

ANNUAL REPORT ON MISSIONS Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Being the presence of Christ to others through intentional acts; purposefully looking for ways to serve and meet needs.

This was another year full of missions opportunities. The Missions Committee provides the following summary of mission activities and thanks everyone who participated in any way to making each event successful. Volunteering your time and being faithful with your giving enabled each and every one of these projects. The Committee wishes to also take this opportunity to especially thank Ellen Tucker for her leadership over the past two years as Chairwoman of the Committee. Her dedication and heart for the underprivileged were inspirational to those who served with her. She was truly a 'working Chair', not only guiding missions activities, but working in almost every one of them.

The Committee chose 'Local Hunger' as the missions focus in 2009. Many of the following events were centered around food and fellowship:

State-wide Homeless Survey – In January, Trinity participated in the County-wide survey to determine the number of homeless or marginal individuals, families and children in our area. We prepared 50 gallon zip-lock bags filled with items for children for the surveyors to leave with families as they gathered data. The AWANA kids took all the items and filled each bag as a mission project. The information reported approximately 200 men, women and children considered homeless in Colquitt County.

"We Love Our Community" Luncheon – A luncheon given annually in the Church Fellowship Hall to recognize and show our appreciation to those who contribute significantly to the quality of life and work within our community. This year on March 9th, we hosted hospice and nursing home/assisted living caregivers. We recently had a visitor attending Sunday morning worship whose first introduction to Trinity was through this luncheon recognizing our educators.

Migrant Workers' Nurses Luncheon – Trinity prepares lunch during June each year in appreciation of about 70 nurses and medical personnel from Emory Hospital and area universities in Georgia who volunteer their time each summer to offer a free clinic to migrant farm workers.

Hope House "Feed the Hungry" – Annually, on the 4th Saturday in April, Trinity prepares the main entree and furnishes bread for 500 people from the community. We join Hope House and other churches in serving the meal and encouraging those in need.

Soup Kitchen – On the 4th Wednesday evening each month, Trinity prepares a meal to serve 'homeless' in our area. We partner with Friendship Alliance and Faith Churches to provide the meal, pray and minister to those who come. We serve anywhere from 25 to 40 people, having a high of 66 on one evening. Trinity has also purchased over 90 Bibles to use in the Bible study held after the meal.

"Doing Good in the Neighborhood" Projects. Projects typically involve yard cleanup, handy-man type work, minor maintenance and repairs to houses for shut-ins and the less fortunate who are unable to fund repairs. We had less activity in this project area in 2009 but plan to re-energize this focus area in 2010.

Jesus La Roca Firme. Trinity is missionally committed to supporting the Hispanic church through both monetary giving and working projects. This year Trinity provided them with dining cutlery, a microwave oven, and a classical guitar for use in their services. Current prospective projects include building or finding a Cross for their building, minor landscaping, and helping with their soccer field development.

Ricks Institute. Trinity continues to support Ricks Institute in Liberia, a Baptist school offering faith-based education to the war-torn area outside of Monrovia. Several opportunities exist throughout the year, including sponsoring a child in school, providing various school or home life supplies, and tools to

maintain gardens. Our attempt to send shoeboxes to Ricks this year missed the timeline but the Committee aims to pursue this in 2010.

Rice Bowls. We employ rice bowls as a facilitator for our children and youth to get involved in missions giving. This year, in observing World Hunger Day on Oct 11th, Trinity raised over \$2,700 to fight hunger at Christian orphanages around the world.

Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes filled with personal hygiene items and goodies for less-fortunate children are collected. Based on collecting 137 boxes in 2008, we set a church-wide goal of 150 boxes in 2009 but fell short, collecting only 50 boxes.

Chrismon Angel Tree. Paper angels are hung on Trinity's Christmas tree and individuals, families select the angels that contain a less-fortunate child's Christmas wish. This year, we will provide gifts to about 30 local children.

Celebration Sunday. Annually on the 2d Sunday in September, the Missions Committee dedicates the Sunday morning service to recapping missions activities during the past year and highlighting missions opportunities. This was the second year we've held this celebration of what God has done through Trinity. The 2009 missions theme was "Local Hunger" and the service on September 13th was dedicated to highlighting ongoing missions to fight hunger, poverty and to raise awareness in everyone's hearts. Through a series of personal testimonies, live and video interviews, drama, pictures, and music, we focused on the scriptural mandate "*...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...*". [Mat 25:31-40]

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