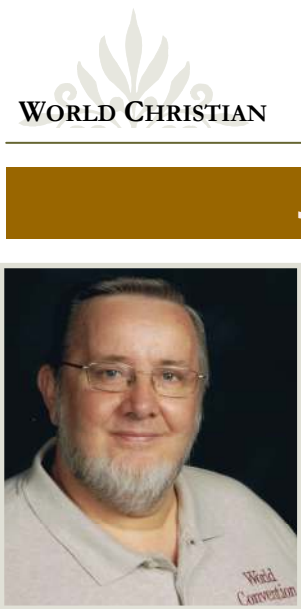


BRAZILIAN CHURCHES CELEBRATE 60 YEARS



- ◆ Jeff's view of the future
- ◆ News from Global Women Connecting
- ◆ Meet President B. J. Mpofu



Jeff's view of the future

Many concerned people have contacted our office since we made the announcement of staff changes in the November edition of "ChristiaNet". At that stage World Convention faced a very difficult and uncertain future as the financial crash hit us. The Administrative Committee of the Board decided to be proactive in making decisions which would ensure our ministry would survive this difficult period.

Compounding the difficult financial situation has been my wife and I being unsuccessful in obtaining *permanent residency status* which would enable us to continue to reside in the US and head up the ministry. We all agreed that what was best for the future is that I

conclude my ministry and a new General Secretary be appointed. This is the situation and we will conclude and return to Australia at the end of April. We hope shortly to announce the name of the interim General Secretary.

While some see this as a backward step and are concerned for World Convention's future we view this as a **step forward**. Let me say clearly that at this stage **there are no plans to reduce or diminish our current ministry**. In fact some new initiatives are planned to expand our ministry.

Beginning January this year we created a desk of women's ministry and in partnership with **Global Women Connecting** appointed **Julia Keith** as the liaison person. Later in this edition you will be able to read the new expanded women's news section. We are excited at the prospect of this partnership developing a strong network with the global women's ministry.

We have also added several new faces to our Board from developing countries. Joining us as First Vice President is **Dr Kang Pyeong Lee** from South Korea. From Brazil **Victor Hugo Queiroz** joins as a Vice President and **Mrs. Monica Fife** as Vice President representing Global Women Connecting. Joining us from Kenya is **Martin Phiri** as a Board member. Each one of these people will bring their unique cultural perspective to the work and enhance our global perspective. They will join the representatives from Australia, Canada, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, Great Britain, Zimbabwe and the USA.

The Board will meet in mid April to discuss the long term future plan. We believe we have an exciting future and the proposals which will be discussed certainly indicate that there is much for us to do as we work to fulfill the prayer of our Lord. We will be sharing the outcome of that meeting with supporters as soon as possible.

As we face the future I want to dispel a misunderstanding that the World Convention's ministry is exclusively the quadrennial convention. The convention, while very prominent, is only a small part of our ministry. For example we conduct a mentoring/support program for two-third world pastors. We also conduct seminars and courses for Pastors and Church Leaders in their home countries.

Last year as a precursor to the World Convention we organized and conducted the **Global Leaders' Forum** at which a range of the latest resources were shared with Pastors and Church Leaders. We also produce written resource materials such as my own small group study guide to **Paul's letter to the church at Colossi**, and Clinton Holloway's book of **communion meditations** for use at the table. Our staff has also written articles and a meditation for the book "**One Church**" which is the resource book for the bicentennial celebration. Clinton Holloway has written over **125 country profiles** tracing the history and the spread of the movement.

The World Convention has also taken the initiative in drawing together networks from within our movement. Last year we facilitated a meeting of three aid organizations representing the three major streams in the US to discuss a coordinated global response to emergencies and a partnership in aid projects. As a result there was a commitment to work together and explore further cooperation. Outgoing President **Dr. Robert Wetzel** initiated a dinner for college Presidents across the movement which we hope will develop into a major global network. **We are more than convention organizers!**

“THERE ARE NO
PLANS TO
REDUCE OR
DIMINISH OUR
CURRENT
MINISTRY.”



Jeff's view of the future cont....

Unfortunately we do need to adjust our expenditure to assist us through this period. In particular **staff cuts may need to be made**. At present **Clinton Holloway** has agreed to work on half salary until the end of April, we need more gifts to extend this and to restore Clinton's salary. **Your gift would be a great way for you to demonstrate your preparedness to stand with us in this challenging time.**

We have also decided to no longer print the *World Christian*. Instead we will make it available via email and on our web site. For those without computer access we will print a basic text version but will request assistance with postage costs. This new format will allow us to expand the World Christian and also to deliver it to you much sooner.

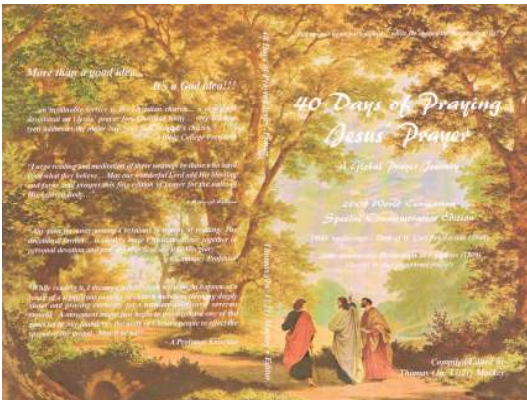
The ministry of World Convention is in demand around the world, currently we have invitations to visit, share and conduct conventions in Brazil, South Korea, Kenya, and India as they see great value in coming together as one family from around the world. Surely the ministry of us all is to encourage and support our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Brian Lowery recently wrote at Christianity Today.com *"Our task as a Church is to hold together that which God has brought together"*. That is the ministry priority of World Convention.

Rosemary and I thank you for your support and encouragement over the time we have been privileged to work for World Convention. We are looking forward to the new things which God is going to do through this ministry.

Jeff Weston

**"THE MINISTRY
OF WORLD
CONVENTION IS
IN DEMAND
AROUND THE
WORLD"**



Special Offer:

Our good friend **Tom Mackey** has offered to send a **complimentary copy** of his new book **"40 Days of Praying Jesus' Prayer"** to the **first 20 people** to send a donation of \$100 or more over and above their normal gifts to World Convention. What better way to celebrate this 200th Anniversary of the writing of the **"Declaration and Address"** than to spend 40 days immersed in the prayer of Jesus in **John 17** that inspired Thomas Campbell's passion for the unity of believers! That's why **40 Days of Praying Jesus' Prayer** was brought together, with 45 Christian leaders from 11 countries around the world, opening their hearts concerning Jesus' prayer.

We need your gift to enable this ministry

YOUR gift will enable our ministry.

Your gift will enable the ministry of World Convention to continue and to grow. Will become a friend and join others who have a heart for unity? We need your support urgently, please send a gift today.

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Brazil Celebrates 60 years of ministry



In November 2008 more than **2,000** people gathered for three days of celebration in Goiania, Brazil as **Igreja de Cristo** (Christian Church-Church of Christ) celebrated its 60th anniversary. The anniversary was celebrated in the **Goiania Convention Center**, about 200 klm from the national capital Brasilia, and site of the **18th World Convention** to be conducted in **2012**. The convention center was a very comfortable facility for the lively celebration. At each session a different congregation lead the worship with great enthusiasm and celebration. Speakers came from across Brazil to share timely messages and to challenge the Church to continue to reach out to their communities. The respect for

which the Church is held in the community was recognized by the number of leading national and local government officials who attend the services. The celebration concluded on Sunday morning with a communion service at which World Convention General Secretary/Executive Director **Jeff Weston** was speaker.

The closing act of the celebration was to set apart and ordain **more than 50 people for ministry and mission work**. Lead by Association President **Victor Hugo Queiroz** senior ministers and missionaries laid on hands and anointed those who were to be set apart. The large number of young people present was an encouraging sign of the vibrancy and future of the Brazilian Church.



Lloyd David Sanders with Victor Hugo Queiroz and Jeff Weston

As part of the celebration, pioneer missionary **Lloyd David Sanders** was honored. In **1948** Mr. & Mrs. Sanders began **Brazil Christian Mission** and went to South America. At the time it was begun, the Brazil Christian Mission was one of only two independent mission organizations (the other was the **European Evangelistic Society**) which reported to the **International Convention of the Disciples of Christ** (*You can read the full story on our web site at the Brazil Country profile*).



Some of more than 50 people set apart

making the announcement Jeff indicated that **“he hoped the world would come and experience the vibrancy of the Brazilian church.”**

(Continued P6)

World Convention General Secretary/Executive Director **Jeff Weston** was taken by complete surprise when he was also honored by the presentation of a gold ministers pin for his years of missionary service, and ministry to the global church.

Following a week of discussions with ministers, Church leaders, politicians and tourist operators Jeff Weston was able to announce to great cheers and applause that the 18th World Convention would be conducted in Goiania. In



The modern and beautiful Goiania City skyline

“MORE THAN
50 PEOPLE
SET APART
FOR
MINISTRY”



Meet President B.J.



At the closing service of the 2008 World Convention, outgoing President **C. Robert Wetzel** laid hands on **Bafundi James (B.J.) Mpofu** and asked God's blessing on the tenure of the incoming President. Passing the gavel, the symbol of the office, Wetzel passed on to Mpofu the Presidency of the World Convention for the next four years. **Mpofu is the first African to hold the office.**

B.J. was born in **Zvishavane, Zimbabwe**, near the Dadaya Mission, which has played such a historic role in the life of Stone-Campbell Movement missions and in Zimbabwean culture. His father was an Elder in the village church so B.J. grew up in a strong Christian home and was able to observe from an early age the impact of the Church on life and community. After attending the village school run by the missionaries, B.J. attended high school in Harare, the capitol city. His university training was at The United College in Bulawayo, an inter-denominational College of Education in which the Zimbabwean Churches of Christ were one of the seven founding members. B.J. says, *"This was my induction into the belief in the Oneness of Jesus we all worship."* Three years of cross-cultural worship brought to the fore in B.J.'s awareness the unfortunate divisions prevailing in the Church. This experience, B.J. explains, *"made me realize that as Christians we have more that unites us Christians than divides us."* It is B.J.'s dream for the Stone-Campbell Movement that we would all come to the realization of what many in Africa have learned, to **de-emphasize the differences and focus on that which unites us.** *"I expect to see the church move towards...tolerating those who worship differently from you and accepting them as fellow believers."* Long active in the affairs of World Convention, B.J. is already taking a serious leadership role in defining the future of World Convention and the 2012 Convention in Brazil.

Recently retired after 38 years in the field of education, the last decade was spent as the Headmaster of a larger multi-racial Christian school in Bulawayo. B.J. is an **Elder at the Makokoba Church** and is frequently called upon to preach in congregations all over Zimbabwe and offers leadership training for congregations without trained pastors. In addition, he has overseen the establishment of more than 30 new congregations. He is past Chairman of the **Associated Churches of Christ in Zimbabwe**. As a speaker, B.J. has been before many groups around the world, including as a Bible Study leader for the recent World Convention in Nashville. He is also on the Board of **Zimbabwe Christian College, Dadaya High School, Showers of Blessings Trust** and was a founding Board member and first secretary of **Khayelihle Children's Village**, where he continues to do extensive fund raising. At present, B.J. is responsible for the Showers of Blessings Trust whose main agenda is to empower the rural people in our Zimbabwean churches and to bring them into main stream of economy. This is accomplished through a number of enterprises such as carpentry, sewing, soap manufacture and raising chickens. Drought relief and water projects are another vital part of the Trust's work given the terrible state of Zimbabwe's economic and agricultural condition.

B.J., whose name, appropriately, means *"disciple"* is very capably supported by his dear wife, **Chipo**, whose name means *'gift.'* They are the parents of two adult children and reside in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Welcome President Mpofu.

Clinton Holloway



"LET US
DE-EMPHASIZE
THE
DIFFERENCES
AND FOCUS ON
THAT WHICH
UNITES US"

Brazil celebrates 60 years of ministry cont....

President Victor Hugo Queiroz was joined by the Mayors of the two major cities and members of the government in issuing an invitation to every person to come to Brazil for the convention.



Watch for further details of package tours and accommodation deals.



Vibrant worship at the celebration



Meet the World Convention Board

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| President: | B.J. Mpofu - Zimbabwe |
| First Vice President: | Kang Pyeong Lee - South Korea |
| Vice Presidents: | Doug Foster - USA |
| | Monica Fife - (Global Women Connecting) Brazil |
| | Bruce Greig - Australia |
| | Katherine Ann Haggard - USA |
| | Victor Hugo Queiroz - Brazil |
| Secretary/ Treasurer: | Rick Reisinger - USA |
| Immediate Past President: | C. Robert Wetzel - USA |
| Past Presidents: | David Thompson - UK |
| | Ron Brooker - Australia |
| | Lyndsay Jacobs - New Zealand |
| | Hal Watkins - USA |
| | Richmond Nelson - Jamaica |
| Board Members: | Jackie Bunch - USA |
| | David Brooker - Australia |
| | Doug Dornhecker - USA |
| | Marj Dredge - Australia |
| | Dick Hamm - USA |
| | Reggie Hundley - USA |
| | Wye Huxford - USA |
| | Stan Litke - Canada |
| | Ajai Lall - India |
| | Carolyn Nipper - USA |
| | Lester Palmer - USA |
| | Martin Phiri - Kenya |
| | Mark Taylor - USA |
| | David Vargas - USA |
| | Robert Welsh - USA |
| | Dan Yarnell - UK |
| General Secretary: | Jeff Weston |

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E-mail: worldconv@aol.com
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An Example of Unity

Each Wednesday morning I tumble out of bed early (before the sun rise!) and drive for 30 minutes to a meeting of Christian men. Unless I am very sick or out of town I do not miss that meeting. I have even been known to drive through heavy snow to be there! I was first initiated into this group some three and a half years back when I was new to Nashville and the United States. I was looking to connect with people at the Disciples Church my wife and I attend. I had struck up a friendship with a delightful guy named “Woody”. He had visited Australia many times and so was able to cope with my strange sense of humor! Woody, knowing my desire to connect, invited me to join him on a Wednesday morning at the men’s Bible study. Since that day the men in this unusual group have become my closest friends.

What makes this group unusual? While it meets in the Disciples of Christ building, the group is composed of 30 or so men who come from a range of Churches in the Nashville area. We have men from three Presbyterian Churches, a couple of Methodists, some from the non instrumental



Some members of the group enjoying a birthday costume party!

Campbellian phrase!) sharing the journey together. We sit around the table and study the word together and pray for each other and the needs within the world we live. However, the thing I love most about this group is that there is a genuine love and concern for each other. If one of our members is missing he can expect a call from a number of people to see if he is traveling ok. Even when one gets sick or infirm so that they are unable to attend, we visit and share with them. This past year we have lost two of our brothers, one of whom was 99 years old and a regular attendee. On both occasions our group of men attended the memorial services in mass and witnessed to the love we had for our brother. We are a Christian community in the true sense and it didn’t matter that one service was in the non instrumental Church of Christ and the other in the Presbyterian Church, we all attended and worshipped together.

Perhaps one of the reasons we appreciate each other so much is because like Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone and all the other founders of the American Restoration Movement, we see Christ in each other and have decided the denominational label isn’t important. It is the essence of the person that counts. We are Christian and therefore we are one. My wish is that we will see more of these groups develop. Perhaps, even, in your neighborhood.

Jeff Weston

This article appears on the Great Communion web site www.greatcommunion.org and can be reproduced along with a range of other resources by those wanting to promote the Great Communion celebration.

“WE ARE
JUST
CHRISTIANS”

Churches of Christ, an independent, a couple of Pentecostals, and a Baptist or two as well as a group of Disciples. However I have to say it is hard to tell what label these men worship under because it is never discussed or promoted. It wasn’t until after attending for a few weeks that I discovered most of these men don’t worship with our Congregation!

This group is not newly formed in order to promote Christian Unity it has evolved over 30 years as men have felt comfortable in the group and invited others to join them. No one asks what Church you belong to we are all “just Christians” (to use a

Thank You Friends

Without the gifts of *Friends of World Convention*, the ministry of World Convention would cease. These partners in our ministry help to determine the amount World Convention can do to serve our global family. **Opportunities for our ministry abound!** We are very grateful for the support of the following friends who have given during 2008.

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Continued P12.....

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Richard & Peggy Ziglar, In memory of Beryl Jacobs





From The Women's Desk

MARCH, 2009

Thank you, Jackie –

Our heartfelt thanks go to Jackie Bunch, President for her leadership to Global Women Connecting over the past four years. We also deeply appreciate the support of Tokiko Hagiwara, Vice President and Adonna Bowman, Secretary/Treasurer. Their guidance of these women has taken us to a new place of vision and hope.



Monica Fife named President

Monica was ordained into the ministry at the Community of Christ in Peabody, MA, USA, June 15, 1997. She has earned degrees in basic theology, music, piano and interior decoration.

A well known speaker and worship leader in Brazil, Monica is in ministry with her husband at the Christian Church/Church of Christ in Campo Limpo Paulista, Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is in charge of the women, children and music ministries at the local church.

She is married to Jeff Fife and has two sons, Roger, 16 and Isaac, 12.

WELCOME MONICA!

Global Women Adopt Klong Toey as 2008-2012 Service Project

Seeking the shalom of an urban slum community

The issues facing the **Klong Toey** slum community and the Church of Christ in Thailand's community centre there are some of the biggest facing the church world wide. According to the UN-Habitat report, there are currently one billion urban slum dwellers in the world. This number is currently added to every day by at least 50,000.



Duen in grey top, with some of the handicrafts team.

Klong Toey Handicrafts—fair trade initiatives that aim to provide an income with dignity.

www.unoh.com

handicrafts@allyearround.com.au



By 2020 it is projected that there will be two billion people living in urban slums (or two in every seven people in the world). In Bangkok there are at least 1 million slum dwellers with only 12 churches among them. Yet, Jesus is among the urban poor and hears the cries of the lost, poor and broken ones and requires the whole of his body to respond to this spiritual, social and environmental reality. Never before has there been such explosive growth of urban slums. Most governments, churches and non government organization's are at a loss to know what to do. This challenge provides an arena like few others to demonstrate the transformative power of this Christ for whole communities.

It is in this arena that the faithful Christian witness of workers like the community centre Crew Dao and Crew Duen have been serving for over twenty years. The credibility and trust they have built among all sectors of the slum has been transformative. For example, the centre has successive generations of children that have learned to read and write there, young people have had a safe place to recreate and keep boredom and drugs at bay, and the whole community has Christian people to turn to when they are in trouble or have an idea to improve the life the of the community. While this ministry will always be as fragile as the community it serves, it has been a beacon of light, not just for Klong Toey, but for all those who are facing urban poverty.

The CEDECOL (Council of Evangelical Churches of Colombia) *Red De Mujeres (Women's Network)* is a network of women working throughout Colombia as advocates for those suffering from violence and upheaval. They work with women and their families who have been displaced because of the civil war in Colombia and with women's groups in poor communities. One of the Network's activities is offering workshops and activities to help build greater self-esteem in women. They also work with women's church groups to help promote leadership in women's ministries.

In 2008, these activities and achievements helping empower women in need throughout Colombia included:

Provided accompaniment to women victims of the general violence of Colombia.

Offered training to women in local churches, indigenous women, and displaced women on the topics of stress management, trauma management (for self-motivated recovery), gender equality, conflict resolution, and other topics of interest.

Initiated collaboration with another women's empowerment group sponsored by CEDECOL that works to bring a dignified life and peace to women in need.

Celebrated important dates for women such as the International Day of Women (March), International Day for Non-Violence, Peace and Cease Fire – Bread and Peace (September), International Day of Non-Violence for Women (November).

Provided sensitivity training to pastors and male church leaders on the topic of gender equality.

Provided information and raised awareness through the Alternatives to Violence Program focusing on women who suffer domestic violence and youth and adolescents who are at risk for school violence and gangs.

Continued P11...

Listening...

We want to know your stories. How do you spend your days? Where do you see God calling you? We hope you'll take a minute to reflect, then write to your Global Women Connecting sisterhood through worldconujulia@aol.com to share how you know Christ in your life.

**Red de
Mujeres
(Women's
Network),
Colombia
2008
Progress
Report**

Lidia and Marcela

Lidia is a woman with a strong Christian identity, caring for her daughter, Marcela, a little girl who was given to her when the girl was four years old. The child is now nine years old. Marcela's family was displaced when the child was seven, forced by an armed group to leave their farm. They arrived to a medium-sized city in their region and made their home in a small community on the periphery of the city. They sought work on farms near their home. Shortly after their arrival the husband was assassinated. Investigations have not identified the murderer, but it is believed that armed individuals were the culprits because many killings that occur in Colombia are committed by these armed, lawless groups who remain unpunished.

After the death of her husband, Marcela's birth mother appeared and requested the return of her daughter. The Women's Network accompanied Lidia during this time. Through prayer and support, the Network counseled Lidia as to where she should go for help and what she could do to protect herself. After much suffering and conflict, the biological mother opted to grant custody of the child to Lidia's sister. Lidia and the child, Marcela, currently attend a local church.

Lidia, a woman who is used to working in the fields and who is willing to work to support herself and the child, cannot find a job. Recently she became part of a group led by the Women's Network to which Global Ministries provided the funding for a micro business. The Women's Network continues to pray for and accompany these women who hold close the hope of one day returning to their farms, their lands, and to the work and community life they have always known.

Continued from P10...

Held workshops for parents of school-aged children, especially for single mothers and heads of households, in dealing with the risk of violence in the schools.

Consolidated the National Board of the Women's Network.

Supported and collaborated on events with institutions that provide food for displaced and abandoned children.

Accompanied for three months the annual "Cry O Mothers" in which women of different regions are trained for spiritual strength in praying and caring for their children.

Improved communication and strengthened relationships with local pastoral associations as well as established closer work with the spouses of pastors.

Worked with Pastor Michael Joseph, Global Ministries missionary, whose presence has been much appreciated by the Network.

Evaluated past work and planned for the next two year's efforts with the help of regional coordinators and Pastor Michael Joseph.

As Christian women who seek peace and dignity of life, the Network extends its gratitude to God for placing you in our midst to help us with this ministry and to accompany us at this point of greatest need. You have made it possible for us to serve women in need and you have helped us offer hope and training that they may have better lives. The Network has been fruitful as it has reached many regions throughout the country, it has worked with children and women of all ages, and has endeavored to do the work of Jesus Christ who taught us peace and uplifted the value of each human being. The Network continually prays blessings for you and your loved ones in appreciation for the blessing you have been to us.

Thank you for the support given to our 2004-2008 service project.

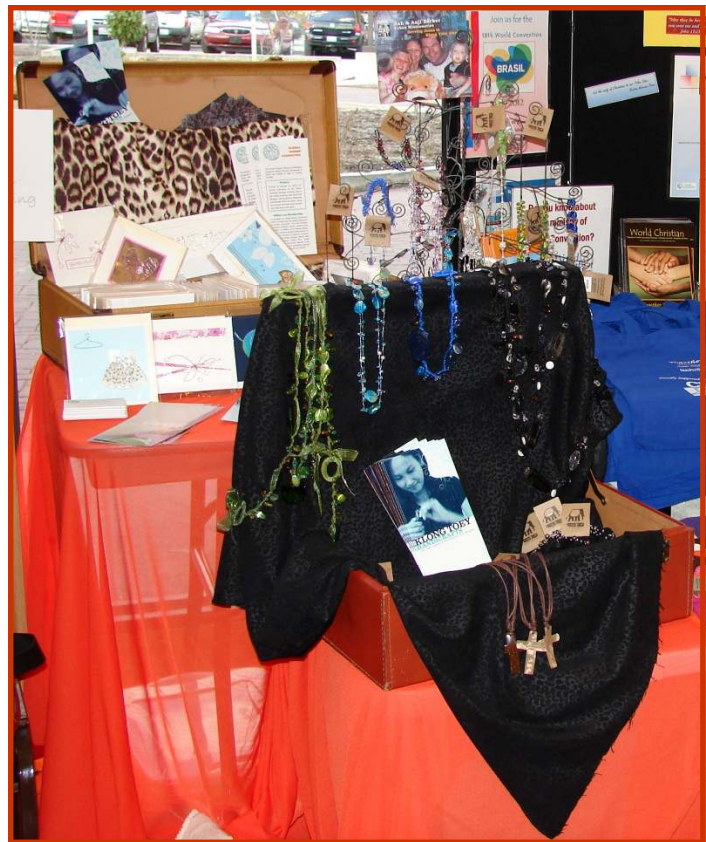
Ways to help KLONG TOEY...

Visit www.unoh.org to learn more about the project.

Host a dinner to raise awareness and support.

Display and sell Klong Toey Handicrafts at your event.

Pray regularly for their ministry.



Why not have a Klong Toey handicrafts display at your meeting? Contact Julia Keith for details.



2008-2012 GLOBAL WOMEN CONNECTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Wantana Thianhorm-Thailand

THANK YOU ... To the women who served Global Women Connecting with their energy and prayer in an official capacity during 2004-2008. We appreciate their work and commitment that has enhanced the work of Global Women Connecting and brought an awareness to the Red de Mujeres project from 2004-2008. May God bless you as you find new ways to serve.



Gifts from friends continued.....

New Zealand Institutions

Associated Churches of Christ
Moorhouse Ave Trust

United Kingdom

Valerie Jenkins

Scholarships

Troy & Natalie Abruzzo, TN
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Anderson, TN
Robert & Maurine Blackwell, MO
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Bert & Marilyn Combs, MO
Patricia R Dart, AK
Ray & Sandra Dickerson, TN
Elizabeth Edwards, TX
Freida Hall, TX
Clinton & Adele Holloway, TN
Mary Howard, OK

Donald & Kathleen Jones, AZ
Ima Jean Kidd, NY
Bill Lyon, MO
Minta Orozco, CA
William & Jane Sikes, CO
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Edward & Beth Williamson, MO
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Congregations, Institutions, Trusts

Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
Aspen Grove Christian Church, Nashville, TN
Central Christian Church, Wooster, OH
Central Christian Church, Jacksonville, IL
Central Christian Church, Granite City, IL

Blountville Christian Church, Blountville, TN
DOC Historical Society, Nashville, TN
East Aurora Christian Church, East Aurora, NY
Emmanuel School of Religion, Johnson City, TN
Eureka Christian Church, Eureka, IL
European Evangelistic Society, East Point, GA
FCC Missions Dept., Yuma, AZ
First Christian Church, Plattsburg, MO
First Christian Church – CWF, Radford, VA
First Christian Church, Dyer, IN
First Christian Church, Johnson City, TN
First Christian Church, Erwin, TN
First Christian Church, Florissant, MO
First Christian Church, Portsmouth, OH

First Christian Church, Radford, VA
First Christian Church, Beckley, WV
First Christian Church, Guymon, OK
First Christian Church – CWF, Richmond, KY
First Christian Church, Princeton, WV
Oklahoma Disciple Women-FCC, Oklahoma City, OK
Overland Park Christian Church, Overland Park, KS
Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK
Div. of Overseas Ministry, Indianapolis, IN
Raymore Christian Church, Raymore, MO
Ridglea Christian Church, Ft. Worth, TX
Sunnyland Christian Church, Washington, IL
Tates Creek Christian Church, Lexington, KY
Vine Street Christian Church, Nashville, TN
Week of Compassion, Indianapolis, IN
West Side Christian Church, Topeka, KS
Woodmont Christian Church, Nashville, TN