

Samaritan's Purse

2003 MINISTRY REPORT





THE LORD USED YOUR
PRAYERS AND
SUPPORT TO
reach a
sin-darkened
world with
His light.

COVER PHOTO: Franklin Graham visited with Kenyan children during his trip in August 2003 to evaluate medical and HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.

DEAR FRIEND,

In December, I traveled to Khartoum with our Operation Christmas Child team at the invitation of Sudan's Islamic government. There I met with President Umar al-Bashir and other senior government officials and religious leaders to talk about the need for religious freedom in their country. I even had the opportunity to tape a message for Sudan's national TV on what the Bible says about peace—and our need for peace in our hearts through the Lord Jesus Christ.

This unprecedented event was among many examples of how God used Samaritan's Purse during 2003 to shine the light of Jesus Christ to people living in spiritual darkness.

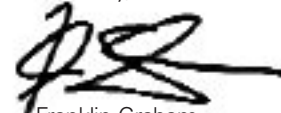
Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life"* (John 8:12b, NKJV). Christ alone can lead us out of the darkness of sin and death into the light of God's eternal kingdom. That's why at Samaritan's Purse, in everything we do, we seek to point people to our Lord and Savior, so they can receive forgiveness and eternal life through faith in Him.

The Lord blessed the work of Samaritan's Purse abundantly during 2003, and it gives me great joy to share with you how He used your prayers and support to reach a sin-darkened world with His light. In more than 110 countries around the globe, Samaritan's Purse met the physical and spiritual needs of multitudes of hurting people—Christians and Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus, atheists and animists. Working through local believers and ministries, we saw thousands of people commit their lives to Jesus Christ and thousands more renewed and strengthened in their faith.

This 2003 Ministry Report is a testimony to the caring people who have made this work possible by their earnest prayers, generous gifts, and personal involvement. Most of all, it's a testimony to the goodness, faithfulness, and power of God. I invite you to rejoice with us for the great things He has done!

Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership in this ministry. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,


Franklin Graham
President



KHARTOUM, SUDAN: Franklin Graham prayed in the Name of Jesus Christ with Sudan's religious leaders and government authorities.

HAMESH KHOREB, SUDAN: A well drilled by Samaritan's Purse provides a vital source of water in parched eastern Sudan.



the people of Sudan

An Instrument of Peace

Pastor James Alexander is one of millions of Sudanese believers who have been praying diligently for peace. More than two decades of civil war have devastated his southern homeland, and he now ministers to those like him who fled for refuge to Khartoum.

Yet his hopes for peace have never been higher, since he has experienced firsthand the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. "I believe God has raised up Franklin Graham to be a voice for the voiceless," Pastor Alexander said.

God has indeed given Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse unprecedented opportunities to shine the light of Jesus Christ in Sudan.

The president of Samaritan's Purse traveled to Khartoum in December for historic meetings with leaders from the North and South, after the national government invited him to bring our Operation Christmas Child project to the wartorn nation. Amid the ongoing peace talks, Mr. Graham met with President Umar al-Bashir at his palace to discuss peace and religious freedom. He also spoke with other senior government officials, as well as delegates from the Sudan Council of Churches and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

An Antonov 124 cargo jet airlifted 65,000 shoe box gifts from New York to Khartoum, enabling Sudanese Christians like Pastor Alexander to share the Good News of God's love with Muslims and non-Muslims alike. The government even permitted our DC-3 to fly thousands of gifts across the battle lines to our project sites in central and southern Sudan.

To a generation that has known nothing but war, the gifts were profound examples of the possibilities of peace. "It's not just a Christmas gift," Pastor Alexander said. "It's a peace gift. It brings peace to the lives of the children, which they never had before."

Earlier in the year, Franklin Graham had visited southern Sudan with Dr. Bill Frist, Senate Majority Leader and co-author of the Sudan Peace Act. This was Dr. Frist's fifth medical mission trip to the Samaritan's Purse hospital in Lui. During 2003, we continued to expand the hospital's facilities and services, including a new school to train nurses. The hospital provided surgery for more than 1,500 people and medical care for 20,000 others.

In the Southern Blue Nile region, Samaritan's Purse started surgical services at Kurmuk Hospital, the only medical facility for hundreds of miles. Further to the north, we continued to provide a lifeline of food for 50,000 Beja tribespeople who faced starvation after their food supply was cut off by the war. In the Nuba Mountains, a cease-fire enabled us to expand agricultural



LUI, SUDAN: (From right to left) Senate Majority Leader Dr. Bill Frist, Franklin Graham, Dr. Frist's son Jonathan, and World Medical Mission co-founder Dr. Dick Furman with a patient at the Samaritan's Purse hospital.

projects to feed thousands of people, open three schools to educate hundreds of children, and rebuild a war-damaged church.

By working in partnership with Sudanese believers, these projects help build up local churches while bringing the light of the Gospel to those living in the shadow of death.

Sudanese Christians remember that, only a few years ago, the government vowed to obliterate the last Christian churches in Khartoum. But the bulldozing has failed. Today, there are hundreds of churches around the capital, and the longsuffering Sudanese are finally seeing their prayers answered. ■

... THE DAYSPRING FROM ON HIGH HAS VISITED US; TO GIVE LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE. —LUKE 1:78-79 (NKJV)



SAN PEDRO NUNUALCO, EL SALVADOR: Samaritan's Purse helped these fishermen make a living by building four ponds and stocking them with tilapia.

Building on a Firm Foundation

Three years have passed since a pair of violent earthquakes devastated El Salvador early in 2001. During that time, other nations and peoples have suffered major disasters, both natural and man-made, and the world has largely forgotten the tiny Central American country.

But the Salvadorans who experienced those massive quakes will never forget. They won't forget the fear and panic as the ground shook and their homes collapsed, nor the grief and anguish as they buried loved ones and friends.

For Maria, the memories were very fresh. She was reminded every time it rained and the roof of her small shack

leaked. Maria is an elderly midwife who lives in the community of Las Delicias. After she lost her clay house in the earthquake, her oldest son constructed the shack out of scrap lumber and whatever materials he could find.

"At night, when it rained hard and especially with a lot of wind, I felt the rain drizzle over my bed," Maria said. "It gets very cold at night, and during the day it's extremely hot."

But God hasn't forgotten the suffering people of this earthquake-ravaged nation. Maria was able to move out of her makeshift shack into a sturdy, concrete-block house built by Samaritan's Purse. Working in conjunction with the U.S. Agency for International Development, we constructed 954 homes for poor people in rural communities throughout the countryside during 2003.

Maria's new home is more than a weatherproof shelter. It's an answer to prayer. "I never imagined I'd have a house, but I would always say, 'God, please give me a house; God, please give me a house.'"

Thousands of Salvadorans like Maria have seen God's love in action through the house-building project, and hundreds

have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior through an extensive evangelism program we support. Four teams of local evangelists visit the communities where we have constructed houses, showing the *Jesus* film and other Christian movies, passing out literature, and training local pastors in ways to reach their countrymen.

Our relief efforts in El Salvador include clean water projects that provide desperately poor communities with freshwater

wells and water filters, and agricultural projects that enable impoverished families to produce nutritious food for themselves while earning a modest income for school and healthcare.

Samaritan's Purse also is spreading the message of God's great love to schoolchildren in El Salvador. After seeing our work rebuilding communities, the government invited us into schools



HOME, SWEET HOME: Beaming with pride, this woman accepted the deed to her new house, one of 954 completed in 2003 by Samaritan's Purse.

to implement Project Zacchaeus, a health-and-character program. Through this Bible-based curriculum, boys and girls are learning how to plant trees and care for the environment, as well as how to deal with moral issues such as gangs and HIV/AIDS. The schools allow local Christians to present the Good News of Jesus Christ, and dozens of students have made life-changing decisions for Christ. ■

Hungry for the Truth

Like most people in Mozambique, Maria Leonora has seen more than her share of suffering. After enduring civil war, floods, and abject poverty, her life seemed hopeless and her Christian faith fruitless. But now she is among tens of thousands who have been blessed by one of the largest development projects in the history of Samaritan's Purse.

Ministry teams reaching out to widows, single mothers, and destitute children in villages along the Limpopo River visited Maria and invited her to join community programs run by Samaritan's Purse. "They have brought revival to my life as a Christian," she said. "I wish to finish the discipleship course and then will faithfully teach others."

Maria lives in one of the poorest districts of Mozambique, which in the 1990s was known as the world's poorest country and is still recovering from disastrous cycles of flooding and drought. More than half of the adults are unemployed, and one in eight is infected with the virus that causes AIDS. About 50 children die every day because of diarrhea.

Since arriving in Mozambique in 2000 to provide flood relief, Samaritan's Purse has become well known for resourceful responses to the country's needs.

To combat hunger and malnutrition, we helped feed some 77,000 people in three interior districts during 2003. This massive program created more than 100 local jobs and distributed more than 3,500 tons of food. At the same time, we helped thousands of farm families recover from the drought and become more self-sufficient. We introduced drought-tolerant plants such as sweet potatoes and cassavas, and made seeds and cuttings widely available.

In response to the AIDS crisis, a church-based program was launched to train and encourage thousands of youth to follow healthy lifestyles guided by Biblical principles.

To reduce waterborne diseases, we installed easy-to-use Biosand water filters in 1,445 households during 2003. Families using these filters have seen dramatic improvements in the health of their children.

Our food-for-work programs assisted more than 1,500 unemployed persons, while giving them the opportunity to improve the quality of life in their communities by building schools, improving roads, and preventing future floods.



HARVEST TIME: Drought-resistant crops assure families of healthy food and also can help generate income.

The comprehensive scope of these projects has raised interest in the Gospel and resulted in extraordinary opportunities for evangelism. Tens of thousands heard the message of salvation in villages where the *Jesus* film was shown. More than 2,100 widows, single mothers, and children made decisions for Christ through the door-to-door home ministry.

A man named George said he had spent much of his life running from the law and trusting in witch doctors. "I didn't want to hear anything about God until I met the ministry team from Samaritan's Purse," he said. "I have wasted my time by not trusting the Lord. After praying with the ministry team, my mind opened up for a new life with Christ. I have learned to trust God in everything and have His word as my daily bread." ■

SOWING SEEDS: Women look forward to a healthy crop as they prepare their field for seeds provided by Samaritan's Purse.

JACKSON, TENNESSEE: In the aftermath of a killer tornado, our tractor-trailer unit served as a supply base for hundreds of volunteer workers.



A Refuge From the Storm

Les Stewart, a part-time factory worker in eastern Ohio, volunteered to spend an idle summer day helping Samaritan's Purse clean mud out of flooded houses in his community. What he thought would be one day of charity changed his life.

Stewart awoke the next morning with a yearning to do more. Day after day he returned, doing the dirty work that's necessary to repair flooded houses. He was glad to help, and he enjoyed the roll-up-your-sleeves fellowship. But something greater was drawing him. "You could feel God's power and His love," he said. "It felt like the time you first accepted Jesus."

Stewart rededicated his life to Christ and dedicated his off-weeks to Samaritan's Purse disaster relief work. When Hurricane Isabel struck in September, he twice made the 1,200-mile round trip to North Carolina to help clear fallen trees from the homes of the poor and elderly. And when wildfires swept across southern California in October, he crossed the country to work as a crew leader, helping families salvage precious mementos from the ashes of burned-out houses.

"Working with Samaritan's Purse has changed my life," Stewart said. "This opened my eyes. I've seen what God can do. I've seen miracles. I know I've been touched as much as anybody."

Thousands might say the same thing. Over 2,100 volunteers helped more than 950 families in six states during 2003, the busiest year ever for our Disaster Relief Units. With two tractor-trailer units stocked with equipment and supplies, Samaritan's Purse was able to respond simultaneously to tornadoes that hit Missouri and Tennessee in May, and to work in Virginia and North Carolina following Hurricane Isabel's assault in September.

Volunteer workers organized and equipped by Samaritan's Purse completed 176 projects in Tennessee, 100 in Missouri, 101 in Ohio, 447 in North Carolina, 23 in Virginia, and 113 in California. At each home, crews presented a Bible and prayed with the

residents. Dozens touched by the ministry made decisions for Christ, and many others saw their faith affirmed.

A North Carolina woman wrote to express her appreciation: "As a single 60-year-old woman with 24 trees down, I bought a chainsaw to try to help myself. After working for a week, I was ready to sell out and leave it all. The Lord knew my limits better than I did, and He sent a Samaritan's Purse team. I cannot describe how overwhelmed I felt to come home to find help on my doorstep. Outreach ministry has always been important to



ROPER, NORTH CAROLINA: Residents and volunteers joined in prayer after completing work at a house damaged by Hurricane Isabel.

me as a giver—and now as a receiver. Thank you so very, very much for being there!"

The comfort we share comes from a loving God, who provides strength and hope to deal with the storms of life. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble..."* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NKJV). ■



CAMBODIA: Their feet barely touched the ground as these joyful children raced home with their Christmas gifts.

Sharing Christ's Love Through Operation Christmas Child

The word "Siberia" evokes images of frozen tundra, a bitterly cold, vast, vacant wilderness. The reality isn't much different from the image. There are some beautiful parts of Siberia, but most of far north Russia is indeed frigid, featureless, and empty.

The region is sparsely populated, with small groups of indigenous people living in isolated villages. There are few roads

and little exposure to the outside world.

The weather in Siberia is not the only thing that is cold. There also is little exposure to the Gospel, and few hearts have felt the warmth of God's love.

"There are lots of villages that have never heard the Gospel," said Victor Kulbich, a Samaritan's Purse ministry partner who works in Russia. "They have never heard of Jesus. The people

practice shamanism and idol worship. They believe in spirits. Their hearts are looking for God, but they don't know where to find Him."

This past year, many families in Siberia learned about the one true God and His love when our Operation Christmas Child project delivered thousands of gift-filled shoe boxes to children in this remote region.

"We shared the Gospel with them and distributed Bibles," Victor said. "Each time we do a distribution, it begins with a testimony that Jesus loves you and died for you."

Operation Christmas Child touched the lives of more than 6.6 million needy children last year through shoe boxes filled with toys, candy, and other small gifts by caring people in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. More than 3,919,900 shoe box gifts were collected in the United States, and another 732,400 in Canada. The boxes were brought to hundreds of collection sites across North America, then transported to processing centers where more than 50,000 volunteers prepared them for overseas shipment.

Samaritan's Purse shipped the shoe box gifts to some 95 countries, where local churches and ministries distributed them to young victims of war, poverty,

disease, and natural disaster. Children were also offered "The Greatest Gift of All" storybooks, which share the Good News of Jesus Christ in 54 languages.

Many of the boys and girls who received shoe box gifts responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to participate in discipleship programs. Samaritan's Purse worked with an international children's ministry to provide local churches in 25 countries with follow-up materials that help boys and girls learn more about Jesus Christ and the Christian life. During 2003, more than a million children were enrolled in Bible

correspondence courses and over half a million reported making decisions for Christ.

They included 10-year-old Raja, who was one of 265,000 children in India who enrolled in the program after receiving shoe box gifts.

Raja, who has to work as a street vendor selling lemons and onions to help support his poor family, had never received a



UGANDA: Christmas gifts earned us opportunities to present the Gospel in public schools throughout Africa.

Christmas present and was thrilled with his shoe box. "Thank you for the beautiful gift," he said. "It's a marvelous gift. I haven't seen anything this nice in my life."

As marvelous as the shoe box gift was, Raja received something even better when he learned about the Savior through his Bible lessons.

"I am happy to know about Jesus Christ," he said. "The lessons have created interest to learn more about Jesus."

Children around the world were eager to learn more about Jesus because they had already experienced His love—through the generosity of those who sent the gifts and the kindness of those who delivered them.

"Operation Christmas Child is one of the best evangelistic tools because it is a gift," ministry partner Victor Kulbich said. "It opens the door to telling about Jesus." ■

EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, AND COMES DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION OR SHADOW OF TURNING. —JAMES 1:17 (NKJV)



NEW LIFE: Thirteen-year-old Hilda, with Doreka Fez, the Children's Heart Project coordinator for Uganda, received a repaired heart when she underwent surgery and a renewed heart when she accepted Christ as Savior.



Helping Mend Hearts and Change Lives

A child's heart is a precious and fragile thing. When the heart has a physical hole, it takes a skilled surgeon to repair it. When the heart has a God-shaped hole, it takes the Great Physician to mend it.

Thirteen-year-old Hilda faced certain death until the Samaritan's Purse Children's Heart Project flew her from Uganda to Washington, D.C., so a heart defect could be repaired. Hilda received expert treatment from the medical staff, and the surgeons were able to repair her heart. She also received plenty of love from her Christian host family, and their ministry led Hilda to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior.

While in America, Hilda got some devastating news that had nothing to do with her own medical condition. She learned that back in Uganda, her mother Betty had been diagnosed with the deadly HIV virus. Her father had died of AIDS three years ago, but Hilda did not realize her mother also had been infected.

We praise God that Hilda was not the only one in her family to receive a new heart. Through the witness and testimony of our staff in Uganda, Betty also became a believer.

Now home in Uganda, Hilda is trying to live out her new faith by caring for her ailing mother. Because of Betty's advanced condition, they are no longer able to live together. But Hilda is able to visit three times a week to take care of simple chores and encourage her mother.

Since it began in 1997, the Children's Heart Project has brought 220 children from nine countries to the United States and Canada for treatment. We coordinate all aspects of the trip, including travel, treatment, and accommodations, and provide airfare for the patient, a parent or guardian, a medical transport person, and a translator.

Hilda was one of the 42 children brought to North America for cardiac surgery in 2003. Boys and girls from Uganda, Mongolia, Kosovo, Bosnia, and Uzbekistan received the finest medical care available, and returned home with repaired hearts. Many of their family members were so touched by the

unconditional love shown through the project that they received renewed hearts by coming to faith in Jesus.

At least 39 people gained the promise of eternal life through Jesus as a direct result of the Children's Heart Project last year, with the number likely to grow as they influence their family members back home.



HAPPY HEARTS: In the weeks they spent with a host family, these Kosovar children and their mothers experienced the love of a Christian home.

During 2003, 10 hospitals partnered with Samaritan's Purse to provide cardiac surgery for children with heart defects. We are grateful for the many dedicated doctors who made this possible, as well as the 24 host families and 18 churches that lovingly welcomed the children into their homes and communities.

The Children's Heart Project program is expanding to Central America in 2004, when the first young patients from Honduras are scheduled to arrive in the United States. As this special outreach continues to grow, we pray that many more people like Hilda and Betty will see God's love in action and receive new hearts. ■

BOMET, KENYA: A woman named Eunice (left) and a community health worker spent time in Scripture. Eunice is the widow of a man who infected her with the virus that causes AIDS.

Compassion in the Shadow of AIDS

One of the most influential women in Africa has a message for Christians who try to ignore the AIDS pandemic. “The church must not be caught sleeping,” Janet Museveni said. “Indifference would be unforgivable at such a time as this.”

Mrs. Museveni, the first lady of Uganda, was speaking in February 2003 to Christian leaders from 10 countries in eastern

Africa. The meeting was the first regional conference of Prescription for Hope, the program organized by Samaritan’s Purse to strengthen the international Christian response to HIV/AIDS.

Her message was compelling because of her nation’s unparalleled success in the war against AIDS. Uganda is the first African country to significantly reduce HIV infections, its success

due largely to concerted national and local campaigns to promote Biblical principles and Christian virtues.

Mrs. Museveni had been a keynote speaker a year earlier at the inaugural Prescription for Hope conference, which drew representatives from 85 countries to Washington, D.C. Regional conferences, such as the 2003 East Africa meeting, are a strategic step to move the focus to the local level by helping churches and ministries implement proven and practical programs.

In May 2003, Samaritan’s Purse held another regional Prescription for Hope conference in Honduras, which was attended by participants from 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Honduras alone, Prescription for Hope training sessions have mobilized 72 churches and launched 45 grassroots projects to respond to the AIDS crisis.

In addition to the conferences, Prescription for Hope encompasses a variety of Samaritan’s Purse programs dealing with HIV/AIDS. During 2003, we continued to exercise global leadership while supporting grassroots partners who exemplify Christlike attributes of HIV/AIDS ministry.

During 2003, Samaritan’s Purse sponsored HIV/AIDS programs in more than a dozen countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. These ministries emphasize the Gospel as they address various aspects of prevention and care. Christians can offer hope in situations that are medically hopeless.

People facing death from AIDS long to be assured that a church will help care for their children. They cry out for compassion, respect, and unconditional love. Most of all, they need to know that Jesus has made it possible for them to have eternal life with Him, if they will place their trust in Him.

Samaritan’s Purse is also taking steps to demonstrate that Uganda’s progress can be duplicated through comprehensive large-scale Christian HIV/AIDS ministry. We have launched a model program in Kenya in association with Tenwek Hospital. Working through hundreds of church leaders, we are supporting Bible-based efforts to prevent infections, care for victims, teach truth, and share eternal hope.



SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS: Christians involved in AIDS ministries in 16 countries met in Honduras to learn how to respond to the pandemic.

Samaritan’s Purse has gained international respect for our work with HIV/AIDS. Franklin Graham and other ministry staff were invited to Washington in the spring of 2003 to participate in the White House AIDS summit, which ensured that faith-based programs would be included in the president’s \$15 billion international AIDS package.

No amount of government or medical resources will stop the AIDS pandemic, which has already killed or infected 70 million people and is still spiraling out of control. But in such a dark future, the Christian alternative shines ever brighter. ■

NOW HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS GIVEN TO US. —ROMANS 5:5 (NKJV)



KIJABE, KENYA: Dr. Frank Gay of Greenville, North Carolina, was among more than 40 North American doctors who served during 2003 at Kijabe Hospital through trips arranged by World Medical Mission.

developed by Samaritan's Purse to help address the worldwide shortage of missionary doctors.

World Medical Mission—the medical arm of Samaritan's Purse—celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2003, sending medical personnel on 278 short-term assignments to 50 hospitals and clinics in 33 countries. Physicians came from 37 states as well as Canada, Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands. For 99 of them, the trip was their first with World Medical Mission. Including family members and other volunteers, our placement office served more than 500 people.

For many, the experiences were life-changing.

Dr. James Brown of Danville, Virginia, said his faith was strengthened by the weeks he served in Cameroon, seeing his patients recover from snakebites, malaria, and typhoid. "Time and again, I saw God bless my meager efforts far beyond anything I could have hoped or imagined," he said.

Dr. Reginald Peters of Chilliwack, British Columbia, who served at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya, will never forget a pregnant patient who nearly bled to death during delivery. "I prayed that God would give me the hands and ability to assist in saving

their lives," he said. "Miraculously, we were able to deliver a small 32-week infant, and the mother survived to come to know Christ. She named her baby Faith."

Several doctors said they decided to serve after learning more about medical missions at Prescription for Renewal, the annual conference of World Medical Mission. The 14th annual conference drew a capacity crowd of nearly 500 doctors and spouses to The Cove to hear from Senate Majority Leader Dr. Bill Frist, a surgeon who has made five trips to Africa with World Medical Mission.

Among those sharing their testimonies at Prescription for Renewal was Dr. Carol Spears of Lexington, Kentucky, who served the fourth year of her surgical residency at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. She described "the amazing joy and satisfaction that comes from seeing God at work" on the mission field.



BAGHDAD, IRAQ: Medical equipment airlifted to Baghdad by Samaritan's Purse has been a blessing to Iraqi medical personnel and patients.

"We as surgeons do our part, and then God takes it from there," she said. "At Tenwek, their motto is 'We Treat, Jesus Heals.' We saw that in action over and over again."

The World Medical Mission warehouse was busier than ever before, sending medicine, equipment and supplies worth nearly \$2.9 million to medical facilities in 271 shipments to 53 countries. Staff technicians personally installed, repaired or assessed equipment in 12 countries.

The hospitals served by World Medical Mission have been used by God to lead tens of thousands of people to life-changing decisions for Jesus Christ. Just as in Jesus' day, multitudes attracted by the hope of physical healing are receiving spiritual truths that are stronger than any medicine. ■

Sending Medical Volunteers to the Mission Field

Dr. Matthew Stinson had done all he could do. His 29-year-old patient was dying of pneumonia, a complication of AIDS. The relentless toll of disease and death weighed heavily on the young doctor from Springfield, Missouri.

Yet he was encouraged to know that his patient was in the care of a Christian hospital, where on his deathbed he repented

of his sins and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. At the end of Dr. Stinson's two-month assignment in Kenya, he rejoiced in the work of a hospital where more souls are saved than lives are lost. "I am no longer discouraged by death," he said.

Dr. Stinson was participating in a program sponsored by World Medical Mission to encourage doctors to serve overseas during their residency training. This is part of a larger initiative

TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Nearly 40,000 people attended the Franklin Graham Festival at Drillers Stadium.

Franklin Graham Festivals



“God has touched my heart to see all these people come to Jesus Christ,” Gonzalez said. “I thank God for giving me the opportunity to be here. It is worth the effort, the hard work, the sweat, for even one soul to be saved.”

Thousands of souls were saved during 2003 at Franklin Graham Festivals, evangelistic events held in cooperation with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The events featured high-energy music from award-winning Christian artists and exciting programs for children. But while the events were fun, the focus was on the Gospel message: God, in His great love, sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins and to rise again for our eternal salvation.

Franklin Graham proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ to crowds totaling 253,550 in Veracruz, Mexico; Roanoke, Virginia; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Rosario, Argentina. More than 27,200 people responded to the invitation, coming to faith in Christ or rededicating their lives to Him.

The Festival in Rosario, with the support of over 90 percent of the city's

churches, reaped a great spiritual harvest. More than 103,000 people attended the meetings, and 15,242 made life-changing decisions for Jesus Christ. The vast majority of those who came forward were under the age of 18.

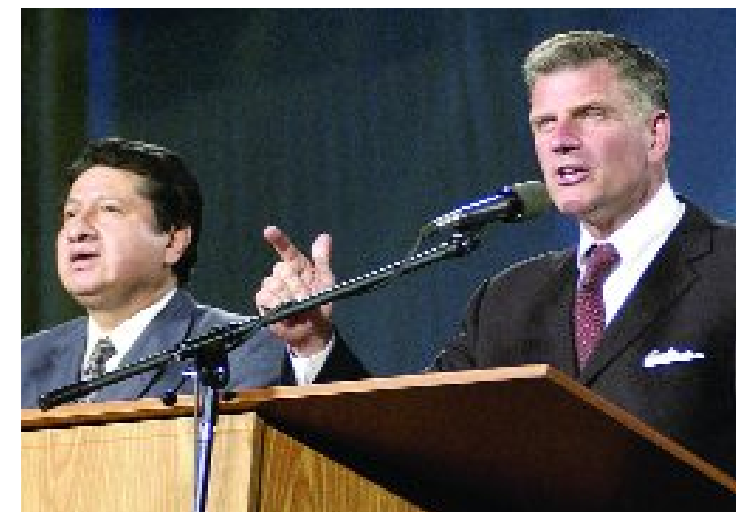
A teenager named Mauricio heard the message of God's redeeming love for the first time, and it moved him to tears. “My heart brought me here,” said Mauricio, after praying to receive Christ. “I feel peace.”

Emanuel, another teen, came to the Festival that night by himself because he felt alone. He left with a personal

relationship with Jesus Christ, a Friend who will never leave him or forsake him. “Now I want to work for God and to please Him,” he said.

The Festivals brought together Christians from different denominations and backgrounds. As they worked side-by-side, walls were brought down and new fellowships were formed. In Roanoke, for example, prayer meetings for the Festival united believers from different races and churches for the first time.

“This Festival is the biggest thing to happen to the Christian community in the history of Roanoke,” said Pastor Edward Burton, vice chair of the Roanoke committee.



ROSARIO, ARGENTINA: With the help of a translator, Franklin Graham preached the Gospel to more than 103,000 people at this Festival.

Proclaiming God's Good News

Jose Manuel Gonzalez was exhausted. The evangelical pastor was in charge of preparing Beto Avila Stadium for Festival de Esperanza, an evangelistic event led by Franklin Graham in Veracruz, Mexico. He had spent hour after hour sawing boards and hammering nails, helping construct ramps from the stands to the field.

He forgot his tired, aching muscles on the first night of the Festival. After preaching the Gospel, Franklin Graham invited people to come forward and put their faith in Jesus Christ. Hundreds responded, using the ramps built by Gonzalez and his crew. As he saw the people making the most important decision of their lives, his joy overcame his fatigue.

The impact of the Festivals went beyond the actual events themselves. Thousands of local Christians received training in evangelism and in counseling new believers. And the sense of cooperation and unity remains long after the Festival staff leaves, as churches continue working together to spread the Gospel in their communities.

“That is the gift of the Festival,” said Ruben Ramirez, the president of the Veracruz organizing committee. “It prepared over 6,000 Christians to be counselors. Even after the event, they will be out evangelizing and making disciples.” ■

... OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, WHO HAS ABOLISHED DEATH AND BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL ...
—2 TIMOTHY 1:10 (NKJV)

Taking the Light of Jesus Around the World



IMIMBA, CONGO: Living in temporary shelter provided by Samaritan's Purse, this mother and daughter are looking forward to the end of strife so they can return to their village.

Africa

Rosie was abandoned by her family, betrayed by her friends, and forced to take up arms against her government. She was still a child when she shot and killed a girl her own age.

Rosie is not her real name, but her story is true. Liberia is her homeland, but it could be Uganda or Sudan—any of the places across Africa where children are pawns of war.

Rosie is fortunate. She is among dozens of young women living at a new home run by Samaritan's Purse where they receive help in overcoming the horrors and guilt of a childhood spent in war. The girls enjoy healthy lives, learn trades, and find restoration through Christian ministry. Rosie's newfound faith has brought her spiritual and emotional healing. "Praise the Lord, I'm coping with the situation now," she said.

During 2003, Samaritan's Purse worked in several war-ravaged African nations to meet the critical needs of hurting people and to point them to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Redeemer who makes all things new.

In Liberia, our team arrived in the tumultuous days after the government was overthrown. In addition to two homes for traumatized girls like Rosie, we helped feed children at an orphanage that ran out of food during the war and worked with churches to distribute survival kits to more than 1,000 families.

The survival kits included a bucket packed with cooking utensils, soap, blankets, and other essential items for setting up a household. Each kit also included a Bible. Many of the recipients were eager to return to their villages, but they knew their homes and farms probably had been looted and burned. Our relief aid—and the support of churches—helped convince many displaced families that it was time to go home and start over. Among them was a man named Flomo, whose family had lived in a muddy shack during the war. "We thank God," Flomo said, clutching his family's bucket. "This is an answer to our prayers."

Samaritan's Purse also responded to a conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where more than 150,000 people were displaced by a tribal uprising that destroyed a Christian hospital and mission station. Some of

these people had walked more than 100 miles through jungles to escape the fighting. At the height of the conflict, more than 2,000 members of a besieged tribe were evacuated to safety aboard our DC-3.

Samaritan's Purse worked in several camps to provide food and blankets, as well as temporary shelter for families, schools, and churches. At one camp, a prominent Muslim woman was so impressed by Christian compassion that she requested a Bible. Another person told our team, "Please, let the other agencies bring us food. You bring us the Word of God for our hearts as you are doing today."

In northern Uganda, guerrilla troops have been terrorizing the people, forcing them to leave their villages and seek security in the cities. We provided a church shelter and 85 houses for displaced families.

[MORE →](#)



AFRICA: Our DC-3 demonstrated its versatility and durability, evacuating more than 2,000 people in the Congo and carrying Christmas gifts across battle lines in Sudan.

Taking the Light of Jesus Around the World

Much of our work in Africa was done in partnership with Christian hospitals and medical programs. In Angola, we continued construction on a hospital that will help replace medical facilities destroyed in the civil war. In Tanzania, we provided a hospital with 1,200 mosquito nets to prevent malaria and other diseases. We provided hundreds of Bibles to be distributed through Christian hospitals in Kenya and Lesotho.

In some African societies, the church is the only institution that has not crumbled. We want people to know they can trust Christians to help, and we want to ensure that local churches have the resources to continue their ministry. In Sierra Leone, we provided a church with bicycles and Bibles so it could continue an outreach to needy families. In several countries, we provided equipment so that the *Jesus* film could be shown in villages.

Ministries such as these touch the hearts of people who did not know that God loved them and doubted that He could redeem them. They rejoice in this Bible promise: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV). ■



BUNIA, CONGO: Samaritan's Purse flew rolls of plastic into rural Congo to build temporary shelters and raise hopes of displaced people.

Asia

Across the vast subcontinent of India, Samaritan's Purse projects are helping bring the Gospel to thousands living in spiritual darkness. We completed 10 church buildings, with another four under construction, and provided support for pastors, Bible schools, Christian schools, and a daycare center.

In neighboring Pakistan, persecuted believers can now worship in four new churches built by Samaritan's Purse. We also provided relief aid for Christians who were victims of attacks by religious extremists.

In the highlands of Vietnam, many tribal children have little hope of receiving an education. Schools are few and far between, and even when a school is close enough, most parents can't afford the fees. Samaritan's Purse is helping these children by constructing schools in rural communities throughout northern Vietnam. We completed 10 schools in 2003 and helped hundreds of boys and girls by providing nutritious food and scholarships that cover school supplies.

Other Samaritan's Purse education projects in Vietnam included floating classrooms on the Red River for poor children who live on boats, vocational training for street children, and a music program for blind children.

Our water filter projects continue to be an important part of our ministry in Asia, providing clean water that improves the health of entire communities. In Cambodia, thousands of water filters have been installed by local Christians, who tell families about the “living water” of Jesus Christ.

Deep in the jungles of southern Cambodia is the village of Viel Thom, a community populated by about 250 amputees and their families. Most of the men are former soldiers wounded in past battles or by the landmines still scattered throughout the nation. We provided families there with oxen and farm supplies, installed water filters, constructed roads into the village, and began construction of a school.

Other projects in Cambodia included support for a ministry that educates children in the slums of Phnom Penh; a Christian shelter that provides education, meals, health care, prayer, and spiritual guidance for abused and neglected children in the town of Poipet; and a housing project to provide shelter for poor rice farmers who have lost their homes. ■



VIEL THOM, CAMBODIA: Oxen provided by Samaritan's Purse make farm work possible in a remote village populated by hundreds of amputees.

Eastern Europe

There was virtually no Christian activity in the city of Gjakova before Samaritan's Purse began working there in the aftermath of the Kosovo conflict in 1999. But our compassionate ministry—caring for returning refugees, rebuilding damaged homes and schools, and delivering shoe box gifts—opened doors for local believers to share their faith,

and dozens of Kosovars came to faith in Christ.

Samaritan's Purse continues to shine the light of Jesus Christ in Gjakova. In 2003, we helped Christians there reach more of their neighbors by building a community center that churches can use for evangelistic events. We also supplied Bibles and New Testaments for new believers, and furnished firewood for use in an outreach to impoverished families.

The Evangelical Church of Capljina is located in the southwest corner of Bosnia-Herzegovina, an area [MORE →](#)

Taking the Light of Jesus Around the World

SHAHUMYAN, ARMENIA: Samaritan's Purse helped a church provide firewood for poor families who endure sub-freezing winter weather while living in converted water tanks.

largely unreached with the Gospel. With support from Samaritan's Purse, church workers have been distributing food parcels to some of the neediest families in the area, building friendships and bearing witness to Christ's love. Funds were also provided for heating and bathrooms in the new church facility.

In Serbia, we continued working with the Novi Sad Christian Fellowship in relief and evangelism projects. Our support included funds for Christian teachers who provide free tutoring to struggling students, a program that has resulted in a number of teenagers and their parents becoming Christians.

Samaritan's Purse advanced the cause of Christ in other Eastern European countries as well. Our evangelism efforts in Romania focused on children through support for a Christian summer camp, a Gospel film outreach in orphanages, and a feeding program for impoverished Gypsy children. In Armenia, we helped local ministries supply firewood for impoverished families, renovate two schools, and furnish beds for a Christian youth camp. A Macedonian church was equipped with Bible study materials, and an Albanian church received new chairs and a sound system. ■

Far East Russia

In his letter to the Romans, Paul tells us that the Word of God is central to evangelism: *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17, NKJV).

In Far East Russia, where distance and culture can keep people far from church, much of our work is dedicated to reaching people with God's Word.

In Vladivostok, Anadyr, and Provideniya, Samaritan's Purse reaches youth who rarely attend church through a Christian coffeehouse ministry. Teenagers go to the coffeehouses to drink coffee and spend time with friends. While there, they listen to contemporary Christian music and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The coffeehouses provide a way for people to come and hear God's Word. Elsewhere in the region, we take God's Word to the people in remote villages, isolated from the bigger cities by miles of rugged, snow-covered terrain. Since many of the villages don't have a church, we supplied vehicles that can travel on snow and allow evangelists to reach the far-flung

communities. We also held a conference for 30 pastors who work in small communities, training them in evangelism and providing a forum to discuss problems in reaching their people. ■

Latin America

Samaritan's Purse relief projects demonstrated God's love to thousands of suffering people throughout Latin America in 2003.

A food/education program was implemented in Honduras to combat malnutrition in 32 impoverished communities. Families received nutritious soup, as well as lessons in health and hygiene, gardening, HIV/AIDS prevention, and Bible-based morality. Each person in the program heard the Gospel through a Samaritan's Purse evangelistic outreach that is at the heart of all of our work in Honduras. A team of local evangelists went into the communities and showed the *Jesus* film, as well as Christian movies translated into Spanish. The evangelism team also worked in villages where Samaritan's Purse has established livestock and agricultural projects, installed water filters, and built houses.

Evangelism also was the focus of the work in Nicaragua. Samaritan's Purse supports a Christian school in the town of Bluefields, where 300-plus students from poor families learn about the love of Jesus Christ while receiving a quality education. We also helped impoverished people in Nicaragua through livestock projects, water filters, support for churches and orphanages, and by providing wheelchairs for handicapped children.

Samaritan's Purse helped abused and neglected children living in three Christian orphanages in Mexico. Our support included construction projects that allowed the homes to expand their facilities and funding for educational, vocational, and agricultural programs. We also constructed a community center and supported a tree-planting project for the Otomie Indians. The work opened doors to present the Gospel to a group that has long been hostile to Christians. Many of them accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, and we helped plant three churches.

Many areas along the Amazon River in Brazil are plagued by poverty. The problem is particularly acute for abandoned and single mothers. Samaritan's Purse helped 200 such women through Project Amazon, which conducts vocational training in

Taking the Light of Jesus Around the World



SANTA FE, ARGENTINA: Samaritan's Purse worked with churches to help feed families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by flooding.

crocheting, fabric printing, cross-stitching, and other fields, as well as teaching classes in parenting, finances, and household management. We also provided scholarships for 65 impoverished children to attend kindergarten at church schools and improved the health of poor families along the Amazon River by installing hundreds of water filters.

When flooding devastated the province of Santa Fe in Argentina in April, Samaritan's Purse quickly responded by supplying emergency food, water, blankets, and hygiene kits to the most needy and vulnerable. As the floodwaters receded, we provided tools and equipment so local Christians could clean houses. ■

North America

It's hard to get to Port Alsworth, Alaska, a tiny town of about 50 people located 160 miles southwest of Anchorage. There are no roads into the rural community, and the only way to get there is by plane.

But for the young people who are flown there, the trip is worth it. Port Alsworth is home to the Tanalian Bible Camp, a ministry that works with children ages 9 through 19. Most of these boys and girls are Native Americans from other isolated, rural communities in southwest Alaska. For many of them, this is their first time to hear the Gospel.

Samaritan's Purse constructed a new main building for the camp that includes a spacious meeting hall, a dining hall, and a chapel. It also accommodates a local church that formerly met in homes. The building was dedicated in September, with Alaska Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman and former Governor Jay Hammond joining Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham at the ceremony.

Young people in rural Kentucky and inner-city Oakland and Brooklyn also experienced God's love through the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Thousands of elementary-aged children in the impoverished coal-mining hills of Kentucky were reached by Quality Kids, a program that sends Christian counselors into schools to teach hygiene, manners, and Bible-based character traits. The counselors invite the children to after-school events at local churches, where they receive Bibles and learn about Jesus.

Funds were provided to the Brooklyn Tabernacle church for a youth center to help overcome the destructive influence of gangs,

drugs, poverty, and broken homes in New York City. Support was continued for the Samaritan Neighborhood Center in inner-city Oakland, which provides recreation, academic tutoring, career counseling, and other activities in a Christian environment. ■

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Samaritan’s Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan’s Purse has helped meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disaster, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God’s love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.