



## prayer starters

**D**o you find it difficult to pray for missionaries? The words below are an easy way to start. Pick some to talk with God about and let your prayers flow from there. Pray for specific missionaries and see their pictures in the *Covenant Missionary Prayer Calendar* (Covenant Resource Center, 800/338-4332 or [resource.center@covchurch.org](mailto:resource.center@covchurch.org).)

**Prayer starters:** Healthy friendships with nationals; Fluency in the language; Cultural adoption; Relationship with office & churches; Best use of time; Ability to communicate well; Witness & example; Knowledge of the people; Openness in communication; Energy to hear when drained; Healthy marriage/family; Long distance relationships.



## mission events

**The following missionaries will be on home assignment in 2004-05. Consider being part of a mission festival or having a missionary visit your church.**

### Home Assignment

Karen Benson (Africa), until 5/05  
Randy and Cheryl Bevis (Thailand), until 6/04  
Don and Amy Johnson (Japan), until 3/05  
Doug and Carolyn Johnson (Thailand), until 6/04  
Ken Satterberg (Africa), until 8/04  
Tim and Helen Smith (Equatorial Guinea), until 12/04  
Ronald and Janet Ziegelbauer (Africa), until 6/04

### Future Home Assignment

Dennis and Mary Lynn Carlson (Mexico), 7/04 to 6/05  
Tim and Andrea Johnson (Japan), 9/04 to 11/04  
John and Letha Kerl (Mexico), 6/04 to 6/05  
Paul and Sheryl Noren (Africa), 7/04 to 6/05  
Eugenio and Pia Restrepo (Spain), 6/04 to 7/05  
Baxter and Margie Swenson (Ecuador), 6/04 to 8/04

### Special Assignment

Bob Thornbloom (Congo)  
Mark and Alice Westlund, (North Park Theological Seminary), until 6/05

**For information** on having a missionary visit your church, please contact Barbara Fisk, Itineration Coordinator at 847/867-2368 or [Barbara.Fisk@covchurch.org](mailto:Barbara.Fisk@covchurch.org)

## looking for an opportunity to serve?

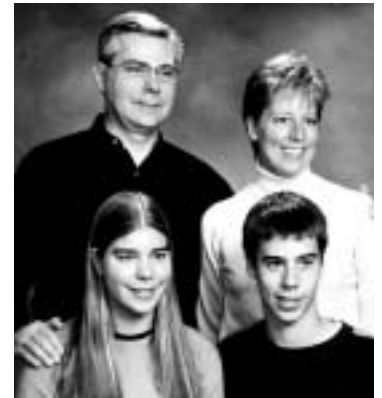
**T**here are short-term mission opportunities (1-3 years) in Cameroon, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Spain, and Thailand.

Contact Lana Heinrich, Short-Term Mission Program Manager, at 5101 N. Francisco Avenue, Chicago IL 60625; 773/ 907-3350; [lane.heinrich@covchurch.org](mailto:lane.heinrich@covchurch.org)

## More Project Missionaries on the Way!

Until recently Covenant World Mission offered only two ministry tracks for missionaries: career and short-term service. But for some individuals these tracks were either too long or too short. Also, due to budgetary considerations, our department is limited

in how many new career missionaries can be sent out in any given year. In response to these circumstances we implemented a pilot project called, The Project Missionary Program. To date seven missionaries have been sent under this new initiative. This track is project-oriented with missionaries serving anywhere from three to six years on



strategic projects that enhance our mission outreach. Missionaries on this track have agreed to raise their own support independent of the World Mission budget, much like short-term missionaries.

Soon Tim and Tammy Friesen, members of Thornapple Covenant Church in Grand Rapids, will serve as project missionaries in Thailand. They hope to minister through the development of a counseling center available to Covenant missionaries in Asia and the larger mission community in that region. In addition, Tammy will support the missionary community by teaching at the Chiang Mai International School in Thailand. The Friesens are in the process of raising their support through churches and individuals of the Great Lakes Conference. We encourage churches and individuals with a heart for supporting the well-being of missionaries to Asia, to come alongside the Friesens as well.

**For support information** please contact David Stockamp, 503/246-9544; or [David.Stockamp@covchurch.org](mailto:David.Stockamp@covchurch.org).



helps  
spring 2004

**helps is** a publication of Covenant World Mission created to help mission committees, pastors, and leaders involve their church in mission

### in this issue

new resources, event ideas, and an inspirational look at what God is doing through the Covenant Church in Japan.



## hands-on: beyond the bulletin board

You may have pictures of missionaries or countries you are praying for on a bulletin board. Doing mission can go beyond the bulletin board. What is “doing mission?” It means a local church being involved in mission in a hands on way.

Change happens when people find a hands-on way to do mission and become connected to the work God is doing in the world.

Are you already doing mission? Let us partner with you and connect Covenant missionaries to your efforts. Do you want to start? Let Covenant World Mission help. There are a variety of ways to get involved and connect with current missionaries. This issue of *Helps* covers just a few.

Please contact us and let us know how God is working through your church and how we can help you.

Covenant World Mission  
5101 N Francisco Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-784-3000  
world.mission@covchurch.org  
www.covchurch.org/cov/mission

## innovative ideas

Trying to find new ways to promote mission in your church? Here is a suggestion found in *The Family Fun Night Planning Guide*, a Covenant manual available through the Resource Center at 800/338-4332 or at [resource.center@covchurch.org](mailto:resource.center@covchurch.org).

### Family Fun Night

Why not host a "Family Fun Night" at your church? A group of churches in your area can put this event together. Start with dinner, followed by international games, a time of praise and worship and if missionaries are at this event, a time for them to share information and prayer concerns related to their work.

#### Program Schedule:

Dinner - 45 minutes

International Games - 35 minutes

Worship - 25 minutes

Time for missionaries to share - 30 minutes

In just a little over two hours, participants have an opportunity to share a meal, enjoy new games, worship together and pray for missionaries. The key to a successful evening is the delegation of responsibilities. The different parts of the night can be divided among several people or churches. The more people involved, the more participation you will have at this event. To request a copy of the planning guide, which includes more details on this type of event, contact the Resource Center.

### Do you have innovative ideas?

Do you have ideas on how to promote mission in local churches or how to make mission part of a worship service? Share them with us! Please send your ideas to [Debbie.Knoll@covchurch.org](mailto:Debbie.Knoll@covchurch.org)



## resources available

### Do we have a great resource for you!—Mission Summits

Mission summits are designed to breathe life into local church mission groups and their impact around the world and here at home. Whether your church mission group is a board, commission, or committee, mission summits provide participants an opportunity to: Become familiar with counterparts from other Covenant churches. Learn how to impart a missionary vision within the local church. Receive important resource material for doing a more effective ministry. Participate in a self-evaluation profile of your church's mission ministry. Review the effectiveness of your church's organization (i.e. roles and job descriptions). Network and plan for ways in which area Covenant churches can work together in achieving commonly identified goals and projects.

Mission Summits typically take place on a Saturday starting at 8:30 AM and continuing through mid-afternoon. It is essential to have a host church. Usually, a continental breakfast and sack lunch are provided. The Church Relations branch of the Department of World Mission will work with the host church to invite other area churches to the summit. Costs are minimal. Participants are given a wealth of materials ranging from the *Breathing Life into Your Mission* manual to recent brochures and pamphlets. There are also several multimedia presentations.



### Here's what some participants of a recent Mission Summit in the Kansas City area said

"Wow! This day was very challenging and inspiring! Thank you for your leadership and opening our eyes to practical ways we can be arms, legs, feet, mouths, and hearts of love for Jesus."

"The workbook, videos added value to the lessons"

"(Having) mission groups together to hear the information from other churches...that we are not alone. We need to share information among other church mission teams."

"To see all of the printed material available for missions."

If your church is interested in hosting an area mission summit please contact David Stockamp, World Mission Church Relations Coordinator, 503/246-9544 or [David.Stockamp@covchurch.org](mailto:David.Stockamp@covchurch.org).

# empowering our children

## Camp Project 2004—Mexico “Camp Possible”

Every two years between 150 and 250 youth from the 70 Covenant churches in Mexico gather for the "National Youth Camp." More young people could attend this camp, if there were scholarships available to reduce the costs. Many Mexican families cannot afford to send their children to a camp, so going to camp becomes impossible. Many churches do not have the funds for camp scholarships, so going to camp becomes a dream.

The costs involved for this bi-annual Covenant camp can be quite high: A facility needs to be rented, speakers invited, the daily events and menus planned, and the charter buses reserved. Some of the youth can spend up to 20 or more hours on the bus to get to camp.

This summer Covenant Camps in the U.S. and Canada will be raising funds to make camp possible for the Covenant youth of Mexico. The funds raised for this project will become a "camp scholarship fund" which will make it possible for the Covenant youth of Mexico to be part of camp. The generosity of Covenant camps will make camp a reality in Mexico.

## Vacation Bible School Project 2004—Congo

In the last seven years, Congo has gone through a difficult period of civil war and has had to deal with an economy that has fallen apart due to the civil unrest. Despite these difficulties the Congo Covenant Church has moved forward in its work and has grown to over 178,000. Now, peace and stability are returning to Congo and the church is working to rebuild and to carry out the tasks that the Lord has given them.

The Congo Covenant Church is working to re-establish their Vacation Bible School program for their 1400 churches. Due to the prolonged period of unrest, many of the basic materials for a VBS program are needed: written materials which will be produced locally, cassette players, cassettes, games and sports equipment. Along with this, the church hopes to offer basic first aid, at least one meal a day for the teachers and children, and the possibility of training people to put together a successful VBS program. This project will be made possible through the gifts of children participating in VBS programs at Covenant churches in North America this summer.

## inspiration corner

In Japan most people do not consider themselves to be religious. Yet God has provided a way of connecting with people for the Nakahara Christ Church which is located in the city of Kawasaki (located between Tokyo and Yokohama).

Japan is struggling with the many implications of becoming an aging society. Senior citizens may live with their adult children, but still need assistance with many aspects of life. Many of the growing number of elderly who live by themselves require help in day-to-day living. This is the point of entry for Nakahara Christ Church. The church has started a ministry called "Hotto Space." "Hotto" (a word in Japanese that conveys a feeling of being released from a burden) is an elder care ministry, reaching out to the elderly and their families through day care, the sending of home helpers, and the establishing of elder care plans custom-designed for each client. Hotto Space has become known in the community as an organization that provides quality elder care. In doing so, the Nakahara Christ Church has been able to reach out in a concrete way with the love of Jesus Christ.

The church was started in the fall of 1998 through the efforts of Covenant missionaries to Japan, Gary and Pauline Carlson, and Japanese pastor Honoo Sasaki and his wife Naoko. At the same time, "Hotto Space Nakahara" was started by the Sasaki's in the facility the church rents. The Sasaki's are trained and licensed at all levels of elder care, and work with a staff which is also trained and licensed to provide a professional level of service to the elderly. Currently, up to ten clients come to the church's facility four days a week for care. Home helpers are sent to 70 homes per month, and 55 clients are receiving help from the Sasaki's in establishing their monthly care plans. For more information on this unique approach contact Gary and Pauline Carlson at [gpcarl@tkm.att.ne.jp](mailto:gpcarl@tkm.att.ne.jp)



*Hotto Space Nakahara, Japan*