



# World Compassion Network

*Showing Grace and Mercy to a Suffering World*



## First Annual WCN 5K

On March 28th we held our first annual Run/Walk for Hunger 5k to help supply food for many local families. The event was held in Winona Lake, Indiana. The course went through Stone Camp, Heritage Trail, around the Island, and along the canal past the artisan shops. At the outset of planning the event, we asked for God's wisdom and guidance. Our primary goal was for Him to be glorified in what we were doing. We consulted with other race directors to walk us through the planning process. We were told that we should be excited if we got 100 participants for our first race and that business sponsorship would difficult in this

economy. As the day of the race approached it became more and more apparent that God's hand was on the event. The sponsors were generous, the weather was great, the volunteers were superb, and the runners and walkers were unbelievable. The race offered different levels of participation for all ages, fitness levels, and race experience. People got involved for various reasons, but the one common purpose was the willingness to help their neighbors who are in need. We had 614 people register and we raised over \$7000. The funds will be allocated to our local agencies: Our Fathers House, Salvation Army, and Combined Community Services. Thank you to all of the runners, walkers, our volunteers and our sponsors. We are excited about the event next year and are so blessed to be able to help our community by showing the love of Jesus Christ.



*Joe Wilkey and Clark Shepberd preparing to start WCN's first annual 5K. The event raised over \$7000 for local charities and included 614 participants.*

## Family 2 Family Assessment 2009

*El Progreso, San Pedro Sula & Tegucigalpa Honduras*

We recently returned from our 2009 Family 2 Family (F2F) Honduras assessment in El Progreso as well as Tegucigalpa. F2F is a project of World Compassion Network (WCN) that enables families to reach out in love to impoverished families overseas. Individuals, churches and businesses in North America partner with WCN to



*Clark and Josh visiting the village of Nueva Guadalupe just outside of El Progreso Honduras.*

provide food boxes, clothes and other necessities to people of underdeveloped countries. WCN then organizes mission teams to distribute the food/clothing (spots still available) but more importantly God's Word to those in need. The distributions then include the local pastors who become associated with the gifts and can continue to water the seeds that are planted long after we are gone. Our assessment trip allows us to evaluate potential summer projects as well as visit prospective villages to assess poverty levels and general need. As the case always is, our visit was heartbreaking and beautiful. Heartbreaking as we viewed the overwhelming needs of so many thousands of people suffering from extreme poverty. Beautiful knowing that we will be returning to these exact locations in July, August and **CONT-PAGE 2**

### Family 2 Family Assessment 2009 Continued

November with the ability to make a difference both physically and spiritually.

A quick story...when we arrived at the Hope Center in Tegucigalpa (the orphanage that WCN supports) I noticed the children eating beans and rice. The director quickly pointed out that the children had been living on the food boxes supplied by WCN last fall. I don't know which specific church supplied those boxes, but I do know this: every church that participates in the F2F food box drive shared in that blessing. Thank you for your continued generous support. Your gifts make a difference.



*Josh spending time with the children of the Hope Center*



In April, Joe and Clark attended a "Train the Trainer" class in Peru, Indiana. The goal for WCN in this course is to help organize a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class in the future. The instructors of the Train the Trainer class are professional emergency workers. They have developed the CERT program that is being used today. We were taught how the process of the CERT class works and the importance of having professionals be the instructors to ensure proper information is delivered to the participants. In 2008 WCN was actively involved in the first CERT class in Kosciusko County. We have participated as observers for Grace College in their efforts to continue the program. WCN will continue to develop our team this spring and summer with courses taught by the Red Cross. If you would like to be part of our team or would like more information on CERT, please visit our website and view our CERT training video.



## Flood Relief in Warsaw Indiana

In March of 2009, heavy rains and wetlands full of debris caused massive flooding in the three lakes in Warsaw Indiana. WCN worked alongside of the Warsaw city street department, Mayor Ernie Wiggins, Ed Rock (the Kosciusko Emergency Management Director) and the Indiana DNR to lay sandbags around threatened homes, levies and streets to try to hold the water back. We laid over 6,000 sand bags and logged in 72 hours pumping flood waters from crawl spaces. See our video on our website for more information and the cooperation of the various agencies.



*Volunteers work to shore up the levy at Center Lake in Warsaw Indiana*



*Mayor Wiggins helping sandbag alongside WCN staff and volunteers.*

# Cambodia Earth Block Machine Update



*Orphanage rice distribution.*



*Orphanage at Kom Pom Sur*

After three years of negotiations, conducting research, and developing a new partnership...we anticipate signing a contract to purchase two compressed earth block machines, a soil grinder, and a soil mixer. Joe just returned from Thailand and Cambodia in mid-April to finalize the details. Our new partner is Moses Samol Seth, Director of Asian Christian Ministries. Moses is an old friend of Joe's. In 1982 Joe and Lynn helped Moses and his family settle in Dallas, Texas where Moses began his studies for ministry. We still need you to pray for favor as the equipment is shipped across the Thai-Cambodian border. While we do not anticipate difficulties, it is never a done deal until the equipment arrives in the province of Kom Pom Sur about 300 miles from Bangkok, Thailand. While visiting the future building site where the earth block machine will first be used, Joe visited an orphanage nearby and distributed two tons of rice. It is hoped that someday some of these children will be trained for Christian service in the buildings made with these blocks.



*Moses & Joe at the factory*



*Joe made this block.*

## WE CARE WARSAW

On December 13th, 2008, World Compassion Network had the privilege of being involved in the Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church (WLGBC) event called "We Care Warsaw". The event took place in the Gordon Recreation Center across from the church and was followed by a full hot meal as well as the Christmas contata. The event was based on the exceptional idea of using the skills of individual church members to help the poor in the community. Dave Rank, pastor of music and worship at WLGBC, initiated the event. The concept was as follows: participants put to use their various skills, at no charge, in an effort to serve those less fortunate. The night of the event, the church had many booths offering services including: legal counsel, hair cuts, professional family photos, oil changes, gift give-aways, a prayer tent etc. As an organization, WCN determined our most effective role was gathering and then handing out groceries to those in need. We contacted Feed the Hungry and got a truck together for the event. We packed grocery sacks full of protein shakes, crackers, soup, cereal, vitamin water, and some candy and cookies for the kids. We then had the

privilege of passing out the groceries to those who desperately needed them. The sight of so many poor families leaving the church with fresh haircuts, arms full of groceries and presents, family photos, and full stomachs was beautiful. WLGBC chooses to be relevant to the social needs around them and actively loves the poor in their community. We applaud their efforts and were thankful for the opportunity to be involved.



*Clark Shepherd handing out groceries at the WLGBC "We Care Warsaw" event.*



## A Message From Our Director, Joe Wilkey

**Our Vision:** To see people become fully devoted followers of Christ through "Compassion Ministry".

**Our Mission:** To help mobilize and assist the church in responding to the needs of victims of disasters and poverty.

One year ago I was doing most of this ministry by myself. Well, God was doing it and giving me the credit. Now we have three new employees in the mix doing more than I ever could have done. I am still very busy but can't imagine how we could move forward without the great team God has assembled at WCN. **Chris Leiter** our Administrative Assistant keeps us all on track. Without her we would be far less productive. Chris is currently paid hourly. We hope someday for her to begin raising her salary and have her here full-time.



Josh Grill  
**F2F Missions  
Coordinator**

**Josh Grill** is our Family 2 Family Coordinator and is doing a terrific job. I really appreciate how he manages all the details of F2F and there are many. He also brings new ideas and a personal touch to every detail. Josh is raising 100 percent of his own salary as a missionary. This means he relies on friends and others that believe in what he is doing at WCN. He needs to continue his fund-raising by adding additional donors. Some of you might consider supporting Josh by designating funds over and above what you might already give to WCN. If you decide to help Josh, make your check out to WCN and write *4029* on the memo line of the check.



Clark Shepherd  
**Disaster Relief  
Coordinator**

**Clark Shepherd** is our Disaster Relief Coordinator. Clark is working hard to learn as much about disaster relief as possible. He has completed CERT training including being qualified to teach the course. He will attend a major international disaster relief training course this summer called Disaster Assistance Relief Team (**DART**). This includes land mine awareness, survival, refugee camp administration and more. Clark has already been involved in local relief efforts with the flood in Warsaw, In. He also was the motivation and leadership behind our first 5K Run/Walk fund raiser which was a tremendous success. Like Josh, Clark is also raising 100 percent of his salary as a missionary. If you decide to help Clark over and above what you already might be doing to help WCN, his account number is *4030*. Make your check out to WCN and write *4030* on the memo line.

As always, WCN needs and appreciates you financial support which enables us to fulfill our vision of showing compassion to those who suffer. Without your generous giving we could not do our ministry. Please consider how you might help us in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving water to the thirsty, and visiting those in the prison of poverty. Read **Romans 12: 6-8**

Always for the Suffering and Hungry,  
**Joe Wilkey**

### WCN Wish List

As an organization we do everything we can to minimize our expenses. Part of that effort involves approaching our donor base with our immediate needs. Please remember all of your "Gifts in Kind" are fully tax deductible. Currently we are in need of the following items: double axle box trailer, double axle flat bed 12 foot trailer to mount our 30KW generator, fork-lift, small hand-held camcorder, portable movie screen, and an external hard drive.