



WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA

Volume 5

July 6, 2007

Number 7

First Short Term Medical Mission Team on "The Ship of Life"

Photographs by Don Johnson (see article, Page 3)



PERPLEXING PRIORITIES

Driving down Maumelle Boulevard, I saw a most unusual sight. It appeared that someone had slipped into a junkyard on a dark and cloudy night, and without benefit of a flashlight had dragged out a beat-up, derelict pickup which had wisely been interned in the graveyard about forty years ago.

I immediately noticed that you could see the skeleton of the vehicle through the large, gaping holes of rust. The paint, such as it was, appeared to be losing its ability to hold on to what was left of the sheet metal. The rear bumper dangled at a precarious angle and silently threatened to give up the ghost right in front of me. The safest thing, it seemed to me, was to pass this relic and pray earnestly that this pile of junk would hold together long enough for me to get around. I was perplexed as I made my way around to note that this pickup, which wouldn't have brought five dollars at a yard sale, was sporting a set of wheels which could not have cost less than \$2,000. Did the driver really think this was "cool"? Why would anyone put a gold ring in a pig's snout?

Yet, without thinking, we might be guilty of an even greater perplexity. *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness"* (Isaiah 55:2).

Jesus echoes the words from the book of Isaiah by saying, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give you; for on him had God the Father set his seal" (John 6:27).

Living only for this life leaves a perplexing priority and an unsatisfied desire. In the words of William Barclay, "It is Christ alone who can satisfy the immortal longings and the insatiable hunger of the human heart and soul."

JOHN GIPSON
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



Impressions

Don Johnson

What a wonderful trip! Seeing first hand and being able to personally “catch up” on what God is doing in Cambodia was truly a blessing. This medical mission trip on *The Ship of Life* was like visiting your nieces and nephews that you haven’t seen for awhile, and being amazed at how much they’ve grown and hearing about the changes in their lives.

Twelve of us from the United States were able to join **Bill and Maire-Claire McDonough, Rick and Gail Northen**, and the Cambodian physician and nurse/pharmacist for the first “short term” medical mission on *The Ship of Life* in early June.



Left to right: **Bonnie Hoskins (RN), Somnang (translator), Siheang (RN/Pharmacist), and Wathanak (MD)**



Don Johnson working in *The Ship of Life's* pharmacy.

The team treated over two hundred patients per day with medical and dental problems in three locations along the Mekong River. Having the *Ship of Life* as the home base was luxurious compared to traveling to the clinic site each day on difficult roads. (Well...it

Impressions—continued from Column 1

was still hot outside and two minute showers were a challenge.) More important was the fact that we could reach places that we would never have been able to reach otherwise.

In coordination with Cambodia’s Ministry of Health we moved locations every two days. When I saw the warm smiles and the friendly waves from the people on the shore as we moved on up the river I knew in my heart that God was pleased with what we were able to do even though it wasn’t much.



Cambodian people on the banks of the Mekong River

This “first touch” being made by Christians to a people who don’t know Christ is wonderful. I can’t wait to hear about what God does next. Easing their pain from a toothache or an arthritic joint will be nothing compared to introducing them to a Savior who can ease their pain for eternity.

With Sympathy to...

Gene Baxter on the death of his uncle, **James William Baxter**, of Wylie, Texas. The funeral was June 7, in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

The family of **Jack Way, Jess and Dorothy Anderson's** son-in-law, who died June 17, in Georgia.

The family of **Donna Adair** on her death June 20. The funeral was June 25, in Little Rock, with the burial following at Pine Crest Memorial Park.

The family of **Darcy Dunn** on her death July 1, in Oregon.

OUR JUNE RECORD

Average Attendance	192
Average Contribution	\$9,975



Wading Through Life

Joe Chesser

Through the long winter months (about seven and a half days in Arkansas), we dream of those beautiful days of summer when we can enjoy being outside...only to find ourselves desperately trying to find ways to cool off in July. For most of us, this translates into swimming, or going back inside. Last week, Alex and I spent an afternoon in a swimming pool that featured a “shallow” end that turned out to be about three inches shy of “too deep to breathe” for Alex. I took this as a perfect opportunity to help him move from “wader and splasher” to “swimmer.” So I drug Alex out to deeper waters and let him go. He took immediately to doing the doggie paddle and for the first time ever, he didn’t instantaneously sink like a rock, in fact he managed to swim about ten feet before he realized what he was doing and panicked.

Sound familiar? Alex, like Peter in one of his water adventures, was doing just fine until the realization of what he was doing actually set in. Then fear took over. I think we have no problem believing in an all powerful God, but trusting him seems to be a little more difficult. No matter how many times I assured Alex that I would not let him get hurt, he clung to me with all his might and insisted he couldn’t swim, even after he proved he could. I think our trust issues with God stem from a misunderstanding of God’s promise.

You see, I never told Alex his head wouldn’t go under or that water wouldn’t get in his ears, but I did assure him he wouldn’t get hurt. It seems to me our trust in God is on similar terms. “Trust me,” he says, “I will not abandon you.” We would rather hear him say, “Trust me and I’ll never even let your head dip under the water.” It is these brief moments of discomfort that stifle our willingness to trust him—these moments of “human understanding” if you will (Proverbs 3:5-6). I’m pretty good at trusting in God when it meshes with my own understanding, when I can see what’s going on, but go out on a limb? Are you crazy? What if...? I’d rather be a “wader” in the pool of life, it’s more comfortable there.

BULLETIN BOARD



WindSong Blood Drive and Fellowship Meal Sunday, June 24

Photographs by Max Baker



CONNECTIONS

A big "Thank You" to **Ken and Mary Beth Crafton** and everyone else who helped with the organization, set up, clean up, and food preparation for our fellowship meal Sunday, June 24. We appreciate all of your time and effort.

Thank you to everyone who gave blood on Sunday, June 24, during our WindSong Blood Drive, and to those who worked to organize and advertise the event.

A big "Thank You" to **Cathy Moore**, who has agreed to take over the ElderCare Ministry.

Congratulations to **Jay and Danna Gentry** on the birth of a daughter, **Kayli Elise Gentry**, on Wednesday, May 30. Kayli weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 3/4 in. long at birth. Congratulations also go to big sister and brother, **Ellie and James**, and the proud grandparents, **Don and Diane Johnson**.

Congratulations to **Jason and Lyndsay Magar** who have a new baby boy, **Max Daniel Magar**, born in Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, June 12. He weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 in. long at birth. Congratulations also go to big sister, **Tess**, and the proud grandparents, **Linda and Harold Powell**.

Congratulations to **Chad and Kerry Hatman** on the birth of a son, **Chance Allen Hatman**, on Friday, June 15. Chance was 8 lb. 7 oz. and 19 3/4 in. long at birth. Congratulations also go to big sister and brother, **Baylee and Drew**, and to the proud grandparents, **Jerry and Donna Hatman**.

Alisa Young won a \$25 gift card for running the most laps in the Pine Forest Elementary PTO Jog-A-Thon. Congratulations, Alisa!

Marcus Perkins won First Place in the Ladies' Auxiliary VFW Post Patriotic Art Scholarship Contest and third place in the state. Marcus' work was displayed at the Hot Springs Convention Center from June 14 through June 17. Marcus was also awarded the National Leadership Award and an I Dare You Scholarship. The award is given to "students recognized for their emerging leadership abilities and talents." Congratulations, Marcus.

Congratulations to **Max Chesser** and **Will Young** who were both selected as an "Aflac Student of the Year" in their respective classes at Pine Forest Elementary School.

Dustin Johnson, Don and Diane Johnson's son, and his wife **Lindee** left New York City on May 30, for Armenia, with 50 other Peace Corps volunteers. They will be in training for three months (language study, culture, etc.) before moving to their assigned spot for two years. Dustin and Lindee will be teaching English.