



# MISSION MISSIVE NEWSLETTER

## FALL/WINTER ISSUE 2013

### NEWS TO KEEP YOU ON TOP OF OUR MISSIONS OUTREACH

**MISSION STATEMENT** *Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." NIV Matthew 28:19-20*

**DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST** Welcome to our late Fall 2013 Edition of the Missions Missive Newsletter. In this issue we have a wonderful series of articles combined into a bonus issue for Fall and Winter. Our main article from Genelle Leifso is about her most recent "adventure" to Uganda in late 2012 where she was inspired by the raw need of a local parish to donate her "time, talent and treasure" to enable a local village, Vumba, to be able to access clean water. Also, two members of our Youth Group visited Burundi Africa this summer, volunteering and building houses through the Loveworks team ministry. We have a review of our fabulous "Wildwest" Vacation Bible School with over 80 children attending. We also have a Fall letter from Staci and Daniel Silva with YWAM in Brazil, where they are making their second film based on the Book of Hosea. They have received many awards at a recent Christian film festival for their first film "The Value of a Dream" which was based on the story of The Prodigal Son.

Now that Fall has arrived with cooler and wetter weather, please remember to support those in our own community who may not have shelter, food or clothing over the winter months. Through St. Mark's Community Outreach, we provide Christmas Gift and Food Hampers, lunch basket donations, and monthly dinners at The Front Room. Please also contribute to the Nightshift box for clothing at the church driveway, the ACW Bales for the North, and the Mission to Seafarers tree in the Narthex.

### Mission Missive Coordinators:

The Mission Missive is coordinated by Toni Wallis 604-541-9533; Brian & Barb Walks 604-538-3568. We welcome any contributions on any missions or outreach related topics.

### St. Mark's Community Outreach Ministry

You can support outreach activities of this group by sending donations in envelopes marked "Community Outreach" to St. Mark Ocean Park. Contact Barb Grantham at 604-531-3726 for more information

### Mission and Community Events

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Holly Berry Fair                   | Saturday, November 30, 11am to 2pm |
| - White Gift Sunday (Salvation Army) | Sunday, December 1                 |
| - Seniors Christmas Lunch            | Thursday, December 12, 11:30am     |
| - Children's Pageant                 | Sunday, December 15                |
| - Journey of Christmas               | Sunday, December 15 – 24, 26, 27   |
| - Blue Christmas                     | Sunday, December 22, 5pm           |

## Living Water....and That Other Kind

Many of you know that I have been teaching perioperative nursing in Ethiopia and Uganda since 2009. I am delighted to be given the opportunity to share my professional knowledge and skills with less advantaged colleagues. Embedded in this work is the opportunity to meet many nurses who are working in situations and under conditions that are less than optimal. And sometimes there can be no doubt that we are keeping a “God-ordained” appointment. That is how I met Joyrine Biromumaiso.

In October 2012, I accompanied UBC Trauma Orthopedic Surgeons when they went to Kampala, Uganda to teach at Mulago National Referral Hospital. (You can learn more about my involvement in the USTOP program by following the links at

<http://ustop.orthopaedics.med.ubc.ca/trip-reports>). It is a 1500 bed university teaching hospital, with many more patients occupying space on the floor because of overcrowding.

Sterile processing was identified as a huge problem;

equipment and materials were being introduced into the sterile field and were not sterile. After discussing the problems with the Canadian surgeons, I approached the hospital’s two Infection Control nurses to learn from them the best approach, in their context, to take in highlighting and beginning to deal with this problem.

Joyrine was one of these nurses. As we worked together, I got to know more of Joyrine’s story. I learned that she was also a wife and mother. She helps her husband (a pastor of a non-denominational congregation in Nakivubo, about 1 hour outside of Kampala) and is the mother of 6-year old twins. I wanted to get to know her better, and so I arranged to have lunch with her and her children on my last day in Kampala.



*Genelle, Joyrine and the twins.*

In the course of our visit, she told me that their church has a project in Vumba; a village on Gayaza Ziobwe road in Luwero District located 50 kilometres from Kampala and 35 kilometres from their home. This project is targeting about 300-500 orphaned and needy children in that rural area and the community at large. The community is comprised of peasants with little or, in most cases, no income at all. Educational levels are low, and therefore poverty levels are high.

I asked her what sort of practical help might support the pastoral work that she and her husband do. She commented on a variety of small item things – funds to bake a monthly birthday cake

for orphans, play equipment. I looked her in the eye, and asked, "Joyrine, what do you really need?"

Then she told me that this community does not have access to fresh water. Children in the community walk a kilometre to get unclean water from unprotected wells, and then carry it back home. I wondered whether this was something that Lowell and I might remedy?

Corruption is prevalent, and so it was important that oversight be in place so that funds made available would actually complete the work for which they were intended. I contacted Markku Kostamo, Canadian Director of *A Rocha* Uganda and learned that *A Rocha* Uganda operated a Field Study Centre in Kampala. Markku contacted *A Rocha* International, assisted with due diligence so that we could be assured that *A Rocha* Uganda had the capacity to deliver on the project, and provided a process whereby we could direct the necessary funds through *A Rocha* Canada. It was amazing to discover that this gift could benefit not only the village but also the efforts of the committed Christians working at the *A Rocha* Uganda field centre.

As in all things African, it took time. The hand pump bore hole for domestic water was completed in August 2013. Now, clean water is available to more than 300 people in Vumba and an additional 700 children.



Joyrine and her husband, Pastor Solomon, wanted me to be present for the official "launch" of the well. However, I was not able to return to Uganda this fall. And so, perioperative nurse educators, who were in Kampala with the USTOP project, attended in my place. Let me share what one of them wrote:

*Wonderful, wonderful day today!!! Went to church with Joyrine and her children - two services - 0800 - 1000 and 1030 - 1310!! The messages were translated into English. It was awesome to praise and worship with the Ugandan believers. They even sang a couple of English songs.*

*They are so grateful for the gift you and Lowell have given them. They do not have to walk for miles now to get water. About 30 children from the community were in the recreation building and they clapped when we came in. I didn't know they were in there.*

*After the speeches from the pastor, the head of the community council and Joyrine, I was asked to speak as well. I had prepared gifts*

*(pencils, pens, felt pens and notebooks) for about 30 children and gave those out. The children were very excited to receive them.*

*We stopped at a store on the way so I could purchase two soccer balls. Our Hamilton colleague wanted to buy something too. Joyrine suggested apples and so she purchased 34 apples. Most of the children had never had an apple before.*

*We then went to the church and school. It was awesome to see that the children who had just received the apples at the rec centre were sharing bites with others who had not been there. Having so little, but sharing it. 540 children attend that school. 15 teachers. About 46 of the children are orphans and many of them have only one parent. There are 70 children who board at the school.*

*Genelle, I wish you and Lowell could have been here today. Absolutely amazing!! You have made a huge difference in the lives of this community! God bless you richly for your generosity with this gift.*

I wish that we could have been there as well. But I am so glad that Christian colleagues could share this joy. I have no doubt that I will meet these "Kingdom Children". It really is quite remarkable how God works. He changes lives and we can be part of His work when we say "Yes"!

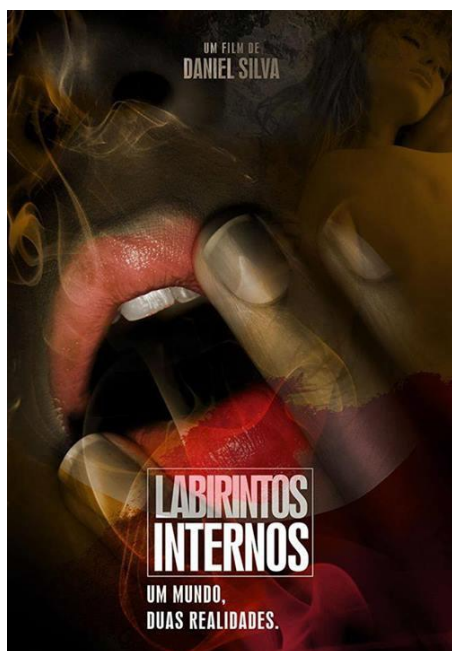
Genelle and Lowell Leifso



“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. Just as the Father doesn’t work alone, we also can do nothing on our own.”

**At the end of September we started filming our newest movie:**

## “Internal Mazes”



Dear friends, this production is based on the book of Hosea, and is to be released and used during the World Cup that will be held in Brazil next year, 2014. We, as the Church of Christ, are positioning ourselves against human sex trafficking and tourism and we praise God for everything that He has already done, and the doors that He has opened in order for this project to become a

reality. We have gotten the support and help of local churches, and professionals from various parts of Brazil will be joining us in the city of Campinas for the time of filming. There are around 30 professionals involved, for approximately 25 days. There is much work to be done, and many details to observe, but we are certain that our desire is to do it for the glory of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We are counting on your prayers because we are only at the beginning of this battle. There are many things to come and we are not unaware that we are at war in the spirit realm. More than ever we need your prayers.

## Other News

### Blog:

“A Good Coloured Girl in a Grey World” – I (Staci) have started a blog at [www.stacilys.wordpress.com](http://www.stacilys.wordpress.com). This has been something on my heart for some time, and now that I’ve finished my TESOL and Teaching English to Young Learners course (passed with a grade A), I’ve finally taken the step to start it up. The purpose of it is to share different articles I write on various topics based on my faith, share fitness routines, health and wellness stuff and my music/songs. Come by and check it out. Also, you can like my Facebook page at [godcolouredgirl](https://www.facebook.com/godcolouredgirl).

### Family:

Caue and Hannah are doing great. They are both happy and healthy and doing well in school. Caue, however, has really been affected by Daniel traveling so much. When Daniel leaves the house, or if he wakes up and Daniel is not here, he starts crying and gets anxious. Please pray for him and our family as Daniel will be gone for over a month to film “Internal Mazes”.

### Prayer Requests:

(i) protection, health and strength for all involved in the film, “Internal Mazes” and their families; (ii) team unity; and (iii) God’s constant provision and direction for us as a family and for Ponte Filmes.

Thank you so much for your ongoing friendship and support.

Please write or email us once you have the chance; we would love to hear from you.

God bless you richly – Daniel and Staci Silva, Ponte Filmes, YWAM Brazil

# Vacation Bible School SonWest Roundup

The St. Mark's annual Vacation Bible School was held August 19-23, 2013 and was as always a resounding success.



**Linda Zeal  
VBS Director**

This year we had 80 children registered, 7 youth leaders and 18 adult leaders. The "Wild West" theme days were embraced with great enthusiasm and the connection of story, bible verse game, recreation game, crafts and yes, even the snacks, were all well received.



It was wonderful to hear the children's comments such as: "Wow - this is so much fun" and "I love the snacks!" The parent's comments ranged from: "What a transformation of the church hall"; "What a well-organized program"; "What an incredible volunteer group" and "My children told me I could sign them up for next year!"



Overall, the combination of vibrant and energetic volunteer leaders, children connecting with each other, and the program, was the amazing work of our Lord working in each and every one of us.



A very big thank you goes out to all involved for your commitment to a very worthwhile outreach program.



See you next year for another exciting program! *Linda Zeal*





## YOUTH OUTREACH BURUNDI 2013



This past summer, Meg Heath and Gareth Featherstone went on a trip to Burundi, Africa with the Loveworks team to build houses, work on a coffee washing station, plant indigenous trees and work in an orphanage. The trip was an amazing experience for both of us. There was always something fantastic to see everywhere we looked. There was never a lack of excitement or entertainment during the trip. All the people we were around were so great to talk to and just be able to hear their stories, whether it was one of the Loveworks members or one of the Burundian locals. It was heartbreaking coming from a country where we have everything to another country where they have nothing. People around here are always wanting for something new such as lap tops or cell phones, whereas in Burundi, they have no idea when

their next meal might be. The trip went by so fast. We can't believe it's over already. Everything we did there provided an amazing experience. Working in the village was happy yet heartbreaking. It was amazing, because even though everyone was so poor, they had the most exciting personalities and they are very strong spiritually.

They live every day with faith that God will provide for them. We would go to church on Sundays and we would see how spiritual they really were. The church services would go on for hours, but it never felt like that. They would sing and dance and worship and then someone would preach for a couple of hours. We loved everything we did in Burundi, but overall the best part of the trip we have to say was working in the village of Busiga where we helped build houses. Everyone was hard working and there was no lack of effort and no complaint even though we were working in the boiling hot African sun. We worked for hours each day, but it didn't seem like it, because we were always very enthusiastic and it was wonderful knowing that we were working for a good cause. Seeing the poverty in the village was very different than what you see on TV. There was never a lack of happiness around. Everyone would sing and dance as we worked in the village. It was a beautiful sight. We wish we could've stayed longer. It didn't feel like it was enough, because we realized that they are still working hard every day trying to

build a strong community. We would do anything to go back. We would like to thank the St. Mark's Men's Club and all the people of St. Mark's for all of your support.

It means so much to us that you helped send us on such an amazing trip. We appreciate all of your support and we pray that many more youth may have the experience that we had. We loved every moment of the trip!

Gareth Featherstone

And

Megan Heath

