



Dr. Jim & Beth Blessman

A Word from Doc

"The last thing many believers need is to go to another Bible study. They already know far more than they are putting into practice. What they need are serving experiences in which they can exercise their spiritual muscles."

Matthew 20:28 *"Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life."*
-Taken from Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life on-line daily devotions†:

The above quote was part of my daily devotions several months ago while I was in South Africa. As we were all working hard, it caused me to ponder why more people don't come and help us. Jesus said in Matthew 9:37 that the harvest is great and the workers are few. Those words were not only relevant 2000 years ago but the same words still hold true today.

Are you finding yourself with plenty of opportunity to learn but lacking in actual "in the trenches" experience serving? It is

Experience of a Lifetime...

Team members who went on trips with us this year share their experience with you:

"On my trip, I experienced firsthand what God can do through me if I allow Him... I met a teenage girl that did not need glasses but still wanted to talk one-on-one. She knew of Jesus but had never accepted Him as her savior. I lead her in the sinner's prayer. I now know there will be at least one more person in heaven with us because of our trip and that makes it all worth it."

-Tamara Doom, optical outreach, April

not enough to know about God; we must also know Him and part of knowing Him is serving Him. Serving God isn't always easy or comfortable but it is one way we grow and deepen our relationship with Him.

Come to Africa. We need you to come and help us with the work God has called us to do in Africa. Join us on the mission field in one of these ways: as a team member on a 13-day short term outreach or as an ambassador on either a intermediate term, ranging from one to six months or a long term, nine months in length. You can find more information, a schedule of our teams, or download an application from our website.

Matthew 9:37-38

37Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

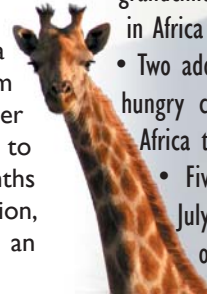
†To learn more about the Purpose Driven Life daily devotionals, please visit their website: www.purposedriven.com.

Below: Team member Tamara Doom ministering to children in clinic in April this year.



The Quick Update...

- Twelve teams went to Africa this year, nine optical, one Abod team, one medical, and one team of pastors
- More than 25,000 children have received eye glasses through our optical clinics to date
- The Thompson Ministry Campus has been completed and Bob Thompson and 3 of his grandchildren attended the dedication service in Africa
- Two additional containers filled with food for hungry children have been shipped to South Africa this year
- Five Abod homes were constructed in July to form "Moletlane Children's Village", our first Orphan care village



Above: Team member Eric Borseth poses with a student from the optical outreach in September.

"I was a bit nervous in the task of discussing sex issues with young women. The kids were all so open and accepting of our input that my fear was immediately calmed. I believe I touched the hearts and minds of many of my kids through my newfound confidence. I am eager to do a return trip."

-Eric Borseth, optical outreach, September

Helping From Here

We have several ways you can volunteer with us, from sewing eyeglass cases to volunteering in our office, there is a place for you. Contact our office today to find out how you can help!

We are currently looking for these donated items:

We are collecting clean used 100% cotton T-shirts to make into lens cloths for our vision clinics. You can drop off your T-shirt donations to our office during regular business hours. The Leila Thompson Memorial Library is now completed and we still need your books! Bring donations by the Blessman Ministries office and we will ship them with our next shipping container.



2010 Trip Dates

Optical:
Feb 5th- 17th
Feb 26th – March 10th
March 26th – April 7th
May 7th- 18th
July 16th – 27th

Abod:
July 30th – Aug 11th

How do I sign up for a trip?

If you are interested in going on a trip with Blessman Ministries please send in a completed mission trip application form with your \$500 non-refundable deposit. Applications can be found on our website on the resources page. If you do not have internet access, please call our office and we will be happy to send you an application in the mail.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Ministry Updates

New Face on the Web

Please take a look at our completely redesigned website. There is a special page called “How you can Help” where you can find details about what you can do to join in on what God is doing in and through our ministry. You don’t have to go to Africa; you can even help from here! Visit the new site at: www.blessmanministries.org

Children waiting to be seen in our optical clinic.



Optical Clinics

Seven thousand children can see more clearly because of the glasses they received through our clinics in this year alone. Those same seven thousand children each received a copy of the Book of Hope. While we are expanding the ways we minister

in order to meet the growing needs of the children, the optical clinics continue to be the heart and soul of our ministry efforts. Five out of six of our mission trips scheduled for next year are optical outreaches. Anyone can participate in our optical ministry. You do not need professional training; we train all our volunteers to work in our clinics.

Come to Africa in 2010

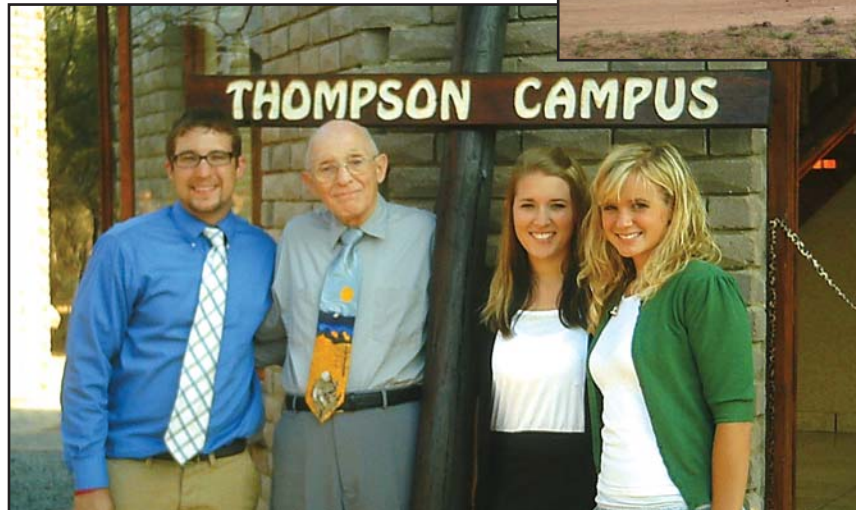
Our 2010 trips are just around the corner, and they are filling up fast! If you are interested in going on a trip with us, review the trip dates listed on our website and fill out an application today! We have five optical teams scheduled to go as well as one Abod construction team. We will be praying with you as you consider this great opportunity to change a child’s life.



Pastor Greg Youmans screening a child's vision at one of our screening stations in an optical clinic in March this year.

Ministry Campus

The Thompson Ministry Campus is now completed and is housing our ambassadors and short term team members. We thank God for His provision in completing this campus and thank each of you who were able to support this project; Ambassadors and teams will be blessed by it for years to come. It was such a joy and honor to have Bob Thompson and three of his grandchildren join us for the dedication service in South Africa on August 9th of this year. For those interested in watching a video of the dedication service, just visit our website at www.blessmanministries.org.



Joe Thompson, Bob Thompson, Sammi Thompson, and Claire Hoehamer.

Moletlane Children's Village

Nestled in the northwest corner of Pastor Jan Chauke's church property in Moletlane, sit five A-shaped homes constructed of corrugated steel and fiberglass. This group of homes, called Moletlane Children's Village, was constructed in July by a team of volunteers that came from the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, IA. Our ministry brought this project to Moletlane, a township about an hour northeast of Mokopane in the Limpopo province.

The design, called Abod, was created by West Des Moines' architect, Doug Sharp of BSB Design. It involves an A-shape structure in order to withstand weather conditions, provide natural light, and include two loft areas in the front and the back of the home for children to sleep in. Windows that open allow for natural air flow to cool the interior of the home as well.

The campus consists of five homes, flush toilets, and showers. The buildings to house the toilets and showers are currently under construction. The materials to construct walls of these buildings are primarily made up of blocks of compressed earth and were provided by Entabeni game reserve.

In a few months, the laughter of children will fill four of these homes as 16 orphan children move in. The children are being selected from the Moletlane area with the help of a social worker who is assessing the need and determining which children would benefit most from living there. The fifth home will house the caregiver, a retired nurse, who will be responsible for supervision of and cooking meals for the children on a regular basis.

Pastor Chauke's church, the Apostolic Faith Mission Church of South Africa, will provide the children with a community of support, with fresh produce from their gardens, and with consistent Biblical training. In addition to feeding and housing these children, Blessman Ministries will ensure the children are well educated and are brought up with solid Christian values. The children will attend the local public school that is just a short walk from the village.

Because so many organizations and individuals networked together to donate funding, labor, and supplies to this project, lives will be changed and these children have hope. We plan to construct and develop more children's villages in other areas in South Africa in the coming years.



For more information on the status of this village, to donate funds, or to learn other ways you can help, contact Blessman Ministries by email at office@BlessmanMinistries.org or on the internet at www.BlessmanMinistries.org.



Visit our website to see updates on our ministry and how you can get involved.

www.blessmanministries.org

Please Consider Supporting Us

Blessman Ministries, Inc., is a non-profit organization as described in the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Your contribution may be deductible for income tax purposes.

Neither Jim nor Beth receive a salary. All donations go to continuing our ministry around the world.

Donations can be mailed to:

Blessman Ministries, Inc.
2557 - 106th St.
Urbandale, IA 50322-3766

If you would like to discontinue receiving these mailings, please call us at (515)343-5920 or email us at office@blessmanministries.org

The Blessmans are Missionary Associates through the Assemblies of God, Caring Connection, and enjoy working with many different denominations.



We give God thanks for

- All of the teams we had this year and for their safety
- For the completion of the Ministry Campus
- For the Lord's provision in completing "Moletlane Children's Village" our first orphan village
- Four containers of food and supplies sent to Africa for the hungry children this year.
- For the 7000 pairs of glasses that were able to be distributed to children in need in Africa

Please Pray For

- Travel mercies as Jim & Beth travel to churches all over the U.S. over the next 3 months.
- Health and energy for all our ambassadors and staff as we maintain our busy schedule.
- God to provide all of our financial needs to meet our ministry goals in 2010 including provision for two new orphan housing villages and expansion of our ministry campus.
- \$250,000 for 1 million meals for our feeding program. (\$.25 per meal)
- \$2000 for a new trailer for team luggage.
- \$65,000 for a new minibus to transport our team members around during outreaches.
- Financial support to meet and exceed our need for annual operational expenses.

Now you can fold this newsletter so the top two boxes can be seen quickly and easily. You can place it in your Bible to remind you to regularly pray for our ministry. If you would like to be added to our prayer chain, please call us at 515-343-5920 or email us at office@blessmanministries.org.



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