

# EXODUS FORCE INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER



**BRINGING  
HOPE TO THE  
HOPELESS  
AND  
PROMISE TO  
THE LAND.**

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

## A Message from the Chairman of the Board...

Welcome to the first issue of the Exodus Force Initiative Newsletter.

The first half of 2008 has brought growth and change to Exodus Force. At our Board retreat in January we set many goals and objectives for the new year, including: (1) prayerfully seeking the Lord's vision for our work, (2) continuing to develop the EFI Board organizational structure, (3) nurturing the farm built last year in Zimbabwe and developing an additional farm, (4) developing feeding programs at schools in Zimbabwe, (5) building the 1<sup>st</sup> Cay Cay's Happy House preschool in Johannesburg, South Africa for the 2009 school year, (6) and sending "On Cheryl's Wings" a container loaded with supplies for the farms in Zimbabwe, as the political situation allows. We are happy to report that we have made significant progress toward these goals.

We have also made several changes. We have opened an office in Houston and welcomed Eileen Hairel as the Director of Administration and Catherine Darden as Recording Secretary on the Board of Directors. We have also bid a reluctant farewell to our beloved co-founder Terry Deckard and Board Member Jillian Nel. Terry has set out for a new life in our nation's capital. We wish Terry all the best as she pursues God's new call in her life – she will be greatly missed. And we wish Jillian many blessings as she leaves us to focus on her growing family.

Finally, please note that EFI has a new mailing address, phone, and email address (see below). We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for your continued interest in EFI and your generosity. Because of you, we are able to bring hope to the hopeless and promise to the land.

**Constance Zehner  
Chairman and CEO**

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## Farewell Message from Co-Founder Terry Deckard



Dearest Friends of EFI,

For those of you who do not know, I relocated to Washington, D.C. earlier this year, believing for opportunities to enhance our endeavors. However, as I sought to be established in this new environment, the direction I received was surprising. That is, the Lord has shown me that my role with EFI has been completed. Following His direction then necessitates that I tell you goodbye in the capacity of Co-Founder and Board Member of Exodus Force Initiative...with some sadness. But, it is with gladness that I tell you that the vision and the work of my beloved EFI continues with great momentum to bring change...change that

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## Message from Terry continued...

helps disadvantaged people to manage their own lives with new opportunities.

I will miss partnering with the most excellent collaborators in the Lord's work, my fellow board members, and I honor each of these amazing women who continue to give all they've got toward excellence.

And I will miss partnering with you, the most wonderful supporters any organization would want. So, I take this occasion to thank each and every one of you for all the ways you have supported me personally, as well as EFI, in my passion to make a difference in Africa. People's lives have been changed dramatically because of you, and I pray a blessing on each of your lives that God will meet your needs as you have met the very desperate needs of others.

The heart of EFI lives strong, and my support of the ongoing endeavors of this tremendous initiative to bring hope to the hopeless and promise to the land will continue.

Thanks again from the bottom of my heart, and my very best regards to you all,

**Terry E. Deckard**

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Washington, D.C. 20004  
terrydeckard@sbcglobal.net

## Welcome New Board Member Catherine Darden

Catherine Darden joined the Exodus Force Initiative Board in February 2008 as Recording Secretary. Catherine has the heart of a servant and an eye for detail. As such, she is a welcome addition to the Board.

## Farewell Message from Board Member Jillian Nel

Hello EFI donors and friends,

This note is a farewell from me, as I resign from the Board of Directors for a joyous new season of my life...I am having a baby!

It has been a wonderful two years being a part of the Board of Directors of EFI. I have learned so much about how God loves to give and how with just a little help from us, those gifts turn into miracles and wonders.

As I move on in preparation for yet another of God's wonderful gifts, I wanted to reflect on my favorite memory of being a part of EFI, the donor's appreciation party at Escalante's. I'm sure you all agree good food and good friends getting together to celebrate the gifts from our Lord above, is something to remember. I have enjoyed every minute of it and it was all thanks to you.

I will continue on as one of you, a friend and donor to EFI. See you at the next donor appreciation party – you know I wouldn't miss it!

Many blessings until we see each other again!

**Jillian**

## EFI Supports Christian Television in Malawi

Exodus Force Initiative, in partnership with Kingdom Connections International, has funded the purchase of a television broadcasting license to provide a Christian broadcast network in Malawi. Currently, the only entity holding a broadcast license is the state-controlled public broadcaster Television Malawi (TVM). We expect this exciting new partnership in Malawi to grow through the provision of technical support and equipment and whatever else the Lord brings to us.

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## Update:

### Zimbabwe Emergency Feeding Program

Thanks to the generosity of EFI donors we have raised over \$4,500 in May and June to help feed our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe.

With these funds our local partners have purchased enough mealie-meal (grain meal) to feed 400 people for 5 weeks. Seven day provisions are being distributed once per week. In essence we are feeding 400 people for one month for approximately 30 cents per day.

Tragically, our partners recently became aware of an old age home in the community where the 50 people are being fed *only one time per week*. So for the last two weeks they too were provided a weeks supply of mealie-meal.

**But our provisions are about to run out.** Without your continued support, our brothers and sisters will once again starve. *Therefore we humbly ask you to consider giving whatever you are able to allow us to continue providing funds to our partners.* Any amount, no matter how small or how great, will significantly help our sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe in their hour of great need.

*Thank you!*

### Prayer Request

Given the results in the Zimbabwe presidential run-off election, please pray for an end to violence, strife, and suffering. Please pray for leaders in Zimbabwe who will govern in righteousness and peace.

Please also pray protection and provision for our partners, farms, and the bush churches in Zimbabwe.

### Africa Day at First United Methodist Church Happy House in Gonzales, Texas

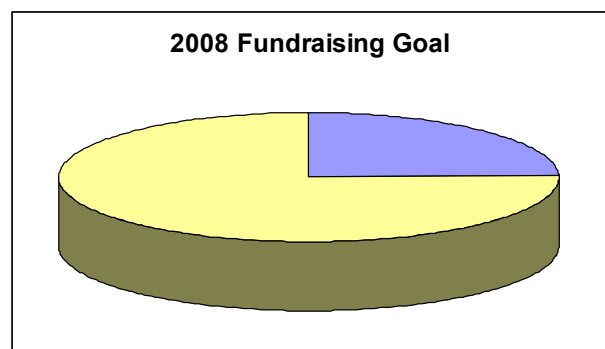
EFI was an integral part of "Africa Day" (April 24, 2008) hosted by the Happy House at the First United Methodist Church in Gonzales.

Board members Constance Zehner, Catherine Darden, and Rose Simmons facilitated several activities designed to educate the 30 children and their 10 teachers about the people, countries, and products of Africa. Through song, dance, and hands on activities the kids traveled the continent from the comfort of their classrooms.

In addition to learning about Africa, the children donated school supplies and socks for their sister school children. The students also held a fundraiser to support the development of the first Cay Cay's Happy House in Johannesburg, South Africa which is currently under development.

### Financial Update

At the January board retreat, EFI set a 2008 fundraising goal of \$150,000. As of May 31, we have come one-third of the way to our goal. *Thank you for your continued generous support!*



■ Funds raised to date: \$49,344

### Exodus Force Initiative Board

Constance Zehner  
Catherine Darden  
Nancy Davis  
Rose Simmons