

2009 in a Nutshell

You prayed and shared; God answered! This was the key for Venture International in 2009. Our mission as a Christian relief and development organization is to be a bridge between you and God's people in the Middle East and Central Asia; empowering them and enhancing their work through strategic partnerships, small business creation, emergency relief, and people development. Thank you for standing with us and those we serve.

2009 Year End Report

Meet Key Players

Supporters, volunteers, and staff are working together to make it all happen.

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Volunteers

There is a small army of volunteers, like Vicki Brems, who give their time and skills.



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Highlights of work with Iraqi refugees in the Middle East and people with disabilities in Central Asia.

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Passing the Torch



Bruce Menser takes the lead as President.

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Len Rodgers talks about his and Pauline's dreams and vision for the future.

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Call to Action

Powerful reasons to support the work of Venture International right now.

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The Joy of Giving

Gene Land could have retired years ago. A veteran of World War II, Gene is the definitive hard-working American and the owner of a small business with 16 employees in Kansas City, Missouri. When most people stop working, Gene and his wife, Dottie, decided they would keep their business open for the express purpose of supporting ministries at home and abroad, such as Venture International. They have been true to their word. Throughout their entire career, they have also taken care of their employees as though they were family; their customers have benefited from their fairness and honesty; and their children and



Gene Land, relaxing by the pond near his home in Kansas.

grandchildren have seen true faith in action. Our End Of Year Report recognizes the example of Gene and Dottie Land, and a host of others

reading these words, who faithfully pray and share their hard-earned resources with the poor so that they can know the Good News of Christ.

Venture International is all about people. Meet some key team players!



Bruce Menser, President, Venture International



Cherrie Dickerson, US Office Manager

Ragaa Abdallah, Arabic/English Translator

Naji Abi-Hashem, Associate

Robyn Silvestro, Administrative Assistant

Rev. Helmy Henein, Egypt Project Manager

Nora Kort, Jerusalem Project Manager

Chadi Melki, Lebanon Project Manager

Nihad Ghattas, Jordan Project Manager

Olga Golovash, Kyrgyzstan Project Manager

Joy in Passing the Torch

The Bible refers to the “laying on of hands.” God’s work is characterized and passed on symbolically by laying hands on the next generation. After much prayer and searching, the Venture International board of directors, under the leadership of Chairman Dick Hatfield, has now “laid hands” on Bruce Menser to lead the work of Venture International.

Volunteers serve up skills with joy

Vicki Brems, who lives in Washington State, is an essential Venture International volunteer who edits our publications (like this one) and advises our staff concerning communications. Vicki and her husband, Chris, are also Family to Family sponsors.

Doug Campbell, a volunteer living in Arizona, serves as Venture International’s computer expert,

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WORD FROM THE FOUNDERS

“The time is right. Pauline and I have always dreamed of this day and prayed that God would bring the people of His choice to carry on the work of Venture International started 23 years ago. I am not retiring but handing over the reins of leadership of Venture International to the capable hands of Bruce Menser and the dedicated staff already in place. Beginning January 1, 2010, Pauline and I will give our full time to Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding, who have invited me to serve as their Executive Director.”

Leonard Rodgers



Tino Qahoush, cameraman for “Wheels of Life”.

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spending valuable hours of his own time using his professional skills to keep our computer server and all staff computers up and running.

Catherine Fischer, who lives in Colorado, traveled to Washington, D.C., to help us with the 24-hour Executive Briefing, sponsored jointly by Venture International and Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding. Catherine's volunteer efforts are just one example of why Venture International is able to devote nearly 90 percent of all the gifts sent by donors to helping the poor.

An unlikely volunteer, Richard Engle of NBC News helped Len Rodgers and Egyptian colleagues enter Gaza in early January 2009 when Venture International delivered a quarter-ton of medical supplies and other relief goods to the people of Gaza during the Israeli invasion.

Rev. Cully Anderson, from California, spent two weeks in Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia at his own expense, providing leadership for the distribution of 162 Personal Energy Transports (PET) to mobility-disabled people.

Cameraman and media artist, Tino Qahoush, from Beirut, Lebanon, contributed his time and talents to *Wheels of Life*, a new video produced in 2009 by Venture International to describe the Personal Energy Transportation (PET) project for the disabled in Kyrgyzstan.

Tom Dickerson is our webmaster. Visit our website at www.ventureint.org to see his expert work. Venture International saves thousands of donor dollars each year because of the dedication of those who joyfully serve the poor through the use of their valuable talents.

Joy for Iraqi Refugees

Four percent of Iraq's population is Christian; however, Iraqi Christian refugees, now in Syria, Lebanon and



Jordan, make up 44% of the total 1.2 million Iraqis seeking refuge in neighboring countries. This fact

underlines the crisis facing the church in Iraq. The minority Christian population has been singled out for persecution and expulsion. The Western world has largely forgotten these 400,000 Iraqi Christian refugees. With your prayers and practical support through Venture International, you are bringing joy and practical help to these displaced families even as the world forgets.

Joy for the Disabled in Central Asia

As a supporter of Venture International, you brought joy to disabled men, women and children in the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan in 2009. Through a unique project called Personal Energy Transportation (PET), self-powered



vehicles are provided to people who cannot use their legs. These vehicles are made possible through a special partnership with PET International, a group of retired engineers and other volunteers who designed and build the devices. Christ is honored as the church in Kyrgyzstan pays special attention to the disabled, a much-neglected segment of the community.

Powerful reasons to give right now!

When it comes to money, everyone is focused on the recession. But how about some perspective from the Bible? When the crowds came to be baptized by John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, they asked John what they should do to demonstrate their faith. John said: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." This is the greatest and most powerful reason to give. Pretty simple!

Breakdown of Venture International's Spending in 2009

