



Sending Laborers

The Personnel and Family Life Department is primarily responsible for processing all missionary applications and for training and care of AGWM missionaries and their families.

Connectivity

Twenty-seven capable individuals respond to requests from people who want to serve the Lord through a missionary assignment. They also assist AGWM regional offices, area directors, and missionaries. The PFL Department leaders are the following:



Manager: missionary David Stanislaus, who served in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean
Medical Processing manager: missionary Dr. Debbie Highfill, who served in Northern Asia
MK Program manager: missionary Chad Phillips, who served in Europe
Processing manager: Janice Brison, who has worked in AGWM for 26 years

In 2007 PFL processed 13,121 applications for short-term ministries and coordinated the training of 94 missionaries and 173 missionary associates who went to 107 nations. Appointed missionaries range in age from 24 to 63 and include single men and women, couples, and families. Some have little formal education, while others have advanced degrees.



Technology

As a leader in AGWM, I know that to reach this generation with the good news of Jesus Christ, our message must demonstrate integrity, passion, relevancy, and responsiveness.

Technology complements our task of responsiveness and relevancy. Recent advances have changed the way people work, communicate with family and friends, and conduct personal business. The PFL Department is also taking advantage of new technology to stay current with increasing workloads and to enhance communication with missionaries, applicants, district officials, and AGWM in-house personnel.

Applicants for missionary service will soon be able to create a user account on our Web site and access and complete online applications, attach photos and passports, and track their own application process. District personnel will be able to check an applicant's progress and add requested information. Applicants will be able to contact AGWM departments online. This process should expedite decisions and improve communication.

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MAPS volunteer and missionary associate applications are already available on the GoAG.org Web site. Construction and evangelism teams and short-term ministers abroad will soon utilize online processing. This will simplify the application process for groups and individuals.

The GoAG.org Web site continues to be an essential link for those inquiring about missions ministry. Information on short-term missions opportunities that used to be in print only is now available on GoAG.org, organized according to region. There are links to regional Web sites and AGWM International Ministries. The resources menu includes the English and Spanish version of *Wide Open*—the booklet that identifies and explains AGWM missionary categories—and includes PFL newsletters and forms.

The GoAG.org online resource center will focus on presenting missions opportunities from around the world, video and audio training, and downloadable classes for cross-cultural ministry. This instruction is necessary for those planning overseas ministry. The site will also enable missionaries to post urgent prayer requests for viewing by U.S. churches and posting on their Web sites.

Missionary Training and Missionary Renewal



Missionary associates, new and veteran missionaries, missionary kids (MKs), and AGWM personnel have always looked forward to Missionary Training (formerly Candidate School) and Missionary Renewal (formerly School of Missions). To more adequately address needs and curtail expenses, AGWM has made changes in summer activities for missionaries.

Missionary Training is now only two weeks instead of three. Special studies that formerly required a week will be done through computerized instruction, suggested reading, and CDs.

When School of Missions began many years ago, its initial purpose was for missionaries' spiritual refreshing. Therefore, this year AGWM leaders restored the original intention and changed the name to Missionary Renewal. The time also has been reduced from two weeks to one.

Ministry to MKs will continue to be a vital part of Missionary Training and Missionary Renewal. AGWM considers children to be essential to their parents' ministries and is concerned about their spiritual needs.

The Commissioning Service for new missionaries will remain the highlight and closing event of the three weeks of activities.

AGWM's missionary attrition rate of only 3.56 percent (including death and retirement) may be attributed to our Fellowship's belief that missionary service begins with the absolute determination that God's call is essential for pursuing missions. We are thankful to people who pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers and who also intercede for AGWM missionaries and their families. We are grateful for those who proclaim the Great Commission from the pulpit and pew and keep it at the forefront of their churches, districts, homes, and hearts.

Your brother,

Rick Johnson

SUMMER WAS A WHIRLWIND...

Summer was a whirlwind for the ISMK office staff. Missionary Training and Missionary Renewal, though short, were nonstop action! I have had many questions from missionaries about the revised schedule for MT/MR. I believe that in the long run, the shorter schedule will benefit everyone. Although our time with the MKs was short during MR, I believe it was still a great time of ministry. As a ministry, we will continue to strive for excellence in the MK program, within the time frame that works for everyone. Our staff was exhausted at the end, but they had a great time with your MKs!

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to minister to your MKs!

Following Missionary Renewal, I led an MK missions trip to Tanzania. Missionaries Roger and Laurie Kuykendall hosted our team. The experience was amazing! Seeing MKs minister on a missions trip is always fun. They get the opportunity to experience another culture, another way of life, other foods (in this case, the same meal for several days!), and other unique experiences. We stayed in tents without electricity or running water and ministered in mostly Muslim villages along the east coast of Tanzania. Each afternoon we held outreach services; every service saw at least one person come to know the Lord. One of the most amazing moments was when a man in full Muslim attire came up to me and said he wanted to know this man named Jesus Christ. What a great experience for everyone on the team to be a part of! (The only challenge is that I am afraid parents will get upset with me when their children are called to be missionaries to places OTHER than their current field!) Check out the ISMK Web site for more pictures of the trip. We will also have a video on the upcoming MK World DVD.



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4

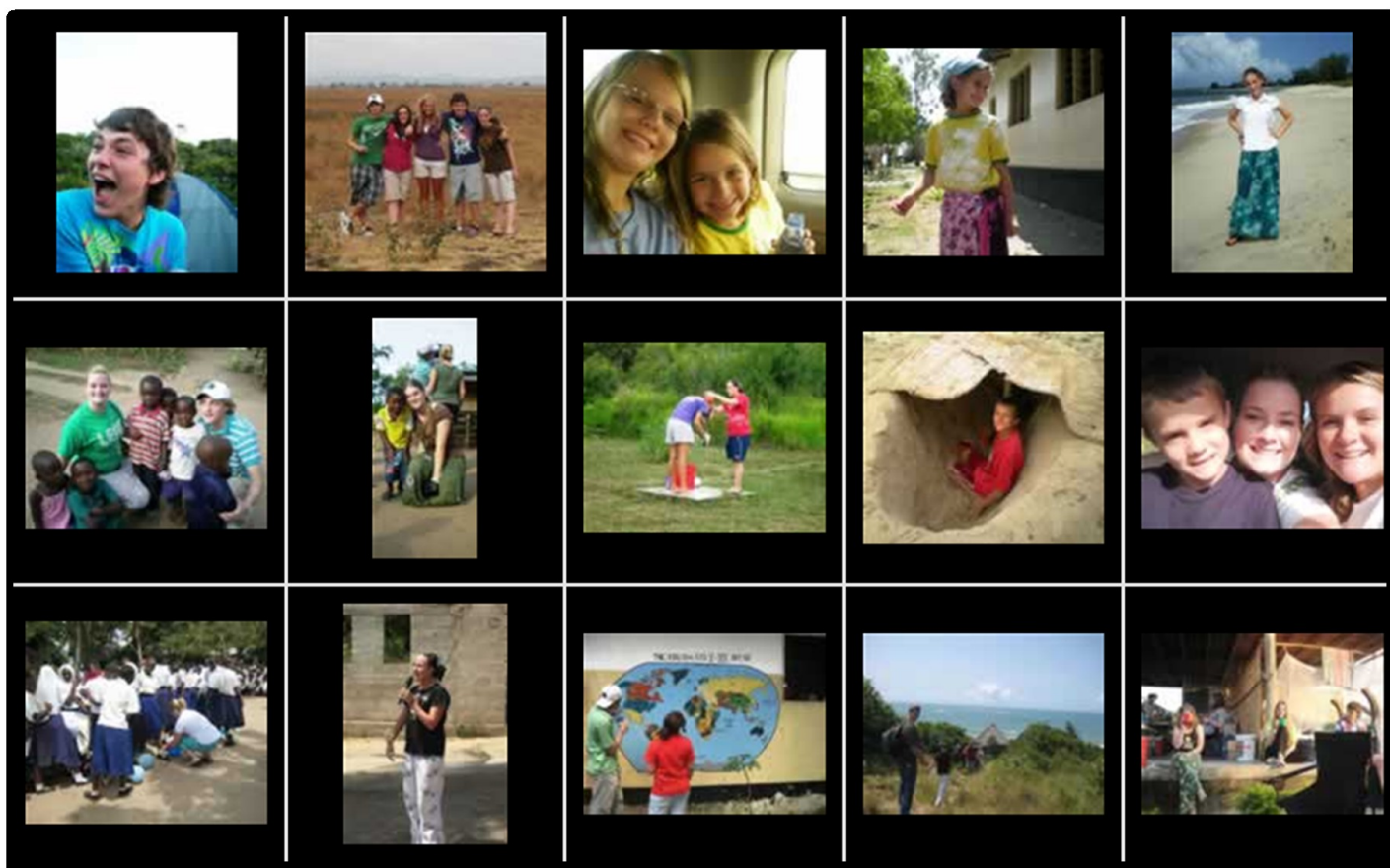
We are planning another missions trip for next summer. At this point, it looks like we will be running a Vacation Bible School at the international church just outside of Venice, Italy. We are still in the planning stage. We have already been to Latin America and now Africa. Our goal is to do a missions trip to each region. I believe the missions trip is going to be great. If your MK would like to be a part of an MK missions trip to Europe, please contact our office!

We have been fielding many questions about educational concerns recently. I would like to remind you that we have an education specialist in the MK Office. Brenda Dickey has served AGWM for many years and does a great job consulting with our missionary families. If you have any educational concerns, please feel free to contact us.

In years gone by, we have sent you an MK Annual Update for each of your children. We have not sent a paper newsletter out this year; instead, you will receive an e-mail in the next month. This electronic version will come with all the information already filled out. If your information has changed, please update it. If not, just follow the instructions, and return it to us. Our goal is for this to go totally electronic to avoid postage charges. Thanks for taking time to fill it out! Your help is of great value to this department and to your MKs.

Bwana Chad

TANZANIA TASK FORCE



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