



The Heart of *Missions*

MONTHLY MISSIONS NEWSLETTER | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN | JANUARY 2018

ADVENT OFFERING

YOUR DONATIONS ARE FILLING THE GROCERY SHELVES IN URBANA'S NEW SALT & LIGHT LOCATION

You raised \$3,685 this year for the Advent Offering. This money is being used by Salt & Light to fill their store shelves. Individuals can work at Salt & Light and earn store credit to use for food, home furnishings, toiletries, toys or any household item on their shelves in the thrift shop. This model has been very successful, and has provided unique learning opportunities and working opportunities to individuals.

The strengths-based model used by Salt & Light means that they believe everyone has something they can contribute. Thank **you** for contributing to help Salt & Light to be a valuable outreach in our community.

Interested in learning more? Go to saltandlightministry.org to check out their exciting programs.

Mission Team has moved the January meeting to Tuesday, **January 16th at noon** in Westminster Hall.

If you have not submitted your Missions committee's **annual report** to Kristi Corbin, please do so as soon as possible. Her email address is kristi@firstpres.church

AUSTIN'S PLACE: EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR WOMEN

Our neighbor, First United Methodist Church (FUMC), is in its **11th season** of providing much needed emergency shelter to women during the months of December, January and February. FUMC collaborates with several of our partner agencies to help women safely sleep during the winter, including Courage Connection and the Crisis Nursery. Amazingly, this is the first year of filling the schedule completely for overnight volunteers! This is **also the first year of being at full capacity, which is 8 women!** This higher number means more cost for running the program. **The current need is great for donations of funds, bus tokens, women's socks or women's underwear.** Any size of socks/underwear is needed and accepted. To find out more, contact Ruth Moore at ruth@champaignfumc.org or 217-356-9078.

Marion Medical Mission Trip Challenge

Submitted by: Harry Bremer

Our church has supported Marion Medical Mission (MMM) for many years. I have previously volunteered and am considering going one more time, in September/October of 2018. **I will definitely go if someone from the church joins me.** Applications will be available in February with a deadline the end of March. The application is available at mmmwater.org. Words do not describe the experience of helping to provide clean water for thousands of people.

Contact me for further information:

Email:
hlbremer@yahoo.com
Phone: 217-352-0961

Want to learn more about MMM? Check out our new Mission Kiosk in mid-January for informational videos and more! For now, go see the photos and letters from MMM on the Missions bulletin boards in Westminster Hall. There you can see photos of the wells our church paid to have installed from our World Mission payments in 2017.

More about Marion Medical Mission

MMM digs wells to provide clean water to communities without access. By providing clean water, MMM prevents a host of illnesses.

Headquartered in Marion, Illinois, MMM uses a model of operation that helps reduce the likelihood of toxic charity. MMM only provides what the local community can't. Communities provide bricks, gravel, sand, and unskilled labor. Marion Medical Mission provides pump parts, tools, fuel, transportation and skilled labor. This horizontal relationship creates a sense of ownership, and MMM has found that it increases the likelihood that the wells will be functioning in years to come.

MMM encourages volunteers to travel to be present at the installation of wells. This is because MMM believes that the presence of men and women from around the world indicates to the villagers that they are not alone in their needs, but that there are people thousands of miles away who care enough to help.

Once in Africa, volunteers are paired up and sent to the most remote villages with a member of the African staff. Off-road vehicles are loaded with parts and drive as far as possible. At a certain point, the crew walks the remaining distance when the trucks can no longer drive. Once they arrive, volunteers talk with villagers and record data about the well. After the installation, the volunteer dedicates the well to the Glory of God and says a prayer with the community members.

The volunteer then takes a photograph of community members around the well in celebration.

MMM believes that the interactions between the volunteers and villagers are an integral part of the well program.

Intrigued? Contact Harry and see if you might be ready for a life-changing trip!

Source:
mmmwater.org

In a Picture



The old water source is in front and the new well is being installed in rear.
Which would you rather use?