

# CROSS TALK-CM



## MISSION NEWS FROM CHRIST MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### Mission Work in Haiti by Nancy Avena



Recently, Christ Memorial's Nancy Avena followed her faith and her heart to serve in the earthquake ravaged country of Haiti. The following are Nancy's words on how Christ used that trip to impact her life!

It's a hot afternoon and you are working in an amputee clinic. Your patients have been waiting since early this morning for physical therapy. Some have traveled several hours and have used their food money to pay their transporta-

tion costs. All of them are hungry and tired. As you progress to each patient, you prepare yourself for their outrage but note that no one is upset. Everyone has a big smile and a warm greeting. When you think, "I must be dreaming," you come to your senses and realize that the truth of the matter is, you are in Haiti. Haitians are content but have very little, they are appreciative but have been inconvenienced, they are joyful but have suffered great tragedies, and they are strong but are viewed as helpless. Volunteering as a physical therapist in Haiti has been a humbling experience. I arrived with ambitions of helping and teaching, but I left with a desire to be more like them!

### WHO RECEIVES "SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT" MONEY from CM?

- LITERACY WORK IN ASIA
- SOCIALINGUISTIC CONSULTANT, CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON ASIA.
- MISSIONARY AND TEACHER IN TAIWAN.
- APPLE OF HIS EYE MISSION WORK TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
- CHRISTIANS FRIENDS OF NEW AMERICANS OUTREACH TO IMMIGRANTS IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA
- YOUNG LIFE IN GERMANY
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA LITERACY BIBLE TRANSLATION IN NEW GUINEA.

### Christ Memorial Summer Missions Trips

As this edition of Cross Talk-CM is going to print, many of our members are preparing to leave for what has become the annual trip to New Orleans. Yes, the people of New Orleans are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. It was reported in August 2009 that the Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief was halfway done 4 years after Katrina. Recovery is extremely slow in the areas that were flooded from Katrina. Hurricanes Ike and Gustov slowed the recovery

in 2008. The victims of the Katrina disaster still need help. Therefore, CMLC continues to make trips to that slowly recovering area.

The other summer mission trip that CMLC is sponsoring is a trip to Makah Lutheran Church in Neah Bay, Washington state the week of July 17-24th. Neah Bay is home to the Makah Indian tribe. While we are with Makah Lutheran Church, the Makah tribe will host the end of what is called a "Canoe Journey." Representa-

tives from a number of North American tribes (some from hundreds of miles away) join in this intertribal canoe voyage, which will culminate in Neah Bay on July 19. We will experience first-hand the ministry behind the vision of Makah Lutheran Church to see salvation come to Native North America.

Please include our CMLC members in your prayers as they travel on these important trips!

### Mission Trips for 2009

TRIP TO THE GULF COAST TO CONTINUE HURRICANE

June  
6-12

TIRP TO NEAH BAY, WASHINGTON STATE

July  
17-24

## CROSS TALK-CM: Greetings from Stephanie Roegner in Taiwan



I send greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I pray that we daily remember what He willingly suffered for each of us in order that we might have new life.

Originally I thought this year might be my last in Taiwan due to both the fact that I am severely underfunded financially, and the fact that I wanted to see what other opportunities God might have for me. I allowed my name to be put

on the call list. However, after extended time in prayer, and taking into consideration the various options, I decided that God is still calling me to Taiwan. There are things He still has for me to do here, and I am eager to continue working with the other missionaries at Concordia English Language Academy. I am excited to continue teaching my Taiwanese students about how much God loves them and wants them to believe in Jesus as Savior. I

am looking forward to continuing to minister to my coworkers, some of whom are just now beginning to ask important faith questions. I am also eager to continue to follow through with all the opportunities God provides to share His Word with other people in Taiwan.

Stephanie

*Stephanie and all our missionaries can use all the prayer and financial support we can give them!*

## A Word from Rambai Keruwa



Rambai Keruwa does Bible translation work in Papua New Guinea. Work we consider simple takes weeks in this remote area of the world. This includes Rambai's work preparing

to build a house. It took a week just to cut the wood for use in the construction!

Bible translation work in New Guinea is difficult because of the remote locations of the translators. Recently translators working in the mountains of New Guinea had to hike for two days to connect with a truck to ride seven hours to work

with the Maring New Testament translation. Rambai and his coworkers with the Bible Translation Association and the Summer Institute of Linguistics praise God for all that He is doing through the work of these important organizations in New Guinea.

## CMLC Youth Mission Work in St. Louis by John Rasmussen

*"I can't help but smile as I watch our youth minister to those labeled as 'the least.'"*

What started out as a confirmation service trip last summer has quickly turned into a habit for the youth of Christ Memorial. After taking about thirty middle school age youth to the Trinity Souland soup kitchen, my wife and I started to get requests for another trip. So we took another trip. And another, and another... During the past year, our youth group has been blessed with the opportunity of forming a sort of

informal partnership with the homeless ministry of historic Trinity. Every few months we place a sign up sheet outside the youth room for an upcoming trip. Both middle school and high school students have been eager to participate. Since the goal of all ministry is that teaching would eventually turn into action, it's been encouraging to stand back and watch these young people serve the broken and unfortunate of our city. Some of them hand hot cups of cheesy fla-

vored Ramen Noodles and coffee to men lined up at the window. Others engage in conversation with the homeless. And on one particular occasion a few girls spontaneously broke out into song, performing Vacation Bible School songs and actions for those eating. In a culture that is all too often forgetful of the poor and needy, I can't help but smile as I watch our youth minister to those labeled as "the least."