

# Always a Missioner

a newsletter produced by and for returned Maryknoll Lay Missioners

Volume 2, Issue 2

November 2007

Welcome to *Always a Missioner*, a bi-annual publication of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, designed to keep you informed about the organization and one another. We also send out periodic email updates. I, Jean Walsh ('97 Mexico/US) now serve as your contact person. **We really need your e-mail address...** Please send it in! Keep us informed of address and phone changes as well! Thanks, Jean! [jwalsh@mklm.org](mailto:jwalsh@mklm.org) 914-944-0300 ext.205



A Word from  
Alicia Butkiewicz,  
Director of Missions

Greetings from Bethany!

Thank you for helping to lay the foundation for Maryknoll Lay Missioners' on-going service to the world's poor.

As Gordon Crosby said, "Each of us lives by some vision. Each of us lives by vision, conscious or unconscious. If it is a larger vision, a universal vision, a vision of the Kingdom, and we really believe that it is going to take place, we will be filled with hope."

As believers of the larger vision, the leadership (Kevin Mestrich and I) initiated a process to define our ministry priorities by reading the signs of the times. This process began in July 2006 and it was completed in June 2007 with the Global Council gathering of Regional Coordinators.

*Continued on page 2*

## Sacred Space Recreated Reunion of the Class of 1982!

Healthcare analysts and providers, social workers, teachers, human rights advisors, directors of community loan institutions... that's who was in the room at the reunion of the MKLM Class of 1982.

The joyful gathering on Aug. 24-26 held at Bethany highlighted that class members devoted to service and justice in 1982 have not missed a beat in living out their faith commitment over these 25 years!

*The following is a reflection from Elizabeth Woo ('82 Tanzania), who attended the reunion.*

Late last year, I received an invitation to think about coming back to Bethany to celebrate our 25th anniversary with the class of 1982. The first thought that popped into my mind -- has it been that long?

I had mixed feelings about attending -- the distance, the cost, and the fact that I do keep in touch with my "local group", namely Cathy James, Angela and Terry Donnelly, as well as Michelle & Barry Linehan. Do I NEED to go? I had a pow-wow with my MKLM buddies, and we decided we should all go!

*Continued on page 6*

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:

[WWW.ALWAYSAMMISSIONER.ORG](http://WWW.ALWAYSAMMISSIONER.ORG)

**SAME ADDRESS, NEW LOOK**



*A Word from Alicia continued...*

I'm pleased not just with the process and the results, but also with the seriousness with which the members participated in the different steps of the process: social analysis; evaluation of regional ministries; and identification of regional priorities. I am proud of their hard work and commitment to the implementation of our current strategic plan.

After reflection and discussion, the Regional Coordinators recommended the following global ministry priorities:

<u>Health</u>	<u>Education</u>
HIV/AIDS	Formal Classroom Literacy
Nutrition	Leadership Training
Rehabilitation	Skills Training
Mental Health	Education Support
Hospice	
Primary Care	
<u>Sustainable Development</u>	<u>Justice &amp; Peace</u>
Agriculture	Conflict Resolution
Access to Clean Water	Interreligious Dialogue
Alternative Technologies	Civil/Human Rights
Income Generation	Migration
	Racism/Classism
<u>Pastoral Care</u>	
Faith Formation	
Prison Ministry	

Following the implementation of a new Mission Statement in 2006, it was essential for the organization to establish global ministry priorities to ensure that we fulfill the organization's mission of service to the world's poor. These priorities provide an umbrella for all of our mission work and will help foster effective and efficient relationships among our regions and missionaries.

They will also focus our efforts and provide boundaries for our mission work and improve communication within and without the organization. Most importantly, the priorities provide a way for us to recommit to ensure that we are truly responding to the identified needs in the communities where we live and work.

We ask for your on-going support as we seek to live out these priorities in mission. Your financial contributions, willingness to speak at Church Talks, and prayers all make a difference.

Thank you and may God bless each of you as you live out your Christian mission wherever you are!

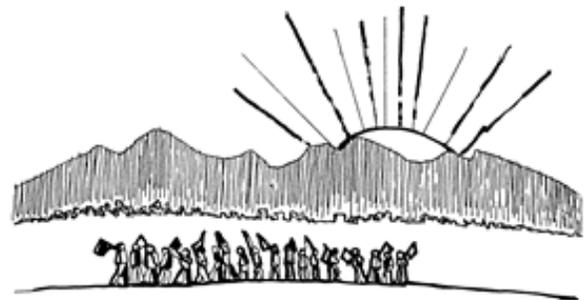
## Happenings and Spottings

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Judy and Dave Saumweber ('89 Thailand/Cambodia) hosted a gathering of returned missionaries in St. Paul, MN. The goal of the meeting was to hear an update on the Association from MKLM Executive Director Kevin Mestrich ('92 Kenya/US) and Sam Stanton ('85 Chile/US), who serves as a Major Gifts Officer. In addition, the Saumweber's gave an update on their Mission Awareness Trip to Cambodia. The following folks attended: Mike and JoJo Ott and their children ('01, Brazil), Mike and Mickie Hassle-Mickelwright and their children ('90 Venezuela), Teresa Glass ('87 Bolivia) and Sean Fleming and Ana Maria Abuggatas ('92 Chile/'06 El Paso, TX).

Peter Neu ('79, Hong Kong) recently returned to Hong Kong to teach at Wahyan College, an old Jesuit high school. Prior to that he taught English in China for 4½ years at the junior college and graduate school level.

Marybeth Gallagher ('96, El Salvador) currently works as a Maryknoll volunteer in Namibia. She has been there for the last 2½ years participating in community life with Maryknoll sisters, priests and brothers. Her ministry focuses on work with Namibian children—over 500 boys and girls play soccer under her organization every Saturday.

Christine Bodewes ('97 Kenya) is currently getting her doctorate at the University of London. She is researching Africa, human rights and the Catholic Church. In addition, she is writing a book on her experience in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya working on human rights issues through the Catholic Church.



## Spotlight on Overseas Mission— Meet Missioner Flavio Rocha da Silva In Brazil



Flavio Rocha, his wife Kathy Bond and  
their daughter Maya in Brazil

Flavio is a Brazilian citizen and joined MKLM in 2003. He graduated from the Federal University of Paraiba, Brazil as well as the University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland, California. His faith has led him to work with youth groups and campus ministry. Before joining MKLM he served as the Education Secretary in the government of his hometown in Brazil.

Currently Flavio lives with his family in Joao Pessoa, Brazil. His primary ministry there is with the Theater of the Oppressed, a training project that works with people living in extremely marginalized conditions. Given that reality, many suffer from low self-esteem. This creates a barrier for them to advocate successfully for their rights. Participating in a group allows people to build their self-confidence and seek possible solutions, on an individual and collective level. The groups organized through the Theater of the Oppressed discuss and role-play topics that are relevant to people's lives, focusing on social injustices such as racism and poverty.

Currently the Theater of the Oppressed is duplicating its technique by training leaders to begin new groups throughout João Pessoa. The effort is part of a network that works in 70 countries around the world. The leaders participate in an intensive weekend course and then are provided follow-up support through weekly meetings. These meetings provide the opportunity to evaluate how the techniques are being used on the grassroots level to bring about community change.

## Candidates for Class of 2007 Arrive at Bethany

Talent, enthusiasm, deep faith and a strong desire to serve the poor...that's what this year's candidates brought with them when they arrived at Bethany in early September. (Ok, so Kate and Dennis Callahan also brought their two beautiful sons!)

This year's group is made up of six candidates bringing experience in teaching, care for people with HIV/AIDS, legislative policies, campus ministry and worker's rights. All of the candidates have experience working with the poor in the United States. Most have also participated in overseas service programs.

Kate and Dennis Callahan most recently lived in Havertown, PA and will be heading to the Andean region with their sons Ben (5) and Noah (3). Meagan Doty from Arnold, MO and Mary Ann Doughton from Birmingham, AL will both serve in Kenya. Tim Morris of Creve Coeur, MO and Larry Parr of Baltimore, MD will serve in El Salvador.

Please keep the candidates in your prayers during this time as they prepare for their Sending Ceremony to be held on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Returned Missioners Speak at Church Talks And Volunteer Fairs

Throughout 2007 there were 101 Church Talks in 41 dioceses across the United States. Many thanks to the following returned missioners for sharing your story:

Charlotte Cook ('92 Kenya)  
Paluna Miller ('93 Brazil)  
Sheila Matthews ('80 Guatemala/El Salvador/U.S.)  
Mary Jo Commerford & Phil Brady  
and daughters Sarah & Maza ('94 Venezuela/U.S.)  
Michelle Myers ('98 Brazil)  
Fr. Bill Vos ('79 Tanzania)  
Tom and Gloria Henry ('91 Mexico)  
Allen Scheid ('81 Chile/U.S.)  
Mike Gable ('88 Venezuela)  
Vicki Simon ('98 Kenya/U.S.)  
Patty Santos ('02 Brazil)  
Maggie Fogarty & Tim Provençal ('03 Bolivia)

In addition, Andrea Goicochea ('84 Venezuela/U.S.), Roger Clark ('83 Korea) and Jason Gehrig ('99 Bolivia) have represented Maryknoll Lay Missioners at University fairs on the East Coast. Thank you!

## Cambodia Revisited

*A reflection by Dave and Judy Saumweber'90 Thailand/Cambodia who coordinated a Mission Awareness Trip to Cambodia in March '07.*

In March of this year, we were fortunate to return to Cambodia as guides for the Maryknoll Lay Missioners' Friends Across Borders program. We led a group of 11 people for a two week trip to visit Maryknoll's projects there, as well as a side trip to the famous temples of Angkor Wat. I can hardly say the word "led" because the Cambodian Mission Team had organized everything so well. Special thanks are due to Jim and Roberta McLaughlin, Maryknoll Lay Missioners who served as our hosts.

One thing we have always loved about Maryknoll Cambodia is their commitment to ecclesial teams. Today that has been expanded to include lay missioners, priests, sisters, seminarians, members of the Philippine Lay Missioners group, a Maryknoll affiliate and 2 lay Belgium volunteers. They all plan, work, pray and decide things together. The missioners are involved in sacramental ministry, health education, HIV-AIDS programs, ministry to deaf people, education and English language programs, peace and reconciliation efforts.

When we left in 2002, many people visiting the Maryknoll HIV-AIDS clinic ended up dying within a year or two. In 2007, thanks to the availability of Anti-Retroviral medicines that Maryknoll provides, many live much longer. Today, orphans living with HIV-AIDS being cared for by Maryknoll attend school and live in group homes with local adopted Khmer families. A huge difference in a short time!

The government has improved, but corruption is still rampant. Recently, squatter communities in Phnom Penh were literally burned out and then resettled by the government far away from transportation, jobs and basic services. Maryknoll helps with education and income generation programs.

The living conditions at Anlong Kgnan reminded me of the Cambodia refugee camps we used to work at in the early 1990's. They did have a school built for them and some wells, but nothing else. At a local garbage dump, we met an old woman who told us that her family had lost their land and now had no choice but to scavenge for recyclables. Life is still difficult for many.

During our visit a famous monk, Maha Ghosananda, died and we attended his funeral ceremony. He was the Gandhi of Cambodia and led annual peace walks across the country to preach peace and reconciliation. It was wonderful to reconnect with many Cambodians from the peace movement.

Our faith was touched by the continued dedication of ordinary Cambodians working for reconciliation and the rebuilding of their country after so many years of war. We were also touched by the ways that the participants on the MAT used their experiences upon their return to the U.S. Many have raised money for MKLM, one started a web blog. Others gave talks at their churches and one even developed a one person play about Cambodia and performed it at a local theatre.

People's lives were touched in March of this year and our hearts were reminded of the love that still exists. God is still with us and among us.



**30th Year Reunion of the Class of 1977 in Seattle, Washington**

Top row, left to right: Mark Koenig, Bob Cashin, Fay Hauer, Tom Amato, Chris Thompson-Amato. Bottom row, left to right: Sr. Mary Anne O'Donnell, Joanne Koenig, Kay Studer, Mark Kirsch, Liz Desimone, Fr. Jack Sullivan



**Participants in Class of 1982 Reunion Weekend**

Front Row, left to right: Bob Short (Bolivia/Ecuador/U.S.), Cara Woo Green, Mariah Hall, Alicia Butkiewicz (Bolivia/U.S.), Ann Greig (Peru/El Salvador), Micah Hall, Ryan Linehan, Conor Linehan. Second row, left to right: Angela Donnelly (Thailand/U.S.), Anne Dievler (Thailand), Terry Donnelly (Thailand/US), Kathy Wright (staff), Elizabeth Woo (Tanzania), Tom Bamat (Ecuador/Brazil/U.S.), Geri Hall (Peru), Nancy Kleppel (staff), Joanne Koenig (Venezuela/U.S.), Michelle Fryt Linehan (Tanzania), Back row, left to right: Bernie Butkiewicz (Bolivia/U.S.), Steve Green, Sharon Raynor (Venezuela/U.S.), Dave Raynor (Venezuela/U.S.), Mark Koenig (Venezuela/US), Dave Pasinski, Barry Linehan (Korea)

**Ann Greig and Alicia Butkiewicz honored for 25 Years of Dedicated Service with MKLM**



**Closing Liturgy of Reunion of Class of 1982**

Left to right: Mariah Hall, Conor Linehan, Micah Pasinski



**MKLM Leadership Forum held at Bethany June 2007**  
(includes Executive Director, Director of Missions, Regional Coordinators, Board of Directors and Department Directors)

## Reunions Continued... Class of '82 & Class of '77

*Continued from page 1, Reunion Class of 1982*

The weekend at Bethany was short, and there were folks that I didn't get to catch up with -- just not enough time! But the experience was more than I could ask for. I felt so at home, it was like yesterday that we said good-bye, not 25 years ago.

We still share the same vision of mission, of a faith that we do not need to explain away, of a yearning and way of living that resonates with each other. The common thread that connected us 25 years ago when we signed up to be a Maryknoll Lay Missioner is still connecting us.

When we share about our faith, lives and work now, we all understand what we are striving for, the struggles we have of how we raise children in today's reality, what obstacles we face in our option to follow Christ, etc.

It was wonderful seeing the next generation -- the hope of the future. Most of our children have never met before, and yet they all spent a weekend together in harmony, with help of the great Ellen Cowhey ('94 Thailand/U.S.).

Then there are the children of 25 years ago who are now older than most of us when we went into mission! Ivanna & Lizette Butkiewicz, Michael & Kate Raynor graced us with their presence, and affirmed the value of families in mission.

The gathering culminated with the celebration of the liturgy in the same chapel where so many memories were forged during formation. To see all the faces of our group, the support of the presence of the fellow returned missioners, sisters, brothers and fathers whose lives have touched ours or vice versa during our years of mission, knowing that we will once again go our own ways, yet knowing also that we are all bonded in a special way... I don't know if there was a pair of dry eyes among the class of '82.

To our "classmates" who didn't make it -- we missed you all. Let's hope we'll have a chance to do this again!

### 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class of '77 Reflections By Liz Desimone '77 Guatemala

This June, twelve participants of the Lay Missioner group of 1977 gathered in Washington State. We were the first class to receive formal orientation at Maryknoll. What prompted our reunion was when one of our group had a serious heart condition.

We said to each other, "we gotta get together." At first, it was with the idea of just our West Coast group who had met a number of times, but then, I said, "why don't we invite everyone?"

I wondered if I would have much to say to people I hadn't seen in thirty years, but I needn't have feared, because we still shared the same ideals and the unique mission experience. In the words of Bob Cashin, (Tanzania, 1977) "We're the same, only further along the journey."



We are teachers, counselors, community organizers, mission coordinators, health care providers. During mass, we shared what we valued about Maryknoll. Chris Thompson said, "Maryknoll gave me hope. The value of women within the church. I have not experienced this again since leaving." Mark Koenig valued the faith community and the opportunity to know and serve the poor. We shared how some of us found it difficult to find a spiritual community.

We plan to meet again in two or three years and next time, we're hoping the whole group attends. Yes, we've lived separate lives, but it's important to acknowledge how much we meant to each other, and how much we can still enjoy each other. In the things that matter most in life, we are the same.

## Staying Connected with Justice

The following reflection is from Tim O'Connell ('99 El Salvador/U.S.).

The Maryknoll Office of Global concerns provides wonderful ways to be involved with Maryknoll even after you have moved on from Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Although I left MKLM in 2006, I am a member of MOGC's Peace Advisory Group which meets quarterly to discuss peace and security issues. I also help with the office's disarmament work, writing for NewsNotes and following policy discussions. Finally, I represent Maryknoll on the NGO Committee on Disarmament at the UN.

In short, MOGC is interested in Maryknollers—past and present—to share their knowledge in a given field. If you can offer expertise, contact Marie Dennis, Director of the MOGC at [mdennis@maryknoll.org](mailto:mdennis@maryknoll.org).

## 2007 Marks Special Goodbyes

As with every year, 2007 marked the departure of members from MKLM to continue their mission journey on new paths. This year was unique in that a number of members who left have served more than 20 years. Please join us in thanking and blessing:

\*Sheila Matthews who joined in 1980 and served in Guatemala, El Salvador and the U.S.;

\*Mercedes Roman who joined in 1982 and served in Ecuador, Brazil, and the U.S.;

\*Mary Mallahan Hicken and Steve Hicken who joined in 1982 and served in Venezuela, the U.S. and Mexico;

\*David Rodriguez who joined in 1984 and served in Venezuela and Bolivia.

## First Maryknoll Lay Missioner Baby Returns to Bethany!



Marcia Koenig was born in May, 1976. The following January she came with her parents, Joanne and Mark Koenig to Bethany to join Maryknoll Lay Missioners. She was eight months old at the time and the first baby to join the lay missioner program!

Marcia returned with her family from Venezuela to Bethany when she was four. She lived in Ossining until she was 10 and then her family (now larger with two more daughters) moved to Alaska. Marcia saved her money and when she was in eighth grade she traveled by herself to Bethany to visit her Maryknoll friends!

In October of this year, Marcia returned to Bethany again. This time she was returning from a year of service in Chile, coordinated through the MKLM Friends Across Borders program. She and her partner Greg Olson worked for a year with current MKLM members Ted Guttman and Maruja Gonzalez in their sustainable agriculture project.

Marcia comes from a family rooted in faith and service. Her mom Joanne, serves as a counselor. Dad Mark is mission coordinator for Providence Health International, often traveling with teams around the world. They continue to support Maryknoll Lay Missioners in countless ways.

Marcia graduated from the University of Portland, OR, focusing her studies on Peace Studies, Psychology and Spanish. She has extensive experience in California and Oregon working with migrant farmworkers.

Thank you Marcia for considering Bethany one of your homes. You make us proud!

## The Journey of Service and Faith Continues... Doors Keep Opening!

\*The Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley offers several full-tuition Presidential Scholarships for incoming Masters of Divinity degree students. In addition, JSTB awards up to one-half tuition scholarships for all other degree programs. Scholarship aid priority deadline is March 1, 2008 for Fall, 2008. For more information contact the Office of Admissions, 1-800-824-0122 or [www.jstb.edu](http://www.jstb.edu).

\*"From Mission to Mission" is an organization that assists women and men returning from cross-cultural mission to value their experience and recognize their future life directions as a continuation of their Christian call to mission. They specialize in retreats designed for former missionaries and will do everything possible to make the workshop affordable. Contact Julie Lupien at 720-494-7211 or visit [www.missiontomission.org](http://www.missiontomission.org) for their 2008 schedule.

## MKLM Announces the Re-launch of the Newly Redesigned and Updated AlwaysAMissioner.org!

Login:

Password:

Sections of note:

- **Always Update:** highlights about returned missionaries as well as developments in the current life of MKLM
- **Events:** rallies, reunions, and retreats
- **Resources:** who to contact and how to reach them
- **Discussion Forum:** post a note for your long-lost classmate!
- **Request a Prayer:** post a request so that we may all join you in praying for a special need. Submissions are posted live by you.
- **Submit an Announcement:** send in stories about your new baby, new job, or any other news you'd like to share. Submissions are sent to Returned Missioner Manager for inclusion in future "Always Updates."

Visit the site and tell us what you think!

## Calendar of Events

### Friends Across Borders- Mission Awareness Trips

Thailand: February 8-22, 2008  
Brazil: April 4-16, 2008  
Kenya: May 30-June 13, 2008  
El Salvador: Sometime in July, 2008  
Mexico: Sometime in August, 2008

For more information contact Cecilia Espinoza ('85 Chile/US), Mission Awareness Trips manager, [FriendsAcrossBorders@mklm.org](mailto:FriendsAcrossBorders@mklm.org)

### Maryknoll Affiliate Conference

August 7-10, 2008 to be held at Passionist Spirituality Center in Riverdale, N.Y. For more information and to register contact: Fred Goddard, [fgoddard@maryknollaffiliates.org](mailto:fgoddard@maryknollaffiliates.org), 877-897-2386



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