

The

FESTIVAL BRIEF



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FESTIVAL OF SHARING...November, 2009

The Festival of Sharing
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How Prayer and Persistence made 1,100 kits To Send Hope & Justice to a Hurting World

The following story is from Barbara A. Ransburg, a member of St. Stephen's Baptist Church in the inner city of Kansas City MO. Barbara is the Festival of Sharing Coordinator for her local church. St. Stephen's Baptist church has been in ministry since the early 1900's and shares the same challenges that many inner city congregations face. This is an inspiring story of how miracles happen all around us.

As we returned to Kansas City last year from Sedalia, MO, I prayed and asked the Lord to help St. Stephen Baptist Church to make more kits the following year.

With the economy and natural disasters, people worldwide are hurting. I prayed and the number 500 came to me very strongly. So that was the number and our church members started to buy and gather the items needed for the health, school and prison kits.

The first kits we made were the prison kits. Shampoo, toothpaste, and emery boards were all on sale at this particular time and it was pretty easy to get everything else that was needed for these kits. So our first 100 kits were completed.

The school and health kits were a little bit more complicated. The school kits would be our first adventure: Annie Mae, the lady who normally makes the bags for the school kits was unable to help this year. So the search was on to find someone who could sew. The appeal went out to the congregation and we received several answers to our call. When we did an inventory we only had 107 bags and that was far from the 500 needed. One of our members, Anita Green, told her sister about our project and she made and mailed to us 201 bags. The miracle of this beautiful gift is that she would not accept anything--not even postage for the mailing. She said she only wanted to help someone and that was her thanks. Praise the Lord!! We have half of what we need.

Three weeks before we completed the school kits, Annie Mae called me and said she was coming down to the

church. She brought several plastic bags of something and I thought they were things for the clothes giveaway that was happening in our church. Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! In the plastic bags were 245 bags for the school kits. Annie Mae said, "I couldn't let you down and I love what I do for other people." Praise the Lord!! Well, to make 500 kits we needed 3,000 pencils. Easy to find? No Way! After inventory we had enough items to make 307 kits, so then we needed about 1,200 pencils and 193 pairs of scissors. So the pencil and scissors patrol hit the streets of Kansas City. The patrol found only 28 pairs of scissors and there were 2 in the package for \$1.00 but the pencils were like 10 or 12 for \$1.00 and that was not acceptable. NO DEAL! So, off I went to my favorite store and my friend, Mr. Kim. I asked him if he had pencils and scissors and he said look over there on the wall. You guessed it. ALL the pencils and scissors I needed and the pencils were 24 in a pack for 63 cents and the scissors were 3 in a pack for only 65 cents. Blessed discounts. And the rest of the school kits were completed.

Now for the miracle to make the health kits. The first batch made after inventory was 206 kits. More items were purchased and another 132 kits. Here I go again to my friend Mr. Kim. I bought everything I thought we needed, so back to kit making. We got down to the last eight kits and remembered that Vernon our janitor had brought some band-aids a couple of weeks ago before and guess what? He had 43 band-aids and the size we needed. Seven kits down and one kit to go. We had one band-aid left from the 43, so on the hunt I went once again. I moved boxes, looked in cabinets and drawers and I finally moved a box that was on the shelf. And miracle of miracles there was a box of band-aids, but the miracle is there were only five band-aids that were the correct size needed to complete our 500 kits. Praise the Lord!! Prayer answered and once again God has showed himself to be true and He keeps his promises.

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His Work "If you ask anything in my name, believing I will do it."

Other events that God is true to His Word: We feed the homeless on Wednesday. About three weeks ago a member of my mission group, Sedoria Parker, came to the church. She handed me an envelope. Sedoria said, "I'm sorry Barbara that I cannot help you this time but take this and I hope it will help." In the envelope was \$100.00. The following Sunday my Sunday school class gave me \$75.00 and with what other had given me I had just enough to pay the final bill and have a few dollars left over to buy the zip lock bags. Praise the Lord again and again. One last miracle for the health kits. We needed 120 washcloths to complete the health kits and a very loving and caring couple of the church purchased ALL of them.

All thanks, glory and praise goes to Our Heavenly Father for all the loving, dedicated, caring and faithful people who helped to make this year a true blessing for the 1100 persons that will be blessed by your efforts. May God continue to bless, guide, direct and keep each of you is my prayer. A very, very special thanks to Mr. Kim of Dollar Mart.

Barbara A. Ransburg
St. Stephen's Baptist Church
Festival of Sharing Coordinator

It will be another month before we have the final totals for the year but as of October 17th the Festival of Sharing has distributed:

To Church World Service

8,460	Health Kits
6,450	School Kits
1,216	Layettes
284	Emergency Clean up buckets

To IMA World Health

201	Safe Motherhood Kits
5	Medicine Boxes

To agencies from around Missouri

1,222	Baby Bundles Pack
533	Family Food Pack
2,147	Personal Hygiene Pack
363	Blankets
1,368	Paper Products Pack
2,410	Student Dental Health Pack
4,202	Reading N Writing Pack
135	Youth Hygiene Packs
760	Backpacks of Love
29,000	Pounds of Rice
16,000	Pounds of Beans
42,000	Pounds of Potatoes

The Festival of Sharing Coordinating Committee has already began preparing for the 2010 event that will be held on October 16th. The new 2010 booklet should be ready by early March.

2010 List of International Kits and Missouri Packs

☞ IMA World Health ☜

Safe Motherhood Kit

These kits are for women living in developing countries. More than 50 million women give birth at home annually without the help of a trained professional or serial birthing supplies. Increasing the mortality rate of the infant and the mother.

\$ 9 Value

1 Receiving Blanket
1 Jacket or tunic

1 New born Cap

Other items and Shipping \$15 / kit

Place the three items in a zip lock bag. Items can be handmade or purchased. The other items for the kit will be added by IMA World Health. To complete the kit IMA needs \$15 for providing sterile birthing supplies and for shipping. The Safe Motherhood Kit developed by IMA World Health is designed to improve the chance for a safe delivery. The Kits are being channeled through the health system and made available at health clinics.

IMA Medicine Box

Each IMA Medicine Box contains enough medication and supplies to treat the common ailments of several thousand people. IMA accepts donations of specific over-the-counter items to include in Medicine Boxes. Please follow these guidelines for donations, which should be new products with unbroken seals and expiration dates of 18 months (April 2012) or longer. Generic products are welcome!

\$ 125 full kit value

500 tablets or more
500 tablets or more
500 tablets or more
500 tablets or more
6 tubes or more
50 pads or more
2 rolls or more

Acetaminophen (Tylenol), 325 mg or 500 mg,
Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), 200 mg,
Multivitamins with iron (One-A-Day), without herbs or special formulas
Children's Multivitamins with Iron (Flintstones Chewables with Iron),
Triple antibiotic ointment (Neosporin), ½ oz. or 1 oz. tube,
4x4 inch gauze pads, any brand,
½ inch adhesive tape, any brand

Other items and Shipping \$375 / kit

Place all items in a box and label "IMA Medicine BOX". Please include only one complete kit per box. (i.e. each box is equal to one IMA Medicine Box kit.)

The *Festival Brief* is published in November, February, May and August. If you have questions about the Festival of Sharing please contact Terri Williams, Coordinator by calling 573-474-3332 or email at festival@socket.net.

2010 Kits for Church World Service

Please do not include the shipping fee in the kit but deliver it to the Money Booth at the Festival of Sharing or mail it to the Festival Office. Please note on the memo line of the check that it is for CWS shipping or include a note to let us know it is for CWS shipping expenses.

EMERGENCY CLEAN-UP BUCKET

These kits enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a disaster here in the United States.

\$50 value

Shipping—\$3/kit

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid | 1 pair work gloves |
| 1 dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz. | 2 pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®) |
| 1 roll heavy-duty trash bags, 24 count (33-45 gallon) | 1 scrub brush |
| 1 bottle liquid concentrated house-hold cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz. | 7 sponges, assorted sizes |
| 1 bottle liquid antibacterial dish soap, (like Dawn®), 25 oz. | 5 scouring pads |
| Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft. | 50 clothes pins |
| 18 cleaning towels, (reusable, like Easy Wipes®) | 5 dust masks |
| 1 bottle insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol) 6-14 oz. | |

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send only new, unopened materials. Make sure lids on bottles are tightly closed. Put all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Seal closed with lid.

HEALTH KIT

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or poverty, these kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for family members.

\$11 value

Shipping—\$2/kit

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| 1 hand towel (16" X 28") | 1 wide-tooth comb |
| 1 washcloth | 1 metal nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards) |
| 6 Band-Aids | 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper) |
| 1 toothbrush (in original packaging) | |

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with zipper closure. Toothpaste will be added by Church World Service.

SCHOOL KIT

These kits give children in impoverished schools and refugee camps some basic tools for learning.

\$13 value

Shipping—\$2/kit

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 pair blunt child's scissors | 1 box of 24 crayons |
| 1- 30-centimeter ruler (12") | 6 new pencils with erasers |
| 1 pencil sharpener (hand-held) | 1 large eraser |

Spiral or tape-bound notebooks of ruled paper, 8" x 10" containing a total 200-210 sheets. No filler paper, please. 1- 12"x14" to 14" x 16" finished size, cloth bag with cloth handles. Canvas bags can be made or purchased for around \$1 at : http://www.myshopangel.com/promotional_tote_bags_economy.htm. Place the items in the bag. Place kits in a sturdy box and label with type of kit and number.

LAYETTE

Layettes provide gentle warmth for infants and basic tools for young mothers struggling with poverty or the consequences of natural disaster.

\$39 value

Shipping—\$2/kit

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| 6 cloth diapers | 2 diaper pins |
| 2 washcloths | 2 t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies) |
| 2 gowns or sleepers | 1 sweater or sweatshirt |
| 2 receiving blankets (1 can be a knitted blanket) | |

All items should be new. Bundle items inside one receiving blanket and secure with diaper pins.

2010 Missouri Packs

Readin' & Writin' Pack - Pack Value \$12.00

6 new pencils with erasers	2" eraser	2 ink pens (medium point)
1 box of 24 crayons	1 pair of child-sized metal scissors	1 pencil holder
12" ruler	6 folders with pockets	
2 spiral or tape bound notebooks (total 140 pages)		

Place smaller items inside the pencil holder. Place all items in a 2 gallon zip lock bag. Place kits in boxes labeled "**Readin' & Writin' Pack**" and mark the **quantity** on outside of **each box**.

Paper Products Pack - Pack Value \$14.00

2 pkgs toilet tissue (4- double rolls) 3 rolls paper towels (good quality)
2 facial tissue (large rectangular boxes)

Place all items in a tall-sized kitchen trash bag. Close securely and placed bagged kits in a box labeled "**Paper Products Pack**." Mark the **quantity** on **each box**.

Baby Bundle Pack - Pack Value \$34.00

2 receiving blankets	2 undershirts or onesies
1 sweater or sweatshirt for warmth	2 sleepers (1 piece or gown)
8-12 diapers (cloth or disposable)	2 diaper pins (if cloth diapers are enclosed)

Please send newborn to six month sized items. Place items in a 2 gallon zip lock bag and then pack the filled bags in boxes labeled "**Baby Bundles**." Please mark the **quantity** of kits on the outside of **each box**.

Student Dental Pack - Pack Value \$ 11.00

1 fluoride toothpaste, 6 oz. or more	4 child size <u>soft</u> toothbrush
2 adult <u>soft</u> toothbrushes	1 dental floss—any size

Place items inside a **1-gallon zip lock bag**. Pack filled zip locks in boxes labeled "**Student Dental Packs**" and mark the **quantity** on the outside of **each box**. The extra brushes are for family members.

Family Food Pack - Pack Value \$37.00

6 cans assorted vegetables	6 cans assorted fruits	2 pounds pasta
6 cans tuna	2 cans pasta sauce	6 packages macaroni & cheese
2 jars peanut butter	2 cans Spam	2 pounds rice
2 pounds dried pinto beans		

Place items in a sturdy box or book carton, tape and label "Family Food Pack."

Personal Hygiene Pack - Pack Value \$ 20.00

1 fluoride toothpaste, 6 oz. or more	1 washcloth
1 toothbrush in original, unopened pkg.	1 bath-size bar of soap
1 deodorant	1 bottle skin lotion (11—14 oz)
1 hand towel	1 bottle shampoo (11—14 oz))
2 disposable razors	1 comb or brush

Tighten lids and place all items in a **large zip lock bag (2-gallon size works best)**. Place zip locks in boxes labeled "**Personal Hygiene Pack**." Please also mark the **quantity** on the outside of **each box**.

Women's Prison Pack - Pack Value \$ 9.00

1 Emery Board (<u>not a metal nail file</u>)	1 Pencil (<u>unsharpened, no advertising</u>)
30 sheets of writing paper, 6"x9", (<u>no note cards</u>)	5 Envelopes (<u>white standard size, not business size</u>)
1 Shampoo (12-16 oz. size, <u>alcohol-free only</u>) *Acceptable brands: Alberto VO5, Suave, Equate Herbal, Personal Care Herbal	
1 Toothpaste (6 - 6.4 oz. size, <u>alcohol-free only</u>) *Acceptable brands: All types of Ultrabrite, Colgate, Crest, Aquafresh, Gleem	
1 Deodorant (2-3 oz. size, <u>alcohol-free only, no roll-ons, no men's brands</u>) *Acceptable brands: Revlon Hi & Dri, Lady Mitchum Clean Gel, Crystal Clean Deodorant, Almay Clear Gel, Simple Basic Clear Deodorant	

Place only these items in a plastic bag. Put filled bags in boxes labeled "**Prison Pack**." Please also label with the **number** enclosed. **Toothbrushes and Stamps are not allowed as part of these kits.**

Missouri Packs Distributed Through Division of Social Services (DSS)

Backpacks of Love - Pack Value \$40.00

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 small backpack or small duffel (NO backpacks with wheels) | 1 small stuffed animal |
| 1 t-shirt (Child Medium, Child Large or Adult Small) | 1 pkg. - 3 pair underpants |
| 1 pair socks | 1 narrow tooth comb |
| 1 youth toothbrush (soft and in unopened, original package) | 1 tube child flavored toothpaste, 6 oz. or more |
| 1 coloring book (for age 4-7) or 1 notebook (for age 8-11) | 1 box crayons (for age 4-7) or 1 pencil (for age 8-11) |
| 1 travel pillow | |

A small quilt or blanket already donated will be added to the kit. *Please pack all items in the backpack and label the box "Backpacks"*. These kits are used by children between the ages of 4 to 11 who have experienced a crisis and are being placed in foster care.

Youth Personal Care Pack - Pack Value \$40.00

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 3 oz bottle hand sanitizer | 3 ink pens |
| 1 small permanent marker (for personalization of bag) | 1 Calendar / address book |
| 1 journal | 1 chap stick |
| 1 travel pillow | 1 fleece throw |
| 1 washcloth | 1 deodorant |
| 1 travel size shampoo | 1 travel size hair gel / hair spray (non aerosol) |
| 1 travel size conditioner | 1 travel size lotion |
| 1 pocket pack of tissue | 1 toothbrush |
| 1 travel size toothpaste | 1 box medicated facial cleansing pads (such as Stridex) |
| 1 men's body spray OR 1 small package of feminine pads or tampons | |

Put all the items in a drawstring bag approximately 15" X 22". Please use solid color fabric to allow the teen to personalize the bag. All items should be placed inside the bag with the draw string pulled. Place kits in a box and label "Youth Pack" and the number of packs in the box. These kits are used by children between the ages of 12 to 18 who have experienced a crisis and are being placed in state care.



Kit Corner and Pack Postings

Did you know that the Church World Service Kits went directly from Sedalia to New Windsor to the Ship to Ghana and Jamaica to help fill existing requests from these countries.

Ghana requested:

- 4,800 School kits
- 2,250 Layette Kits
- 12,000 Health Kits

Jamaica requested:

- 6,000 School Kits
- 1,500 Layette Kits
- 12,000 Health Kits

Catch the BUS! The Great Rivers office of Church World Service (CWS) is offering a Learn & Serve Bus Trip. This five day trip is March 22-26, 2010. The bus leaves Eden Seminary in St. Louis on Monday, March 22 and will return Friday March 26. You will have hands-on experience volunteering at the Church of the Brethren Service Center where the CWS kits are collected, packed and shipped to those in need. The Registration deadline is December 1, 2009. For more information contact the Great Rivers Office of Church World Service at 630-990-7441 or email tbarnes@churchworldservice.org.



Thanksgiving is upon us already and I cannot help but be thankful to all the 1000's of servants who have given their time, their money and their material gifts to those in need.

Each of the **29+ denominations**, each of the **hundred's of faith communities** and each of the **ten's of thousands of the persons of faith** have joined together to help our neighbors in need.

I give thanks for the generous hearts who have this year sacrificially given to help others in a time of difficult economic crisis. Generous donations have helped 100 agencies to serve their clients for approximately two months. These agencies serve approximately 95,000 a month. This does not include the number of lives you have touched with your international gifts and funds through the Festival of Sharing.

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!
Terri Williams
Festival of Sharing Associate Director

THE FESTIVAL BRIEF

OFFICE OF CREATIVE MINISTRIES
3009 DAVID DRIVE
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, MO 65202
Permit No. 48

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE DELIVER BY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2009

The 2010 kit list is in this issue!!

Confusion??!??

Over which kit stays in Missouri and which kit is sent overseas?

Often people will comment that they did not know that there was a difference between kits that stay in Missouri and those that are used internationally. Church World Service and IMA World Health call their material gifts "KITS" We now call the Missouri material gifts "PACKS". So this year if the kit is a Missouri Pack mark it as Pack.

Missouri Packs are:

Student Dental Pack	Baby Bundle Pack
Reading N writing Pack	Paper Product Pack
Personal Hygiene Pack	Family Food Pack
Women's Prison Pack	Back Pack of Love
Youth Personal Care Pack	

In 2010 please mark all your boxes that stay in MO as "Packs". This helps the volunteers unloading the vehicles to get the gifts to the right place! Remember only one type of Pack (or Kit) to a box.

Quilt Auction raised ~ \$28,000 for Church World Service Blankets+ programs!

Many Thanks to our quilters and buyers.

It is not too late to request future Festival Brief's by E-mail!

By choosing to receive Festival of Sharing information in electronic form you help reduce the budget for printing and mailing. Those funds can be used to help those in need. Send an email to Terri at Festival@socket.net letting her know that you are "opting in" for future copies to be sent via email.

Address Changing? Please help us keep down our postage costs by letting us know your new address, contact us at the address on the front page of this newsletter.