

What's Happening at The Josiah Foundation!

March, 2011

By Dave Penner, President

Dane Underwood on One Year Mission with The Josiah Foundation in Central & South America!

At 5:37AM on Monday morning, March 14 (that's tomorrow!), 23 year old Dane Underwood plans to board Delta Flight #1207 and begin a one-year mission to Central and South America. Dane, a recent business degree graduate, is an extremely energetic and bright entrepreneur with a passion to serve the Lord and others.



Dane on the right, with good friend Matt Christensen on business trip in New York City

Dane is now the second missionary to serve as a partner with The Josiah Foundation. Dane plans to begin his ministry in Antigua, Guatemala working along side The Josiah Foundation's other full time partner, Pat Duff. Pat works with personnel of several organizations to reach out in Christ's name to those with deep physical, material and spiritual needs. Pat especially works to help children with physical, oral/motor and cognitive disabilities to communicate efficiently and effectively.

Following a number of weeks of ministry in Guatemala, Dane plans to work with South America missions in several South American countries. Ministries on Dane's radar for the upcoming year include the following:

Peru:

- Disciple/train leaders with the Ammi Training Center.

- Ucayali River Ministry and Refuge of Hope Ministry Peru: serve as host for mission guesthouse, provide outreach to the professional-class in Santa Cruz.
- Teach at SAM Academy in Pucallpa.

Bolivia:

Teach English at the Bible institute.

Work with children’s ministry.

- Teach at Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center.
- Help at a medical mission for rural and tribal communities for the indigent in Santa Cruz. Mission provides day clinics in needy communities, practices friendship evangelism with patients and promotes micro and community wide development projects.

Brazil:

- Provide leadership training and discipleship at Ammi Training Center in Mato Grosso, Brazil (Bible Institute off the reservations where indigenous nationals are invited to come, live and study the Word of God).
- In Recife, provide discipleship and leadership training, building homes for the neediest of the needy in a very poor part of Dois Unidos.

Colombia:

- Partner with local believing congregation in Santa Marta, Colombia and provide Youth Leadership Development.
- Help with English as Second Language classes at Calvary Church Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center (SCCLC) Education.

Changing Lives In The Slums Of Kariobongi



School children in front of the school’s “in progress” construction



School children in one of the new classrooms.

As many of you know, The Josiah Foundation has linked efforts with SIM (formerly known as the Sudan Interior Mission) in Nairobi, Kenya in raising funds for the Ark School, a Christian school located in the slums of Kariobongi (Nairobi). This school and the opportunity it represents is one of the biggest needs on my heart right now. You can see the results of on-going

construction to expand the school in the photos above. The Ark School is now holding classes in the newly constructed ground level floor.

Last month I have received correspondence from Christel, the SIM missionary with oversight over the school. Christel told me that they are just putting the next slab in, which is constructed in such a way that a third floor could be added. The original plan was to just add a two-floor expansion to the school. But Christel says that “now we have more and more parents, who want urgently their kids in this school.” Christel wanted my input as to whether we should attempt to actually go to a three story expansion given the difficulty in raising funds for even two floors. A third floor means the school would have twelve classrooms and could accommodate the ladies sewing project as well as perhaps other projects for the benefit of the community. The school could accommodate 200 to 250 children. When I first visited this school with only the original five leased classrooms, they were able to squeeze about 120 children in.

Christel further stated that “they are using the new building in a tremendous way by now. They have three classes in three rooms and half of the Assembly also meets in one of the big rooms... I would hate to have to start building in 2 years again, because everything has become too small already...”



School children in their new classroom.



A little child on the “outside” looking in through the gate of the school.

Dear readers, if you could all have been with me on my visits to this wonderful school, and seen the many eager children, many of whom don't even have sufficient food to eat, I know you would agree with me that offering a Christian education in the slums of Kariobongi would be a tremendous investment in the future of many families with eternal returns on investment. Although a predominantly Muslim community, many parents love the school and choose to send their children there because of the quality of education and the love their children receive.

I ask that you prayerfully consider having a part in increasing the school expansion from two floors to three, and enlarging the impact of this incredible school. Per the latest feedback received from SIM, approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 is still needed to make this a reality. To read more about the Ark School, go to www.josiahfoundation.com or to <http://www.lifechallenge.de/>.

Wheelchair Distribution in Chiquimula

Last May, a Josiah Foundation team ministered in partnership with Bethel Ministries International to provide wheelchairs to over 40 individuals in Chiquimula, a small city near Guatemala's eastern border with Honduras. Area pastors came to the distribution to pray with those receiving wheelchairs. Fourteen individuals professed to make a decision to follow Jesus Christ! This coming May, another wheelchair opportunity has presented itself to The Josiah Foundation. Bethel Ministries has asked me if we could fund this year's wheelchair distribution in Chiquimula. As donations come in, we hope to again provide funding for this May's Chiquimula wheelchair distribution. For more on Bethel Ministries, go to: <http://www.bethelministriesinternational.com>.

Photos from May 2010 Chiquimula Wheelchair Distribution



Pastor praying with wheelchair recipient



Bethel Ministries' Director Chris Mooney with a happy boy



Her smile was all the thanks we needed

For the May 2011 Wheelchair Distribution:

Bethel Ministries has invited up to 50 recipients. At a cost of \$70 per wheelchair, sponsorship needs are \$3,500. That covers the cost of restoring the wheelchairs, parts, labor, shop etc. An additional \$500 would cover the trucking costs to Chiquimula and hotel expenses for the team.

To Donate, send funds to:
The Josiah Foundation
ATTN: Wheelchair Fund
2112 S. 163rd Circle
Omaha, Ne. 68130

Coming Soon!!

Ministry in the Slums of Kwa Njenga

The leadership of The Josiah Foundation seeks to work in cooperation with those who are already working effectively in Kenya. We have been in communication for some time with a Christian non-profit organization that has been working effectively in rural Kenya to empower churches, create vision driven communities (spiritual, economical, social), mentor the next generation, and support economic initiatives. Please be in prayer with us as we meet with the leadership of this organization in the very near future to discuss how we might work together in urban Nairobi - in the slums of Kwa Njenga. I will share more as plans materialize.



Photo taken from my 2009 visit to Kwa Njenga in front of Pastor Jeremiah's church.

Partnering in Ministry with Business Men and Women

The Lord has recently been moving in very specific and exciting ways in what appears to be the beginnings of a focused engagement with business men and women as we seek to work together in ministering to the poor in Jesus name! Stay tuned for details in the very near future!

Prayer and Praise Items

- Prayer for Dane Underwood as he embarks on one year mission to Central and South America.
- Continued ministry of Pat Duff in Guatemala where she ministers to children with serious handicaps and with others living in deep poverty. Visit her blog at: <http://www.guatemalagrandma.com>
- Josiah Foundation Board Member John Elias who remains in Nairobi (since September of last year). John has been seeking a visa to allow him to return to the US to be with his wife who is going to school in Omaha.
- Praise for a very good reception to presentation (Feb. 20) of The Josiah Foundation's ministry at the Hope Community Church in Lincoln, Ne.
- Expansion of the Ark School in slums of Kariobongi.
- Pastor Jeremiah and wife Carol as they minister in slums of Kwa Njenga.
- Upcoming opportunities as Dave Penner presents the work of The Josiah Foundation:
 - April 2: Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha Ne. – Men's Group.
 - April 10: New Creation Community Church, Omaha, Ne.