



Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

Matthew 6:33

Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.

Volume 3 Number 4

Quarterly Newsletter

December, 2005

GIVING

^{16b}No one shall appear before the LORD empty-handed, ¹⁷but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the LORD, your God, has bestowed on you. (Deut 16:16b-17)

We have been blessed 1) materially with housing, food, etc., 2) financially with employment, savings, etc., 3) physically with good health, 4) emotionally with peace of mind and joy, 5) intellectually with good educations, and 6) spiritually with access to freedom of religion, prayer, Scripture, etc. When we count all of these blessings, doesn't it make sense that we would be thankful to God and give back to Him in proportion to these blessings bestowed on us? This is such an obvious question with such an obvious answer, yet I know from my own personal experience, how I can be quick to complain when things don't go my way and fail to show gratitude for the things that I do have—an overabundance of blessings from God!

Lord, I pray for the grace to realize my ingratitude for the goodness that You shower me with and for the grace to never forget Your generosity so that I may always be mindful of an attitude of gratitude even when the going gets rough! Thank You, Lord for Your loving kindness. AMEN!

Kudos and Thanks!

The board of directors of *Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.* would like to thank all who helped organize and supported financially the golf scramble in October. We also thank the many businesses who donated various items for this event. Last, but not least, we also thank all the golfers who participated in this event. The scramble was a lot of fun and this fundraiser raised \$5,365 which will be applied to the project in Monrovia, Liberia to build a clinic.

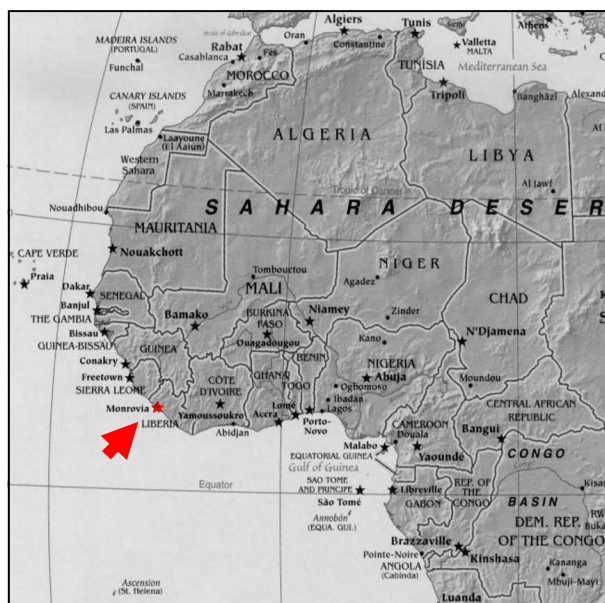


Pictured left to right are Donna and Steve Adams, Suellen Newman, and Mike Sweeney. Mike is presenting a certificate of appreciation from Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc. to this group of volunteers from [Medusa Sports, LLC](#) for the many hours that they worked to make this event possible.

(Continued on page 5.)

4013 Deer Creek Dr. Louisville, KY 40241-1581 502-419-5732

Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc. is requesting your assistance in the form of monetary and in-kind donations for the following two projects:



\$25,000 is needed to begin groundbreaking for a full size medical clinic for [Our Lady of Fatima Rehab Center](#) in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. This clinic will have rehab rooms, maternity rooms, a laboratory, and pharmacy to provide for the medical and rehab needs of the nearly 1000 disabled and abandoned children at the rehab center and the medical and maternity needs of the many families in the surrounding refugee camps in this war-torn country. To date we have collected \$12,800.

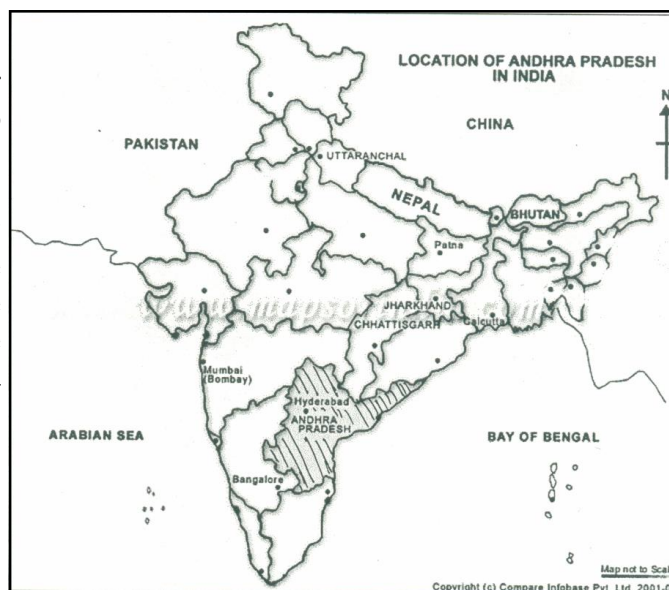
We still need to collect \$12,200. Can you help us reach this goal?

The arrow in the picture to the left pointing to the dot is Monrovia, Liberia which is in West Africa.

Gently used clothing, shoes, blankets, vitamins, powdered milk, Tylenol, bandages, and other first aid items are needed for children ages 5 to 14 in Andhra Pradesh, India.

Helping Hands Welfare Society is urgently asking for our assistance in collecting these items for use now through March. They are in their winter season and are in desperate need of these items for these destitute and homeless children.

The gray-colored area on the map at the right is the state of Andhra Pradesh in India.



Tax-deductible monetary donations can be sent to:

**Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.
4013 Deer Creek Dr.
Louisville, KY 40241-1581**

To donate clothing, please contact Margie Sweeney at 502-419-5732 to arrange for pick up of the items.

Thank you for being a blessing to those in need this holiday season!

P.S. If you have a contact at UPS that can help us with free or low-cost shipping to India, please call Margie Sweeney at 502-419-5732.

Can I Get A Witness?

A New Creation

By Margie C. Sweeney

Imagine landing on foreign soil and hearing that your country has just been bombed. You have no way of getting additional information because you don't have access to television or radio. All that you know is hearsay. Your heart sinks for a minute. Then you remember that you are on a mission. You realize that you are here for a purpose and God will take care of the details. This "revelation" is the source of your strength for the duration of the trip.

Such is the setting for the trip that changed my life. I landed in Nairobi, Kenya on 9/11 and my life has forever been changed.

I went to Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa and Zambia in Central Africa in 2001 on a mission trip with Fr. John Judie, the pastor of my church at Mother of Good Counsel. My goal on that first trip was to survey the medical needs of the people in those countries so that I could plan how to provide for those needs on future trips.

Instead, that trip transformed me. What an unexpected blessing! Amid the destitution and disease, I found joy and gratitude. These people were amazing to me. Their "condition" was the source of their strength and deep faith.

These people were so welcoming and generous. They were truly a beautiful people. While each place that I visited had its unique customs and cultures, the underlying sentiment was the same. As a visitor, I was a blessing from God. That's just the way Africans see it.

What these people did not realize was that *they* were a blessing to me! I learned so much from my new friends. I was privileged and blessed, honored and humbled. Each country offered unique and life-changing experiences.

Let me begin with Kenya since my first stop was in Nairobi. I already mentioned that I landed in Nairobi on 9/11. The "revelation" that I was there on a mission and that God would take care of the details provided me with a new level of faith. I felt completely safe and care free. While I felt compassion for the plight of my fellow countrymen, I was not consumed with despair and uncertainty. I gained a new level of trust in God's providence.

In Kenya, I got a chance to visit with the sick poor and offer some minimal medical services. There were no fancy hospitals or equipment to do much else. I was truly humbled by what little I could offer in terms of medical help, but I was honored by how much respect and love I received in return. These were a people with an "attitude of gratitude!"

Culturally, the Kenyans are a people of faith, hope, and love. They are generous and very hospitable. Some speak English and there are many tribal languages, Swahili being the predominant language in the areas that I traveled.

I did get a chance to visit a hospital in Machakos, Kenya. It was the hospital for the indigent and while it had laboratory and x-ray services, these were primitive. The surgical suite was also very primitive. The anesthesia machine appeared to be from the 1950's and they only per-

----- continued on page 4

formed a few surgeries per month when the surgeons came to visit.

The next country that I visited while on this trip was Zambia which is in Central Africa. Zambians are an equally beautiful people.

In Zambia, I visited Ndola Diocese where the bishop was very proactive in helping the indigent. He had set up a home-bound program where a nurse and some assistants would visit the sick poor in the compounds to provide medicines and take those who were critically ill to the hospital. They would also bring formula for the infants.

Bishop DiJong also had set up an AIDS program to educate the people on the modes of transmission of AIDS, AIDS prevention through abstinence and chastity and AIDS treatment, however, there was not much money for many AIDS medicines.

Zambia is where I had the most intense “God experience” and so I nicknamed it “God’s country.”

One example of God’s love for His people that I experienced was in a young girl that I visited in one of the compounds. She sat on a dirty towel on a dirt floor with open sores on her legs that were attracting flies. She was orphaned, malnourished, and in pain. We gave her some ibuprofen tablets for her pain and scheduled to pick her up in the morning to take her to the clinic for an examination. The next day when I saw her at the clinic, she was beaming, her face radiating joy and gratitude! I realized that even the smallest act done with compassion can be transforming! On that day I learned about compassion on a new level.

The last country that I visited on this 16-day trip was Tanzania. I visited the Diocese of Morogoro which is in a mountainous area. The peoples of this country also showed us what true hospitality entails.

Here again, there was no chance to practice medicine as I am accustomed to providing. We used a room on the parish grounds to serve as a makeshift clinic. There was no pharmacy or nearby hospital so all I did was examine patients and make some minor suggestions. It was quite difficult to get good histories because the translator did not know enough English to help me decipher symptoms yet the people seemed truly grateful for any assistance that they received. Another humbling experience!

So how am I a new creation?

- I have gained a new level of faith and trust in God.
- I have experienced God’s love for me and I believe it to be true. This has opened me up to living out the two greatest commandments – love of God and love of neighbor.
- I have a new awareness of suffering and how it can be turned into joy.
- I have a renewed “attitude of gratitude.”
- I am feeding my “wants” less and learning my true needs.
- My eyes have been opened to look for the needs of others and to offer a helping hand.
- I have the desire to do more with less and have put that desire into action by starting a nonprofit, “Helping Hands Healing Ministries” to accomplish that desire.

Yes, I have truly become a new creation. The following words from the Bible are true. “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Rom 8:28) and “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” (Jn 15:11)



List of Donors

Cash Donations

Anonymous/Miscellaneous Cash Donations

Albert & Sandra Bissmeyer

William & Karen Bradley

Kathryn & Michael Byrne

Christine Day

Gordon & Joyce Garner

Mary Gering

Elizabeth Gingerich

Angela Gray

Theodore Hermes

Dennis Higgins

Mary Jo Jenkins

Milton Kaelin

Dr. Mark Kennedy

Frank & Donna Klein, Jr.

Jim & Lee Kuchenbrod

John & Joni Lichtsteiner

Mark Mattingly

Robert McQueen

Douglas & Susan Miller

Joseph & Patricia Mudd

William & Janet Norton, Sr.

Mary Radford & Lee Raudonis

Ted & Alice Schneider

Dale Simmons & Marguerite Sweeney

Patricia Sloan

Frank Soeder

Karen Steilberger

Louis & Beatrice Straub

Jonathan & Cara Sweeney

Kelly Sweeney

Lynne Sweeney

Michael & Margie Sweeney

Patrick Sweeney

Martha Wigginton

David Worland

In Memory of Ashley Krause

Louis & Beatrice Straub

Community Programs

Thornton FundWorks

Corporate Donations

David H Breslin, Inc.—Jim Breslin

Tire Technical Services, Inc.—Martha Wagner

In-Kind Donations

Lee Kuchenbrod

Michael & Margie Sweeney

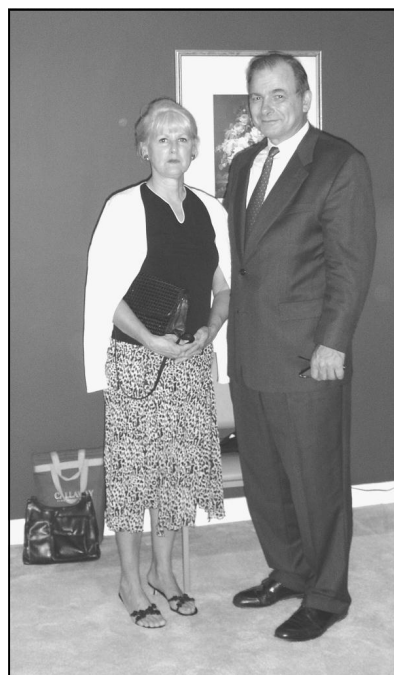
Publishers Printing Co.



And whoever receives one child such as this
in my name receives me. (Matthew 18:5)



Kudos and Thanks (continued from page 1)



Many kudos and thanks to Sandra and Albert
Bissmeyer who sponsored the golf scramble at
Glenmary Country Club!



2005 Year-End Financial Report

Thanks to your generosity in this third year, *Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.* continues to grow. We are now expanding into West Africa and India!

To the right is a graph depicting the dollar amounts for income, projects, services, and expenses for each quarter of the year 2005 and the total for the year. This year, the services category is new and reflects an additional ministry function.

You might also notice that some additional expense categories have been added—Internet and fund raising. We have a web site this year which should help increase awareness of the needs that we are addressing in this ministry. Fund raising events will also bring exposure and much needed funds.

The category of printing was kept in the expense category but has not been needed this year due to the generous printing services that [Publishers Printing Company](#) has provided.

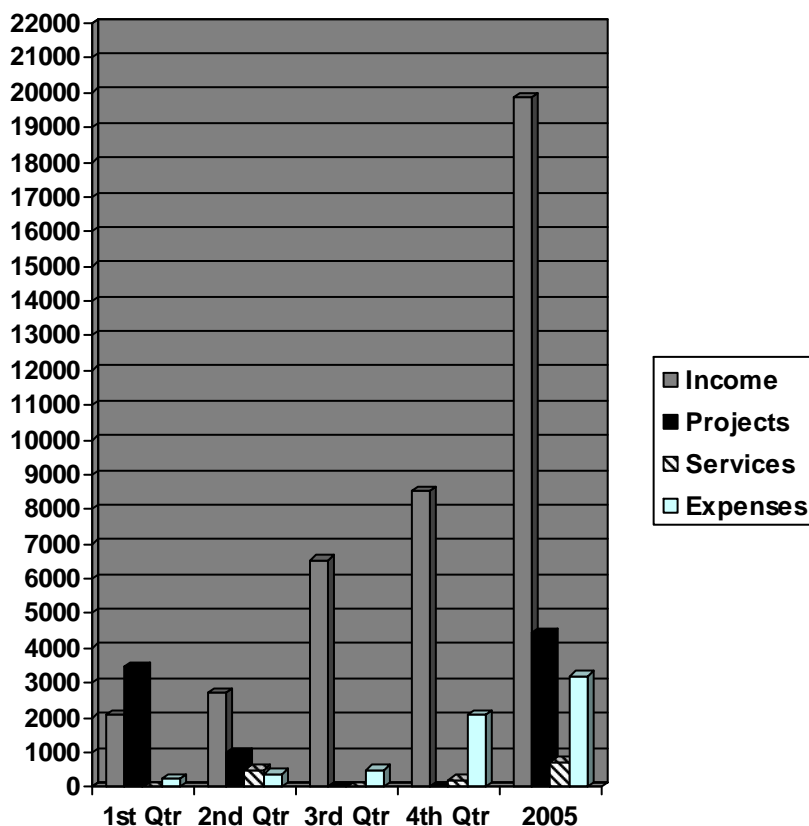
Our overhead for 2005 was higher than anticipated because of the costs associated with fund raising. As *Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.* gets more public exposure and support, the overhead should go back down.

Two projects were completed in 2005. The first project which was completed in January, provided \$450 for a year of tuition for a high school student in Kenya so that she could continue her education. The second project was completed in May. This project was also for tuition. Eight Brothers from the [Franciscan Missionaries of Hope Lyke House](#)

[Community](#) received \$4,000 (\$500 per student) for a year of study in Nairobi, Kenya. They undertook a course of study in drug and alcohol dependence rehabilitation to work with the addicted poor in the communities surrounding Nairobi.

There has been much growth in this ministry over the past three years, not only in the type and number of projects, but also in the donations and sources of those donations. Donations in 2003 were \$7,277.34. In 2004, donations were \$10,790.38 and in 2005, they were \$19,875.37!

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Distribution of Revenue

Fees: 229.00/22220.27 = 1.0%

Printing: 0/22220.27 = 0%

Postage: 510.76/22220.27 = 2.3%

Supplies: 301.89/22220.27 = 1.4%

Internet: 162.44/22220.27 = 0.7%

Fund Raising: 2001.96/22220.27 = 9.0%

Projects: 4450.00/22220.27 = 20.0%

Services: 716.47/22220.27 = 3.2%

Reserve: 13847.75/22220.27 = 62.3%

Total Overhead: 3206.05/22220.27 = 14.4%

2005 Year-End Financial Report (cont. from p. 6)

Overall, we are very pleased with the growth of projects, services, revenue, and exposure that have occurred in 2005. We anticipate a continued positive trend in 2006 and again want to thank all of you for being a blessing to our brothers and sisters in need! ***You are making a difference to many thousands!!***



Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 18, 2006

- **Lee Kuchenbrod** and **Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.** are co-sponsoring a healing service from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with **Fr. Ralph DiOrio** at **Paroquet Springs Conference Centre** in Shepherdsville, KY. For more information about this event and to register, please visit <http://hhhm.net> and click on "Calendar of Events."



President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christmas tidings and blessings to you into the New Year!

The good news just keeps on coming as we conclude the third year of this ministry!

You may recall that my trip to Tanzania during Easter week was a double blessing—I got to visit Africa during a very special time of the Church year and my daughter was able to experience the beautiful culture and countryside with me.

My "yes" to God on that trip has brought incredible blessings! I discerned from that trip that

this ministry should be taken to the ends of the earth as the Holy Spirit would lead.

Shortly after my return to the U.S., an opportunity to minister to our brothers and sisters in Liberia, West Africa presented itself. We are now over halfway to reaching the target goal of \$25,000 for that project!

An additional ministry opportunity in Andhra Pradesh, India has recently presented itself. For more information on these two current projects, please check out page two of this newsletter.

Besides these new ministry opportunities, God has opened up the ministry of preaching the Good News in the form of a healing service that will be conducted in February—a total of three new ministry opportunities in 2005!

It doesn't end there. While there has been much devastation around the world in the form of natural disasters and war, God is still caring for His people. He will supply all our needs!

We continue to be grateful for your generosity, care, and compassion as we work together to help our brothers and sisters in need so that they are empowered to help themselves, and in turn, to help others.

May God bless you abundantly!

Yours in Christ,

Margie C. Sweeney, M.D





Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given you besides.
Matthew 6:33

Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.

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We are now on the Internet at <http://hhhm.net>!

To save on postage, statements for receipt of donations made in 2005 will be mailed out in early January, 2006. If you require a receipt prior to that time, please let us know.