

Announcements

Southeast India Project Collecting Donations of Vitamins, Toothpaste and Family Photos



Twenty years ago, a tsunami hit the southeast coast of India, resulting in the loss of entire coastal fishing villages and thousands of lives. FPC congregant Bob Tabor immediately went to India and worked with several non-governmental organizations to lend aid in this humanitarian crisis. His wife Vicky joined him later.

Having made several trips to the area myself, I know that Bob and Vicky have saved lives and provided hope by helping to build roads that reach remote villages, delivering rice to starving families, financing school building projects, and supplying micro loans to Dalit women (formerly Untouchables) who are now able to support themselves through organic farming, new computer skills, or purchasing cows. Bob also made contact with orphanages of Dalit children (*Mercy Home* and *WIDE Children's Home*) which resulted in an overseas connection with FPC families. We sent "friendship kits" of toys, art supplies, vitamins, and photos of our families and the orphanage sent back photos of their children. This has been enormously popular on both sides, and I have numerous pictures of these kids on my refrigerator.

Unfortunately, it's become difficult, expensive, and arduous to transport and travel to the orphanage with the five 50-pound friendship kits. We would like to make this easier by collecting the usual photos of families plus a year's worth of vitamins and toothpaste for each child. We will attempt to pick up some fun items once we're in India. We would also like it if you - children and adults - would include letters in which you tell a little about yourselves in order to get back a letter from a child in India. We will oversee the children's responses while we're in India.



When I was teaching RE to my daughter's class many years ago, we did a unit on the old time UU Heroes, but we have present-day heroes right here in our congregation. Bob and Vicky Tabor are among them.

-Russell Hart

We will collect items each Sunday at coffee hour until January 5th.

Stewardship Drive

Around this time last year I spoke these words from the pulpit as part of our canvass drive for that year:

It's that time of year when we get to think about stewardship, when we get to think about the value of those institutions that sustain us, that foster our connections, that support our children and our families, that sustain our collective spirit... that bring us together in common cause toward our spiritual well-being, that holds us in community.

And if you think about it, it becomes obvious that it really is a privilege for us to be in a position to do so, to be able to worship here. Not everyone has this privilege. Look around at this beautiful structure and think about our beautiful campus. Consider that we have very good leadership. It's a privilege. So here's the question: What are we going to do with this privilege?

That question is still here for our consideration, and it seems to me that the question is more relevant than ever. It also seems clear that difficult times are upon us, and it is likely we will need to hold each other in community more than ever as the world around us begins to change immeasurably. This will be a time to support this institution which upholds our UU values in the face of those who would tear them down.

Please fully consider the importance of the privilege to be in a spirit-sustaining community and join with the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees in making a generous pledge or increasing your pledge by 6% as have we on the committee.

- Russell Hart, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees