

NEW ENGLAND CHAPEL: RESTORATION

SHOWING COMPASSION, MENDING INJUSTICE

July/August 2014

World Renew Responds to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (edited from World Renew website, August 2014)

There are many frightening statistics that have surfaced in the last few weeks as the deadly Ebola Virus spreads through parts of West Africa...perhaps most troubling is that there is no vaccine and no proven cure at this time. The only way to stop the virus is to prevent it from being transmitted, and treat the symptoms if it is diagnosed early enough.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Margaret Chan said, "The scale of the Ebola outbreak, and the persistent threat that it poses, requires WHO and leaders of affected countries to take the response to a new level, and this will require increased resources, in-country medical expertise, regional preparedness and coordination. The countries have identified what they need, and WHO is reaching out to the international community to drive the response plan forward," said Dr. Chan.

World Renew is responding in partnership with the Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL) and the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL).

In Liberia, CHAL is training community health workers in the prevention of Ebola ...and hand washing sites have been set up...Medications are being provided to people in the counties, including antibacterial,

antiviral and fever reduction drugs. Staff have been trained on how to prevent the spread of Ebola. Protective equipment is also being provided to hospitals, health centers and clinics. This includes sprayers, masks, face shields, protective suits, gloves and protective boots.

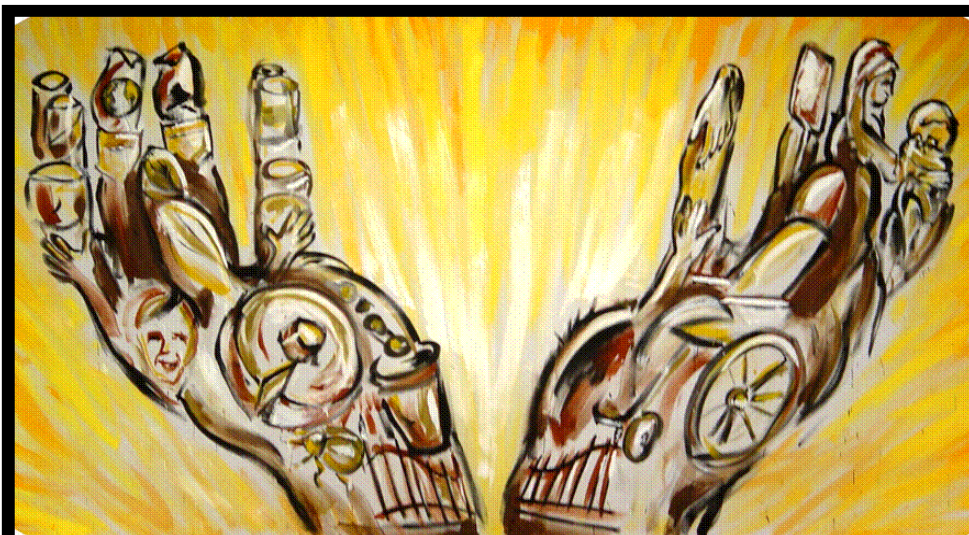
World Renew's local partner in Sierra Leone, CCSL, will be...working to raise awareness in the Ebola "hot spots" of the country. CCSL is educating communities with the key messages of how ebola is spread ...the symptoms, what to do if you have the symptoms...how to prevent transmission... the role of the whole community in dealing with ebola.

"The situation in [West Africa](#) is grave, as this has become a cross-border epidemic," World Renew's Director of Disaster Response and Rehabilitation, Wayne de Jong, explains.

Please pray for those who have contracted the Ebola virus and for those at risk of doing so...[and] pray for a swift and effective response by the international community... and pray for World Renew..its staff and partners who are dealing firsthand with ebola.

To support World Renew's response, or learn more, visit [http:// www.worldrenew.net/our-stories/world-renew-responds-ebola-outbreak-west-africa](http://www.worldrenew.net/our-stories/world-renew-responds-ebola-outbreak-west-africa)

"Equipping the people of NEC to show compassion, mend injustice and deepen partnerships as God guides our part in restoring his world." - Restoration Mission



Mend, Repair, Restore

In This Issue

@NEC & Local ~ pg 2

Safe Families for Children, Cooking Matters

Local & Global ~ pg 3

Franklin Community Gardens, Haiti Cross-cultural trip

Global ~ pg 4

Shamokin Cross-cultural Trip, Spotlight on NEC: Kimberly Toledo

Restoration: @NEC & Local

Safe Families for Children: Supporting Families, Offering Hospitality

By Julie Paine

With three young children at home, Allison and Dan weren't able to go on overseas missions trips or volunteer for many of the service projects at their church, but knew they could help in their community after learning about the Safe Families for Children (SFFC) ministry. SFFC is a volunteer ministry that equips Christians in churches to come alongside families who are in crisis and often alone, who lack necessary support to carry them through to stability. Teams of screened and trained volunteers are developed by churches and work together in various support roles. At the heart of SFFC is a commitment to practicing biblical hospitality, keeping children safe, and strengthening families.

Allison and Dan have since welcomed 9 children into their home for short periods of time. Allison talked every day with the mother of a child while they hosted him and forged a relationship they still share. "We really don't have anything in common," Allison said, "except that we are both mothers. So many of these mothers are desperate. It's hard to imagine having no one to turn to for help even in the midst of a crisis."

During each hosting, their church family has rallied around them as family and resource friends, providing meals, gift cards, babysitting, and an extra car seat. Another volunteer has served as their family coach, facilitating communication between them and the parents of the children they hosted.

Though time and space in life can be limited, Allison has found that when she opens her home to children in need, God provides the resources necessary to make it all work. "When these kids arrive at my house, I get an extra measure of grace. Sometimes when I just have my three, I can't imagine that I could add another one, but when that child shows up, God makes it work."

You are invited to attend a meeting at 11:00 in NEC's small chapel on August 17th for refreshments and a time to learn more about starting SFFC at NEC.



Cooking Matters Update

by Nicole Harter

New England Chapel has partnered with Cooking Matters (cookingmatters.org) through the Healthy Futures Franklin initiative. The coalition organized the first class in Spring of 2014 which was held at the Franklin YMCA. This first highly successful class filled up in a week, with enough interested people to create a waiting list that filled the second round of classes (May 2014) without further promotion. The classes have made a positive impact on community members! In March, 17 of the 19 participants graduated ...and in May, the whole class graduated! We already have interest in a next round of classes even *before* advertising.

Here is what participants had to say;

"I didn't cook **AT ALL** before this. Now I have made things from recipes and better understand healthy food, a balanced plate and comparing prices and ingredients--I eat more veggies because I know what to do with them."--Graduate, Hockomock YMCA April 2014

"I make better choices when it comes to food and also am eating more whole grains, and reading the side of the box."--Graduate, Hockomock YMCA April 2014

"It has helped me to make better choices and [be] more open-minded. [I feel] less fear to try to prepare new/different meals." --Graduate, Hockomock YMCA April 2014

"The teachers were wonderful. Very informative and made us feel a part of the group (not poor schleps or dumb the group down). I learned a lot! How to make smarter choices on a budget."--Graduate, Hockomock YMCA June 2014

"Instructors were very nice, worked with us and didn't make us feel inept!" --Graduate, Hockomock YMCA June 2014

"I can eat healthier without breaking the bank! I feel better when I am eating healthier."--Graduate, Hockomock YMCA June 2014

The classes have become an opportunity to build connections within the local Franklin community. For the many participants who wanted to continue to meet with each other to help encourage a healthy lifestyle, reunions and community events are being set up — which will help foster community and create lasting relationships!



Restoration: Local & Global

Franklin Food Pantry: Keeping it Fresh!

By Robin Cowper

The Healthy Futures Fresh Market is in full swing every Tuesday afternoon at the FFP. The Market started in mid-June, providing fresh, locally grown produce to the clients each week. Akin Bak and Hoffman Farm in Franklin are two contributors to the market, along with garden beds at Tri-County Regional School and the King St. Community Gardens. Clients' choices have included several types of greens, beets, red potatoes, radishes, squash, zucchini, green beans and cabbage. This year a new feature of the Market is a monthly demonstration and food sampling provided by *Cooking Matters*. Clients have enjoyed fruit smoothies, kale salad and corn salsa while learning how to make healthy, inexpensive meals from the produce available at the Market. The clients' response has been overwhelmingly positive. For most of these clients, the cost of fresh produce in grocery stores limits their access and so this opportunity is greatly appreciated.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Robin Cowper (RLCowper@gmail.com, 508-520-3175).



Reflections from Haiti Cross-cultural Trip Participants

"One of the best parts of the trip for me was when I was able to meet my sponsor child, Wadenson. When we first met, he was shy and didn't seem to want much to do with me, which was understandable because I was essentially a stranger to him. But later on the week, as we worked on the school foundation in Lafferonnay where Wadenson lives, he came to the work site to visit me. He ended up staying there the whole work day, and I was able to spend the day getting to know him and creating an unforgettable bond with him. At the end of the day, he hugged me and told me I was his sister. There were so many incredible parts of our time in Haiti, but this day stood out to me the most – I got to hug and get to know this boy I have been sponsoring. Wadenson holds a very special place in my heart, and I can't wait to go back and see him again." – *Kaylee Mitchell, ME4 June 2014 Cross-cultural trip*

"I met Roulander in 2012 during my first trip to Haiti. I was on the book and uniform distribution team, and this little boy with the sweetest smile walked into the school building. He was shy and a little overwhelmed at all the Americans trying to direct him through the process. He was scared, but he kept smiling, and for some reason I felt it on my heart to ask if he had a sponsor. Lynn Duquette told me that he was just about to get his picture taken to find a sponsor! I decided that day to sponsor him, and I was able to meet his brother and some of his friends. Two years later, I saw a flash of recognition when he met me again in Leogane. He was shy as ever, but I was so happy to meet his father and see how much he loves his little boy. Roulander is still so young, I'm not sure if he understands who I am, but that really doesn't matter. I'm just so excited to see that my measly contribution to Mission E4 is doing some real, concrete good for Roulander. I'm so thankful for the chance to see Mission E4 in action, and I can't wait to go back again and see the wonderful ways that Roulander has grown!" – *Jessa Mitchell, ME4 June 2014*



Restoration: Global

Change of Plans, Change of Hearts

By Gwen Clark

The Mission trip in July, originally destined to New Jersey, was rerouted to Shamokin, PA. Through God's divine intervention, we found ourselves in a small coal mining town with little resources or industry, but filled with pride, history, and triumphs. We arrived the day after they celebrated their 150th anniversary. Since 1960, they have gone from a town of 13,674 to currently a little over 7,000 and have survived four major floods, the hardest being in 2011. Many homes were destroyed and are still in dire straits, but the people of Shamokin are friendly, grateful, and resilient. Our work consisted of building a ramp for a couple confined to their house, putting up insulation, wallboards, painting, repairing a roof in other homes and assisting a man living (by choice) as a hermit. But the success of the trip was more than the work. It was the human bonds people made with each other. The feeling that people cared for each other and, within a week, one could feel like they had known someone all their lives. We realized that you could connect in a very personal way to someone's misfortunes and feel that you made a slight difference in the quality of their lives, as much as they have done in ours.

The success of the trip can also be attributed to the strong leadership of the trip. The organization, foresight, patience, skills and tireless desire of our leader, Dena Gauthier, made this trip an amazing experience. The team began preparing months in advance of the trip with communications, meetings, and shared meals. That process help us feel like a team and what a team of 33 we were!

We completed the week with a cookout at the local park for the townspeople. What a turnout! Besides food, there was face painting, balloons and great conversations. We were even welcomed by the Mayor. Because we were fortunate to stay at a church in town, many of the people who came were those we had seen daily. They made us feel part of their community. Most of us will probably never have the pleasure of returning to Shamokin, PA, but they will be in our hearts forever.



Spotlight on NEC: Kimberly Toledo heads to Nepal

For much of my childhood through age 19, I drifted with absolutely no faith, purpose and little hope. Coming from a chaotic, broken home where getting through each day was my only focus, I avoided being home, seeking ways to fill the deep dark void. When I was invited by a dear friend's mother and NEC member to participate in the first post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans mission trip, I first met God. I agreed to go, anxious for a "tan" and a vacation. Little did I know God was orchestrating beginning stages of a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I was taken aback by the light, joy, and inner peace pouring from NEC volunteers. Amidst so much loss and devastation I saw no amount of rubble, loss and natural disaster could get in the way of God's almighty ways. He was calling my name – I wanted more, as my former life repeatedly brought me to what felt like a dead end street. Walls of doubt, fear and feeling unworthy crashed down as women from NEC answered my questions with utter ease and I realized it's the relationship that matters.

Seven years later Jesus remains my anchor – God has not ceased to reveal His presence on other mission trips. I see how He uses each relationship and trial for His glory. NEC has been a support system and family I'm forever grateful for. Through powerful messages on Sunday, small groups, Bible study, leading worship and Kids Zone I've found the true meaning of family and have a purpose - which is to be a loving disciple of Jesus.

Starting September 4th, as part of the Peace Core, I'll be spending two years working on a food security project — promoting nutrition, hygiene and agriculture in western rural Nepal — and on secondary projects ranging from music to yoga.

I'm most looking forward to being Jesus' hands, feet, eyes, voice and ears in a primarily Hindu and Buddhist part of the world. Please pray as I am removed from my comfort zone, learning the Nepalese language and staying diligent learning guitar – which will help build trust and relationships. Please pray for God's presence and Holy Spirit when I am fearful, for my health and for my heart as I miss my church, and countless relationships.

I want to full heartedly thank NEC – members, volunteers, and staff – for showing Jesus is alive through your love and providing a place to call home. I would like to continue building relationships while abroad and to share my blog which will cover the lessons, trials and revelations. I look forward to sharing music I write and responding to any comments and questions.

Contact Us

Restoration Leader

Jodi Koeman,
Jodi@newenglandchapel.org

Restoration@NEC

Amy Cornwell
amy@newenglandchapel.org

Restoration: Local

Robin Cowper,
rlcowper@gmail.com

Restoration: Regional

Live it out...

PRAY: For people and communities affected by Ebola.

GIVE: Spend time helping with transportation or other tasks during the next Cooking Matters Class.

ACT: Consider volunteering for Safe Families or being a host family