

# GRAINS of SALT

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## TRIP ONE: KENYA

April may signal Easter break for the 29 girls at the Mudzini Kwetu Centre, but when they see the gifts they have received from some donors in the United States, it will seem more like Christmas.

Board member Wanda Johnson and I will leave April 9 on the first SALT mission trip, toting four large suitcases filled with new shoes, dresses, under garments, books, and sweet treats that have been donated to SALT over the last 5 months.

Also on our agenda will be the implementation of the Salt traveling VBS which will include Bible lessons, singing and even a few simple craft projects.

## BY THE GRACE OF GOD GO WE

How to serve God on an international level was one of my greatest concerns after moving to rural Maryland nearly two years ago.

The time I had spent with the street kids and beggars while living in Chiang Mai, Thailand had changed everything. God's words to clothe the poor and feed the hungry had become a privilege, not just a command. God had used these precious people to teach me about His dignity and His grace, while showing me that all people are created in His image.

Neighbor and SALT co-founder Vickie Elsesser-Vu, a licensed Christian social worker, also had been given the opportunity to work one-on-one with children and adults in refugee camps in Pennsylvania, Vietnam and Thailand through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for nearly 20 years before moving to Maryland.

During our first conversation, Vickie and I knew we had more in common than just being neighbors. A few months later we started meeting weekly to pray for the dear children in orphanages and on the streets that we had grown to love in Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, and Bangladesh. We also prayed for our friends who had laid aside their own desires, in order to lovingly care for these kids each day.

Within a short time, we knew God was asking us to do more. But what, we asked.

Ideas began popping into our minds. We had no money, no claim-to-fame, only the sincere desire to make a difference, and a God who we knew could do miracles.

Since October of 2006, we have not only raised nearly \$1,000 for SALT, we have seen an outpouring of love and prayers for these kids from our neighbors, friends and family members. To God be the glory.

# A RAISING EXPERIENCE

## MEET OUR BOARD

We are thankful for the six gifted people who share the same vision for SALT and have agreed to serve on our board.

They are:

Wanda Johnson, Burke, Va., Project Manager with Sunrise Senior Living; Rebekah Barclay, Springfield, Va., Logistics Coordinator, Information Technology, for DC Water and Sewer Authority; Steve Barclay, Springfield, Va., Director, Standards Development, for Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions; Amy Scheffler, a senior at Leonardtown High School, Leonardtown, Md.; and John and Cyndi Scheffler, California, Md., who serve as SALT liaisons to Good Samaritan Lutheran Church. John is a Project Manager for Bowhead Support Services and Cyndi is a preschool teacher.

## IN THE WORKS

GRAINS can soon be read online thanks to the Barclays, who have purchased a web domain and volunteered to build a website. Our email, which can be used now, is [info@saltkids.org](mailto:info@saltkids.org).

A group of kids at Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Lexington Park, Md., wanted to help feed the kids living at the SALT supported homes. Bean soup sounded like a yummy meal, but they knew there was no way to put it in an envelope and mail it.

Instead, they packaged the dry ingredients and sold it for \$3 a bag, raising a total of \$297.

“We gave them a choice of organizations to raise money for,” said Sue Williams, a leader of the Fridays with Jesus group who sold the soup. “When they voted, SALT won. It was unanimous.”

Williams and co-leader Sandy Buckler helped the group make the packets and decorate the white paper bags with sayings such as “Jesus Loves You,” and “Eat Bean Soup”. About 10 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated. Thank you Fridays with Jesus!

“Call to me and I will answer you.”  
Jeremiah 33:3

In his book *Prayer and Worship*, Douglas V. Steere writes “There is no greater intimacy with another than that which is built through holding him or her up in prayer.”

Most likely you will never meet the children that SALT is dedicated to assisting, yet through your commitment in praying for them, we truly believe that over time you will grow to understand what Steere is saying.

We cannot explain why these children have been born into the situations they are in, however, we believe with all of our heart that they have been ordained by God, for His great purpose.

Within the four SALT ministries, there are more than 60 children in four countries. We encourage you to join with us in lifting these precious souls up in prayer daily, sharing in their hopes and dreams while praying for a future bright in Christ.