

# 2007 World Missions Contribution Information Sheet

Detroit Church of Christ GOAL: \$100,000

**Mat 28:18-20** <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>(a)</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

From its inception in 1989, the Detroit Church of Christ has been involved with missions funding to support spreading the gospel in all nations (Mat 28:19), including churches in the Third World. In 1997, the Detroit Church began to assist in the missions funding of churches in South and Southeast Asia. Our donations helped spread the gospel in the world's most populous nation, India; the world's largest Muslim nation of Indonesia; the remote island nation of Papua New Guinea; the mountainous country Nepal in the Himalayas; even several underground churches in Pakistan. The Detroit leadership believes this continues to be God's plan and will for the Detroit church in 2007. In our desire to obey his will and see the gospel spread, and after much prayer, we have set the goal of raising \$100,000 in 2007 for World missions. This is an average of 10x each member's weekly giving. In 2006 our total Special Missions giving was \$107,000. Due to the financial hard times that have challenged Michigan, the Detroit leadership felt that this was a challenging faith goal for 2007.

**This sheet provides an explanation of our plans for 2007 for the members of the Detroit church, as well as an appeal to you to help us reach this challenging goal!!** If, after reading this, you have any further questions about our World Missions contribution, please see any of the Detroit ministry leadership group (MLG), and we would be happy to answer any further questions.

**Please note: the purpose of these funds is different than funding for HOPE worldwide. HOPE worldwide funds primarily meet the needs of poor and disadvantaged. Special Missions Contribution has the purpose of seeing that the lost people of the world get to hear the gospel message, have the opportunity to study the Bible, come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, and become New Testament disciples.**

**The goal has three components: 10% (up to \$10,000) for PNG, 80% (up to \$80,000) for India, and the remaining 10% (up to \$10,000 and any given over \$100,000) for Michigan missions, Our plan is to give in through the summer of 2007 ending in a Special Missions victory potluck meal on Wednesday August 29. Contribution will be accepted up through December 31, 2007. Please join us in meeting this goal!**

– The Detroit church ministry leadership group.

## **Papua New Guinea (PNG) Goal: 10% up to \$10,000**

In 1995 Tony Williams and in 1996 Tasha Barr were sent from Virginia Beach to enter the full time ministry and take over leading the small church planting (~50) in Port Moresby, PNG. Over the following two years, they were married, and the church in this very poor 3<sup>rd</sup> world country experienced excellent growth, reaching 176 members. However, Tony and Tasha decided to return to the US to deal with complications in Tasha's pregnancy. Brian and Shann Perkins, from Detroit, were selected to enter the full-time ministry and to move to PNG to take over this exciting mission work. Tony and Tasha moved to Detroit and worked here until 2002, when they moved to the ICC church in Virginia Beach. In late 2002, Brian and Shann returned to Detroit, and have served in the ministry here ever since. The three PNG churches then numbered 400 members, and were led by two paid ministry couples. During the following year, however, the main leaders of the PNG churches left the ministry, and the Port Moresby church was not able to afford to replace them. 2004 found the volunteer leaders in PNG unable to cope. With the upheaval in the US churches in 2003-2004, little financial support found its way to PNG. In 2005, Tony and Tasha Williams again set their hearts on moving to PNG to see the churches there regain strength and grow again. The Detroit MLG, after receiving, considering and praying about Tony's request, decided to contribute \$10,000 in 2005 and 2006 for the mission efforts there. Additional support is provided by Virginia Beach and the Australian churches, which together make the Williams' able to continue preaching the gospel in PNG. We urge the Detroit church members to give sacrificially to this incredibly worthy mission effort!

## **The Kerala Family of Churches, India    Goal: 80% up to \$80,000**

Starting in 2004, the three ICC Churches in Michigan (Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids) have begun a special relationship with a family of churches in the Indian state of **Kerala** centered with the church in the city of **Cochin**. With the change in organization of the ICC churches in 2003 and 2004, a voluntary system was initiated to meet the needs of the various 3<sup>rd</sup> world churches that once were completely supported by the ICC. The Detroit church was given the opportunity to choose, and the choice was made to support the Kerala group, in a very difficult mission area, located on the southwest quarter of the Indian sub-continent. Along with **Cochin**, there are three other large churches located in the cities of **Coimbatore, Trivandrum and Kottaym**. These four churches actively support seven smaller satellite churches in **Calicut, Trissur, Chertala, Aluva, Conoor, Quilon and Changanassery**. These churches have a combined membership of approximately 900 (as of 2004).

In 2006 the Detroit church contributed \$80,000 for these churches in Kerala, India. Very few of us in Detroit have personal relationships with the brothers and sisters there, and yet this giving was blessed by God to meet the needs of the many disciples, half way around the world, that most of us don't know personally. God knows them, however, and many prayers of thanks were made to God because of the generosity of you, the Detroit disciples. The Detroit leadership determined for 2005 to better understand the needs of our brothers and sisters in these churches. Consequently, Brian Perkins and Greg Moots made a visit in November of 2004. They were able to personally meet many of the disciples, visit the churches, and see for themselves the needs they have. Brian noted several very challenging things about our Indian brothers and sisters during his visit. The average person in Kerala earns just \$460/year. The predominant religion is Hindu, and the second is Muslim. Christians of any type are a very small, and persecuted minority. The average Christian Brian saw makes well less than the average for the Kerala State. Consequently, since the membership of the church is made up of mainly the poorest people, though they are very generous, they do not have the resources to support full-time staff for the churches there. Yet, without some dedicated, paid leaders and teachers, the churches would be in danger of ceasing to exist. During the 2003 – 2004 difficulties of the ICC, all American missionaries left India, and the remaining staff took a substantial pay cut. Many others left the ministry as well because of the drop in funding from America. Many of the Kerala disciples have very challenging stories of physical abuse suffered at the hands of family members who were very upset by their decision to follow Christ. Some of the disciples there face daily persecution on the job, and at school, for their faith. Yet, they are eager to serve God, and they remain joyful! The need of the Kerala churches continues to grow. The Lansing church has a goal to give \$10,000 this year, GR has a goal to give \$5,000, while Detroit's goal is \$80,000.

The Michigan churches sent "missionaries" from among our campus, teens, and adults, to visit the Kerala disciples during the months of June and July 2005. These disciples built relationships, served the poor and spread the gospel alongside our Indian brothers and sisters. The experience was tremendous for our disciples to learn first-hand about the foreign mission field, and for some of our young people to discover whether a career in the ministry might be for them. It also served to build bonds of relationship and love with our brothers and sisters in Kerala, who are not rich in worldly possessions, but are rich in their love, joy and faith! Please pray for the group going in 2007 and for this worthy missions contribution goal!

## **Michigan Missions    Goal: 10% up to \$10,000 & any given over the goal**

The time is due for the Michigan churches to grow again! Foreign missions depends upon the Michigan churches growing. Many disciples have been praying for new opportunities to evangelize this great state. The plans are developing for a mission team to be put together with the goal of planting a new church in Kalamazoo in 2008. Others are praying and preparing for other key locations: Flint, Bay City / Saginaw, Mount Pleasant / Midland, Traverse City and the Upper Peninsula. Could you be one of the missionaries to go to one of these places? Can you be someone who contributes financially or in some other way to see these church plantings be successful? If you think God might be calling you – prepare your heart for the 2007 Great Lakes Conference – where this dream and others will be discussed and built. Please pray for and contribute generously toward these worthy goals.

The Detroit church ministry leadership group