

GREETINGS ACTS FRIENDS...

Some news from the ACTS team is long overdue and so I am pleased to finally send out the first of our 2007 news updates. The leadership team got together late last year to plan for the future and we were both humbled and challenged by the growth we are experiencing on all fronts. We continue to be open to His leading in terms of new countries to serve and new ways of doing things.

Exciting developments in the last couple of months have included three weddings among the ACTS leadership team. If you did not already know, congratulations to Michael and Megan Massingham, Timo and Megan Lehmann and Sean and Tesni Anderson. Favour of the Lord!



Below you will find a little more detail from each of the offices.

See you in Africa!

Barry Rawlings



Photo courtesy of Stacie Batker

On safari with ACTS in the Masai Mara

ACTS EAST AFRICA

ACTS East Africa is adventuring enthusiastically forward as we head into 2007. Exciting developments taking place include some great new staff members, a new truck and confirmation of the relocation of our office to Brackenhurst Baptist International Centre. We continue to serve a growing number of mission trips throughout Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Sudan and have drastically increased the number of people we are sending to East Africa's finest coastal holiday and safari destinations.



ACTS East Africa welcomes a new truck to their fleet

SOUTHERN SUDAN ADVENTURE

Mike Congrove and his team from e3 Partners spent a week in Southern Sudan, in December 2006, as part of their evangelistic and discipleship efforts in the region. ACTS East Africa provided logistics for the trip, from chartered flights to obtaining Sudanese visas for the group.

Mike commented after the trip, "I can't tell you [ACTS] how much I appreciate all of your help with this last trip. We are starting from scratch in Sudan and learning a lot. ACTS was great to work with!"

A BUSY TIME FOR ACTS SOUTH AFRICA

The last three months for ACTS South Africa have been busy, with trips stretching from South Africa to Botswana and Swaziland. The following is an excerpt from a letter we received, following a tour we facilitated in January this year:

"I do not remember a better organized trip with you guys or better guides/cook! I have to be honest, I don't think I have a single thing I would have changed. Taps, Edden and Thompson were great, the tents were fine, the food was EXCELLENT! We had so many veggies it was AMAZING! Just like I wanted (and the team bragged BIG TIME)! All in all, it was excellent.

One of the things I most appreciate is that when the things need improvement, I can tell you. When they don't, I can tell you also! Just know I was completely satisfied with the preparations and personnel for my trip. I will be sending an email to direct our 10% where we want it to go."

Our office has expanded by taking on a new, permanent staff member, Mandy Rapson. Mandy has previously guided trips for ACTS, so is probably a familiar name to some of you. We welcome her to the office!

Together as a team, we're looking forward to a great 2007!

God bless from Cape Town.

SOUTH CENTRAL AFRICA

In recent months our offices have welcomed a number of fantastic new administration staff (Carol and Tino) and what a blessing they have been! As far as trips go, it has been a relatively quiet start to the year - looking just a little ahead it is going to be 'all hands on deck' as we prepare for the Northern Hemisphere Summer. We have recently moved to new offices that we trust will be far more productive for us and better in terms of telecommunications.

The year started with an excellent seven day guide training course that was designed to put the prospective guides through their paces. From lack of sleep, multi hour rural church services and first aid courses to cooking training, night stalking and being dumped in central Harare and told to 'make your way own way back home to South Africa', they were thoroughly tested. It was heartening to see how servant hearted and passionate the newcomers are, they have definitely proved to be our best batch of recruits in many years.



ACTS is part of African Encounter.
www.africanencounter.org

"Absolutely phenomenal. You could not ask for a better team. These men are truly men of God and showed it in all that they do. Without them the team would not have been nearly as much fun." Victoria Crosby