



Soles For Jesus
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414.365.1392
www.SolesForJesus.org



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

Dear Friend,

2023 has been an incredible year marked by God's faithfulness! We just sent our final shipment of the year to Lesotho and I want to sincerely thank each person who stands with us in prayer, support and service. There are many hands and hearts that help make this possible and we are so grateful for you. Each pair of shoes sent this year represents one life that had an opportunity to hear about Jesus, as they received shoes and had their feet washed. Our ministry partners in Africa continue to share testimonies about how these shoes open doors to sharing the Gospel in villages with great physical and spiritual needs. To God be all of the glory!

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)
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Happy New Year From SFJ!



May your new year be filled with the Lord's presence and a renewed spirit of joy and peace. We give thanks for each person who has donated shoes, served in the warehouse, hosted a shoe drive or collection site, and supported

As this year comes to a close, I want to share one of my favorite promises from His Word. *"I am with you always," said Jesus, "to the very end of the age."* Matthew 28:20. Even though we do not know what 2024 will bring, we do know with great certainty **who** holds us. The promise of Immanuel's presence is an eternal gift that lasts beyond Christmas and I'm so grateful that we get to share this Good News with others!

Please take a moment to watch our **2023 Year in Review Video** so you can see the powerful ministry that is happening across the United States and throughout Africa. I never grow tired of seeing people find new life in Jesus, following Him in water baptism and being discipled! All of us at Soles For Jesus are consumed with an urgency to keep pressing forward in the new year and we thank you for your partnership. This is an exciting time to share the Hope that we have and many people are coming to know Jesus as Lord! As I watched the video below, I am in awe

the ministry with your finances and prayers in 2023. We look forward to all that God will accomplish in the year ahead!

Year-End Giving



We sincerely thank each person who has already given a gift this season! We are so grateful for your generosity and may God bless you abundantly. To ensure 2023 eligibility for your gift, please remember the following:

- Donations made by Credit or Debit Card must be completed by 11:59PM on 12/31.
- You can donate online by visiting SolesForJesus.org, or clicking [HERE](#).
- Mailed checks must be postmarked by 12/31. You can also drop off your donation at our office until 5:00pm on 12/29.

of all that the Lord has done this year. Each time that someone comes to faith in Jesus, it's worth it! I truly believe that the best is yet to come as we continue to follow His lead.

Thank you for joining us in this timely mission to help bring salvation in Jesus to every tribe and tongue!

In Christ alone,

Diane

Studer

Founder/Executive Director
Soles For Jesus



Click photo to VIEW video

Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

Heritage Fundraiser-

thanks to Athletic Director, Mr. Houk, and Heritage Christian Schools for supporting SFJ during your 2nd Annual

Holiday Special

Shipment To Guinea Bissau

Our 6th shipment of shoes to Guinea Bissau is on its way! We give thanks to God and each person who has donated shoes and funds to help send these 8,000 pairs. We were thrilled to send two shipments this Christmas season (to Lesotho and Guinea Bissau) and we prayed over each person who will hear about Jesus.

Please join us in prayer for our ministry partner, Pastor Julio, and his team as they execute the ministry plans the Lord has given to them. We give thanks to the Lord for the beautiful work that he is doing in the nation of Guinea Bissau and we look forward to sharing these testimonies with you soon.

View more photos [HERE](#).



Heritage Holiday Fundraiser Night at your Boys Basketball game against Lake Country Lutheran HS. Each person who donated shoes received free admission and we thank you for impacting lives in Africa this Christmas season!



HCS Holiday Fundraiser

Thank You, Sam! - Meet Sam from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and Merton Intermediate School! He chose to organize a shoe drive for his service project because he wanted to help people in Africa. Sam collected 68 pairs and we had a great time showing him our warehouse and how much these gifts will impact 68 lives in Africa. God has big plans for you and God bless you, Sam!

Love and blessings to Guinea Bissau

In the NEWS in Tanzania

Our Ministry Director in Tanzania, Pastor Yohana, sent the following excerpt from their newspaper called the, "Citizen". You can read the translation below the photo and we are excited about all that the Lord is doing in Tanzania!

May God continue to bless Pastor Yohanna and his team as they work to demonstrate God's love and share the Gospel of Jesus. Let's pray for the people of Tanzania and that they'll experience the love of Jesus through the gift of shoes and receive Him as their Savior.

View more photos [HERE](#).

MSAADA

Mkurugenzi wa Taasisi ya Every Home for Christ Tanzania, Mchungaji Yohana Chibwiga (kushoto) akitoa msaada wa viatu na vifaa mbalimbali kwa wakazi wa Mbezi Kibanda cha Mkaa, wakiwamo wajane, watoto na watu wenye mahitaji maalumu vilivyotolewa na taasisi hiyo kwa kushirikiana na taasisi ya Soles For Jesus ya nchini Marekani.

Picha na Said Khamis





Great work, Sam!

Kati's Shoe Drive - We appreciate Kati for collecting shoes from her family and friends. Kati and her family have been collecting and delivering shoes from IL and WI for many years and we always enjoy their visits. God bless you, Hatfield family!



Kati delivering shoes

St. Paul's Lutheran School,

Translation: "Director of the Every Home for Christ Tanzania Institute, Pastor Yohana Chibwiga (left) providing assistance with shoes for the residents of Mbezi Kibanda cha Mkaa, including widows, children and people with special needs provided by the institution in collaboration with Soles For Jesus in the United States."

Shipment Arrives in Cabo Verde

Our third shipment of shoes and Bibles to Cabo Verde has arrived. We give thanks to the Lord for His provision through so many of you and for the safe arrival of this precious cargo. Please join us in prayer for our Ministry Director, Pastor Emanuel, as he and his team travel to the impoverished people of Cabo Verde to share the love of Jesus and distribute these shoes. We pray that many hearts will respond to Jesus and that He will continue to bless and guide their team as they minister.

View more photos [HERE](#).

Muskego - The students at St. Paul's have been busy this month collecting shoes for Africa for their 2nd Annual Shoe Drive. Thank you for organizing this drive and for donating 242 pairs of shoes that will make a difference for many people in Africa!



St. Paul's Lutheran School

Cards Made by Kids of The Waters Church, MN - We love these precious notes of love made to encourage kids in Africa. These beautiful cards were created by kids from The Waters Church to help bring smiles and joy to children in Lesotho as they find them tucked in their shoes. God bless you all!



May God Bless Cabo Verde!

Songs Of Joy in Eswatini

The marginalized people of Hluti, Eswatini were stunned and asked the question, 'Why Hluti?', as our ministry director, Pastor Joseph, and his team preached the Gospel, washed feet, and gave shoes to over 250 people. The people of Hluti live in poverty with a high rate of unemployment, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. Many people in this area are not able to meet basic needs, including shoes.

As Pastor Joseph and his team ministered God's love and shoes, the people were overjoyed and joined in singing to give thanks to the Living God. Many were saying "We've never had shoes of this quality



THE WATERS CHURCH

Sweet cards made for kids in Lesotho

New Representative!

We are so happy to welcome Annie Hoekzema as our new State Rep in Michigan! Annie learned about SFJ in a unique way, as she was Diane's son's 4th grade teacher! Annie recalls when she heard Diane share the story of the ministry's beginnings, and beautifully describes how it impacted her: *"I, too, had been to Africa about 8 years prior and as I listened to her story, my heart broke, and I sat there crying. I understood exactly what she was saying and pictured the children I had interacted with all those years before. The chaos and*

before here in Hluti and we thank God for remembering us!"

"THANK YOU JESUS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL SHOES YOU GAVE US!" was the song of the day. Many hearts recognized their need for a Savior and to God be the glory for each one who found new life in Jesus!

View more photos [HERE](#).



Demonstrating God's love in Eswatini

Meet One of Our Ministry Directors

Meet our Every Home for Christ ministry partner in Guinea-Bissau, Pastor Julio Joaquim Da Silva. Julio was born in Bissau, the capital city. His parents

brokenness in our world is deep, but something as simple as washing other's feet, providing shoes, and sharing the Gospel seemed like a beautiful way to further the Kingdom."

Annie volunteered at SOS events (to Sort & Organize Shoes in our warehouse) when her family lived in the Milwaukee area and upon moving to Michigan, she continued to support the ministry by hosting shoe drives. For those interested in hosting a shoe drive, she suggests getting people of all ages involved. She adds that, *"It's an especially powerful opportunity for children to learn about God's children in a different part of the world that live very different lives than we do"*. The entire Hoekzema family enjoys promoting shoe drives and getting involved together as a team! We are so thankful for their faithfulness to the ministry and for saying "Yes!" to changing lives in Africa.

adhered to traditional African animist religious practices and Julio shares, *"these practices characterized my way of life during my childhood*

and some of my youth until the Lord freed me". Julio

surrendered himself to the Lord in 1989 and has been committed

to "reaching the unreachable" with the Gospel since completing his ministry training in 1996. His team now leads an evangelical ministry called Go-Ye Christian Church & Bible Ministry.



Pastor Julio shared with us the touching story of a man named Alfredo Augusto Mendes, who attended a shoe distribution event in a neighboring village near his home. Alfredo told Julio that he decided to go to the event *"only to benefit from the shoes because I was in great need of them."* However, the Gospel message that was preached that day ***"consumed my heart like a fire and I***



The Hoekzema Family

Volunteer Opportunities SOS Events (Sort & Organize Shoes)

Join us by volunteering at a 2-hour SOS Event! You and your friends can help Sort and Organize Shoes at our Milwaukee warehouse to help prepare shoes for shipment to Africa.

New volunteers are always welcome but you must sign-up! We will have a brief orientation before each event. Please contact Yen H at (414)365-1392 or

could not resist the appeal. I surrendered to Christ as my own savior. Allfredo then shared that this day was also his birthday and said with excitement, *"Jesus saved me on my birthday and also gave me the gift of shoes! Praise be to God!"* Today, Allfredo preaches the Gospel to others and belongs to the Prayer Department of Plack Presbyterian Church.

Julio asks us to pray for the following:

- The Holy Spirit to guide his three adult children as they choose their partners and seek employment that will be honoring to the Lord
- The rebuilding of the Go-Ye Christian Church, after the foundation was destroyed by heavy rains, rendering the original building unsafe for use.
- The Holy Spirit to raise new partners in the ministry for the propagation of the Gospel across unreached people groups in Africa.

Where in the World is

Yenh@SolesForJesus.org to sign-up for a date and to reserve your spot(s).

January

Saturday, January 6th, 9-11am
Saturday, January 13th, 9-11am
Thursday, January 18th, 9-11am
Saturday, January 20th, 9-11am
Tuesday, January 23rd, 6-8pm
Saturday, January 27th, 9-11am

February

Thursday, February 1st, 9-11am
Friday, February 2nd, 1:15-2:15
Saturday, February 3rd, 9-11am
Saturday, February 10th, 9-11am
Tuesday, February 13th, 6-8pm
Saturday, February 17th, 9-11am
Saturday, February 24th, 9-11am

Christmas Shipment



Lesotho!

Thank you Grace Lutheran School for helping us pack and load these shoes!

"Business Hours" SOS:
Volunteers can also come during weekdays to pack shoes (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm). Come and sort shoes when it

Guinea Bissau?



Situated on the Atlantic Coast of West Africa, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a small nation of two million people and a land area similar to that of Maryland & Delaware. Once a colony of Portugal, Guinea-Bissau gained independence in 1973. While Portuguese remains the official language, the majority of the population speaks Guinea-Bissau Creole. Half of the nation identifies as Muslim, with an additional 30% adhering to various traditional tribal religious practices. Guinea-Bissau is one of the world's poorest nations, largely due to political instability and other economic factors. As the nation continues to struggle with ongoing political challenges, we join our

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.

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. Please contact Yenh@SolesForJesus.org or by calling (414)365-1392 to sign-up.

partners in Guinea-Bissau in prayer for the Lord's intervention and peace. We thank the Lord for Pastor Julio and his team and for all that the Lord is doing through them in this beautiful country.

Your Donation Impacts Lives

Or By Mail:

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