

Annual Mission Report for 2009
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Again this year, I begin the annual report with the definition of "mission:"

Mission: According to Webster: A ministry whose function is to carry on humanitarian work.

According to Jesus: Treat others the way I want to be treated!

We as individuals and collectively as a congregation have participated on so many levels and in so many creative ways in our mission here at Grace! In our own community we have given our time and energy through volunteering at Breadbasket, Service Organizations, City Government, Book Group, Ministerial Christmas Baskets, Elliot Dinner, Special Olympics, our local public schools, Senior Center, Choral Society, Frazier Farmstead, Open Table . . . These are just a few of the many activities over this past year, in which we have given back to our community a tiny piece of the gift of life that God has given to us.

With our financial resources, we have continued to generously support Presbyterian Mission Projects locally, nationally, and internationally.

Locally we gave over \$2,500 to support:

- * Church family members who have had special needs
- * Vacation Bible School Scholarships
- * Christian Aid Center which purchased playground equipment with our Sunday School Offerings
- * Breadbasket Donations
- * School supplies for our local elementary kids
- * Ministerial Association Christmas Baskets
- * Mission projects by our Presbyterian Women's Organization
- * Open Table meals at the Methodist Church

Regionally over \$3000 to Synod and Presbytery:

Nationally and Internationally, we have given over \$3000 for:

- * our Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering to support mission efforts throughout the world
- * One Great Hour of Sharing which is distributed throughout the world to help disaster victims, refugees of war-torn areas, and community development
- * Christmas Joy Offering, which helps people who have dedicated their lives to the church as well as ethnic minority students to attend schools designed to help them to bring skills and leadership back to their own communities
- * Ceifer Project which helps people around the world to feed themselves
- * Vitamins to Mexico project
- * Theological Seminary Fund
- * Unicef

Our total reported financial contributions for Mission Projects in 2009 was \$8,520!

As I look ahead to this coming year 2010, and to the changing needs of our own congregation, my dreams for Grace include a more formalized mission of local visitation or check-in with those in our church family who find it either difficult or impossible to get to church. I am hoping to share more about this with you in our upcoming "Minutes for Mission." What a privilege to be a part of this congregation. Jesus gave us the example of how to live our lives in service to our fellow man and to our God. Thanks be to us all for the multitude of ways that we have lived our lives this past year as Jesus taught us. And may we be filled with courage and strength in this new year to look to Jesus as our model, to find creative, fun, helpful, generous ways to live our lives as He taught us!