

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church



2008 Unified Missions Offering

**2008 Unified
Missions Offering
Goal: \$52,400**



Kenya Partnership

Hungary Mission Project

Special Offerings

Youth On Mission to Hungary

In the Northern Great Plains region of Eastern Hungary lies the small village of Tuzser. Among the population live the Roma (or Romany) people. Known to many around the world as gypsies, the Roma are scattered throughout Europe and have endured generations of oppression. In Hungary alone, the Roma number over 800,000, and like elsewhere, they continue to live on the fringes of society. In the Roma quarter of Tuzser, indoor plumbing is the exception and unemployment is over 60%. It is in this place, among these

warm and affectionate Roma people, that Vestavia Hills Baptist Church will minister in the summer of 2008.

Working with missionaries, Ralph and Tammy Stocks, 10th -12th grade students and adults from our church will share the Gospel and extend a hand of fellowship to Roma believers in Tuzser. In connection with the ministry that the Stocks have nurtured for the past 12 years, our group will lead day camps for Roma children, participate in community meetings with Roma teenagers, share in worship

and service with the Roma Baptist church in Tuzser, and seek to encourage and promote the ongoing work of the Roma ministry in Hungary.

We expect lives to be changed, both among the Roma and among those on our mission team. In the tradition of our mission ef-

forts in Los Mochis, Perry County, Kenya, and elsewhere we seek to serve shoulder to shoulder with the overlooked and the downtrodden. Please join us as we pray for God to work ahead of us in the lives of the Roma and through us as we go. Our mission team will serve in Hungary from June 9 – 19.

The Roma began migrating north and west from what is now Pakistan around the 10th century. Better known as "gypsies" this people group speaks a language known as Romani, which is based on ancient Sanskrit.

Special Offerings

The Unified Mission Offering provides a mechanism for Vestavia Hills Baptist to promote and gather gifts for cooperative mission offerings throughout the year. In 2008, we plan to give \$20,000 to special offerings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Southern Baptist

Convention, and Alabama Woman's Missionary Union. The monies given to these offerings are used to support missionaries and their work in other countries, and in the United States.

Budget for Special Offerings

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	\$ 3,000
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	\$ 1,500
CBF Global Missions Offering	\$15,000
Kathleen Mallory Missions Offering	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total Special Offerings	\$20,000



The Shepherd's Pen



We are growing this year in so many ways. We are about to embark on a major journey of spiritual growth in every area of our church under the banner of "Stewardship." The most important stewardship we ever hold is that of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It measures every other endeavor we undertake—our programs, our ministries, our worship, and our mission connections. Our theme in our stewardship campaign will be "Free the Future." It is concrete—turning our resources more and more toward faithfulness to God in our lives, our fellowship, and, most of all, in growing up into Christ. One of the major dimensions of our stewardship effort is that we might liberate even greater possibilities to do good for God in mission.

We are all too comfortable with the notion that mission is about those of us who are so blessed helping those who are not. It is a noble and good thing to share our blessings. But the growing we are doing together is not simply raising more funds to help others. We are also seeking to move more deeply into the life of God. Our mission partnerships bring us new friends, not just good feelings. They connect our hearts. Our friends in Romania, Mexico, Perry County, the Gulf Coast and Kenya in recent years have changed US. In many cases our members have found their hearts enlarging, breaking and opening in ways we never expected. Our friends help us as much or more than we help them. We love having them come to be with us to open our eyes to God's world. In the process we sometimes can see our own in a new way.

We are learning ever more profoundly what it means to be church in the world, this world, this city, where there are just as many in need of God's genuine love and the fellowship of God's people. This Unified Missions Offering program is the fruit of many hours of prayerful and anguished conversation about what is needed. We have some wondrous possibilities this year, learnings and connections that may well pave the way for greater things in years to come. Join me. This year I am focusing resources in only three places:

1. my church budget
2. the "Free the Future" Stewardship Campaign to reduce the debt, expand missions and transform lives
3. the Unified Missions Offering.

More than anything, pray. God is calling us as His church to come closer, listen longer, and live better for the Kingdom.

Kenyan Leaders' Exchange

Our church has been enriched by a mission partnership with Kenyan Baptists in recent years. In 2007, we launched a two-year partnership with the Institute for Quality Christian Leadership in Africa to exchange ideas and support leadership development in Kenya and east Africa. One component of the partnership was last year's mission trip, made possible primarily through gifts to the Unified Missions Offering. A team of sixteen persons from our church journeyed to Kenya and invested 12 days in mission service alongside new friends in "the uttermost parts of the world." Our group led leadership seminars and conducted a variety of ministry projects in and around Nairobi and Nyeri, Kenya.

This year we have the opportunity to continue this mission partnership with our friends in Kenya. Vestavia Hills Baptist, Samford's Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence, and The Global Center of Beeson Divinity School will work together to

bring 3 to 6 Kenyan pastoral leaders to Birmingham in July and August of this year. The pastors will attend the Beeson Pastors School, July 21-25. They will also have opportunities to connect with the Kenyan Christian community in Birmingham as well as interact with students at Beeson Divinity School. In addition, the pastors will have occasion to visit and speak with several church groups. The intent of the Leaders' Exchange is for the Kenyan pastors to learn from us even as we learn from them. When they return to their places of ministry in Kenya, they will return enriched mentally, spiritually and emotionally as a result of their time in Birmingham.

Projected costs of the Leaders' Exchange are approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000. The Unified Missions Offering this year will provide \$5,000 toward the expenses of this project. The balance of the costs will be shared by The Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence and The Global Center.

Youth at Risk Center - Nairobi, Kenya

In November of 2007, we welcomed to our Wednesday night program Reverend Euticals Wambua Nzengu, the director of the Youth at Risk Center located in the Korogocho slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Pastor Wambua became a friend to many of our members during last summer's Kenya Mission trip when our mission team visited with children and teachers at the Youth at Risk Center. What we saw and heard during that visit touched our hearts, as did Pastor Wambua's testimony and appeal to our congregation.

In response, we have pledged \$2,400 of our 2008 UMO budget to the Youth at Risk Center. These funds will be sufficient to cover the center's expenses for

one month, thus providing education, a daily meal, and the love of Christ to some of Nairobi's poorest children.

The Youth at Risk Center was founded in 2003 by Pastor Wambua, a former resident of the Korogocho slums. The center seeks to instill a sense of hope and responsibility in the many children and young adults who might otherwise fall victim to the influence of crime and other social ills. The youth center provides education through grade 8 and vocational training for young adults. Pastor Wambua's dream is to one day provide a high school diploma program.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Members at Home

Grace Barnes	Nora Ousley
Virginia Deaton	C.O. Paugh
Earl Donegan	Jo Powell
Kathryn Eidson	Elizabeth Quinby
Jim & Martha Galyean	Martha Ray
Elaine Goodwyn	Joan Sanders
Wyatt Guy	Linda Sanders
Leta Holliman	Judy Schlegel
Mary Lou Hughes	*Roscoe Simpson
Dorothy Lindsay	Velma Smyth
Elizabeth Lindsey	Arthur Weeks
Sarah Little	Bob Wilson
Nancy Lochamy	Jody Wilson
Doris McWaters	Richard Wilson
Marge Olive	Edith Wood
	Nettie Worrell

16th Annual Mom's Retreat - February 22/23, 2008
Brochures are available at the Children's foyer reception desk. Contact Nancy for more information.

Children's Ministry Day—February 16—10:30 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO WORK IN VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL - June 9-12



Easter Lilies to Decorate the Sanctuary

This year we would like to decorate the sanctuary with Easter Lilies. If you would like to place one or more lilies in honor of or in memory of a loved one you can call Martha in the church office at 979-5920 or email her at martha@vhbc.com by Sunday, March 16. The cost is \$17.00 each.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

- ♦ *Elizabeth Quinby and family in the death of her sister, Kathryn, on January 29.*
- ♦ *Mike McBrayer and family in the death of his aunt, Judy Sparks, of Merryvale, TN, on January 29.*
- ♦ *Norma Collier and family in the death of her nephew, Stokely Bazemore, on February 8.*
- ♦ *The family of Winifred Pass in her death on February 5.*
- ♦ *John Shelton and family in the death of his niece, Linda Finker, on February 5.*

Communion During Lent

We are having a brief communion service every Thursday night at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel during the Lenten season. It will begin this Thursday, February 14 and run through March 13. Everyone is invited to this meaningful time of prayer.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Week	\$30,664
Budget Given This Week	\$17,505
Budget Needs This Month	\$61,328
Budget Given This Month	\$54,005
Budget Needs This Year	\$194,206
Budget Given This Year	148,955

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sam & Libby Brown on the birth of a grandson, Samuel Carter Brown, on January 29. Proud parents are Scott and Kelley Brown.

Congratulations to Lynn (our Financial Secretary) and Jerry Stewart on the birth of a grandson, Robert Brooks Phillips, on February 3. Proud parents are Jared and Rebecca Phillips.

Prayer for World Mission—Spring Season

Would you like to be a special part of mission work both here and around the world AND do so in an informed up-to-date way with a group of like-minded friends?

Such a privilege can be yours as Prayer for World Missions, led by Mavis Hardy, continues in its Spring Season.

Dates are:

Feb. 26
March 11 & 25
April 8 & 22

May 13 with a luncheon following the meeting

All meetings are at 11:30 a.m.
in the Chapel.

Bring a sandwich to Feb.—April meetings and stay for a time of fellowship. Tea and coffee are provided.

Be a part of this special ministry!

Week of February 14-20**Thursday, February 14**

5:30 Communion Service

Friday, February 15

Mom's Retreat

Saturday, February 16

Youth Choir Trip

Sunday, February 17

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

4:30 Women's Bible Study

5:00 Deacons Meeting

Monday, February 18

9:30 Women's Bible Study

7:30 Boy's Basketball game

Tuesday, February 19

9:30 International Friends

6:30 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 20

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper—Library

5:00 Handbells

5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade

5:45 Missions Comm.

6:00 Prayer Service

6:00 FPU, Youth Group

6:15 Mission Friends, GA's, RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Week of February 21-27**Thursday, February 21**

5:30 Communion Service

Saturday, February 23

10:30 Children's Ministry Day

3:00 Hungary Trip Meeting

Sunday, February 24

8:45 Bible Study

10:00 Worship Service

4:00 Youth Choir

4:30 Women's Bible Study

5:00 Acteens/Adelphoi

6:00 YOSE

Monday, February 25

9:30 Women's Bible Study

8:30 Boy's Basketball game

Tuesday, February 26

9:30 International Friends

11:30 Prayer for World Missions

6:30 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 27

6:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:30 Pastor's Bible Study

4:30 Fellowship Supper-Library

5:00 Handbells

5:30 Music for PS 3's-6th grade

6:00 Prayer Service, FPU, YG

6:15 Mission Friends, GA's, RA's

7:00 Sanctuary Choir

Volunteers in Service for the week of February 17**Deacons of the Week:** *Kevin Jaquess, Anne Marie Harvey**Counting Team:** David McPherson, Steve Thackerson**Sound Technology:** Mike Wells, Pete LeBerte**Shuttle Service Team:** Bob Bush, Mack Freeman, Mike Craddock**Flower Committee:** Susan Lebold**Library Committee:** Jeanne Harrelson (17) Lynn Taylor (20)**Worship Care**

Babies Billie Lochamy, Mindy Bodenhamer

Creepers Gay & Dan Caldwell

Ones Rebecca McKinney

Twos Virginia & John Wood

Threes Monica & Jeff Graveline

Fours/Fives Cindy & Emory Gaskins

Desk Dick Bodenhamer

Volunteers in Service for the Week of February 24**Deacons of the Week:** *Cheryl Oatts, Lynne O'Neal**Counting Team:** David Compher, Kevin Jaquess**Sound Technology:** Dan McMurray, Mike Wells**Shuttle Service Team:** Gene Turner, Pete LeBerte, Bob Simpson**Flower Committee:** Freida Gammill & Marty Mullins**Library Committee:** Marilyn Tinnermon (24) Lynn Taylor (27)**Worship Care**

Babies Nancy Scruggs, Jackie Hughes

Creepers Michael Wilson, Melissa McBrayer

Ones Tabitha & Ryan Bradley

Twos Robin & Clark Cameron

Threes Lisa & Brent Warren

Fours/Fives Scott McGinnis, Elizabeth McCarty

Desk Bob Lochamy

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Feb. 20—Beef Tips and Noodles, Glazed Carrots, Tossed Salad, Egg Custard—Volunteers—Sybil Cox, Maxine Ammons, Bob Eskew, Mike Oatts

Feb. 27 —Chicken Fingers, Niblet Corn, Lima Beans, Pineapple Salad,

Brownies—Volunteers—Sue Edfeldt, Johnnie McCracken, Bob Eskew,

Lou McCracken

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OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Gary A. Furr, Pastor

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Minister of Education/AdministrationNancy E. Akins,
Minister to Preschool/Children

Mike McBrayer, Minister to Students

Terre Johnson, Minister of Music

Beth McGinnis, Organist

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Email vhbc@vhbc.comWebsite www.vhbc.comWorship Broadcast Live on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM