

# “I SAY YES”

“Digo Si, Señor” “Aoó, ShiBóhólnihii!” “Oo, Diyos” “Ndio Bwana”

Occasional Publication

Spring Issue  
March 2009

## Celebration Honors Two Leaders with a Passion for Mission

BY SR. SHIRLEY KRULL

In a roomful of shining mission stars during the November 7 Faith Promise Dinner, two luminaries glowed with a special light.

**Father John Enright** was presented with the St. Francis Xavier Award. In introducing Father John, Tom Garlitz said that Fr. John “seeks the empowerment of the entire church by freely sharing ‘missionitis.’” And Fr. John responded by saying that, once you catch ‘missionitis,’ you get better and better.

The second star of the evening was **Edwina Gateley**, founder the Volunteer Missionary Movement, who entertained us with the stories of her own mission history. She also challenged us to recognize and speak for the poor, noting that Jesus stood with the poor and that, in the diocese of Joliet, we want to do what Jesus did.

Edwina explained that when we say ‘yes’ to mission and become active in mission, God becomes our cheerleader. We are capable of making a difference in our world, she said, and God is with us. And she told a story that reminded us that we are here to create “holding rooms of intense love and compassion for others.”

The evening at Abbington Banquets also featured great mission conversation among the attendees which included many mission team members, a few door prizes of outstanding quality, and a delicious meal. Our gross intake during this wonderful event was more \$27,000, including some outstanding pledges, for our mission service.

We are most grateful.

## FAITH PROMISE DINNER 2009

SAVE THE DATE—SEE YOU THERE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 6:00PM AT  
THE ABBINGTON IN GLEN ELLYN, IL

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### Upcoming Mission Schedules

- Quito, Ecuador Mission (4/18-5/2/2009)
- Sucre, Bolivia Mission (4/18-5/2/2009)
- University Mission to Sucre, Bolivia (6/8-22/2009)
- Navajo Mission (6/6-20/2009)
- SWIM High School Local Mission (8/3-8/2009)
- Naivasha, Kenya—Africa Mission (8/28-9/12/2009)
- Borongan & Banago Philippines Mission (1/29-2/13/2010)
- University Mission to the Philippines (1/1-10/2010)
- National Disaster Recovery (ongoing)

### ATTENTION

### ALL MISSION ALUMNI

Please call or e-mail our office  
with recent updated e-mail  
addresses and information

THANK YOU

## Ecuador Medical Mission 2008 Provides Uplifting Experiences in a Community in the Sky

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

We completed another wonderful mission to Quito, Ecuador. During this two-week trip, our team of fifteen -- five men on construction and ten others on medical -- lived together in one large community room, slept in sleeping bags partitioned by curtains, and shared three bathrooms. A family for two weeks, we talked each other to sleep ...and also waked each other through the night with a symphony of snoring sounds.

Each morning, breakfast in the soup kitchen was preceded by Mass said for the mission team by Fr. Don Kenny, a retired Joliet Diocesan priest who is now a full-time missionary at this site. Following the Mass, we were fortunate to have Deacon Bruce Carlson lead us on a reflection of the mission days behind and ahead of us. Sensing the presence of Jesus with us, we then began our workday.

The construction team, slathered with much-needed sun screen, worked hard side by side with their Ecuadorian partners digging trenches and hauling sand to help build a second story on an elementary school that was bursting at the seams with students.

(CONTINUE TO PAGE 3....ECUADOR MEDICAL MISSION.....)

## Giving and Receiving "Upendo" in a Village of Light and Hope

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

Our team of 30 is flying home from Nairobi, feeling eager to return to our families but also sad from saying goodbye to old and new friends with whom we spent our fourth two-week construction and medical mission in Naivasha, Kenya.

The five men and one woman in this mission's construction team offered their services to Upendo Village, a rescue project for men, women and children with AIDS. At this time, 1069 persons are entrenched here in the struggle of living in poverty with AIDS. The hardworking, caring construction team built four 20'x12' homes and remodeled another one in just 12 days!

One of the homes they built was for Angeline and her family. Angeline's husband is frequently absent and, when present, often inebriated and demanding relations with his wife. Angeline is a mother of 5, her oldest a girl age six and her youngest, a set of twins only 3 months old. Their plot of land is so small that their existing shack of a home had to be torn down first so the new home could be built on the same spot. So the family would have a place to sleep as the new building was being constructed, the team cleaned out the goat shed for them. Needless to say, Angeline was ecstatic and felt very blessed to be given a gift of a new home.

The medical team was also busy. Our energetic and compassionate surgeons, physicians, nurses, physical therapist and two laboratorians performed 79 major and seven minor surgeries. We were also able to incorporate ourselves in the wards to deliver pre- and post-operative care.

In addition to hospital care, we served hundreds of patients in a clinic setting at Upendo Village. Upendo means "love," and this village of love is a bright light and a source of hope and compassionate care for clients who receive quality services of housing, counseling, medical care, and education.

One client, Kenneth, is a 32-year-old victim of the political violence in Kenya. Beaten, struck multiple times with a machete, and left for dead on January 12, 2008, Kenneth spent three days in a coma before waking. His wounds were tended and his broken arm casted, then, because so many injured were pouring in, he was quickly discharged. He found himself in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp, with his sister and mentally handicapped mother because his home had been burnt to the ground.

(CONTINUE ON PAGE 5....GIVING AND RECEIVING.....)

## Work and Love Flow in Equal Measure at Navajo Reservation

*A REFLECTION ON A FIRST MISSION TRIP BY CEIL D'ACQUISTO*

Carl and I had thought about going on a Mission Trip for several years and were encouraged by Deacon Larry Lissak to go, but it wasn't until 2008 that the kids were out on their own and the timing was right.

Carl has a basic knowledge of fixing things around the house - sort of a 'jack of all trades, master of none' type and I am completely hopeless at everything. Not only were we allowed to go, but we were encouraged by other team members who said, "There will always be something for you to do. Don't worry, it will be fine!"

They were right. We spent two weeks working harder than we have ever

worked in our lives. On a typical day, we were up at 5:00, ate breakfast by 5:30, and headed out the door to be at the job site by 6:00 where we worked until about noon or until it got too hot to work. Then we came back for lunch. And do you know what? We couldn't wait to get our afternoon assignment!

We did things that we never thought we could do. Both of us were up on roofs, stripping off old materials, laying tarpaper and nailing the new roofing. Using the tools I bought at Home Depot - Did you know that they will sell a tool belt to *anyone*? - I helped construct a sheep pen and painted a church. Working with Rich

Farrell, an expert electrician from Morris, IL, Carl learned about wiring and also did plumbing work. It was terribly hot, but every job leader was very conscious of safety. There were plenty of breaks and water for everyone.

These three things in particular left a huge impression on me:

- The people from the Diocese of Joliet are the hardest working people I have ever met. The spirit of work was flowing from everyone, and no one ever complained about anything. All just got their assignments and went, helping each other any way they could. If you couldn't lift, someone would help you. If you were tired, someone noticed and told you to take a break. If you had physical challenges or couldn't do certain jobs - no problem; there were plenty of other things you could do. My background as a nurse

(CONTINUE on next page...Work and Love...)

### CONTINUE FROM PAGE 2 .... "Ecuador Medical Mission"

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

The medical team - including a massage therapist and a laboratorian in addition to our pharmacist, nurses, a dentist and two physicians - worked at two clinics. We saw an average of 100 patients a day alongside our Ecuadorian colleagues who staff the clinics on a daily basis. This was to be strictly a medical mission, but two patients unexpectedly needed surgery. The operation was performed in a 13-bed hospital and resulted in a good experience for all involved, especially the patients.

I'd like to tell you about our one-day experience in Mirador, an isolated community up the mountain from Quito, where the medical team was asked to set up a one-day community clinic. When we went there to see what the setup would be so we would know what to bring with us, we found the only available building was a community center under construction. It had a dirt floor, construction debris scattered about, two wires stretched to light a couple of naked light bulbs, and no bathrooms, water, furniture, or curtains. But the leaders of the community were so eager for us to come.

As we brainstormed together to figure how to make it work, a woman of the community offered her home. This lovely woman, Eva, opened her home to all of us and 100 patients. With the help of the ever-resourceful construction team, adequate electricity was set up, and furniture and supplies were transported up the mountain. The dentist saw patients in Eva's kitchen. The living

(CONTINUE TO THE LAST PAGE.....Ecuador Medical)



## Continue from page 3.....Work and love...

BY CEIL D'ACQUISTO

enabled me to help out a little with medical issues. Carl volunteered for both sessions of Sunday Bingo at the parish and befriended a little Navajo boy who was probably about three years old.

- The staff of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, where we stayed, works unceasingly. Fr. Blane is in residence at this parish and covers two other churches on the reservation. Sr. Adelaide, who has the most beautiful smile in the world, runs the Food Pantry and Thrift Store, and until recently was on staff at Talbot House - a Counseling Center for the Navajo People and a AA meeting site. Sr. Adelaide will be moving in a few months, and I was assigned one day to help her clean out her trailer. Throughout the day, many people called to ask for counseling. Others came to the door for food, to rent the gym for basketball, to seek help with a pressing problem. It was constant. And every time she was needed, she dropped what she was doing and was totally present for the phone call or the person at her door.
- One parish covered by Fr. Blane is St. Anthony Mission in Many Farms, a town on the reservation. Sr. Christa is responsible for the day-to-day running of the parish and lives in a trailer behind the church where some of us were assigned to paint and do remodeling. The altar is a raised plat-

form, like St. Pius in Lombard but on a much smaller scale, and with a green shag rug. Sr. Christa made the comment that it was "ordinary time in this church 24/7!" I thought that was funny, but she was serious. Sr. Christa, a fine arts major, really did not like that carpet and was very happy when we replaced it with a new wood dais and new paint job.

Sr. Christa told us how, while deciding to become a nun and looking through a book listing religious orders, her eyes fell on *Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*. "That is it" she said. "What more could I want?" The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were founded by St. Katherine Drexel, who established the St. Michael Indian School in nearby St. Michaels, AZ, on the reservation. Serving her Catholic community, Sr. Christa lives alone with the disease of multiple sclerosis. When we fin-



Working Together  
Navajo Mission 2008

ished painting, we walked to her trailer to invite her to see the finished product. The distance between her trailer and the church was no more than a eighth of a block, but the heat and her difficulty walking meant that Sr. Christa had to drive to the church. How could I ever complain after witnessing her courage and dedication?

This short piece touches on just a few of the countless wonderful things we experienced on our mission trip to the Navajo Reservation. We also learned much about Navajo spirituality and symbolism, and how the staff of Our Lady of Fatima incorporates this spirituality in the ritual of the mass.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to go on a mission trip yourself, if you feel so called, or if not, to help support a missionary with a monetary donation to defray the cost. One of the women who went on the trip can't afford it on her own, but is helped each year by the people in her parish. You can be so proud of the people in your Diocese and in the Catholic church.

If Jesus were here in body today, I know that He would be a willing participant on a mission trip. He loved the poor and would have worked alongside all of us to serve another soul who needed help. We did see Him in the work, among the staffs of Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony's Mission, and in the faces of the Navajo people who treated us with such respect.

# CONTINUE FROM PAGE 2.....Giving and Receiving

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

Nine months later he was still in the tent camp with more than a thousand others. Still with the same cast, his bones unable to knit together because they were improperly set, Kenneth's painful, disabled arm left him unable to find a job.

With the guidance of Sr. Florence Muia, founder of Upendo Village, and the generous donation of \$500 from a member of our parish, he was admitted to St. Mary's Mission Hospital where he received surgery and was discharged a few days later well

on his way to recovery. He did return to his only home, the tent in the IDP camp, but now he had a chance to begin to provide for his family again.



Kenya Mission 2008

There are many other Angelines and Kenneths, many other persons needing medical care and decent housing. The mission team thanks God for the opportunity to try to do as Mother Teresa instructed – "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."

## Mission Supplies and Missioners Needed



We need Operating Room Nurses, Anesthesiologists, ENT Surgeons, Plastic Surgeons, Orthopedic Surgeons, Internists, Family Practice Doctors, Pediatricians, Adult and Pediatric Nurses, Practitioners, Dentists and Optometrists.

We also need non-medical professionals to be a part of our Construction, Educational and Pastoral Mission.

We also accept un-expired prescriptions & over the counter medications. We **DON'T ACCEPT** clothing and non-working apparatus. Please contact the mission office for the list of surgical supplies that we needed for our missions.

Come join the Joliet Diocesan Missions for a life-changing experience.

## DIocese OF JOLIET PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION

### Mission Sign-Up Form

PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR THE FOLLOWING MISSIONS

- PHILIPPINES
- BOLIVIA
- ECUADOR
- NAVAJO
- AFRICA MISSION TO KENYA
- NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY
- UNIVERSITY MISSION — BOLIVIA
- UNIVERSITY MISSION — PHILIPPINES
- SUMMER WITNESS IN MISSION-SWIM

If unable to join us for the upcoming missions, consider making a gift to the Partnership In Mission fund

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## CONTINUE FROM PAGE 3...."Ecuador medical..."

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

room was set up as a triage, laboratory and pharmacy, and Eva's two bedrooms were used as exam rooms. The home had a bathroom with a toilet but no flushing capability.

The word Mirador means 'a world's view,' and the community's 11,000-foot elevation in the clouds provided a beautiful view of the city of Quito. But the elevation also made it quite chilly. We worked in sweatshirts, and the pharmacist dispensed medicines wearing gloves, and midmorning we politely asked for hot water to warm ourselves with a cup of coffee.

When we stopped for lunch, we were surprised with an invitation to a delicious hot lunch of chicken, rice and vegetables (we had packed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches). While we ate, our hosts explained that Mirador had no water system. Once a week, a truck delivered water, filling two 25 gallon containers for each family. Each of Mirador's 140 families has an average of six children, so there was only 50 gallons of water a week for a family of eight. Imagine how much we regretted asking for that cup of coffee earlier in the morning!

It was a wonderful day at Mirador and a rewarding mission! As I write this letter, plans are already in the works for next year's mission. The clinics have asked us to return, Mirador has invited us back. How can we say no? We have friends there.



**Quito, Ecuador**