

## *"On Purpose"*

May 2003

It was the mid-80's and famine had gripped West Africa for successive years:  
crops failed  
wells evaporated  
and worst of all, children died. By the thousands.

We were there on purpose.

No heroes, we were simply representing thousands of Christians in northeast Ohio who had offered prayers, given money and believed in helping African famine victims through agencies like World Relief and World Vision. The body of Christ reached out with compassion again - this time to mainly-Muslim people groups in West Africa.

When you see malnourished kids clinging to desperate parents, when you walk through shallow graves hastily dug in the desert sand, when you gulp multiple medications to stave off disease in your own body, it doesn't take long to think purposefully about issues of physical survival, health and safety.

Thankfully, we also saw plenty of evidence that Christian-sponsored relief and development efforts were making a difference. Deep wells were dug, and they usually hit water. Clean water. Sanitation projects, medical camps, eye salve handouts, irrigation projects and soil reclamation activities .... all eased the suffering and prepared the way for a better day.

But, with the awkward admixture of human suffering and heroic progress flashing before our very eyes, I could not escape a deeper reality: there were hardly any churches, hardly any national Christians in what is called French West Africa. One of the countries, in fact, functioned as an official "Islamic Republic," meaning - among other things - that evangelism in Jesus' name was forbidden and conversion to Christianity was illegal.

Sometimes it takes radical changes in our physical and spiritual environment to rivet our attention on our ultimate purpose. And so it was that a friendly Muslim man walked alongside us one day as we examined the deep well project in his village, and he asked the question, one I shall never forget.

"We have Muslim brothers and sisters who have not helped us. You are what they call . . . Christians," he said hesitantly. "Why have you come?"

That question allowed us to get right to our purpose, or rather God's purpose - - to love, relieve suffering, to forgive and heal, to reconcile us through Christ. So far as we know, our Muslim friend had never heard about the compassion of Christ for all people or about personal salvation; he could hardly believe the part about grace and mercy and assurance of forgiveness. But he listened. And God's purpose for him began to make some sense.

Jesus lived with humble, yet conspicuous purpose in troubled times. "For the Son of man," he said, "has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) And each of us who follow Jesus need a reinvigorated sense of our purpose under His Lordship, a vision that inspires both our words of witness and our acts of service. I am praying that our yearly meeting, July 19-22, will be just such a time of renewal as we focus on the theme,

### **'People of Purpose In a Broken World'**

*Hope you'll come. Purposefully and with prayer.*



## Mark Your Calendars now to join us for Yearly Meeting, 2003!

**When?**  
July 19-22, 2003  
**Where?**

Canton, Ohio

**Theme:**  
"People of Purpose in a Broken World"

### Missionary Banquet Speakers:

**Hillary Harrison** (India & Nepal)  
**Chuck Mylander** (Executive Dir., EFM)  
**Jacelyn Jones** (Hong Kong)

Once again, we'll be having booths instead of workshops...

### New, Special Feature this year:

The Communications Board is sponsoring a "Technological Fair." A special room will be dedicated to displays and hands-on-demonstrations of the most recent technological tools available to church ministry.

#### Examine new technologies for your church!

- examples of flexible lighting
- sound equipment for small & large churches
- special effects for drama
- computer networking options
- computer software options
- effective power-point techniques

Bring your technical lay people to get ideas, ask questions, and plan for new ministry options!

## SCHEDULES FOR MISSIONARY SPEAKERS FILLING QUICKLY

The following missionaries will be in EFC-ER sometime in the near future. Contact Julie for more details.

- Jacelyn Jones (Hong Kong) - April-July
- Ed & Linda Zinn (China) - June-July
- Russell & Esther Zinn (Taiwan) - June-July
- Voicu & Anna Marian (Romania) - October-December
- Hillary Harrison (India/Nepal) - June-August
- Todd James (Ireland) - July-August

### Yearbook Corrections:

- **Page 5:** Barclay Press's address: **211 N. Meridian Newberg, OR 97132**
- **Page 186:** Superintendent for MAYM (Mid-America Yearly Meeting) is **David Robinson**, not Charles Robinson

### Writers looking for a place to connect on the Internet need to check out Barclay Press!

Barclay Press announces new website at: [www.barclaypress.com](http://www.barclaypress.com). Check out these new areas!

- **Online Bookstore**
- **Conversation Cafe**
- **Writer's Lounge**
- **And lots more!**

The new site provides articles related to the Barclay Press ministry focus – spirituality, social responsibility, world evangelism, and Friends curriculum – and encourages interaction for writers.

- **HEY PARENTS & KIDS!**
- **We still have room for more kids this summer.**
- **Contact your church office for a brochure and REGISTER TODAY!**



Be sure to check out our Camp Gideon website!

[www.efcer.org/camp/gideon/2003](http://www.efcer.org/camp/gideon/2003)

## Mark Your Calendars NOW for the Annual FDS Benefit Banquet! September 6, 2003

**Dean & Freeda Johnson** cordially invite all Friends to join them for the Annual FDS "Reunion/Fellowship/Benefit" Banquet.

Come prepared to receive fellowship & encouragement. Come prepared to give generous financial support.



Sign-Up Sheets will be arriving at churches soon.



## Jr./Sr. High Youth Leaders

Begin planning now for camp at Heartland Retreat Center

**When?** June 16-21  
**Where?** Heartland Retreat Ctr.

(45 minutes north of Columbus)

**Special Guests: SUPERCHIC(K)**

### Talent Show:

First Prize is a free trip to YOUTH EXPLOSION 2003 and a chance to perform there!

Interested high schoolers should come prepared with instruments and performance tracks (or whatever you need - drums and amps will be provided). For more information, E-mail [mark@cornerstonefriends.org](mailto:mark@cornerstonefriends.org).

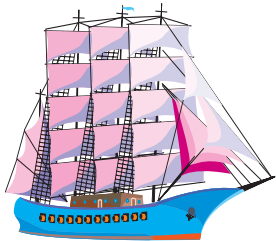
**Malone College Notes**

**Want to get your church noticed?** Malone College Alumni Director, Deb Robinson, is looking for devotions to post on the Malone College website. Your name and the name of your church will also be posted. Send entries to [drobinson@malone.edu](mailto:drobinson@malone.edu). You do NOT have to be an alumnus of Malone College to participate. If you include a picture/logo, that will also be used.

**Malone College Announces Chancel Players**

**Chancel Players, Malone's student drama outreach group, is now scheduling for the September 2003 - April 2004 season.** For more information, or if you are interested in booking Chancel Players, please contact Director of Campus Ministries Linda Leon at (330) 471-8442.

*Malone College Chancel Players is a group of six students who perform drama of religious content in schools, churches, and for various community organizations.*



**Friends Adult Ministries  
7th Annual Cruise**  
Cleveland, OH—Thursday, July 10th  
*See the largest gathering of Tall Sail Ships ever to sail into Cleveland's harbor.*

- Luncheon cruise on the NAUTICA QUEEN
- Sailing at 12:00 PM with boarding at 11:30 AM
- Narrated tour of the Cleveland Harbor & Cuyahoga River
- Bird's eye view of the TALL SHIPS
- Cost per person, including gratuity: \$44.00 (\$39 if paid by June 10th)
- Churches should register as a unit and send one check for everyone.
- Contact Hany Mosher for more information: 614-882-6822

**ATTENTION---ALL---QUILTERS!**

Canton First Friends has 350+ yards of quilting fabric, of all patterns and lengths. The fabric is free to any missions group who could use it or available for purchase at \$1/yd. You can pick it up at Yearly Meeting if it is still available. Contact Mary Ellen Shields for more information: e-mail:[mshields@neo.rr.com](mailto:mshields@neo.rr.com) Phone: 330-494-4530.

**Promise-Keepers in August 2003**

*Pastor Chris Jackson of Orange Rd. Friends Church in Columbus, Ohio, announces that men planning to attend the August Promise Keepers Rally in Columbus, Ohio may find accommodations at their church. Contact Chris Jackson at (740) 548-5819.*

**Orange Road Friends Invites the EFC-ER Friends Family to join them in celebrating the dedication of the new Orange Rd. Family Life Center.**

**When?** June 1, 2003 2:00 PM

**Where?** Orange Road Friends Church  
General Superintendent Dr. John P. Williams, Jr. will be sharing during the ceremony and Area Superintendent, Wayne Evans will speak during the morning service at 10:45 AM.

**PASTORAL OPENINGS:**

*Listed below are churches with positions available. Please be in prayer for these churches and our leaders as these decisions are being made throughout Eastern Region.*

**Church Pastoral Positions To Be Filled:**

- Milan, OH
- Mansfield, OH
- Battle Creek, MI
- Portsmouth, VA
- Saxapahaw, VA
- Friends Worship Center (Columbus, OH)
- Boston Heights, OH
- Rollin, MI
- Longview, VA
- Bellefontaine, OH

**Positions Recently Filled:**

- Goshen Friends - Fred Kensler, pastor
- North Olmstead Friends - Dan Ghramm, assoc. pastor

**On a Personal Note**



•The family of **Edith Salter Wendt** celebrated her **100th birthday** on April 15th!

• A Special Birthday Celebration was also held for the **90th Birthday** of **Rev. Owen Glassburn** at Green Hills Community Center in West Liberty, Ohio, on Saturday, May 3rd.

• *Our deepest sympathies to Pastor Wayne Ickes and his family* on the recent death of his mother, Maebell Ickes. She passed away May 23, 2003. The funeral was held on Tuesday, May 27th.

**C A L E N D A R**

**MAY**

30 Pension Board Meeting, 9:30 AM

**JUNE**

- 6 Executive Board Meeting, W.O.C., 9:30 AM
- 13-15 Camp Gideon -Father/Son Camp (K-4)
- 15-20 Camp Gideon -Kids Camp (grades 3-4)
- 22-27 Camp Gideon -Kids Camp (grades 5-6)
- 27-29 Camp Gideon -Mother/Daughter Camp ( 4-8)
- 30-July 3 Camp Gideon -Day Camp (K-2)

**JULY**

- 4 Independence Day - Office closed
- 6-11 Adventure Camp (grades 4-6)
- 7-10 Camp Hawthornburg, Junior Camp
- 10 Adult Friends Tall Ships Luncheon, Cleveland, OH
- 11-13 Father/Daughter Camp (grades 1-6)
- 12 PI DEC Meeting, Hunter Hills, 10:00 AM
- 13-18 Kids Camp (grades 5-6)
- 18 Pastor's Orientation, W.O.C.
- 18 Executive Board, W.O.C., 7:00 p.m.
- 19 YM 2003 Missionary Banquets, Malone
- 20-22 YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS, Canton Friends
- 19-24 Challenge Camp (grades 6-8)
- 25-27 Mother/Daughter Camp (grades K-4)
- 27-Aug 1 Kids Camp (grades 3-4)