

# Trietsch Supports Many Worthwhile Causes During Christmas

Many times we think our Christmas gifts and donations may ease someone's pain during the holiday season, but for one woman, the love of a Trietsch member might have been the difference between life and death.

In 2006, Trietsch UMM member Matt Hedding delivered a coat to a very elderly lady who did not have a warm winter coat as part of UMM's connection with Sunlight Baptist Church in South Dallas. While in her small duplex, she told Matt how blessed she was that for that year, her daughter was able to buy her a small electric space heater. She was so proud of that little heater and that God had been so good to her.

This year, while Trietsch folks were once again handing out clothes and food from Sunlight's sanctuary, Matt decided to visit the lady's home and deliver a warm roasted chicken dinner for Christmas. Matt and fellow UMM member Rob Wright drove the three blocks to her small duplex, knocked on her door and called her name.

There was a faint noise from the inside. Matt called again. At this point, they heard a groaning coming from inside. They opened the door and found the lady face-down on her floor, obviously injured and in pain.

Rob rushed back to Sunlight, where he picked up doctors Alan Carruth and Dan Corbitt, other UMM members who were handing out food that day. They went to the lady's aid; she had broken a hip. The doctors stayed behind until an ambulance arrived to take her to the hospital.

It was God, working through Matt's remembrance and concern for this lady, that brought them to the house that day.

Lee Greer, talking about Baby's First Christmas led by the Families of Faith Sunday School class, echoed those sentiments: "It is truly God working through us."

And that same statement could apply to all of the special Christmas mission contributions by the Trietsch family in 2007.

Across our city and country, and around the world — men, women and children experienced God's love through our efforts. And those who contributed were blessed as well.

Here are just a few examples how Christmas missions truly changed lives of donors and recipients.

## ***Sunlight in South Dallas***

In September 2006, Rob Wright made a new friend on the Walk to Emmaus. Pastor Ed Robinson serves the Sunlight Baptist Missionary Church in South Dallas, and during that session he spoke about the needs of his church and community. By the end of the weekend, Rob had connected Pastor Ed with the Trietsch United Methodist Men, and a strong bond was formed.

For the last two years, UMM has coordinated a holiday drive to collect coats, clothing, toys and food for distribution in the economically depressed neighborhood. This year's "Adopt a Family" program netted provisions for about 30 families along with 200 roasted chickens for Christmas dinners.

"Pastor Ed has continually told me how much the efforts have affected his neighborhood," Rob said.

"He sees new faces in his Sunday morning services each month. Many of these folks became aware of Sunlight's existence by Sunlight members and UMM working together during the holiday seasons."

## ***Their First New Shoes***

Several years ago a team of six people from Trietsch went to Colima, Mexico, to do volunteer work at the orphanage, and what they saw touched their hearts. The main orphanage and its branches in Ciudad Serdan and Guzman serve over 200 children of all ages. Some of these children are orphans, but others are deserted or abused. Some of the children are at the orphanage because their parents are in prison.

Since that fateful trip, members of Trietsch have sought donations to provide new shoes for the children. The "New Shoes for Mexico" Christmas effort raised \$2,830 this year — enough to buy shoes for 188 boys and girls. "For some of them, this will be a first," says Grace Pieper, coordinator of the mission.

Thanks to those who contributed — the smiles on the faces of the children as they tried on their new shoes at the store says it all.

## ***Making Moms Smile***

Each week, mothers and mothers-to-be in our community come to the Lewisville Advocacy and Pregnancy Center for help.

The Center, located on Mill Street in Lewisville, is a Christ-Centered organization that provides shelter, clothing and ministry to pregnant mothers in need. It offers Bible studies and counseling to mothers on many topics including their spiritual life in Christ.

The Baby's First Christmas program answers Christmas wishes for moms and their babies. Typically, their requests are modest — towels, blankets, diapers, wipes, pots and pans. They ask for one large gift, usually a stroller, crib or car seat. Toys and clothes are purchased for the new baby.

The Families of Faith Sunday School class has helped the Lewisville Pregnancy and Advocacy Center each year for the past 10 years.

In 2007, our church provided gifts for 35 families — accounting for more than 40 percent of those assisted by the Center this year.

Class members and their families helped load and unload the gifts, and Walt Chandler provided a big rig from his employer to deliver the haul. And, for the second year, a gentleman named “Cowboy” who donates his time to help make Christmas special for others, drove the truck.

“We have so many families and small groups at Trietsch to thank for their generosity this year” says Lee Greer of Families of Faith. “What a blessing!”

### ***Wishes Come True!***

Because of your dedication to helping those in need, Christian Community Action distributed \$248,442 worth of toys and gifts to 2,907 children. CCA realizes you can choose between a number of organizations to donate and are very thankful you chose them.

Joining together, we truly put smiles on the children faces. It is through people like you that God’s blessings are known. Thank you for sharing the true meaning of Christmas. CCA wanted you to read a few letters from families that benefited from your generosity:

Below are two letters from CCA Families:

*I can’t thank you enough for the help you provided for Christmas. My kids were so thrilled and when they said, “This is exactly what I wanted...” My heart was so at peace. I got what I wanted, too; excited children who could also hold their heads high when their friends asked them, “What did you get?” I don’t think a child should ever feel shame for circumstances beyond their control. I sat in Church on Tuesday afternoon and thanked God for services and people like you. The kids and I have given to angel trees in the past, so I think OUR ANGEL returned with help. Once again, you made our Christmas! Thank you.*

*and My sincerest appreciation goes out to you and the volunteers for all of your advice, the patience you showed me, and the genuine kindness in your hearts. CCA has blessed me and my daughter and shed light on the dismal road we face. Much love to you and God Bless.*

### ***It Didn’t Stop There....***

Special thanks as well to those who contributed approximately \$4,000 to benefit:

- Mozambique and Africa Missions
- Re-ignite Youth Ministry
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Heart Ties Ministry
- McCurdy School
- Butterfly Ministry
- Denton County Habitat for Humanity