A note from the SIA Coordinator:

I am so grateful to be a part of Spirit in Action, an organization driven by people who are enthusiastically helping others improve their lives. I recently saw an advertisement in a magazine with a picture of an orchestra and the title “We’re delighted to play a supporting role”. This perfectly captures my feelings about my position with Spirit in Action. My job is to assist and give encouragement to the many SIA Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinators all over the world who volunteer their time to train business groups in management skills as well as important communication skills. I also interact with SIA Grant recipients who are initiating change in their communities with projects that will benefit many. In a way the grant recipients are also supporters because they are helping people who will go forth and assist others—creating a chain of hope and change in these communities. Check out updates on the SIA SBF and SIA Grant projects on pages 3 and 5.

One of the exceptional characteristics of Spirit in Action programming is just how flexible it is. We don’t dictate to the Small Business Groups the type of service or product they have to sell—instead it is the role of the SIA SBF Coordinator to help the new group choose a business that will fit the skills and materials they have and a product that will be valued and useful in their specific community. This means the businesses can range from shoe and bicycle repair to minnow sales to general stores!

Another great example of our flexibility is our ability to respond quickly and directly to crisis in the areas where SIA co-workers live. In November fresh conflict broke out in the border region of Rwanda and DRC near where SIA co-workers Jacob Lipandasi, Benoit Malenge and Hamuli Francois live. Instead of having to wait for slow international aid to arrive, SIA was able to give direct aid when it was needed and have it distributed by local volunteers. Also, in winter 2008, we worked with Samuel Teimuge to supply internally displaced people in Eldoret, Kenya with blankets and food after they were forced from their homes with the post-election violence.

In addition to this support, flexibility and autonomy, another reason I find my work with Spirit in Action so rewarding is that I get to see the hope our small organization is able to inspire in people’s lives. Malawi SIA SBF Coordinator Canaan Gondwe shares: “One business leader, Daniso Nyirenda of Kajaha Video Show, said ‘Mr. Gondwe! God has unveiled and fulfilled His plan for our shelter through SIA, we never expected to have a house like this’. Many are testifying different positive changes.” It is not just individual improvements that I hear about, go to page 3 for examples of how SIA is cultivating spiritual and community-wide development.

I hope you will join me in delighting in our supportive role through Spirit in Action.

Peace and Blessings,
Tanya Thomas Cothran

Spring/Summer 2009 Newsletter

We have been—and still are—in a time of alarms and noises, posturings and persuasions, tumult and tempest.

To be of service in the world today, we must stand in a place of calm steadiness.

In the midst of the storm, we must take time to look beyond to the mountains and the stars, the ancestors and the descendants and just appreciate the vastness of the world and of the time and cosmos in which we live.

Whatever happens tomorrow, the sun will rise, clouds will form, rain will fall, creatures will be born and die, and life goes on.

We will love and create, our inner power undimmed, our spirit as Sacred as ever.

— David Spangler
For more information about David Spangler, please visit: www.lorian.org

Jose Mwenda, Small Business leader in Democratic Republic of Congo, prepares beans for sale in the market.
Welcome to our newest SIA Board Member, Helen Dannelly! Helen joined the Board in November 2008. She is just starting a new job at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. We greatly appreciate Helen's development and non-profit experience and her warm, friendly personality.

A big Thank You to SIA “Volunteer Angel” Aileen Gillem (who has volunteered countless hours to SIA over the years), Dave Gattey, and Marsha and Dennis Johnson! They devoted a great deal of time and energy to clear out the long-standing SIA Alameda Office. This move helped us reduce our overhead costs and redistribute many materials that were no longer being used. Great job!

In June the SIA Board will gather for a retreat to discuss our vision and plan for the future of Spirit in Action. Included in our discussion will be SIA’s current statement of purpose (below). If you have ideas about SIA’s core values and future goals, please email them to spiritinaction@sbcglobal.net.

**Spirit in Action’s Purpose**

Spirit in Action is a network of people worldwide who are serving God by serving others in developing countries. Soul, heart, mind and body are nurtured through:

- Prayer
- Correspondence
- Encouragement and sharing
- Research
- Sending spiritual readings and other materials
- Sending seed packets
- Promoting self-help projects
- Providing small grants through local coordinators for families or small groups to start their own businesses

As a spiritual, caring process, Spirit in Action encourages:

- Daily spiritual disciplines
- Weekly small group gatherings for fellowship, support and spiritual development

As we nurture and honor the Divine within ourselves and others, our entire lives – spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, social and economic – are touched by God’s transforming, healing presence.

“[It is amazing to see how God helps us when we start to help ourselves.](http://godsspiritinaction.org/delswritings.htm) In my lifetime I have seen miracle after miracle in crisis, in time of great need, when broken persons have done their best and go even a little way in putting their trust in God. God always does the rest. It is almost unbelievable how God helps us when we start to help ourselves.”

- Del Anderson

**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, charitable foundation. Tax ID # 93-1207351

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Margaret Arner</td>
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<td>John Bayer</td>
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<td>Tish Bayer</td>
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<td>Helen Dannelly</td>
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<td>Dave Gattey</td>
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<td>Sheryl Gattey</td>
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<td>Gloria Knapstad</td>
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**Office Volunteer Angels**

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<td>B.J. Boone</td>
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<td>Aileen Gillem</td>
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**Advisory Members**

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<td>Scott Gattey</td>
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**Honorary Board Members**

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<td>William Foland</td>
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<td>Clare Lufkin</td>
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<td>Terry Lufkin</td>
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**Contact us!**

PO Box 141045
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1045
spiritinaction@sbcglobal.net
www.godsspiritinaction.org
(612) 379-6042
Kenya SIA SBF Groups: In Their Own Words

A recent letter from Dennis Kiprop stated, “We sometimes lack words to express our gratitude on the impact that SIA is putting in our lives.” When they found their words, here are what several Kenyan SIA Small Business leaders had to say:

Eunice Sirma from Business #3: “SIA has helped me and not only my household but also the village at large. There is food insecurity in the country and over 10 million Kenyans are starving and my business contributed in reaching them. It is a blessing to our community.”

Business #4 says: “We can now afford a smile because of what SIA has done to us, our hopes have increased and we have known how to run a business.”

Business #5 says: “I didn’t know I would ever afford to buy a new dress, & for my family God’s hand through SIA has helped us to always feel God’s present love everyday. Long live SIA!”

Mary Chemeldi from Business #7 says: “We can now have cash that run us through the month to help us become effective in all we do. SIA has also taught us how to run a small business in everyday activities. Thank you SIA.”

Dennis Kiprop, SIASBF Coordinator also shares his gratitude: “I must also say SIA has made a tremendous impact on me. It is a wonderful experience for me after graduating from college to work with you and with the help of Samuel [Teimuge]. It has made my profession relevant and enjoyable! God Bless SIA.”

Spotlight on SIA SBF Coordinator

Dennis Kiprop

Since Dennis Kiprop graduated with his Diploma in Business Management last year, he has applied his knowledge and business experience to guide seven new SIA Small Business Fund groups. Sharing his enthusiasm and excitement with the new business members, he trains them with the specific model of micro-enterprise that the SIA SBF uses, focusing on clear communication, consensus building and prayer groups.

In the photo below, Dennis reads from the SIA SBF Guidelines & Training Manual: “We helped them to choose their new businesses and the groups had to give their opinions, desires and what they feel they are best at.” After three months, Dennis meets with the business groups to re-visit their Business Plan and help them modify or expand their business for the greatest success.

Dennis’s letters and reports to SIA frequently communicates his optimism for the groups and his joy and gratitude for the opportunity to be involved with SIA. He recently expressed this prayer for his service: “My prayer as a coordinator is for every group we install the more humble I become before God so that the lives that SIA impacts may experience the greatness of God in their everyday lives.”

How has your business helped you?

Businesses: Kenya/Kiprop/1-7

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<td>We can afford better medical care</td>
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<td>We feel better about the future</td>
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<td>We can provide better food for our families</td>
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<td>We learned how to run a business</td>
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Members of group #4 pump water to irrigate their crops.

Contributing just $150 is enough to support a small business through the SIA Small Business Fund!

This is the perfect gift to let someone know you care. The joy of giving is amplified, as it will help a family in a developing country work to improve their lives. A card and SIA brochure will be mailed to the person being honored by your donation. Thank you!
We gratefully acknowledge these donors who have contributed to Spirit in Action from November 1, 2008 to May 1, 2009.

Anonymous (3)
Rosemary Anderson (Honoring Marsha & Dennis Johnson)
Scott Bayer (Honoring Tish & John Bayer)
Tish & John Bayer (Honoring Moussa Konare)
Ruth Ann Caufield
Frank & Mildred Dawson
Alfred Durrance
George Furniss
Priscilla Greenwood
Anne & Jeff Grell
Ellis Harms
Mike Hegeman (Honoring Gloria Knapstad)
Kyoko Iitaka
Regina Jimenez
Marsha & Dennis Johnson (Honoring Del Anderson, Bobbie & Dick Corson, the Scott & Rosemary Anderson Family, the Sanfilippo Family, and Yensuahte Wilson)
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John Thomas
Peter & Donna Thomas

Honoring Del Anderson
Anonymous
Florance Crago
Barbara & Bob Deal
Kathleen Elliot
Jim Mahoney
Richard & Evelyn Ruffin
Chris Stewart
Thank you everyone for your prayers and encouragement!

Yes! I want to support Spirit in Action:
Name(s) ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City____________________ State________
Zip________
Telephone____________________
Email________________________________________

I am pleased to support Spirit in Action with a gift of:
$25 $50 $100 $250 $500 $1000
Other $ ________________

I would like to make a gift in honor of: __________________________
I would like to make a gift in memory of: _________________________
I would like more information about:
☐ Making a gift of securities ☐ Estate planning and life income opportunities

Please include your contribution with this form and mail to the following address:
Spirit in Action
PO Box 141045
Minneapolis MN 55414-1045

Remember, all donations to Spirit in Action are tax deductible! Tax ID # 93-1207351

Thank you!

The Chilita Ngwa Lusugu Barber Shop is now open in Malawi through the SIASBF. Pictured is business owner Zondia Hunga with a customer.

We believe in Spirit in Action’s powerful work!
We invite YOU to become part of this vital ministry and worldwide network of friendship, prayer & love.
Contributions of all sizes make an impact and help SIA co-workers on their way toward peace & economic empowerment. Thank you!
Welcome Nalu Prossy!

Nalu Prossy, a nursery teacher from Nawangisa Village in eastern Uganda, has stepped up as the newest SIA Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinator. She is taking the place of Christopher Musana who recently retired from SIA SBF coordinating and who attends the same church as Nalu Prossy. SIA SBF Coordinators volunteer their time and are reimbursed for coordinating expenses. We are excited to have Nalu join us! Thank you!

Pictured left: Business Leader Witnes Nyirenda in Malawi with soap, sugar and cloth for her group’s new grocery business.

Pictured above: Nalu Prossy Uganda SIFSBF Coordinator and the new business leaders meet to share about communication, listening prayer and consensus agreement.

Your donation of just $50 goes a long way toward helping projects and small businesses just like these!

Jacob Lipandasi, Democratic Republic of Congo: “My kitchen garden and our widows’ communal garden are the reference to other development groups in our area. Families get their early breakfast from our gardens and my great joy is families who asked me about vegetables while they are organizing their own too. They are very glad to hear me sharing with them about my personal experience with SIA. Praise Lord!”

Pictured below: Children play in the communal garden.

Your donation of just $50 goes a long way toward helping projects and small businesses just like these!

Your donation of just $50 goes a long way toward helping projects and small businesses just like these!

Your donation of just $50 goes a long way toward helping projects and small businesses just like these!

Solar cooking is expanding in Eldoret, Kenya! Camily Wedende received a grant from Spirit in Action in June 2008 to train community members and refugees how to use and build solar cookers. Camily reports “We are in the world of solar!” He has trained over 50 families in refugee camps and over 100 people total. People receive training on how to build light weight wooden cookers using plywood, glass, aluminum foil, wood shavings and black paint. Typical food cooked in the solar cooker are rice, bananas, eggs, tea, bean and meat. Cookers are also used for pasteurizing water. Camily is very positive about the changes he sees when people learn about solar cooking and is committed to spreading the word in his community. From Camily, “SOLAR COOKERS WORK – SEEING IS BELIEVING.”

Pictured above: Camily Wedende demonstrates solar cooking.
Pictured right: Lobin Nali, Wokoli Jesca and Mrs. Maganda, who started a chicken rearing business in Uganda this year, report that demand for their chickens is higher than they expected!

Love applied to the PAST
transmits forgiving grace.

Love applied to the PRESENT
is joyous gratitude & a glad, obedient
response right here, right now.

Love applied to the FUTURE
is Divine Expectation!

- Tommy Tyson

Keep up-to-date between SIA
Newsletters by checking our blog
“SIA Latest Updates” regularly!

www.godspiritinaction.org/news

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**In addition to UPSP mail, these options are also available:**

☐ Please **email** the newsletter as a PDF file to (email address):

☐ Please **remove** my name from the SIA mailing list. I will read the newsletter and updates on the SIA website:  www.godspiritinaction.org

**My name is:** ____________________________

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Cut and mail this to:  OR send an email to:

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