

Connections

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THE ISAIAH CONNECTION

Why Join Us in Missions?

I was raised in a family that put a high priority on missions. My parents had a gift for hospitality which drew missionaries from all over the globe to our home for short-term stays or for the duration of their furloughs. Some of my fondest memories are of sitting and listening to these amazing people talk about their experiences in the field.

After I married, my husband and two children had multiple opportunities to participate in short-term missions either through our church or the Christian university where my husband attended. I always got them ready to go, and then listened with rapt attention when they would recount their experiences after returning home. I found myself waiting for the time when my children would be independent enough for me to go on these adventures myself. My opportunity came in July of 2004 when Joe Burton of the Isaiah Connection spoke at our church and encouraged our members to join him on a 10-day mission to La Cuesta, Honduras. It was harder than I thought to step out of my comfort zone and go as God commanded, but since that trip, I have joined various Isaiah Connection teams in different parts of the world – Central America, Hawaii and Africa.

I would encourage you to become an active participant in missions. Why? Because no matter what your talents or skills are, God can use you in a mighty way to minister to people here at home

or in a foreign field. I had no skills that I thought would translate into something that would

help with missions. I was not a Bible scholar or a medical professional, and I certainly don't wield a hammer or tools with any marked proficiency. But on my first trip to Honduras, I learned from the locals how to mix cement on the ground with a bucket of water and a shovel. In Molokai, other team members taught me how to lay shingles in a straight line and use a roofing nailer. In Nigeria, I've helped with patient flow in the village clinics or (my real passion) inspected villages needing help to obtain clean drinking water. The most valuable lesson I have learned is that by simply stepping out in faith, God can use even me.

Isaiah Connection mission trips range in time from a week to 10 days and other than airfare, the monetary commitment is small, but the spiritual payoff is huge. Call the Isaiah Connection and talk to Joe or ask to speak to other team members to find out their experiences. Like me, you can ease into active participation in missions, but I warn you – you will want to repeat the experience!

Jeanine Briscoe



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The Help We Need

Luke 6:12-13b

“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he choose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”

We are all called to discipleship. We are not all called to go around the world. Isaiah Connection needs many “of them” to support with prayer and finances, and the few chosen to go.

Which are you?

For His Glory



Waiting for medicines in Nigeria.

“Everyone who was in that home saw what God had done!”

Come with us to the village of Ang-Pah. It is February 19th. We had arrived in Abuja, Nigeria on the 16th. Four of our suitcases containing personal items, medicine and glasses did not make it. So we had to rearrange our schedule of clinics, hoping that the suitcases would arrive before we had to leave. It had taken us over an hour to get to Ang-Pah over roads that would be impassable during the rainy season. As it was, the Springtime roads in Minnesota would not hold a candle to those we were on. We had just finished clinic and had seen over 200 patients and given parasite meds to that many more. The Nigerian evangelistic team had prayed with many of the villagers and over 70 had professed to believe in Jesus.

We were invited to the home of one of the gentlemen who had been ministering with us all week. After we had finished eating pounded yam with sauce and barbequed chicken and were trying to wipe the spices off our burning lips a gentleman carried in a woman. We later learned it was his mother. He sat her on the couch. She was emaciated; her breathing was labored; her face was contorted with pain; on one leg there was a fulminating tropical ulcer that covered almost the entire leg below the knee. One of the Nigerian doctors, Dr. Binga, whispered to me that she was dying; that she probably had metastatic disease as well. She would not survive the 3 hour trip to a hospital. We had nothing that would relieve her pain, but an OTC drug. Joe called in the evangelistic team. They surrounded her, explained the love of

God to her and showed the way of salvation to her. And then they prayed. Oh my, how they prayed! When they stepped back from her this dear woman had been transformed! Her face was calm; her breathing was regular; she was able to lift her arms. (She even smiled when I asked if I could take her picture.) The woman died the next day, but the story of her transformation followed us as we continued our mission in Nigeria. Everyone who was in that home saw what God had done! But we wouldn't have been where we were if our suitcases had come with us. There are no coincidences in God's timing.

There were only 4 of us on this trip and we wondered how we would be able to accomplish much. But we prayed that the Lord would send His Nigerian people along - 25 people joined us and more wanted to come, but the logistics couldn't be managed. God worked His wondrous work that week. Next year? I wonder what God will do then? Pray with me that those who professed Jesus (268) will continue to be discipled; that they will have an urgency to declare the truth to their people.

Ruth Smallidge

Annual Banquet & Fundraising

The annual banquet and silent auction was held at Forest Lake on May 2. There were sixty people in attendance. The event brought us \$2300 of the \$6000 we need to raise this year.

Our goal for 2009 is to increase our monthly \$25 supporters by 100. The event secured 18 commitments for monthly supporters of \$25.

Is God asking you?



Tiny But Mighty...

We are now into the summer months and God has used some tiny teams throughout our mission season to create some mighty results. Let me explain. When we first went to Nigeria in 2005 we had a team of 4 Americans and 6 people from Nigeria that ministered together. This first team brought medicines, training and other resources, but most of all they brought hope...hope to show how we can build a relationship together to make a difference for Christ around the world. Today, we have a team of 6 from the USA and 30 from Nigeria who work together making a difference in the lives of hurting people. The sad part is that this year, 2009, we had to turn 30 Nigerian volunteers away (we had a total of 60) because we lacked the resources to include them as part of God's Kingdom work.

In Hawaii, we have gone from a team of 6 to a team consisting of 20 members from all ages and cultures, including our oldest participant, an 86 year old woman, who commented that she could not wait to return to the mission field in Moloka'i next year. After six years of building relationships in this small island community, God has produced fruit that has stopped us flat in our tracks.

In China, we have gone from one church participating in reaching out to their own, to ten house churches making a difference in their communities.

In Tucson Arizona, we have gone from 1 volunteer at the church we minister with, to 21 volunteers this year as we conducted our 2nd annual Vacation Bible School (VBS). As a result, the church is already forming next year's team to minister to their children and six new families are looking at joining the church.

This summer, we were scheduled to go again to Craig Alaska (our 5th season on the island of Prince of Wales) to conduct a basketball camp and a Vacation Bible School. However, due to no participants signing up with The Isaiah Connection to be part of this outreach, we had to cancel the trip. But the story does not end here! After receiving numerous phone calls asking us to still come, the community of Craig Alaska rallied together to gather their own volunteers to make this annual outreach happen. Thus, regardless of whether or not any participants signed up, The Isaiah Connection is going to Craig Alaska to make a difference with the salvation message.

What started out as small gifts of hope, have turned into thriving ministries...ministries in communities around the world where transformation seemed impossible.

What is the point that I want to convey is with these stories?

How something so small can do something so big. God tells us in scripture that if we have the faith of a mustard seed we can move mountains.

Won't you consider being part of something small, a small team, which is doing something mighty in God's Kingdom? Join The Isaiah Connection on a trip, be part of its prayer ministry, to support its efforts around the world by connecting people who want to serve together, and to make a difference for all eternity.

Joe Burton, President



Kids listening to the gospel during basketball camp in Craig, Alaska.

“started out as small gifts of hope, have turned into thriving ministries...”



Nigerians taking in hygiene class. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”
Mat. 28:19

Praying Forward

- Volunteers with skills and ability to commit time for various activities to promote the Isaiah Connection.
- Summer 2010– Secure location in Israel.
- 2009-2010 scheduled presentations of Isaiah Connection's mission and value to churches and organizations with this common goal.

THE ISAIAH CONNECTION

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Check us out:

www.isaiahconnection.org

TO GO:

2009 Mission Trips

Honduras, Central America Medical	July 15-22	\$375.00
Metlakatla, Alaska Basketball and VBS	July 25 – Aug 2	\$425.00
Craig, Alaska Basketball and VBS	August 2-9	\$375.00
China Outreach Prayer Walking	September 5-13	\$525.00

*Please pray about 2010 Trips:

- Israel**
- Nigeria**
- Hawaii**
- Arizona**
- Alaska**
- China**

TO GIVE:

Please Remove and Mail to:

The Isaiah Connection,
PO Box 10753,
White Bear Lake MN 55110

Name

Address

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E-mail _____

Donation of \$ _____

Check one: _____monthly, _____annually, _____other