

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities



Change Is In The Air For Gypsy Summer Camp '12

By Bonnie Parker

As I sit here on this cold, dreary, rainy winter day, I find myself dreaming of the warm summer days of Gypsy Children's Camp. In fact, planning has already begun for the July camp in Romania.

We anticipate having 100 children participate again this year. It is exciting that 25 scholarship gifts were received through the Christmas Catalog!

Camp will be a little different this year. First, camp will be held later in the month, tentatively July 16-29, to accommodate Romanian partner Attila Toth's evolving ministry responsibilities.



Secondly, Katie McClung will assume the responsibilities I had of co-coordinating camp specifics with Attila. He will still handle the Romanian end of things - schedule the dates with the camp facility, arrange transportation, choose campers - while she will write the Bible study

Continued on page 6

Blessings Continue To Flow From Women's Conferences

Teleios Invited To Lead Three This Year

By Bonnie Parker

For as much as the 2011 Women's Conferences in Iringa and Mbeya, Tanzania, were a source of learning and encouragement for the African women who participated, I, too, received more than I could have imagined.

While the sessions, discussion times and fellowship were such a blessing for us all, it became clear that these women wanted more - more discipleship and understanding of the Scriptures, as well as the accountability and affirmation gained from Christian fellowship. Many of the women - all pastors' wives and church leaders - were actually meeting for the first time! It was then they began to realize that there were other women believers experiencing the similar, if not identical, challenges they face.

As these realities came to light, God led the Iringa women to form prayer and support groups. His presence filled the sessions, bonding the women in both Iringa and Mbeya in Christian sisterhood. For these reasons, they have a great desire to come together again and again.

As I noted, these conferences had a deep impact on me, as well. During the course of the two conferences, I



became more conscious of the extreme challenges that most Christian women in Africa face.

It is painfully obvious the extent poverty and the burden of physical survival due to climate conditions play, but lost among these are unique challenges imposed by tribal cultures.

In one of the discussions on expectations, we scratched the surface of issues these Christian women face due to tribal culture. They shared how the structure of society regarding marriage and family life, especially in the villages, has changed very little even in the 21st century.

Generally, women are viewed as property of their husbands, often times with the same value as livestock. A woman's marriage is arranged by her father or uncles if her father is dead. If these men are not believers, then no

Continued on page 6

Inside This Issue

The Spirit Of The Lord Fills The Celebration As Apalina Church Is Dedicated To His Glory2

The God Of 'Two Fish And Five Loaves' Demonstrates His Power At Kenya Bible Camp.....4

New Year Brings Updates And New Opportunities For Partners In Romania.....7

Reflections From The Green Chair.....8

Apalina Church Dedicated To The Glory Of God

From Beth Shaha

The December trip to Romania was a first for us in many ways. We had never gone on a mission trip and had no idea what to expect—no idea about the Romanian culture, the Gypsy plight, how any of them would respond to us, or just what an impactful experience this would be.

Attila and Adel Toth were our hosts. They are a lovely couple who have given their lives to serving Christ. Their hearts, kindness, humor, and love of others were truly inspiring.

We spent the next few days visiting churches, sharing our testimonies. Mark and Danny gave a few sermons. We also were part of a church dedication in the Gypsy community of Apalina. That was our first taste of all that was in store for us.

As we pulled up to this beautiful, new beacon of light in that community, the Gyp-



sies were literally running down the hill to greet us. Standing on the steps of the church, about to cut the ribbon of the new building, we were looking out into a sea of people. Some were Gypsies from Apalina, but others were there in support from some of Attila's other churches.

They all started singing hymns in Hungarian/Roma. Tears rolled down my face as we took it all in – all of their love, excitement, and hearts singing to God for what He was doing in their lives that

day. The ribbon was cut, and everyone - about 300 folks - poured into the church!

Clearly, we felt very much a part of God's plan. We no longer have ANY question of what God is doing and how He is using us!

We are so thankful and blessed. We are changed and will never be the same.



Editor's Note: Mark & Amber Campbell and Danny & Beth Shaha were mission team members from Leesburg Community Church in Virginia. LCC partners with Attila Toth to aid his ministry work in Romania.

A December To Remember

By Paul Crook

There aren't many things I like better than Christmas. In my family, it has always been one of the most important celebrations of the year. This December, however, I got to experience a different kind of Christmas. I was blessed to spend the season with Attila and Adel Toth in and around Reghin, Romania.

While it was strange to be away from my family at Christmas for the first time ever, I was overwhelmed by the wonderful welcome I received from all the people I was able to visit while there. I attended at least 18 church meetings over the 12 days. Each held a special blessing for me.

I shared the story of my grandmother, who passed away the week before I left. The story of her life touched the lives of people far away. I also got to continue my "summer" job: chauffeur. These car trips

gave me a great opportunity to connect with the people I hope to one day work more closely with.

I saw Attila's new ministry tool for Apalina...a ping pong table! There was never a shortage of people waiting to play, including many men who've never set foot in the church before. Some of them have even been opposing Attila in the past. It's amazing what God can use to reach people.

One of my favorite experiences was sharing the story of the candy cane with several groups of young people. On the last day of school, I went with Zozo to the school where he is working with a group of Gypsy children. They were having a Christmas program. Afterwards, I was able to share the story of the candy cane with them and, of course, give each of them a candy cane.

There were two big learning moments for

me on this trip. One came in realizing that we don't need a lot of "stuff" to make us happy. This is something God has been teaching me over the last six or seven years, but the point really hit home when I spent time with my spiritual son, Jenó, who didn't receive any Christmas presents this year. He was too old to get a shoe box, yet he was still happy and excited to celebrate the season.

The other big learning moment came in realizing that working with Attila in this ministry is the place I really want to be. I have been praying about this since my first trip to Romania in the summer of 2010. However, I am now ready to take that step and move forward with making a transition to working alongside the Toths.

I thank God for the blessing of spending my Christmas holiday in Romania. It was truly a December to remember!



All Things Work Together For Those Who Love Him

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” — Hebrews 13:16

Throughout the 11-year history of Teleios Ministry, we have seen God-given visions become present-day realities across the globe.

People throughout Romania, Kenya and Tanzania have seen God at work through the life-changing impact made as a result of the faithfulness of His people. The financial contributions, and more importantly, the prayers of believers here have reached beyond the ocean and borders to make a difference.

This year’s Christmas Catalog served as another link in the

chain of all that God is doing to change the world. No contribution was too small for Him to make something big happen.

As we enter a new year of walking hand in hand in the service of our Lord, we thank you for your continued trust in what He has called Teleios to do and for your support through prayer and resources to turn God-given visions into realities.

Editor’s Note: The following is a list of those items designated as gifts in memory or honor of others. It is, however, not inclusive of all the gifts purchased or donations made to Teleios in 2011.

IN MEMORY OF...

JAKE & HELEN BISHOP

- Hungarian Bibles, Bedding Package, Nutritional Needs – by Ed & Patsy Arnold
- Bedding Package, Sheets, Blanket – by Bernard & Peggy Murden

MABEL BROWN

- Toth Ministry - by Cindy & Joe Crook

GENE BULLARD

- Gypsy Children’s Camp Scholarships - by Linda & Jerry Broadway

AVERY CARNELL

- Recreational Equipment - by Donna & Johnny King

GINA FRANCIS

- Gypsy Children’s Camp Scholarships - by Linda & Jerry Broadway

KATHRYN HUNT

- Bedding Package, Nutritional Needs - by Don Hunt
- Recreational Equipment - by Sue Schneider

KAREN MAXWELL

- Bedding Package - by Bonnie Maxwell

LARRY MAXWELL

- Recreational Equipment, NIV Study Bibles - by Bonnie Maxwell

JOE WARE

- NIV Study Bibles, Hungarian Bibles, Bedding Package - by Nancy Stacey

BILL WEHRHAHN

- Monthly Children’s Club - by Linda & Jerry Broadway

AUSTIN WELLS

- Recreational Equipment - by Donna & Johnny King

IN HONOR OF...

JUNE DAVIS

- Nutritional Needs, Bedding Packages, Hungarian Bibles - by Ron Davis

JEANNE EDENS

- Daily Bread Life Children’s Home Needs - by Cliff & Debbie Stumbo

BARBARA & JIM HORNE

- Hungarian Bibles - by Frances Owens
- Book Bag - by Sarah Frances Hewitt
- Hungarian Bibles - by Jake & Laine Bartley
- Farm Items - by Patrick & Summer Stumbo
- Hungarian Bibles—The Dover Family

MIKE HUDSON

- Book Bag - by The Dover Family

KATIE MCCLUNG

- Gypsy Children’s Camp Scholarships - by Becky & Tim McClung

FRANCES OWENS

- Nutritional Needs - by Sarah Frances Hewitt

BONNIE & FLOYD PARKER

- Gypsy Children’s Camp Scholarships, Bedding Packages - by Kay & Johnny Honeycutt
- Gypsy Children’s Camp Scholarships - The Dover Family
- Daily Bread Life Children’s Home Needs - by Debbie & Cliff Stumbo

MICHAL PARKER

- Blanket & Sheets - by The Dover Family

Continued on page 4



Kenya Bible Camp

Miracles Still Happen Today

By Septima Hardy

I had the pleasure of traveling to Kenya with Bonnie and Floyd Parker and Teleios Ministry this past December to assist local church leaders in Gatanguru (a village in the Central Highlands area of Kenya about 2 hours north of Nairobi) with a holiday Bible camp for the children in that area.

Each day of camp the children participated in academics, which I was responsible for teaching, Bible story time, arts and crafts, and recreation surrounding a theme of “The Five Senses” and central Bible verse from Psalm 139: *“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”*

As we made preparations in the months leading up to camp, we were told to expect about 150 children. Boy, were we surprised on that first morning when we were told that close to double that number had shown up!

We were all a bit panic-stricken as to how we were going to accommodate that many children with the supplies and the manpower that we had.



Thankfully God had already prepared the way for Shirley (Bernard Kabaru Mwangi’s daughter) and her friend, Linda, to be available to help with crafts for the week.

The first day of camp was a bit stressful, but after a debriefing with the local church leaders and some re-organization on our part, we were able to function throughout the rest of the week without a hitch.

Miraculously we had enough hands to help with all the children, and we watched as our supplies multiplied before our very eyes.

We can’t explain in human terms how this happened, but we know that we serve a God who can take two fish and five loaves and feed 5,000.

The week was truly a blessing for all who were involved.

The children had an opportunity to experience and learn new things. The church leaders learned a new way of doing things, and we got the privilege of teaching and serving with God’s church in Kenya.

IN HONOR OF...

SUZANNAH RAFFIELD

- Book Bag, Sweater - by Mildred & Jimmy Rodgers

HAZEL RICHARDSON

- Nutritional Needs - by Sarah Frances Baker

DR. & MRS. HERMAN RUSSELL

- Hungarian Bibles - by Linda & Jerry Broadway

JIMMIE LEE THAMES

- Sweater - by Sarah Frances Baker

REBECCA WEST

- Stewardship of Land - by Sue Schneider

ADDITIONAL GIVING THROUGH THE 2011 CHRISTMAS CATALOG

Lamar & Laurennette Cain

Shaun & Kelly Dillavou

Sarah Dyer

Catherine & Stephen Graef

Susanne Jeter

Pam Jones

Dean & Dorothy Kaufman

Gary Kaufman

Harold & Carlene Kay

Jimmie Sandlin

Joe & Zell Skinner

The Floyd & Bonnie Parker Prayer Group – Marion Baptist Church

Siloam Church Ladies’ Sunday School Class

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The printing of the Christmas Catalog was donated by April Huguenin.

Kenya Bible Camp

These are excerpts from the daily blogs posted during the week-long Holiday Bible Camp in Gatunguru, Kenya, this past December. To read coverage of all the days, go to www.teleiosministry.org and click on "Trip Blog."

TUESDAY'S BLOG

"The most amazing time today came during the 'debriefing' session with the local children's leaders and pastors. One teacher said, 'I was amazed how we are using a theme for the day that is covered in every area even crafts and recreation. Every activity focused on hearing.'

Two women shared that they had never heard using teaching on physical hearing to teach spiritual hearing. One children's leader said, 'We have taught Bible verses and stories and sung songs. Never did we think about using crafts or recreation as a part of the children's camps—especially using them to teach the children. The children are having fun and learning.'

The sum of the comments were that the teaching approach we brought to them was so new and 'out of the box' that they had a hard time picking up on what we were doing. Today, they could see how it all works together. "



FRIDAY'S BLOG

"Hard to believe that it's Friday! Holiday Bible Camp came to an end with a record enrollment and participation of over 260 each day. The most amazing thing is that we had some craft and academic material left over...and we were worrying about preparing for 150 and over 260 showed up!

The Gatunguru team did a great job. They did not work in the tea fields or other business this week in order to help with the camp. They were super. The camp was outstanding from our perspective. The Kenyans say that the camp was a huge success. Again, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support."

YOU CAN JOIN US!
If you would like to be a part of life-changing service, the opportunity is wide open. Our goal is to do one camp per year in areas like Gatunguru. We are looking at possible dates in April, August and December this year. Please pray that God will bring people on board to spread His love to these children.

Seeing The Power Of God In African Faith

From Mpeli Mwaisumbe

I begin by thanking the Lord because He has enabled us to do all we have so far as ACTS Fellowship Tanzania!

The vision has been to fit the church building with a cement floor and pulpit, provide a motorcycle for a pastor, and most importantly, to further our mission work.

Our mission efforts included inviting three business people to travel with ACTS Fellowship members to the Mawambala village and the church there. No one had ever visited this church in the "bush." Life is very difficult for the pastor, his wife and children. We discovered that he and his family were



faith and witness.

My wife, Neema, and I stand amazed in His presence as we see the power of God in African faith. We praise Him and thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. God bless you!

sleeping on a mud floor. However, because of our fundraising efforts, we could provide them mattresses, chairs, and a sofa.

Even more exciting than being able to help meet physical needs of the pastor and his family was the fact that many people attended church while we were there with 15 receiving Christ! Please pray for these new believers and the pastor as they continue to grow in their

WOMEN'S CONFERENCES

Continued from page 1

respect is given to the woman's declaration of faith and values. She must comply with their decisions or risk being put out of the community with no resources. The laws of the country offer no recourse to her if she runs away so as to prevent being used as financial gain or status for her family.

These women are responsible for the household, the children and the farming that produces the family's food. Yet, they have little to no rights in making decisions that govern these things. All decisions, including who she must marry if her husband dies, are left to the males of his family.

So, the question arises for a woman:

"How do I remain faithful to God's way and His purpose for me? What are my options?"

Many of these women are "baby" Christians and have had very little discipleship training. Their desire is to remain faithful and live out the ways of the Lord, but they see few options. They need opportunities to learn how to use the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit to discern how to carry out God's expectations for them as believers. They need to know the stories in God's Word in order to see the ways He has been faithful to provide for His children through the ages. They need to know women in other places care about

them and are aware of their plight.

In short, they need our help as their Christian sisters!

Their resources for managing this are extremely limited and they've asked for our help in making three women's conferences a reality in 2012.

Partners, will you pray about our ability to conduct these three conferences? Spend time in prayer asking for God's leadership in the possibility of participating by going and/or giving.

We serve a God who "owns the cattle on a thousand hills." There are resources. How would He have us use them?

GYPSY CAMP

Continued from page 1

materials, plan crafts that reinforce the camp theme, make airline reservations, and help the American team members prepare to carry out our various assignments.

Katie is very capable. Her heart for Kingdom ministry and her work with camp these past years leave no doubt that she will provide excellent leadership. I look forward to serving on staff this year as she leads.

Thirdly, a number of the Apalina children are now officially youth! Most had come every year since Attila started the camp. It

will be very different without them this year. New campers will fill their slots, and the cycle of training in camp behavior and structured learning will start again!

As planning begins, we covet your prayers. Pray specifically about all the changes taking place. Pray for those God is calling to be a part of this year's team.

Ask God's guidance for Katie as she prepares materials and facilitates the team's involvement. Pray for Attila as he carries out all of his ministerial responsibilities in the Mures District of Romania and particu-

larly as he selects the new campers.

While the gifts of 25 scholarships are greatly appreciated, there are still expenses associated with camp that will need to be met between now and July. Pray for the obedience in giving from those people God has called to fulfill this aspect of the Gypsy Children's Camp partnership.

May God continue to use summer camp and Teleios Ministry as tools to help Gypsy children come to know and love Jesus and for those who have been saved to learn how to live as His children in this world.

This Just In...

From Romania...

- In April, Otto Kis may be able to visit in Greenville. He has been invited to visit the national office of "Joni & Friends" because of his mission work among the disabled in Sacele. Please pray that he will be able to obtain a visa in order to enter the U.S. His appointment at the embassy is January 30 at 9 a.m. Pray specifically for him during this interview process. Ask for the Lord's guidance as details of the visit are being arranged.

- Attila and Adel Toth have begun the search for new housing. Over the years, their apartment has had an open door for ministry of all kinds. It has served as an "office" for Attila, a location for weekly youth meetings, and a place where all, regardless of ethnicity, were welcome to visit. Their neighbors have huge prejudices and are complaining about the Gypsies and young people coming to the apartment. Pray for Attila to find a new place for his family. Ask for God to work in the neighbors' hearts to change their hatred for Gypsies and dislike of young people.

Romania Partner Asked To Serve Christian Sisters In Moldova



Romanian partner Elizabeth Vekas has been asked by Baptist Women leaders in Moldova to partner with them to provide discipleship and leadership development training among their women.

Elizabeth believes God is leading her to help these women and desires to assist them as they grow in their Christian walk. However, the resources for her to do this aren't readily available. The expenses to cover the costs for this trip are \$400.00. Ask God to provide the resources needed to accomplish His work through her.

Consider coming alongside our sisters in Christ as they seek to prepare themselves to serve their Lord. Pray for Elizabeth as she seeks to follow God's call to assist the women of Moldova.

New Water Well At DBLCH!



It was a great day at Daily Bread Life Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania, as the drilling of a new water well fulfilled a dream of increasing the volume of fresh water available to the compound. This new well helps ensure that access to fresh water will be more consistent and reliable. Praise God for His provision in meeting this need!

DBLCH Children Enjoying Bikes

Children at Daily Bread Life Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania, are making good use of the bicycles provided from the generous giving through the Teleios Christmas Catalog. They are now able to ride to school, as well as enjoy simply riding around the compound, exercising and just having fun!



Floyd's African Journey Continues

Since January 12, Floyd has been in Africa. The first leg of his journey was in Tanzania with our partners Mpeli and Neema Mwaisumbe and a missions team from EISI. On Jan. 23, Kenyan partner Bernard Kabaruru Mwangi joined Floyd and Mpeli in Tanzania to lead a pastors conference in Iringa. After the conference, Floyd and Bernard head to Kenya to continue planning for upcoming ministry opportunities. Please continue to pray for safety in travel and for God's guidance as plans are developed.

Jan. 31: Floyd returns to Kenya with Bernard Kabaruru Mwangi.

Feb. 1-6: Floyd and Bernard working on development planning for ministry work and further opportunities in Kenya.

Feb. 7: Floyd departs for Greenville.



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We're on the Web! Check us out — www.teleiosministry.org



Reflections From the Green Chair.....

In the spirit of honesty, I am not writing this from the green chair but from the green land of Tanzania.

One passage of Scripture speaks to the truth of what God has called Teleios Ministry to do. This is how we accomplish the vision God has given us. All God-given visions are about serving, helping, assisting other people to follow Jesus as He calls and leads them to and through their vision.

The passage is Isaiah 57:14: *"Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people."*

It was written to encourage God's people who were in bondage in a foreign land. Their sin had led to their exile. Now, God was going to bring them back to their home. God is about building up, preparing the way, removing obstacles. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 13:10 that God had called him to build up and not to tear down. My mind is filled with the practical truth of this passage.

In Romania, Gypsy children in the 7th and 8th grades who will not be able to pass the exam to go on to high school are now in an after-school program.

In Tanzania, children (the orphans) at

Daily Bread Life Children's Home are going to secondary school (15), first in their class academically, and speaking English. Five years ago, they weren't in school, spoke no English, in fact they barely spoke Swahili. They were struggling physically and emotionally. Today, they are doing great - laughing and playing. Today, whether in Romania or Tanzania, they are praising the Lord and growing in Him.

As you read this newsletter, Mpeli Mwaishumbe, Bernard Kabaru Mwangi and I will be leading pastor conferences in Tanzania. These pastors are struggling with basic Biblical training. In one area, the pastors said they had not had any type of Biblical training in seven years. *"Build up, build up, prepare the way! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people."*

Bonnie writes in this newsletter about women's conferences. As I look at the obstacles and the building up required, the task is enormous compared to the others listed.

I went to a well in the village of Kidetete, Tanzania, which was established to provide clean drinking water and irrigation for crops. In two years, more than 20

people have also received the Living Water of Jesus Christ because of the testimony of God's people. *"Remove the obstacles!"*

This passage is a great encouragement to me. Never is it easy to build up, to cut a new road in a city or a wilderness. Obstacles are problems—duh! But, God said, *"Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people!"*

Teleios Ministry is about building up, cutting new roads, and removing obstacles. Every God-given vision involves a problem/an obstacle. Every God-given vision is about preparing the way—building up. This is what I love about what we together as partners get to do. We get to build up and remove obstacles so that God's people can enter the land of promise—the God-given vision that changes lives in Jesus Christ.

Just look at the newsletter...no obstacles—no Teleios Ministry. No obstacles—no vision. Build up! Prepare the way! Remove the obstacle! The opportunity is yours and mine.

In Christ's Love,

Floyd

