WINDOW ON WORLD – WINTER 2011

**Fall Missions Rally**

The Global Ministries Commission hosted its annual Fall Missions Rally for the Delaware/ Susquehanna regions on Saturday, October 15th. Salem E.C. in Lenhartsville graciously offered to host the rally again this year.

 We added a new track to our program this year, that of a youth event. Rev. Nate Kennedy, the youth leader representative on our GMC board, was in charge of that part of the day. There also was a separate program for the Mission Minded Kids age group (5-12) as well as adults.

 God blessed us with great attendances. Last year we had about 30 children attend; this year there were almost 80! Over 120 adults and 10 youth attended Saturday’s program as well. Our missionary speakers included David and Conce Roof who serve as church planters in Brazil with OMS, Kitty Miller who serves in Thailand under SIL-Wycliffe, Rev. Joe Toy who leads open air ministries, and Juan Porto, chairman of the board of El Retiro Juvenil which is the children’s home in Mexico begun many years ago by the late Mae Royer.

 A special appreciation luncheon program for pastors was held the previous Friday, October 14th. Those who attended were presented with a gift to thank them for helping to get the word about E.C. missions into their churches. Although the weather was not cooperative (it poured!) we had almost 50 pastors and wives in attendance.

 Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make both days successful. You can see a video clip of the Rally on our website, [www.ecglobal.org](http://www.ecglobal.org). Click on the right hand panel.

*Pat Strain*

**MISSIONARY PRAYER PARTNERS FOR 2012**

The following missionaries will be participating in the Missionary Prayer Partners program (formerly known as Spend-A-Day) for 2012:

Randy & Chris Amberman

Chris & Deb Bowers

Dave & Celia Dick

Daniel Dixon

Marcia Hopler

Jeremy & Kristin Kunkel

Nick & Lisa Lakatos

Kitty Miller

Robert & Bettina Schaeffer

Ed & Val Schubert

Ken Sears

Jim & Janet Stahl

BJ & Rachel Whitaker

Dan & MaryLynne Wills

Jonathan & Kathy Wilson

You can sign up on our website by going to [www.ecglobal.org](http://www.ecglobal.org) and clicking on the Missionary Prayer Partners tab on the left. Click on the 2012 calendar to see what months are still available for the missionary(ies) you want to partner with in prayer. You can also call the Global Ministries office and ask for Carla Sizemore (1-800-866-7584). Generally Carla is in the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon.

Want to know more about the Missionary Prayer Partners program? You can view a video with testimonials from some of our missionaries on our website at the Missionary Prayer Partners tab. If you would like a free copy of this short DVD with testimonials and instructions on how to participate, just call the Global Ministries office and we will gladly send it to you. Our E.C. missionaries tell us this program is unique to the E.C. Church, and they really appreciate it. Sign up as a church, a Sunday School class, a family or even an individual! Sharing in prayer with our missionaries is a great way to establish a connection with them, no matter where they are serving.

**SAVE THE DATE!** There will be a spring Mission Minded Kids rally for the Delaware/Susquehanna regions on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012. The rally will be held at Trinity E.C. Church, Boyertown. There will be missionary speakers, games, crafts, and curios for the children to purchase. Information will be sent out early next year, but mark this date on your calendars and plan on being at one of the most exciting and lively events on the E.C. calendar!

**BACK TO THE FUTURE**

By Lisa Lakatos

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? That’s a question often asked during a job interview and in April 2001, just 10 short years ago, we were taking part in an interview at Ebenezer EC Church in Jim Thorpe, PA, where Nick would begin pastoring in June. There were many questions that evening, and I’m not sure that where we would be in 10 years was one of them. I can honestly say that at that moment, living in Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world, was not on my radar. However, Mexico soon would be.

 In August 2001, our daughter Hannah began to pray each night for Mexico. She was almost four years old and when I asked her if she knew what Mexico was she replied something like, “It’s a big country with lots of people that need to know Jesus.” Then she told me, “God is talking to my heart and telling me I’m going to live there someday when I grow up.” And at that moment, Mexico made a blip on the Lakatos family radar screen.

 Nick and I had been missionaries for two years with One Mission Society (OMS) in Tokyo, Japan when we were younger and at this time Nick was on the regional advisory board. During one of the advisory board meetings, it was suggested that he take his family on a mission trip. Later Nick was invited to Mexico City to give marimba concerts and teach a seminary course on worship. So, in 2005 a small group of people from Ebenezer went to Mexico City to work on the final construction phase of the new SEMBIMEX (Biblical Seminary of Mexico) building while Nick gave concerts and worked with worship teams. At this time, Hannah was seven and Samuel four years old. They worked right alongside the adults, and Samuel left proudly proclaiming, “I work like a Mexican!” (High praise to himself, indeed.)

 Nick returned to Mexico the next summer to teach an intensive course at the seminary and came back home impassioned by what God was doing. It wasn’t long after that we were back in our home area of western Pennsylvania, worshipping in our home church Lakeside EC, and preparing for ministry in Mexico.

 Before heading to Mexico, we took part in cross-cultural training and church planting training at One Mission Society headquarters in Greenwood, IN. However, there was one more very important training ahead. We needed to learn Spanish, and the Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica has decades of experience training missionaries. So, in summer of 2010 we were off to Costa Rica for a one-year course of study.

 At the airport in San Jose we were met by one of our Mexico team members who was just finishing up his studies, and by Pastor William Araya, the head of the EC church in Costa Rica. It was a blessing to be a part of the EC family while living outside of our home country for the first time as a family. During the next year the majority of our time was spent in intensive language and cultural study. We were also blessed to see first-hand how the Lord is working in church-planting in the EC church of Costa Rica.

 Then on August 13, 2011, almost exactly 10 years from the time when Mexico entered the Lakatos family radar, we arrived in Mexico City to begin our life and ministry here. Our first couple of months have been filled with adjusting, continued study and visiting the ministries that OMS is involved in. Before beginning to teach at the seminary, Nick has been assigned for our first year to work with church planting teams. Besides greatly enjoying being a part of this ministry, it has also been helpful to him as he continues to learn language skills, the Mexican culture and gets to know pastors and seminary students who are church-planting. Hannah and Samuel are in school with other missionaries’ and businessmen’s children (over half of which are Korean). Nick and I also audited a seminary course on the history of the church here. And, I am slowly getting involved in ministry outside the home as everyone becomes better adjusted.

 We are so grateful to the church families at Canyon Falls EC in Beattyville, KY(where Nick first pastored while in seminary), Ebenezer EC in Jim Thorpe, PA and Lakeside EC in Transfer, PA for allowing us to learn from and with them about serving our Lord in ministry. Thank you also to the many, many EC churches who have supported us with your prayers and financial giving. We know that without our EC church family, we could not be here. We truly are grateful.

**SUMMER SERVICE IN SPAIN**

Spain is a country that is rich in Christian heritage, tranquil culture, and exceptional beauty. And for us it was just a place that my family had talked about going to someday, until this past year.

WHY WE WENT

Tasha and I had been looking for a family experience just like the one offered by the Andersons this past spring in the EC Short Stops. Each of the members of our family had participated in various ministry and mission experiences, but never together as a family. This was something that we sensed God placing upon our hearts, and so we expectantly waited for the right opportunity. When Tasha and I saw the short-term mission opportunity to help at an English Language Camp in Spain, we saw our many interests and abilities merge together. Both our teenage daughters were avid students in their Spanish classes at school, we had all participated in working with children and families in previous opportunities, and lastly Spain had been a destination that we had all talked about visiting someday.

OUR ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

We flew from Philadelphia to Madrid in July with another couple from the US, Jack and Nancy O’Rourke, who also responded to the same notice that we had read. We would join a small team of missionaries from the US and the UK along with the local leaders at a nearby church school to develop and run an English Language Camp during the weekend of July 15-17.

Once in Madrid, Ron and Brenda brought us to their office and guest house in Camarma, a small village located 20-25 miles northeast of Madrid. They were great hosts and leaders during our time together. We were invited into their home to eat exciting and tasty Spanish dishes, and spend the evening with neighbors in their communal neighborhood. Neighborhood blocks are comprised of secure, gated homes, where families lock their front doors, but share a community space inside with other residents of the block. It was here that we helped Ron and Brenda share some of the excitement about the English Language Camp that would be held that coming weekend.

Ron and Benda introduced us to the richness of Spanish culture with a few daily excursions to Alcala, Madrid, Segovia, and Avila. Ron was an encyclopedia of information about the various history, customs, and politics of the region. Not only were we enthralled with the beauty of the European architecture in Alcala, a surviving aqueduct in Segovia, and the fortified walls surrounding Avila, but we were also introduced to rich stories about St. Ignatius’ time at the University in Alcala, the history of Segovia, and a mystic named Teresa from Avila. We as a family very much appreciated the time that the Andersons spent helping us understand the lavish culture and beautiful people that were part of their ministry.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMP AND TOWN CELEBRATION

Ron and Brenda had spent much time in preparation for this event. The church school that borders the town shared the vision last year to develop and run an English Language Camp for the residents of the village. They developed a strategy that involved developing relationships between local residents and the mayor’s office with the school.

We helped by distributing flyers from home to home and conversing with residents about the camp to be held at the church school. During the event, we participated in workshops that helped adults, teens, and children specifically develop their English-speaking skills. Ironically, the younger ones had the best grasp of English and were receiving pointers about sentence structures and pronunciation, while adults were learning English vocabulary about sports terms, holiday activities, and food items.

The weekend concluded with a Sunday morning worship experience, (which brought many new families to the church school), and an afternoon American country music celebration with line dancing, fun activities for children, and wordless bracelet distributions in the village square. It was exciting to behold our earlier simple conversations in the neighborhoods move to the intentional events at the camp, and finally come to full celebration in the village square. It was beautiful to see the missionaries and leaders entwined in the midst of the whole village with conversations, laughter and music. On this day, the village of Camarma experienced a brush with God’s kingdom.

THE KINGDOM GROWS

As we departed the village of Camarma, boarded our plane in Madrid, and came home, we were reminded of the power of the gospel and how it is held in community. We will forever remember the late night meals (Spaniards eat later than we do) on the back patio of the Andersons’ home. We will treasure the openness of the family-fused neighborhoods, the excitement of the children and adults involved with the camp, and the joyous celebration that lingers in the hearts of many people in Camarma.

In the end, we were impressed not only with the richness of Spain during this week, but by the way the kingdom of God moves relationally among people who were open to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**GMC Great Lakes Visit**

On September 16, Carla and I packed up the car and headed west for an 18 day road trip to visit, engage and interact with the EC churches in Illinois and Kentucky. I want to especially thank Nancy Wadsworth for helping to organize the logistics of this trip. We were blessed by the folks at the Dixon Bethel EC Church who graciously offered their Ministry House as our home base for a large part of the first leg of our tour. We arrived in Dixon, Illinois on Saturday, September 17 and met with our Illinois Mission Mobilizers that evening. On Sunday we spoke at St. James EC in the morning and had the privilege of speaking with the Afolkey EC youth and adults in the evening. Sunday evening we drove from the church to spend the night and the next day with GMC member Jerry Virtue and his wife Nancy. Their place is located on the family farm, out in the woods fairly close to the Wisconsin border. As we sat on their deck Monday evening watching the sunset, we were serenaded by a chorus of coyotes!

Tuesday evening we met with the Dixon Bethel prayer meeting and spent time praying around the globe for our EC missionaries and international churches. Wednesday we were given a tour of Rock River Bible Camp and saw some of the handiwork accomplished by the recent GMC Great Lakes Work Team. On Thursday we left the country and drove to the north side of Chicago to meet up with Rev. Salvador Cardoso, pastor of the Maranatha EC Church in Highland Park. Pastor Cardoso and his congregation treated us to a day in the city of Chicago complete with a visit to the Moody Bible Institute and the view from the newly named Willis Tower! Friday evening we enjoyed enthusiastic worship and the chance to share the ministry of GMC with our brothers and sisters at Maranatha.

Saturday morning we drove back to Cedarville to lead a day- long GMC training event with the Illinois EC Churches. Pastor Deschoolmeester and the Emmanuel EC church were excellent hosts and Jean Schubert did a fantastic job of organizing, promoting and planning this day of local church mission training. Our last Sunday in Illinois found us back in Chicago at the Kimball Avenue EC Church. I presented the work of the GMC via a power point presentation and then we enjoyed a time of refreshments, fellowship and some Q&A. Carla and I expressed our appreciation and then drove to Greenwood, Indiana to stay a few days with EC missionaries Dr. David & Celia Dick at the OMS International Headquarters. David arranged meetings for me with the President, Executive Directors, finance people and others at OMS so that we could get a better understanding of each other and strengthen the partnership between GMC and OMS. Our time there was very valuable and encouraging.

From Indiana we drove to Kentucky to speak at the Canyon Falls EC Church mission weekend. Pastor Bill and Gloria opened their home to us and treated us like royalty. I got to speak with some other Sizemores, and learned a little more of my family history. We enjoyed spending some time with retired missionary Fern Sweigert and sharing missions with the congregation Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday night. I even got the opportunity to teach the youth Sunday school class and Carla taught the children in junior worship. After traveling 18 days and over 2,600 miles, we were glad to pull into our driveway on Monday evening, October 2. We were encouraged and thankful to have this opportunity to make new connections and renew the many existing connections of so many men, women and young people in the EC Church who are partnering together for the sake of the Great Commission!

-by Randy Sizemore

**Multiplied Resources (cover article)**

By Randy Sizemore

Get out your Bible and read Mark 6:30-43.

Imagine the scene and listen to the conversation between the disciples and Jesus.

**Disciples:** “This is a remote place, and it’s getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy themselves some food.”

**Jesus:**  “You feed them.”

**Disciples:**  “With what? It would take a small fortune to buy enough food for this crowd!”

I’ve had a similar conversation with Jesus; haven’t you? It seems the needs of our world grow larger and larger while the resources continue to shrink. Jesus’ practical answer to the disciples on that day remains true today, *“you bring to me what you have and I’ll multiply it.”* As we bring our gifts to Jesus, He is multiplying them to feed the spiritually and physically hungry of our world through the missionaries and ministries of the Evangelical Congregational Church family. In this issue of *Window on the World*, you will meet the Byerly family who offered their gifts to Jesus through an English camp ministry with EC missionaries Ron and Brenda Anderson in Spain. You will read the exciting report on the Fall Family Mission Rally hosted by Salem ECChurch, made possible because so many individuals were willing to give their time, talent and treasure to Jesus to make this weekend a great success. You will see the updated EC missionary map and Giving Catalog that represent the countless number of individuals and families who are giving their all to Jesus in order to fulfill the Great Commission.

The conclusion of the Mark 6:30-43 passage tells us that every hungry person there that day ate until they were satisfied, and there were plenty of leftovers! The needs of our world are indeed very large and growing, but God is not asking us to meet the needs of the entire world. He only asks that we bring what we have and allow Jesus to use it for His glory. Together, as we each bring our gifts to Jesus, He is blessing and multiplying them to further the Good News in both word and deed in and through the global EC Church family.

GMC GIVING CATALOG UPDATE

2011-2012

INTRO: (use new headshot of Randy)

In 2007 we introduced a new way to give a gift to the world and to a loved one with the first GMC Giving Catalog. Your response was encouraging as you paged through that publication and allowed God to whisper His direction into your heart and giving. ***We are in the process of researching how we can make this giving catalog experience simpler and more user-friendly. In the mean time we offer this updated version of the ministries and projects that are near and dear to the heart of so many in the EC Church.*** Once again I encourage you to prayerfully consider this updated catalog of giving opportunities as it follows our determination to *Empower National Churches, Facilitate Mission Workers, Minister To The Marginalized and Create Global Christians.* If you use this catalog to give a gift in honor or recognition of someone you love and admire, we’ll send a card so you can let them know you contributed in their name. Thank you for giving to the Lord through His Church!

Randy Sizemore, Director

EMPOWERING NATIONAL CHURCHES

**1. Training New Believers in Liberia:**

The follow-up phase of our successful Launch Liberia project involves intentional discipleship. You can help Liberian pastors disciple new Christians in their faith and grow to maturity. A donation of any amount will help meet the needs of the “Fishers of Men” Discipleship Ministry:

* Training materials for disciples (5year program with 4 levels of training)
* Fuel to run the generator for classroom instruction, photocopying, etc.
* Transportation: a vehicle to transport the trained disciples to strategic locations in the villages to carry out their ministry of presenting the Gospel. (approx. $20,000)
* Bibles: Bibles in the tribal language cost $5.00 each or $25.00 per case.
* Support for the Field Superintendent’s office.

**2. Church Planting in Japan:**

On May 23, 2010 the EC Church of Japan launched Fuchinobe Community Church in a rented room in Fuchinobe Station under the leadership of church planters Rev. Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe. ***One year and six months later the attendance has almost doubled*** ***and creative outreach ministries such as French cooking classes, an Alpha-based marriage course and friendship evangelism are introducing a number of Japanese people to the saving love of Jesus Christ.*** Your monthly donation of $25.00 or one time gift of any amount will allow this church planting couple to focus more time on the new church in its critical start-up stages and less time on providing for their daily needs.

**3. Critical Encouragement for Mexican Pastors:**

The EC Church of Mexico continues to thrive in the midst of the unrelenting violence caused by the war between the drug cartels. Churches are being planted, souls are being saved and the church has matured to the point of reaching out to help other international EC churches. Your financial gift of any size will send a message of encouragement to our brothers and sisters serving in the turbulent environment of northern Mexico by helping them cover the costs of the quarterly pastors’ meetings, women’s ministry gatherings and continuing education materials and opportunities for their pastors and lay leaders.

FACILITATING MISSION WORKERS

**4. Nepal Mission Pastors & Evangelists:**

The EC Church of Nepal continues to reach one of the least reached areas of the world. Their

14 mission workers have established 10 churches and 8 church plants totaling over 800 members!

Your gift of $50.00 will support one of these workers and his family for a month, allowing them to continue reaching the poorest country in Asia with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**5. Evangelical College of Theology Faculty and Students:**

The faculty at Evangelical College of Theology in North East India is on a mission to prepare the next generation of leaders. Students at ECT are the future of the mission-minded EC Church of India. Both faculty and students need financial assistance to continue this vital ministry training. A donation of $25, $50 or more will help offset the costs of both faculty and students engaged in missional training for the future growth of the Kingdom.

**6. Missionaries in North East India:**

The EC Church of India currently deploys almost 200 missionaries ministering at 77 mission stations located in 4 countries among 12 different people groups comprised of 20 languages and 5 major religions. These men and women face severe hardship and regular persecution as they faithfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ, living far below the poverty level. Your monthly donation of $20.00 or more will help us keep them on these needy fields.

MINISTERING TO THE MARGINALIZED

 **7. Women and Children’s Ministry in Liberia**

During the years of civil war from 1989 -2003 the people from Liberia were brutalized, families were torn apart and many children were forced to act as soldiers. The male population was devastated and many women now find themselves single mothers, responsible to care for their families. Your financial gift of any amount will help further the self-sustainability of these women through micro-enterprise programs and care for those children who have lost both father and mother.

* Micro-enterprise loan program to help families become self-sufficient
* Care of orphans who lost their parents in the war
* Education: Kindergarten through 6th grade school. ($7.50 per month can support a child in school).
* Sunday school teaching materials & visual aids to be used in local churches

**8. El Retiro Juvenil Children’s Home:**

El Retiro Juvenil children’s home in Mexico currently ministers to 34 children who need a safe, loving and stable environment where they can grow and develop while learning about Jesus Christ. Most of these children come from abusive and needy family situations. Directors Carlos & Martha Reyes are making great strides to make El Retiro as self supporting as possible, but need your help to care for these underprivileged children. Your donation of any amount will help provide for the needs of these children.

***We have a limited number of individual child sponsorships that allow you to have a direct connection with the child you sponsor including a photo and correspondence. These individual child sponsorships are $100 per month. Contact Carla Sizemore at the GMC office for more information on individual sponsorships***

**9. World Emergency Fund:**

In our complex world a natural disaster, medical need, political situation or a whole host of unplanned, unexpected and unnamed circumstances can pop up at any time, creating an emergency for one or more of our brothers and sisters in the global EC Church. In most cases a little financial help can make the greatest difference in the outcome of these emergencies. Your donation of any amount will be added to others and will be an enormous blessing in times of great need.

CREATING GLOBAL CHRISTIANS

**10. Information, Education and Promotion:**

How do we tell the average person in the pew what God is doing in the EC Church around the globe? How do we educate, inspire, and challenge each other to be global-minded followers of Jesus Christ? The GMC has chosen to use publications like *Window on the World* and the *EC Global Prayer Guide* to educate and inspire, to call our members to prayer and action. Occasionally we have professional DVDs produced that allow our members to see, hear and experience global ministry. We sponsor GMC Training Seminars and organize adult and Mission Minded Kids rallies. All of this comes at a cost. Your donation to the general fund allows us to continue to produce top quality resources that tell the story of the EC Church around the world and to gather God’s people for training and events that enhance our fulfillment of the Great Commission. (in the current photo, we should change the EC Scene to EC Global Prayer Guide)

**11. Home Office Staff:**

What does it take to keep our 53 EC missionaries serving in 12 countries with over 20 sending agencies in place? What does it take to oversee the ministry and partnership of approximately 500 international EC Churches located in six different nations? What does it take to work closely with the EC Churches in the United States being careful to engage each new generation while strengthening the existing mission program? It takes a dedicated army of volunteers and a small but highly motivated staff. Your regular giving to the general fund will help meet the support needs of the Executive Director, Deputy Director of Missionary Care and part-time office assistant of the Global Ministries Commission.