



# News from the Field



Issue 2 Volume 1

*"Committed to sharing God's gifts among all peoples of the world"*

Summer 2005

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*There are three kinds of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say, "What happened?"*  
-- Betty Wolsmann



## From the President

Dear Friends,

I wanted to start off by saying thank you to all of you who have offered your support in the past few months as we get the foundation up and running. I am happy to report we have added two new members to our Board of Directors – Matt Hershey and Heather McAndrews. We are still accepting applications for board positions, so if you or someone you know is interested please contact me. No experience is necessary – just a willingness to follow the Lord as we seek to serve others.

We are in the midst of applying for our tax-exempt status from the IRS. Once this is accomplished we can concentrate on our real mission: supplying medical equipment and basic supplies to those in need. It is exciting to watch our Program Committees as they begin to identify the needs of our target areas and set goals for accomplishing their work. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering on one of the committees, all three programs are up and running. There are many needs to be met and many hands will help lighten the load.

Above all we ask for your continued prayers that we recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit as we move forward in serving our Lord. To God be the glory!



Peace to all,  
*Carol Fanelli*  
Carol Fanelli

## LIFE ON THE RESERVATION

Members of the Native American Committee have spent their time making contact with representatives of various tribes across the nation. The needs are great and it will be difficult to decide where we can best help with our current limited resources. We have decided to collect as much used medical equipment as we can by October and offer them to the local Lenape elders as a sign of our sincerity in offering assistance.

If you are interested in learning more about the plight of the Native Americans visit these sites:

<http://www.friendsofpineridgereservation.org>  
Some startling facts about the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation:

- 1) 80% unemployment
- 2) Poorest county in the USA
- 3) Life expectancy for men is 48 years
- 4) Life expectancy for women is 52 years
- 5) Highest infant mortality rate in the USA

<http://www.navajosage.org>  
Did you know that of all the ethnic groups in America's armed services, Native Americans are the largest ethnic population represented? Military prisoners and those who are in our federal prisons receive better medical treatment and care than Native Americans today.

<http://www.lakotamall.com>  
An online source of authentic Native American items.

## MISSION TO AFRICA

The African Program committee has been hard at work making plans for a two-week mission trip in January of 2006 to work with the staff of the Intercontinental Christian Ministry (ICCM). Our goal is two-fold. First, to provide medical care at several free medical camps based near the Mercy Health Clinic in Eldoret, Kenya. Secondly, to document the needs of the Mercy Health Clinic so we can prioritize ways we can help the clinic in its mission to provide quality medical care to the people in this remote area.

We are currently seeking interested medical personnel to join with us and at the request of ICCM we are especially interested in pediatricians. In addition, we would like to bring a dentist and hygienist to provide dental care and teach basic dental hygiene. We are working with a local Lions Club to provide eye exams and free glasses. A retired surgeon has also volunteered to do minor surgeries, which in many cases can greatly improve quality of life.

Due to border regulations, we will be purchasing most of our medical supplies while in Africa. However, we plan on collecting smaller unused medical supplies such as; Ace Wraps, antibiotic/fungal creams, toothpaste and toothbrushes, to take over with the team members. We plan to discuss with the airline the possibility of allowing donations toward an additional suitcase of luggage per team member. Those suitcases will be filled with the medical supplies we collect and be handed out at the medical camps.

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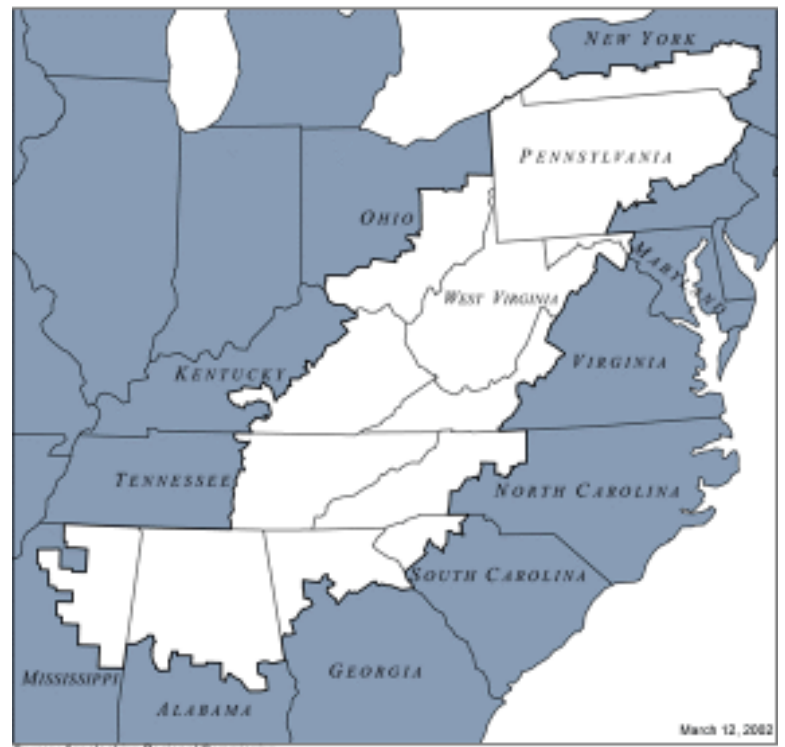
## POVERTY IN APPALACHIA

With the recent G8 Summit and the star-studded Live 8 concerts, the privileged of the world have once again turned their attention to the neverending battle against extreme poverty around the globe, especially in Africa. There can be no doubt that chronic poverty in Africa demands our immediate attention, and that is why We're All God's Children is committed to doing what it can to ease the suffering of even a few on that continent.

At the same time, many of us are not aware of the poverty that exists within our own country, especially in the region we call Appalachia, running down through the eastern states from southern New York to northern Georgia. Within a few hours' drive for those of us who live in the East, children are born into conditions that resemble life in a third-world country: dilapidated and crowded housing; no plumbing or clean running water; limited access to public utilities, social services, and medical care; substandard schools and education. Here are some statistics:

- According to a 2003 report by the Mennonite Central Committee, poverty levels in Central Appalachia run double the national average at 25%.
- While extreme poverty persists in all of Appalachia, the most impoverished areas are in eastern Kentucky, West Virginia, western Virginia, and along the North Carolina/Tennessee border. (Appalachian Regional Commission)
- Central Appalachia is home to 22 of the 26 Appalachian counties with median incomes below 50 percent of the US median income.
- According to a report by the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education: 1 in 5 Appalachian children live in poverty.

The Appalachian Region



Please visit the following websites for more information on poverty in Appalachia and to learn what needs to be done to ease the suffering of the residents of a forgotten region within our own country. In the coming months, We're All God's Children will seek to partner with agencies within central Appalachia to supply much-needed assistance to the people of this region.

Mennonite Central Committee  
<http://www.mcc.org/>

Stop Abusive Family Environments (SAFE)  
<http://www.ruralisc.org/safe.htm>

Appalachian Regional Commission  
<http://www.arc.gov/index.jsp>

Christian Appalachian Project  
<http://www.christianity.com/cap>

### *(African Program Continued)*

We will be taking many photos to document the extreme need in this area and also to share with others the experiences we have. One member of the team will be responsible for documenting the numbers of people we treat and the types of illnesses prevalent in the area. We will work closely with the ICCM staff to see how we can aid them in the expansion of the clinic, such as adding on a Maternity Ward.

Each team member is responsible for raising \$2500 to cover airfare, hotel accommodations and food. We are currently trying to negotiate with the airlines to allow the use of donated frequent flier miles to help offset costs. Please let us know if you would be interested in working with us to raise the funds needed for such a large undertaking. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

**Appalachian Program** – We are in need of storage space as we begin collecting good used furniture and appliances. If you have space available or know someone who might be willing to offer storage space to help offset expenses please contact us immediately. We are also looking for volunteers with pick up trucks to help move donations once storage is arranged. These volunteers would be on a call list. When donations are found we will look for a driver in that area so no one has to travel a long distance. This is a great way to help if your time is limited.

**Native American Program** – We are currently seeking donations of medical equipment and supplies. We can make use of just about anything you can offer: walkers, canes, wheelchairs,

crutches, etc. Diabetic supplies, post-surgical equipment, home healthcare supplies – we need it all! Check your home for those leftover items you couldn't throw away but didn't know what to do with. We'll get it in the hands of some very needy and grateful people.

**African Program** – Plans are underway for a two-week medical mission in January 2006. We will be taking a medical team to provide health care at several free medical camps in the villages of Kenya. Intercontinental Christian Ministries headed by Rev. O.M. Panicker will organize this project. Each member of the team must raise \$2500 to participate. Please consider making a financial contribution to help with these costs.