AN UPDATE ON THE ANDERSONS:

Del has recovered well from his hip injury and he and Lucile are now living in a lovely assisted living facility in Alameda. Del says, "I am blessed and blessed and blessed! I am grateful for much time in meditation, and Lucile and I are growing and treasuring this loving time together."

At ninety-nine years old, phone calls and letter writing are taxing for Del. He wants to assure you that he is deeply grateful for you and you remain in his love and prayers. He asks that you direct all calls and correspondence to me and I would be very blessed to be in contact with you:

Marsha Johnson
Spirit in Action
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REFLECTIONS FROM DEL ANDERSON,
Spirit in Action's founder

I certainly wouldn’t have desired to break my hip, but now six months later, I’m certain that I’ve learned a lot that I wouldn’t have learned otherwise. I think it's a little easier now to understand that "I of myself can do nothing". I couldn't take the next breath without the Spirit there to keep me going.

This experience has pointed me in the direction of growth. I am not the Del I was yesterday. My focus is to come forth as a new person each day and realize that I am an expression of God and that I'm here to let God be God in me, through me, and as me. I can't eat yesterday's stale manna. Yesterday's manna is not good enough for today. Manna has to be fresh. It's an ever-changing world.

As we accept each challenge, each change and seek God's guidance, we open ourselves to receive the Allness of the God consciousness, expressing and coming forth through us.

Meditation, contemplative meditation and prayer are three of God's greatest tools. The major thing is to let go, be still, listen, and focus and focus. Let my meditation be to know that my purpose is to keep expanding my consciousness and to let God take over entirely. "God, each day give me a focused desire that wills to will to do your will." God's Kingdom is within us. We need to let it come forth, step by step here on earth even at our most challenging times.

Life is not easy. It's a challenge.

Life is not a destination. It's a process.

SPIRIT IN ACTION ON SITE

This was a very exciting summer for Spirit in Action (SIA) as Dennis Johnson, president of SIA’s board of directors, Marsha Johnson, SIA administrator, and Aileen Gillem, SIA volunteer, traveled to Nairobi, Kenya for the Camps Farthest Out International camp (folks from 29 countries and six continents!) and then on to training at Samuel Teimuge’s Ukweli Training and Development Centre in Eldoret, Kenya. We were privileged to meet many SIA co-workers that we’ve known for years through prayer and correspondence, but now face to face. What a joy it was! Please read on to learn about our wonderful adventures. (Pictures below from CFOI)
REFLECTIONS FROM DENNIS JOHNSON, president of Spirit in Action’s board of directors:

Visiting Africa and India was an amazing experience, and it gave me the opportunity to put a face on the work that we do in Spirit in Action (SIA). Everywhere we went we met vital, faith-filled people who are not only serving their communities, but serving joyfully with open hearts. We often hear about the poverty and the problems associated with the developing world, but I came away sensing my own poverty of spirit in comparison with so many of the vibrant people that we met. I’d like to tell you about some of them.

Ofonime Nkoko from Nigeria, has been working as a SIA Small Business Fund coordinator since this program was begun by Jim Thomas. He is completing his schooling as he coordinates forty small businesses that have started in the last two years. It was a joy to experience his dynamic personality and to see his leadership ability in action as he led the Africans in an unforgettable time of singing at the CFO International camp. For me this was the highlight of the entire camp.

In Nairobi we met people like Moses and Dorcas Kuol from Sudan. Moses is a very quiet person who doesn’t make a big impression until you start talking with him about his country, which has recently emerged from 22 years of civil war between the north and the south. Because of this war a whole generation of people has been unable to attend school.

Moses talks passionately about the opportunities in his country, and he has a special passion for adult literacy so that his people can learn to read.

In India, we had the awesome opportunity to stay in the home of Cecil Coilpillai and his family and meet a number of CFOers in Chennai. Cecil has a mighty faith and even in his 80’s remains active every day of the week as he leads prayer groups and works in his church and community.

We met people like Sister Angela and other Assumption Sisters of Eldoret, Kenya. These women work in schools, in slums, and in community health centers as they serve their people with dignity and grace. It was a holy experience to see their love in action and to see the twinkle in their eyes as they go about their daily work.

On a Thursday evening while we were there, more than twenty-five CFOers in the Chennai area came to the Coilpillai’s home to meet us and share a lovely dinner. The following Sunday we joined about 60 others at Cecil’s church for a CFO fellowship day. What a beautiful group of people! We felt completely at home in spite of being half-way around the world. Every person we met had a story to tell about their own particular ministry. It was truly inspiring.

I could go on and on. In Isaiah 6 we read “The whole earth is full of God’s glory.” Now I have a better sense of what this means. Truly I saw the glory of God in the faces of so many people around the world. This gives me much hope.
MY VISIT TO JOSEPH’S
by Aileen Gillem, SIA volunteer

(Editor’s note: Joseph Koech is a young man who has been Samuel Teimuge’s assistant for many years at the Ukweli Training and Development Centre in Eldoret, Kenya.)

Walking to Joseph’s home

I walked the reddish brown dirt road with Marsha, Dennis and Joseph to Joseph’s home, not knowing what to expect.

How pleasant to see Joseph’s family waiting in the yard to greet us (along with the sheep). We were greeted like old friends even though we had never met them.

Joseph and family near their home

Joseph invited us to view his garden area. It was amazing. In a small area to the side of his home, Joseph has created a garden incorporating all his technological knowledge learned by experience and schooling. There was double-digging, square foot and organic gardening, and plants to repel insects. He has planted crops for human consumption as well as animal feeding, and flowers for beauty.

On the other side of the house were his pig pens, cows and chickens and large farm fields. Joseph shares his excess with his neighbors.

Upon entering the home, I was impressed by the warmth and cheerfulness. The entire family engaged in the conversation. Joseph and his wife, Janet, have two sons and a girl of their own and have adopted his deceased sister’s two children. They find it difficult to pay for the children’s schooling. We were each given a special treat: a spoonful of sweet honey that Joseph had harvested from their beehives. Joseph and his family have a bicycle for transportation. Electricity and running water are nearby but not yet to his property. I left Joseph and Janet’s home feeling refreshed and humble.

I am overwhelmed by the graciousness, not only from this family but from all the people I met on this trip. There is a role for each of us to play in making this world a better place by trying make a change for people who don’t have what we have. We are connected – more than we realize – by circumstances and, most importantly, by our various needs and wants – and by basic human dignity.

SPIRIT IN ACTION is a network of committed people world-wide who are serving God by empowering others, especially those in developing countries. Spirit in Action is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, private operating foundation. Your contributions are welcome and are tax deductible.

From fiscal year June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2005:

Incoming contributions: $ 1,938
Outgoing funding to projects: $ 38,285

These funded projects include:
◆ Moringa tree project in Ghana
◆ Women's poultry project in Malawi
◆ Nutrition education
◆ Training of Trainers
◆ Building of school classrooms
◆ Solar Cooking development
◆ Educational scholarships
◆ Small businesses in Nigeria, Malawi and Kenya

At Spirit in Action’s recent biannual board meeting $15,781 in funding was approved for new projects including:
◆ A women's bakery cooperative in the Democratic Republic of Congo
◆ Building two school classrooms in Kenya
◆ Planting Cassava in Nigeria
◆ Training in sustainable gardening in Peru
◆ Developing solar cookers in Kenya
◆ Small businesses in India, Nigeria, Philippines, Malawi, Uganda and Kenya

We are excited about these new opportunities to serve those in need in developing countries. An envelope is included and we would appreciate your comments, ideas and questions about Spirit in Action’s activities and we welcome your tax-deductible contributions that help to further Spirit in Action’s outreach.
LEARNING AND SHARING TOGETHER by Marsha Johnson, SIA administrator

Following the Camps Farthest Out International (CFOI) camp in Nairobi, Kenya, forty-five of us gathered at Samuel Teimuge’s Ukweli Training and Development Centre in Eldoret, Kenya. We represented thirteen countries from six continents! Thirty of these attendees were sponsored by Spirit in Action.

For five days Samuel and Rhoda Teimuge hosted us with such love, joy and expertise, supported by assistant, Joseph Koech, and other staff members. We were introduced to sustainable farming techniques, including biointensive gardening, composting, fish-farming, zero-grazing cows, tea manure, vertical axis windmill pump, solar cookers, bread oven, and raising rabbits.

Samuel, Don Rogers from Empowering Lives International, and Ed Ruddell, CFOI president, shared with us, answered questions and encouraged us with motivational fervor to return home to our communities with a willingness to serve those in need around us.

It was also a deep joy to visit Samuel and Rhoda’s Samro School that Spirit in Action has undergirded in its expansion and the nearby Children’s Home sponsored by Empowering Lives International. These 96 beautiful orphans live in such a loving and vibrant environment and are blessed to attend Samro School.

Those of us attending this training were surely touched in many ways. It was such a delight (and sometimes a challenge) living, learning, worshipping, praying, singing, eating delicious meals, sharing sleeping quarters, and even doing laundry together with brothers and sisters from around the world. Even with our cultural and language differences, we share a holy unity in the human journey that God has given us. We are One in God’s fullness!!