



Soles For Jesus, Inc.

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February 2017

www.SolesForJesus.org



Dear Friend,

Testimonies from the field continue to fuel our drive for this mission. Shoes are amazing "door openers" into hearts and lives that are being transformed by the love of Christ! When someone in a remote village experiences the love of Jesus, through foot washing and by hearing the Gospel message, their eyes are opened to the Truth. We are seeing entire villages transformed because of Jesus!

I'm so grateful for our national director in Mozambique, Godfrey Bhodyera, who just sent reports and testimonies from his recent shoe distributions. Margarita is one life that was deeply impacted. When Margarita was five years old, she was severely hit by the measles and she lost her eyesight. Now she's a teenager, and she's carried the pain and shame of her blindness for more than 12 years. When she heard that a team of Christians showed up in her village with shoes, she was curious about their message. When they offered to wash her feet, she could not believe it! Margarita said, "I felt so loved and important, and that I was just like anyone else. I have never felt this kind of love and I want to know this Jesus."

Hallelujah! This is why SFJ exists and this is why we GO to the remote villages of Africa. We believe that everyone deserves a chance to hear and to receive the free gift of salvation in Jesus. Thank you for helping us share this kind of love across Africa. It's an honor to partner together in His name, and I pray that you will experience the fullness of His love in a new way today.

Sincerely in Christ,

Quick Links

- [Email Us](#)
- [Our Website](#)
- [Donate Now](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar and invite your friends and family to our fourth annual Race For Soles on **June 24, 2017, at 8:30am!** Click [HERE](#) for race details!



Are you a Thrivent Member?

If so, you have a unique opportunity to partner with SFJ! All Thrivent Financial



Members are eligible to direct their "Choice

Diane Studer
SFJ Founder/Director



Margarita in Tica Centro, Mozambique

Volunteer of the Month

We are excited to honor Roberta Pratt as our February Volunteer of the Month! Roberta heard about Soles For Jesus after connecting with Diane through the Hamilton basketball league. Roberta was inspired by what Soles For Jesus was doing, and when she heard about the Tanzania mission trip, she felt led to go and serve. In May of 2016, Roberta went to Tanzania and her life was forever changed.

"It was an awesome feeling to be able to provide for those who are a lot less fortunate than us. We washed their feet, sized them up for a pair of shoes, or boots for the shepherds, and the Pastors loved their dress shoes. Each village that we stopped at also received a gospel booklet to read. We prayed with many of them, and I have to say that those prayers were so powerful to me that I broke down in tears. We also fed each village, which was a blessing to me, because I heard that they only eat once a day. We bought two goats for each village, along with lots of rice, vegetables, oil and sugar."

Since this mission trip, Roberta has been a huge SFJ supporter. She's led shoe drives, volunteered in our warehouse, and given presentations with an incredible video that she made from our trip. Roberta is also a gifted photographer, and we are grateful for the amazing photos that she captured in Tanzania. Thank you, Roberta, for all that you've done! We pray God's blessings over you, as you continue to serve in His name.

Dollars" to help support the mission of SFJ. This opportunity is of no direct cost to you, and you can click on the graphic above to learn more. Since 2010, Thrivent has distributed more than 330 million dollars to nonprofits nationwide. Please contact Mark Ellefson at our office with any questions about our mission or our partnership with Thrivent. Mark can be reached at MEllefson@SolesForJesus.org or (414)365-1392. Thank you!

Praise Report from Kenya!

We praise the Lord for the report that we received regarding our recent mission trip to Kenya!

"Two of the villages that we visited last month, experienced a 20% growth since our team shared the love of Jesus with foot washing, shoes and a feast! All praise to the Lord of the harvest!"

-Bishop Mulea, Kenya



Testimonies from Mozambique!

We continue to receive amazing testimonies from Mozambique. Our EHC ministry partner, Godfrey Bhodyera, provided an update on their shoe distributions. "The distributions made us see some of the physical needs of the communities, as we saw many grandmothers who are looking after a lot of grandchildren who were orphaned by the HIV/AIDS scourge that continues to devour many in our communities. There are many people with various disabilities and nobody has been there to support them. The shoes were the first gift they received. This made them feel how it feels to be loved."

He also shared a testimony with us from Juana Tamisene, whose daughter was born with a cognitive disability. "It is the joy of



Roberta Pratt in Tanzania.

Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

Christian Education Leadership Academy in WI—CELA completed their shoe drive and blew past their goal to collect 1,136 pairs! The students also decorated canvas shoes and included hand-made cards and letters to send with the shoes. Lastly, they also hosted a movie night with a free-will offering to help ship their shoes to Africa. Wow, CELA, you thought of it all and we are blown away by your kindness! Special thanks to Grace and Carissa Condly for their leadership over the entire project, and also for the support of Dr. Galster and Mrs. Daniels. May God bless you for the 1,136 lives that will be touched with the love of Jesus.



Students at CELA with the shoes from their drive.

every mother to see her child smile. I was looking at you washing my daughter's feet. Most of the people here do not want to touch her because of her mental condition, but you were washing her feet and putting shoes on her feet. I thank you for putting a smile on my daughter. She is so happy to have a pair of shoes from you. God bless you!"

Hearing these and other testimonies are what drives us to serve God's kingdom! To God be the glory!



Children in Mozambique with their new shoes and gospel booklets.

Shipment to Liberia

A shipment of 8,000 pairs of shoes is on its way to Liberia! We are excited to hear about lives changed as our EHC partner, Benjamin Holder, travels to villages to reach people for Christ. Please pray with us that the shoes arrive safely, and for the people who will be receiving them. You can view pictures of the shipment to Liberia [HERE](#).



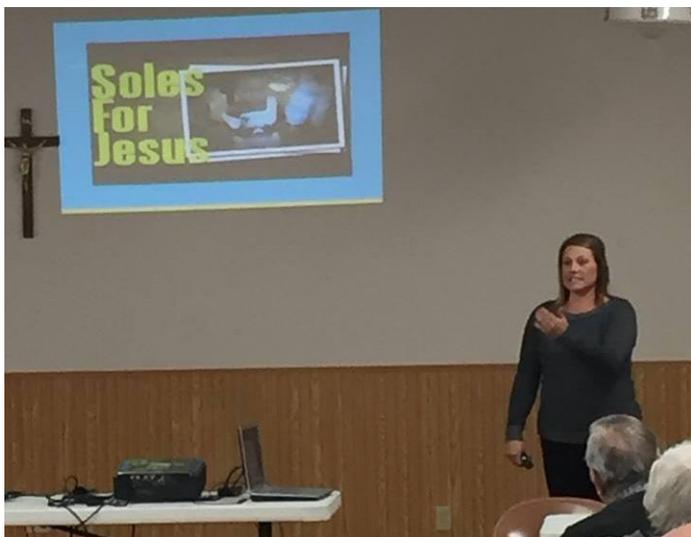
Mark, Yen and Diane with the Liberia

Roberta Pratt in WI - We love it when our SFJ family represents our mission! A big thank you to Roberta Pratt, (who also happens to be our Volunteer of the Month), for sharing at Willowbrook Place in Thiensville. The group enjoyed the presentation and donated shoes!



Roberta Pratt speaking at Willowbrook Place

Melissa Reams in IA - Our Iowa state representative, Melissa, had the opportunity to share the mission of SFJ at the Knights of Columbus in Osage. Thank you, Melissa, for being an advocate and supporter of Soles For Jesus!



Melissa Reams speaking at the Knights of Columbus

Mequon Alliance Awana in WI - Thank you so much to the Mequon Alliance Awana for hosting a shoe drive and raising funds to send the shoes to Africa!

shipment.

Shipment to Guinea Bissau

Our partner, Julio, and his team began their work to reach the Gabú, Bafatá, Quinara and Tombali regions of Guinea Bissau. We are awaiting the first reports, but please pray that many will come to know Jesus as Lord. View pictures of the shipment to Guinea Bissau [HERE](#).



The main regions of Guinea Bissau.

Shipment to Lesotho

We are receiving amazing testimonies from Josais, our ministry partner, as his team is distributing shoes! Here is one beautiful example from a woman named Thandi, whose life is forever changed: "Two EHC workers visited my home with the gospel, explaining how God loves us so much that He sent His only son to die for us. By that time the spirit of God touched me and I really saw Him when He was at the cross. With tears I surrendered my life to Him. Those workers prayed with me. Now I am a child of God who is willing to tell everybody about Jesus. Then they blessed me with a pair of shoes that will assist me to reach others with the gospel." To God be the glory! You can view pictures of the Lesotho shipment [HERE](#).



The students of Mequon Alliance Awana with the shoes they collected.

Sussex Hamilton High School, Menomonee Falls High School & Boy Scout Troop 95 in WI -

Our most heartfelt thanks to Roberta J. Pratt for coordinating a shoe drive at Sussex Hamilton H.S. & Menomonee Falls H.S.! We appreciate all of the parents, students and Boy Scout Troop 95 for their help to collect shoes and also for raising funds through the bake sale to send their shoes to Africa!



Roberta Pratt, Boy Scout Troop 95 and other volunteers made this a great shoe drive and fundraiser!



A beautiful life, touched by God.

Shipment to Uganda

We are thrilled to share that our first shipment to Uganda is nearing the port of Mombassa, Kenya. From there, it will be transported to Kampala, Uganda. Please pray for the container to clear the customs controls, and that it will travel safely to its final destination. You can view pictures of the Uganda shipment [HERE](#).



Our first shipment to Uganda is almost there!

Meet One of Our Partners

Michael French is committed to sharing the Gospel and starting discipleship groups throughout Sierra Leone, with a special focus on the southern part of the country, where there is a large population of unreached people. His favorite scripture to





Ladies group from Christ Church in Mequon packing shoes for Africa.

Volunteer Opportunities

SOS Events (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. Please contact us at 414-365-1392 or Yenh@SolesForJesus.org to set-up a time to come and volunteer.

March

Saturday, March 4th, 9am-noon **FULL**
 Saturday, March 11th, 9-11am **FULL**
 Wednesday, March 15th, 9-11am **FULL**
 Thursday, March 16th, 1-3pm
 Saturday, March 18th, 9-11am **FULL**
 Saturday, March 25th, 9-11am **FULL**
 Wednesday, March 29th, 6-8pm **FULL**

April

Saturday, April 1st, 9-11am
 Wednesday, April 5th, 12:30-2:30pm
 Thursday, April 13th, 6-8pm
 Saturday, April 22nd, 9:15-11:30am **FULL**
 Wednesday, April 26th, 6-8pm
 Thursday, April 27th, 1-4pm **FULL**
 Saturday, April 29th, 9-11am

***You can choose a different 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

meditate on is John 3:16, as he sees it summarizing the whole Gospel in one simple and explainable verse. Every day, Michael is striving to live out God's love for the people of Sierra Leone. Please join us in prayer for these specific requests Michael has shared:

- Pray for good health, guidance, and protection for Michael, Doreen, and their four children.
- Pray for deliverance from demonic manipulation for those near to Michael.
- Pray for the salvation of Sierra Leone, and that occultism and witchcraft practices will be eradicated.

Thank you for the Shoes Received this Month!

- Anytime Fitness - Germantown, WI
- Bella Monteen, WI
- Bend City Church, WI
- Brookfield Christian School, WI
- Cargo Services, Inc., IN
- Charlottesville United Methodist Church, IN
- Christian Education Leadership Academy, WI
- Core Fitness, IN
- David & Kathryn Gravel, MA
- Falls Busy Beavers, WI
- First United Methodist Church, IN
- Gaby Van Blyenburgh, IL
- Grace Fellowship Church, IN
- Holly Porer c/o Simply Shears, IN
- Jerry & Barb Hatfield, IL
- Latasha Sims, WI
- Luke & Stephanie Ryan, WI
- Luther Manor, WI
- Mequon Alliance Awana, WI
- New Life United Methodist Church, IN
- Nick Kaun, WI
- Plymouth Wesleyen Church, IN
- Portage United Methodist Church, WI
- Princeton Club, WI
- Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, IN
- The Colour Tube, WI
- Tom & Kristine Karrels, WI
- Victory International Fellowship, WI
- Willowbrook Place, WI
- Wisconsin Athletic Club - North Shore, WI
- Wisconsin Athletic Club - Wauwatosa,

entirely up to you. Also, please feel free to bring friends! Training will be provided, and SFJ staff will always be available to provide support. For more details about this opportunity, please contact Mark Ellefson at 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 own 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). Please contact YenH at Yenh@SolesForJesus.org or 414-365-1392 to set up your volunteer group.

Your Donation Impacts Lives!

Donate Online Now

Or

Mail Your Donation:

Soles For Jesus
8480 N. 87th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53224

- WI
- World Missionary Press, IN

Join our Prayer Team!

If you would like to be a part of our prayer team, email us at info@SolesForJesus.org. We will send you our prayer newsletter, so you can join us in united prayer!

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24



Team Kenya praying over village pastors.

www.SolesForJesus.org

[Remove my name from all future email correspondence](#)

Address postal inquiries to:

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