



# Soles For Jesus, Inc.

8480 N. 87th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
877.314.SHOE (7463)



April 2015

[www.SolesForJesus.org](http://www.SolesForJesus.org)



Dear Friend,

Sometimes life brings unexpected turns. Our Burundi mission team just experienced this, as it became clear that we had to postpone our trip about 40 hours prior to departure. Pre-election protests and tensions escalated to a serious level, and we were strongly advised to wait. Even though waiting is hard, especially when your heart is already there, our team is united in prayer for Burundi and we are trusting in His perfect timing.

As I've been praying about this situation, I was reminded of Paul's missionary journeys and how he was also stopped and redirected at times, even after the Lord had specifically told him where to go. Sometimes we don't understand His ways, but we keep trusting Him through it all! I believe that the Lord has great plans for Burundi. Often times, after a season of adversity and unrest, the Lord blows the doors wide open for the Gospel to be received. We must continue to pray for the people and peace of Burundi, and for the Lord to lead our team. I look forward to sharing the rest of this story with you, and I am encouraged in the Lord's faithfulness through it all.

Please take a few minutes to read about the

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## Burundi Mission Team



*Team Burundi (missing: Linda, Mary and Melissa)*

Please continue to pray for peace in Burundi and for our mission team, as we seek the Lord regarding our departure date. Please also continue to pray for our ministry partner, Rev. Evariste, his wife, Goreth, their family, church and nation. They are very concerned about the unrest in their country, and are very grateful

exciting things that He is doing at SFJ. I also want to invite you to join my family for a great time at the Race For Soles on June 13th! Thank you for your loving support of what the Lord is doing at SFJ. I've been overwhelmed by the love and support of our SFJ family over the last 24 hours and I'm so grateful.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Diane Studer  
SFJ Founder/Director

*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

## Sign Up Today!



2015 **RACE - FOR - SOLES**  
FAMILY FUN RUN  
5K RUN/2 MILE WALK

Register at [www.SolesForJesus.org](http://www.SolesForJesus.org) // SATURDAY, JUNE 13  
8:30am - 11:30am  
WCTC in Pewaukee

SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN IMPORTS AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SPECIALISTS

[Register Now](#)

Invite your family and friends to join us for a 5k run or 2 mile walk on **Saturday, June 13th!** Take advantage of early bird registration by heading to our website or by calling us at 414-365-1392.

The event will be held at the beautiful campus of Waukesha County Technical College, where we'll enjoy a scenic route through the streets of Pewaukee. The morning will also include medals, prizes, refreshments, exciting activities, and games. By signing up and having fun, you are helping to touch lives in Africa. This event is

for our prayers.

Last week, I received an urgent email from Evariste. His church had just been swept away by a tragic mudslide, along with several schools and 100 homes. This is where we were scheduled to have church this Sunday, along with a distribution of shoes and clothing the day prior. I received these "before and after" photos of Rutunga Village that you see below, and we look forward to the day that we can be the hands and feet of Christ to these people that we already dearly love. What a privilege it will be to wash, measure and put shoes on thousands of feet, and to give each person their own Gospel booklet written in their language.

We look forward to sharing more, as the Lord leads us. Today I read how Paul was led by God in Acts 16:10, "After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." This is exactly where we are resting, as we wait for the vision of the Lord. As soon as He gives it, we will go. See photos of the shipment [HERE](#).



*Rutunga Village: before and after the flood.*

for individuals and families of all ages. For more information, head to our website [HERE](#).

**Sponsorship Opportunity-** Do you know of an individual, business, or organization that would like to help sponsor the Race For Soles? There are several options to choose from, and it's a great opportunity to promote your business to all of our participants. To find out more about event sponsorship, please contact Mark Ellefson at [mellefson@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:mellefson@SolesForJesus.org) or (414) 365-1392. Thank you for your support of Soles For Jesus!

Are you following Soles For Jesus on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)? Connect with us and join the conversation about the Race For Soles 2015: **#RFS2015**

## Shoe Drives- Special Thanks!

**Wisconsin Lutheran College-** We are thankful for our partnership with Wisconsin Lutheran College! They invited us to join them at their annual race, Gary's Gallop, where they collected shoes and raised funds for SFJ. It was a beautiful day and a great event. Thank you, WLC, for supporting SFJ's mission of sending shoes and sharing the Gospel in Africa!



*Brittney and Mark at WLC with bags of donated shoes.*

## Volunteers of the Month

We are thrilled to honor students from Loyola Academy, in Wilmette, IL, as our Volunteers of the Month!

These students are taking an environmental service learning class, and they incorporated SFJ into their class project



by collecting shoes. One of the students, Laura Mahoney, shared, "This project impacted our entire group as we began to research the need for shoes and the benefits associated with having a pair. I was not aware of the fact that at many schools a child may not attend school unless they have a pair of shoes. We learned just how fortunate we are and how sometimes we can take the smallest things for granted."

Students hosted a bake sale at their school to help raise funds for shipping. When they delivered the shoes to SFJ, they stayed to participate in a SOS Event, helping pack their shoes for Africa. Students shared that this service project was an easy way to help people in need, thousands of miles away, and that it was great to see the whole school participate. Thank you Loyola Academy!

**Strassburg's Easter-** Our friends, Joel and Amanda Strassburg, threw a big party for Jesus by hosting an Easter celebration at their house. They collected shoes for SFJ, and a raffle ticket was awarded for every pair donated, along with a variety of prizes. It was a beautiful day to be outside and to celebrate Jesus! Thank you friends!



*Children participating in the egg hunt.*

**Oakwood Church-** A big thanks to Oakwood Church in Hartland for collecting shoes! This was their first shoe drive and Pastor Nate said, "It was such a great experience, we are going to do it again this August!" Thank you for helping us reach the lost. We are grateful for your support!



*Myles and Pastor Nate delivering shoes to SFJ.*

## Shipment to Botswana

We are thrilled to report that a shipment of 8,000 pairs of shoes left our warehouse for Botswana! This is our first opportunity to send shoes to this nation and we praise God for open doors. Please pray for a safe delivery and for wisdom and guidance as our EHC partner, Tanga Chawora, and his ministry team receive this shipment. View pictures of this shipment [HERE](#).



*Volunteers standing with the Botswana shipment before it left the SFJ warehouse.*

## Shipment to Guinea-Bissau

Praise God for a shipment of shoes arriving in Guinea-Bissau! Please pray for Julio and his ministry team, as they begin shoe distributions within the next few weeks. Pray for villages to welcome them and for people to feel love and compassion through the Gospel message. See photos of this shipment [HERE](#).

**Divine Consign-** We're grateful for our friends Jessi Wrench and Jessica Purtell, owners of Divine Consign, for their ongoing partnership, and for organizing a shoe drive at their last sale. Divine Consign has been so generous to donate the left over shoes from their sales to SFJ for several years. We appreciate you supporting us in all we do, and we think you're fantastic! The shoes that you collected will be life-changing to those fighting poverty in Africa. Check out their sale going on now in Hartland!



*Diane with Divine Consign owners, Jessi and Jessica.*

**Christian Life School-** This awesome group of seniors from Christian Life School (CLS) in Kenosha stopped by SFJ this week. They collected one-thousand pairs of shoes and raised funds to ship them to Africa! We had the opportunity to pray with them before they left. Friends, thank you for being such a blessing to us over the last four years! We are grateful for your support and for your passion for sharing Christ's love.



*The village of Cumura de Pepel hearing the Gospel message before they received their shoes.*

## Shipment to Swaziland

8,000 pairs of shoes arrived in Swaziland earlier this month! We are looking forward to seeing what the Lord will do through Joseph and his team, as they share shoes and God's love in this nation. We pray for hearts to be opened to Jesus in each village they visit. See photos of this shipment [HERE](#).



*Joseph and his team celebrating the arrival of their shoes.*

## Distributions in Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia and Mozambique

Shoes and the Gospel are being shared in these nations! Please pray for a spiritual awakening for these



*CLS students from Kenosha delivered their shoes to SFJ.*

**KM Sports-** We're grateful for the support of KM Sports in Pewaukee! Steve and Karen Vasatko organized a shoe drive which was a great success! Several pairs of the shoes that they donated still have price tags on them. The durability and comfort of these running shoes will bless many lives in Africa. Thank you Steve and Karen!



*Brand new shoes donated by KM Sports.*  
**Hadfield Elementary School-** Way to go Hadfield Elementary School in Waukesha! They collected shoes for SFJ at their school dance. Every person who brought a pair to donate got free admission to the dance. A special thanks to Connor for organizing this shoe drive.

countries and for adults and children to realize their need for a Savior. Please also pray for good health and safety as ministry teams travel village-to-village doing shoe distributions.

We are excited to share photos and updates with you on social media, as we receive them. Thank you for your prayer support!

## Meet one of our Partners

Meet our Every Home for Christ ministry partner, Fred Mukasa. Fred has a goal of sharing the Gospel with over 200,000 homes and discipling over 50,000 individuals throughout Uganda.

Fred and his wife, Josephine, are family counselors by profession, and they have three daughters.



Fred shares, "I have seen Jesus heal many in this nation, physically and spiritually. In fact, I saw first-hand a child healed of a birth deformity in a worship service. Praise God!" When asked what motivates him to devote his life to ministry in Uganda, he said, "I want to see everyone have the opportunity to receive the Gospel and I want to see happy families." Please join us in prayer for these specific requests that Fred has shared:

- Pray for funds and wisdom, as two of his daughters are in college.
- Pray for protection and effectiveness as they minister



*Connor (in the middle) and his friends with the shoes they collected.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

**SOS Event (Sort & Organize Shoes)** Join us as we gather at the Milwaukee, WI warehouse to prepare shoes for shipment to Africa! New volunteers are always welcome and we will have a brief orientation before each event. To set-up a time to come and volunteer, please contact Brittney at [bciciora@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:bciciora@SolesForJesus.org) or 414-365-1392.



*We enjoyed having a group from Concordia University volunteer at a SOS Event this month!*

in the villages of Uganda.

## Thank you for the Shoes Received this Month!

Action Organizing, WI  
 American Imports, WI  
 Anytime Fitness, WI  
 Barb Lehmann, WI  
 Brookfield Christian School, WI  
 Brown Deer Jr. Woman's Group, WI  
 Christian Life School, WI  
 Crossway Church, WI  
 Deb Anderson, WI  
 Divine Consign, WI  
 Donges Bay School, WI  
 Eileen King, WI  
 Farmers Insurance, CA  
 Fit Body Boot Camp, WI  
 Friends of Jen Hanson, WI  
 Gary and Margaret Hetzel, WI  
 Greta Ibarra-Nunez, WI  
 Hadfield Elementary School, WI  
 Isaac Ubert, WI  
 Jennie Duty, WI  
 Johann Mejia-Ott, MD  
 Kat Fronck, WI  
 Katie Arends, WI  
 Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS, WI  
 KM Sports, WI  
 Laura Nemetz, WI  
 Michael Mendola, WI  
 Michelle Novak, WI  
 Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Church, PA  
 Pamela Saffold, WI  
 Sarah Johnston, WI  
 Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, WI  
 Spring Creek Church, WI  
 St. Peter's Catholic Church, WI  
 Starbucks (124th/Capitol), WI  
 Sussex Outreach Services, WI  
 The Bubolitz Family, WI  
 The Colour Tube, WI

## May

Saturday, May 2nd, 9-11am-FULL  
Saturday, May 16th, 9-11am  
Thursday, May 21st, 6-8pm-FULL  
Saturday, May 23rd, 9-11am-FULL  
Thursday, May 28th, 6-8pm  
Saturday, May 30th, 9-11am

## June

Saturday, June 6th, 9-11am-FULL  
Thursday, June 11th, 6-8pm  
Saturday, June 20th, 9-11am-FULL  
Tuesday, June 23rd, 12-2pm  
Friday, June 26th, 1-3pm  
Saturday, June 27th, 9-11am

**\*You can choose your own date to serve!**

**To learn more about this, read below.**

**"Business Hours" SOS:** Volunteers are welcome to come during weekdays to sort shoes (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm). Come and sort shoes when it fits your schedule. You can sort for an hour or a day- it's entirely up to you. Also, feel free to bring friends! Training will be provided, and SFJ staff will always be available to provide support. For more details, contact Mark at [mellefson@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:mellefson@SolesForJesus.org) or 414-365-1392, and please let us know 48 hours in advance that you're coming.

**SOS Group Event:** Schedule a special date to host your group! Are you a part of a sports team, small group, or club in your work, school, church, or community? Volunteering together to organize and pack shoes for Africa is a rewarding, 2 hour, team building opportunity for youth and adults (12+ years). Contact Brittney at [bciciora@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:bciciora@SolesForJesus.org) or 414-365-1392 to set up your volunteer group.

The Mikolajewski Family, WI  
The Strassburg Family, WI  
WAC- North Shore, WI  
Wisconsin Lutheran College, WI

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