



Charlotte's vision



womenofvision

Women of Vision Charlotte Chapter www.womenofvision.org

Winter 2010

President of World Vision Speaks at 10th Annual Charlotte Women of Vision Fundraiser Thursday, February 25th Quail Hollow Club

Make your plans now to be a part of our Annual WOV Charlotte Fundraiser on Thursday, February 25th at Quail Hollow Club. You do not want to miss this amazing opportunity to hear our guest speaker Richard Stearns, President of World Vision U.S.

Mr. Stearns is also the author of "The Hole In Our Gospel – What Does God Expect of Us?" which will be our January Bible/book study selection in preparation for his visit. Having traveled more than a million miles to dozens of countries around the globe as president of WV,

Stearns will share compelling stories of the revolutionary power of the gospel.



Richard Stearns holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and received his MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Penn-

sylvania. Before coming to World Vision, Richard was the president and chief executive officer of Lenox, Inc.

Please do not miss this wonderful evening, full of hope, celebration and fellowship; a true Call to Action as followers of Christ as we support our

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Women of Vision, a volunteer

ministry of World Vision, is a partnership of Christian women who are called to invest their time, intellect, compassion, creativity and finances to meet the needs of impoverished and oppressed women and children. Founded in 1950 World Vision is an international Christian humanitarian organization serving the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries, including the United States. As women who believe that God works through human hands and hearts, Women of Vision seeks to educate and motivate women of diverse ages, backgrounds, and circumstances to use their God-given resources to meet human needs in their own communities and around the world.

Mission Statement

In the name of Christ, we are committed to making a significant difference through Him, by Him, in Him, in the lives of women and children in poverty in our community and in the world.

Vision Statement

Being a Christ-Centered Women's organization working in partnership with each other and with the people we serve, we seek to make a difference in the lives of others as we grow in Christ.

Women of Vision of Charlotte Goals

- Deepen our commitment to Christ.
- Promote and increase awareness of World Vision and its international mission of relief and development, working with the poor in the name of Christ.
- Educate ourselves and others about the condition of women and children in poverty.
- Strengthen committed partnership within the organization working to increase diversity.
- Make a significant difference in the lives of women and children in poverty as we work together in partnership with World Vision internationally, Women of Vision nationally, each other locally, people we serve globally, and with all other organizations.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 28th - Feb 10th** Ethiopia Trip
- February 25th** Fundraiser/10th Year Anniversary
Guest Speaker: Rich Stearns
Quail Hollow Club
- March 7-10th** WOV National Conference,
Washington, D.C.
- March 29th** Area of Education: International
(Serving the World)
Ethiopia Trip Team Report/
Conference Report
Christ Episcopal Church
- April 21st** FriendRaiser
Guest Speaker: Angela Mason
Team: Child Sponsorship
Quail Hollow Club
- May 10th** Luncheon at Kim Belk's Home
"Passing the Globe"

**Partnership Meetings will be Monday
from 9:45-11:30 a.m.
Christ Episcopal Church in the Blue Room**

"I want you to get out there and walk—better yet—run on the road God called you to travel. You were called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together. But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his/her own gift."

Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of "The Message"

Christmas Coffee

In keeping with our holiday tradition, Jean Ford delivered her very special Christmas message during our Annual Christmas Coffee at the beautiful home of Posey Mealy. Joe Anne Cole sang accompanied by Cydne Watterson. Jean reminded us that Jesus gave the gift of himself and encouraged us to do the same throughout the year.



Rooted in Christ

Leighton Ford and Deborah Harris were the speakers for the September WOV Charlotte Fall Retreat.

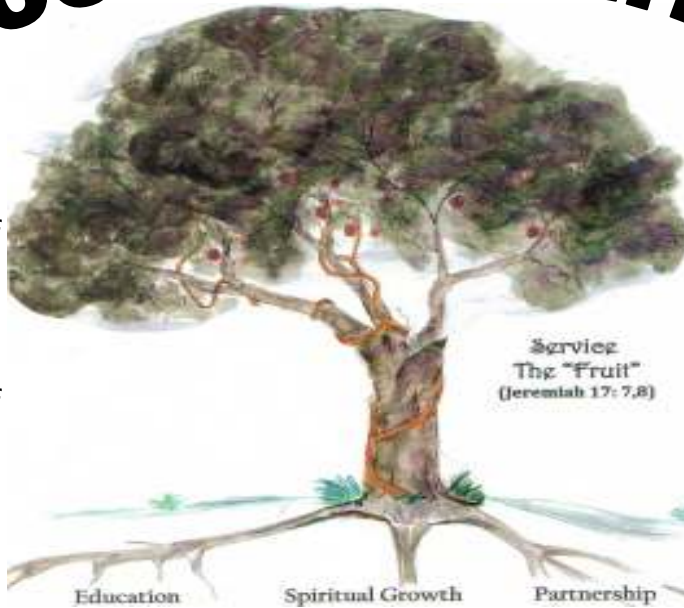
Leighton spoke on the importance of a root system in our lives. He gave us a picture of a lone tree on top of a rock. How can the tree stand against the wind and weather? Its root system provides a great deal of support; it has life because of the deep and wide root system.

Leighton also referenced John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing." Christ is the vine and WOV is a branch. It is our task now to join Jesus on His mission, grow in Him, and stay in Him. We want our vision to be "deeper and wider" for God's vision for the world.

Deborah Harris began her time with us by asking us a few questions. First, Deborah asked, "How long have you lived?" She was not asking how long have we been strolling through life or merely responding to it; rather Deborah was looking for us to consider how long we have been living life by acknowledging God's presence in our lives and the joy and passion He places in our hearts. Events happen in life that are intended to break you and your will, but when God is involved, something amazing happens instead. These hardships cause you to wake up and consciously walk through life with a passion; you make a choice to live the life God has set for you.

Deborah's second question asked us to consider our purpose. Why did God choose this time, the year two-thousand-and-nine, to put us on this earth? What is our purpose in our own generation? Beyond that, what is God's purpose for us? Ephesians 1:11 reminds us that it is in Christ that we find our purpose and mission.

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Then He asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Deborah asked us to think about who we say Jesus is. What roll does He play in our life? Is He penciled in the margins of our story? Is He our primary focus on Sun-



day mornings and then forgotten for the remainder of the week? Or, is He the center, most important figure? Does our world reflect Jesus? I would always tell my daughter "let them see Jesus in you" as she climbed out of the car for school. Does the world see Jesus in our words and actions?

Deborah presented us with the image of a tree as a metaphor for our Women of Vision chapter. We are rooted in

Christ. We have his vision, walk his path, and follow his direction. Jesus teaches us to have the love and compassion to be spiritually discontent with the things that hurt God's heart. The branches of the tree remind us that we need to be totally dependent on God. We must remain connected to the trunk and roots in order to produce fruit. Women of Vision provides us with the opportunity to go into the world and show the fruits of our faith. The more connected we are as women, the sweeter the fruit we present to the world.

Our partnership is one of the strongest roots of our organization. Membership means that you are "in" or "out." Partnership means that we have an authentic relationship; we are intertwined, hold each other up, and strengthen one another. Our calling is the same.

Deborah had one final question for us: what happens when a woman says "yes" to God? After Deborah said yes, she felt new purpose, found new passion, gained a fresh perspective, felt God's presence, experienced the power of prayer, cultivated partnerships, and found an adventurous new path in life – one that allowed her to know God's love in a brand new way.

Deborah closed with a quote that encompasses the work we do as servants for the Lord, "It matters not the duration of your life, but rather the donation of your life. That is what makes the difference."

WOV International Day Conference

The Women of Vision International Women's Day Conference will be March 7-9, 2010. The event will be hosted in the Washington DC area at the Sheraton Premiere in Tyson's Corner, McLean, VA.

The theme for the conference is "Every Woman Has a Story." This will be an opportunity for us to educate ourselves in how to advocate our cause, both locally and nationally. Guest lecturers will discuss pressing issues for women and children. At the conclusion of the conference, we will approach our local Congressmen to request support for our cause.

Register now for an excellent time of fellowship with Women of Vision sisters. Please invite your friends to join us as well. Registration for the conference is filling up quickly. You can register online on the Women of Vision website, and the phone number to book your hotel room is (800) 325-3535.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Carolyn Hudson (cbhudson@carolina.rr.com) or Nicki Bryant (nickidbryant@aol.com).

To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required

We were fortunate to have Romanita Hairston join us as our guest speaker at the October meeting for WOV Charlotte. She shared a video that beautifully depicted the work of World Vision.

Romanita reminded us that although we cannot save all, we can certainly save a few. World Vision programs provide aide to children and come alongside various organizations to help them do their work to the highest caliber possible. She told us that part of our work is to help those in need remember that God put beauty in each of them. We must know them and affirm their worth.

It's been thirteen years since Romanita joined the World Vision team. She prayed a prayer that her

heart would be broken for the things that break God's heart. It is her hope that those helped by World Vision will one day seek out a way to give back as well.

Romanita closed by reminding us that our work as women, in community with one another, is making great strides in the work of World Vision and in the lives of women and children around the world.

CHARLOTTE WOMEN OF VISION 2009-2010 NEW PARTNERS

The Cross Cultural Study finished in late October after 7 weeks of the Heart of the Matter study. We welcomed 43 new partners at the November partnership meeting. Our new partners are all enthusiastic women who come with a wealth of knowledge and experiences in working with and helping women and children in poverty. We would like to say a special thanks to all of you who participated in the study through the telling of your personal stories and perspectives from your involvement with Women of Vision. Our study is much more impactful because of the personal and heartfelt sharing that you all gave.

The Cross Cultural Study is currently being re-written and will be presented in a slightly different format next year. We will let you know more as the study becomes fully available in the coming months. Please contact Catherine Armstrong with questions.

Welcome New Partners!!

Kristin Baker	Laura Furgeson	LeeAnn Pounds
Midge Barron	Carolyn Gaskin	Lynn Purdum
Debbie Bennett	Sharon Graper	Liz Schillings
Katie Black	Kristen Guarnieri	Wendy Schmidly
Grey Bronlow	Susan Hannah	Cynthia Shoffner
Julie Campbell	Andrea Hill	Debra Seelig
Karen Cauthen	Sunny Hutchinson	Anne Stolz
Beth Davis	Margaret Irvin	Bev T. Voltaggio
Leslie Dibble	Heather Jenkins	Elaine Walters
Lan Diep-Smith	Karen Kaplan	Faye White
Maggie Elliott	Katie Kirk	Allison Whitlock
Jolee Fennebresque	Cheri Maisel	Arline Wilson
Margaret Fisher	Holly Patton	Carrie Woodard
Kathy Foster	Holly Phillips	Amy Young
	Pam Pillmore	

WOMEN OF VISION TRIP APPALACHIA October 2-4, 2009

In early October 2009, WOV Charlotte was the host chapter for the World Vision/ WOV National Trip to Philippi, West Virginia. An open invitation was extended to all chapters and all interested women.

Charlotte partners and trip organizers Anne Dowd, Jan Stubblefield and Vickie Walker greeted 27 women from across the country. Charlotte was represented by Deborah Harris, Ginny Shaw, Scottie Lindsay, Barbara Walker, Nan Bracy, Marion Philpott, and Catherine Collins.

World Vision staff and volunteers presented an informative program concerning the work done in West Virginia for the past 20 years in this desperately poor region of Appalachia. Total community transformation remains the objective. However, spiritual, emotional and physical rehabilitation of families and children caught in the spiral of generational poverty is the immediate need. World Vision programs that lift individuals and families out of this spiral and replace it with reachable goals and attainable dreams contribute to the message of hope and purpose. Later, several of the mothers from Philippi spoke honestly and clearly about such dreams that they have for themselves and their children as well as their needs and hopes for their families.

Rural Appalachia is exactly as it is depicted on the television specials. When you come face to face with the people, you truly connect with the hardships and struggles, which prove so overwhelming in these communities. We are blessed to have an avenue to walk alongside the women and children of this community as we serve with World Vision. The members of the trip teams from Seattle, Denver, Pittsburgh, Connecticut and Charlotte WOV chapters, as well as independent participants, came away with a clear



sense of calling to make a significant difference in the lives of these economically and culturally challenged families and to witness the joy and hope of the Lord through our service.

The trip was also an opportunity for spiritual growth, fellowship and bonding. We all came away with a desire to reconnect through WV mission work and the development of new programs that continue to build the community and offer us new roads to serve together. Next stop: Women of Vision National Conference in Washington, DC

Dr. Paul Hanneman

The November partnership meeting was a great morning with Dr. Paul Hanneman, Program Director of the Urban Ministry Center. Dr. Hanneman works directly with the homeless and coordinates the Servant Leadership School. The school provides educational resources that are designed to help individuals deepen their spiritual lives, explore the dynamics of poverty and homelessness, and respond to the call to minister to the “least of these.”

Dr. Hanneman discussed the difficulty of getting out of poverty, as well as the energy it takes to maintain the stability of life. Relationships are key to the success of helping people out of poverty. We must be called to provide justice, not charity. Charity is a desire to give to the “good” poor people. Justice is joining people where they are, giving people what they need, and building relationships across class lines.

Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Matthew 25:44

Dr. Hanneman explained that there is a huge difference between the middle class and living in poverty. Those that live in poverty are in survival mode. Most Americans have a limited amount of compassion for the homeless in America. However, there is a great deal of compassion for the children that are starving in Africa. There is a double standard that should not exist.

In Charlotte, 28% of the population is living in poverty and struggling to survive. Minimum wage is \$7.25, almost a full dollar less than the Fair Market Rate for rent and utilities. Individuals and families are working, yet cannot break out of their poverty situation.

The greatest need is to provide housing to the impoverished. Dr. Hanneman is working on “Moore Housing,” a housing model that will house 85 homeless individuals while providing necessary services; the first housing system of its kind. Studies have shown that it costs the United States over \$1.3 million to maintain 13 homeless individuals for 3 years. It is much more cost effective to house the homeless, therefore providing them with the opportunity to thrive.

It's Just a CLICK Away!
www.womenofvision.org

The Joy of Giving...

The Appalachia committee had a busy fall. We started off with a very informative October retreat in Philippi, WV. This time brought together chapters from Connecticut, Pittsburgh, and Seattle, along with some independents, and about 12 ladies from our Charlotte chapter. Much interest was stirred up and we look forward to working with these other chapters as we continue to build WOV's presence in the area.

With Isabel Owen's foresight and guidance, we gathered a large number of gently used, unsold children's clothing. Isabel collected these items from the Myers Park Presbyterian consignment sale. We delivered them on the October trip, and they were distributed among the many needy families that World Vision serves.

In November, we gathered over a light lunch at Quail Hollow to fill a Christmas bag for KidREACH children with a stuffed stocking and coat. Also, each child received an age appropriate book with a personalized note inside.

Unfortunately, weather prohibited the delivery of the Christmas bags. Those of us who planned on making the trip, gathered at Providence Country

Club to fill the many boxes provided by Anne Dowd's husband from Charlotte Pipe and Foundry. With eighteen boxes filled, they were mailed and safely received within a few days. The children were grateful for the gifts and have each written notes of thanks for their gifts.

We will begin the planning for our July camp in January and are very thankful for the ladies who have jumped in to lead it.

We are excited about our committee and the women who are bringing new ideas and energy with them.



Child Sponsorship Winter Social

The WOV Charlotte First Annual Child Sponsorship Winter Social was held Tuesday, December 1 at the home of Colleen Ludington. About 20 partners met to enjoy fellowship and Christmas cheer while writing Christmas letters and stuffing envelopes full of goodies for our sponsor children. What a great way to kick off the Christmas holiday season! The Child Sponsorship Social provided an easy, turn-key way to let our sponsor children know that our thoughts and prayers were with them this holiday season. Hosted by Betsy Liles and Colleen Ludington, the evening was a warm and wonderful experience. There are plans afoot for a Spring Social in 2010. As a reminder, if you would like to send a package to your child, please be sure that it is no larger than a 6"x9" envelope.



AIDS WALK FOR ORPHANS

HIV/AIDS is devastating communities around the world—and children are suffering the most. The Charlotte chapter of Women of Vision took steps to help and it was as simple as taking a walk. The average person can walk 6,000 steps in about one hour. But the assistance provided by our partnership's participation in **World Vision's 6,000 Steps: AIDS Walk for Orphans** will bring about a lifetime of change and hope for a child abandoned by this disease. In order to raise awareness of the 6,000 children who are orphaned due to AIDS per day, the Charlotte chapter of Women of Vision hosted a walk at Southpark Mall November 22, 2009. Each participant committed to walk 6,000 steps in honor of the most fragile members of our global family, orphans of the AIDS epidemic.



The rain on the day of the walk did not dampen our spirits or motivation. We were blessed to have the men's choir from the Harvest Center sing beautiful gospel songs that were both motivating and humbling. The choir feeds, educates and ministers to the homeless in our Charlotte community. South Park Mall was hostess to over a hundred men, women and children, dressed in orange (the color of hope) walking the mall and keeping hope alive by spreading the word of the impact AIDS has on children all over the world.

Our chapter met its goal, and then some, of raising money and awareness towards our efforts to make a difference in lives of the children in our world. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated and a big hug to our top raising fundraisers, Sue Makepeace and Anne Dowd!

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Fundraiser

WV/WOV programs around the world and in our own community.

Questions: Gloria Johnson, 704-364-6272. Invitations to the event will be in the mail by mid-January and responses will be mailed to Pam Misle.

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Deuteronomy 15:11

Be a Part of the Partnership!

Kitty Bauknight and Jan Stubblefield are the facilitators of a study of Rich Stearns' The Hole in Our Gospel. The study began January 11, following the Partnership meeting. This six-week study is scheduled to meet January 20, 27, February 3, 10, and 17 at 1:00 pm. Location: Myers Park Presbyterian Church. For those unable to join the six-week study, there will be an abbreviated study of the book February 8 and 22 from 9:00-noon.

The Angels in Mamie's Life...

We all want our children to be safe and to have a healthy and happy upbringing; all of God's children deserve that, right? However, some children are born into circumstances that dash these hopes and have a severe impact on a child's future. Mamie was one such child. She moved to Charlotte at the age of 8 and lived in Fairview Homes with her mother and siblings. Mamie says "the neighborhood was real rough. I was never allowed to leave the house or play outside because it was too dangerous. I couldn't go to the store like a lot of kids because it wasn't safe. Someone could have their head blown off right outside your door. A man was actually shot six times right outside our door the year we moved in. I had a hard, rocky life. It wasn't like that for other kids."

Even though Mamie was surrounded by violence and drugs, she does have some good memories of her childhood. She attended church with her family at Community Outreach Ministries (the parent ministry to the Harvest Center) where she met Pastor Gloria Barrett. On weekends, Mamie would go to Pastor Barrett's home and spend time with her. "She was real good to me. She was a good influence on me and a great friend." Pastor Barrett, along with Pastor Barbara Cameron and Sister Rosa Marion also of Community Outreach, became a big part of Mamie's life and gave her a reprieve from the horrors she faced in her neighborhood. Mamie's face lights up when she talks about the influence these women had on her childhood.

Then, at the age of 10, Mamie faced a tragedy that changed her life forever. She was in her mother's apartment when a man broke in during the middle of the night. While the rest of her family slept, the man cut Mamie and injured her

so severely that she was hospitalized for three months. Mamie says, "I've been trying to let that go, but it's real hard." It's difficult for Mamie to discuss this horrific event 24 years later. It clearly scarred her both physically and emotionally. To make matters worse, Mamie became pregnant that year and eventually delivered a stillborn child. All in one year, Mamie faced two tragic events at an age when many children's biggest challenges are playground dramas. Yet, once again she found support from the Pastors who seemed to watch over her like angels. "While I was in the hospital, Pastor Cameron, Pastor Barrett, and Sister Rosa kept coming to see me every few days. They would do my hair, do my nails, and just be with me. They kept me together and are something very special to me. When Pastor Barbara passed (in December 2008), it took away a piece of my heart. Those people mean everything to me." Clearly, God was at work utilizing the Pastors at Community Outreach to make a difference in Mamie's life. They truly embrace their faith and live it daily by sharing Christ's love. Their influence on Mamie continues to this day.

As Mamie grew older, she "backslid away from church," faced with the overwhelming distractions of her environment as well as the physical and emotional scars of her attack. Mamie has had hip and leg problems since her traumatic incident, and still struggles with those issues today. At 15 she became pregnant again, dropped out of school, and gave her child up for adoption. A year later, Mamie found herself in trouble with the law on drug charges. She was scared and faced up to 10 years in prison. She didn't know where to turn. Once again, the pastors from Community Outreach stepped in to support Mamie. (continued on the next page)

They visited her before her court date and prayed with her. Mamie says, “They prayed over me and helped me get through. They stood by me. The next week I went to court and God fixed it so I didn’t have to do time. I was so thankful.”

Mamie was raised in a very bad environment and exposed to horrors no child should have to face. She wasn’t given the guidance to fully know right from wrong, and thus ended up making poor choices along the way. Time went on and Mamie faced many struggles. She now has eight children, five of whom live with her, whom she supports with her meager disability income. Yet, with all of her hardships, she still has an amazingly strong faith. God has been revealed to her through women who went out of their way to support Mamie through good times and bad. They showed her that she is special, loved, a child of God, and that He is with her every step of the way, no matter what she faces. “They have made my faith stronger. Sister Rosa, Pastor Cameron, and Pastor Barrett told me to go to church. They told me to get my kids in church. They changed the way I look at life. Now I put my kids first. I thank God that my kids have never had to live on the streets and they have never been involved with drugs. I pray about that a lot so they never have to go through the kind of life I did.”

In fall of 2008, Pastor Cameron, just before she passed away, asked her sister, Rosa Marion, to get Mamie involved in the Harvest Center so that her kids could be in a stable, Christian environment on a regular basis. Barbara had a vision that Mamie would have a better life, one based in Christ, and her vision is becoming a reality. Rosa brought Mamie to the Harvest Center, where she now comes with her kids several times a week. Mamie is also attending the Harvest Center Achievers class, a literacy and life skills-based class, where she is blossoming. Mamie wants to make up the work she missed in high school. She also loves having a place where her kids feel loved and safe. “My kids love

coming here every week. They tell me, ‘you gotta go to class, Mama! Sister Rosa wants you to go to class!’ I love coming to class and I really like to see the teachers. They are real funny and make me feel better when I’m having a bad day. I like doing the work and I’m learning a lot.”

Mamie has especially bonded with one Women of Vision volunteer, Sally D’Alessandro. “Sally is helping me out a lot. She is a very nice person; a very understanding person. She helps me with my reading and math. Last week she took me to the store and bought me groceries! My kids eat me out of house and home so that was real special.”



Sally says that when she first started working with Mamie, she was reading on a middle school level. Soon, however, Sally realized Mamie could only recognize sight words and those she had memorized. Mamie knew nothing about phonetics and thus could not manage even three letter words unless she had seen them before. Sally took Mamie back to first-grade level workbooks and started showing her how to sound out the words. Sally says, “I was so surprised that someone with such a high intellect would not be able to phonetically produce words. Mamie loves marine biology, but she could not read the word “walrus” because she had never seen it before.” Now Mamie is learning phonetics, and she has the motivation and determination to progress and learn. “It is so rewarding to see someone who has been given so little, and yet has maintained such intellectual curiosity. Now Mamie has a second chance and I love see- (continued on the next page)

ing her progress. She has such potential!” Sally and the other teachers in the Achievers class are Mamie’s newest “angels”, stepping in to support her, encourage her, and show her the love of Christ through good times and bad. For someone who has had Mamie’s “hard and rocky” life, the support of these women at the Harvest Center and Community Outreach makes all the difference. She is truly grateful for these “angels” watching over her.

Now Mamie is 34 years old. She has an incredible faith, structure in her life and her kids’ lives, support from amazing women who cheer her along the way, and goals that she is determined to achieve. Mamie is working very hard in the Achievers class and hopes to enroll in a GED class soon. The pastors and teachers at the Harvest Center are supporting her and helping her to achieve her goals. Next, Mamie wants to move her family from their two bedroom subsidized apartment to a house. She wants her kids to be in a safer neighborhood and have more room to play. Financially, Mamie is strapped each month trying to make ends meet for her family. However, she still finds a way to tithe to Community Outreach and the Harvest Center with every check she receives. “I want to give back to

the people who helped me.” What an amazing testament to her faith. Ultimately, Mamie wants to become a nurse. “I love working with people and I love kids. I want to be able to help others. Being a nurse has always been my dream.” Mamie wants to continue to teach her kids about God and strengthen their faith, and she is so glad to have the Harvest Center as a support. Truly, God is at work in her life and has been with her through good times and bad. In hindsight, it is easy to see His impact on Mamie over the years. Of course, the same could be said about each and every one of us. If we all look closely enough, we’ll see God in our own lives, working through “angels” that help us through our own rocky times. Whether we are victims of violence, facing the death of a loved one, dealing with divorce or addictions, facing financial strains, or doubting our faith for a moment, we can probably all think of individuals who were there for us, maybe in a surprising way, to show us God’s love. What a blessing it is for us, as Women of Vision, to be used by God as vessels to pour His love onto others, and then to also receive His love from those He has sent to impact each of us. What a beautiful gift God gives us, the gift of one another, God’s vessels. That is truly what life is all about.

New Local Projects Update

The New Local Projects Committee began meeting diligently in September. After setting forth stringent criteria, established by the Board and World Vision, and a December deadline, the committee has received eight wonderful and worthy agencies to pursue. The process of evaluating and scheduling site visits is underway. “Dennis Tan, Sue Makepeace’s brother, has been a life saver for our committee. He helped us create an interactive website and is in the process of establishing a rubric which will be invaluable as we come to the end of the evaluating process,” said Julie White. The Board will make the final decision and the chapter could potentially end up with two volunteer opportunities for partners to work together and serve Christ by helping women and children. The members on the committee are Debbie Gourley (chair), Julie White (chair), Lynn Warnock, Mary Waite, Sophie Wood, Linde Mullis, DeeDee Dalrymple, and Kitty Bauknight.

Ethiopia Trip January 29 - February 12

Eight partners will be representing Charlotte Women of Vision on a vision trip to Ethiopia leaving January 29th, 2010 and returning on February 12th. The trip team includes Nicki Bryant, Pam Dennis, Susan Goode, Terri Hart, Carolyn Hudson, Jenn Lamarre, Pam Pillmore, Susan Rankin, and will be hosted by national Women of Vision director, Cindy Breilh. We are thrilled to be traveling with Cindy (and her parents for a portion of the trip) as she has a special love for Ethiopia. She spent a portion of her childhood in the northern Ethiopian city of Gondar where her father served as a medical missionary.

The trip will consist of 3 distinct parts. We will first visit the capital city, Addis Ababa, where we will visit the Fistula Hospital and “Desta Mender” or Joy Village, the site of a village for women with more profound fistula injuries requiring ongoing medical attention and also the site of the new Hamlin midwifery college. The goal of the midwifery college is to train women

to attend women in childbirth in the more remote areas around the country thereby preventing the occurrence of obstetric fistula. Also in Addis we will be meeting with World Vision’s Gender Specialist and groups of women to discuss women’s issues such as child marriage, abduction, HIV/AIDS, FGM and micro enterprise development loans to women. Our hope is to communicate that our special interest as donors is to encourage World Vision efforts to pursue projects that benefit girls and women, and to learn how WOV Charlotte can best come alongside to facilitate these efforts. While in Addis, we will also meet with Tim Tuisink, a SIM medical missionary who works with people with HIV and AIDS and who can offer a perspective on the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the ancient religious expression of about half of all Ethiopians.

The second portion of our trip is a tour of northern Ethiopia where we will travel to Bahar Dar, Gondar, Axum and Lalibela. Some of the highlights

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Ten Million Pairs of Shoes in Ten Years!

On January 11, WOV was honored to have Emmanuel “Manny” Ohonme as the guest speaker for our Partnership meeting. The meeting highlighted the International Trip Team as they prepare to travel to Boset, Ethiopia, where they will visit our sponsored children. We also learned how we might better serve this community. Manny is the living example of how God can use us as missionaries and how a simple act of kindness can change a life forever.

Growing up in Nigeria, Manny’s life was dramatically changed when, at the age of 9, a team of mission workers, not unlike our WOV partners, visited his small village. Manny received a pair of tennis shoes from one of the team members, a man named Dave. Manny also learned the game of basketball and with new inspiration for his life, set out on the path that would eventually lead him to the United States as a college basketball star.

Working hard, Manny continued his education with advanced degrees, married a beautiful, young woman he met in college and went into the business world destined for success. Manny and his family settled in Charlotte and lived a comfortable life.

But, he was never comfortable in his “life of success.” What he longed for was a life of significance. In 2003, Manny left his corporate job and started a humanitarian service organization called Samaritan’s Feet.

Samaritan’s Feet mission is to put shoes on ten million children over ten years. Manny, with the help of his family and supporters, would collect new and like-new tennis shoes and store them in his garage. He would clean, lace, and box them up. Using his savings and small gifts from supporters, Manny would take the shoes to the

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of what we will see include Lake Tana (the source of the Blue Nile River), the Blue Nile Falls, monasteries, 17th century castles, the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's Palace, the monolithic stelae of Axum, Tsion Mariam Church where the original Ark of the Covenant is said to be housed, and the 13th century rock-hewn churches of Lalibela that are now acknowledged as the eighth wonder of the world. We are very excited to take this sightseeing adventure and see parts of Ethiopia that our trip teams have not had the opportunity to visit before.

The third portion of our trip will be spent in the Boset ADP where Charlotte WOV has many sponsored children and where we have funded drought relief, water-harvesting techniques, the building of an elementary school and health post and for this fiscal year, micro enterprise lending and water projects. We will see all of these projects, visit our school and health post, meet with local women's groups and learn about the progress of World Vision's ongoing efforts in this ADP. The aspect of the trip that

many of us are most excited about is that we will have the opportunity to visit our sponsored children and their families in their homes. In the past the children have come to the ADP compound or "headquarters" for a group visit, but this time we will go to them and see how they live, and meet their families and communities.

As you can see, it is a very full itinerary and we are expecting that we will learn much. We hope to be faithful in expressing the love of Christ as we travel along and to be an encouragement to all we meet. We would appreciate your prayers for safety on our trip and for our families back home and for unity among our "team." Please pray too that God will use this experience outside of our cultural comfort zone to show us more of who He is and what He cares about. We want to have His vision for the world and to play a part in making it so, as He guides us and gives us opportunity.

We will look forward to reporting back to you, our sending partners, at the March 29th meeting.

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villages and countryside of third world countries. Samaritan's Feet feeds thousands every day in Africa, paired with Pro Health International to provide medical attention and help, and shares the good news of Jesus Christ.

You may think, "What can I accomplish in this HUGE world?" You may think you are only one person in the world, but to a little boy or girl you may be the world. When you choose to partner with the Creator of the universe, you can make a difference. Manny says, "Obedience is the greatest gift we can give to God." Then you will discover the ripple effect of saying, "yes." Somebody chose to say "yes" and this someone made a difference in Manny's life many years ago and from that "yes", there has been an enormous rippling effect. Faith must work, must produce and must be visible.

Spirit, soul, and body are healed through this humanitarian outreach. Samaritan's Feet is making a difference in a child's life. Manny has become an ambassador to the world showing that same act of kindness that was shown to him at the age of nine. To the hopeless he brings faith and hope. To the poor he shows compassion; love to a world filled with hurt and pain. To those in need he brings joy.

As a devout Christian, Manny's work and that of his volunteer teams incorporates sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through a ceremonial foot washing administered with joyful, tender and loving care. The feet are washed and dried and then rubbed with oil before new shoes are slipped on feet of all sizes and color. The smiles on the recipients' faces are the reward for the mission workers.

Today, Samaritan's Feet has grown into a major humanitarian relief organization with name sponsors and worldwide recognition. Manny appears regularly in churches and on national television, calling others to service. His ministry now brings food, clothing and shelter as well as shoes to people around the world. Manny remains faithful to the Lord as he serves and is grateful that he can continue the legacy of a man named Dave who gave a little boy from Nigeria a pair of tennis shoes and started a ministry that reaches children and adults around the world.

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