



2006 LEAMIS Board Members
Marilyn Schroer, Richard Partin,
Kylene McDonald, Nadina Wooding,
James Schroder, and Laurie Schroder

IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU...

...the LEAMIS Board of Directors, class of 2006.

We are excited about our new Board! Each Board member brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, energy, and dedication to carrying out the Great Commission.

Marilyn Schroer (Finance Chair) lives in Missouri and is Vice President of Accounting for the River Region Credit Union. She has participated in mission trips to El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Kenya.

Richard Partin (Nomination Committee Chair) is a native of

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Do you know how to sew?

One of the workshops that has been requested in Kenya is Basic Sewing. The students will be using the treadle-type sewing machine. Are you interested in teaching a sewing workshop in Kisii?

Using your hobbies and skills on a short-term mission trip —

Many of the things you enjoy doing as a hobby can be a valuable outreach tool for the indigenous church. It can also become the foundation of a home business. If you are interested in using your hobby, talents, or skills on a mission trip, please contact the LEAMIS office for more information.

JOIN THE MISSION TRIP TO KENYA, AFRICA August 9-23, 2006

Cost: \$1700 (excluding airfare)

Plans are underway for our next trip to Kenya. The 2006 team will be focusing their efforts in a small community near Kisii Town. Team members will be presenting workshops in things such as carpentry, making candles, making soap, weaving, crochet, art, and basic hygiene and nutrition. The workshops provide opportunities for future home businesses that can help improve a family's standard of living. The workshops are also used as an outreach tool for sharing the Gospel in the community.

The *required* pre-field orientation and training will be held I **May 19-21st** in Sewanee, Tennessee.

The cost of the pre-field training weekend (excluding travel) is included in the total trip cost. (See page 4 for more information about the Kisii area.)

Our Newest Associate Missionaries

Jim and Shirley Upton of Russellville, Missouri, joined LEAMIS as Associate Missionaries during the past year. Both have a heart for missions and were part of last year's Kenya team to Kisii. Jim has long been involved in missions and has worked in Guadalajara, Mexico, Zaire, Sierra Leone, and Kenya.

Jim and Shirley explain, "There is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing you're making a difference in people's lives. The spiritual blessings are unlimited when working for God-led reasons. With both of us being retired and self-supporting, we look forward to the challenges before us with LEAMIS International



Associate Missionaries
Jim and Shirley Upton

Rebuilding after Katrina

Next Trip: March 15-22

Photos simply cannot capture the devastation caused by Katrina. According to LEAMIS Associate Missionaries Bob Willems and Frank Schroer, "It's something you have to see for yourself in order to even begin to grasp the magnitude of the destruction."



It will take years to rebuild the churches, homes, neighborhoods, and businesses destroyed by the hurricane. Bob will be leading another rebuilding team to Mississippi on **March 15-22**. Each participant shares the travel expenses. Team members are being housed by churches in the community where they are working. If you would like to be part of a rebuilding team, please phone the LEAMIS office at 423-837-4426 or contact Bob by email at BobWillems@leamis.org.

Join a Rebuilding Team today!

LEAMIS PARTICIPATES IN THE NATIONAL SHORT-TERM MISSIONS CONFERENCE (NSTMC)

Los Angeles, CA – January

LEAMIS was well represented at this year's NSTMC. Workshops were led by **Gail Drake, Debra Snellen** and **Bob Willems**. Debra and Bob led one of the Intensive Workshops and discussed ways that short-term mission teams can move beyond traditional construction projects and work with the host church in accomplishing long-term results. Some of their key points included the following.

- Regardless of the focus of a short-term team, we must be intentional about enabling the host church to continue the work after the team leaves.
- We must begin with the end in mind. One of our end results of a short-term team should be helping the receiving church to become a sending.
- Jesus ministered to people's needs—spirit, soul, and body. Effective teams appropriate His multiplication philosophy and approach to ministry into their short-term mission work.

Gail is part of the planning committee for the NSTMC. She also taught a workshop on the why and how of team building for short-term mission teams. Gail will continue to be a member of the planning committee for the 2007 conference. If you would like more information about the NSTMC and how your church or organization can benefit from attending the conference, please contact Gail at gaildrake@leamis.org or see the conference web site at www.nstmc.org.

DO YOU MAKE PURCHASES ONLINE?



Your online purchases from **eBay, Dell, Blockbuster Online, and more than 650 other stores** can benefit LEAMIS! Sign up and place your orders through www.iGive.com. Setting up your personal purchase account is free and an easy process. However, should you have any problems in placing orders, feel free to contact the LEAMIS office for assistance.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE...

The **LEAMIS online Christian Bookstore** is being revised by the parent company, spreadtheword.com. As a result, it is currently not possible to order LEAMIS items from the Gift Catalog or use a credit card to donate to the ministry. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused and appreciate your patience. The revised site is scheduled to be available by April.

Christian books, apparel, and gifts are still available on the temporary site. Proceeds from book sales benefit LEAMIS mission projects. Please visit our online bookstore at:

www.lemis.spreadtheword.com

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Monteagle, Tennessee. Richard brings knowledge and experience from business involvements that range from carpet manufacturing to surface and underground coal mining. He established and directed the Grundy County Housing Authority in Tennessee and was involved in launching the South Cumberland State Park. Richard has a heart for helping others and is involved in disaster relief.

Kylene McDonald (Board Chair) is from Texas and currently lives in Sewanee, Tennessee. She holds a master's in Public Administration. She brings eight years of experience with non-profit organizations. Kylene has participated in several domestic mission trips and mission trips to Jamaica and Kenya.

Nadina Wooding (Development Chair) is from East Tennessee. She has worked with the General Board of Discipleship (UMC affiliated) for over twenty-one years. Nadina is a volunteer at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She has been involved in mission work in Kenya.

James Schroder (Board Vice-Chair) holds a master's in Business. He served as an Army Aviator during his twenty years of military service. He is currently managing the Occupational Safety and Health program for a government contractor and is co-manager of the Army Aviation Safety Program for a unit in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. He has participated in mission work in Nicaragua.

Laurie Schroder (Risk/Liability Assessment Chair) is a Pediatric Physical Therapist with the Clarksville-Montgomery County school system. She holds a master's in Physical Therapy and a doctorate in Practical Ministry. She has participated in mission work in Nicaragua.

We are looking forward to working with the new Board and know that they will help lead the ministry to a new level. Please keep them in prayer as they organize their committees and begin work on this year's agenda.

The LEAMIS Gift Catalog

The items in the LEAMIS Gift Catalog are available throughout the year and are a great way to find a unique gift for a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion.

It's also an excellent way for the whole family and Sunday school classes to be involved in mission activities. Donations for animals or programs help those who are believing God for resources for their church and communities.

On behalf of those who benefit from your generosity, we thank you for being a part of God's answer to their prayers.

For a free catalog, contact the ministry office: 423-837-4426 or info@lemis.org

Mission Trip to the Kisii District of Kenya

The August 2006 Kenya trip will be partnering with a church in the Kisii (pronounced Key-see) District. Kisii is located in the highlands of the south western part of Kenya. During our trip last year we were in awe as we drove by lush gardens and *thousands* of acres of tea plantations!



Imagine our shock to find overwhelming poverty and malnutrition in the middle of what is known as the agricultural bread-basket of Kenya! As we have commented in previous newsletters, we have found Kenya to be a land of extreme contrasts, and the Kisii area is another such example.

Lack of infrastructure such as electricity, telecommunications and good roads inhibit the full use of resources. Yet cell phones abound and are often recharged by using a solar panel and a car battery. In spite of the abundance of crops, the hilly nature of the district leads to serious soil erosion and makes road travel difficult, especially in the rainy season when many roads (only 10% of which are paved) become impassable.



Soapstone, which is found in the area of Tabaka, provides a reasonable resource for the carving industry.

The **yearly average income per capita is \$27**, although most appear to earn \$13-20. Needless to say, this low income makes it almost impossible for children to pursue a secondary education that costs in excess of \$66 per year. Limited education and vocational opportunities keeps people locked in a cycle of poverty.

Last year's team members walked through the outdoor markets that sold some of the most luscious fruits, vegetables and herbs we had ever seen. Yet, a large proportion of the children are believed stunted due to poor nutrition. Why? Because the produce must be sold to provide for the families' meager incomes. As a result, the people exist on a diet consisting primarily of starches.

LEAMIS team members can have a major impact in the area we will be serving. In addition to sharing the love of Christ as we fellowship with the orphans, widows, and others in the church and community, we have an opportunity to share skills and knowledge through the cottage industry workshops.



Cottage Industry Workshop—Weaving and Crocheting



Cottage Industry Workshop—Carpentry

Cottage Industry workshops provide an introduction to things that can be used to start a home business. What we may only consider to be a hobby can be developed into a program that can provide a valuable source of income for families or the church.

The workshops provided this year will largely depend upon the interests, hobbies, and skills that team members bring to the group effort. In addition to things such as carpentry and making soap, we need a workshop on basic sewing as well as nutrition and basic health,



Pastor Abel with the orphans the church helps to feed and educate.

and child care. Also needed is a workshop on basic first aid.

Do you enjoy working with children? We will have an incredible opportunity to work with the children in the area. In addition to the orphans ministered to by the church, we have the opportunity to reach out to those living in the surrounding area. The number of children the team can minister to is directly related

to the those who go who are willing to minister to the children.



Three of last year's team members with a group of orphans.

The Kisii district is one of the most densely populated in Kenya.

Approximately 50% of the population is below the age of 15 years.

Water from rivers and creeks is readily available. A chlorination system that kills bacteria and viruses in the water has already been donated to the church. This year's team will help the church build a water filtration unit that will remove parasites from the water. The two systems used together will provide 100% safe drinking water.



Child obtaining drinking water for his family from a river.

CAN YOU BE PART OF THE TEAM TO KISII?

Please pray about being part of the August team. Email us at info@leamis.org for an application. The cost for the trip is \$1700 (excluding airfare). Based on comments from previous team members, making the trip was one of the best things they have done in their lives.

If you cannot go yourself, we ask that you pray about helping others to go or to help with the costs of the workshops and ministry outreaches. It will be an investment that will make a difference right now and will also have eternal returns!



The relationships you experience during a mission trip will stay with you forever!

Please contact the ministry office for an application form.
423-837-4426 info@leamis.org

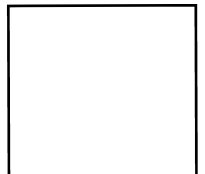
LEAMIS International Ministries is a nonprofit interdenominational Christian organization. Our primary goal is to help Christians at home and abroad—to fulfill the Great Commission through leadership and missions training. Our training is designed to:

- Help people identify their God-given gifts and calling;
- Equip them to use their gifts and calling through hands-on training;
- Provide opportunities for service.

In addition, we are committed to assisting third-world churches in meeting the expressed needs of those in their churches and communities through:

- Leadership and Bible Institutes;
- Short-term mission teams;
- The provision of water purification systems;
- The development of cottage industries;
- Literacy programs; and
- The Virginia Thomas Children's Fund

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423-837-4426 ▪ www.leafmis.org ▪ info@leafmis.org
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