



NEWS OUT OF ACTS EAST AFRICA

The last 2 months in East Africa have seen the extremes of climate that so typify our continent. The region has suffered the terrible effects of months of drought and failed rains; not only have large numbers of livestock and wildlife died as a result, but also many people. With many dried-up rivers and normally lush surroundings resembling a dustbowl, it seemed almost unimaginable that things could ever return to 'normal'. But the rains arrived, with some areas even receiving too much in too short a time, resulting in flooding in some districts and even some washed-away bridges.



With the rains however, as always, have come new Life, and new Hope! The green surroundings have returned, animals are beginning to fatten and crops are starting to grow. Many antelope in the wildlife reserves have given birth to young, and so the plains are alive with new life, instilling a new sense of hope in many surrounding communities!

Over all this time we have helped many teams and other groups to carry out their ministries in the region, including in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. The work of these individuals and teams of volunteers was even more essential and appreciated during this time of drought. We were also heavily involved with the arrangements, logistics and safari bookings etc for 3 sizeable conferences here at Brackenhurst where we have our offices. One of these was an Africa Conference for the Salvation Army which was a great success we understand.

On the side of our [ACTS volunteers](#), the last two months have seen them focusing on 4 projects, specifically In His Image, Cheshire Home, Limuru Children's Centre and Power Women's Groups. To mention just two of these, In his Image has been blessed with 6 new little ones, one toddler and 5 new born babies. Needless to say the volunteers have busied themselves in assisting the caregivers and social workers with the daily task of seeing to the children's basic needs as well as providing love, attention, stimulation and prayer. Limuru Cheshire Home provides skills development for young women living with a range of physical disabilities. Due to the recent drought and severe financial strains which hit the organisation, the home really battled to provide sufficient food for the 38 young women. ACTS was able to step in to cover some of the costs of the food through the help of volunteers' donations as well as project tithing. A big 'Thank You' to all who made this possible. [More about Volunteering in Limuru...](#)



Sean Anderson's trip to the United States with Barry from the Zimbabwe office was a mixture of meetings with mission organisations' leaders and head offices, attending conventions and simply catching up with many of the individuals and families we have had the pleasure of hosting in Africa and who have become great friends. The highlights of the trip, without doubt, were the conversations and times of fellowship that reminded us of what a privilege it is to serve short term missions in Africa. It was astounding to see what an impact trips have had on so many team members and volunteers' lives and Sean and Barry were also constantly inspired by the vision and passion so many of our contacts in the USA have to impact Africa for Christ. What an awesome responsibility and calling we have as ACTS to serve each individual and group in an excellent way! Peanut Butter M+M's and Cookout shakes also won't be forgotten in a hurry!

So in the last two months we have been reminded again of how the Lord can and does change not only our physical world, but also our spiritual world. Lives have been changed and saved, and there is new Life and new Hope! He is an Awesome God that we worship!

ACTS SOUTHERN AFRICA

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing how people's lives get drastically changed, uplifted and healed by ordinary people with an extra ordinary heart for serving others with the love of Christ. We are privileged and extremely blessed to be part of helping to make effective mission work an easy, comfortable and hassle-free experience for many teams and volunteers who make their way to the mission field in Africa.



October saw yet another successful Bi-Fork Baptist mission trip going out to reach the Mbalantu people in Namibia. The Bi-Fork Baptist Area consists of a group of mainly rural Baptist churches in north central Texas, determined to answer the call of God to reach the Mbalantu of Namibia. Through the year of 2009 four of their teams have travelled to Namibia to begin this vital work, the most recent of which happened from 14- 22 October 2009. The teams have adapted well and have

begun laying a solid foundation for what is believed to be a God-led kingdom work. The work has mainly been one-on-one contact, which in some cases has opened the door for some Bible study opportunities. Schools have been visited, soccer games have been played,

dolls and balls have been distributed, and as many of the Mbalantu as possible on each trip have been contacted with the hope of building lasting relationships.

Each trip is an experience in education as customs are learnt, communication is improved, and ideas/needs for ministry are discovered and considered. Bi-Fork Baptist is aiming to take at least four more teams in 2010 to work among the Mbalantu with the first team going in February.



Our ACTS volunteers have been really busy in their ministry roles at [Living Hope](#). We are extremely thankful that we have been able to serve and supply such a great ministry with individuals who really desire to serve some of the Western Cape's most poverty stricken communities. The projects the volunteers have been working at range from building and painting, to feeding and sharing words of encouragement with the homeless at Living Grace. [Find out more about our Volunteer program...](#)

On one of the weekends the volunteers wanted to take a break from all their hard work and asked ACTS to arrange a weekend getaway up the Garden Route. They had loads of fun bungee jumping from Bloukrans Bridge (the highest bungy jump in the world), relaxing in Plettenberg Bay and visiting the beautiful Storms River mouth situated in the Tsitsikamma National Park.

*"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."
Proverbs 11:25 (ESV)*

ACTS ZIMBABWE (South Central Africa)

The last couple of months have been fairly quiet in our office with relatively few teams on the road. Barry had the privilege of touring the US with Sean Anderson (Kenyan office) this month - it was an awesome, eye opening period of travel together. They enjoyed healthy debate around how best to work with short-term teams and how to avoid the damage that can so easily be caused when things aren't done as they should. If you're asking these questions yourself, we can recommend the book "When helping hurts" (by Corbett & Fikkert) to challenge your thinking.

Our office was particularly encouraged by a team lead by Bruce Buckler from Ohio who simply came wanting to serve in whatever way we could put them to use. Having decided to get [stuck in to our Harare orphan project](#), they spent a week doing schools ministry, practically serving the kids, preaching the gospel and doing dramas. Their humble approach and warm hearts meant that they were exceptionally well received. Bruce and his team left after a short side-trip to Antelope Park where they made the most of some of the many activities on offer. It was a sad farewell, but wonderful to hear Bruce say it was their churches best trip yet...

On the volunteer side it has been a busier period with a mixture of accents in the volunteer house. We have recently developed a growing passion to send orphans on the Zambezi Holiday adventure camps - raising sponsorship for them has been going well. This has prompted us to explore the running of some orphan specific camps. This would get them

away from their often dull and cramped living environment and enable us to interact with them in an exciting and eye opening outdoor setting. [I want to volunteer in Zimbabwe...](#)



"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" (Matthew 25:34-40, NLT)