

Connections

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FORGING CONNECTIONS: WITH FORGOTTEN YOUTH

PAGE 2

Special Insert:
Immersion Experience
Program

Highlights from our Project Partners in El Salvador, India, Kenya, Uganda, and the USA

FORGING CONNECTIONS: WITH FORGOTTEN YOUTH

Rose, Victoria, Sister Rosemary, and I sat down in the Saint Monica Girl's Tailoring Centre's office and began to chat. The ride from Kampala to Gulu had been calmer than a year before. A tenuous "peace" was holding between the Ugandan government and the so-called Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and some sense of stability, if not hope, was in the air. Uganda's forgotten youth are coming of age far from home in refugee camps that overwhelm Gulu's colonial infrastructure and breed further trauma and discontent.*

The Centre, a new IPM Project Partner in the Youth category, was one ray of light. Rose, Victoria, and I had just met an hour or so earlier, as Sister Rosemary showed off the Centre's new sewing machines and introduced my travel companions and me to some of the young women whose stories continue to break her heart—and try her patience! Rose and Victoria had agreed to share their stories with me privately and now Rose was having second thoughts. It wasn't a question of trusting this white male to keep her secrets (if Sister Rosemary said I was ok than I was definitely ok!) but what about the rest of the world?

Victoria interrupted: "Rose, no one can give us trouble now...the world should know what has happened to us." Rose agreed: "I'd like to narrate for you how I was abducted and spent my life in the bush." I had first heard the Liberation Theology mantra Voice of the Voiceless at Holy Cross in the mid-80s. Perhaps never had my role been so clear...

Rose's nightmare began at 13. Her mother had remarried and she was sent to an orphanage/boarding school near her grandmother's



ON THE COVER: Rose sewing a bag to fulfill the Tailoring Centre's special contract with UNICEF



Victoria, Sister Rosemary, Joe, Rose, Zoe Mauki (IPM's new Regional Associate for Uganda & Tanzania), and Mary

home. One fateful evening in 1994 she had gone to stay with her grandmother and was awakened in the middle of the night by a group of 11 men. Rose and the other children and youth were divided between the "ugly", who were immediately killed, and the "beautiful", 12 in all, who were forced to march.

After a few kilometers many of the marchers began to cry and ask to go back. The LRA members would ask those who wanted to leave to step out of line and then fall upon them with machetes and pangas (a crude, bludgeoning instrument made infamous in the Rwandan genocide). Then the commanding officers started to divide the youth up amongst themselves for combat training, servitude, and sexual exploitation. Rose is indeed beautiful and she was given to a commanding officer who eventually forced her to go with him all the way to the Sudan. Her clothes were taken, she was raped repeatedly, she was driven by thirst to drink her own urine, and forced to kill others by hand.

Her nightmare continued for almost ten years during which she carried out orders she still struggles to comprehend and gave birth to three of her four children (the fourth was born in 2006 of an abusive relationship in the refugee camp)—children she resented so much at times that she neglected and tried to abandon them. In 2003, hungry and exhausted, Rose was on patrol with her children in tow when her group of LRA members encountered Ugandan soldiers. Rather than run she hid by the road and eventually made her way to the home of an old man who accompanied her to a center for children in Gulu which led, in time, to St. Monica's.

Rose told me stories of tactics and strategies that clearly implicate other governments in the horrors of Northern Uganda and the Southern Sudan. She shared details I'm not sure I'll ever be comfortable trusting with anyone but my closest colleagues and friends. But most importantly, she quickly pleaded with me to share her story with all of you.

When I visit with IPM's partners in Gulu and with marginalized and impoverished young people around the world, I invariably share with them something I learned in my own youth: faith allows us to be both connected to this world and to transcend the physical realities of it. Rose's deep, spiritual center—which so clearly shines through in her smile on the cover of this special issue of *Connections*—allowed her to survive when most of us would have simply given in. Neither she nor I can justify some of what she was forced to do, but I know that if it is IPM's mission to promote justice, peace, and hope, then it is also our role to stand alongside Rose in any way we can so that she can transcend her horrific past, become the subject of her own history, and create a future for her children.

Thank you for reading along and allowing IPM to accompany Rose, Victoria, their children, and the youth of our world.

Joseph F. Cistone
August, 2007
jfcistone@ipmconnect.org

* to learn more about IPM's Project Partners in Gulu see *Connections*, July 2006, & visit us on the web at: www.ipmconnect.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

KIM KUSHMAN McCARTHY

Background:

My educational background includes a BBA in Finance, an MA in Religious Ethics and Philosophy, and I'm midway through a master's degree in Social Work. I began the degree at Case Western Reserve University, and am transferring to Columbia University. I had a long career in commercial banking and wealth management, and am now committed to using the skills developed in those arenas in a social services setting.

From a geographical perspective, I spent most of my life in Naples, Florida, before relocating to Cleveland to marry my husband, Julian. Julian and I are still newlyweds, having married 19 months ago. Julian is originally from Australia, but spent the last twenty years in Cleveland. In May, we moved to New York City.

Life statement/mission:

As will be understood from reading my biographical sketch, my life statement/mission is truly a 'work in progress'. I find being of service to others fundamentally important and am at a turning point both personally and professionally in reworking what this means.

Skills/interests I bring to IPM:

I bring financial and management skills associated with a long business background to IPM. I also have a deep history in community involvement, mostly in Naples. It is mainly, however, the inner zeal that led me to take a sabbatical from my business career to study religious ethics that I bring to IPM. This zeal could be described as a great curiosity about life and the desire to pursue the similarities we share across continents as individuals.

Uniqueness of IPM:

IPM holds a unique place as we have the ability to directly impact individuals' lives around the world. On my recent immersion trip to Kenya, this became abundantly clearer. The frequent and direct communication that the IPM staff shares with our project partners, allows us to manage our project giving to full advantage. The dollars that we give to IPM directly impact people's health, education, and well-being. Our focus on children also means that the help we provide now can have exponential impact on future generations. It is exciting beyond measure!



Kim Kushman McCarthy

Where IPM should be heading:

IPM would best serve our project partners by further work in replicating projects. It is with this economy of scale that we can achieve greater good. Our geographical focus in sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and South India is a huge step in this direction.

In this same light, the cross-fertilization of communities of women sharing their economic successes can have great, lasting impact. My hope is that women leaders from successful endeavors can instruct and encourage other women finding their way to economic independence.

Hope for IPM:

My hope for IPM is for further, deeper connections at all levels: connections between diverse peoples, organizations, and project partners. Connections have a way of 'going forth and multiplying!'

Family and hobbies:

Of late, family and hobbies have been intertwined with getting married, going back to graduate school, and moving! Julian, who has an extensive background in management consulting and business strategy, is blessed with two children, Catherine (age 18) and Simon (age 15). Catherine is heading off to her freshman year at Brown University in August, and Simon is entering his sophomore year at Beachwood High School (Ohio).



JOIN US

Friday, November 16, 2007

Windows on the River, West Bank of the Flats

11:30 am – Registration, Seating & Visit our Fair Trade Craft Boutique

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm – Luncheon & Program

HONORING:

**Joanne Clark of National City Corporation
The Fatima Family Center**

FEATURING:

**Zoraida Soza Sanchez, IPM Project Coordinator
Mujer y Comunidad, NICARAGUA**

Memorial & Tribute Giving

We remain grateful to our supporters for donations made as memorials or tributes. During the past five months, gifts have been received in recognition of:

Honorary Gifts

Trudy & David Learman's birthdays

Memorial Gifts

Richard Adams
Bruce Horner
Arden Mead
Kathy Sehy
Mark Wasmer

New Monthly Partners in Mission

(Donors committing to a monthly donation that is deducted from their credit card.)

David Domanski
Laurent Gaget
Megan Walsh

Major & Special Gifts Recently Received

Christ Lutheran Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation
FreeHand
Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland
Arden Mead Estate
National City Bank
Jeanne Taylor Estate



Former IPM Executive Director Bernie Marquardt with IPM Board Members Rufina Simiyu and Chris Henry. Rufina spent a couple of weeks in the U.S. educating groups and individuals about the work of IPM's Project Partners in Sub-Saharan Africa as part of IPM's Speakers Circle. For more information about IPM's Speakers Circle opportunities, please contact the office at tel. +1.216.932.4082.

DONOR

ST. LOUIS DONOR APPRECIATION BRUNCH



From Left to Right: IPM Co-Founder Paul Strege, IPM Board Chair Flo Saeger, IPM Executive Director Joe Cistone, Award Recipient Paul Nelson, IPM Board Member Sammy Mayer, and Tim Nelson.



Friends of IPM, Chris Schulte and Leah Schulte. Leah is Project Coordinator of IPM Project Partner OUEST.

On a bright Sunday in early February, IPM hosted its 3rd Annual Donor Appreciation Brunch in St. Louis. Fifty of IPM's long-term friends in the area came together to enjoy a pleasant afternoon, hearing about recent immersion experiences to El Salvador, updates from IPM's international headquarters and witnessing the presentation of IPM's Special Donor Recognition Award, given to Paul Nelson. Paul recently established an unrestricted fund in his name to benefit the work of IPM and was honored for his commitment to IPM's mission. Paul commented, "I feel it is important to support IPM as a whole entity—that my donations go to support whatever the organization needs. I am confident that it will be put to good use because I know that the organization gets an incredible amount done with a small amount of resources."

2ND ANNUAL CHRIST EPISCOPAL TEA



Participants enjoy a lovely afternoon of partnership as they sip fair-trade tea and partake in some delicious treats.

For the second year, the incredible community of Christ Episcopal Church sponsored an Afternoon Tea to benefit the women of IPM Project Partner *Speranza II*: *Saying No to Prostitution, Yes to Life* (Castel Volturno, ITALY). *Speranza II* provides a safe haven and skills

training for African women rescued from trafficking for sexual exploitation. Christ Episcopal Church began partnering with *Speranza II* in 2005 and has facilitated a number of activities to raise funds and awareness for this critical programming. This year's event raised over \$1,800 for the work of *Speranza II*.

Guests enjoyed a variety of teas, coffees, sandwiches, and desserts while listening to a magnificent three-piece orchestra. They also enjoyed a floral demonstration, a raffle, and a display of IPM handcrafts. Jean Ann Sekerak, IPM's former Education & Outreach Coordinator, spoke about *Speranza II* and shared some updates about the project and human trafficking around the world. Thank you so much to Christ Episcopal for an absolutely wonderful event!

CONNECTIONS

UPDATE

5TH ANNUAL *Namaste!*



IPM Project Coordinator from the Kanyakumari Health Trust (Nagercoil, INDIA) Dr. Vimala Charles with Northeast Ohio Advisory Council Member Frances Post looking over the extensive silent auction items.

International Partners in Mission (IPM) is happy to announce another successful *Namaste! A Cultural Celebration*, which benefitted IPM's 64 community-based projects in 25 countries around the world.

This year's *Namaste!* was held at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Cleveland, Friday, April 27th from 6-10pm. Guests not only learned about IPM's Project Partners, but also enjoyed an evening full of international music, food, wine, and an extensive silent auction!

We thank you for your incredible support for this ever-growing, vibrant event!



Namaste Co-Chairs Clark Pope and Holly Henry with IPM Executive Director Joe Cistone



Jean & Chuck Bushley with Robin Ingram of Continental Airlines, Namaste! Event Sponsor

Photos courtesy of Chris Holley Starling Photography

NEW CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVE THROUGH THE END OF 2007: CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVERS

If you are age 70½ or older, new legislation now allows you to make charitable gifts directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). A special two-year IRA charitable rollover permits individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 in 2007 to charities like IPM.

NEW IPM Website!

IPM has launched a new and improved website! The new address is: www.ipmconnect.org. The new website features extensive project updates, new information on IPM, an updated list of Immersion Experiences, and much more!

How do I know if an IRA charitable rollover is right for me?

- You are at least age 70½, AND
- You do not need the additional income generated by the minimum required distribution, OR
- Your charitable gifts already equal 50% of your adjusted gross income, so you do not benefit from an income tax charitable deduction for additional gifts, OR
- You are subject to the 2% rule that reduces your itemized deductions, OR
- You do not itemize deductions.

How do I initiate an IRA charitable rollover?

Contact your IRA administrator. We can provide a sample letter of direction if you would like. Make sure that you also let IPM know when to expect your gift and how you would like it designated.

For more information, contact Laurel Domanski Diaz, IPM's Director of Resource Development at ldomanski@ipmconnect.org or +1.866.932.4082.

CONNECTIONS FOCUS: Youth

YOUTH PROJECT: *Fundación Aragon*, EL SALVADOR

As anyone who has visited the project on an Immersion Experience to El Salvador can tell you, *Fundación Aragon* (Zaragoza, EL SALVADOR) is doing truly amazing work in the El Zaité community of El Salvador. *Fundación Aragon* provides education, medical care, nutritional support, counseling, environmental awareness programs, and community service opportunities for the people of El Zaité. The project was founded by William Aragon, a Salvadoran who grew up in Belgium and returned to El Salvador after college to make a difference in the poverty-stricken neighborhood of a resource-poor country which he calls home. IPM provides support to San Martín de Porres, a school which William founded in El Zaité, which provides education to all the youth of the neighborhood, regardless of income level.

One aspect of *Fundación Aragon* which makes it so successful is its emphasis on community building. Every program the project undertakes is started because a member of the community has identified the need for it. Community members then receive the training and education needed to lead the initiative. One example of this is *El Valle del Tempisque*, a restaurant which is run by the mothers of the school children, and which provides financial support to the school.

While gang violence is a problem for the entire community of El Zaité, it is a particular issue



Students in a typical classroom at the school.



Fundación Aragon teacher Cessy with two of her students.

for the youth of the community. Gangs offer the youth a social network, and a feeling of inclusion and belonging in a community where resources are scarce and opportunities for the future are extremely limited. In order to combat this, *Fundación Aragon* works hard to provide education and opportunities for youth of El Zaité to see a future beyond the community and the violence that plagues it. For this reason, *Fundación Aragon* has begun to offer English classes to middle and high school youth in hopes that this language ability will be a skill that helps young people make positive choices and opportunities for education and employment.

Fundación Aragon has shown remarkable growth in the last few years, not only expanding the variety of school programs it has to offer, but also expanding in ways to keep the community involved. For William, it is crucial to not only provide students in the community with an education, but it is equally important to provide parents and families of the students opportunities too. Education does not only involve the students; it involves the entire community as they work together to build opportunities for everyone.

Project Coordinator: William Aragon

Project Goal: \$2,500

Project Location: Zaragoza, El Salvador

Project Focus: To provide education and basic social services to the community of El Zaité, using the leadership and knowledge of the community.

Indicators of Note:

- Youth violence in El Salvador dates back to the civil war of the 1980s, during which children as young as 10 and 11 were recruited to fight with government troops.
- The population of El Salvador is approximately 7 million, youth under age 18 make up more than 1/3 of the total population.

Project Action Steps:

- *Fundación Aragon* is working to form a Scout troop for the youth of the neighborhood as an alternative to gang membership.
- Through the generous support of IPM donors, *Fundación Aragon* is working to purchase land to expand the school and build a science lab for high school science classes.

How to Partner with this Project:

- Learn more about gang violence issues in El Salvador by contacting Sonya Dias in the IPM office at tel. +1.216.932.4082.
- Join IPM on an Immersion Experience to El Salvador! For more information, please contact Meagan Chuckran or Laurie Rodney at the IPM office at tel. +1.216.932.4082.
- Donate towards *Fundación Aragon's* \$2,500 goal.

Who's Who

Lindsay Wall MSASS Field Placement Student

Lindsay Wall graduated in May with her master's degree in social work and nonprofit management at Case Western Reserve

www.ipmconnect.org

University. Lindsay moved to Cleveland in 2004 after college to work with inner-city youth through an Americorps program. At IPM, she works with Sonya Dias in helping manage communication and administration of IPM's 60+ projects. Her favorite IPM experience has been traveling to El Salvador with a group of students and IPM supporters in December and

meeting the project participants she came to know through emails. Since graduation, Lindsay has moved her career to Chicago to work with youth and community development.



Lindsay Wall

CONNECTIONS FOCUS: Youth

YOUTH PROJECT: *Shining Scholars*, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

In September 2006, the Boot Heel region of Missouri faced a flood that devastated much of the housing in the neighborhood. Several families were evicted from their homes, and currently much of the housing is still sitting empty, covered with mold.

Out of such an unexpected tragedy, it is incredible to see how the community comes together to rebuild their lives. The thirty 7th and 8th grade youth involved in the *Shining Scholars* program have taken an active interest in being part of this effort. Recently, the *Shining Scholars* have been focusing on providing service in response to the devastating floods of September 2006. At the time of the flooding, the youth helped evacuate people from flooded areas. Following the flood, the youth have been helping clean up homes and yards which have been scattered with debris, as well as helping pack food boxes to distribute to needy members of the community.

Community service is not new to this group of motivated youth. In fact, the *Shining Scholars* meet once a month to participate in community service projects. The leaders of the program also work to bring in speakers to educate the youth about job skills and interviewing techniques, job searches, and basic computer techniques.

With spring coming, John Terry (head of DELMO Housing Corporation, which facilitates the *Shining Scholars* program) is working to prepare the gardens for the youth to plant, grow and harvest their own vegetables. The *Shining Scholars* have been running community gardens for years. According to Janelle, a volunteer with the program, being outside and working with the earth is one of their favorite things to do.



Volunteers for DELMO work on rehabilitating a home in the Boot Heel community.

Janelle also recently told us that the biggest issue facing the youth of the neighborhood is a lack of educational opportunity after high school. Most of the *Shining Scholars* come from low-income families and money for college is not available. Substance abuse is also an issue among many adults (and consequently, youth) of the community, and many of the *Shining Scholars* come from families which struggle with alcohol and drug addictions.

With a vibrant program already in place, *Shining Scholars* is continuing to envision a broader future. They would love to set up some youth-run cooperatives in which DELMO could pay the young people to work in the community gardens and run a thrift store. Also, the organization is looking for a donation of 3 computers in order to start a youth mentoring and literacy program, in which teenagers in the *Shining Scholars* program would serve as mentors and teachers to elementary aged children in the community.

One of the many homes in the Boot Heel community after the devastating weather of September, 2006.

Project Coordinator: John Terry

Project Goal: \$4,000

Project Location: Boot Heel, MO, USA

Project Focus: To provide financial support, guidance counseling, and community service opportunities to middle and high school age youth of the Boot Heel region of Missouri.

Indicators of Note:

- The Boot Heel region of Missouri is located in the southeast corner of the state, at the northernmost point of the Mississippi delta.
- At least 25% of people who live in the Boot Heel of MO live below the poverty line.

Project Action Steps:

- As a result of a devastating flood in the region in September 2006, the *Shining Scholars* have spent time cleaning up debris and helping community members relocate to new homes.
- The *Shining Scholars* are looking forward to spring to spend time preparing community gardens.

How to Partner with this Project:

- Learn more about economic issues in the Boot Heel of Missouri by contacting Sonya Dias in the IPM office at tel. +1.216.932.4082.
- Donate towards the *Shining Scholars'* \$4,000 goal.



Young scholars learn to fill out job applications.

CONNECTIONS FOCUS: Youth

YOUTH PROJECT: *Project Lakota*, Ogala, South Dakota, USA



Members work together to build the house.

Project Lakota has been busy working engaging Lakota youth to work with construction professionals in repairing homes for Lakota families. This year, five youth worked to repair two families' homes that had been damaged by fire and strong storms. In order to do the home repairs, *Project Lakota* works in collaboration with other organizations in the community, such as Habitat for Humanity and Partnership for Housing.

One of the youth, Fileman Para-Munoz, had been working as an apprentice under Lyle Wilson, who was the head carpenter and leads the youth in the home repair. Recently, Fileman was able to get a full-time construction job in North Platte, thanks to the training and education he received from Lyle.

This winter and spring, the project has been focused on fundraising and hopes to help build a Habitat for Humanity home this summer, but still needs to raise \$15,000.

The project has been hit hard by federal budget cuts, but the need for affordable, warm, dry housing for Lakota families is greater than ever, as an estimated 14 to 17 family members live together in one dwelling due to a lack of adequate housing. Unfortunately, Partnership for Housing (one of *Project Lakota's* collaborative partners) has stopped providing materials and supplies, due to federal budget cuts.

Still, *Project Lakota* continues with its strong commitment to providing opportunities for youth to become active in their communities. Whether they are constructing homes or learning the art of quilt-making with Lakota designs, they continue to build their futures together.



Candy Boyd, Ellen Daranowski, and Chante work on the house.

Project Coordinator: Candy Boyd

Project Goal: \$2,500

Project Location: Ogala, SD, USA

Project Focus: Addresses housing problems on the Pine Ridge Reservation by purchasing supplies for homebuilding and organizing volunteer construction efforts with Lakota youth.

Indicators of Note:

- Pine Ridge reservation is located on 2 million acres of land in southwestern South Dakota and is home to more than 20,000 members of the Ogala Lakota tribe.
- The unemployment rate on the reservation is 83%.

Project Action Steps:

- *Project Lakota* is actively pursuing fundraising opportunities, one of which is making quilts to sell using traditional Lakota quilt designs.
- *Project Lakota* has recently completed home repairs for two Lakota families.

How to Partner with this Project:

- Learn more about socio-economic issues in the Pine Ridge Reservation by contacting Sonya Dias in the IPM office at tel. +1.216.932.4082.
- Donate towards *Project Lakota's* \$2,500 goal.

Additional Youth Project Partners

EL SALVADOR (Puerto de La Libertad)

Artistic and Cultural Development Center works to provide cultural education and opportunities for the community of *Puerto de la Libertad*.

KENYA (Kajiado)

Bride Rescue Project rescues young girls from forced early marriages and harmful cultural practices.

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NICARAGUA (Managua)

Teen Night School provides remedial education for young adults who must work during the day to support their families.

USA (Fort Washakie, WY)

Eastern Shoshone Youth conducts peer tutoring, community discussions, and summer outdoor retreats on the Wind

River Reservation.
USA

(St. Louis, MO)

Youth Enrichment Program provides year-round educational programs and activities for youth on the academic sidelines in connection with CWAH (Community Women Against Hardship).



INTO

AFRICA by Karen Keating McCann

Who journeys outside, dreams. Who journeys inward, awakens.

—C.J. Jung

“Oh, and watch out for leopards,” IPM Executive Director Joe Cistone mentioned casually, as we jolted over the rutted road to Unyolo Village in Kenya. “They like to lie up in the trees and drop down on people walking under them.”

At the time I was slathering on DEET-laden insecticide, feeling like the Israelites marking their houses with blood so the angel of death would pass them by. I had never been to Africa before, and although I had done a fair amount of reading recently, most of my mental images sprang from old movies, in which intrepid explorers in pith helmets were constantly being attacked by everything from venomous spiders to rogue elephants.

So far we had seen lions munching on wildebeest, giraffes grazing beside the freeway, elephants roaming the Great Rift Valley, zebras considering crossing a river near herds of hippos and a few watchful crocodiles, and all sorts of other animals, mostly viewed from the safety of our van. We had yet to be attacked by anything fiercer than a mosquito. Of course, African mosquitoes are nothing to trifle with; among other things, they can carry malaria, which kills a million children a year here, especially in poor rural areas, like the one we would be visiting.

Unyolo Village lies in western Kenya, near Lake Victoria, the legendary source of the Nile, in the very region where the AIDS epidemic is said to have begun a quarter of a century ago. Today there are 2.5 million Kenyans with full-blown AIDS, and nearly a million of Kenya's children have been orphaned by the disease. Drought has ravaged the land, making subsistence farming more tenuous than ever. It seems the only thing Kenya has in abundance these days is catastrophe.



Karen Keating McCann leading a Technical Assistance program in Unyolo Village.

So what can any of us do, in the face of such overwhelming tragedy?

You help in whatever small ways you can; in my case, that often turns out to be lending a hand with one of IPM's project partners. My husband, Rich, and I have retired from business life to southern Spain, and from time to time, just as our lives are in danger of becoming too comfortable or too predictable, Joe starts mentioning that one or another of his projects could use some help. The next thing we know, we are off to Bosnia, El Salvador, Mexico... or in this case, Kenya. Our work generally involves spending time with a micro-enterprise or tiny cooperative to find ways to make it more organized, profitable and sustainable.

In El Salvador, for example, we worked with a women's sewing cooperative that was struggling with some organizational issues. As is so often the case, they knew what needed to be done, and all we did was offer a method for getting their solutions out on the table. We had a great time there, working days in a small shop in a sleepy town, riding back to our guesthouse at sunset in the back of a pickup truck. Joe had an immersion tour group in country at the time, and one day we went with them to visit a Jesuit priest.

Somebody asked him, “We've been hearing so much about the problems and the injustices here. What can we *do*?”

“The best thing you can do,” the priest said, “is to come here, get to know this place, and let it break your heart. Then take that broken heart back to your own country and tell people about it.”

“That's it?” said someone else.

The priest smiled. “It's a lot easier to dig a well or paint a school. Then you feel like the problem is solved and you can go home and forget about it. The harder thing is to help your country become a better neighbor to this one. That begins with getting to know us. And that means breaking your heart.”



Students from the Unyolo Village Improvement Project eat their lunch outside.

It's not hard to get your heart broken in El Salvador—or, for that matter, in Africa. In Africa, or at least the parts of Kenya we saw, tragedy is everywhere—in the polio victims dragging themselves around the floor of the convent school, in the 12-year-old girls forced into circumcision and marriage to old men in exchange for cattle, in the swollen bellies of kids who cannot remember a life without parasites or hunger.

Yet somehow people carry on. Despite their hardships, the villagers of Unyolo were wonderful to us, treating us like long-lost members of the family. Children followed us around the village, grinning shyly, touching our clothes and our hands, trying out the English they had learned in school.

“How are you?” they cried, daring each other to get closer to these exotic strangers. “I'm fine, how are you?”

And they *were* fine—in the sense that they were enjoying the diversion, had been fed a hearty lunch, and no one had been eaten by a leopard. But probably half of them are HIV positive, although without medical care available in the village, they haven't been diagnosed, which means they are not eligible for the free drug programs. An equal number of the kids have malaria, and I saw at least one raging case of chicken pox. They were all skinny, having little to eat besides the morning porridge and hot lunch of beans and rice provided at the nursery school. Their life expectancy is 49 years.

Looking at their bright eyes and mischievous grins, and thinking about the kinds of lives these children would probably lead, made my chest hurt. Jesus said, “Whatever you do to the least of these my brethren, you do unto me.” Well, you don't get much more “least” than these kids. Living in an area that is remote and impoverished even by Kenyan standards, having endured years of drought and decades

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MY FAITH

MY JOURNEY SARAH SHICK

In so many ways, I have been preparing to work with International Partners in Mission for my entire life. I was raised by socially active hippie parents and beatnik grandparents who skipped the traditional children's music and played us the powerful folk and rock and roll songs that were instrumental in encouraging the changes of 50s, 60s, and 70s. We were always taught that we hold a responsibility to the world around us to uphold love, justice, education and respect for all sharing this earth.

Growing up in America is not always conducive to knowing how to help the rest of the world. So much of our lives are pre-packaged and handed to us that we don't know where to start to help. We have been jaded by stories of corrupt charities and governments, and so we sit and wait for "the right thing" to come to us. Most of you reading this have found at least one "right thing" to devote yourself to, but if you look around at your friends, co-workers, family and neighbors many of them are still waiting to get involved. Seeing so much inaction had really made me question my faith in humanity at times, but those doubts were answered when I came into the IPM family.

I was hired at IPM in the summer of 2005 (thrilled to finally have the chance to make a difference for women and children around the world), but two weeks before my start date I

had a horrible accident that left me disabled. I was truly amazed when the staff sent flowers and offered to hold a space for me. Though my injuries were too severe to work at that time, I really got to look into the hearts of those who run this place. Yes, these people are running and organizing programs that actually help and give hope to those in need. Beyond that, though, they are some of the most inspired and loving people you could ever wish to cross paths with. They are full of a very beautiful and pure human energy that drives them to smile, laugh, and cry with every person they help. Who knew that a small handful of people could restore my faith in humanity through their actions and love?

There is very little else in the world that I believe in as much as the work being done by International Partners in Mission. So now I volunteer my time and my love, and I do



Sarah Shick

everything I can to spread the word about these people who have touched me so deeply. The staff here has helped me to know that making a difference is entirely possible for all of us. For one person, it is a donation check or stuffing envelopes, for another it's a trip to Kenya, or for yet another, it's going to work for a while at a project site. For me, I tell everyone I meet about the amazing Joe and his phenomenal team changing the world...

INTO AFRICA *(continued)*

of pestilence, the villagers of Unyolo could teach Job a thing or two about suffering.

I wondered when God was going to stop testing these people and give them a break. And then I realized God already had: God had sent them Joe, and IPM, and us.

When the welcoming festivities finally died down, Rich and I got busy learning about the village and its projects, doing one-on-one interviews with the principals, visiting the school and work sites, asking everyone about the community and what it needed. We started drafting plans to help the village get more financially self-sufficient.

The day before we left the village, we were asked to attend the wake of a woman who

had died in the night of complications following a miscarriage. She was laid out on the dirt floor of her mud hut, placed tenderly on banana leaves dusted with sand and water to help keep the body cool. When things had started to go wrong with her pregnancy, she had received some medical attention, but too little, too late, too ineffective. Like most people in Africa, she wore her bank account on her bones; she was so thin that beneath her shroud she looked like a bundle of sticks. I couldn't help but think of the last time I had stood beside my mother's body, wasted to nothing from the cancer, wrapped like this woman in a white sheet, surround like this woman by her family. I recognized one of her daughters-in-law as the woman in the grass skirt I'd danced with our first day there.

That was the day I realized that Africa had broken my heart. I could no longer look at the people around me and keep my distance. They were not *like* my family, they *were* my family. They always had been, of course, I just wasn't seeing it. I had been blinded by my cultural perspective of people as inherently separate, isolated, different. Now I was seeing with new eyes that we are as alike, as co-joined, as branches of the same vine. And whatever happens to the least part, happens to us all.

Which is why, when Joe casually mentioned the other day that there's an IPM project in India that might need our help, I knew there would be another trip in my future. Because if I learned anything in Africa, it's that when we go on these missions, God is not sending us there to help them, God is sending us there so they can help us.

The Journey of a Lifetime:

IPM'S IMMERSION EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Now in its fifth year, IPM's Immersion Experience Program provides opportunities for both adults and students to understand better the realities of poverty and injustice around the world—crossing boundaries of faith, culture, and economic privilege.

Immersed by Chris Henry

My first immersion trip with IPM was to Nicaragua in 2003. While I had been through an orientation, nothing prepared me for the way the experience would leave an indelible mark on my mind and in my soul. There are stunning beaches, incredible sizzling volcanoes, and vast cultural treasures. There is talk that Nicaragua is “the next Costa Rica.” Nevertheless, it is still the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, after Haiti. The first largest source of income is remittances to residents from relatives living in other countries; the second is foreign aid. Hundreds of thousands of families live in makeshift shelters, or in crowded neighborhoods of barely standing wooden shacks with corrugated tin roofs—no consistent food source, no electricity or running water. Nearly half the population is un- or underemployed. When our bus would come to a traffic stop, we’d be surrounded by little kids trying to sell us candy and trinkets through the windows. It was at once overwhelming and fascinating.

Then I went to Kenya, where we visited the school where would-be child brides can find refuge, and a public school with three toilets for 900 kids. We stood in a tribal hut made of cow dung on the Maasai plains, and then in the thatched-roof hut of a family in Unyolo that was mourning the death of a baby. We stepped over open sewage in a Nairobi slum so our hosts could proudly show us their chicken projects tucked in between crowded living quarters. These experiences were contrasted by the vast, powerful beauty of the Great Rift Valley, the hundreds of thousands of flamingoes at Lake Nakuru, the hippos languishing in the river bend, and the unforgettable experience of being up close and personal with a leopard and her cub.

Then I went to El Salvador. In spite of government corruption and repression, the legacy of the civil war of the 1980s and its

martyrs still shapes the values and passion of so many. They quietly yet persistently carry on their faithful journey towards true freedom. Amidst the poverty of small villages and the challenges of just daily living, beautiful embroidery and handcrafts emerge as women work together to better themselves and their families. We were there at Christmas time, and the children of the women of *Mujer y Comunidad* donned wonderfully colorful costumes to present a nativity play and colorful traditional dances for us.

Finally, this past October, I went to India, where 1.2 billion people in a country that is 1/3 the size of the U.S. compete for food, jobs, education, and personal space. There seems no escaping the entire families sleeping under bridges, the open sewage, the beggars, the effects of the caste system, the non-stop honking (or mooing, or braying) of every possible type of transportation



in streets with no traffic lights or stop signs. That is, until you take in the beauty of the beautiful saris of every imaginable color, or until you get to the place where the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal all meet, and you stop a minute to contemplate all this in the beautiful Hindu temple that welcomes you there.

What I experiences in these countries was an enormity of contrasts that were an assault to every one of my senses. The sights, sounds, smells, feel, and taste of each is so powerful and distinguishable. But what I really internalized was the people. It is the people who have lodged themselves in my soul. In all four countries—deep dark skin, beautiful black hair; wonderfully expressive brown eyes; warm, open hearts. So gracious, so welcoming, so eager to share with us—it was almost embarrassing to know they had spent hours preparing extensive meals and practicing traditional dances for our benefit.

One of the IPM projects in Nicaragua is a group of women who make natural medicines from scratch, and uses them as part of their rural health outreach to families. To get to them, our bus had to travel several miles on a narrow, rough, uncomfortable road that had once been

continued on p. 12

Journey to Kenya by Allie Waanders

If someone were to walk up to me today and ask me, “what is the most valuable thing you have ever done in your entire life,” I would, without hesitation, reply, “travel to Kenya.”

My experiences in Kenya were unlike any I have ever encountered before. There is something about that country, something about those people that is so inexplicably amazing.

The first day we were in Kenya our group traveled to Kajjado, an all-girls boarding school that serves to rescue young women from forced marriages and devastating cultural practices. Although our time there was short, maybe just an hour or two, it left a lasting impression that will be with me for the rest of my life.

As each member of my group introduced themselves and announced where they were going to college and what they were studying the girls at Kajjado promptly gasped and clapped. Their happiness filled the room from corner to corner. At first I laughed. It wasn't until later that I realized what had happened that afternoon. Those girls only dreamed of going to university, in fact it was highly unlikely that they would get there. The girls were not only amazed that we were going to college but they were proud of us too. They are a true example of the spirit of Kenya that welcomed



spirit that fills your soul when you speak to any Kenyan.

Each individual you meet there radiates with love and tenderness. I can remember the shock I went through as we sat down to dinner that first night we stayed in Unyolo village. These people who often had nothing to eat themselves had cooked probably all the food they had to serve us dinner. Where does that love come from? How can these people give all they have to some random strangers?

On the last day of our trip we traveled to Dandora, the second largest slum in Nairobi,

and home to more than half a million people. There we visited an AIDS orphanage. I can't even begin to explain the whole range of emotions I experienced while sitting with the children there. After we were welcomed we went on a walk through the slum. We climbed to the top of a vacant building to get a better view of the landfill that supports Dandora. As we stood atop that building and gazed down into the never-ending quantity of garbage the stench rose to meet our noses. We witnessed men and women standing in the middle of the dump going through the trash to find food and maybe something nice to sell for a profit. The whole situation was strangely unbelievable to me. I mean despite the fact that I was standing right in front of it, I still had to imagine the pain and poverty that devastated this community.

I am still realizing today what this experience has brought to my life. The trip to Kenya has moved in me a spirit of compassion. Now I seek to help out the poor and vulnerable, I strive to take advantage of my education, and I work to uplift the suffering in my midst. My trip to Kenya was truly an eye-opening journey and not a day goes by that I don't think of the people I met there. Kenya has changed my life forever.

IMMERSED (continued)

a river bed. Yet, when we arrived, we found out that the woman had spent two days laying branches and brush in the gaping holes in the road to make our travel easier. We spent a wonderful afternoon talking with them, hearing about their project's successes and challenges, and all of us sharing our hopes and dreams about reaching out and helping others. It was like that with each group, in each country.

An odd thing that stands out in my mind about all four countries. Everywhere we went, in crowded cities or rural villages, there is laundry hanging on the lines—strung between trees, or from building to building. It symbolizes to me women's work—the desire, expectation and obligation of women to keep house and care for their families. It says that even the

poorest people in the poorest areas of the world want to be clean. The colorful garments hanging on the lines seem to say “we are here, going about the business of working, playing, and taking care of one another.” It's a universal symbol.

Webster's defines immerse as “to involve profoundly.” Such is an IPM Immersion Experience. These trips are not for the faint-hearted—what you experience can be rough at times. And one does not go on these trips to build a well or rock babies at an orphanage. You go to learn, to become absorbed in another's culture and heritage, to experience the human condition from another perspective. And you find along the way that we are indeed very different. Yet we share so much—the same

moon and sun, the same high hopes and broken dreams, the same tragedies and miracles, the same responsibilities of being mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Through the intimate time that you spend with IPM Project Partners, you find that we are all in this life together, at this time, in this space. You return humbled by the gifts these beautiful people have offered, and especially good that you are able to graciously receive them. You return eager to feel more, seek more, do more. You return a bigger, better person, with a true understanding that we are all members of the community of God.

The Eyes of India

by Elizabeth Martin



Liz Martin of Talkeetna, Alaska, with some new friends in India.

Her face held a pain I've seen look back at me before, and the eyes of the unbelievably resilient peered through every window and doorway and along every alley inhabited beyond capacity and you'd be hard pressed to find a Hindi word for 'materialistic' among the mats for beds and long simple braids of unassumingly beautiful hair...

Thousands of silver minnows dry beneath the sun as we walk in foot-wide paths through the fish to the edge of the water where the men repair their nets and account for the hours spent in wooden fishing boats beneath the beating heat in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The stench becomes irrelevant as we look from house to house, windows full of faces, noticing the

plaques on the doorways never forgetting to give credit to the organization that built the barren structures. How many meals must be cooked in a house before it smells like a home?

I had no gifts, just empty handed. Making room, I suppose, for the countless observations and the flood of emotions accompanying the

sheer fact of standing in India. The sun shone and the echo of foreign tongues further thickened the air along the shore and it's impossible to imagine what it feels like to survive a tsunami and still remember to wash your clothes, clean your floor, and teach your children to pray with gratitude. Peace is humble and ever humbling, and endurance may very well be the most important human quality...

The conspicuous nature of our appearance at least helped to equalize the voyeuristic guilt a traveler can often experience. Everyone has their turn to be a spectacle as well as a fly on the wall. But there is no down time in India—no unused space. Hard to imagine that over a billion people all come with a name and a life and a story. I didn't really get many answers. Instead, the questions now seem infinite. But the curiosity makes me feel alive and reminds me of the overwhelming expanse of human existence. It's a feeling, really, that can spin out of control, leaving a single human being to feel helpless in terms of greater change.

But there was a house in the hills beyond Nagercoil, and when the rain poured down a hand reached through the doorway, welcoming strangers for a cup of tea. What had seemed abandoned slowly filled with faces peeking around corners and out from behind the sari's of quiet mothers. At first it resembled a cellar, but soon proved it lodged a family, reared children. The darkness revealed the white of teeth as smiles observed the rain and the eyes of India cast proud, loving glances. It was then I realized that small gestures truly are strong enough to cross international waters, and that it is impossible for a broadened horizon to retract to its previous state.



Reflection on Italy

by Alice Hinkel



Alice Hinkel, in front with white cardigan, with fellow Italy Immersion Experience Participants at IPM Project Partner Speranza II in Castel Volturno, ITALY. The delegation went to Italy in April 2007 as part of a collaboration between the Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies and IPM.

When I'm asked what the high point of our recent trip to Italy was, I'm hard-pressed to name just one thing. We were immersed in the beauty of the Amalfi coast, fed an abundance of delicious food, surrounded by exquisite works of art, and greeted by warm and generous people throughout our stay.

Our Scriptural focus for our journey was the last judgment scene from Matthew's Gospel... "Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty or a stranger, or naked, or ill, or imprisoned...?" That Scripture came to life in much of the artwork of Caravaggio, Michelangelo, and Bernini. It was also evident in two of the IPM projects we had the blessing

to experience firsthand. While in Naples we had lunch with IPM Project Partner *Speranza II*, which is facilitated by a community of Sacred Heart religious who work with young women being rescued from sex trade slavery. In Assisi, we had a conversation with Peter Onyango who is working with people from his homeland in Africa to improve their economic situation and to combat HIV/AIDS (IPM Project Partner *Unyolo Village Improvement Project*). In a paradoxical way, all of our encounters revealed both the joy and suffering of humanity and deepened my appreciation for the mysterious and wonderful action of God's grace in our midst.

Join Us on an Upcoming Immersion Experience:

October 6-14, 2007—Italy

Spend a week with IPM Executive Director, Joe Cistone, from Cleveland, getting to know a side of Italy that is not typically seen on traditional tours. From gathering with international NGO leaders to meeting a community of sisters who are working to stop human trafficking, you will see first-hand the many ways poverty is addressed in the world.

November 30-December 10, 2007—India

Travel with IPM and see firsthand the redevelopment efforts happening on the devastated beaches that were hit by the tsunami in 2004. You will also visit other historic sites in Southeast India and in the northern city of Ahmedabad.



December 3-11, 2007—Tanzania

From exploring the Serengeti Plains to learning from a community of women who work to increase agricultural initiatives in Arusha, this opportunity will give you the chance to discover Tanzania with a unique lens. You will also visit the sights in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam.

For more information on these Immersion Experiences or upcoming Immersion Experiences in 2008, please contact Meagan Chuckran at tel. +1.216.932.4082 or mchuckran@ipmconnect.org.



2007 PROJECT PARTNERS

DIRECT SUPPORT

Where Needed Most provides unrestricted funds to IPM.

Services and Programs of the IPM Office provides IPM staff with technical assistance and education.

Emergency Needs Around the World enables IPM to provide rapid response in emergency situations.

The Indigenous Leadership Program provides technical assistance to Project Partners through local IPM staff.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN GENERAL FUND

Donations to this category support the personal, physical and spiritual development of children throughout the world.

CHINA (Anhui Province)

The **Back to School** program allows children from impoverished Chinese families to attend school. Project Goal: \$3,000

COLOMBIA (Ibagué)

Niños Trabajadores (Working Children) provides an alternative to violence and drug abuse for children who work in the marketplace. Project Goal: \$2,500

EL SALVADOR (Zaragoza)

Lidia Coggiola promotes the character and well-being of the community's children through creative workshops, activities and scholarship opportunities. Project Goal: \$2,500

KENYA (Machakos)

Kandula Village Project seeks to address development issues in their community around water, sanitation and child education in Kandula village. This project is located in the district of Makueni. Project Goal: \$2,500

KENYA (Nakuru)

Josera Street Children Project provides intervention to street children in an effort to improve their well-being. The project protects these vulnerable children from the dangers they face while living in the streets, the project will seek to provide their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Project Goal: \$2,500

KENYA (Unyolo Village)

The **Unyolo Village Project** works with children orphaned by HIV/AIDS promoting village-based, income-generating programs supporting the children's holistic development. Project Goal: \$4,200

LEBANON (Beirut)

ASTUHA (Association des Tuteurs des Handicapés) helps children with disabilities, especially autism and cerebral palsy, reach physical and occupational autonomy. Project Goal: \$3,000

MALAWI (Blantyre)

Project Peanut Butter uses fortified peanut butter to treat children suffering from chronic malnutrition. Project Goal: \$3,000

USA (Cleveland, OH)

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cleveland is a collaborative effort of congregations to provide shelter, meals and support to homeless families. Project Goal: \$4,000

YOUTH

YOUTH GENERAL FUND

Donations to this category support the personal, physical and spiritual development of young people throughout the world.

EL SALVADOR (Puerto de La Libertad)

Artistic and Cultural Development Center works to provide cultural education and opportunities for the community of Puerto de la Libertad. Project Goal: \$2,500

EL SALVADOR (Zaragoza)

Fundación Aragon promotes comprehensive education among youth whose families are involved in gangs. This program also allows the youth to eat three full meals a day. Project Goal: \$2,500

KENYA (Kajaido)

Bride Rescue Project rescues young girls from forced early marriages and harmful cultural practices. Project Goal: \$2,500

NICARAGUA (Managua)

Teen Night School provides remedial education for young adults who must work days to support their families. Project Goal: \$10,000

WOMEN

WOMEN GENERAL FUND

IPM supports projects devised by women to address their unique needs and to ensure their personal dignity.

BOLIVIA (Tarija)

Centro de Estudios Regionales para el Desarrollo de Tarija (CER-DET) helps the native Guarani through arts and crafts production, preparation of traditional medicine, and participation in sociopolitical life of Bolivia. Project Goal: \$4,000

COLOMBIA (Ibagué)

Women's Community Project provides micro-enterprise opportunities for low-income mothers of Ibagué. Project Goal: \$2,500

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (Hondo Valle)

El Cercado mobilizes the community and works on health and sanitation projects. Project Goal: \$3,000

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (El Cercado)

The women of **Women's Nutritional Program** produce nutritional products to be readily available to low-income or undernourished community members. Project Goal: \$2,500

EL SALVADOR (Armenia)

FUSAMIDJ is a holistic developmental program for women named in honor of the four martyred U.S. churchwomen. Project Goal: \$2,500

EL SALVADOR (Zaragoza)

Mujer y Comunidad focuses on improving their community through the creation of handicrafts such as sewing and embroidery, folklore traditions, and native dance. Project Goal: \$5,500

EL SALVADOR (San Salvador)

Programa de Soya San Ramon provides low-income families with soy products to supplement their daily nutrition. Project Goal: \$5,000

INDIA (Ahmadabad)

HUM provides micro-enterprise opportunities to women, focusing on building interfaith relationships. Project Goal: \$2,500

INDIA (Nagercoil)

Mary Jenkins Hospice Center provides treatment and loving care for the terminally ill. Project Goal: \$5,000

INDIA (Nagercoil)

Low income women in Nagercoil receive nurse training and computer skill training through **Women's Community Project**. Project Goal: \$5,000

UGANDA (Gulu)

St. Monica's Tailoring Co-op provides sustainable income for young women who have been victims of political violence in northern Uganda. Project Goal: \$5,000

USA (Fort Washakie, WY)

Eastern Shoshone Youth conducts peer tutoring, community discussions and summer outdoor retreats on the Wind River Reservation. Project Goal: \$4,500

USA (Missouri Boot Heel, MO)

Shining Scholars program provides rural students a \$30 monthly stipend as an incentive to stay in school. Project Goal: \$4,000

USA (Ogala, SD)

Project Lakota addresses the significant housing problem for the Lakota people living on the Pine Ridge Reservation by purchasing building supplies and organizing volunteers. Project Goal: \$2,500

USA (St. Louis, MO)

Youth Enrichment Program provides year-round educational programs and activities for youth on the academic sidelines in connection with CWAH (Community Women Against Hardship). Project Goal: \$2,500

INDIA (Vaniyakudy)

Women's Community Project provides yearlong courses in computer training and nursing for young women. Project Goal: \$2,500

ISRAEL (Jerusalem)

The Peace Center for the Blind teaches non-sighted and visually handicapped Palestinian women skills and self-reliance. Project Goal: \$6,500

ITALY (Castel Volturno)

Speranza II: Saying No to Prostitution, Yes to Life provides a safe haven and skills training for African women rescued from trafficking for sexual exploitation. Project Goal: \$5,000

KENYA (Dandora)

Dandora Women's Forum coordinates income-generating activities for its members. It also promotes gender equality through training and legal counseling. Project Goal: \$2,000

KENYA (Unyolo Village)

Riete Agricultural Training provides training in sustainable agriculture for low income families and individuals of Unyolo. Project Goal: \$2,500

NEPAL (Golphubhanjyang)

OUEST supports several local project partners involved in education, agro-forestry, health care, women's issues and the environment. Project Goal: \$7,000

NICARAGUA (Managua)

CEPROSI (Salud Comunitaria con Medicina Natural y Nutricion) works to improve the nutrition and health of the community and to develop sustainable economic opportunities. Project Goal: \$2,500

NICARAGUA (San Francisco Libre)

Mujer y Comunidad trains women in six villages to be health promoters, reducing leprosy and the effects of poverty. Project Goal: \$5,000

PANAMA (Chiriqui Province)

Ngobé Outreach empowers women in health care, nutrition and food production. Project Goal: \$3,000

TANZANIA (Arusha)

Zinduka Women's Center aims to bring the best out of women and to make them self-reliant through Self Help Groups. Through individual savings, internal loans, and vocational training, the women can improve their standard of living. Project Goal: \$2,500

USA (Cleveland, OH)

Esperanza Threads is an organic clothing cooperative emphasizing fair wages for workers from the field to final product. Project Goal: \$2,500

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN MISSION (IPM)

is the successor organization to Partners in Mission, founded by Lutheran missionaries Jim Mayer, Paul Strege and others in 1974.

IPM works across borders of faith and culture on behalf of children, women, and youth to create partnerships that build justice, peace, and hope.

Join us as we work to provide a sustainable, effective and personal way to participate in projects promoting justice, peace and hope around the world.



Connections

A PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN MISSION

Connections shares experiences and stories about people of faith working in partnerships to promote change. **Connections** is mailed to 6,000 donors and friends worldwide. If you are interested in receiving **Connections** or would like us to add a friend, family member, congregation or organization to our mailing list, please contact us at INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN MISSION, 3091 Mayfield Road, Suite 320, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, USA, telephone +1.216.932.4082, or via email at ldomanski@ipmconnect.org.

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