



## Loving our Neighbours

On Saturday February 5, 2011, Ruben (ALICT 2010) and his team of 13 Venezuelans went to the city of Concepcion in Chile for a service outreach with Project Americas. This city was struck on February 27, 2010 by an earthquake whose tremor was so great it moved the city approximately 10 feet and devastated the lives of many. Some are still finding it difficult to put the pieces back together again.



Ruben is a leader with Project Americas (Proyecto Americas), a non profit Christian organization that seeks to generate changes through service, not only bringing the message of hope but practically demonstrating the love of Christ to their neighbours by providing free medical and dental care, building houses, distributing food and clothes and much more.

The team of volunteers was made up of people from various professions such as doctors, dentist, dental assistants, business men, teachers and others. At the end of the missions approximately 400 persons received general medical and dental services including extractions, cosmetic dentistry, provisional restorations, dental leaning. Their acts of service resulted in 160 persons taking a decision to follow Christ.

Ruben reports that they will be in Zambia, November 2011. If you know of missionaries within Zambia, please send us contact info to give through to him.

### News in short

**Juma Khamsin(2005)** reports from Sudan: In 2010 a ten-day training for 50 Youth leaders, 30 Secondary school teachers took place in Juba. The participants were equipped with knowledge and empowered to train others. (TOT) They became master trainers for over 1800 youth in the 2011 Youth Choice program. This program has brought transformation into the lives of youth in Sudan, knowing Christ and accepting Him as Lord and Saviour. In conjunction with the African Inland Church Youth Office, the South Sudan Sports Team organized a one week YOUTH Conference in Yei, from the 23 to 30 of April, to built the youth spiritually.

**Annel(2008)** from Namibia writes that her visit to the ALICT 2010 closing ceremony and reunion gave her the chance to recapture the life changing vision she received at ALICT. She was encouraged and motivated by alumni testimonies about their service to God. ". Annel is still working with Church Alliance For Orphans in Namibia (CAFO). She has experienced the transformation of her life through serving. "Challenges have been there, but thank God for His love and grace".

**Jenny (2010) - Venezuela - will be doing KidsGames for children with disabilities during June and has recently challenged students in a speech on their perspectives on people with disabilities.**

**George(2007) - National Coordinator Athletes in Action-Liberia - met in March with the Liberia Senior National Soccer Team during their training as preparation for the African Cup of Nations 2012. Tracts were shared to help them in their discipleship and life on and off the Soccer Field.**

## THINGS CHANGE WHEN HEARTS AND HANDS UNITE

Heart and Hands Foundation (HHF) is a not for profit organization (NGO) serving communities in Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa districts in Western Uganda and is directed by Dr. Abel Waiswa, ALICT 2006. The organization aims to empower youth, leaders and their communities socially, economically and spiritually to improve their livelihood and leadership skills. "Our strategic plan places great emphasis on serving the unmet needs of children and youth because they are the agents of change in communities", says Abel. Approximately 525 children are currently being supported by the program directly, 85 families indirectly and 183 church leaders.

Over the years Abel and his team have worked diligently to promote education for girls and address gender discrimination so as to encourage gender equality and the empowerment of women. Through their efforts, boys and girls are being educated and becoming more empowered and confident as they acquire a range of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values critical to the negotiating of an equal place in society. HHF has also introduced income generating projects to the youth, such as food gardening, poultry and dairy farming so that they can help their family and other members of the community.

Additionally, HHF has increased access to youth-friendly and gender-sensitive preventive information and life skills services in an attempt to prevent HIV/AIDS infection amongst youth, especially those in rural villages. Their hard work of protecting and supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS, has allowed many of the neediest children in villages to receive quality family, community and government support including education, nutrition, healthcare and psychosocial support.

### Partnering for Change

The success of HHF has not been through its singular effort, but rather its partnership with others both locally and regionally. For example, HHF linked with Christian AIDS Bureau South Africa (CABSA) program (which Abel was introduced to during the ALICT training) and facilitated training under the theme "HIV/AIDS, Me and The Church" in October 2010. The



aim of the training was to equip church leaders with knowledge of HIV/AIDS and to help them openly talk about its related issues with their members as a preventive measure. The training was conducted in Sironko District and had the participation of 50 church leaders; participants received certificates from CABSAs at the end of the training.

Additionally, HHF received technical advice, time and funding to purchase land for its future offices, vocational school and other projects through their partnership with ALICT Board member Dr Mike Henderson. The vocational school will target school drop outs and train them with various skills in carpentry and tailoring as well as teach them responsible living; all with the aim of helping them to create jobs and earn an income. The training will be year-long and upon completion, participants will be given start up tools for their own businesses in their respective communities. They are also currently working on the construction of water drilling borehole that will benefit the community and the school.

Earlier HHF also held a leaders conference in Kyenjojo District with Dr Mike Henderson and his team. During the conference Dr Henderson introduced his Book 'The Ladder of Faithfulness' which Abel has translated in the local language because of the demand for it. The training has empowered leaders with skills in leadership, finance management, accountability, church management and running self sustainable projects. As Abel rightly stated, "collaborating with welfare NGO's, local leaders and churches, is mutually beneficial to reinforcing strategies to improve the quality of life for those we serve".

## Learning in Action



**"ALICT is not just a nice experience for three months, it is life changing. My eyes were opened at ALICT to see God's people in a whole new light, and I honestly use the skills and insight that I gained at ALICT 2005 everyday as I serve in my ministry. I would not trade this experience for anything!" Cindy de Beer – Class 2005**

Cindy is originally from the USA and has been a missionary in the township of Kayamandi, South Africa since 2004. At Kuyasa Horizon Empowerment a nonprofit organization, she serves as the director of academic programs. This involves managing a learning centre, hosting special academic workshops throughout the year and leadership training camps for youth in the Kayamandi community.

She was among the second group of participants to be trained at ALICT in 2005; this was during her second year in South Africa. "My time at ALICT was extremely influential to the way I think about the ministry that I do now. ALICT taught me to appreciate people from all different backgrounds and to seek transformation in my community. Having attended ALICT I was challenged and inspired to fill the gap educationally in the lives of the youth of Kayamandi. When I started at Kuyasa it was a new organization and there were few programs available for the children in the Kayamandi community. Initially I was involved with our children's choir, and through interaction with the students I was able to build relationships with them and hear their frustrations with their school work. Overcrowding and a lack of resources had led many of the students to fall drastically behind in their studies. ALICT gave me the framework I needed to not only accurately assess the needs of the community but to see where my calling and skills could be effectively utilized to build the greatest assets of the Kayamandi community – the youth. So I started our Learning Centre".

The Learning Centre started out very small with just 20 students. Today they are assisting more than 200 grade R-12 students with their studies Mondays to Fridays from 2–6 pm. Twice a year, Cindy recruits, trains and empowers volunteers from the University of Stellenbosch and local churches as tutors. Many of the students who attend the Learning Centre go on to graduate from high school and study further in tertiary education.

"One of the most rewarding and fulfilling moments for me was to learn that despite the low pass rate at the high school in Kayamandi all the students who attended our learning centre had done well in their 2009 matriculation examinations. These kids go to the same high school and live in the same community with the same social problems as their classmates who did not pass. The difference was that they made the effort to come every afternoon and to accept the extra help that we offer. Those statistics were a confirmation that we are not wasting our time here, we are making an impact in these student's lives".

Additionally, Cindy plays an integral role in the development and empowerment of young emerging leaders in Kayamandi by imparting the training she has received at ALICT to the youth at Kuyasa. They receive training on being a leader, participate in Bible-based sessions and are led through experiential learning activities. These trained young leaders are then able to find practical expressions by serving as leaders during KidsGames or the youth camps as they build relationships with the kids at Kuyasa, and gain skills in leading games and facilitation.

"I know that I would not be able to do the work that I do, with the heart that I have for this community if it had not been for my time at ALICT. I thank God for the opportunity I had to grow as a person and transform my worldview at ALICT. It is also a joy to stay connected to the ALICT family, to meet the year groups that have come after me, and to hear of how God is using ALICT to transform hearts, lives, and communities every year".