

Union Church Missions News
April 2015 issue 1

beautiful feet

serving giving going



Plugging into Missions
Who, why, where...

HOW DO WE DO MISSIONS AT UNION?

The
BIG
Picture?

We support many wonderful ministries and organizations at Union Church. As a missions team, it is about developing relationships with our Kingdom partners—allowing ministries to flourish and do the work that God has called them to, and allowing us to serve alongside of them with resources, prayer and team visits. As well as continuing our support of organizations involved in compassionate ministry—making a difference in the lives of the impoverished, the marginalized, and bringing justice to the oppressed, as a missions team, this year we want to be even more intentional in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the nations. We look forward to supporting new ministries which have an emphasis on evangelism and discipleship—, distributing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping Godly men and women with Biblical training and leadership.

Vision Of Union Church Missions

Making authentic followers of Jesus Christ by investing our influence, time and resources in projects and programs that result in individual and community transformation

Do what the
church can do

Strategy

Identify organizations, ministries and individuals who

- ◇ Work with least-reached people groups
- ◇ Work in closed countries, for example within the 10/40 window
- ◇ Focus on language groups where there are no bible translations – visually or orally
- ◇ Encourage hope in countries where there is persecution of believers

Through:

- * Church-Planting initiatives
- * Church leadership training and education
- * Informal Discipleship and Bible courses
- * Media, Technology, and Scripture and Curriculum Development
- * Church Based Initiatives
- * Compassion -Community Transformation initiatives

The both/and of Missions: Gospel and Compassion—by T.J.Addington

In the early 1900's there was a major clash in the American church between the liberals who emphasized good works at the expense of the Gospel and the evangelicals who insisted that good works by themselves would not help people find Christ and experience His grace. In simple terms, what followed was a divide. The liberals jettisoned the Gospel for a religion of good works while evangelicals, in an over response often jettisoned good works for a sole emphasis on the Gospel.

What the liberals lost was the life changing message of Jesus while emphasizing Jesus concern for people. What the evangelicals lost was the concern for people's needs with a sole concern for their eternal destinies. What both lost was the both/and of the life of Jesus who was always concerned about their situations but never addressed their life issues without also addressing the core issue of the heart.

The example of Jesus in the Gospels ought to be our guide: He cared deeply for people and their situations. That is why people followed him. That is why He healed them. That is why he talked to them non-judgmentally about their sin. But He never left it at that. He always talked to them about their hearts.

There are innumerable stories of evangelism efforts, literature distribution or other ministries done in the name of Jesus that have almost *no lasting impact* because while people made professions of faith, there was no church left behind for them to be nurtured and to grow. When you separate missions from church planting, you no longer have missions in a Biblical sense but simply compassion ministries. That is why Paul always focused on church planting while always encouraging believers to be the hands, feet, compassion and love of Jesus.

The church must reclaim the concern of Jesus for the whole person but must not lose the centrality of multiplying His church in the process.

tjaddington@gmail.com

<http://leadingfromthesandbox.blogspot.hk/2012/08/the-bothand-of-missions-gospel-and.html>



Union Church serves organizations and individuals locally as well as internationally. This month, through the words of Shari Tvrdik, we introduce the work of DESERT ROSE, an organization which works with abandoned girls and runaways in Mongolia. Our senior youth also just spent a very fulfilling 5 days over Easter in Mongolia, with Youth Director Brenna Dykman. For more info, contact Shari (tfamilymongolia@gmail.com)

How many people do you serve each week?

At Desert Rose we currently have 10 girls. We have transitioned 18 girls out of the shelter and back into their homes. This is government mandated that we introduce the girls back into their homes within one year unless the government says the home is not safe. We visit the homes of the 18 girls at least once a month to get a good indication of how they are adjusting. So far, all but one has had a good adjustment. We are really excited for the success of this, and for the continued relationship with the families.

In what capacity do they come to Desert Rose

The 10 girls also include three that are mentally challenged and have lived at Desert Rose for quite some time. (3-7 years). We are getting ready to bring in another 10 girls which will come 2 by 2 starting next month. Our max capacity is 24. I really see God's blessing, and His hand on this project. I see how the girls who have left are forever changed and empowered to live their lives out. They truly leave strong, equipped with education (which continues after they leave or we report to the government). I am very encouraged by the work here and by our teacher and director, Ama-raa, who stands strong in the face of government inspections and frustration!

What opportunities are there to help Desert Rose?

As for opportunities for help, our biggest struggle is financial. We want to be able to provide the girls with everything but for now we are working on a tight budget. We have enough for rent and food and basic medical issues, but it would be nice to increase for clothing and more outings with the girls. As it stands we can only afford outings when a donation arrives specifically for this cause. It would be nice to have the girls all involved in different activities such as music lessons and things like this which go beyond our budget. I would love to have prayer partners for the girls (people who are committed to pray for an individual girl which I would then send updates about). It would be wonderful to know these children were backed up in prayer support!



Our local focus this month is on INNER CITY MINISTRIES. Union has supported ICM since 2006, and many congregants have been involved in mentoring, and hosting the Saturday Children's Club program. My questions go to their director, Martin Radford (martin@innercityministries.org)

How many people do you serve each week? In what capacity do they come to ICM?

About 50 Children come regularly on Saturdays, about 20 teens on Saturday evening, 40 or so young adults for Friday fellowship and study, 30 adults and mums with children for parenting classes, Cantonese classes and sewing workshops. They join our programs which are equipping and empowering.

How many staff members work for ICM?

5 who serve the community directly through our programs, outreach and mission + Executive Director who is responsible for all administration, funding and staff

How is ICM involved in social enterprise

We are not engaged in SE as such. All our work is focused upon mission expressed through our care programs. WE are engaged in caring for the most vulnerable in the community through acts of service carried out by staff (counselling, prayer, social service and food for the homeless)

What opportunities are there to help ICM?

Volunteer teams are needed for working with children on Saturday afternoons; Mentors for school students during the week; those interested in fund raising for Christian mission would be valuable; Ladies would might like working with mums in sewing classes.

An interesting fact about the ministry or staff

We are unique in HK as an English/ Nepali speaking mission to Nepalese people who are an easily forgotten community in Hong Kong. We have a tried and trusted relationship with our community and we have a vital role in mission and outreach in the area.





Union Church sponsors monthly outreach opportunities as well as international trips to organizations and individuals we support with prayer, resources and finances.

Coming Up...

May 1-3 Bawing Evangelical Church, Philippines

- Celebrate the graduation of students supported by the Scholarship Program at a beach resort
- Meet with the members of the Livelihood Projects (swine group, cassava group, furniture making group)
- Fellowship with the church leaders

The cost of the trip is HKD5,500. Please contact Marga Wulfgram for more information (mwulfgram@gmail.com)

June 12th -14th CAMBODIA Family Trip

Union partners with FCOPI in sponsoring a home for vulnerable children. Come and meet the children and be inspired by their faith and resilience.

For more information, contact Sheryl Nutland
sherylnutland@hotmail.com

October 17th—24th (School Holidays)

Come and join us as we fly to South Africa and Swaziland—volunteering in a town committed to the restoration of a nation's children

Following that we will head on SAFARI—catch the African big five on film

This is a great family opportunity.

Contact Lee-Ann for details

Lee-ann.mcfarlane@unionchurchhk.org

Look out for trips to China with International China Concern in September and to the Philippines in October.



Family Focus

Terri Appel has served as deacon to the Union Church Missions team since 2013. She and her husband Nick have passionate hearts for the gospel to be heard and seen in action. I asked Terri a few questions about their experiences.

What does being "mission minded" mean to you?

Terri—Being mission-minded means being focused on the command that Jesus gave us to go and make disciples of all men! This transcends our circumstances and situations, if we are believers in the redemptive work of Christ and call ourselves His followers, then in whatever the circumstance, we can support and take part in Jesus' call to mission...to bring the gospel to all humankind. This can be accomplished by words and/or deeds.

Where have you traveled on short term mission trips and what's an experience that stands out for you?

Terri—We've travelled to the Philippines numerous times, to Western China, and to Vietnam. The one thing that always strikes me, and most about mission trips, you go thinking and praying, "Lord use me and let me minister to the people and places we go to!" Then God in His love and mercy ends up ministering to me in the field, during the trip, more than I could have imagined. He makes our ministry cup run over!!

As parents, how have you encouraged your children to be beautiful feet (Isaiah 52:7)?

Terri -We frequently take them on missions trips to the Philippines, plus they also go on trips now without us. We hope & pray that by modeling "the beautiful feet" through our deeds, that God will plant a seed in our children and use our time ministering together to grow a seed of desire to go out on their own. Thus far God has answered our prayers!?

Kingdom Partners

In 2014, Union Church partnered with these organizations:

SALT—Curriculum Development, Faith Comes By Hearing, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Shekinah Bible College, Inner City Ministries, Chung King Ministries, FCOPI—Cambodia, Tung Chung—Exchange Square, Kids International Ministry, International Care Ministries, YWAM Sons and Daughters, Flourishing Future, International China Concern, Hong Kong Church Network For the Poor, Sunrise Educational Fund, Bawing Church, St. Barnabas, ALPHA