise us up in your daily petitions! May God also bless you in your own call to be His witnesses before the world.



"He said to them, The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest..." Luke 10:2

World Youth Day 2011

By: Alyse Spieler



World Youth Day 2011 was a truly life changing, world shattering event. God's children, the youth of the world, gathered together in a testimony to the faith, to truth, and to Love Himself. Months later, I still feel the spiritual ripples from this event, and I know these will carry through my entire life.

Starting off, I did not know what to expect from a group of 27 people, including 2 infants, that could not have been a more diverse group of people. I thought, from the beginning, that only God could have brought us all together, and as the weeks progressed I knew this was true. We gathered at the airport in Houston Texas, and a few hours later we landed in London on the 9th of August at 6:30 in the morning. From that moment on, this group of twenty seven assorted children of God became a powerhouse of missionary zeal, perseverance, joy, and enthusiasm.

London was an incredible adventure! We were graciously accepted at St. Patrick's church, a community with a fantastic missionary outreach. We saw the sights, enjoyed bangers and mash, marveled at the scenery, and took in every opportunity for a pilgrimage prayer stop. The Catholic cathedral was what impressed me the most from

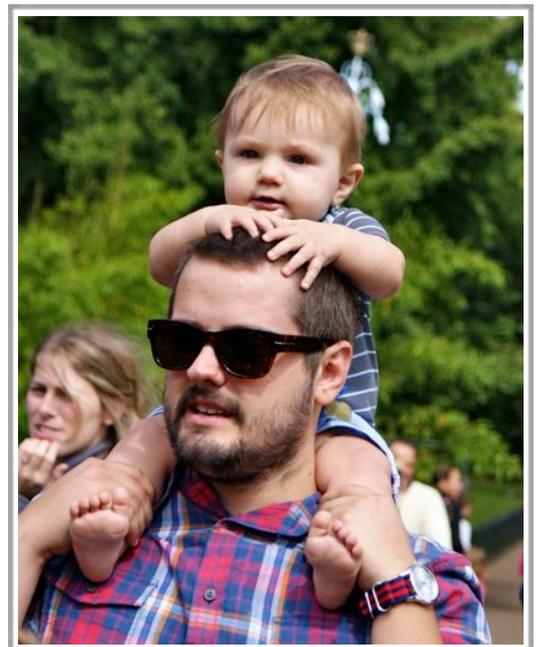
this visit; it's emptiness discouraged me, but the call I felt rising from that encouraged me to tell others about Christ's love.

From London we traveled to Cordoba, Spain. Cordoba had been my home back in 2006, and it was fantastic to return to the beautiful city. We were received with open arms by families of a church parish, where we slept, ate, swam, and enjoyed community life for a few days. During that time I was able to return to the church I attended while I lived there, and saw a few old friends as well. God blessed me so much by how at home I felt in the city I hadn't lived in for years. By the time we left, I felt as though I were leaving my own family behind. It is spectacular how God provides for you wherever you are!

From Cordoba we traveled to Rome, Italy. It was fantastic to be in "La citta eterna" once more! I lived in Rome when I was a little girl, and my dad and stepmother still live there now. My dad, a renowned tour guide, generously provided free tours for three days for our group of 27. I was so blessed by this pressing task which he took so graciously. Rome was such a highlight for everyone. We walked where St. Peter and Paul walked. We knelt on the steps where Christ carried His cross. My feet stood on the stones on which our faith has been built. This experience was one that made me realize the tangibility of our faith, tradition, and religion. It is true that once you're in Rome, you will always want to go back.

After leaving Rome, we traveled to Madrid, Spain where WYD was being held. The city was bursting at the seams with young people, all of different races, languages, and cultures, but also united in one faith. I saw the Pope, and we received His Papal blessing. On the day of WYD we traveled to an old air field, where two million other youths were gathered. The group of people was so large that you truly could not see the end of it. My friends and I wandered around, looking for other youths to talk with. There was a sense of unity that I felt, a sense of family, around these two million people that I have never met. It was incredible to hear the Pope's address. I was in awe of the moment that I was living in, and it still seems too fantastic to be real. As I knelt to pray before leaving, I was saying the Our Father. As I mouthed "Thy kingdom come" I felt it happen. I knew that I was in the midst of God's kingdom. God's kingdom, Heaven itself, was on earth in the midst of the youth that gathered in this airfield. His kingdom came at WYD!

I still cannot fully grasp the gravity of what I participated in last August. God is calling for a world who will gather, who will stand up for what is right, true and just. WYD reminded me that I am called to be a part of this, to bring His kingdom to a world that needs it desperately. I may be just one, you may be just one, but together we are gathered, and with Christ we cannot fall. May His kingdom come!



“The Universal Church – there we were, amid a sea of youth. It was a sensory overload: the sights, the smells, the sounds. And though we were two million individuals, we were one Church. Where else can two million added together equal one? Where else but the Catholic Church! We prayed the Rosary and sang songs of praise. We socialised with one another – as much as we could, at least. The language barrier was difficult in the beginning, but at some point we realised that you don't have to translate a smile; it's the same in every language. I am a full-time foreign missionary. I have travelled to many countries and seen many things, but this was my very first pilgrimage to World Youth Day. It was truly remarkable. Seeing the Pope, Our Holy Father, sent chills down my spine. I couldn't believe it was him! I suppose what struck me the most in my experience of WYD was when two million noisy, rambunctious teenagers fell silent before the Blessed Sacrament. That very same huge moving sea of people was suddenly still when everyone stopped and fell on their knees before the Eucharist. You didn't have to translate what was going on; we all knew. Only something miraculous could get two million people to be still and quiet all at once; only JESUS. And so there it was in front of me, the Universal Church. We are one Church, one Body IN CHRIST and I no longer have any doubt about that.”

- Breanne Saldivar



The Greater Good By: Brooke Summers

When God calls us to become missionaries He calls us to partake in His mission for our lives. He calls us to become uncomfortable. He calls us to trust Him in a whole new capacity. As missionaries we often joyfully accept the sacrifices that come with being a missionary. We give up our homes, family, warm showers, air conditioners, heaters...and we often subject ourselves to sickness. It is hard to say **“YES”** to Jesus when you are single. But it is a whole new level to say **“YES”** to Jesus and **“YES”** to His call to missions as a wife and mother. It is one thing to allow myself to be cold, sick or uncomfortable. It is a much more difficult task to see and allow, your child to be cold, sick, or uncomfortable. At times I ask myself “what is the greater good”? Would it be better for me to be at home and not bring Anthony on mission, around sick people?

And the answer is **“NO”**! Children are the BEST missionaries. Yes, it is difficult to watch your child partake in the cross of missions. But if I tried to protect Anthony from the cross I would be taking away God's missionary call for Anthony. God called us as a family and He intends to use us as a family. Anthony has a special call

by God for his life, right now it is to be a missionary baby! The greater good is that we trust in God and His plan for our lives. God really showed me this on our most recent mission to India. We were blessed to serve with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity everyday for one week. On one occasion we were invited to visit the home for the Lepers. I was able to bring Anthony to this particular center because none of the patients are currently contagious. This was an exciting opportunity and a time where I knew God was asking me to trust Him. It is hard letting go as a mother, especially as a new mother of an eight month old.

Many of the patients are extremely disfigured because of the leprosy. I was worried that they would feel “on display” as we toured the center. It was completely the opposite. The people were SO excited and blessed that we came to visit them. They excitedly smiled and greeted us! Anthony was a hit among the patients. One humble woman in particular was standing near the wall smiling very warmly at us. She approached Anthony and I and began rubbing his head. I was so humbled in that moment knowing that **Jesus Christ** in the distressing disguise of the poor was touching my son. Who am I to experience moments like this? God is good, faithful, and all knowing - we need to trust Him with everything we have.



Molding My Heart into Missions

By: Hollis Yarborough



At the beginning of the summer when my mom mentioned missions to me I laughed (the kind that means “Yeah, right Mom”). I thought I would love to do that for God but that’s just NOT what I’m called to, much less our whole family. I’ve got my “plans and dreams” in my mind and Jesus by my side and it’s all good. By the end of my summer my heart took a U-turn. We went to World Youth Day with Family Missions Company and it changed my heart. I wanted to be a missionary, I wanted to learn more about missionaries, I wanted to be part of the community of missionaries. But most of all I wanted to be totally sold out to Christ, and be His missionary. When we came to Come-and-See a week before Intake started, we had already decided in our minds we were not going to do Intake. We said we were just going to attend Come-and-See, and then say God wasn’t calling us. I laugh at this now, knowing God had a totally different plan.

As I sat on the couch in the “big house” as we finished up Come-and-See many things went through my head: fear, confusion, unclarity, doubt, but also, a sense of peace and joy. I knew saying yes to this step in our lives would be a huge change, most likely life changing, but I knew it was God’s will. It was obvious that God did want us at Intake. All my so-called “plans and dreams” (God probably chuckles), dashed from my mind. I knew missions would change my plans, but it would put God’s plans back into the picture. In our short 3 months here I have already gained much more knowledge of missions than I ever thought I would. There have been a lot of big steps of faith, but we know Christ will not short-change us. To some of you this leap of faith may seem like a crazy thing to do, but as a wise missionary said, “This is an unforgettable act of faith in the eyes of God.” He does see these things we are giving up, He does see the sacrifices we make, He does see when we eat food we don’t like, and when we take cold showers. Oh yes, He sees them, and He keeps them close to His heart, so that one day when we go before Him in the kingdom He will be able to say, “Well done good and faithful servant.” Being a missionary means being a servant, being God’s servant. But we don’t have to be in foreign countries to do that, we can be at our house humbly doing dishes, changing a baby’s diaper, speaking to the “unpopular” girl in school, smiling at the homeless man in Wal-Mart. All these things benefit the Kingdom, all these things make us missionaries. In the encyclical letter by John Paul II, “Mission of the Redeemer”, a book every Christian should read, it says: “Missionary activity is a matter for all Christians. All of it has but one purpose, to serve man by revealing to him the love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ.” By bringing Christ to others we are serving them and benefiting them.

As we are living the very simple life at Big Woods, God has pruned my heart so much being able to live three months completely for Him, completely in His will. God is teaching me so much, how to become weak while He stands up and is strong. He’s teaching me how to empty myself of the world and become His missionary once again. He is teaching me, and He is teaching all of us. God is calling all of us to still our hearts and listen to His small voice. He is calling us all to respond with a “Yes!” for Him and His kingdom. So I urge you brothers and sisters not to just read this letter and say, “Oh that’s nice, glad the Yarboroughs are responding to the call.” It’s time to accept the call yourselves! Pope John Paul II says: “God is opening before the Church the horizons of humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the Gospel. I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Churches energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes (missions to the nations). No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim the Gospel to ALL peoples.”

The call to missions is something that we are all called to, for the good of ourselves, the good of others, and most importantly, the good of our one true God. We cannot deny it any longer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “We hand on faith because Jesus commands us. No genuine Christian leaves the transmission of faith exclusively to specialists. **WE** are Christ for others.” Notice how it says Jesus commands us to hand on the faith. It’s not something He says to do when we are ready, or when we are comfortable, or when we are financially stable. We are commanded to bring Christ to others, we are the Church, we are the body of Christ!

Since we have been here, the Lord has given my heart more Joy than I could imagine. He is placing me in His heart and in His house, among the poor in Mexico, and the poor in spirit. As He wants to do with each of His children. Being His missionary for Him is suffering and becoming meek and small. But it is also great happiness and satisfaction, knowing He is going to use you to further His kingdom, to bring others true fulfillment, truth, and happiness. So its time to be a witness. It’s time for each and everyone of us to take the seeds we have received and become a sower, a sower for the one and only King, Jesus Christ.

“Happiness is not in us, nor is happiness outside of us. Happiness is in God alone. And if we have found Him, then it is everywhere.” - Blaise Pascal

Join the Mission

The works of Family Mission Company are done by the inherent power of God’s Word, the hand of God, and by the powerful working of the Holy Spirit. We expect signs, wonders, and miracles, and we receive them everyday.

We also depend upon the prayers of many people who have caught the vision with us; and we use money that our benefactors give to this work: money that meets the needs of the poor; money that allows our missionaries to travel to and live at the ends of the earth; money that allows us to administer our affairs and to publish this newsletter.

Join the mission with us! Please pray and consider contributing to the growing needs of Family Missions Company. We know that God is NEVER outdone in generosity.

✠ Getting Ready for More By: Mark Eckstine



As we leave the Christmas season and enter Ordinary Time I still hear “Emmanuel, God with us” and the “Word became Flesh and dwelt among us”. Amazing quotations, but what do these phrases mean? How can I take my understanding of the Incarnation and allow it to change me and my understanding of ordinary time? How can the incarnation move me into a more fruitful time in Lent? in the celebration of Easter? and then in the everyday extraordinary, ordinary life? Most of us have seen more than one movie about Jesus, His coming, life and death, but have we really grasped what the incarnation is about? Blessed John Paul II wrote in His Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, “the incarnation is truly a kenosis - a ‘self-emptying’ - on the part of the Son of God, of that glory which is His from all eternity (Phil 2:6-8; cf 1 Pt 3:18).” Wow, what response should we have to this as we seek to imitate Christ? We need to cultivate the deepest of desires, to be willing to empty ourselves for Him, out of love. During this past Christmas Season I found the Lord touching me deeply, affirming in me the importance of Gospel living on a radical level. For my family that has meant missions. Our family recently completed our first year in missions, 3 months of stateside training and then 8 months at our first mission post. We had hoped that it would have been longer, but that was not to be. So we have spent the last few months with family, working and sharing our stories whenever we could. It was through sharing about our time in St. Lucia that I began to better understand why Jesus came to dwell among us. Our life was a simple life, helping our parish, Marion Home, Missionaries of Charity, feeding the hungry, making friends, opening our house to those who wanted more, witnessing, whenever possible, praying with people and generally being available to say “Yes”. This simple life seems to encourage others, they smile and are amazed. We all need to say “Yes” to this self-emptying because there are so many who need to know that God is with us. To give them a chance to respond to this kenosis.

To understand the ordinary is to appreciate more fully the high points of the year, the feast days, the celebrations or the extra-ordinary times. In one of his most famous books, *Orthodoxy*, GK Chesterton writes:

“Ordinary things are more valuable than extraordinary things; nay, they are more extraordinary. Man is something more awful than men; something more strange. The sense of the miracle of humanity itself should be always more vivid to us than any marvels of power, intellect, art, or civilization. The mere man on two legs, as such, should be felt as something more heartbreaking than any music and more startling than any caricature. Death is more tragic even than death by starvation. Having a nose is more comic even than having a Norman nose.”

We live most of our lives in the ordinary, Jesus lived 30 years in the ordinary, maybe that is why Jesus tells us even a “cold glass of water” given in His name will not go without reward. When we get to heaven will we see that is was truly the day-to-day that we present to the Lord. The extraordinary times were not as important as we thought, because our day-to-day was what allowed us to say “Yes” to the extraordinary requests. Can we really be ready to say “yes” to what He may be asking of us? Since we were Teenagers, Lora and I had this desire to become missionaries. Before Lora and I were married, she was “supposed” to go with YWAM and we would probably never have seen each other again. In the late 90’s we contacted another mission company that sends out laypeople, but were turned down. As we look back on our life, how our family grew to the 10 children we have today, the pain, suffering, wonders and joys, we see how our “ordinary” life prepared us for a life in missions. Our life in Family Missions Company has helped us grow even more in the knowledge of the incarnation, and has opened our eyes to see how many are seeking and needing to know this amazing fact, that God came down to us, to be with us. As Lent approaches, let us prepare our hearts to give up something more than chocolate or coffee. Let us push ourselves to do something that will empty us. “And let us never slacken in doing good; for if we do not give up, we shall have our harvest in due time. So then, as long as we have the opportunity let all our actions be for the good of everybody, and especially of those who belong to the household of faith” (Galatians 6:9 - 10). Let us open our hearts up and not be afraid that we may fail, we probably will, but we repent and begin again. What is Jesus asking us? We must give up everything eventually to say, “Yes” to Jesus! He will ravish your heart and you will never regret it!

✠ Our Lady of the Bayous ✠



We are open for business!

We welcome all types of retreats: Couples, Family, Youth Groups, Schools, Parishes, etc...

If you are interested in planning a retreat or day of recollection please contact retreats@fmcmissions.com or call our office @ 337.893.6111

ETERNAL REWARDS



1. Visit your Credit Card's reward points website.
2. Cash in your rewards points for Lowe's Gift Cards.
3. Send gift cards to FMC to help renovate Our Lady of the Bayous, FMC's stateside retreat center.

Mail Gift Cards to:
 Family Missions Company
 c/o Renovate OLOB
 12624 Everglade Road
 Abbeville, LA 70510



FMC's new retreat center, Our Lady of the Bayous, promises to be a blessing to Catholics from all over Acadiana and beyond. This old Dominican Convent has loads of character but is still in need of some repair and much renovation. "Eternal Rewards" is our creative way of inviting you to help us transform our retreat facility without having to spend a penny! If you have rewards points you are willing to put to good use, please consider sending us one, or more, Lowe's gift cards to purchase much needed material/supplies to beautify this sacred space. Our goal is to receive at least five-hundred \$100 gift cards, can you help us get there?



"for they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will"
 - 2 Corinthians 8:3

Tithe 5

What is Tithe 5:

Family Missions Company believes in the Biblical principal of tithing. We believe tithing is an important element in a life of good stewardship.

FMC also believes that the ultimate stewardship challenge we face is the one that Jesus left His church, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel!" (Mark 16:15) As Christians, each of us has received the gift of God's love

and truth in order to share it with the world. "Missionary activity is the greatest and holiest duty of the Church" (Vatican II).

Tithe 5 combines our stewardship of the Gospel with the stewardship of our resources, by supporting the work and ministry of FMC. Tithe 5 families are committed to tithing 5% of their income to their local churches, and another 5% to FMC. Tithe 5 members intentionally pray and

sacrifice to change hearts and souls!

We estimate that 35 Tithe 5 households would sustain ALL of FMC's operating costs. Our goal for 2012 is 15 Tithe 5 families. This is an exciting prospect, opening up new doors for FMC to grow, expanding the reach of our current programs, and multiplying the effect of all our other donations. Are you being called to Tithe 5?

Your commitment:

- Pray diligently for FMC, its ministry, and missionaries.
- Commit to sharing 5% of your income (half of your tithe) with FMC each month, for a minimum of one year.

Our commitment to you:

- We will pray daily for our Tithe 5 partners; lifting up their needs and intentions at our morning prayer throughout the week & at special Masses throughout the year
- We send you monthly updates on FMC missionaries, ministries, and development
- You will receive the gift of our Tithe 5 Mission Calendar.
- Our Tithe 5 partners enjoy an annual "Fee Free" mission trip with the FMC group of their choosing.** (contact office for details)



office@fmcmissions.com

(337) 893-6111

HOPEfest

HELP US HELP OTHERS

Everyone is invited! Join the STM Junior class as they celebrate the life and love of those around them.

MARCH 10th
Noon - 7pm
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- GAMES - FACE PAINTING -

ADMISSIONS:

Adults: \$5

Kids: \$3

Benefitting Family Mission Company and our STM options program

If you would like to help or donate please contact
Lance Strother at lance.strother@stmcougars.net

In Loving Memory Of

Ruby Bohrer Rodriguez Wellborn

Dwayne Dale Leger

Ed Turek

Corey Melebeck

Joyce Noel

Arnold Chauviere

Kevin Cole

Dr. Robert Young Jr.

Charles Landry

Celebrating

Jess & Jackie Spiehler for their
50th Wedding Anniversary

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

Items for sale:

The Ananias Project \$10

Missionary CD

Go, You Are Sent \$10

by Genie Summers

Our Family's Book of Acts \$15.95

by Genie Summers

s/h will be added to each order



FMC Prayer Intentions

Please pray for our missionaries in the field

Pray for all of our pregnant missionaries & their families as they prepare for their new babies

Pray for Joseph & Brooke as they undertake leadership of FMC

Pray for Frank & Genie as they seek to do God's will for their lives

FMC Needs

Mac Computers for office

One or more fuel efficient vehicles

Funds for foreign FMC missionaries

Special funds for missionaries' student loans

Help renovating Our Lady of the Bayous Retreat Center

Feeling the call?
Do You Need Speakers?
Want to plan a mission trip?
Need a retreat?

Contact Us

Family Missions Company

12624 Everglade Rd.

Abbeville, LA 70510

Phone: 337.893.6111

Fax: 337.893.6177

EIN# 72-1366886

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