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*Symbiosis provides education at all levels—from children to adults.*



of Symbiosis is that it continually adapts to meet the needs of those it encounters—in both rural and urban areas. Stan Murray, International Ministers' Director for Southeast Asia and Japan gives full support to the Symbiosis endeavors. He shares that "They do the bidding of Jesus in a culturally appropriate way with complete integrity." One beneficiary eagerly shares her story. "We used to live on the bank of the river. Symbiosis started a literacy project and we formed a small savings group. Then the floods came and the river swept away all of our farmland and our houses. We had nothing. Symbiosis told us, 'If you can gather together some money, we will give money to buy land for resettlement. You can then pay that back.' So, we did. Now, I own a cow, and my children are in school. This year, when the flood came, and Symbiosis came to give us help, we said, 'No. You have helped us, and we now have enough that we can survive the damage. Take the relief to people who have been wiped out completely.'" Through One Great Hour of Sharing we are sharing resources and changing lives in Bangladesh.

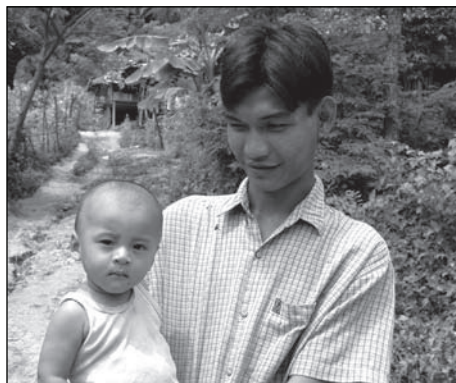
## Mission Stories



### Sharing Resources Changing Lives Across the United States

Sharing resources, changing lives is not something that American Baptists do haphazardly or randomly. Many of the projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are the result of relationships that have been cultivated over a number of years by American Baptists. None, however, has as much history connected to it as that of the support of the Karen and Chin refugees that are resettling in the United States.

Nearly 200 years ago, Ann and Adoniram Judson landed in the country of Burma. The Judsons and other early missionaries introduced



*A father and son living in the Mae La Camp along the Thai-Burma border.*

Jesus Christ to the Burmese, Chin, Karen and many other ethnic groups of Burma. Today the Karen and Chin are minority groups that are fleeing in fear of ethnic cleansing by the oppressive Burmese government. With their basic human rights in danger, the Karen have fled to refugee camps across the border in Thailand while the Chin have sought protection in Malaysia. Some from both

groups have been granted permission to move to a new country where they will have access to citizenship and the rights that this status brings.

American Baptist churches throughout the United States are welcoming the Chin and Karen into their communities. One Great



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varied requests of the community:

- ▶ For basics such as groceries, utilities, gas and other relocation fees;
- ▶ To enable First Baptist Church to reach out to the larger Greensburg population by contributing to the reestablishment of the Community Teen Center;
- ▶ To provide a supplement to Rev. George's salary so that he is able to continue to minister to his church as they recover from the tornado; and
- ▶ Seed money was given to two families to help them rebuild their homes. With the help of volunteers, both families now have brand new homes.

Rev. George speaks on behalf of his congregation: "There are members of our church that have been faithfully giving to OGHs for decades trusting that the monies were being used to minister to the needs of people. Now we are those people. Having OGHs funds available for our needs has ministered more to the faithful members, about the love and care from the churches of the ABCUSA, than I could in years of preaching. Thank you God and thank you to His children." The church asks for continued prayer as they endeavor to construct a new church building.

## Mission Stories



### Sharing Resources Changing Lives in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is one of the countries in Southern Africa most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The first case of HIV infection was discovered in 1985 and ten years later the national infection rate was 25%. As a result of this epidemic, many children have been orphaned and are now in the care of relatives or friends, many of whom struggle to find the resources to care for their own immediate families. To help meet the needs of these struggling families the United Baptist Church of Zimbabwe started the "Windows of Hope" ministry through which they provide food assistance to HIV/AIDS affected families.

Last's mother passed away in 2005 when he was just two months old. He has been cared for by his aunt, who is unemployed and struggling



*Last and his Aunt*

to raise her own family. Last's aunt sought help from the United Baptist Church of Zimbabwe. Through a One Great Hour of Sharing grant, the Windows of Hope ministry had purchased goats for 23 families. Last began to receive goat milk—his only source of nutrition until he was six months old. He continues to use the milk with other solids, and now at the age of three he is out of danger of malnutrition. Last's aunt

*"There are members of our church that have been faithfully giving to OGHs for decades trusting that the monies were being used to minister to the needs of people. Now we are those people. Having OGHs funds available for our needs has ministered more to the faithful members, about the love and care from the churches of the ABCUSA, than I could in years of preaching."*  
 Rev. Marvin George, First Baptist Church, Greensburg, KS

### Sharing Resources Changing Lives in Greensburg, Kansas

National news headlines let us know when disaster strikes and devastates one of our communities. Yet these short segments only scratch the surface of what really happens. The real story of survival often comes in the weeks, months and even years that follow. In May 2007 a tornado hit a community in southwest Kansas and destroyed everything in its path, including the First Baptist Church of Greensburg. Yet within a week the pastor of the church, Rev. Marvin George, received a One Great Hour of Sharing emergency grant to help meet the needs of his church family. American Baptists responded generously, adding over \$138,000 to the initial grant. The money was used in many different ways to meet the

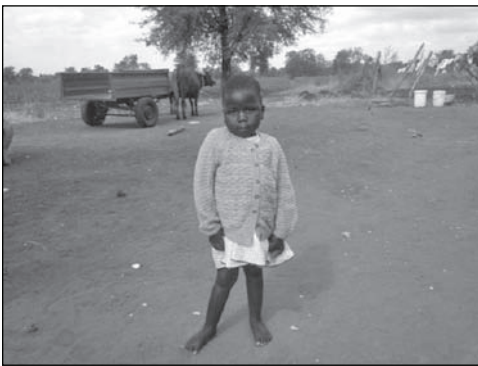


### Mission Stories

received 2 goats to breed to assist her family and others in need in her community. She has become a member of the United Baptist Church and she and Last now regularly attend church together.

Jenita lost her mother in 2006 when she was just four months old. Her aunt took her in, but did not have the means to provide for her. She sought assistance from the United Baptist Church and began receiving goat milk. Jenita has been feeding on the milk ever since and is now a healthy toddler. Her aunt has also become a strong member of the United Baptist Church.

Last and Jenita—two of the orphaned children in Zimbabwe whose lives have been changed by your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing!

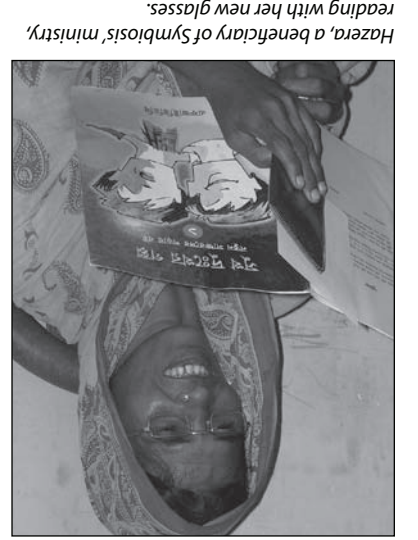


Jenita Mundava

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of poverty makes the country a difficult one in which to work. One Great Hour of Sharing has supported projects specifically designed to meet the needs of women and children. Symbiosis has been at the forefront of understanding the crucial need to empower women financially with literacy training and small business loans. Moreover they believe in the importance of education at all levels, ranging from pre-school to adult literacy efforts. One reason for the success



Hazera, a beneficiary of Symbiosis' ministry, reading with her new glasses.

delicate, however, since the nation is less than 1% Christian. The weak infrastructure and high rate of poverty makes the country a difficult one in which to work. One Great Hour of Sharing has supported projects specifically designed to meet the needs of women and children. Symbiosis has been at the forefront of understanding the crucial need to empower women financially with literacy training and small business loans. Moreover they believe in the importance of education at all levels, ranging from pre-school to adult literacy efforts. One reason for the success

Bangladesh, one of the poorest and most populated countries in Asia, experiences floods and cyclones every year. Sharing resources to meet immediate disaster relief needs is very important, but equally important are sustainable community development programs that provide for physical and livelihood needs that enable people to weather the storms.

### Sharing Resources Changing Lives in Bangladesh



### Mission Stories

Hour of Sharing funds are helping with the difficult transition that they face. Thousands of miles from home, these new immigrants encounter unparalleled hardships as they quickly encounter a new culture, language and a new sense of freedom. It is the church that is able to provide a sense of community and love amidst the unknown. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, American Baptists are giving a fresh start to the Karen and Chin. Sharing resources with refugees does change lives—including our own.



A Karen worship service at First Baptist Church, Fort Wayne, IN.

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