

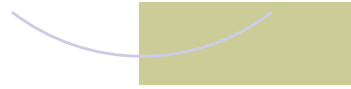
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"I don't know if I have ever been on the inside of God at work until the Craig, Alaska mission."



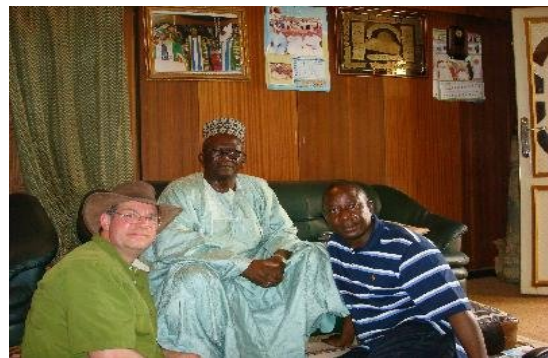
Connections



Making A Difference

By Joe Burton, CEO & Founder

What a great year it was serving God through His ministry, The Isaiah Connection. In 2008, 70 individuals, 16 donors, 7 churches, and 8 businesses/organizations entered the mission field to make a difference around the world in the lives of hurting people. They brought a ray of hope to many who felt that life was not worth living. As a result, seventy-four individuals accepted Christ as Lord of their life. In addition, \$20,000 in medicines were transported to Honduras and Nigeria, 416 children and 1,529 adults were medically treated. 700 children received education kits and English as a second language in 5 schools, one church was painted, one garden cleaned, witness occurred to local Hawaiians as taro patches were cleared, and



Joe with the King of Keffi and Senator Danboyi in Nigeria

four vacation Bible schools and 2 basketball camps were conducted. Evangelism was carried out in a ghetto of Brazil, the ministry was involved in the planting of 10 churches in China, and a minimum of 2,800 people around the world received the Gospel of Jesus Christ! That is what this ministry is about! It is about connecting people around the world, serving together, making a difference.

Have a Happy New Year, and I hope that in 2009 you will want to be involved in making a difference in the life of someone, somewhere around the world in the name of our Heavenly Father. Whether through prayer, a monetary donation, going to serve in the field with The Isaiah Connection, or all of the above, God can work through us to make a difference!

Gazing Inside - God at Work

By Jill Barclay, short-term Missionary to Craig Alaska

I'm not an open person with words really...that's more Kevin's department. But when I have a pen (or in this case a keyboard) at my fingertips, I can become very open. And right now I do, so I want to express to you how much this mission trip

meant to me and to my family. I have seen miracles before, I don't know how any woman who has ever given birth can say she hasn't seen a miracle, but I don't know if I have ever been on the inside of God at work until the Craig, Alaska

mission. The best part of it was that it was only the beginning. Overall, just know that what The Isaiah Connection does is so appreciated and so worthwhile (if you were wondering) and the Barclays will never be the same - in a good way...



Mickey & Dave teaching VBS
in Tucson!

*“The paradox of life is that
the more you give, the
more you have.”*



Tucson Arizona VBS Team

Gimps on the Go

By: Mickey Kyler – Short-Term Missionaries to Tucson, AZ

It all started when we refused to be unwanted. People everywhere could not accept the circumstances that God allowed us. That's right, we and our assistance dog, Lucy, were looking for a local church where we would be welcomed and allowed to serve. A long ordeal ensued but eventually Prairie Community Church was born. A little country church that cares about people everywhere getting to know Jesus.

The members of Prairie Community Church understood that collaborating mission

goals with another group would stretch the dollars and equal souls for Jesus. The mission group "Soul Shakers", which includes every member, and friends began looking for a mission of their own. Something different that would be hands-on to other communities.

Dave and I heard Joe Burton at Empower in 2002 and brought the news home. The wheels started turning and everyone pitched in making Education Kits to be distributed by Isaiah Connection in Honduras, Nigeria...

Last year "Soul Shakers" poured over the Isaiah Connection newsletters. Wouldn't it be neat if someone from our church could go?" "Is it possible to juggle our disability issues on a mission trip and really be of help?" These are real questions since 99% of the congregation have disability issues that make travel and work difficult.

We then offered to go to Metlakatla. We began checking into travel arrangements. I have quadriplegia so a well thought out plan is essential.

(cont on pg 3)

The Paradox of Abundant Living

By: Jeanine Briscoe, short-term Missionary to Nigeria

I just ran across a quote that a co-worker had given me a while ago and wanted to share it with all of you who so selflessly give of your time, energy and income to help others. I hope it will encourage you as it does me.

“One secret of abundant living is the art of giving. The paradox of life is that the more you give, the more you

have. If you lose your life in the service of others, you will save it. You can give abundantly and so live abundantly. You are rich in one respect – you have a spirit that is inexhaustible. Let no mean or selfish thought keep you from sharing this spirit: of love, of help, of understanding, and of sympathy, give and keep giving. Give your personal ease

and comfort, your time, your money, and most of all, yourself, and you will be living abundantly.”

Thank you all for allowing me to work side by side with you in past years, and for moving forward into projects that God has made us passionate about. It has been and will always be a privilege.

Determined to Serve

By: Elizabeth Delaney, Freelance Writer, Ohio

With high temperatures that soared over 110 daily, our little VBS team of 11 had our work cut out for us in Tucson, Arizona. Ranging in ages from thirteen to fifty and representing several different churches, the Lord clearly had it in mind for this team's diversity to be one of our greatest strengths. Not only did He supply Children's

Bible Teachers, Teacher's Aides, an Audiovisual Technician and a small Cooking Crew, but there were even team members who enjoyed sharing their talents for short children's dramas.

Joe really has a heart to encourage unity and servanthood among churches, and his mission opportunities draw and inspire people from vari-

ous nations, states, ages, races and backgrounds.

God has put talents and gifts into each of us that He can use for the building up of His Kingdom. One of life's greatest joys is to discover what those are, and then say to the Lord, "Here I am, send me!"

(continued from pg 2)

Dave is hard of hearing and recently developed peculiar symptoms that could affect his ability to travel. The church thought they could probably sponsor us if the details could be worked out. We all prayed about it.

God has a curious way of getting exactly what He needs from willing hearts. We ended up going to Tucson and we were able to bring along one more person that could help us in case of emergency. Dave's health was unpredictable and Tucson offered supports that

might not have been available elsewhere. The barriers on this trip were minimal.

What happened in Tucson won't stay in Tucson! We saw children meet Jesus. We made new friends. We encouraged other churches. We are encouraged by other churches. We identified opportunities. We dreamed possibilities. We found comfort outside our usual zone. We grew confident in Christ. We learned faith and how to share with each other.

Isaiah Connection has made an affordable way for small churches to sponsor young people, and people with disabilities to be involved with missions around the world. We don't know if we will get to Metlakatla, but you can be certain that Prairie Community Church will continue in Tucson and throughout the world!



Gorgeous Craig Alaska sunset

The Miracle of Moloka'i 2008

I just wanted you to know how much I enjoyed the Molokai trip! It really changed my thinking in so many areas. We have so much here in Orange County and so many people are looking for the biggest and best "programs". My eyes were really opened

to not look to programs to solve things but to look to relationships - first with God and then with others. I know it seems basic, but for me, I needed to see that. I am a "fixer" and always tried to fix things with more programs, outings and events - it never

By: Denise Hurdle, California

worked! So now I am going to work on relationships first and the other stuff can follow! I know at least for me that's what God wants me to do. So thank you for the opportunity to not only serve but to be in a position to hear from the Lord!

The Impact of Commitment

By: Ben McEachern, Pastor Northridge Fellowship, Rogers Minnesota

It is just exciting to see the impact of a long-term commitment to one place and people. This year we had doors open up that were closed before. We also had some exciting answers to

prayer. This year was not as exhausting as years past because of the camaraderie of those who had been there before. What a great group of people. The long-term commitment to one area is really

paying off. The relationships we are building over time are getting stronger. We are starting to get invited into what the Hondurans are doing. Our Team came from all over the country with various levels of experience

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ.

Col 4:2-3

Please Pray

for The Isaiah Connection:
10 minutes a day everyday
Pray:

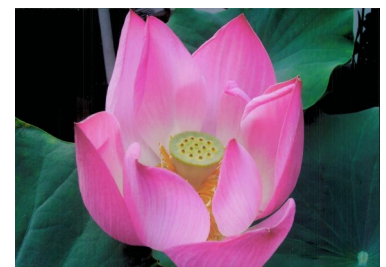
1) That God will bring the right people to be part of our teams this coming year;

2) That God will be glorified through His ministry, The Isaiah Connection, to reach the world with His son Jesus!

3) That God will provide the necessary funds to keep the ministry going in this coming

year during tough economic times.

Post this on your refrigerator, or use it as a bookmark, to remind you to pray for our ministry everyday! Colossians 4:2-3



The Isaiah Connection

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*Connecting People
Around The World*

Check us out:
www.isaiahconnection.org

TO GO: 2009 Mission Trips

Moloka'i, Hawaii	February 1-8	\$350.00 Service
Nigeria, Africa	February 15-23	\$440.00 Medical
Minneapolis, MN	June 13-20	\$350.00 VBS Outreach
Tucson, AZ	June 20-28	\$350.00 VBS Outreach
Honduras, Central America	July 15-22	\$375.00 Medical
Kotzebue, Alaska	July 18-25	\$375.00 Football VBS
Metlakatla, Alaska	July 25 – Aug 2	\$425.00 Basketball VBS
Craig, Alaska	August 2-9	\$375.00 Basketball VBS
China	September 5-13	\$525.00 Outreach Prayer Walking

TO GIVE:

Please Remove and Mail to:
The Isaiah Connection,
PO Box 10753,
White Bear Lake MN 55110

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Donation of \$ _____

Check one: _____ monthly, _____ annually, _____ other

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