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Dear Family and Friends,

I love the idea of partnering with God. He is always at work around us and He simply asks us to join Him in what He is doing. Ah, and then the crisis of belief...You want me to do what, God? And oh, boy, now the step of faith, and the next step and the next until the steps of faith become less like jumping off a cliff and more like simply walking with a faithful, loving God. (At least it should get like that, right?)

This first year at Oasis has really been a season of getting the house (Oasis building) in order. Rehabbing the building, getting organized and setting up the operating systems of a new phase of ministry is an ongoing priority. More than 375 volunteers donated 12,000 hours to help get this new season of Oasis off the ground. \$100,000 has been given in money and donated construction materials to get us into the building and get the renovation on its way. In the midst of the dust, drywall, tools and noise of remodeling— we're still ministering to the people God brings to us.

God always has a plan and a strategy to touch the lives of the people around us. Oasis has become a very practical ministry at this point. Like the tide that goes in and out and carries the oceans treasures and not so treasured items with it, the basement of Oasis gets full and empty as furniture and household items come in from generous donors and goes out to grateful families. Let me give you an idea of the influx and outflow. 159 beds, 149 chairs, 161 couches, 36 refrigerators, 36 washers and dryers, 91 lamps, 48 TV's, and 50 sets of dishes have been received and given away this year. God is giving us favor in the community as we touch the nations arriving in St. Louis. We are focusing on the new refugees, mainly from Africa and Iraq right now, but we also have hooked up with Barnes Jewish Hospital and help out formerly homeless people who obtain a home and have need of furniture.

Rise Together/Firm Foundations continues to tutor and mentor at the building on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights. We love the African children. Some of them have been here for a few years, some just arriving. Sometimes we help with homework, sometimes we're teaching English. Recently, a young African boy, Sky, 12 years old gave his life to the Lord. We were all so thrilled. He had been coming over during the day because he had Out of School Suspension. We put him to work and he also watched the DVD, "The Gospel of John". At one point he was helping me sort clothes and he said, "I want to know Jesus." Wow, was I excited. We talked and Mark, Mike Luaders and I prayed with him. By loving him and building a relationship with him he was able to ask us to lead him to Jesus! He's just the first! We are praying for the hearts of all nations coming to St. Louis that they will "want to know Jesus" so thousands will be born into His kingdom.

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So what is ahead in 2008? WE MUST CATCH THE VISION!!

Ask of Me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance?" Psalm 2:8 We are believing that the vision for the nations will explode in the hearts of God's people and many will join Him in His work right here in St. Louis as He brings the nations to us.

Have you wanted to go on a mission trip? Teaming up with Oasis provides a great mission opportunity as we help the refugees acclimate in a foreign country. Reaching out to them broadens our horizons as we learn about their homeland and culture too. We believe we will see more volunteers this year to help with office work, picking up and delivering furniture, and being tutors and mentors to the refugee children.

Oasis continues to sponsor children in the orphanage in Kasese, Uganda and Columbia, South America. You can visit our website at oasisinternational.info to download a form to get involved as a child sponsor. Our website will also give you a video tour of the building, show you how you can team up with us, check calendar events, or give donations online.

Projects that still need to be completed.

Flooring	\$ 8,000
Air conditioner, furnaces	\$20,000
Kitchen	\$35,000
Bathrooms	\$20,000
Fire Escape	\$10,000
Monthly expenses	\$ 4,500

Mark continually encourages us to pray with people on every opportunity, and to always lift up the name of Jesus. **Our goal is souls** for the kingdom. We see 2008 as a year of great growth...more people being helped, more lives changed, more souls saved, all for the glory of God. Jesus paid a great price and gave His life for us, how can we not do something for Him and His kingdom!

How we appreciate you! Mark and I are so aware there would be no Oasis without faithful partners. As you can see God has truly stretched us to do something way beyond our abilities. If God is speaking to your heart, to pray, to give financially, or to volunteer with Oasis it will be greatly appreciated. We love you all.

God's blessings in 2008 for you and your family,

Mark and Joani Akers