

8480 N. 87th Street Milwaukee, WI 53224

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February 2020

www.SolesForJesus.org

Dear Friend,

Look at these children! They are so beautiful and I can literally feel the Father's love for them. These siblings received funding for school but they still did not have shoes (the most costly part of a school uniform). Our ministry partner heard about this and when Evariste found the children barefoot he was able to give them each their first pair of shoes! He also shared the love of Jesus with them and their hearts were open to receive prayer and the free gift of salvation!

This created a ripple effect that led to an open door to share Jesus in their school. And that's what I love about this God-given strategy and mission. We are putting tools in the hands of men and women of God who've been called to share His love in their own nation. They are already doing the work and we also serve

## **Quick Links**

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#### **Team Botswana!**

We are thrilled to introduce the team that will be distributing shoes and sharing the love of Jesus in Botswana this May. It was exciting to meet together for the first time, and special thanks to Craig Thacker for the team hats! We are looking forward to being the hands and feet of Jesus in this nation. Please pray for the people of Botswana and for our team as we prepare! under these missionaries when we bring a SFJ team each year. We continually hear that shoes and footwashing are opening doors to sharing the Gospel and this is another example. There is such a powerful exchange of love, and we thank the Lord for how He's building His Kingdom!

Thank you for being a part of this work, as it's His great desire to fill all of heaven with people just like these! He desires that none should perish and that's why this mission is all about Jesus and making Him known. I'm so humbled and grateful to be on this journey with you, and I pray that His love will overwhelm you in a fresh and new way today.

In Christ alone,

Diane Studer Founder/Executive Director Soles For Jesus, Inc.



New shoes for school and new life in Jesus!



**Team Botswana** May 2020

Not pictured: David, Tammy, Jessica, Jacob, Cynthia P. & Kasey

#### Meet One Of Our Partners

Meet our Every Home for Christ (EHC) ministry



partner in Zambia, Albert Muleya. Albert was raised by his mother and had a very poor upbringing. His mother taught him about God, but he never learned about the gift of salvation. As he grew older, Albert joined gangs for survival. While he was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, an evangelist came to his school and preached about the love of Jesus Christ. Albert went to this event with the intention of

## Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

**North Carolina Shoe Drive-** Thank you, Brooke Rawls and family, for all that you've done to kick-off such an amazing shoe drive as our new NC State Rep! Hundreds of shoes have already been collected and hundreds more are coming in! Your community has responded in an incredible way, and so many lives in Africa will be radically touched because of your kindness. Take a look at their fun promo video and God BLESS you all!



*Click on this image to start the video.* 

#### **Sussex Hamilton Basketball Shoe Drive, WI -** The 5th Annual Shoe Drive at Hamilton High School was a great success. We are excited that over 1,500 pairs of shoes have been donated, and we thank Roberta for leading this great effort! We're also thrilled that Roberta and Diane will be featured in the, "Beyond the Game," segment with Brandon Cruz

mocking those that were there to hear the Word of God. But as he listened to the evangelist, he was reminded of the Bible stories that his mother had taught him and he felt the tug on his heart. By the time the evangelist did an altar call, Albert jumped to his feet and welcomed Jesus into his heart. The Lord filled him with His spirit and now Albert spends his life doing the same for others as that evangelist did for him.

Albert asks us to pray for the following:

- Health, favor and protection for Albert, his wife, Ezima and their children, Ruth, Adlai, Zebai, Steyn, Joy and Ezbai.
- Pray that the entire family will continue serving God and no one will go away from loving Jesus.
- That Albert is able to help plant life-giving churches and raise Holy Spirit filled leaders in all 114 Districts of Zambia within 10 years.
- That Albert is able to open EHC Centers in the 6 of 10 remaining provinces of Zambia and identify 6 leaders with a very strong desire to see their provinces reached with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

from Fox6 News. We are honored to be a part of this community effort, and countless lives in Africa will be impacted because of their kindness!



Sussex Hamilton Basketball's 5th Shoe Drive!

#### Des Moines Christian School, IA -

We want to thank the 3rd grade class of Des Moines Christian School for organizing a school-wide shoe drive! We also give our heartfelt thanks to Shawn Thacker for sharing the SFJ mission in their all-school chapel service and for helping with the transport of these shoes to our warehouse. On behalf of the many lives who will be touched by these special gifts, we thank you all!

### **Shipment to Liberia**

For our second shipment of the year, we are excited to send shoes to the nation of Liberia! Our partner, Jonel, who was featured in our last newsletter is already planning where to distribute the shoes and is praying for God to do many great communities. She reminds us that there are great economic and spiritual needs throughout will have a great impact in people's hearts for years to come. Please join us in prayer for the Word of God to spread throughout this nation and for many to receive Jesus as their Savior.



Liberia shipment ready for its journey.

## Burundi Distribution Update

Our partner in Burundi, Evariste, and his ministry team continue to do incredible work



*3rd graders sharing about SFJ without shoes.* 

**Logan's Boy Scout Troop -** We get excited when kids want to make a difference and we thank Logan for coordinating a shoe drive with his troop! There will be many happy kids in Africa because of your willingness to serve. You are truly making a difference and showing that any age can do something! in reaching people with the hope of the Gospel. Burundi consistently ranks as one of the poorest nations in the world and it is filled with the most beautiful people. The power of God's love is transforming hearts across this nation.

Our EHC Partners recently held a distribution in the rural village of Kadesh, where the whole community heard the Gospel and many responded to this powerful message of love and redemption. Please pray for Evariste and his team, and for even more people to turn to Christ.

View more pictures from Burundi <u>HERE.</u>



Logan and his family delivering their shoes.



Crowds gather to hear the Gospel in Kadesh.

#### **Testimony from Benin**

Our partner in Benin, Avla, sent us a testimony of a man in the

Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts, WI - Thank you to this amazing group of students and their community for hosting their 5th Annual Shoe Drive! We want to give a special shout-out to kindergarten teacher, Ms. Maxwell, for her organization and ongoing support over the years. We are grateful that 474 pairs of shoes were collected and we are touched by your compassion.



*Thank you Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts.* 

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

SOS Events (Sort & Organize Shoes) Join us as we gather at our 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 sign-up for a date and time to come and volunteer. village of Tori Avame who accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. While they were sharing the Gospel with the crowd, the man stood up and told everyone,

"I am tired of the kind of life I am living. I need help. I don't want to be an alcoholic anymore."

The ministry team invited him forward and he accepted Jesus as Savior in front of those who were gathered. The local church is now following up and helping to disciple him. God is doing great things in Benin and we ask you to continue to pray for more people throughout this nation to accept Jesus as Savior.

View more pictures HERE.



"I was lost but now I'm found!"



Thank you Brookfield Christian School.

#### MARCH

Saturday, March 7th, 9-11am Friday, March 13th, 6-8pm Saturday, March 14th, 9-11am Thursday, March 19th, 6-8pm Thursday, March 26th, 6-8pm Saturday, March 21st, 9-11am Saturday, March 28th, 9-11am

#### APRIL

Wednesday, April 1st, 9-11am **FULL** Wednesday, April 1st 6-8pm **FULL** Saturday, April 4th, 9-11am Thursday, April 9th, 3-5pm Saturday, April 11th, 9-11am Tuesday, April 14th, 6-8pm Saturday, April 18th, 9-11am Saturday, April 25th, 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

## Sao Tome Distribution Update

Our ministry partner in Sao Tome recently traveled to one distant communities Most of the population relies on fishing for survival and this area is filled with traditional pagan The needs rituals. this community are numerous and most of the people go about their days without shoes. The ministry team went there to bless this community and to share the Gospel. God blessed them with a beautiful day and children gathered to hear the Word of God. 36 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that day praise the Lord!

After the distribution, many came to thank the team for blessing them with shoes. They were overwhelmed that anyone would come to their village to freely share shoes and Eternal Hope for their lives. The local church is continuing the discipleship work with those who responded to the Gospel and we thank the Lord for what He's started here. This village will never be the same again!

View more photos of the shipment <u>HERE.</u>

your schedule. You can sort for an hour or a day - it's 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, please contact Mark Ellefson at <u>Mellefson@SolesForJesus.org</u> 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

(414 - 365 - 1392)



Sharing the Gospel in rural Sao Tome.

#### **Volunteer Of The Month**

We are thrilled to honor Patricia Gohde and Aaron McCollum as our February volunteers of the month, and **they are getting married tomorrow**! We pray God's blessings over your marriage and we are excited for all that He has planned as you serve Him together.

Patricia and Aaron volunteer at SOS Events, attend our annual luncheon and recently led a shoe drive at their church. They learned about SFJ while attending a prayer meeting for a Native American Church Plant where they met SFJ staff member, Kris. "During our conversation, Kris and Ric shared their passion and

partnership with the organization, Soles For Jesus. We heard stories and we saw photos. Later that evening during our drive home, God confirmed to Aaron and me that Soles For Jesus was an organization that we should sow into with our lives," Patricia shared.

Patricia and Aaron jumped in right away and led a shoe drive at their home church, Oak Creek Assembly of God, where they collected over 2,500 pairs of shoes! They were so excited to see the donations growing each week and Patricia shared, "We learned that when God ordains something to happen, all of the pieces will fall into place and He will always exceed your expectations."

Patricia encourages everyone to get involved in any way. "The desire to volunteer your time at the warehouse, or organize a shoe drive at your work, is the voice of God. And what you give to Him, He will return to you. I like to think of each pair of shoes as one life that is being reached or a person who will experience Jesus."

Congratulations, Patricia and Aaron, as you celebrate your leap day wedding in beautiful Hawaii! We are so thankful for you and pray God's abundant blessings over your wedding



Patricia & Aaron at the Oak Creek A/G Shoe Drive.

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