

## **Diocese of Alabama – World Missions – 2006**

### **Missionaries:**

The **Rev. Bob and Kay Blackwell** are serving as long-term missionaries at All Saints' Church in Damascus, **Syria** in the Diocese of Jerusalem. Bob is the former rector of St. Peter's, Talladega, Alabama.

**Alexandra "Alex" Martin**, currently director of children's ministries at St. Luke's, Birmingham, will be serving one year as a missionary through the ECUSA's Young Adults Service Corps. Her assignment in Latin America or the Caribbean is pending.

### **Haiti**

The Dioceses of Alabama and Haiti officially entered into a companion relationship in January of 2006, the goal of which is to support each other in ministry. Bishop Duracin of Haiti attended the Alabama Diocesan convention in February. A delegation from Alabama plans to travel to Haiti in October of this year to visit our geographic focus area, the six churches in the Croix des Bouquets parish, for needs assessment and partnership planning in areas of education, healthcare and, potentially, soil conservation.

The Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham has been involved in mission to Haiti for several years providing support to Episcopal schools in Grand Colline and Darbonne. The Rev. Canon Heidi Kinner, The Rev. Deacon Kathi Jacob, Lyle Hohnke and Kevin Housman spent a week in May 2006 on a fact-finding trip to Leogane, Darbonne, Grand Colline, Jacmel and Lavaño to evaluate travel conditions and to establish plans to build a new school.

### **Bolivia**

The Amistad Mission was established in 1981 by the Rev. William Wilson, when he was a Trappist monk in Bolivia. The Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham has a long-term relationship with this ministry providing assistance to the orphanage (including building a gym and a house for the children) and medical clinic. In May, the Rev. Deacon Kathi Jacob and Lyle Hohnke traveled to Bolivia to meet with the American and Bolivian board of directors and to visit the orphanage in Cochabamba and the clinic in Aramasi in the Andean mountains. For more information visit: [www.amistadmission.org](http://www.amistadmission.org) .

### **Panama**

The Cathedral Church of the Advent will take a 30-member team of doctors, nurses, dentists, medical assistants and veterinarians to Panama June 14 – 20 to provide a week-long medical clinic. The team includes participants from St. James, Alex City, St. Luke's, Birmingham and from other denominations. After the clinic, the Rev. Deacon Kathi Jacob will stay on in the diocese for another month to work in outreach ministries. This is her third year serving in mission in Panama.

### **Honduras**

St. Thomas, Huntsville, has a long-established relationship with the Episcopal Church in Honduras. They focus on two areas: support of Our Little Roses girls' home in San Pedro Sula ( [www.ourlittleroses.org](http://www.ourlittleroses.org) ) and a yearly medical mission to Delicios Del Norte. The medical team is travelling June 10-18, 2006.

St. John's, Montgomery, has traveled on mission to Espiritu Santo (Holy Spirit) Episcopal Church in Tela, Honduras for the past four years to provide a week-long medical/dental clinic and vacation Bible school. Previous trips have included church construction projects. The team travels July 15 –29, 2006. The St. John's ECW also sponsors a girl at Our Little Roses home.

Church of the Ascension, Montgomery, has served as sponsor and home church for the Rev. Eduardo and Hilda Monzon for twenty years through the South American Missionary Society (SAMS), first in Costa Rica and now in Honduras. Last summer Ascension took a team of 20 to begin construction on a new church in El Progreso and to host a vacation Bible school. The parish hopes to send a mission team every other year. Also, Ascension has sponsored a boy at El Hogar orphanage and school in Tegucigalpa for many years. ( [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org) )

### **Palestine**

The Episcopal Peace Education Mission in the Middle East was started in Bethlehem in 2002 by the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama under the leadership of Dr. Sis Levin. The mission provides peace education training to teachers, students, parents and administrators in the Holy Land in an effort to teach conflict resolution and build peaceful relations among different faiths and ethnic groups in the region. The project has been supported by ECWs in Alabama, Indianapolis, IN and Andover, MA. In August 2005, twelve Palestinian youth participated in the week-long Pilgrimage for Peace in Lowndes County, Alabama leading up to the annual observance honoring Civil Rights martyr, Jonathan Daniels. For more information visit: [www.thechildrenofabraham.net](http://www.thechildrenofabraham.net) .

### **Afghanistan**

For the past eight years, Ascension, Montgomery has supported Dan and Susan Obenschain in Kabul, Afghanistan through their sponsoring organization, Interserve International. Dan runs a microcredit lending program for small business and Susan, a nurse, trains community health workers in small villages. Dan returned to Ascension in May to provide an update on their work.

### **Sudan**

Two members of our diocese, Dwight Williams and Gary Leiderbach, recently traveled on mission to Sudan through a Tuscaloosa (AL) -based organization Make Way Partners ( [www.makewaypartners.com](http://www.makewaypartners.com) ). The focus of the trip was to provide aid to a group of orphans and villagers in southern Sudan, who have suffered attacks by Arab militia groups.

### **Financial Support for Global Mission \$\$\$**

Many parishes in the Diocese of Alabama provide financial support for global mission through UTO, Episcopal Relief and Development, Episcopal World Missions, and other international organizations such as: Samaritan's Purse, Compassion International, Food for the Poor, Heifer International, and Plan India.

### **Millenium Development Goals**

The Rt. Rev. Mark Andrus led a workshop at Diocesan Convention to educate parishes about the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals for ending extreme poverty throughout the world.

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