

The Heart *Of Missions*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN | NOVEMBER 2018

What Exactly Do Our ESL Students Learn? *by Jeannette Pyne*

The First Pres ESL Program strives to make its teaching practical and meaningful to students. We have thematic units that guide our tutors on what to teach. Since the weather is getting a little cooler, I made the Clothing Unit available for the tutors. This is an important unit for our students for when they need to go shopping for warmer clothes, return clothing items, or describe clothing to someone else.

I have also been teaching the students about how to appropriately

do small talk in American culture. We've talked about how to greet properly, safe topics for small talk, and how to maintain a small talk conversation. These are all skills that students can use in their daily life.

We also have FUN! We celebrated fall by going to Curtis Orchard on October 24. Students were able to go apple picking and shop at the orchard's store. Many students purchased their famous apple donuts and cider. ---continued on page 3

Mission Prayers

- For travelers to Pakistan
- For Bob and Kristi Rice
- Restoration Urban
Ministry

PRAYERS FOR BOB AND KRISTI RICE

Bob and Kristi Rice, currently serving in South Sudan, experienced gun violence in their apartment building in mid-October. They are both safe, but one person died in the event. You can read the whole story on their blog, <http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/>. They ask for your prayers, "We appreciate your prayers as we heal and recover from the trauma, as we seek to not live in fear, and as we seek wisdom for such situations and how we can best be equipped to serve in this needy land. We invite you to pray with us for the family of the young man who died a rather senseless death. Pray for wisdom in how we can show our neighbors love and solidarity."

Providing Temporary Shelter

This fall and winter, more options will be available for those without an address in our community.

Homelessness is a persistent problem across our country. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the 2017 national estimate of homelessness identified 17 out of every 100,000 as experiencing homelessness. Those numbers rose between 2016 and 2017.

Thankfully, most of those individuals were in transitional housing or some other form of temporary shelter. However, approximately 34 percent lived in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a street or an abandoned building.

Locally, we have community stakeholders working diligently to provide shelter and programming to help lift people out of homelessness. Courage Connection and Canteen Run are two agencies we support who address homelessness in some way. Courage Connection provides shelter for families who have experienced domestic violence and are homeless. Canteen Run provides food, clothing, prayer, and toiletries to those without a home.

In the wake of the unexpected closing of the TIMES Center, we stepped forward to provide space when asked to do so by a new men's emergency

shelter run primarily by leadership at Faith United Methodist Church. This group is now set to run a shelter back in the old TIMES Center building! They will be hosting men from November 12 to April 15.

If you or your group would like to help, consider the following ways. First, you can help by providing snack or breakfast food items for one week during the season. Second, you can help set up sleeping areas and clean the shelter space on Fridays from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. If you can volunteer in one of those ways, please contact Rev. Cory Blackwell at 359-3631 or cory@champaignfaith.org. It costs about \$400 per day to operate the shelter to house up to 50 people; this is a very cost effective sum! To easily donate to the CU Men's Shelter, write a check to First Presbyterian Church of Champaign with "CU Men's Shelter" in the memo or donate directly through this site <http://www.champaignfaith.org/men-s-shelter>.

But, what about women? Austin's Place is opening up for their 12th season of serving women in our community! The hope is to be open from December 1 to March 31. This year, they have increased the capacity for sleeping from 8 to 10. This is exciting

news! Courage Connection provides screening and checking in with professionals before women are transported to the shelter across the street from us: Austin's Place is located at First United Methodist Church of Champaign. Austin's Place is in need of volunteer drivers and overnight volunteers. Volunteering is easy and fun. Austin's Place Trainings/informational sessions are being hosted **Thursday, November 8th at 7pm, Monday, November 26th at 7pm and Saturday, December 1 at 10am.**

Contact austinsplace@champaignfmc.org with any questions.

The King will reply, "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Bremer Returns to Africa with Marion Medical Mission

The office received a note and DVD from Harry Bremer about his most recent successful trip to Africa with Marion Medical Mission (MMM) in October of this year. He served as a mentor to Rev. Matthew Froeschle of the Mattoon Presbyterian Church. They worked together for three weeks in Zambia in the towns of Chipata and Lundazi. They completed 99 wells (that is, arriving with the wells ready for the hand pumps and leaving with a functioning well).

Praise be to God for clean water through Marion Medical Mission!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- First Mennonite is hosting a public presentation on Wednesday, November 7 at 7pm at the church. The speaker will be Marcos Knoblauch who will speak about some of the work being done in Columbia by the Christian Peacemaker Teams there. He will talk about how the Columbia Peace Agreement –signed after 30 years of internal war-has impacted lives and about some of the work CPT is doing to transform violence and oppression. Light refreshments will follow the presentation.
- The empty tomb Christmas Giveaway is coming December 7th and 8th. There is much that needs to be done in preparation for this. Cindy Gates is overseeing the event and she is looking for volunteers to help her. Empty tomb already has hundreds of gift items. Volunteers are needed to put together theme baskets for children to give to their parents. Volunteers are also needed to clean and organize toys. In general, volunteers can help on Tuesdays and Saturdays anytime between 5pm and 8pm and Sundays between 2 pm and 8 pm. Other hours are available on Thanksgiving Day between 9 am and 5pm. If you are able to help, please call empty tomb and leave a message for Cindy.

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Students learned about honeybees, different varieties of apples and how to pick them.

On October 31, the program hosted a Halloween party, which the students enjoyed thoroughly. We played Halloween Bingo, which is a favorite of the students. After the game, we watched a video about the history of Halloween. We had a costume contest in which two of our tutors, Mike and Lois, and two of our students, won prizes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

After Thanksgiving, look for the Angel Tree. Again this year, we will be providing congregants the opportunity to give to children's needs through our partner agencies. Items will range from a few dollars to 50 dollars in cost. Items will be delivered to the agencies in the weeks following the end of Advent by either the Mission Coordinator or Community Mission Deacons. It is a blessing to see the joy on the agency employee's faces when they receive the generous gifts each year from our congregation.

