

LOOKING BACK / MOVING FORWARD

Working with elements of past missions conferences—developing a heart for missions, Anglican missions, Islam, and India—the Foreign Missions Team is offering the following.

August 11-September 9: 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World. Booklets will be available August 1&8.

October 29-31: Fifth Annual Missions Conference

Friday PM: Looking Back

--Keynote speaker from our first conference Steve Snyder, a Greenville layman who, having been a missionary kid, now has a big heart for missions and ministers to MKs all over the world.
--Jim Craft, former member of St. George and now an art professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Jim is returning from our first conference and bringing his pottery wheel and art exhibit and presenting a moving portrayal of the Biblical lesson of “The Potter and the Clay.”

Saturday PM: Moving Forward

--Hanno vanderBijl, just returning from the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Capetown with a report on future strategies in missions and his probable future in career missions.
--Hans van Baaren of Operation Mobilization Ships, outlining short-term missions opportunities

Sunday AM

--Sermon: Both services, Steve Snyder
--Sunday School: Hans van Baaren emphasizing OM schools in India

Our BHAG Conference Project 101: spearheading the construction of a Christian school for our APA parishes in India

MISSIONS UPDATE



July 25, 2010

St. George the Martyr
Simpsonville, South Carolina

LOOKING BACK / MOVING FORWARD

It has been roughly five years that St. George has had a very active Missions Committee, now renamed the Foreign Missions Team. The highlight of each year has been the annual Missions Conference. As we anticipate our Fifth Annual Missions Conference, October 29-31, let's look back at previous conferences.

2006 A Heart for Missions

Fr. Johann designed the logo which we have used ever since and which you see on the cover of this update. We invited seven missionaries and missions organizations to come, set up displays, and speak about their ministries. Some lasting friendships and prayer partners grew from that beginning, among them Kimberly Tipton (serving in Nairobi, Kenya), Alex and Irina Ponomarev (serving in Columbia, SC and the former Soviet Union), and The Voice of the Martyrs.

2007 Anglican Missions in the “New” Communion

Our goal was to highlight Anglican missions around the world historically with guest speaker Dr. Les Fairfield from Trinity School for Ministry, and to show what various Anglican missions organizations are doing today with representatives from Anglican Frontier Missions and SAMS (South American Missionary Society) conducting workshops and Dss. Tina Jenkins representing APA missions.

2008 The Silent Invasion—ISLAM

With Dr. Emir Caner, a Muslim Background Believer, author and educator as our keynote speaker, plus other guests from or representing the Muslim world, an art exhibit of photographs from the Muslim and Jewish sections of Jerusalem, and some amazing meals, the parish hall took on a decidedly Middle-Eastern atmosphere. Many of us have been praying ever since for Muslims to be reached for Christ and for persecuted believers to be strong.

2009 Caste-Aways? INDIA

One of the APA's missions fields is in southern India, and for years money has been sent but little personal contact has been established. Through a process of several movies, Indian meals, an Indian art exhibit, and Fr. Johann and Louise's trip to India, we now have a better idea of what we can do to strengthen our churches in India and further the spread of the gospel there. Our deanery is now joining us in praying for and aiding individual parishes in India.

SO, WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED? We are much more aware and more missions minded. We are praying more and giving more to further the spread of the gospel around the world. We are hosting missions events throughout the year between conferences. Fr. Johann has been to India two times, Louise one, and they will return in November. The APA has formed a Foreign Missions Board on which Fr. Johann and Judy Ellis serve and has become more involved and hands-on with their missions in India, Haiti, and the Philippines. Plus, one of our own sons, Hanno vanderBijl and his wife Lauren, after a short-term missions trip to northern India last summer, are praying about full-time missions service as Bible translators for a people group that does not have the scriptures in its own language. Hanno will also be attending the Lausanne Congress for World Evangelization in Cape Town, South Africa, in October.

PLUS, we are launching, with vestry approval, what Erich Wilder, who was with us in January lecturing on Strategic Intent, calls a **BHAG**, a Big Hairy Audacious Goal. One of the best ways to aid and further the ministry of our parishes in India is to help them establish, under the leadership of Operation Mobilization, an English Medium Christian School for their Dalit children. OM has established 100 such schools in India, and this would be **Project 101**. These schools empower Dalit children to break out of their low-caste lives, and they help establish them in their Christian commitment and church leadership. Also, they are of such high standards that they attract non-christian families who then hear the gospel of Christ.

Fr. John, our Dean, has asked St. George's to head up this project which is a dream of Bishop Elect Jaya Rao in India. Thus, our deanery and at least two others are with us in this project. We have received \$2000 seed money from one of our parishioners, and the ball is rolling. The total cost, for land and building construction, will be around \$100,000—a bargain by US building standards.

Keep in mind that a Big Hairy Audacious Goal is something much bigger than ourselves—something which only God could bring about and for which only He will receive the glory. It brings to mind the Old Testament story of Gideon. God repeatedly whittled down Gideon's army so that when they won the battle He would receive the glory and praise. Our challenge is to pray and give. God will do the work, through us and others in the APA.

More specific information on Project 101 will be forthcoming.

As we Look Back and Move Forward, plan to join us in the upcoming events listed on the next page.