



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Bringing medical care to Guatemala

Children of the Americas is a Lexington-based group of medical and surgical volunteers that takes a surgical team to remote areas of Guatemala every January. This photo was taken in Retalhuleu, Guatemala, during the group's 2010 medical mission trip. Front row, from left: Henry Elam and Dr. Kit Montgomery. Second row: Jody Greenlee, Betsy Matthews, Deb Dobbelhoff, Holly Powers, Dr. Carol Cottrill (holding newspaper), Dr. Ellen Webb. Third row: Rosemary Vance and Shelley Ryan. Fourth row: Tom Rolfes and Franklin Hoopes.



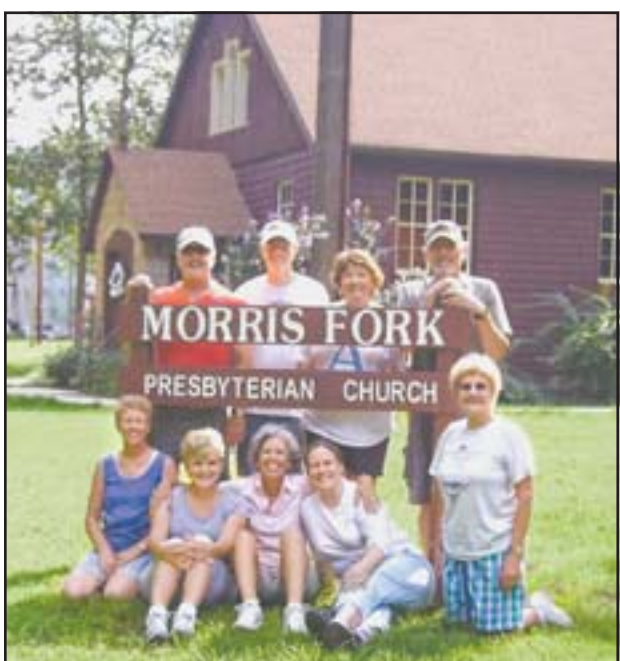
Ministry in Charleston, W.Va.

The youth of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Lexington traveled to Charleston, W.Va., during the week of July 4 to 9. The focus was primarily on youth and seniors' ministry. The group served at mission centers, sports camps, and senior living centers, stocking food, teaching kids, and visiting seniors. Back row, from left: Stefani Purcell, Josh Delong, Jeremy Latham, Ted Latham, Duncan King, Jacob Delong and Bill Akers. Middle row: Ashton Combs, Norma Akers, Ben Farmer, Abigail Lewis, Cory Mitchell, Olivia Cook, Grace Mitchell and Linda Swan. At front, kneeling: Wes Swan, director of youth and family ministry.



In Honduras

From May 29 to June 5, eight members of Eubank Baptist Church in Eubank joined with seven other Christians on a mission trip to Guaimaca, Honduras, through Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International. Team members conducted children's ministry, water ministry, street evangelism, school programs and a tent crusade, while distributing free Bibles and food. The group posed for a photo at El Picacho City Park, overlooking the capital Tegucigalpa. From left: Mike Broughton, Margie Reynolds, Anna Reynolds, Wendy Floyd, Jill Johnson, Brother James Griffith, Taylor Johnson and Beth Grider.



Fixing up a church in Eastern Kentucky

Morris Fork Presbyterian Church in Buckhorn was built in 1939 and provided a place of worship for the people of Eastern Kentucky until it was closed in 1999. The church reopened in 2005 as a Presbyterian chapel, and members of the community worship there again, but the chapel and manse need restoration to gain full use of the facilities. The goal is to have it named a national historic site because of its rich history. Several groups have come over the years to help make improvements. On Aug. 7, members of South Frankfort Presbyterian Church scraped and painted 25 windows and replaced several rotting boards outside. Front row, from left: Tina Hawkins, Pat Edwards, Janice Collins, Linn Sholar and Beth Avent. Back row: Mark Hawkins, Rob Moore, Susan Moore and Tony Sholar.

LIFE + FAITH

Central Kentuckians have taken mission trips this year to all corners of the world, helping in myriad ways. We asked readers to submit photos from their mission trips. And one Herald-Leader staff member shares the story of his trip to Africa.

SIMPLE LESSONS FROM MALAWI

Mission team learns of huge difference 'little things' make



STAN KRAMER

After a soccer match that included members of Second Presbyterian Church's mission team and players from William Murray Secondary School in Nkhoma, Malawi, children had fun celebrating the match by lifting a boy in the air.

By Todd Wethall
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Mission trips come in a variety of shapes and sizes — groups can range from a couple to a couple-dozen people; distance traveled can be several city blocks or several thousand miles; and tasks can vary from feeding babies to building medical clinics.

But one thing every mission trip has in common is that each one can make a difference — even if plans change.

I was part of a 15-member mission team sponsored by Lexington's Second Presbyterian Church that went to Malawi, a small, land-locked country in south-central Africa, in late June and early July.

Our mission was to deliver soccer and school supplies and play soccer with children and youth in Nkhoma, Blantyre and the village of Wanyenba; visit schools and orphan programs; and take part in at least one construction project.

Before we traveled to Malawi, among the things we had learned was the need to be flexible. That lesson came in handy because it became apparent during our first week that a construction project was not going to work out.

But during one of our visits to Nkhoma Primary School, we had noticed many, if not most, students were sitting on the floor. And in one of the classrooms was a huge stack of broken, dismantled, unusable desks piled in the back.

See MALAWI, B3

Learn more

Video: You can see more about Second Presbyterian's mission trip to Malawi, including a video, on the Web at 2preslex.org/mission/global/malawi-2010.



At a clinic in Mexico

Charlie Coffaro and Jennifer George, both second-year physician assistant students at the University of Kentucky, saw patients at a medical clinic in Piedras Negras, Mexico, in March. The students, along with 10 others representing the UK PA program, joined medical practitioners and other volunteers from across the United States as part of a medical brigade with Crossroads Missions. The site was one of five clinics held throughout the city, including one in a local prison. Brigade members also served meals to families at a hospital, treated inmates in a border patrol holding facility, and participated in crafts and activities with neighborhood children during the clinics.



Rebuilding a TV station in Ecuador

Members of Lexington's Bread of Life Assembly of God went to Cuenca, Ecuador, on their first mission trip March 17 to 28 to help rebuild a Christian Spanish-speaking television station that had burned in a fire. The men helped build offices, studios and conference rooms in a building the Assemblies of God had purchased to help the station start back up. Front row, from left: Greg Williamson and Dave Rooney. Back row: Jess Craig, Joe Engle, Jared Strunk, Dave Allen, Jim Bates and Chet Ulm.



Building a clinic in Zambia

Five members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort returned Aug. 10 from a two-week mission trip to Zambia. IBC has been a long-term supporter of projects pertaining to food security, income generation, sports, education and health to improve the lives of Zambian residents, particularly in the remote villages. Church members and others recently raised more than \$50,000 to build a maternity health clinic in the village of Katombora in memory of David Jackson, friend and lifelong supporter of African missions. Trip participants assisted in clinic construction, led efforts in sports activities for Katombora children and youth, presented educational materials to school-age children in the village of Namapande, and learned from the locals how church-supported projects have benefited their villages. From left: Reeda Yancey, Samuel Tanko, Jane Brake, Stephen Dooley and Cheryl Dooley.



Lives altered in Kenya

Morgan Potter, a Henry Clay graduate and senior at the University of Mississippi, traveled to Kenya to do mission work. While there she played with children at a missionary-funded sports camp and helped distribute food and water to local tribes. Potter traveled with New Directions International, a missionary organization based in Raleigh, N.C. Potter writes: "My trip to Africa was something I have never experienced before in my life. While there it was my goal to touch as many lives as possible through spreading Christ's word. However, to my surprise these children and local people touched my life more than I could have ever imagined."



Lifting spirits in Tennessee

Broadway Baptist Church Student Ministry from Lexington went to Garden Plaza Retirement Home in Cleveland, Tenn., from June 26 to 30 to clean the building, wash cars and serve the residents. From left: Rebecca Seitz, Ashley Parks, Laura Davis and Hannah Dawahare.