

A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church



# window

ON THE WORLD



**The Fields  
are Ripe  
for Harvest**

# The Fields are Ripe for Harvest

— by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA

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**DID YOU KNOW** that most Christians in the world today live in the Global South? This is according to *Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC)* based out of Gordon-Conwell University. The Global South is a reference to the regions of Latin America, Asia,

Africa, and Oceania. In fact, there are more than twice as many Christians living in Africa than in North America. The landscape of Global Christianity has certainly shifted over the last 100 or more years and that trend will only continue. Consider this, in 1970 57% of Christians lived in the Global North (that would be North America and Europe primarily) and 43% lived in the Global South. As we look at the distribution of Christians around the globe just under 50 years later that number has flip-flopped. Now, according to CSGC 66% of Christians live in the Global South and just 34% of Christians live in the Global North.

As with almost all statistics, you can interpret these in a myriad of ways. However, rather than providing an in-depth analysis of what all that means, or what I think it means (I sensed you nodding off), I highlight those numbers simply to underscore how drastically our world has changed in less than 50 years. It is clear from the data I shared that if you “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35 KJV) That’s Old School Bible language for “there are still a whole lot of people that need Jesus”. I praise God that the Evangelical Congregational Church has had a role to play in the expansion of Christianity across this globe. We are in the areas where Christianity is growing, such as Africa and Asia. We have churches in Liberia, in

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A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church  
Fall/Winter2019 • Volume 31 Number 2

**THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY** is the international ministry arm of the Evangelical Congregational Church. With missionaries in eight nations, over 400 churches in five countries, and several strategic initiatives, GMC is dedicated to mobilizing the worldwide Church into acts of love, service, and gospel proclamation.



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India, in Nepal, and in Japan. We are a part of God's movement in Latin America with EC Churches in Mexico and Mexico's National Conference choosing to call themselves the EC Church of Latin America because of their desire to expand south into all of Latin America. The EC Church truly is a global church and I'm thankful for our faithful supporting churches in the USA that continue to support our global EC family.

Not only am I grateful for the EC Church's global impact and support of our brothers and sisters abroad, I'm also thankful that, even as we see the number of people in the USA who identify as "having no religion" increase, within the Evangelical Congregational Church young people are responding to God's call on their lives to serve Him. I said in the last issue of *Window on the World* that God has not stopped calling people to His mission around the globe in the US, simply because the religious landscape in this country has shifted. In fact, at our Fall Global Ministries Community Meeting held in October, the GMC commissioned its newest missionary Dan Quigley to serve with One by One International in Nicaragua. You will get to meet Dan Quigley as you read through this issue of *Window on the World* and I look forward to his commissioning service that will be held sometime this December. God continues to move in amazing ways, and I'm excited to say that I have had four other conversations with young people of the next generation who would like to pursue missionary status with the Global

Ministries Community and the EC Church - just in the past 6 months!

We (The EC Church) come from a strong heritage rooted in a missionary zeal to reach the lost and the broken with the gospel. It was this passion and zeal which caused an unlikely German tile maker to mount a horse and travel across the hills and valleys of Pennsylvania to Illinois, in order that people

might hear the Good News and put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. It is this same passion and zeal that will enable the EC Church to fulfill her vision statement of being a "dynamic movement of God". Jesus said "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out the workers into his harvest field." The pages of this publication will reveal that there are people in our EC Churches responding to God's call, who are going into the world with a passion and zeal for the lost, and who need the support of a healthy church family. The religious landscape may look different, but the mission is still the same, and you (EC Church) still play a vital role in enabling those who are responding to God's call to be a part of this GREAT Commission. 🌍

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## SUSQUEHANNA BRUNCH BREAKS OLD RECORD

**THE ANNUAL SUSQUEHANNA MISSIONS BRUNCH** was held on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and was hosted by Trinity E.C. Church in Lititz, PA. Missionaries Brian & Missy Wagner, and Rev. Ken Sears gave updates on their respective fields of service. Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA, gave a brief update on some of our other EC missionaries. A delicious brunch with several egg casseroles, baked oatmeal, fresh fruit and pastries satisfied everyone's appetite. Over 50 people were in attendance, our highest number in many years, despite a glitch in the initial email announcement that went out. Many thanks to the Missions Committee and the cooks at Trinity for all their work and fine selection of food. 🌍

### UPDATE ON OUR 2019 VBS PROJECT

**MANY THANKS** to all of you who participated in raising funds for our 2019 VBS project. This year's project focused on Japan, and was dubbed "Operation Tomodachi" (Operation Friend). The monies raised will be used for children's ministries such as an English camp and also transporting children to EC church-sponsored events. The goal was \$10,000 and Praise the Lord, we surpassed it! A little over \$10,000 was raised. Here is the story of how one church creatively encouraged the children at their summer Vacation Bible School to participate:

*This year our VBS was The Incredible Race. Teams had names of countries and were made up of racers from similar age groups. Team Brazil, Team Ireland, Team Mexico and Team Asia were offered challenges as they traveled to a different country each night. Racers could earn a circle on their map scorecard by guessing the country they would be visiting, trying new and unusual foods in the Runway Cafe, participating in the Experimental Lab, and answering and asking questions at the Refueling Station during lesson time, all while learning we're all members of the same race. The human race! Team Asia was very excited to learn they were the winners and one of their prizes was a donation in their team name to Operation Tomodachi!!" (\$25) – Wendy Bordner, VBS Director, St. John's EC Church, Steelstown, PA 🌍*



**St. John's submitted a check for \$1025; \$1000 through VBS and the \$25 prize. We are grateful that churches help children to learn more about the worldwide EC Church, and how God wants everyone, everywhere, to learn about Him and His son Jesus.**

# Introducing Our Newest EC Missionary



**HELLO MY NAME IS DANIEL QUIGLEY.** As a child, my family attended the Brownstown Ebenezer EC Church, which was across the street from our house. The first thought that I ever had about missions was when I was about 8 or 9, and an airplane mechanic came to speak at our church one night. He seemed to be a great and reasonable guy who was doing what he knew best to get people to where God wanted them, in some

of the most remote areas of the world. I think that the idea of possibly doing missions was really planted in me by his presentation. But it took years to come to fruition.

After graduating in 2004, one of the opportunities that was presented to me was going on short term mission trips to reach out to women involved with prostitution in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. After a few trips, we started to see the overwhelming need for child and youth discipleship, education, and evangelism in that country. At that time nearly 1/2 the population of the country was under the age of 15. Three other young adults and I received a small grant from the church that we were attending, and we raised personal support to live off of while we were working. We called the outreach One By One. We had almost immediate numerical success, working mostly with the children that were in the market district. Many of them came from the women we had reached out to years ago.

Our lofty idea and calling was to help change a country, by using practical Christian spiritual methodology and educational application. Though the idea was lofty, it is still today a valid calling. Our mission is to equip underprivileged kids and youth to grow in their relationship with Christ and improve their quality of life. More than being a ministry that gives away resources, we seek to help kids get an education, develop their minds & creativity, and grow in their overall life abilities, such as the ability to have thriving relationships, know God personally, and transition into capable, healthy adults.

We do this mostly through small classes—tutoring, (math, English, geography, or homework) or Bible study—but we also have large group worship services. These age-specific services are helpful to establish and build relationships, give opportunities for kids to serve, and teach biblical principles to large numbers of people. As we build relationships with kids and their families, we encourage them into the smaller classes where deeper development and mentor-ship happens.

One by One has three main ministry categories—child evangelism & discipleship, youth evangelism & discipleship, and child sponsorship (after-school programs)—each overseen by a different director. However, our ministry directors work closely together as many kids are involved in several areas at once.

My time spent thus-far here in Nicaragua has been filled with many blessings, hardships, and changing of perspectives, through a cross-cultural sharing of Christianity and the idea of what poverty is. The more that I look at my life now that I'm surrounded by poverty, I see that poverty often has less to do with lacking money than I once believed it did. Poverty is something that runs so deep that even if we poured in all the resources, all of the money, all of the gold, and all of the things that we have, it wouldn't even fill a corner of it. Poverty has more to do with lacking the opportunities, people, inspirations, and systems that encourage hope and give reasonable guidance. For those living in





poverty, "hope" involves risking what you can't afford to lose for something that might be taken away from you.

To come out of true poverty takes relationships. It takes growth. It takes emotional and psychological security. It takes understanding, meaning and purpose in life. It takes a healthy community and economy around you, and it's not that much unlike many of us in the United States right now. Our comfort has allowed "community" and "relationships" to become things that only seem to happen on the internet with people who just agree with each other. It has created a **relational**

poverty where people can feel disconnection or hatred to people close to them, or strangers they don't even know. The work that we all have on our hands is endless; I hope that we all can work in our communities where God has put us, and realize the importance of the people right next to us. Let us allow iron to sharpen iron, as it says in Proverbs 27, and continue to reach out to others and form strong kinship. 🙏

Dan has served with One by One international in Nicaragua for over 9 years. Their focus is on helping the children and youth of the capital city by providing educational opportunities as well as worship services to teach them about Jesus Christ.

# International Church Update

— by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA

## JAPAN

**ECCJ** held their third English Kids Camp at a Christian camp site near Mt. Fuji, 7/30-8/1. They had a total of 21 kids and 10 adults who participated in the camp. Not only were children from church invited to the camp, but also unchurched kids could come to the camp. Some kids came back this year with their friends and their parents! Rev. Yoriyoshi Abe said "Apparently, this is a great outreach program. Thank you for supporting children's ministry through VBS!"

cause of the help of a church in Tokyo and a Korean student ministry in Los Angeles. The event was reported in a local free paper and Pastor Yoriyoshi was featured. The next planned event: Organizing seminar, on 11/2.

- "Through those summer programs, kids' camp, VBS and Yoriyoshi's article, one lady was clearly convinced that she believed in Jesus and wanted to put her trust in the Lord. She said she would like to get baptized! Praise the Lord!"

### 1. Grace Garden Church REV. YORIYOSHI ABE

- Held a community outreach which was a one-day VBS event on 7/25. A total of 80 children and 50 adults came to the event from their neighborhood! Praise the Lord! This event could happen be-

### 2. Kyodo Grace Church REV. KENICHIRO SUDO

- They started "Medical Cafe" once a month, every 2nd Saturday, at their church building.
- Medical Cafe is a ministry program started by a Christian medical doctor and spread all over Japan.



- The main idea of this ministry is to provide the safe place for cancer patients and their family members so that they can share their concerns, fears and honest feelings toward their sickness. As they share their feelings, their hearts are changed. Their problems (cancers) are not solved but dissolved.
- What they do is come to church and read a book written by a Christian doctor who started this ministry, then freely discuss.
- At Kyodo Grace Church, usually 5-6 unchurched people come to the cafe. And some of them come to Sunday service too!

**STATISTICAL REPORT FROM JAPAN** (average for the last 2 quarters)

**Sagamihara Grace Chapel** – 29 in Worship Service/ 3 in Prayer Meeting/ 10 in Church School

**Grace Garden Church** – 13 in Worship Service

**Kyodo Grace Church** – 37 in Worship Service/ 8 in Afternoon Service  
9 in Prayer Meeting/ 14 in Church School

**TOTALS** –Worship: 79 Prayer Meeting: 12 Church School: 24



**Update on Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe**

**TOMO AND JESSICA** are now living and serving in France. Jessica is serving on the pastoral staff at an Evangelical Free Church and pursuing a Master of Divinity while she serves her local church in Orleans. Tomo has begun serving as a missionary with OMF and has attended a Conference in Germany to become acquainted with his counterparts serving in England and Germany. Tomo has already made connections with the one Japanese church in France located in Paris (about an hour away from where they currently live) as well as a local University that has a large number of exchange students from Japan. He is currently in intensive French language school to increase his vocabulary. 🌐



Nepal, Rev. Nobuo Abe, and Yoriyoshi Abe to this Conference as well to continue deepening the bonds of our churches in Asia.

Rev. Vaiphei and the ECCI Director of missions, Rev. Jangkhohlam, have

made a number of visits to missionaries and churches in Imphal, West Bengal, and Moreh (which is on the border of Myanmar aka Burma). Rev. Jangkhohlam is in the final stages of a book he was requested to write regarding the history of mission for ECCI and ECA. I have been helping him with some of the materials he wanted from the GMC's history as well as writing a "Forward" and "Word of Appreciation" that he would like to put into the book. The Church of India continues to expand into new regions as they equip and train missionaries for kingdom service. However, the question remains unanswered on how the latest developments with India's Prime Minister's desire to assert a more Hindu-oriented government and policies will affect Christians in India. 🌐

**INDIA**

**IN APRIL OF 2019** EC Church-Japan held its National Conference and requested that Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei, General Director of ECCI attend as a guest speaker. The GMC was able to fund Rev. Vaiphei's trip to Japan in order to deepen the already established relationship between the two Conferences. While the GMC does not generally budget for this type of expense, we viewed it as another opportunity to "cross-pollinate" in the global EC Church without the EC Church USA being required to organize the trip (while we still did provide all the funds for this opportunity it was a valuable investment in furthering the relationship of the global EC Church). In April of 2020 I, along with Bishop Hill, will travel to India for their National Conference. It will be this National Conference in which a new General Director is elected to serve a 4-year term. My hope is to bring Rev. Janga from



## Evangelical College of Theology

**HERE IS AN UPDATE** regarding the work of ECT by Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate:

We have our Freshers' Meet on August 2, 2019. Freshers' Meet is one annual event held every year at the beginning of a new academic year to honor and welcome the new students. The morning session was held along with the faculty and Rev. Dr. Kaitinkap Vaiphei, General Director, ECCI, brought a message of encouragement and also say a blessing prayer for all the staff and students. The second session in the afternoon was arranged by the students themselves. It usually is a fun-filled program during which each student was required to demonstrate his or her God-given talent. One senior student remarked that the new students are quite a talented group! We are yet to see as the semester continues to unfold!

The first Sunday of August is observed by ECCI churches as ECT Sunday. The purpose of this observation is to remind and update our churches on the ministry of ECT and to encourage them to pray and donate to ECT. This year ECT Sunday falls on August 4 and many pastors and elders were sent to various ECCI local churches to share about ECT. The collec-

tions on ECT Sunday are submitted to ECT as its development fund. We are expecting at least Rs.130000 from ECT Sunday. We will wait and see as our churches began submitting their respective collections.

With financial assistance from the GMC, we started constructing a new meeting hall on the terrace of our classroom. The construction is still in process and we hope to complete very soon. We will need more funds to fully complete and furnish the room. Any amount of donation towards this project will be much appreciated. 🙏



## NEPAL

The **EC CHURCH OF NEPAL** continues to grow under the leadership of Rev. Janga. This past month Rev. Janga contracted Dengue Fever and was hospitalized for a few days. He is now home and back to ministry, but he continues to struggle with fatigue and weakness. Thank you for your prayers for him and please continue to pray for his strength to return.

- Janga has begun another class of the Evangelical Leadership Training Course for ECCN. Currently there are 28 students going through their version of Seminary with 27 students completing stage 2. This class will graduate in 2021. Along with Janga, his wife Mercy and a few other people teach the courses.
- One of the challenges many of our churches are facing in Nepal pertains to their places of worship.

As churches are planted and begin, a great majority of them are not able to build an adequate place of worship. Currently Janga is seeking the GMC's assistance in providing funds to help

construct new churches or improve already existing churches.

- In April one of the key pastors and leaders of ECCN went home to be with the Lord as he lost his battle with cancer. The GMC was able to provide some assistance to the family, but he leaves behind a wife, son, and daughter. In addition to losing a pastor, Mercy's brother passed away back in India, so Janga and Mercy also traveled there to lay him to rest. 🙏



### ECCN 2019 STATISTICS AS OF JUNE

**NEW CONVERTS – 32**

**NEW BAPTISMS – 24**

**ORDINATIONS – 4 Deacons**





## LIBERIA

**IN JANUARY** of 2020 I will be traveling with Rev. Rick Sergi to Liberia. The plan is to attend their National Conference as well as visit some of the local churches. Liberia continues to work towards becoming a National Conference and my hope is that we can encourage them to set a goal for when they can complete this process.

- The 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Annual Youth Camp of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia commenced on Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the Bible Way Mission School Campus. The camp officially opened on Monday, August 19, 2019 under the yearly theme: Wear your dream (Judges 7:7-18.)
  - Teaching carried out included: Good manners, Personal Hygiene, Food Hygiene, Domestic Hygiene and Environmental Hygiene. In addition, further teaching included characteristics of a Christian youth, wear your dream and don't give up.
  - The campers were taught under a good atmosphere where they maximized their potential by memorizing and reciting a minimum of six (6) bible verses each and the maximum of 50.
  - Campers were taken into the surrounding communities each day to evangelize their peers to the Lord. A total of 15 youths accepted Christ.



- ECCOL was able to successfully carry out a leadership training conference with a total of 52 pastors, local ministers and National Council members attending.
  - Two major topics were considered: Shepherd after God's own Heart and Practical Evangelism - I. These were facilitated by Bishop Abraham Powell and Bishop Dr. J. Hilary Gbotoe (a friend of Abraham's from the USA whom he asked to fit some teaching into his schedule some teaching during his visit to Liberia).
- National Council members met together to develop a draft policy of the ECCOL. This was a three-day working session which was very rewarding. However, we are still getting input and test driving it for this year to add and/or subtract where necessary. I will be sending a draft of this as soon the pieces are compiled by the committee. 🌐

## MEXICO

**REV. JUAN ZUÑIGA**, the Superintendent of the EC Church of Latin America, remains active in visiting the churches and encouraging the pastors in Mexico. Unfortunately, the trip that I had hoped to make this fall did not come together, so I will look to travel to Mexico in 2020. 🌐



**Bethesda EC • (REEDSVILLE)**  
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA

Bethesda EC Church Spring Adult Work Week: from April 8-12, 2019, 20 adults volunteered their energy, skills and time in the Tremont/Tower City communities, Schuylkill County, PA. The focus of their work: continuing flood clean-up from Summer, 2018. The team



worked on six different homes as well as the Tremont Ambulance Association Building. – Rev. Mark Brooks ●



**Bethel EC • DIXON, IL**

This summer I had the privilege of serving missionary kids (MK's) at a one week camp in Peña Blanca, Honduras (<https://www.mkcamphonduras.org/#!>). God orchestrated all the details - down to it being the very same camp that Ed and Valerie Schubert had already applied for their daughter, Cheynece, to attend. The camp was held at a local rentable camping facility. We had a total of seventy-seven campers and twenty-six staff members. Most of the staff were missionaries themselves, who were giving of their time and resources to focus on an often forgotten crowd; the children of missionaries. The week gave these kids

the opportunity to see friends they usually only see once a year, to worship the Lord together, and to participate in fun and messy activities! Days consisted of string art and like crafts, swimming, hearty food, lots of sunshine, small group times and blossoming friendships. A couple of the biggest highlights were a color run and slip 'n slide with water activities! My cabin had six girls ages thirteen and fourteen. There was one girl in particular, someone who I shared personality similarities with, that I was able to invest in for the week. She



had natural leadership qualities and kids on our team turned to her for decision making. She struggled under the distraction of pleasing people, and yet her heart's desire was to focus on God more. The week's theme was on learning to tell your story, and it was beautiful to speak Truths taken from my own story to encourage her in this journey! I hope to be able to go again to serve, but God also used the week to refresh me by the fellowship of other Believers as I served! – Anna Nelson ●

People from Bethel Church on the team: Rachel Rydzynski (Leader); Sara DiGrazia; Collin Fassler, Olivia Rydzynski; Caleb Rydzynski.



**Bethel EC • DIXON, IL**

**Broken Arrow Mission Team – 2019**

Our mission team had the privilege, once again, to serve at Broken Arrow Bible Ranch in NM for a week in June of this year. Our team was a combined group from Dixon, IL and St Cloud MN. Our main job was to support the full time staff through cleaning, running activities, serving food and loving on the junior campers that attended camp that week. We also celebrate that the summer of 2019 was Broken Arrow's first summer of over 1,000 campers!! God is good! – Sherry Michel ●



**Zion EC • PITMAN, PA**

Our mission trip for the summer of 2019 was a team of 14 from Pitman EC Church to The Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, Kentucky July 7 to 13<sup>th</sup>. Our team served in 3 areas, children's ministry, community service and construction. – Pat Hummel ●



**Trinity EC • LITITZ, PA**

In July, Lititz Trinity sent a team of 12 students and adult leaders to a Reach Workcamp in Hurricane, WV. From Sunday to Saturday they slept on the floor at a local high school and woke up at 6:30 am each morning ready to work! By Saturday, more than 25 homeowners were smiling as they walked across new decks, climbed new steps or rolled down wheelchair ramps. Several homeowners received a new roof, while others were in awe at seeing their home with a fresh new look, painted from top to bottom. Lititz Trinity has been serving with Reach for more than 25 years. If you would like more information about Reach, please contact Pastor Ryan Taylor. – *Ryan Taylor* ●



**Trinity EC • MANHEIM, PA**

June 16-18, 2019 Trinity E.C. Manheim spent three days at Twin Pines Camp at the beginning of summer. We had 6 Youth and 3 Adults participate in this trip. Youth included: Matt I., Hunter M., Ethan M., Casey M., Grace., and Kyle D. Our chaperones were Ed K. Esther K., and Chris I. The goal was to help Twin Pines prepare for their summer camping season while becoming more aware of the need for mission work.

Our team cut up fallen trees for firewood for the camp. They also power washed the deck and walkway to the Main Lodge. Some fun with smores was a fellowship time event in the evening. All enjoyed the opportunity to spend time in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of PA while they worked together. – *Pastor Jeff Schell* ●



**Grace Community • WILLOW STREET, PA**

**NORTH CAROLINA** This past June, a team of adults and youth students from GCCWS partnered with United Methodist Church Disaster Relief in Newport,

North Carolina for a week of ministry that included rebuilding homes affected by the hurricanes that devastated the area. Students worked alongside adults

and learned new skills while we all got the chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus in helping these families. The facilities in which we stayed were excellent

and the work in Newport will continue through December, 2020 for anyone interested in scheduling a similar trip. – *Addison Roberts* ●



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

This summer Grace Community Church, under the leadership of Pastor Paul Weitzel, took 22 people to the Dominican Republic to work alongside Mission 2535 in the El Cabio Region, just outside Santiago. During our week trip, we had

three primary objectives; construction, medical, and ministry. Many of us helped construct several critical parts of a community center that will minister to thousands of Dominican families. Others of us visited various orphanages, prisons, garbage dumps, and other

places where we shared the good news of Jesus Christ and handed out clean water and food. In the afternoon, many of us led a VBS for over 150 children. We also had a medical team that went through several villages caring for basic medical needs. – *Rev. Paul Weitzel* ●



**Grace EC • SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA**

This summer Pastor Ted and I, along with our Youth Group Co-leader, Ryan Chesakis took our Youth Group to Lynn, Massachusetts on a Mission Trip. We stayed for 5 days in a church in Lynn and

worked in the community in various ways. Some jobs we did were...Working in a Soup Kitchen, My Brother's Table. We prepared & served meals to the community. Some of us went to an Adult Daycare which

included disabled individuals. There we interacted with, talked to and played games/puzzles with the clients.

Some of us cleaned at a Christian school, as well as cleaned/painted at the church where we stayed. We also worked with children in various ways. At one place we did a VBS-like program & the other place was Day camp that a Big Brothers/Big Sisters feel to it. We all had a wonderful week & the kids were impacted greatly.

– Kim Hasenaur ●



**Trinity Lighthouse Church • ROYERSFORD, PA**

**PALOWICE**

This past summer members of Trinity Lighthouse Church went to help with the teens at The English Camp in Palowice. I am happy to write about this and continue to savor the experience. It was a wonderful time of opportunity to meet people and share our Christian faith. I hope to go back. This camp is a wonderful place. The influence of Jesus is evident throughout. I found the camp facility clean, the staff mature and it to

be very well run. I liked that we had the chance to mingle together and share accountability by sitting together at long tables for our meals, in the Church sanctuary during evening worship. The pastors tenderly engaged the youth in the Salvation message. Led in singing by professional Christians musicians, they kept a contemporary tempo and drew us to worship. We were divided into small groups in the daytime, together studying the book of Judges. We got

**Trinity EC • HARRISBURG, PA**

On July 21<sup>st</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> the Youth Group went to Wayne County, NY for their annual mission trip. Trinity was represented by 3 youth group members and 2 adult chaperones. Everyone was excited to go and see what the Lord had in store for them this year. The mission trip was planned through an organization called Group Missions.

The highlight of the week was on Wednesday evening when they had an alter call after a worship session. There is something very powerful and amazing about watching kids fall to their knees crying under the presence of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit's presence was tangible and moved in an amazing way that night. There wasn't a single person in that room that did not feel the Lord's presence! It was truly inspiring and a blessing for all in attendance.

Our numbers were a little smaller this

year but, remember "For where two or three gathers in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20). This year's mission trip was an important example of a real-life Bible lesson for the kids to experience. Our numbers were small, but the Lord was with us! It is my hope that they experienced the love of God this week and they will continue to seek a personal relationship with him. – Cathy Shaffer ●



into some hearty discussions, some concerning issues the kids were currently facing at home and some regarding the depth of Christian living in today's world. It was a delight to listen to the youth speak the English language. They chose their words and expressed themselves remarkably well and they didn't hold back their questions or expressing their opinions. Interpreters were also always available. I enjoyed listening them. The adequate accommodations for our per-

sonal needs were offered by warm and kind hosts making it possible for us to get adequate rest. Oh, the daily routine included a super fun time outdoors. The kids were teamed up and eagerly participated in a wide variety of competitive physical games. There was also time for heart to heart conversation between the youth and staff. I had several long and wonderful conversations. I think this is an exceptional place of ministry for youth. – Meredith Harvey ●





### St. John's • STEELSTOWN, PA

St. John's E.C. Church of Steelstown, PA sent twelve youth, ranging in age from 12 to 18, and four adults to Big Creek Missions, a Christian ministry located in Bear Branch, Kentucky, an area considered to be one of the neediest locations in the United States. From June 22 to June 29, God used each team member's

skills and abilities to serve the community through Children's Ministry and Construction Ministry. Each day started with combined worship before the teams would leave for their ministry sites, and each day ended with combined worship.

The Children's Ministry helped with a children's day camp where they

shared the gospel of Christ through crafts, games, and lessons. The Construction Ministry worked on local homes that needed repairs which included new roofing and a new porch. Each St. John's team member was blessed by this opportunity to serve others in the name of Jesus in Eastern Kentucky.

– Joel Wolfe ♦

### MOHN'S HILL EC • READING, PA

Here is a photo of me on a trip with Camp Kirkland's Celebration Orchestra from June 6-15, 2019. Camp Kirkland is a retired music arranger who lives in the Nashville area and is currently music director at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville. Occasionally, he takes missionary trips with a musical group to

support missionaries in various countries with concerts in churches, parks and concert halls. Always there a challenge for faith in Christ shared through an interpreter, however, when music is well done it transcends culture and language. A year ago, while visiting Bulgaria, a hired musician who was

playing with our orchestra came up to me and asked if she could give me a hug. I asked why, and she showed me the back page of a Gideon New Testament I had given to her on a previous trip. She pointed to the place where she had written her name, signifying that she had placed her faith in Jesus as her savior.



### Community EC • SINKING SPRING, PA

Community EC in Sinking Spring PA took a team of 23 adults and youth to Larnaca, Cyprus this July. It was a week of adventure with Oasis Ministries as we worked with refugee families from around the Middle East. We were intentional about building bridges of understanding and trust,

bridges between family members, and bridges to God. We explored the story of two refugees in the Bible, Naomi and Ruth, and connected their story to the lives of these Muslim families. We rode camels, explored a local zoo, had a water fight, played games, picnicked, and prayed

for these families who have been impacted by civil wars, corrupt governments, and the hardships of life. This adventure camp was a therapeutic camp, touching on emotional and social healing at every opportunity. It was life changing for all involved.

– Rev. Tim Sanger ♦

She shared about the joy that was with her each day now, and then she asked me if I had any more scriptures that she could have to be able to share Christ with some of the other Bulgarian musicians in the group. Wow, that made my trip worthwhile even before we played a single note. – Bob Pawling ♦



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ON THE WORLD

A publication of the Global Ministries Community  
of the Evangelical Congregational Church  
Fall/Winter 2019 • Volume 31 Number 2

**FRONT & BACK COVER PHOTOS:**  
*These little girls are being loved  
on by Mission2535, under the  
leadership of Rick and Tammie  
Romano. See page 19 for article.*

