# **Soles For Jesus Newsletter**

#### June 2021



Soles For Jesus 8835 W. Heather Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53224 877.314.SHOE (7463) 414.365.1392 www.SolesForJesus.org



"...Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

Dear Friend,

There's no family like our SFJ family! It was wonderful to be back together again at our Stroll for Soles event. Thank you to over 270 people who participated and the Lord blessed us with a beautiful day. I loved seeing families and people of all ages enjoy the fellowship, food trucks, games and a beautiful walk, roll or jog through the serene trails. This was our best summer event yet and everyone had such a great time. I'm so blessed by our SFJ family, and you can click on the picture below to see our Photo Album.

I also want to thank each person who contributed to our spring appeal for shipments to Mali and Niger. PTL that we just reached our goal and I am grateful for the generosity of each gift and giver! Our very first shipment to Mali is ready to go and our staff just prayed over it. Tears filled my eyes as we prayed for each person who will hear about Jesus for the first time. Mali is predominately Muslim and 95% of the population is Islam— and this is the first time that we are shipping to Mali! What a privilege to plant seeds of faith in the name of Jesus and we are believing for a mighty harvest. Our partner missionary is seeing an incredible move of God and eyes are being opened to the Truth. He is so thankful

## Quick Links Our Website Donate Now

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# Thank You to our Sponsors!

We want to thank all of our Stroll For Soles event sponsors for their support! Thank you for helping to make our first Stroll a success!

GOLD Sponsors: 2000 Development American Imports CTaccess Jung Express Novak Family World Impact Ministries

SILVER Sponsors: Fred's Sanitary Service Hales Corners Lutheran Church Kowal Investments Remax Realty - Lisa for this 40 foot container filled with shoes and Gospel literature in their language, as these will help open doors to places in great need.

Thank you for being a part of what the Lord is doing and God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

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



\*Click on picture to see our FB Photo Album!

# Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction: Saturday, November 13th!

Event sales will go **LIVE** on August 19th at 9:00am, so please mark your calendar! We are extremely excited about this event and you can purchase your table on our website or by phone at 414-365-1392.

This is going to be a fabulous luncheon with a special musician that you don't want to miss! Tables are assigned in the order they're purchased, so be sure to act fast and we can't wait to see you there!

**Event Sponsorships:** Sponsorships are available now for this year's event. Invitations

Reinecke Thacker & Associates Zachariah's Acres

BRONZE Sponsors: Brilliant DPI Chick-fil-A Delafield Consider the Lilies Dwayne Butler - Beam of Light Reich Tool & Design Wanezek Family Dentistry



# **Testimony From Congo**

In Congo, the work of sharing the Gospel and distributing shoes is having

a powerful impact on

whole communities. Our partner, Brice, shares that many people are coming to Christ and being baptized as a result of finding Jesus at shoe distributions. His team is very excited to help these new believers connect with local churches so they can be discipled and grow in their faith. They continue to distribute will be printed soon and we'd love to add your name to the cover as our Gold Sponsor. As an event sponsor, your name or business will be recognized through printed material, social media, company signage and verbally honored at our event. You'll also receive one stage-side table, with seating for ten guests. If you're interested, please contact Diane Studer for information at Dstuder@SolesForJesus.org.

Auction items: We are extremely grateful for those who donate items to our silent auction! Fun packages like weekend get-aways and vacations, gift baskets, sports tickets and suites are all great items for guests to bid on. We also appreciate creative ideas for services, items or 'experiences' (i.e.: boat tours or gourmet dinners) as donations. Your business and item will be listed in our event program and we will acknowledge your tax-deductible donation after the event for tax purposes. Please contact Kris Monteen at Kmonteen@Sol esForJesus.org if you are able donate. to Thank you for your support!



You're invited to join us on November 13th!

# Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

**Grand Haven, MI -** Thank you, Annie, Evie and Levi for visiting us all of the way from Michigan and for collecting over 250 pairs of shoes at your church and school. Annie Hoekzema has a special place in Diane's heart

shoes and ask us to pray that the Word of God will draw many people to faith in Jesus Christ. View more <u>pictures HERE.</u>



Please pray for the new believers in Congo.

# Shipment to Guinea Bissau

distributions Shoe in Guinea Bissau are now underway after receiving our shipment of shoes in April. Despite several challenges and traveling many hours to reach rural villages, the first distribution was a great success.

The ministry team shared the Gospel and distributed shoes, which brought great joy to everyone who gathered. Many people made the decision to follow Jesus that day and they are now connected with local believers and churches. To God be the glory for as she was an amazing Fourth Grade teacher for her kids. Thank you Covenant Life Church, Grand Haven Christian School and Hoekzema family! Evie and Levi were excited about their new SFJ shirts and you can get one <u>HERE</u> too.



new life in Jesus! View pictures HERE.



Many responding to hearing God's Word.

# Thank you for coming from MI, Hoekzemas!

Lakeside Fit Body Boot Camp - Thank you, John and Lesa, for collecting so many shoes at your Hartland and Menomonee Falls locations. There will be great excitement from many in Africa who receive these shoes and we're thankful for your ongoing partnership!



## Testimony From Eswatini

While the size of gatherings in this nation still limited to is а maximum of 100 people, distributions shoe are well. With the aoina possibility of another Covid lockdown coming soon, the ministry team raced to reach 8 locations as fast as possible.

Our ministry partners are encouraged to see many people choosing to follow Jesus as a result of their efforts. They are so grateful that God has opened a door for them to bless people physically and spiritually. Please keep praying for a great

#### John delivering shoes at our warehouse.

**Ronald Reagan School Shoe Drive -** We want to congratulate Gary on his retirement as a school teacher for more than four decades! Gary has been organizing shoe drives for several years at his school and we are so thankful for the thousands of lives he's touched both in the classroom and in Africa! Special thanks to Margaret (his wife) for the delivery and for being a great team. God bless you both in this new season!



Margaret delivering the shoes!

**Health In Balance Shoe Drive -** We appreciate local businesses who believe in our cause and donate quality footwear to prevent sickness and disease for those in rural Africa. This business is a positive community partner who is making a global impact!

harvest in this nation. View photos <u>HERE.</u>



Reaching Eswatini one person at a time.

# **Update from Sao Tome** & Principe

In the island nation of Principe Sao Tome & there incredible are both spiritually needs, and physically. Jose, our ministry partner, recently distributina spent time Principe. shoes in He found great spiritual darkness, which moved their ministry team deeply.

Jose shared that helping people with basic needs opens the doors for sharing the Gospel. People were very receptive to the message of Jesus Christ when they saw that the ministry team was also prepared meet help their to physical needs. Jose asks that we keep praying with him for spiritual а



Great shoes from Health In Balance.

**St. Paul Lutheran, Stevens Point -** These fantastic students collected 333 pairs of shoes and the funds to help send them to Africa during their VBS week. They also made a special trip to deliver and pack their shoes in our warehouse! We are grateful for all that they've done and for including SFJ in their summer plans. God bless you all!



Youth Group from St. Paul Lutheran.

breakthrough. View photos <u>HERE.</u>



Celebrating new shoes with friends.

# Meet One of Our Partners



Meet our Every Home for (EHC) ministry Christ partner in the Republic of Severin. Congo, Brice Brice grew up in а Christian home but he strayed from his faith and became dependent on things like cigarettes and alcohol when he lost his

Jim Sonntag from Indiana - We appreciate Jim for being so faithful! He makes multiple deliveries each year with shoes from Pine Ridge Bible Church and World Missionary Press in Indiana. We enjoyed giving him a tour of our new office and warehouse space, and it's always a blessing to see him!



Thank you for visiting us from IN, Jim!

## Volunteer Opportunities SOS Events (Sort & Organize Shoes)

Join us for a 2-hour SOS Event! You and your friends can volunteer at our Milwaukee warehouse to help prepare shoes for shipment.

New volunteers are always welcome but you must sign-up! We will have a brief orientation before each event. Please contact Yenh at (414)365-1392 or <u>Yenh@SolesForJesus.org</u> to reserve your spot(s) and to sign-up for a date and time.

# July

Thursday, July 1st, 1:30-3:30pm Wednesday, July 7th, 1-3pm Saturday, July 10th, 9-11am Tuesday, July 13th, 1-3:30pm Thursday, July 15th, 1:30-3:30pm Saturday, July 24th, 9-11am Thursday, July 29th, 1:30-3:30pm Thursday, July 29th, 6-8pm Saturday, July 31st, 9-11am

#### father as a teenager.

One day while he was in college, Brice heard a voice speak to his heart saying that he should dedicate his life to God's work. He resisted for months, until an evangelist reminded him that God was calling him and that he was resisting. Still, he continued to resist until May 7, 2004, when he heard a testimony from a man of how God had changed all of his ambitions and he reached a point where he agreed go wherever God to would take him. That testimony made Brice cry, as he admitted that he'd been resisting His voice, which had been so clearly speaking to him. Brice went to his knees and cried out to God, saying, "Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me that I did not want to surrender entirely to you. I open my heart to you, so that you can do with me what you want." From that moment, Brice's life radically changed and he sharing what began Christ has done in his life.

Brice and his team are working on a very exciting project called "Child Winners of Souls,"

## August

Saturday, August 7th, 9-11am Saturday, August 14th, 9-11am Thursday, August 19th, 6-8pm Saturday, August 21st, 9-11am Friday, August 27th, 1:30-3:30pm **FULL** Saturday, August 28th, 9-11am Tuesday, August 31st, 6-8pm



Bridge Church on their, "Serve Day"!

**"Business Hours" SOS:** Volunteers can also come during weekdays to pack 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 and please feel free to bring friends! Training will be provided and SFJ staff will be available to provide support. For more information, contact Mark at <u>Mellefson@SolesForJesus.org</u> (414)365-1392.

**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

where they're training children to reach other children for the Kingdom.

Brice asks us to pray for the following:

- His wife, Justiana, and their sons Archangel Debrice & Cherub Bristanovie
- That God would empower Brice's team working in the church
- For a local man who was Muslim and just received Jesus and was baptized. He is facing threats from his parents; please pray that God would protect and strengthen him and open the eyes of his family
- For the ability to reach all of the areas prayerfully chosen this year with the Gospel

# **Volunteer of the Month**

We are thrilled to honor Melissa Smith as our June Volunteer of the Month! Melissa has been a long-time volunteer at SOS events and she also

is a rewarding, 2-hour, team building opportunity for youth and adults. Please contact <u>Yenh@SolesForJesus.org</u> or 414-365- 1392 to set up your group.	comes to sort and pack shoes on her own. She's also on the Auction Team for our Annual Luncheon.
	Melissa learned about SFJ over 10 years ago, when Diane spoke at her church. "Listening to her speak inspired me! So when I saw that they had volunteer events, I went to one and I LOVED it! I was in awe that just a pair of shoes could change a person's life and bring them to know the Lord's love! Also, to be the last person to touch the pair of shoes before they are sent and given to someone in Africa gives me a sense of how important it is for them and how much we take for granted," Melissa shared.
	Melissa loves finding new ways to be involved at SFJ, including running shoe drives at her house. "I asked for one of the shoe collection boxes and put it on a cart. I wheel it to the front of my house every morning and take it in before it rains and at night; and it's that simple! The box fills up every week and I just sort the shoes at my house and take them in! It's so much fun! I also

go to rummage sales and tell them about Soles For Jesus and about my shoe drives too."

Melissa is a paraplegic and she's been in a wheelchair since 2004. When she's not doing shoe drives or volunteering at Soles For Jesus, <u>she loves to</u> wheelchair ballroom dance, scuba dive, make floral arrangements, go on bike rides, workout with her SCI group, and rummage.

Thank you, Melissa, for all that you do for SFJ! You are a blessing to us and we are so grateful for you!



Melissa Smith at the Stroll For Soles

Support SFJ While Shopping!

Since we are all doing more online shopping these days, did you know that you can give to SFJ while purchasing from Amazon?

"Amazon Smile" will donate a portion of your purchase(s) to SFJ and it's very easy to set up. Click on the image below to get started! Thank you for your support & happy shopping!

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