



**Santa Clara
First Baptist**

3111 Benton Street
Santa Clara, CA 95051
Telephone: 408-241-7635

Our Mission: Why are we here?

The purpose of Santa Clara First Baptist Church is to evangelize and disciple the people of the Santa Clara Valley.
Matthew 28:19, 20



Sundays, 4:00-5:30pm

AWANA begins on Sunday, September 11th.

“Just Right” Classes

AWANA has age-group classes that are “just right” for meeting the spiritual and relational needs of the children. **Cubbies** (ages 3-5), **Sparks** (Grades K-2), and **Truth & Training** (Grades 3-6) have lessons, games, and handbooks designed just for them.

Spiritual Growth

AWANA gives each child the opportunity to grow spiritually, moving forward at their own pace. As kids work through their handbooks with their leaders they take ownership of their faith, having the opportunity to ask questions and explore what they believe.

AWANA is Fun!

It's not all about work. An important part of AWANA meetings is Game Time. The children look forward to the high-energy AWANA games. These games encourage teamwork, hard work, and reinforce the importance of physical exercise.

Building Foundations

AWANA emphasizes Scripture memory. This not only teaches the children important passages and lessons of Scripture, it plants the Word of God in the hearts and minds of children, giving them important tools to use as they grow up. The Scriptures the children learn now will be tools for making Godly choices in the future.

We hope your family will come and join the AWANA adventure! For more information contact Commander Jon Hammar at (408) 981-6962 or visit the website at www.scfbc.org/AWANA.

The Celebrate!

Santa Clara First Baptist Church

September 2011

**Back
to
School!**

Check out all the ways you can
get involved this school year!

Mission to Schools and Students

After School Program

5th Quarter

More information inside!

MISSIONS SURVEY SUMMARY

As of August 20th 100 surveys have been submitted. The initial in-worship survey did not include the Impact Life Group and others actively involved in missions, so their responses are not reflected in these results. Surveys turned in since then only partially account for all the people who missed taking the original survey.

After tabulating the multiple choice and T/F questions, the following conclusions could be made:

- The majority of people think they're doing too little. (46 out of 100, 33 didn’t answer)
- 60% of respondents are in Life Groups.
- 35% give at least 10% of their offering directly to missions by indicating their gift on their giving envelope.
- 20% say they only give to missions when there's a disaster.
- The most common reason for not supporting missions was lack of money; the second most common was lack of time.

The following table summarizes the percentage of responders involved (by financial and/or active participation) and the percent actively involved in each of the SCFBC-sponsored mission outreach opportunities.

Mission	Involved	Active
Bethlehem	73%	57%
Scott Lane supplies	41%	2%
Operation Christmas Child	40%	23%
Worship in the Park	39%	37%
One Great Hour of Sharing	37%	
Feed Homeless	36%	20%
World Mission Offering	30%	
Mexico Missions	31%	13%
Seafarers	28%	9%
CityTeams	25%	8%
America for Christ Offering	22%	
Redwood Glen	21%	12%
Emergency Housing Consortium	18%	8%
Missionary Support	18%	
Independence Day hosting	15%	12%
Limon, Costa Rica (church/school)	12%	4%
Weekend Shelter for homeless	12%	4%
SOAR at Scott Lane	10%	9%
Buchser Project	10%	7%
Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy	6%	2%
Hosting visitors	4%	3%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- Mission Emphasis: Scott Lane School**
3 - 8:30am September Diaconate Mtg– Library
3 - 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Room 19-20
4 - 9:00am Life Group Leaders Mtg–Room 19-20
4 - 12noon Youth Mentor Mtg – Library
4 - 6:00pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service - Sanctuary
5 - **Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed**
7 - 10:00am White Cross – Room 19-20
7 - 7:30pm Chicks Life Group Fall Kick-off
9 - Silent Auction/Bingo (Fill the Thirst) - Fion
10 - 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry–Room 19-20
10 - 8:30am Men’s Breakfast–Fellowship Hall
11 - 4:00pm AWANA Begins - Jon – 248-2078
11 - 9:00am SCFBC Basics #1 – Pastor Rich’s Office
11 -12noon *SPEED*way Staff Mtg—Fellowship Hall
11 - 2:00pm The Awakening – XFactor Worship Event at Mission City Coffee House – Jonathan 813-2505
13 - 1:00pm Bethell Circle
14 -1:00pm Baits/Turley Circle
18 - 9:00am SCFBC Basics #2 – Pastor Rich’s Office
18 - 12noon Quarterly Business Mtg/lunch
18 - 12noon - Mission Comm Mtg. – Library
19 - 7:30pm Finance Comm Mtg – Library
21 - 6:00pm CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan 813-2505
22- 1:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch – Betty 244-5949
25 - 9:00am SCFBC Basics #3– Rm 19 – Pastor Rich
26 - *October Celebrate articles due to Dave*
30-Oct 2 - Youth Conference - Erik - 241-7635

OCTOBER

- Mission Emphasis: World Missions**
1 - 8:30am Oct Diaconate Mtg – Library
1 - 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry–Room 19-20
2 - 9:00am SCFBC Basics #4 – Pastor Rich’s Office
2 – 12noon Life Group Leaders Mtg–Room 19-20
2 - 12noon Youth Mentor Mtg –Library
2 - 6:00pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service - Sanctuary
5 - 10:00am White Cross – Sanctuary Lobby
6 - 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Room 19-20
7-10 – Children’s Conference – Pastor Jenny 241-7635
8 –8:30am-10am Men’s Breakfast –Fellowship Hall
9 - 12noon *SPEED*way Staff Mtg – Fellowship Hall
9 - 2:00pm The Awakening – XFactor Worship Event at Mission City Coffee House – Jonathan 813-2505
11 - 1:00pm Bethell Circle
12 - 1:00pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor
12-13 -10am-6pm Rummage Sale set up - Fellowship Hall
14-15 - Rummage Sale - Fellowship Hall
14 - 10am– 4pm All-church Work Day – Mike 691-1441

- 16** - 12noon Mission Comm Mtg. – Library
17 - 7:30pm Finance Comm Mtg – Library
19 - 6:00m CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan 813-2505
20 - SF Homeless Cold Weather Gear Collections – Jerry Cintas 615-1690
22- All-church 20 year Celebration for Pastor Rich!
24 – *November Celebrate articles due to Dave*
25 – 9:00am Oakland Seafarers Packing—Virginia 266-1734
27 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch – Betty 244-5949
30 - Operation Christmas Child Collection Kickoff – Ellen
31 - 6:00-8:00pm Halloween Carnival – Fellowship Hall

NOVEMBER

- Mission Emphases: Bethlehem Building work days:**
Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
Cold weather clothes for SF Homeless
2 - 10:00am White Cross – Lobby – Virginia N. 266-1734
5 - Start Bethlehem construction—Continues every Saturday – Jerry 615-1690
5 – Saturday - Bethlehem Costumes
5 - 8:30am Nov Diaconate Mtg – Library
6 - 12noon Life Group Leaders Mtg–Room 19-20
6 - 12noon Youth Mentor’s Mtg – Library
6 - 6:00pm 1st Sunday Praise & Prayer Service – Sanctuary
8 - 1:00pm Bethell Circle
9 - 1:00pm Baits/Turley Circle – Parlor
10 - 10:00am Prayer Quilt Ministry – Room 19-20
11 - **Veteran’s Day Holiday – Office Closed**
12 - 8:30am Men’s Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
13 - 12noon – *SPEED*way Staff Mtg – Fellowship Hall
13 - 2:00pm The Awakening – XFactor Worship Event – Mission City Coffee House – Jonathan 813-2505
17 - 11:30am SR/BD Lunch Bunch – Betty 244-5949
21 - 7:30pm Finance Comm Mtg – Library
16 – 6:00pm CityTeam Outreach – Jonathan 813-2505
20 - 12noon- Quarterly Business Mtg – budget vote/lunch
20 - 12noon - Mission Comm Mtg. – Library
20 - 6:00pm SF Homeless Outreach – Jerry 615-1690
21 – *December Celebrate articles due to Dave*
24 - **Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed**

Library Corner

Library System Update - a work in process

We are very excited that the new internet-based library cataloging is moving along well and should be completed very soon. At this time access of the new system on the SCFBC website (www.scfbc.org) is possible by simply clicking on the library link on the home page. This will allow you to see on your computer monitor what has been added to the system thus far by entering keywords, authors or titles. Thank you to Jenny Gregg and Unice Chang who continue to update and complete this new system. The Library crew will keep you posted about the completion of this wonderful new tool.

What is new in the Book Nook

You will find the below titles of materials purchased at this year’s Global Leadership Summit. These books and DVDs are now available for check out in the book nook area of the Lobby.

- Move by Greg L. Hawkins & Cally Parkinson
- Chasing Daylight by Erwin Raphael McManus
- Sun Stand Still by Steven Furtick
- The Bee Eater by Richard Whitmire
- The Heart of Racial Justice by Brenda Salter McNeil & Rick Richardson
- Humilitas by John Dickson
- Onward by Howard Schultz
- Getting Naked by Patrick Lencioni
- Finding Mrs. Warnecke by Cindi Rigsbee
- Necessary Endings by Dr. Henry Cloud
- Rumors of God by Darren Whitehead & Jon Tyson
- Action Trumps Everything by Charles F. Kiefer and Leonard A. Schlesinger
- Poke the Box by Seth Godin
- DVD - Take Ten: 10 Minute Leadership

Library Mission Outreach for Ensenada, Mexico School

Please continue to pray for the school in Ensenada and its teacher, Victoria. This school is geared for children who have never attended school because their families simply could not afford it. A work team from SCFBC is going down to Mexico the beginning of September and is willing to take down any donations that may be helpful during the school year. Please place any donations you may have in the red book box return at the end of the counter in the Sanctuary Lobby.

Library Hours and Book Nook

Mondays - Thursdays, 8:30am - 5:30pm during regular office hours. Ask the Office Personnel to unlock the Library for you and secure it when you leave. On Sundays, or anytime the Lobby is open, please check out the Book Nook. Thank you for returning borrowed books and DVDs in a timely manner back to the Library or Lobby Book Nook.

Thank you to many who have cleaned out their personal book shelves and have donated materials to our Library. We either add those donations to the SCFBC Library shelves or trade them in for credit to buy other books that would be help to enhance our library’s offerings to the wider SCFBC family. Either way, your donations help to ensure that the Library materials stay fresh and useful.

The Library Committee
Jenny Gregg, Unice Chang, Barbara McLenegan, Shannon McMaken, Trudy Kroll, Bev Walz, and Jerri Cooper

Additional areas the congregation supports and is active in include:

Toys for Tots	30 Hour Famine	2 nd Harvest Food Bank	World Vision
Red Cross	Humane Society	Billy Graham Crusade	Habitat for Humanity
Goodwill	Sacred Heart	Salvation Army	Foster Children
Food for the Hungry	Elderly Outreach	Hands on Bay Area	InnVision
CARE	Mercy Ship	Gift of Reading	Family Giving Tree
Resource Area For Teaching	Bridges of Hope	VBS outside of SCFBC	Girl Scouts
Police Athletic League	Lions Club	San Jose Public Library Volunteer	Special Olympics
San Jose Family Shelter	RBC Daily Bread	Operation Blessing	Sunday Friends
Hope Rehabilitation Services	Jews for Jesus	Charles Stanley Missions	One Great Hour of Sharing
Samaritan’s Purse	Daena's Uganda Mission Trip	Fellowship Fund	Indian Mission Group
International Ministries, ABC	American Baptist Historical Society	Campus Crusade for Christ	ABW of the West Seminary Scholarship
West Valley Community Services	SF Homeless Cold Weather Outreach	Kids Club (with Bethel Church)	Compassion International
Sunnyvale Community Services	Prayer Quilt Ministry	Wycliff Bible Translators	St. Jude’s Cancer Hospice

May God bless you all for caring for those in need. It’s wonderful to see all the outreach to our community and beyond that SCFBC is involved in. I will attempt to continue providing information regarding opportunities for active missions involvement as I serve as your Missions Deacon.

Jim Garvey



Pastor Richard’s 20th Anniversary: An Update

Mark your calendars and plan on coming Saturday, October 22nd to celebrate Pastor Rich’s 20 years at Santa Clara First Baptist Church. We are planning a Hawaiian themed dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will include home style meatloaf and roasted red potatoes as the main course. In addition we will have alternative menu items as well as a salad, various vegetables, breads, fruits and beverages. We do not have a firm cost for the dinner, but we expect it to be in the \$7.50 to \$10.00 per person range. As mentioned before, we will not be charging for the dinner. Instead, we will accept donations to offset its cost and any funds over and above the cost of the dinner will be used as a portion of the love gift. We are also asking for a love offering to send Richard and Susi on a special vacation. You can send in your reservations, donations, and love offering to the Church Office; or give them to any member of the Pastoral Relations Committee; or put them in a plain envelope in the offering plate any time between now and October 17th. Check should be made payable to SCFBC with “dinner” or “gift” in the memo line.

Join us as we celebrate Pastor Richard and thank him for his leadership and service these past two decades. Save the date: Saturday, October 22nd, 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. For additional information, please feel free to contact any of the PRC members:

Doris Smith	littledsmith@hotmail.com	Ken Leisten	k995996@gmail.com
Michelle Ramer	ramermichelle@yahoo.com	Jess Stephens	jess_stephens@comcast.net

For People on the Grow!

Learn to read all over again!

When you read the Bible, do you ever feel like the words “go in one ear and out the other”? Through the Apprenticeship Study this year I learned a skill that has been practiced by believers for centuries. Lectio divina, (pronounced "Lec-tsee-oh Di-vee-nah"), literally means “divine reading.” Perhaps “divine listening” would be more accurate. This spiritual practice gives God the opportunity to communicate with us and to show us His will. The following exercise is based on *The Good and Beautiful God*, by James Bryan Smith.

Steps of Lectio Divina

Select a passage from the Bible. To begin with, try Psalm 23 or 1 Cor. 13. Spend a few minutes relaxing and breathing deeply in order to quiet your thoughts before God.

First Reading—Read through the passage slowly, pausing between each phrase or clause. (i. e., “The Lord is my shepherd,” [pause] “I shall not be in want,” [pause]...). After you finish the passage, sit silently and let the words soak in.

Second Reading—Read through the passage again, pausing between phrases for a little longer this time. Pay close attention to words or phrases that seem to stand out to you. Make a mental note of those words and phrases, and after this second reading, write them down.

Third Reading—Reread the passage up to the word or phrase that impacted you before. When you reach that word or phrase, stop and repeat it several times.

Pondering—Sit quietly and reflect on the phrase that touched you. Just let the words and your thoughts interact as you mull it over. Allow personal memories or other verses to come to mind. Ask yourself, “*What might God be trying to say to me?*”

Prayer—Make that question a prayer and take time to listen. Write down anything that you sense God might be trying to tell you.

Rest—Don’t rush off. Enjoy this time with God by being still and basking in His company.

Response—Ask yourself what you think you might be called to do as a result of your time with God. Think about specific steps you can take to apply what you have experienced.

Finally, don’t go into this expecting to have a dramatic spiritual experience (although that often happens). The purpose of lectio divina is to listen to God—giving Him the space to work in you. As with any new skill, it may feel awkward at first—that’s normal. Keep practicing lectio divina and you will find that it becomes increasingly natural and rewarding.

Jenny Gregg

Deacon of Maturity

fun!



Summer



Mission to Schools and Students

Thank you so much for all the donations that have already been delivered for our Scott Lane Donation Drive. We will continue to collect school supplies through the month of January, so keep them coming. For a list of suggested items to buy, please pick up a flyer at the Info Table in the Lobby. We suggest picking something up as you go shopping for yourself. Be on the look-out for sales on things like Kleenex, Hand Sanitizer, Pencils, etc. Donations may be dropped off in labeled tub at the Information Table of the Sanctuary Lobby .

Coming Soon....

After School Reading Program:

Many of the teachers at Scott Lane run after-school programs to assist children in their reading skills. Volunteers are needed to make these programs most effective. Last year we were able to provide several volunteers to work with the kids for an hour in the afternoon. The program will run Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2:30-3:30pm, and we ask volunteers to serve once a week. Please be in prayer about helping in this way. Sign-Up sheets will be at the Information Table in the Sanctuary Lobby.

Scott Lane Fall Carnival:

This is Scott Lane's main fundraising event of the year, and they need lots of volunteer help! The carnival will be **Friday, October 28th from 1:30-3:30pm**. Volunteers are needed for set-up starting at 11:45am, and for clean-up after the event. Volunteers are also needed to run booths. We will also be doing a PRIZE DRIVE to collect small prizes to be given away at the game booths. Mark your calendar for this date, and be on the look-out for small prizes to donate.

For questions, please contact Pastor Jenny at jennifer@scfbc.org, or (408) 241-7635.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

ELEMENT
NEW SERIES!
THURSDAY NIGHTS @ 8:30
3111 BENTON ST
SANTA CLARA, CA 95051
THE CHURCH: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
COME JOIN US AS WE TALK ABOUT WHAT THIS CHURCH
THING IS ALL ABOUT! WE WILL PLAY SOME GAMES.
HAVE SOME GREAT WORSHIP. AND GROW CLOSER TO GOD!

S.A.L.T
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

**COME JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
AFTER SCHOOL FOR SOME VIDEO GAMES,
FOOD, AIR HOCKEY, AND MORE. WE EVEN
GET OUR HOMEWORK DONE! STAY FOR
DINNER AND YOUTH GROUP AFTERWARDS.**



**THIS FALL WE WILL BE OPENING UP THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
AFTER SANTA CLARA FOOTBALL GAMES FOR A PROGRAM CALLED
5TH QUARTER. WE WILL HAVE GAMES, MOVIES, FOOD, AND LOTS
OF FUN! CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE FOR INFO COMING SOON!**

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.SCFBC.ORG FOR MORE INFO!

Reflect
NEW SERIES!
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30
3111 BENTON ST
SANTA CLARA, CA 95051
JESUS: MASTER STORYTELLER
JOIN US FOR A NEW SERIES! WE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT
SOME OF THE PARABLES OF JESUS! COME AT 5:30PM
FOR DINNER AND THEN HANG OUT FOR A TIME OF MUSIC,
FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING ABOUT GOD!

**REMEMBER THAT THOSE LEADERSHIP
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE! IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP
TEAM TALK TO ERIK!**

**After School
Hangout**

American Baptist Women

SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS AT SEA

There are only a few weeks to collect the needed items for the ditty bags given to the Seafarers at Christmas. These items will be packed at our ABW Fall Kick-Off on Saturday, September 10th at 10:00am in the Sanctuary Lobby. Come join the fellowship as the bags are packed; then enjoy a potluck lunch afterward.

SPECIAL ABW PROJECT FOR 2010-2011

"Surgical Care for Stigmatized Women in Democratic Republic of Congo" is a long title for a significant mission project. The success of the project will make a huge difference in the lives of women who suffer 'fistulas' caused by difficult labor/birth or violent physical attacks, including rape.

Women with fistulas become incontinent; in addition to suffering constantly from their physical internal injury, they suffer profound psychological trauma resulting from their utter loss of status and dignity. They are treated as contemptible and are literally pushed out of their families, their homes and their villages.

Fistulas can be repaired with surgery costing only \$60. The ABW of SCFBC feel called to help these African women who are so direly in need of healing. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 so that 100 women in the Congo can be returned to wholeness in body, in spirit, and in society. Be on the watch for more information in the future about how to join the ABW's fund-raising efforts.

Editor' note: To learn even more online about the plight of fistulas in women of third world countries, google "fistulas".

Student Ministries Need

We have some great programs that we are kicking off this fall in student ministries, I hope you will join us as we reach out to the students of the Santa Clara valley!

After School Program

We are kicking off our after school program for the Fall and we need your help! This program runs on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00pm-5:30pm. We are looking for people to come hang out with students, play video games, help with homework, help with dinner, etc. You could commit to once a month or an hour a week; we are flexible! Come check it out and see if God is calling you to hang out with kids after school!

5th Quarter

This fall we are starting a program on Friday nights after Santa Clara High football games in the Fellowship Hall from game's end until 11:00pm. We will offer a safe place for students to come and hang out, watch movies, play games, and eat food! We will need people to staff this program because we have the potential to have a lot of students!

Maybe you have been feeling like student ministries is a good place for you serve. Please talk to Erik Meyer about different ways you can get involved in student ministries! erik@scfbc.org

Renovation Update

Things are coming to an end for the renovation. We have finished most of the main work now that the main construction and electrical phases are done.

Both screens and screen walls are completed as is all the behind-the-screen work. Thank you to Duane Esquibel for helping Adam with a lot of the sheet rock installation. On the stage we still have a couple of platforms to build, the cross to hang back into position, the side slatted walls to paint, handrails and acoustic panels to install, and the stage area to carpet. The front of the stage still needs the fascia board installed and placement of the speaker grills.

We finally cut into the copy room last week and set a new door to improve access in and out of the office area. The copy room cabinets had to be rearranged which resulted in making the room feel larger. Thank you to Steve Erling's carpet installers for patching the carpet for no charge.

Our last big project is working on the rear stained glass window. We have experimented with removing the colored plastic inserts that were in the window frames and noticed that a lot more natural light comes into the room which also makes the room feel more welcoming. There were a lot of broken windows and water damage so we are going to install new double pane windows with Low-E glass coatings into the existing window frames and remove the plexiglass exterior screen. We will then put a frost film and tinting on the windows to help diffuse the sun that comes into the room during the winter months.

Tom Caldwell has been very busy finishing up the painting in the sanctuary. We want to thank him very much for the time that he has been volunteering. There is still a lot of touch up and cut-ins that have to be done as well as some ceiling cracks that keep on coming back that we need to repair.

We have also been selling a lot of the old sound equipment on Craigslist and putting that money towards the renovation as well as cleaning up the clutter that is around.

The Building Committee

Mike Depew, Jerry Cintas, Joe Lasher, Lloyd Darknell



“Mommy, today was so much fun!” “Awesome!” “This is the best day of Sunday School ever!” “I had so much fun today, I’m going to ask my mom if I can come every Sunday!” These are just a few of the wonderful types of feedback we’ve gotten from the children this summer during our Summer Spectacular program. Not only are the kids having major amounts of fun, but they are learning important Bible truths too! In August our theme was **CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA!** We learned about some interesting “characters” in the Bible such as John the Baptist, Daniel in the Lions’ Den, and Philip the evangelist who disappeared after baptizing someone! These stories taught the children important truths such as **God Wants Us to Repent, God Wants us to Pray, and God Wants Us to Believe in Miracles, not Magic.**

Along the way, we did some fun circus activities such as face painting, balloon animals, juggling, magic tricks, and eating caramel apples. For our final circus week we had a special guest. Our Bethlehem fire spinner, Brian Moon, came and performed for the kids. They got front row seats for this special performance, and kept their mouths gaping open the entire time. It’s been a wonderful summer, and not only did the children have a great time, but we’ve also welcomed 7 new volunteers to the Kids’ Worship ministry: **Michelle Ramer, Shannon McMaken, Trudy Kroll, Stacie Coral, Gail Bock, Pat Graham, and Shari Burdick.** Welcome aboard!



Heart for Uganda

*In July, Daena Yuksel spent 2 weeks serving the people of Uganda.
Below is a letter and some pictures recounting some of her experience there.*

Dear Friends,

The phrase "thank you" does not seem adequate to express my heart at this moment. Going on this mission trip to Uganda has transformed my life, rejuvenated my soul, strengthened my faith, and enabled me to love and befriend many people in Barakalo, Uganda.

After a 25-hour flight, we safely landed in Kampala and rested before an early morning 10-hour drive to Barakalo. During that drive, the road became a footpath and the footpath became overgrown with bushes. I was completely content to be walking deep in rural Africa where neither cars nor foreigners usually venture.

My first impression of Barakalo and most of Uganda was hopeful. Children were well nourished, wearing bright smiles and singing songs of joy. Water wells were plentiful and the crops looked strong and fruitful. The problems of Uganda are not easily visible. In fact, they are much deeper and more complicated than can be seen. The education system is not strong, owing to the limited number of teachers and resources. Malaria and HIV is rampant and was evident in every family I met. Religion is incorporated into the daily school routine. However, it is a dangerous mixture of Christianity, Islam and witchcraft.

Every morning after a short devotional and songs of praise, we worked alongside teachers and parents in the construction of a classroom. The children were delighted to see and touch us, and the construction workers looked rather amused as we carried heavy bricks and messy cement. The afternoons were spent doing home visits. A truly remarkable and humbling experience for me was sitting with an African mother as she explained how her children and husband had died of AIDS. Another mother cried that her babies are deathly sick from malaria. We paid visits to orphans whose parents had both died from AIDS. Some of the most satisfying moments of my time in Africa were holding sweet Ugandan hands while praying with these people in need, looking into their eyes and saying, "You are so worthy". I was encouraging them to be strong and hopeful because someone far away in America will be constantly praying for them.

I encountered many other wonderful people and was able to visit a few of the successful *Food for the Hungry* projects including: a well restoration project, a village savings and loan group, and the *New Life Center*, which rehabilitates former child slaves. However, nothing compared to the feelings of love and peace that I had during the home visits, when I felt the presence of Jesus most. God led me down this individual path in order to fulfill His perfect will in those moments.

The last day of my trip was sad but also beautiful. My wallet was still thick from the money you all so generously gave. After hearing the many stories of people sick with malaria, I decided to use the money for mosquito nets. We bought **400** nets at **\$3.00** each so that every child registered with *Food for the Hungry* in Uganda can be supplied with a net.

Now that I am home, I am constantly reminded that a mission trip is not just an event; it is a lifestyle. It is my intention to use the experiences of my trip to Uganda to fuel my passion for service to our Lord Jesus while continuing to seek opportunities to love in tangible and non-tangible ways. Your contribution to this mission trip has changed the lives of people hurting in a far away part of the world, and helped to nurture my soul in a way that no other experience can. I am deeply grateful.

With Love in Christ,
Daena Yuksel

Pictures from Uganda

