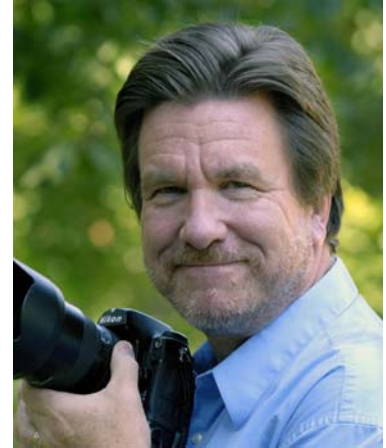


**PAUL JEFFREY, PHOTOJOURNALIST  
PRESENTATION - October 16, 2007**

by Karen Johnsen, UMW President, St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, California

On Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, over 60 people came to hear Paul Jeffrey talk about his work as a missionary and photojournalist. The event was co-sponsored by St. Andrew's UMW and Palo Alto First United Methodist Church UMW. Many people from both church congregations attended the event along with United Methodist Women from several local churches in the San Jose District.

Paul Jeffrey shared a slide show depicting many of the places that he has been sent around the globe. The commentary, songs and background music gave an overview and glimpse of many mission projects that Paul has covered. Stories from Central and South America, Katrina, Indonesia, Africa and many other places were shared.



One of the hardest assignments for Paul was going to Darfur, Africa to tell the story of genocide, Human Rights violations, refugee problems, complications with the political climate, and the continuing conflicts that ravage this country. The farmers who plant crops are at odds with those that raise livestock. 10 African UN Peacekeepers have been recently killed. Although the US acknowledges genocide, our government has failed to take the necessary action to protect the people of Darfur. The US tends to look the other way. This was a depressing story to photograph and share.

Paul then went on to another place in Africa that he thought would also be depressing. He was telling the story of African women who were widowed and had aids. But he found them joyful, empowered and hopeful. And they were protective of him as they showed him around and told their story.

He also shared about being surrounded by Islamic Muslim Fundamentalists in another area. The people were at a rally and were shouting anti American hate slogans. He was stuck in a predicament where he needed help with his cameras and needed help getting down from a high place. A small group of the demonstrators near Paul saw his predicament. They changed their demeanor and helped him with his cameras and helped him get down and opened up space for him to exit the area safely. They showed respect and gave him pats on the back as they helped him to safety. So these same people shouting anti American slogans about hating America and death to Americans did not take on a personal aspect directed at Paul who was an American. It shows that people have more than one side to them. And one side is very caring.

Paul spoke of how grateful he has been for support through United Methodist Women and Mission giving. He shared how programs that provide training and learning experiences that lead to sustainable farming and promoting long term solutions to problems were preferable to a hand out of money or goods. He spoke about how to market our programs to increase giving. One way would be to speak about how mission giving empowers women.

Our mission giving does make a difference around the globe. Our giving does empower women and families. It helps communities to find long term solutions to problems and provides hope, leadership and direction. Paul Jeffrey has done a remarkable job in capturing the pictures and stories of mission projects around the world. His presentation was awesome. Thank you to Paul for the meaningful and artistic presentation and thank you to those who support his missionary work and missions in general. And thanks to all of you who came to hear his talk.