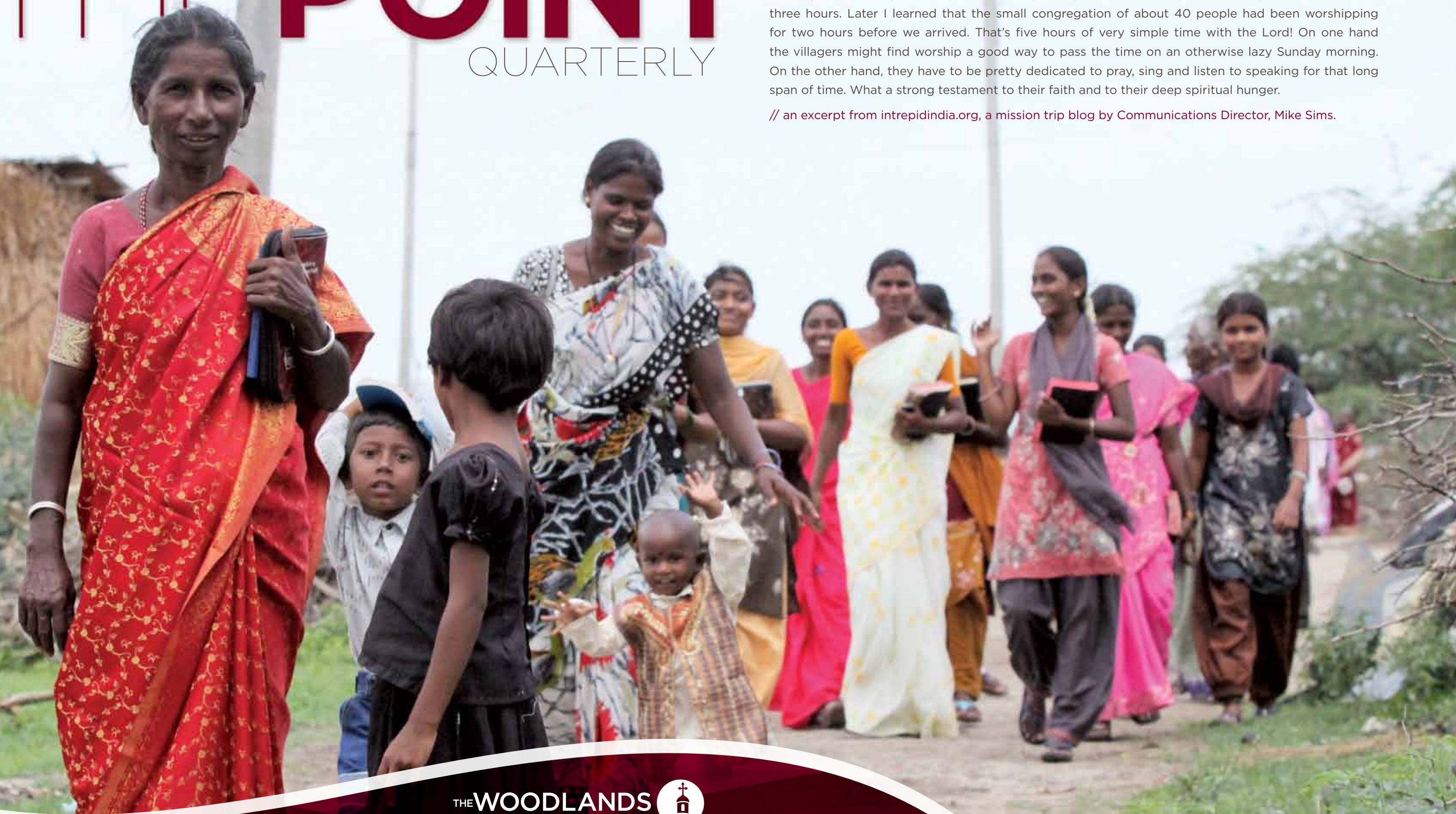


# THE POINT

## QUARTERLY

These are villagers walking home from Sunday worship. When we arrived at the Calvary Bible Church in the tiny village of Itikyalapadu (not a misspelling) in the central region of India, we discovered a church with slate walls, a thatched roof and goats calling loudly from just outside the open doorway. Our ministry hosts arranged for my team to be guest speakers in worship, and worship we did. For about three hours. Later I learned that the small congregation of about 40 people had been worshipping for two hours before we arrived. That's five hours of very simple time with the Lord! On one hand the villagers might find worship a good way to pass the time on an otherwise lazy Sunday morning. On the other hand, they have to be pretty dedicated to pray, sing and listen to speaking for that long span of time. What a strong testament to their faith and to their deep spiritual hunger.

// an excerpt from [intrepidindia.org](http://intrepidindia.org), a mission trip blog by Communications Director, Mike Sims.



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Ten days in a  
country of  
1.2 billion people  
doesn't make me  
an expert.  
But this I know  
for sure:  
Jesus is the  
hope of India.

— Rev. Rob Renfroe  
See Cover Story, page 9

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A group of young girls are sitting on a red mat, listening attentively to Bible teaching. They are dressed in colorful, traditional Indian attire. The girls are looking towards the left of the frame, where the speaker is presumably located. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Young girls listen to Bible teaching at the Alpha Home, a Christian orphanage run by  
*Hope for Today Ministries* in Hyderabad, India.



# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dr. Ed Robb, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the fall edition of *The Point Quarterly*, our new church magazine. We received many favorable responses after we mailed the inaugural edition in August, but we continue to make improvements and will include a wider variety of information for our readers.

This issue covers all things “missions.” I think it’s a fantastic way to celebrate the vast and varied ways our church body continues to *Win People to Jesus Christ, Disciple Them In Faith, and Help Those In Need*. We do a good job of living out this statement, both here at home and abroad. We train and lift up Christian leaders, and broadcast the Christian message around the world. We feed the hungry, clothe the orphans, pray with prisoners, and we house the homeless – all in the name of Jesus.

In this edition we hear from people who are living out Jesus’ call in the first chapter of Acts to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of earth:

- In our cover story, Rob Renfroe reflects on his recent trip to India and his desire to expand Christian ministry in this distant land;
- College student Ashley Austin shares her experience ministering to special-needs children in hillside villages of Costa Rica;
- Long-time church member Eula Malson gives a glimpse into our wonderful Craft Circle ministry that has raised more than \$2 million for missions!

After reading these stories, I am sure you will join me in thanking God for these and thousands of other faithful servants in our church. But we cannot get too comfortable in thinking “someone’s got it covered” when the next service opportunity comes. We are all blessed to be a blessing. There is always more we can do.

Missions season is upon us, and our Missions Pastor John Hull is communicating ways we get involved with our time and our resources through the *We Are Second* campaign for our Missions Ministry. I hope we inspire you to give and to get involved. Together we can reach the world with the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

Your Pastor,

Ed Robb

# MISSIONS



## PAGE 4 // Mission China: A Changing Landscape of Faith

Many of the Chinese people are hungry for the word of God and are coming to a saving faith – some at great cost. We met two of 19 pastors who signed a recent petition asking the Chinese government to honor their right to worship freely.



## PAGE 6 // Mission China: A Changing Landscape of Culture

When I thought about China, I thought about people in unisex Mao jackets befitting the communist revolution of the 50s, as pictured in my social studies books. I thought about round-faced babies with big eyes staring out of the pages of *National Geographic*.



## PAGE 7 // Digital Missions: Ministering to Seekers Online

Not all contacts offer dramatic results, but as an online missionary, I know that I am making a difference in people's lives. I can offer a friendly word, the message that God loves them, and resources to help know Him better. You can do that, too.



## PAGE 8 // Mission Africa: Reclaiming Lives, Reclaiming Purpose

One of them is a 15-year-old boy named Josephat, who lost both parents to HIV/AIDS. He and his siblings were living in a small hut, but last year his three siblings died from the measles.



## COVER STORY, PAGE 9 // Mission India: The Difference Jesus Makes

Wherever faithful people have made Jesus known, societies and cultures have been raised and bettered. Hospitals have been built. Schools have been started. The hungry have been fed. And that is exactly what we see in India.



## PAGE 12 // Mission Costa Rica: Special Needs. Special Impact.

When I saw Frank at the door my heart sank at how skinny he was; his thigh was about the size of my wrist. We gave his young mother beans, rice, toys and clothes. Seeing her face as she opened up a bag of clothes was something I will never forget.



## PAGE 13 // Local Missions: Ladies Craft Major Missions Funding

In the past 30 years, Craft Circle has raised more than \$2 million for missions through the generosity of the church membership and community. From a small group of eight women, Craft Circle has grown to more than 160 members.



## PAGE 14 // Mission Conroe: Feeding People, Feeding Souls

My family recently joined in when members from The Woodlands United Methodist Church volunteered to provide and serve breakfast for Compassion United's weekly Breakfast in the Park outreach in the Conroe area.

### IN EVERY ISSUE

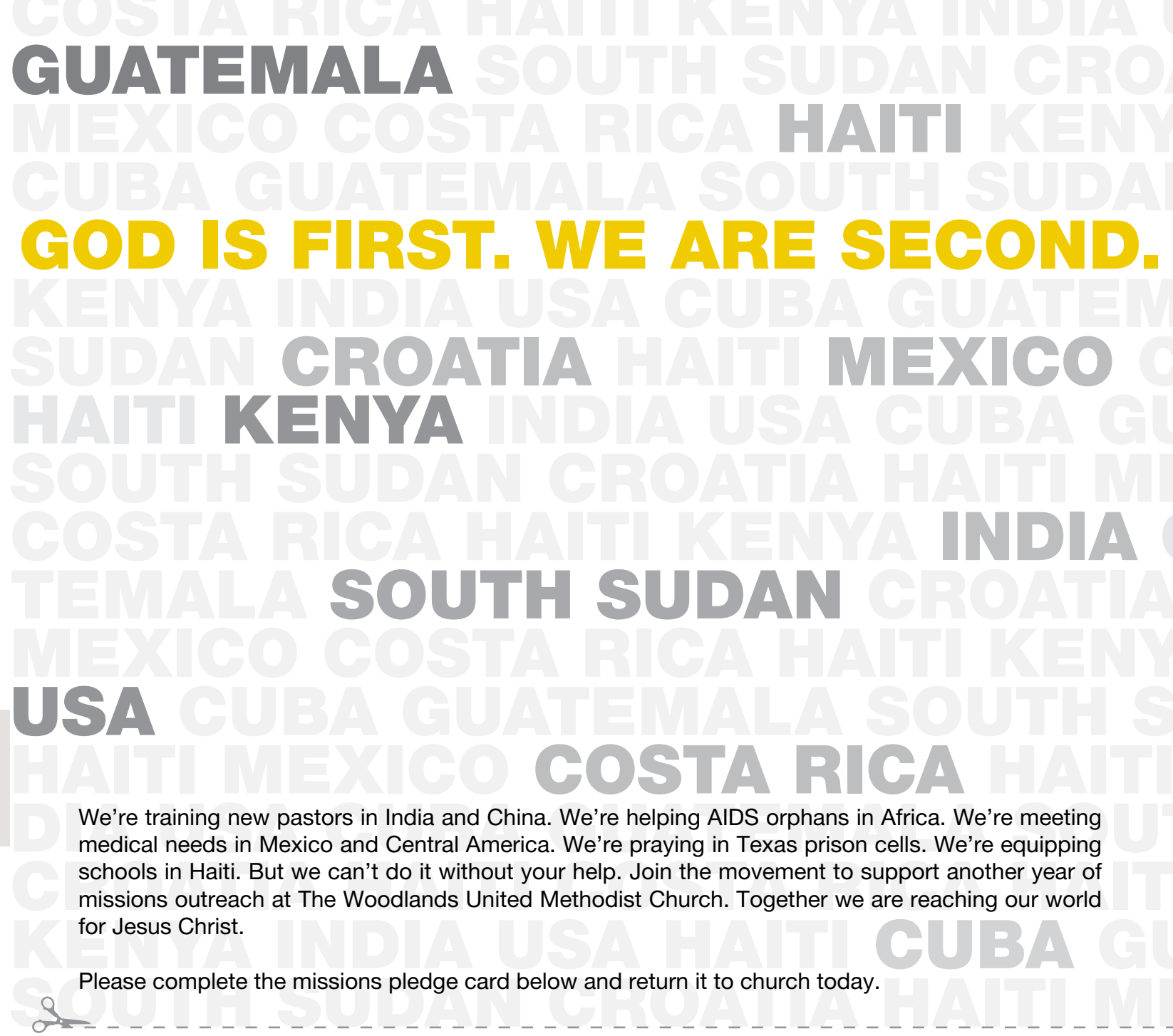
New Members, Pg 16 // Planning Calendar, Pg 16 // Foundation Gifts, Pg 17 // Births, Pg 18 // Deaths, Pg 18



## FINAL WORD

### PAGE 20 // To the Ends of the Earth

We could hear the worship at Calvary Bible Church in the tiny village of Itikyalapadu, India, long before we could see it. "How's that possible?" I asked myself.



We're training new pastors in India and China. We're helping AIDS orphans in Africa. We're meeting medical needs in Mexico and Central America. We're praying in Texas prison cells. We're equipping schools in Haiti. But we can't do it without your help. Join the movement to support another year of missions outreach at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Together we are reaching our world for Jesus Christ.

Please complete the missions pledge card below and return it to church today.



## MISSIONS: I WANT TO PARTICIPATE

I commit to the Missions Ministry of The Woodlands UMC and The Loft during 2012:

- By making My Pledge for Missions (fill out reverse side of this card)
- By praying every day for our Missionaries and Mission Ministries
- By participating in Missions through:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving the homeless     | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as a mentor                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving the hungry       | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving in prison                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving seniors          | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving through construction/repair              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving at-risk children | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving on a short-term mission team             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving women in crisis  | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving in a seasonal ministry (Christmas, etc.) |



# WE ARE SECOND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Blessed be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.*

— Hymn by John Fawcett

## MISSION CHINA: **A CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF FAITH**

// by Stephen and Linda Allen, China Team Members

### **MY PLEDGE FOR MISSIONS**

As God enables me, I will express my faith and help evangelize the world by giving to the missions ministry of The Woodlands United Methodist Church (beyond my regular giving) the amount indicated on this card during the period of January 1 through December 31, 2012. I understand that this Pledge is a covenant between God and me. I will not be asked for payment at any time.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25

Monthly  Weekly  One-Time **TOTAL MISSIONS PLEDGE: \$**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write "Missions" in the memo line of your check. If you would like to contribute your pledge using a credit card, please fill out the information below:**

Visa | Mastercard | American Express (Circle One)

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Monthly credit card charges will occur on the 5th of each month, January-December 2012.*

The Woodlands United Methodist Church and The Loft  
2200 Lake Woodlands Dr. The Woodlands, TX 77380 • [thewoodlandsumc.org/missions](http://thewoodlandsumc.org/missions)

The ties that bind: Going on the mission trip to China has bound our hearts in a fellowship of Christian love with so many people.

First, our hearts are bound to the amazing kingdom workers in China. The pastors, seminarians, students and missionaries we met filled our minds with awe, and pulled at our hearts and spirits. We listened to their stories of perseverance, persecution and joy-filled hope for the great wonders of Christ at work in their midst. God is working mightily in China!

Many of the Chinese people are hungry for the word of God and are coming to a saving faith – some at great

cost. We met two of 19 pastors who signed a recent petition asking the Chinese government to honor their right to worship freely. They have so much respect for their government. They asked us to pray for wisdom for the government, and a good relationship between the churches and the government. These pastors and their families live under the constant tension of interrogation and arrest.

We also met with missionaries who are dedicated to spreading the love of Christ without breaking the rules of evangelism. Traveling across China, we learned how some pastors and missionaries have a fair amount of freedom, and some have none.



# MISSION CHINA: A CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CULTURE

// by Jane Jordan, Missions Assistant - International Outreach, China Team Member

China. I never dreamed I would travel there, never really even wanted to go. All I knew about China, I had learned from Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth* in high school. When I thought about China, I thought about people in unisex Mao jackets befitting the communist revolution of the 50s, as pictured in my social studies books. I thought about round-faced babies with big eyes staring out of the pages of *National Geographic*. I was ill-prepared for the new China that I saw when Greg and I joined the China mission team in April.

What does the new China look like? Mile after mile of construction cranes and skyscrapers; modern highways and overpasses; an endless number of late-model luxury cars with no dings or dents; ultramodern transportation, whether high-speed trains, subways or brand-new airplanes; young men and women in Western dress hurrying wherever they were going. The new China is a marvel of modern development, most of which has happened within a 30-year time span.

But behind the progressive, shiny face of the new China lies much of the China I had expected to see: lush,

green countryside farmed by poor families and their oxen; lowly back alleys and courtyard homes tucked in among the soaring skyscrapers; people on bicycles and old men pushing carts filled with recyclables on the side streets; chickens being butchered on a city sidewalk; and average, hard-working men and women everywhere I turned.

We learned a lot about the Chinese people while we were there. About how they want very much to get ahead; how they must guard their lives against prying government eyes and ears; how Chinese Christians must be careful about the practice of their faith to protect themselves and their loved ones; and about the boldness of some believers to proclaim their faith despite the certainty of arrest or worse.

A very wise person I know encouraged the team to "pray without ceasing" before we went to China. What God did for me on this trip was to prepare me for prayer once I got home again. He filled my head and my heart with so many unforgettable images that I can't help praying for China, the nation and her precious people. Please join me in praying for them. •

Second, our hearts are bound with our mission trip partners who traveled with us in the huge and beautiful land of China. We laughed and prayed together. Now that we are back home, we meet together every Friday morning to lift up our Chinese friends in prayer. We also pray for our Missions Ministry at The Woodlands United Methodist Church.

Third, we are bound together in Christ. What a joy and an honor it was to go where God is building His kingdom in China. We are committed to finding out what is happening within the Chinese churches and continuing to lift them up in prayer. We rejoice with them as we hear how God is working in China! What an amazing trip! •

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What a joy and  
an honor it was to  
go where God  
is building His  
kingdom in China.

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Read more about the China mission trip on the Missions blog page:  
Visit: [twum.ch/2oq](http://twum.ch/2oq)



# DIGITAL MISSIONS: MINISTERING TO SEEKERS ONLINE

// by Virginia Foley

Every day, hundreds of thousands of people around the world visit websites like [jesus2020.com](http://jesus2020.com), [4stepstogod.mobi](http://4stepstogod.mobi), or [truelove.godlife.com](http://truelove.godlife.com). Some are searching for the meaning of life; others are simply browsing.

The donated resources of Global Media Outreach, an offshoot of Campus Crusade for Christ, advertise these websites and keep them near the top of Google's search engines. Visitors entering such sites are greeted with the Gospel message, invited to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and given an opportunity to connect with someone who can tell them more.

That's where the online missionary comes in. I have been corresponding with people around the world for about a year now. Recently, a young woman from Ghana asked: "How can God's promise about me come true?"

In her email, she indicated her desire to pursue a higher education, but she had no money. At one point she told me that several men were offering to help her if she would keep company with them. She wrote: "I almost turned out to be a prostitute, but with God's grace it didn't work out. I don't know how I am going to pay for my fees next year, but you have made me realize that with God all things are possible, and He is the only one who can solve our problems for us."

She never indicated a decision for Christ, so I encouraged her to go back to the original website and pay close attention to the message of salvation. A day or two later, I got notice that she had accepted Christ. I still hear from her now and then.

Her situation has not improved. If anything, things sound worse. But I am encouraged that this woman has found Jesus and is becoming more aware that He alone is the answer to life's problems.



Not all contacts offer dramatic results, but as an online missionary, I know that I am making a difference in people's lives. I can offer a friendly word, the message that God loves them, and resources to help know Him better. You can do that, too. •

That's where the online missionary comes in. I have been corresponding with people around the world for about a year now. Recently, a young woman from Ghana asked: "How can God's promise about me come true?"

Become an online missionary and help others. A new group is forming now.  
Contact: Jane Jordan | [jjordan@twumc.org](mailto:jjordan@twumc.org) | 281.297.5929



## MISSION AFRICA: RECLAIMING LIVES, RECLAIMING PURPOSE

// by Rebecca Coats, Kenya Mission Team Member

Jeremiah 29:11 came to life for me on a mission trip with Zoe Ministries in Maua, Kenya. Zoe helps children orphaned by HIV/AIDS to reclaim and build their futures. African Zoe staff works with community leaders to identify vulnerable children in their areas. The orphans are united into Working Groups that become their extended "family," supporting one another through teaching, healthy lifestyles and prayer.

While visiting with some of the children, a common thread spun throughout: a renewed sense of hope. Some described their feelings when they lost their parents to HIV/AIDS, and they had siblings to care for, no money, little education, scarce food, and no help. They spoke about hopelessness, lost hope, no hope.

One of them is a 15-year-old boy named Josephat, who lost both parents to HIV/AIDS. He and his siblings were living in a small hut, but last year his three siblings died from the measles. The loss, despair and loneliness

shone through his eyes. He felt hopeless. Now, thanks to Zoe, Josephat lives with a group of orphans who support him emotionally, mentor him and love him. The group gave him a goat and better seed for crops, and nominated him to receive a new home. Josephat is training to be a tailor and hopes to be able to provide for himself and his blind grandmother, Beatrice.

Another orphan, Job, demonstrates the growth and renewed hope Zoe provides. He has a thriving carpentry business, provides for himself and his sister, and gives to other orphans. He pastors his Working Group, preaching the Gospel with a joyful heart. Although Job speaks of his life before Zoe as one of hopelessness, he now speaks of hope, a bright future, his joy, and God's love and promises.

The Maua orphans and community see Christ's love through Zoe Ministries. They truly are the hands and feet of Christ. •

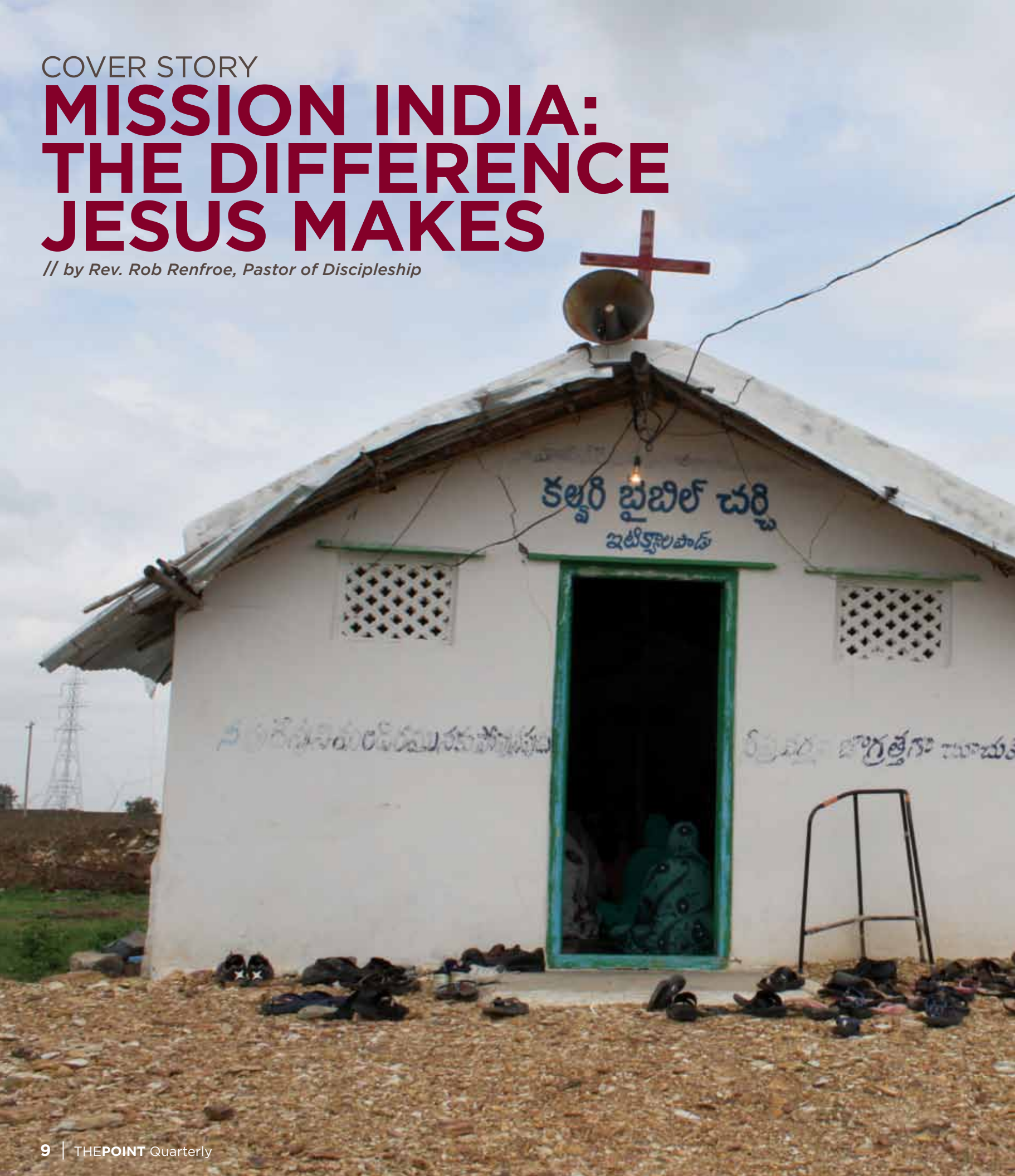
Support HIV/AIDS orphans in Africa

Visit: [thewoodlandsumc.org/missions](http://thewoodlandsumc.org/missions) | [www.zoeministries.com](http://www.zoeministries.com)  
Contact: Jane Jordan | [jjordan@twumc.org](mailto:jjordan@twumc.org) | 281.297.5929

COVER STORY

# MISSION INDIA: THE DIFFERENCE JESUS MAKES

// by Rev. Rob Renfroe, Pastor of Discipleship



It would take a lifetime to describe the history, the religions and the culture of India. Most apparent are the overcrowding and the poverty. Wherever you go, you see people. And you see poor people: some selling rice or lentils, hoping to make enough money that day to feed their family. Others sleeping on the streets, some with blankets; others without. And still others, begging mothers, children, men who are crippled or blind.

Ten days in a country of 1.2 billion people doesn't make me an expert. But this I know for sure - Jesus is the hope of India. I landed in Delhi, spending a day seeing the Taj Mahal, and then seeing what God is doing in the cities of Hyderabad (4 million residents) and Patna (6 million residents) in India's poorest state of Bihar.

Sometimes liberal Christians, who pride themselves on being open-minded, will say that all of the world's great religions are pretty much the same just different paths to the same God that teach pretty much the same truths. Those who say this have most likely taken a comparative religion course. But I'm pretty sure they haven't been to India where the culture has been fashioned by, and is today permeated by, Hinduism.

More than one of our Hindu guides told us proudly, "We have 330 million gods." Read that again: 330 million gods. Looking into a Hindu temple was heart-wrenching. Mothers were there with their children, kneeling before idols with their offerings. One popular god is Ganesh, the "elephant god," who brings good fortune. His image bears a human body and an elephant's head. Others knelt and worshipped Hanuman, the "monkey god" again with a humanlike body but the face of an ape. Our guides were particularly devoted to the one they called the "monkey god" because he brings wealth and prestige.

One night we met in a house church in a slum outside of Patna. Seventy believers were crowded into the house of a man who had been converted from Hinduism. It was difficult to worship that evening because nearby a loud and lively Hindu service was being conducted. The service was devoted to a fertility deity, and the idol receiving worship was sexually provocative and obscene. This is what you see in India.

But there's more. The caste system is still very much alive. From the time of their birth, children are told who they are and that they should never strive to be more. One caste is known as the "rag

pickers." They will subsist all their lives picking up and selling discarded rags to whomever may want to purchase them. Why is this their lot? Why should they aspire to nothing more? Because Hinduism tells them that in a previous life, their deeds merited such an existence in this life.

In India, I couldn't help but think about Jesus over and over. He picked common people, like fishermen and tax collectors, to be His disciples and to carry on His work when He was gone. Jesus never told the outcasts of first century Judaism - the lepers, and the blind and the lame - they deserved their lot. He told them about a God who loved them. And He did the unthinkable. He touched them. And He healed them. And He called them to be His disciples and His friends.

Jesus loves Hindus, Muslims and Christians. At the same time, let's be clear that not all religions are the same. We can respect all people but we cannot accept all belief systems. We cannot call darkness light. And a religion that has people bow before idols and tells the lowest of society that they deserve to be crippled and blind and to be nothing more than rag pickers for the rest of their lives - that kind of religious oppression is darkness. And it breaks my heart to think that people live in that kind of hopelessness and despair.

Wherever faithful people have made Jesus known, societies and cultures have been raised and bettered. Hospitals have been built. Schools have been started. The hungry have been fed. And that is exactly what we see in India.

Christians make up 3 to 5 percent of the population, but their influence is unmistakable. We saw children who once lived on the streets, now living in a Christian orphanage. It's hard to describe the beauty of these children. We were their honored guests and they joyously sang and danced for us. They quoted long passages of Scripture. Their eyes are alive and their clothes are clean. That's Jesus, the hope of the world.

We visited a school created by Christians. Many of the children who attend come from huts made out of grass in nearby fields. Their parents make \$3 a day. But the children we spoke to dream of being engineers and doctors and nurses. And the work in their school notebooks – the mathematical formulas, the physics theorems, the literature notes in two languages – spoke volumes. These children will not be condemned to huts and field labor. Their gifts will be used and their lives will be full. That’s Jesus, the hope of the world.

And then there were the malnourished children still living in the poorest of conditions. But every day, a young man gets up at 3 a.m. to make 18 quarts of soy milk for them. And when he’s done, he puts the pail on the back of his bicycle and he pedals 12 miles to give them what may be the only nourishment they receive for the day. And he tells them about a God who loves them. And he does all of this because he’s a follower of Jesus. And Jesus puts such things in the hearts of His followers, because He is the hope of the world. •



EXPERIENCE  
THE INDIA VIDEO  
ONLINE NOW

See India and hear more from Pastors Rob Renfroe, John Hull, Andy Nixon and others during their trip to India in August 2011.

**Mobile & Tablet Devices:**

Scan the quick read code above with a QR code reader application.

**Desktop & Laptop Computers:**

Visit [twum.ch/ind](http://twum.ch/ind)

MISSION COSTA RICA:  
**SPECIAL  
NEEDS,  
SPECIAL  
IMPACT**

// by Ashley Austin,  
*Special Blessings Volunteer*



God moved in many ways on my mission trip to Costa Rica last summer, but I would like to share one thing that God showed me there. Every day we visited some of the poorest children in the school and brought them food, clothes and toys. On Thursday we visited a little boy named Frank.

As we were driving up the beautiful mountainside, I thought of how powerful and majestic our God is (when I wasn’t thinking “I’m about to die!” on those winding narrow roads). We pulled up to Frank’s house, which was a wooden shack of boards with cracks between them and a dirt floor.

When I saw Frank at the door my heart sank at how skinny he was; his thigh was about the size of my wrist. We gave his young mother beans, rice, toys and clothes. Seeing her face as she opened up a bag of clothes was something I will never forget. It is truly miraculous to realize that the same God who created the mountains chooses us, His children, to show His love. After we spent time with Frank and his mother, we prayed with them.

I couldn’t help but cry as we were leaving, questioning God’s goodness. If He provides for all the needs of this earth, why does this family seem to have so little?

I was then reminded of the truth God spoke to me the night before: If someone has a need, it is an opportunity to show the love of Christ. During Jesus’ ministry here on Earth He provided food for the hungry, healing for the sick, acceptance for the outcast and forgiveness for the sinner. I have been closest to

Christ in my own life in times of need, and I believe it is because we see Him most clearly when we realize we have nothing and we need Him to be everything. I remember the scripture in second Corinthians where it says God’s grace is sufficient for us, and that His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Everyone has a need: whether it is food, water, a home, a friend, encouragement, acceptance, a simple act of kindness, forgiveness, or the life-saving truth of salvation through Jesus. We can show Christ’s love by allowing the love of Jesus to flow through us as we give of ourselves to provide for others. •

Let your light  
so shine before men,  
that they may see  
your good works  
and glorify your  
Father in heaven.”  
-Matthew 5:16

Get involved with special needs ministries. Another mission team is forming now.  
Contact: Chris Robbins | [crobbins@twumc.org](mailto:crobbins@twumc.org) | 281.297.5923



# LOCAL MISSIONS: LADIES CRAFT MAJOR MISSIONS FUNDING

// by Eula Malson, Craft Circle Member

Women at The Woodlands United Methodist Church have always had a heart for helping people in need and for spreading the Gospel to those who have not heard the Good News. Creating works of art and specialized crafts is the way generations of women have enjoyed expressing their creativity and raising funds to support missions. These meaningful and important aspects are evident in The Woodlands UMC Craft Circle mission which explains: "The purpose of Craft Circle is to generate funds for mission support in the community, nation and world, and to strengthen the body of believers by providing a Christian environment for fellowship, prayer and service."

We welcome women of all ages to join Craft Circle! We meet every Tuesday from the third week of January through the Gala held the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Come meet with us in the Summit room of The Loft from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Our table groups work on small craft items, soft-sculpture, floral arrangements, needlepoint, cross-stitch, painted wood, quilted projects and a quilt. No talent is too small. Everyone has a skill to offer. We encourage you to join Craft Circle any time during the year. Participation is open to members of The Woodlands UMC as well as members of our community.

Our ministry is ecumenical.

In the past 30 years, Craft Circle has raised more than \$2 million for missions through the generosity of the church membership and community. From a small group of eight women, Craft Circle has grown to more than 160 members. Participation is flexible to meet busy schedules.

Visiting missionaries report Craft Circle is known far and wide, and has been a model for many other churches. Prayers are lifted weekly in support of those in the mission fields, Craft Circle members and military personnel. Several members participate in short-term mission trips and serve in the local church and community. •

Craft Circle meets every Tuesday in The Loft Summit. Become a volunteer crafter to help support missions. **Visit:** [thewoodlandsumc.org/craftcircle](http://thewoodlandsumc.org/craftcircle) **Contact:** Jane Jordan | [jjordan@twumc.org](mailto:jjordan@twumc.org) | 281.297.5929



## MISSION CONROE: FEEDING PEOPLE, FEEDING SOULS

// by Tom Hauser, Missions Volunteer

*Breakfast in the Park* ... sounds like a movie or a leisurely meal. On Saturdays in Conroe, it is a time of serving and loving our neighbors who are having hard times and need our help.

My family recently joined in when members from The Woodlands United Methodist Church volunteered to provide and serve breakfast for Compassion United's weekly *Breakfast in the Park* outreach in the Conroe area. What we experienced was Christ's hands and feet busy doing the work that all Christians are commissioned to do. Not just a meal here and a ride there, but a full holistic Gospel outreach that serves and touches many more than a first glance might reveal.

An empty stomach is not very receptive to the Gospel, so this is a very basic first step. The devotion and prayer time that followed showed this ministry is not just a Band-Aid, do-good effort that alleviates a rumbling tummy for a few hours each Saturday. Many in attendance are obviously receiving and living the Holy Spirit's gifts as they struggle to get their lives

in order. Physical food followed by spiritual food. Yet Compassion United's outreach doesn't end there.

While circulating and visiting with the guests, we clearly saw that many lives are being changed in more ways than by a meal and a sermon. Prayer meetings, job search assistance, ride services to work or any church the guest chooses, help with housing – Compassion United is reaching and caring for people all week long. Not Band-Aids, but full coverage.

Curiously, as often happens, those blessed the most were those of us doing the serving (funny, Jesus preached this upside-down logic a lot!!!). Many of us also felt the warm glow of serving Christ – being His hands and feet – through helping the 'least of these.' I know of one family that now makes it a regular way of life to always be reaching out. God smiles when we do what He calls us to do, and doing so out of love and appreciation for what He does for us. No earthly gain, no desire for recognition, just growing a little more like Jesus – that is what it is all about. •

**Serve Breakfast In the Park**

**Contact:** Susan Kent | [skent@twumc.org](mailto:skent@twumc.org) | 281.297.3020

# OUR WORLD, OUR WORSHIP.

## Introducing The Connection.

The Connection is an **online worship community** from The Woodlands UMC. Live online streaming of traditional worship, Sundays at 11 a.m.

[watch.thewoodlandsumc.org](http://watch.thewoodlandsumc.org)

THE **WOODLANDS**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## CHURCH PLANNING CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

- 1-30 | Pumpkin Patch
- 14 | Deeper Discipleship Lecture Series
- 22 | Art With Vision Fall Display
- 22 | Family Life Fall Festival
- 23 | JJ Heller Concert with Matt Brouwer
- 28 | Spirit of Women Luncheon
- 30 | Prayer Encounter with Terry Tekyl

### NOVEMBER

- 11 | Deeper Discipleship Lecture Series
- 11 | Couples Retreat
- 13 | Craft Circle Boutique & Chef's Favorites
- 19 | Craft Circle Masterpiece Gala | 6 p.m.

### DECEMBER

- 1 | Let Your Heart Find Christmas Women's Event
- 7 | Come to the Manger Women's Bible Study
- 4 | Service of Lessons & Carols
- 5 | Advent Luncheon
- 8 | Deeper Discipleship Lecture Series
- 10 | Christmas Musical
- 11 | Christmas Musical
- 12 | Advent Luncheon
- 14 | Come to the Manger Women's Bible Study
- 19 | Advent Luncheon

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### Robb Chapel

- 1:30 p.m. | Special Needs Worship
- 7:00 p.m. | Christmas Without Them

#### Main Sanctuary

- 3:00 p.m. | Family Worship
- 5:00 p.m. | Harvest Worship
- 7:00 p.m. | Communion & Carols Worship
- 9:00 p.m. | Traditional Candlelight Worship
- 11:00 p.m. | Traditional Candlelight Worship

#### Loft Worship Center

- 5:11 p.m. | Loft Candlelight Worship
- 7:11 p.m. | Loft Candlelight Worship
- 9:11 p.m. | Loft Candlelight Worship

For a complete listing of times, locations and additional events visit: [thewoodlandsumc.org/calendar](http://thewoodlandsumc.org/calendar)

## THE WOODLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION GIFTS

JULY 10 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

**In Memory of David Bennett, son-in-law of Dr. Mark and Jeannette Lewis**  
Clarence Thompson

**In Memory of Harold Bridwell, husband of Shirley Bridwell**  
The Perspectives Class

**In Memory of Karen A'Laine Collins, daughter of Mona Sue Collins and sister of Susan Collins Giacona**  
Mona Sue Collins  
Larry & Jan Collins  
Freeman  
Vince & Susan Collins  
Giacona

**In Memory of Tracy Bieser's father, Greg D'Avignon**  
Peter and Kerri Bigler

**In Memory of Lynda Whitley Frank**  
Kim & Sally Bacon  
Ray, Mich'elle, Alex, Avery & Addison Gordy  
Gregg, Tracy, Ashley,  
Abbey & Jessica Piontek

**In Memory of Bill Hansen's father, Leroy Hansen**  
Emptying Nest Sunday  
School Class

**In Honor of Duke Pastoral Intern Travis James and wife, Morgan**  
Kim & Sally Bacon  
Fleming & Marion  
Dearing James  
Mike & Jennifer Sims

**In Honor of Earl & Pat Johnson's 60th wedding anniversary**  
Kim & Sally Bacon  
Robert & Avalyn Naugle

**In Memory of Peggy Kerr, wife of Harold Kerr**  
Kim & Sally Bacon  
Alice Lofton  
Derek & Whitney McCoy  
Rev. Robert &  
Joan Potter  
Jimmie & Martha Sorrells  
Clarence Thompson  
Elizabeth Voran  
Ed & Glenna Wandling  
Dorothy Witt

**In Honor of our 35th wedding anniversary**  
Gary & Tami Laugharn

**In Celebration of Jim & Beth Neikirk's 40th Wedding Anniversary**  
Kim & Sally Bacon  
Doug & Marie Walt

**In Memory of Francis Normile**  
Dorothy Witt

**In Memory of Ann Tranfa's mother, Susan Scott Pardee**  
Frank & Ann Tranfa

**In Memory of Gordon Perry, husband of Aline Perry**  
Ronnie Baird  
John Foster  
Michael & Beatrice  
Gilmartin  
Ken & Joyce Nesmith  
Paul, Jana, Lindsay, Scott & Katie Szymanski  
Walter & Billie Wilson  
Dorothy Witt

**In Memory of Rev. Joel Purcell's mother, Helen Purcell**  
Kim & Sally Bacon

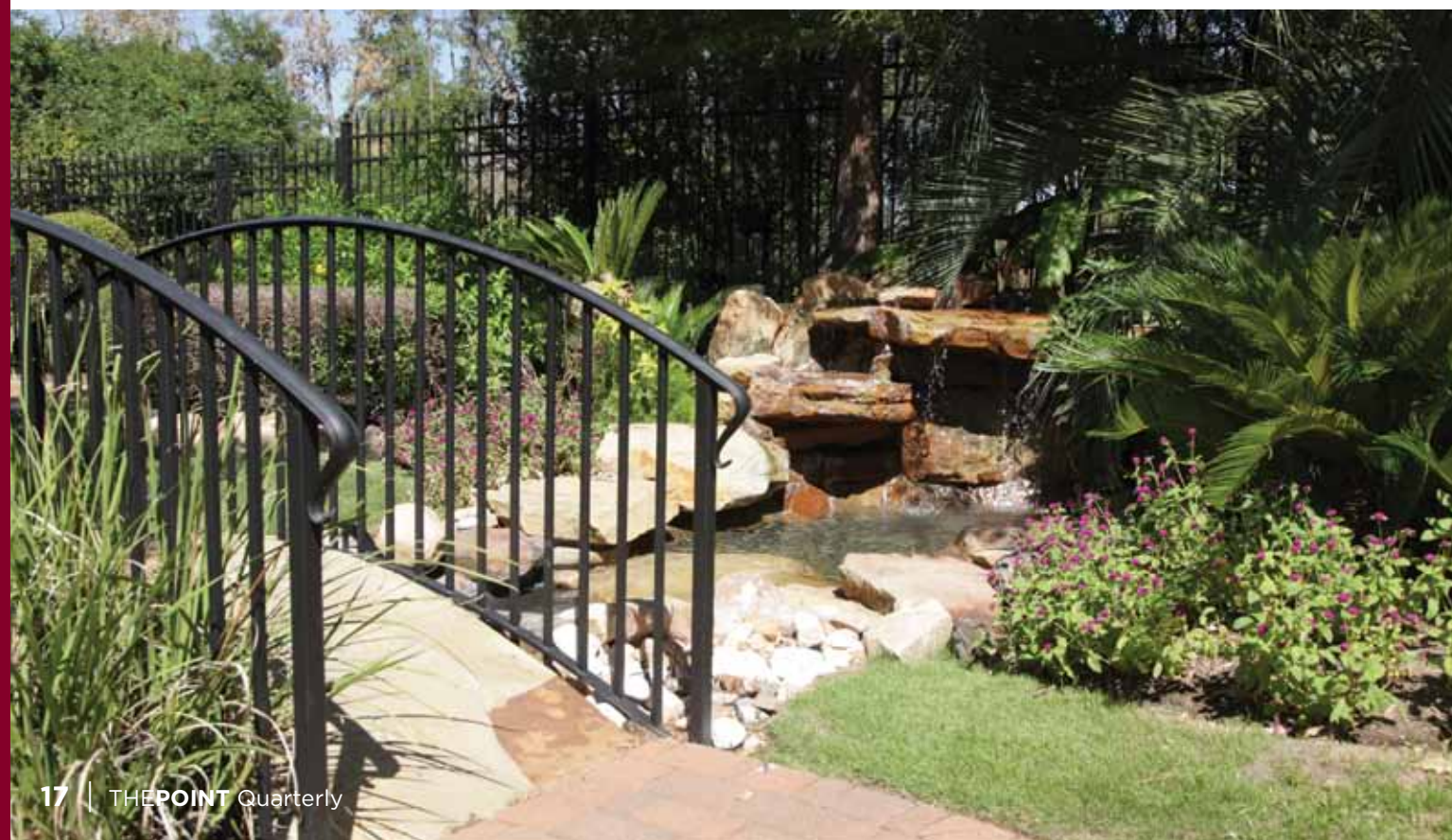
**In Memory of Don Strassner**  
Dorothy Witt

**In Celebration of Bob Swan's 20th Anniversary of Youth Ministry at The Woodlands UMC**  
Kim & Sally Bacon

**In Memory of Waylon West's mother, Elsie West**  
Greg & Jane Jordan

**In Honor of Dennis Woodley's birthday**  
Gary & Tami Laugharn

**Foundation Unrestricted**  
Anonymous  
Kim & Sally Bacon  
Terry & Barbara Cargill



## MORE ON MISSIONS

Exclusive content is available on our website now:  
[thewoodlandsumc.org/missions](http://thewoodlandsumc.org/missions)

Read and hear from church members who are serving in missions around the neighborhood and around our world:

- Transworld Radio grows God's kingdom in areas of China and Middle East where missionaries cannot go
- Tom Scully shares his experiences from mission trips in Croatia and Honduras
- A human trafficking survivor ministers to others in Montgomery County
- Veggie Village in The Woodlands is helping provide fresh vegetables for a local food bank

**Plus:** a special message of encouragement from John Hull, Pastor of Missions

# BRIEFLY STATED



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# THE POINT

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Win People To Jesus Christ  
Disciple Them In Faith  
Help Those In Need

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## TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH *// by Mike Sims, Communications Director*

We could hear the worship at Calvary Bible Church in the tiny village of Itikyalapadu, India, long before we could see it. “How’s that possible?” I asked myself. A few minutes later a slight grin cracked into a full smile on this media guy’s face as our mission team van rolled to a stop. There, on the steeple of the tiny thatched roof building, was a weathered broadcast speaker (see a photo of this church on page 9).

What a surprise it was to find a sound system broadcasting worship music and speaking to the entire village on that day last August. It makes sense that the church wanted everyone to hear the Christian worship service “live” in this remote area of central India, since many of the village residents are not Christian. They are Hindu or Muslim, so this was the pastor’s way of extending his ministry reach beyond the church walls.

This is exactly what Dr. Robb is talking about in his welcome letter on the inside front cover of this issue of *The Point Quarterly*. Acts 1:8 says we are called by Christ to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of earth. This is a daunting challenge when you think about it. And yet committed Christians everywhere are striving to meet it – whether we’re in Itikyalapadu, India, or The Woodlands, Texas.

How do we witness to the ends of the earth? By any means possible! Getting on a plane is one way to do it. Nothing replaces traveling overseas and experiencing firsthand the sights and sounds of a foreign country – living as others live and meeting people face-to-face; seeing life from a different perspective and sharing our faith with others on a short-term mission trip.

Another way to witness around the world is through technology. Innovations in this area make it easier than ever to form lasting and meaningful connections with people regardless of where they live. That’s exactly what we are doing at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Did you know people living in 123 foreign countries have visited our websites? We are ever improving our sites to make them better and more accessible, and as of October 16, we are offering a live, online stream of our 11 a.m. traditional worship service in the main Sanctuary.

We are proud to share this new worship option with anyone who has access to the Internet. In addition to a live stream of the 11 a.m. service, we will offer several rebroadcasts during the week, so people in different time zones can conveniently watch and worship. Visit [watch.thewoodlandsumc.org](http://watch.thewoodlandsumc.org) to join our new online worship community, and pray for this new ministry venture. Just like the tiny village church in India, we are striving to increase our reach beyond our church walls ... to the ends of the earth. •

THE **WOODLANDS**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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COMING WINTER 2012:  
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