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MISSIONMATTERS

Allegany Region Missions provides a multi-denominational Christian mission ministry to the needy of the world, through a focus on mission projects and programs in medical care, surgery, construction and education.

Report from the ARM Depot - Randolph, NY

by Charles Lindberg, Randolph Depot Co-manager

Humble Beginnings. The Depot concept started several years ago when Sam Huffman envisioned a clothing ministry and until Sam's untimely death on Feb. 25, 2006, it was a ministry of rolling and boxing clothing destined for relief projects in Jamaica, Haiti, Moldova, Kentucky, Mississippi, and more. Some low keyed retail sales were beginning to take place from the Depot, so named by Sam for his keen interest in railroading, but Sam's death left a huge hole in local ARM ministries, especially in light of the fact that Sam was also beginning a Depot ministry in Falconer, NY on a much larger and more complex scale.

To fill the void left in Randolph, Chuck Lindberg and his daughter Mary Jo volunteered to co-manage the Randolph Depot. Because of a number of factors (changes in need, shipping expenses, etc.) the operation evolved into a local retail outlet taking in donated clothing and small household items, sorting, and reselling at a modest 25 cents per item (free to those referred by ministers and social organizations). Many moderate and low income families have been served by this ministry with a generous serving of God's love thrown in for free.

Remodeling for Service. In early August, the Depot obtained good used carpeting from the East Randolph United Methodist Church. Everything was moved from the Depot to an adjoining empty store front (thank you Dennis and Connie Zink for donating the Depot store and for allowing storage next door). Walls in the Depot store were freshly painted, carpet laid and new clothing display racks constructed along the walls. This was completed by volunteers, mostly high school students who came in to help "for something to do," as they put it. Roy Smith (thank you) took several large truck loads of surplus items to the Gateway Center Depot (run by Community Helping Hands). The grand reopening of the Randolph ARM Depot was held on September 9th.

Humble Presence and Future. We all know that God works in mysterious ways and apparently isn't finished with His plan for the Randolph Depot. This is becoming more apparent as the Depot is no longer just a retail store but has become a hub for other mission activities.

Angel Food Ministry. The Angel Food mission project, an ongoing opportunity for families to purchase food monthly at a very reasonable cost, supplies a box of nutritious food purchased for \$25.00 which will feed a family of four for a week. Levant Wesleyan Church acts as the lead agency in

ordering and distribution, with staff from the Depot taking orders in the Randolph area, picking up the orders from the distribution point in the Gateway Center and readying them for pick up at the Randolph Depot store.

Stuffed Toy Projects. The stuffed toy project is an ongoing drive to collect stuffed animals and toys for distribution to young patients at Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, NY. A more urgent need is to help supply the hospital for a planned Christmas distribution to children in their cancer unit. Also, a pre-school program is being initiated for hospitalized children and the hospital would like to use stuffed animals/toys as incentives and/or rewards. There is a home for all of the stuffed animals and toys the Randolph Depot can collect and for every one you can donate.

And more.... The Randolph ARM Depot is also collecting warm coats as part of a drive being held locally. Check your closets and bring your coats to the Depot drop off point.

The Depot has occasionally offered free coffee and juice, along with doughnuts in the morning and hotdogs during the noon hour. This program has given us another opportunity to share the message of God's love for all.

Another Depot function is providing an opportunity for those who must perform court mandated community service. The Depot has a very good working arrangement with the local court systems. One participant has completed the required time and has become a valued volunteer. Another is still fulfilling the requirement, but has expressed a desire to come back as a volunteer. We are very grateful for the opportunity to share in their lives and discuss our faith.

Saving the best for last, free Bibles are available at the Randolph Depot and shoppers are encouraged to take one if they don't already have one—and read it.

Judging by what has happened at the Randolph Depot since its inception, it will be very exciting to see what is next. Until then, it seems that a real need is already being filled.

Thank you Sam for starting this wonderful and adventurous walk in faith and Christian love. And on a personal note, if you wish to be more deeply involved in God's plan, I suggest you pray the "prayer of Jabez" (1 Chronicles 4-10).

Randolph Depot: Wed, Fri, Sat—9am-5pm; Thurs—9am-7pm
Depot Store: 716-397-0034 information@ARMissions.org

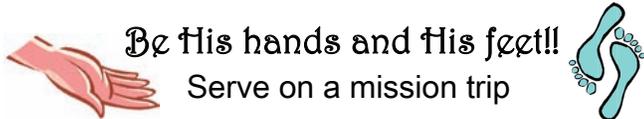
As we tell all those leaving the Depot: "May God Bless You."



Photo by Chuck Lindberg



Photo by Jack Berger



Be His hands and His feet!!
Serve on a mission trip

Pray for Missionaries Around the World



Upcoming ARM Mission Trips

Interested in knowing more about joining a mission trip? Does your church want to send a team but needs help, resources and contacts? To Learn more contact ARM at 716-358-9126 or e-mail: information@ARMissions.org

November 11 - 19, 2006—Waveland, Mississippi
Katrina Hurricane relief—Construction
Led by Fred Dye; 358-3576

February 2 - 10, 2007—Haiti
Medical and Vacation Bible School
Led by Leslie Johnson (deadline Nov. 1st)

April 6 - 15, 2007—Haiti
Mobile Medical, VBS and Construction
Led by Molly Lindberg (deadline Dec. 1st)

Don't Wait! Deadlines are coming fast!

This seven-day cycle of prayer topics is for your use in your job as a prayer partner for missionaries. As they serve, often in an environment vastly different than they have known, the support received through intercessory prayer becomes their firm foundation.

May God abundantly bless you as you deepen your involvement in missions through prayer!

- Day 1: Your Missionary's Own Relationship to God
- Day 2: Your Missionary's Physical and Emotional Life
- Day 3: Your Missionary's Family
- Day 4: Your Missionary's Ability to Communicate
- Day 5: Your Missionary's Ministry
- Day 6: Your Missionary's Fellow Workers
- Day 7: Your Missionary's Country of Service

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ ... Colossians 4:2-4

Fundraising Events - God Is At Work

October 7th and 8th saw ARM helping staff a Ten Thousand Villages booth (www.tenthousandvillages.org) at the Ellicottville Oktoberfest. The items for sale are made in a cottage-type industry in the homes of individuals around the world. Paid a fair wage for their work, they are able to earn a solid living and we are able to enjoy their beautiful wares. After the 2-day festival, ARM raised \$250 for ministry work.

The next event occurred on Saturday, October 22nd, with 71 people enjoying ARM's first fundraising dinner. At the Holiday Inn in Jamestown, a delicious buffet dinner along with guest speakers proved to be a God-inspired evening. Dr. Terri Bucci and her professor colleagues shared their work in Haiti called the Empowerment Project. The project that God has paved the way for and equipped these ladies for is amazing. And there is a place for many to get involved.



BOOKS WANTED Help with the Empowerment Project

Books in the native language of Haitian Creole are needed. Make donations to ARM for the "Creole Book Fund" and you can help build libraries for rural schools.



ARM

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I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. Psalm 89:1