



Missions Trips!

In addition to the planned trip to Redbird in April here are two other ideas for those interested! The first is a message from Jack Reif regarding 2 planned mission trips to Nicaragua. The second is an update on Faith Community UMC's continuing efforts to help the recent flood victims in Iowa.

Nicaragua – June 20 – 28

2009 will be another year in ministry in Nicaragua. The hope is to organize two teams in 2009, one in June for those who have date conflicts due to school commitments or other reasons, and another in November, the traditional second week date that has taken place since 1996. Our work will continue in support of Fundacion El Samaritano, led by Dr. Nour and Carolyn Sirker. Some of the ministries we expect to work on include some amount of construction (for example the 2008 team laid bricks on some panels of the security wall at Samuelito School), hospital gift giving and visitation, Bible Schools based on hand puppet plays and crafts, and neighborhood immersion meeting people where they live. We will also visit some other ministries like Bradley's House of Hope, Emilia de Sirker and Samuelito Christian Schools, and Nicaragua Evangelical Methodist churches. Time will be planned for daily and Sunday worship, sightseeing and shopping. Plans for some extra sightseeing and recreation are being made for an extra 3 days following the November team.

Applications for these teams are available now. Additional copies can be obtained from Jack Reif by e-mail request to jack.reif@zoomtown.com or by phone at 513-831-5550. I hope you will be able to join one, other or both of these teams in 2009. Also, don't hesitate to invite others to join in this Nicaragua Ministry. God bless!! Jack Reif, Ohio River Valley VIM Coordinator, Team Leader

Flood Victims in Iowa

Faith Community UMC has asked us to join them on short-term mission trips. Here is their latest request which I believe is their 4th trip to Iowa:

With the new year comes new opportunities to help others. With that in mind, we're looking at two potential trips this first part of the year. If the weather cooperates, the first trip will be February 19 thru 22. The second trip will be April 16 thru 19. The Feb. trip will be weather dependent (we won't go if there is ice or snow forecasted during the trip), as we don't want to expose anyone to traffic issues getting to and from Iowa. The April trip most likely will be a go, as the hazardous weather should not be an issue. Please look at you calendars and let me know if you can go either, or both, of these dates. Need to start to coordinate with the Iowa Conference and they always need to know how many people we will be bringing so they can figure work assignments for us. I anticipate that we will be doing rebuilding/remodeling assignments when we are there. Once we have a count, I'll update everyone on what opportunities we are offered. Thanks again for all your support and help last year. I know we made a difference and expect that we will make even a BIGGER impact this year. Please contact Ervin @ 235-8975 or ervinw@wentzrealty.com for more information

Teen Challenge Opens New Women's Maternity Home

Teen Challenge Ranch is a nationally recognized facility, located in Milford Ohio. It is a 9 to 12 month, faith based, drug and alcohol residential treatment center founded in 1972. It centers on drug and alcohol rehabilitation for young men ages 18 to 35 by means of a 9 to 12 month, highly disciplined and morally centered, residency program that focuses on their spiritual, mental and physical rehabilitation. Recently Teen Challenge has added a mission for troubled females by creating a maternity home. Here is an update from their newsletter:

The new women's maternity home was dedicated this past fall and celebrated with an all day house warming the following weekend. The final stages of preparation for the women's maternity home are near completion. Staffing, organization and necessary remodeling is near completion and we hope to be rescuing women and their children by December 1! Mid November was the anticipated opening, however the storm and related damage put us back a full two weeks. We are planning to put out a separate Women's home newsletter to keep you specifically informed as to this part of the ministry. The purpose of the women's home is to break the cycle of bondage (emotional, physical and spiritual) in needy and destitute women and ultimately their children through the discipleship process. We have approximately \$210,000 in capital funding we still need to raise. Please consider giving to this great cause. To find out more about the women's home and our current needs go to www.TeenChallengeCincinnati.org. Teen Challenge is supported by your tithes and offerings.