



Why Would I? Written by Scott Tolhurst, pastor of Richmond Bethel Church

Last May, Hungry For Life invited me to observe the ministry of International China Concern, whose mission is to care for abandoned and disabled children. The invitation was welcomed, but I challenged it with questions:

Why would I go? I have more than enough on my plate. The flight to China is exhausting. I can't speak the language. You can't expect long-term impact in just two weeks. It's probably better to just send cash.

Regardless, I went. I was enlightened by the projects I saw, but I also received an answer to my question, "Why should I go?" Read my journal entry from the 3rd day:

I am watching a Chinese game show with no clue about what's going on. This evening, the restaurant offered Bullfrog Soup as a special. (I declined!) We navigated through traffic, which had the same flow pattern as spaghetti. It's clear to me that I am not at home—and that's great. I didn't travel this far just to find the familiar. I am enjoying the exposure to everything that is new, but today was a reminder that certain things remain the same, no matter where you go.

I spent two hours on the floor with the preschoolers who suffer various disabilities. The language barrier disappeared quickly with smiles, squeals and giggles. Balls and balloons became my Rosetta Stone. There were hugs enough for everyone. It struck me how much like home this felt. I have spent

hours on the floor with my own children and grandchildren. So, despite the differences, this felt very familiar. Familiar not just because I had done it before, but rather because God has built into every heart a common longing.

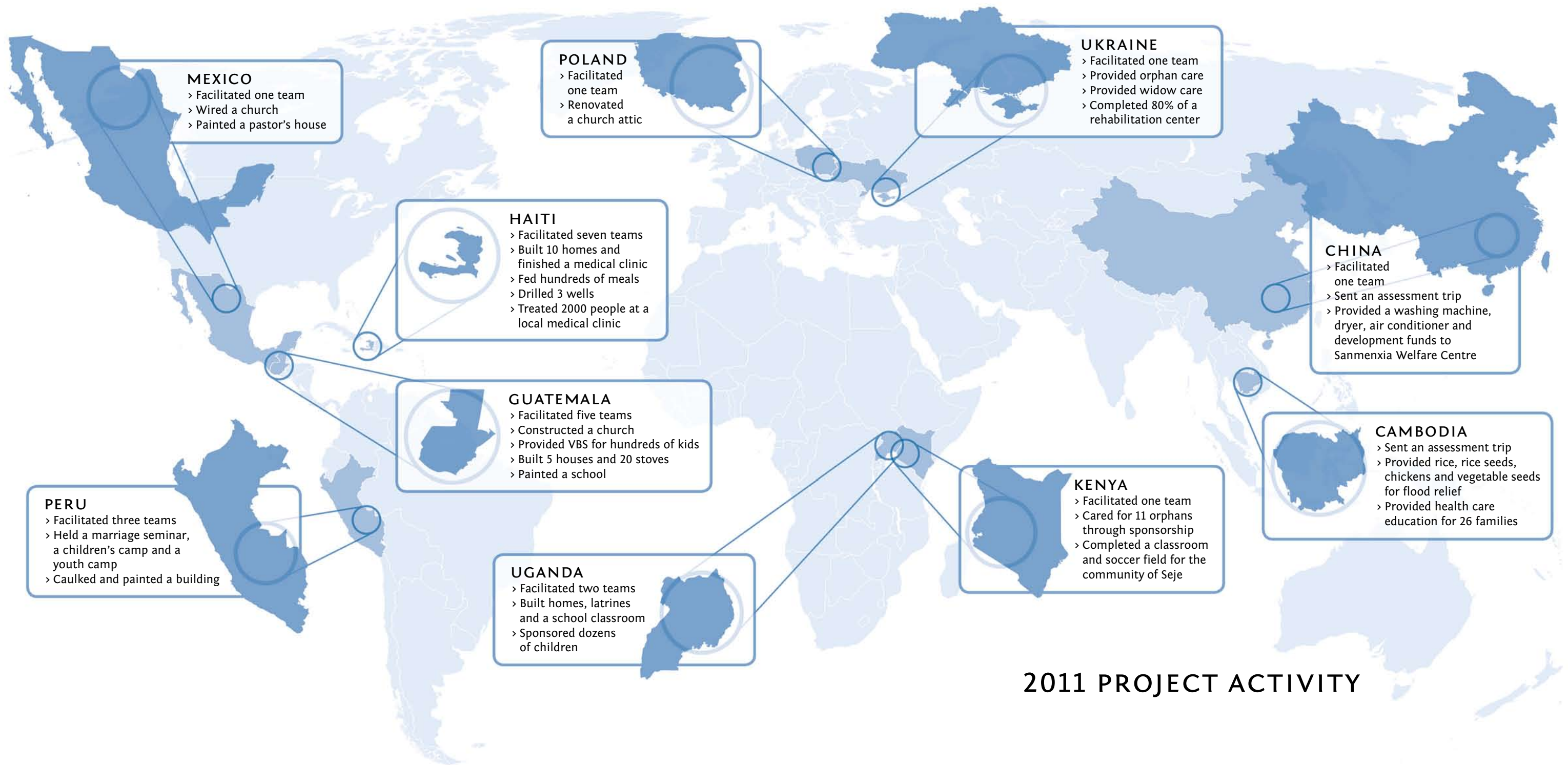
No matter the country or culture, all children crave the same thing. They want to be loved. They need to be loved.

It helps me to remember that, on this trip, I am completely equipped to offer what is necessary. I don't have to be an anthropologist, cultural historian or fluent in Mandarin. I need only carry the grace that God has extended to me. Love transcends language. Love leaps over cultural walls. The love of God is my message, regardless of the language. Love is my means, even when the need is overwhelming. So, I can strip all the complexity of this mission down to a simple fact, "Jesus loves the little children—all the children of the world." It felt good to sing it to young hearts in Sanmenxia. It felt like home.

So my answer, "Why would I go that far, for even a short time?" Because Jesus did it for me. Grace was enough cause for Him. It is enough for me and for you.

"Why would I go that far, for even a short time? Because Jesus did it for me. Grace was enough cause for Him. It is enough for me"





2011 PROJECT ACTIVITY

➤ Because of Partnerships

As I write this I am sitting in Kenya after a church service. The church I spoke at is one of our many field partners who are on the front lines and whom we are able to serve. As the pastor introduced me before I came up to the platform he said of our partnership with his churches: "Once we were in darkness and now we are in light. Once our babies and mothers

used to die in childbirth and now they have a safe place to deliver. Once our families couldn't feed themselves and now they are eating enough and selling the extra. Once people were thirsty and sick from the water they drank and now they are healthy. Once children didn't go to schools because there was no space for them in classrooms and now many more children are in school."

All of these things happened because of partnerships. Partnerships with supporting churches in North America, and with field partners around the world. Partnerships with governments and other non-governmental organizations. These things are happening also because of our partnership with you. You received this newsletter because you have, in some way, partnered with

us to transform lives. We are 100% reliant on partnerships to do anything at all.

From walking around just one of our project sites this past week, I can assure you that your giving really does change lives and communities.

Thank you for partnering with us.

 - Dave Blundell



Resources & Events

➤ Give the Gift of Hope

Grace Atieli chose to convert her two-bedroom home into a refuge for orphans living on the streets of Kakamega, Kenya. This amazing woman sacrifices her own comfort, using the little she has to feed and care for those in need.

We visited Grace and the more than 30 children she cares for as an extension of the Shekinah Band ministry in the summer of 2010. Much is still needed to continue to feed, house and educate the children, and so we're returning to Kakamega in early 2013.

kakamega
2013



GIFTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

To fundraise for this project, we want to offer you an opportunity to give gifts that will make a real difference in the lives of Grace and the children.

Items like bricks, seeds, paint and work team expenses can be purchased in honour of a loved one for any occasion, such as birthdays or anniversaries.

For more information on the trip, or to give a gift, please visit: www.kakamega2013.com

➤ Upcoming Shekinah Events



SUNDAY

February 5th

Hillside Community Church
9:15am & 11:15am
Coquitlam, BC

FRIDAY

April 27th

Cranbrook Alliance Church
[tentative booking]
Cranbrook, BC

SUNDAY

April 29th

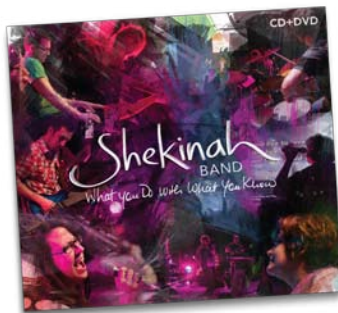
Cochrane Alliance Church
Times to be announced
Cochrane, AB

For more information, please visit: www.shekinahband.com/events

➤ Resources

Alongside a vast host of worthy contributors to the cause of Christian growth and development, Hungry For Life has also been led to develop a variety of resources and public events for the purpose of providing opportunities for

people to experience the power and presence of Jesus Christ. If any of these seem valuable to your personal growth, they are available at HFL, or from the websites as shown.



Shekinah Band CD/DVD

What You Do With What You Know

This CD/DVD project is intended to inspire, serve and encourage the Church of Jesus Christ in its quest to address both spiritual and physical poverty around the globe.

For more info, please visit:

www.whatyoudowithwhatyouknow.com



Hungry For Life BOOK

A Vision of the Church That Would Transform the World

An extension of the message and mandate of the work of Hungry For Life International.

For more info, please visit:
www.daveblundell.ca/book

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