



# THE WARNOCKS' ESCAPADES



ANNOUNCING NEW WEB PAGE & E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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Missionary Newsletter Vol 13

Ted's Advance # 13030Z

Christmas 2004

Carla's Advance # 13031Z

**From Carla:** For me, 2004 has been a year of wonder, joy, challenge, and concern. As many of you have experienced, becoming a grandparent is a wondrous and joyous experience. At the same time you are challenged to remember how to care for and keep up with an infant's needs and desires. I am now concerned not only for my parents and my children, but now also for this tiny tot who depends so much on the world around him for love and security. As I re-read the Christmas stories in the Gospels, I realize that grandparents are not mentioned as a part of Jesus' life. Just an oversight, I am sure, because grandparents are certainly very important in a child's life! Raising a child to be healthy, happy, respectful, kind, loving, and faithful is the responsibility of all generations. Chad is privileged to have three generations of living



From left to right: Front: Mommy (Casey); Great-Great Grandma holding Chad, & Grandma (me); Back: Great-Grandpa

grandparents - see photo for some of them - who love him very much. This brings to mind that when Methodists baptize a baby (or anyone), we vow to care for him or her member of our family. As a connectional church, that vow extends around the world. This year, as you place the baby Jesus figurine in your manger remember the children next door and around the world who need to know they are loved and cared about. *Blessings, Carla*



**From Ted:** When you are truly "in mission service", it is difficult to know where one role starts and where another begins. Such has been my service these past six months. In July, I was given the opportunity to remain in my missionary assignment (at a reduced level) and to accept the position as Executive Director of the DeKalb County Georgia Habitat for Humanity Affiliate. Immediately after accepting the responsibilities at Habitat, I left for East Africa to assist in the evaluation of and sustainability of projects within the East Africa Annual Conference. My visit took me in to Uganda, Sudan, Kenya, Burundi, and Rwanda. Along the way, we were close enough to Congo and Tanzania to see their land in the very near distance. *In Mission, Ted*

**Uganda** - It was great to return and see two full length school buildings for the orphanage school where I trained the people to manufacture the blocks and build the school two years ago. Humble Place is a model for the United Methodist Church to strive for in the comprehensive development of services that includes education, and life sustaining skills for these children. Of the 14 people I trained, all were working. Some were even training others to build with the earth and cement blocks. The United Methodist buildings that these Uganda people have erected are text book perfect. The manufacturer of the block making machine sends people to see their work.

**Sudan** - When I asked the governmental official "how many religious organizations do you have in this area?" And he answers "16 and you are not one of them". It set the tone for an exciting visit to this neglected country. With sufficient finances in hand, I, through UMCOR, was able to legally register and validate the United Methodist Church in Sudan. What did we register? Ten Churches and more than 2,000 members and six schools with over 1,100 students. With trees serving as teacher's lounges and metal roofing serving as blackboards (and roots for chalk) these young church leaders have shown that they value the education and future of their children.

**Kenya** - How do you reward a Missioner of Hope that has started a sustainable medical clinic in a remote village outside Migori? I don't know. Her assignment will end in the very near future. Still, a statement of the United Methodist Church is visible to the entire community and people travel for miles to get quality care that they pay for. The United Methodist Women are active and have built two sewing centers - one with a hair and beauty treatment training program in the same building. Their marketing stance - if someone comes to look at our cloths, they must also need their hair cut or styled or the reverse is also acceptable.

**Burundi** - The images of war were always present. Discarded artillery, pot marked buildings, damaged vehicles, and the soldiers along the roads and at every event where people gathered. In the midst of this fragile peace, people were starting to plant crops, attending church, learning to make cloths, and children were returning to school. Tribalism is not easy to understand, and still more difficult to comprehend. To the Tutsi and Hutu tribes, conflict, destabilization, and death are daily struggles that men, women and children face every day - even with a stated peace agreement and religious growth into nearly every area of the country.

**Rwanda** - Excitement in the Methodist Church leaders has created vibrant, growing congregations with over 63 completed churches and over 66,000 members. With limited external assistance, they have turned to themselves for support. Yes, they still need our help, but in every venture started, they have earned our respect and our financial resources. Within the volcanic lava flows, church members were chiseling out rock to build a safety wall around an orphanage that they had nearly finished in a remote village. In a small town, they were installing the final touches to an Internet Café where they will teach computer maintenance, and connect people to the world. Along an open highway, they had just finished running water into a medical clinic. And, on top of a hill overlooking the capital city, they were working to build a secondary school that will serve to educate both the gifted and the children within the streets.

**ON OUR WEB PAGE YOU CAN SEE PHOTOS OF THESE AND OTHER EAST AFRICA SITES**

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*