

Dates at a glance:

- Sunday 20th May: 9.30 a.m. service: CMS speaker.
- Look out for the date when a Bible Society visitor will attend OTT

What can you do?

The work of the Mission Committee in relationship with our partners includes: organizing the giving; building closer links; providing information to the congregation; arranging preachers from our partners; encouraging prayer and producing a prayer list.

If you would like prayer points, information or wish to help, the link people are named below, or please contact David Matthews on 01732 462485 or at matthews.dg@lineone.net.

International:

CMS - David Casiot
Crosslinks - David Matthews
FEBA - Ruth Barclay
The Bible Society - Alison Walters
MAF - Mags Southgate

Local:

Sevenoaks Christian
Counselling Service - Robert Hunt
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust - Liz Cole
Churches Together in Sevenoaks
Literacy Project - Colin Fleetwood

National:

Children's Society - Sylvia Grafton
Scripture Union
inc. Sheringham Beach Mission- Dawn Hallam

Off to warmer climes.... but this is no holiday!

Sarah Hubbard left for Argentina on the 14th March as part of a 12 - person team working for four months with the charity Latin Link. She will be working on two projects while she is there. The first is in Venado Tuerto, 322Km south of Santa Fe. There she will help build a base for a church run radio station.



The second project is in Tartagal in the province of Salta, northern Argentina. Here she will be helping a small Baptist church finish off the building of three classrooms for the Sunday school, and help build a kitchen.

Details of Latin Link's work can be found at www.stepteam.org, or go direct to www.argentina2007.co.uk



AND FINALLY....PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE AND ISSUES RAISED IN THESE REPORTS



March 07

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford

Mission Newsletter 7

Mission Partners and Mission Giving

After a careful review by the PCC and the Mission Committee in the autumn of 2006, the following mission partners were chosen for the next three-year period:

International: The Church Mission Society: Colin and Anita Smith and family
Crosslinks: Gladys Maingi and family
The Far Eastern Broadcasting Association:
Alex and Yvonne Stout and family
The Bible Society
The Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

National: The Children's Society
The Scripture Union & its Sheringham Beach Mission

Local: Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service (SCCS)
Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)
Churches Together in Sevenoaks Literacy Project

At the end of last year, the Treasurer sent a total of £11,550.00 to these partners. We have received 'thank-you' letters in reply and these are on display at the back of the church.

In addition, £1,000.00 of mission-giving money was sent to the parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Chalk in support of their building project to add to the money sent to them from our 'Building On' project.

Partners Overseas



We continue to pray for **CMS partners, Colin and Anita Smith, with their children Sheila and Sandy**, based in Nairobi, Kenya, and for Colin's work in the Kibera slum and Anita's at All Saints' Cathedral.

In their 'thank-you' letter, the Chief Executive of the **Bible Society** tells of "Dinesh, a non-Christian working as a caretaker in the U.A.E., who was Inspired by the Bible message to pray for his wife's healing. She recovered gradually and Dinesh gave his life to Christ, all because the Bible was available in his language and there were others willing to share it with him."





Gladys Maingi, our Crosslinks partner, comes from Sudan and is studying at Uganda Christian University in Mukono in order to qualify as a social worker and counsellor. She wrote to us about her internship at a remand home last year: "I worked as a teacher and mediator in solving conflicts between juveniles and their parents with children who had committed offences and others who were under care and protection. It was really challenging but the experience has taught me a lot. I thank you all for your enormous input into my education. Please continue to pray for my family and me, for the strength to walk in God's way."

WELCOME TO A NEW PARTNER!

As a result of our 2006 review, we welcome to our list of partners **the Mission Aviation Fellowship, whose purpose is to multiply the effectiveness of the Church using aviation and other technologies that overcome barriers in reaching the world for Christ.**



The flights support Christian workers, evangelists, teachers, medical personnel, relief and development workers; haul food, seed, and livestock; transport the sick and injured; deliver doctors, medicine and relief supplies, and carry the materials for a better life to people who need it most, people others cannot reach.

In 2005, the MAF fleet of 54 aircraft executed 36,761 flights, logged 3,461,427 miles, transported 111,666 passengers, and delivered 10.8 million pounds of cargo, all on 1,700 rough, unimproved dirt and grass airstrips as well as waterways.

One MAF 'plane can haul a half-ton of cargo into a region that would otherwise require a train of pack animals, several guides and weeks of gruelling effort to reach by land. In 2006 MAF 'planes saved Christian and humanitarian workers 71,684 days of travel time or 296 work years redeemed for productive work!

Also, in the wake of natural disasters and civil wars, the 'planes can take off and land on short, crude airstrips to reach those in the greatest need.

Welcome to Mags Southgate and Liz Cole, who have joined the committee since the last newsletter, and to Robert Hunt, who has volunteered to act as a link with SCCS. We are grateful to them and to those who continue to serve on the committee, as well as to Janet Hunt, Churchwarden, for her support. Please see the back page for a list of committee members and their responsibilities for the partners.



Ruth Barclay reports on Alex Stout, our FEBA partner: Alex travels a good deal around the Middle East while carrying out his role in charge of training FEBA's technical staff. He asks for prayers for his family and himself. Prayers are also needed by Sean McKenzie, who was due to work in Central Asia but was unable to gain entry and had to return home, and also for the members of the churches in Asia no longer able to meet openly, who nevertheless seek to run teaching courses for worship and instruction under situations of personal stress and even danger.

Partners at Home



Sylvia Grafton reports that, "The Children's Society recently collected for two days outside Tesco at Riverhead and made £900.00 – a splendid result. The Flag Day will be held on Wednesday 25th April in Sevenoaks from 9a.m. until 2 p.m. Collectors are needed urgently for an hour (or more!) during that time." Please contact Sylvia if you are able to help.

From the Children's Society letter: Jo, aged 17 writes: "When you're homeless, there's no-one to encourage you. The Children's Society is brilliant; it's given me a kick-start and the opportunity to make something of my life. Once I've finished my A Levels, I'm going to university to become a social worker so that I can help children who've been through similar problems to me."

We have supported **Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)** since its inception in 2001, when it set out to employ youth workers to undertake detached street work in Sevenoaks and surrounding villages, to work in schools and to support local churches and clubs. In 2006, work with the young people of Otford revealed problems, not least that 'they have so little to do that one detached session a week cannot answer their expectations. A small group of them will conduct a consultation with our help to discover what's available and what's missing.' We are asked to pray that the young people have the tenacity to see the consultation through and that the outcomes will be positive. Other prayer requests are for work in Wildernesse School and for the future of the girls' football project, as well as for Jane and Judith, the detached youth workers.



From a report on last year's **Scripture Union Beach Mission at Sheringham:** "We had a good summer in 2006 with several young people making commitments to follow Jesus. We gave away about 50 Bibles and it was a great blessing to witness young people being so eager to read them. We were also able to hand out 300 Bible companions – these are small binders with practical advice on daily Bible reading and prayer to support the young people when the Mission team is not with them." We remember Dawn Hallam and the team as they prepare for this year's Beach Mission.

Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District: the Literacy Project in 2006 sought to help the Bassar people of Togo, encouraging them to read the Bible in their own language.



Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service reports that demands on their service continue to grow but they are now able to use their newly enlarged and refurbished premises, opened in January 2007 by the Bishop of Rochester. "Counselling is an activity of listening and responding, which encourages the exploration of thoughts, feelings and behaviour to reach clearer understanding. These processes can enable people to find and use their strengths so that they can more effectively manage their lives."