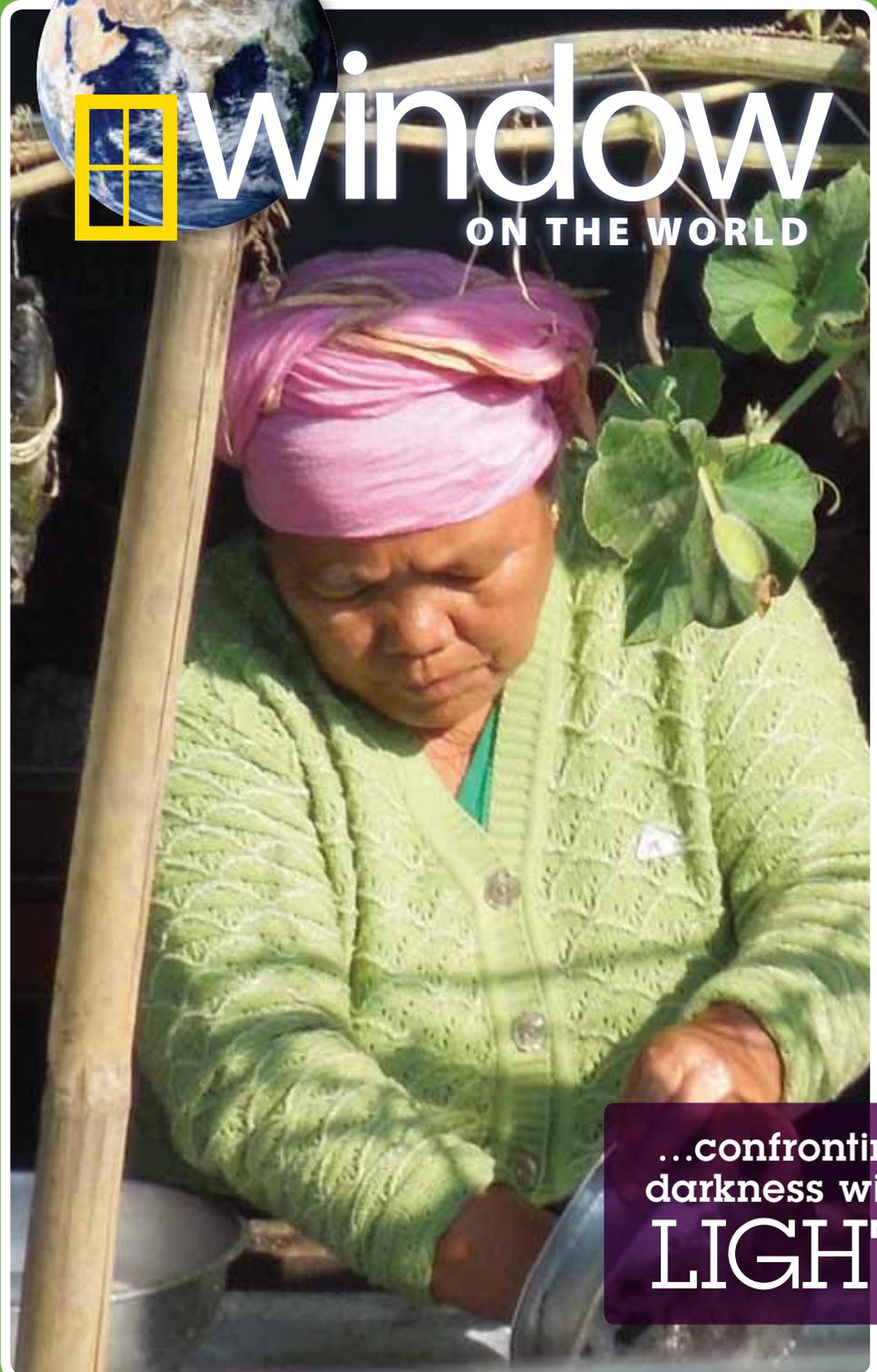


A publication of the Global Ministries Commission of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



...confronting
darkness with
LIGHT

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THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION is the international ministry arm of the Evangelical Congregational Church. With missionaries in nine nations, over 400 churches in six 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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– by Randy Sizemore,
Executive Director
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Commission

Thy Kingdom Come

IF YOU HAVE BEEN PAYING attention lately you probably noticed that this world is a very uncertain, unstable place. Sometimes we mistakenly think it is becoming worse or getting worse, but before we put the world in the proverbial hand basket we should check our comparisons. The world is worse than what? Or the world is worse than when? A careful reading of the Bible will show that since Cain murdered his brother in anger, sin has not only been crouching at the door, it has been running freely through the entire house! The good news ...

is, so has the Good News! There is not a place on this planet that is off-limits to God and He has called committed and caring men, women, and youth who are in place right now confronting the darkness and confusion with the light of Jesus Christ. In this issue you will read of front-line pastors and missionaries, secondary support staff like pilots, teachers and medical workers and home base folks who support them all through prayer, finances and other practical ways who are working together, not necessarily to create a better world but to invite as many as possible into the Kingdom of God through his son, Jesus Christ, who has promised not a better world but a new heaven and a new earth to his children. ☺

... confronting
darkness and
confusion with
the **LIGHT**
of Jesus Christ



Carrying the GOOD NEWS by Air

– Chris Bowers



IT WAS NOVEMBER 1, 2008, in the remote mountains of Sanduan Province, Papua New Guinea, where there are no roads, but there was loud singing, dancing, and feasting and it had been going on for several days with no signs of stopping! There were many women dressed in traditional grass skirts and men wearing headdresses made from hundreds of very colorful bird feathers. The repetitious pounding sound of the kundu drums was echoing in my head. This was the choruses of praises coming from the Bimin people, for they had received the Word of God in their own language for the very first time! This is just one piece of the puzzle we read about in Revelation, that people from every tribe,

tongue and nation will be worshipping the Lord together in heaven. Thanks in part to the many faithful years and hard work of Thomas and Christiane Weber, the Bimin people group will be among us for eternity. I had the privilege of flying the Weber family many times into their village to work among the Bimin people. When this official celebration of dedicating the newly translated scriptures was complete, I flew the Weber family out of the village. I had just witnessed an amazing event in history, one of the most rewarding aspects of my job as a missionary pilot, and now I was about to experience one of the most “terrifying” aspects of flying

...people from every tribe, tongue and nation will be worshipping the Lord together in heaven.



a single engine airplane over very rugged, mountainous terrain.... At just over 1,000 feet above the ground as we were climbing out of the Bimin valley the engine began to sputter. I looked at gauges and tried to quickly access what was going on. Within seconds, but what felt like hours, the engine was running again, but something

wasn't quite right. I eventually landed at a nearby airstrip and found that there was an issue with the turbocharger shaft causing the compressor blades of the turbocharger to rub on the housing producing a loss of engine power. Praise God that this situation ended like it did, as it could have easily had a different outcome given the circumstances.





On flights like this one, as well as the several thousands of other hours I flew during my 7 plus years in Papua New Guinea, I was extremely grateful for the training I received as a student at Moody Aviation. This training was from flight instructors who were experienced in the situations facing pilots on the field. Almost all of my flight instructors had served overseas with various mission organizations before taking on a role at Moody Aviation. This was so valuable from the technical side of flying an airplane in the rugged terrain, unstable tropical climates,

and limited support in most developing countries, but also in many non-technical ways as well. I learned many things about how to deal with cultural and inter-personal issues that were unique to living and working in another country, from people who had “been there and done that”.

Now, we are on the other side of the story as I, Chris, work as a flight instructor, sharing my experiences from flying in the country of Papua New Guinea with many students who are preparing and training in order to serve overseas themselves. We are currently assigned to Moody

aviation, as Wycliffe/JAARS has committed to supplying one pilot in order to train new missionary pilots. We are still members of Wycliffe Bible Translators but “on loan” to Moody Aviation. Thus we are not in a salaried position, but living on the financial support from friends, family, and churches who give

to our ministry through Wycliffe. I am teaching ground school classes as well as flight instruction to roughly 10 students each semester. It has been exciting to think about all the different places throughout the world that God will be sending these students as they fulfill the need of mission aviation in many remote locations in the years to come.

For many years, mission organizations have recommended and continue to recommend Moody as their first choice of training schools to anyone who comes to them with an interest in serving on the mission field in aviation. Moody Aviation exists to train pilots and mechanics specifically for overseas missionary service.

My wife, Deb grew up in Papua New Guinea for 10 years while her father served as a missionary pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

It has been exciting to think about all the different places throughout the world that God will be sending these students...



She later returned to the mission field, arriving back in Papua New Guinea as a single lady, teaching at the Wycliffe Bible Translators mission school. She spent another 3 years working there after we were married. So now, Deb has been able to meet with wives and female students at Moody Aviation and share with them from her unique perspective of being on the field as a missionary kid, a single missionary teacher, as well as the spouse of a missionary pilot.

God made it very clear to us in a number of different ways that we were to take on this role at Moody Aviation, and at this point we will most likely be serving in our current roles for at least 2 more years. This is in part due to Deb (an Australian citizen) continuing to build residency time in the U.S. in order to qualify for dual citizenship status. Please pray with us that God will make it just as clear to us what might be next in our future plans, and if He doesn’t make it as clear, pray that we will be able to determine and follow as God directs, so that we might be faithful to Him as He has called us all to be. 🙏

CHRIS and DEB BOWERS are struggling to meet the support needs of their young family, due to the added expense of living in the USA. If you would be willing to help support the Bowers in this much needed ministry, please contact the GMC office at ecglobal@eccenter.com or call Pat at 1-800-866-7584. Thank you!





New Beginnings for an Ancient Culture

– by Pat Strain

THE EC CHURCH OF JAPAN celebrated two very important ‘firsts’ at the end of September. They celebrated becoming a National

Conference, on the same level as the EC Church USA, and then celebrated their first ordination as a National Conference.

Bishop Bruce Hill and his wife Gloria, GMC Director Randy Sizemore and his wife Carla, and Pat Strain composed the US delegation that traveled halfway around the world to take part in the ceremony in Japan. The EC Church of Japan had already been granted National Conference status in May at the National Conference of the EC Church USA. But it was very special to be able to take part in the celebration on their home soil. Bishop

Hill spoke at the ceremony, and the US delegation presented a journal with photos and well wishes from many of our EC church leaders and pastors.

Rev. Nobuo Abe, who had been field leader under the GMC, is now the Chairman of the EC Church Japan. After being officially installed, he had the honor of ordaining his son Tomoyuki as an elder. Tomoyuki and his wife Jessica are pastoring the Fuchinobe church plant. Bishop Hill and Rev. Sizemore participated in the ordination as well.

Currently there are two churches and a church plant in Japan, with another church planting couple, Yoriyoshi and



Emiko Abe, recently returned from the USA. Please keep our Japanese brothers and sisters in prayer, as they work to share Jesus within their own culture. 🌍



Sowing the Seed in Spain

— by Pat Strain

IN EARLY OCTOBER, a Vision Tour group of five people went to Spain to visit the Andersons and Whitakers. The idea was to ‘catch the vision’ of the work that Ron and Brenda are doing in Madrid, as well as the church planting being done by BJ and Rachel Whitaker in Alcora.

The team landed in Madrid and were met by Ron, who took us to the



City of Alcora, where Whitakers minister

guest house in Camarma operated by European Christian Mission International, the mission agency under which Andersons and Whitakers serve. Brenda works with women in a local prison. Most have been arrested for drug smuggling which is an automatic six year sentence. We took time to pray outside the prison for the ministry and for the ladies, many of whom have professed faith in Christ.

Although still a nominally Catholic country, Spain, like the rest of Europe, is

basically post-Christian. That means Christianity has little to no influence on the society. Many people feel they are Christian simply because they were baptized in the Catholic church, even though they don’t attend church or follow its teachings. This is making ministry especially difficult for evangelical church planters in the country.

As a result, the church plants have tried to reach out to their local communities to meet needs. There is a great interest in learning English which is the business language used most often in Europe. The unemployment rate averages around 25% in Spain. It is even higher in Alcora, the town where BJ and Rachel Whitaker minister. This town was the ceramic tile making center not only for Spain but most of Europe; at its height there were almost a dozen larger factories producing tile 24/7 to meet the needs during the housing boom. Then came the bust; as a result

the unemployment rate among younger workers (ages 18-40) is close to 60%.

Among the various ministries offered through ECMI are a food bank for some of the needy families, evening English classes for adults and children through a program called Spotlight Café, and an afterschool English story time plus craft for elementary age school children, held at a local library. Now that the Whitakers have rented and renovated a facility for their church plant, they hope to offer

more opportunities for the community.

Church planting in a post-Christian country such as Spain can be a long, slow process. It requires getting established in the community and making contacts, building relationships. People need to know you are there for the long haul. Please continue to pray for the Andersons and the Whitakers as they continue to serve the Lord faithfully in this country that they love and want to see come to a saving knowledge of Christ. 🙏

She served for more than 30 years as a missionary teacher...

Trading Hills for Heaven

JOHN DENVER ONCE wrote that West Virginia was ‘almost heaven’. I’m sure Fern Sweigert felt the same way about ‘them thar hills of Kentucky’, as she referred to them.

Although born and raised in Pennsylvania Dutch Country, Fern identified strongly with her adopted home of the hills of Kentucky. She served there for more than 30 years as a missionary teacher at the school established at our Canyon Falls EC Church. Fern and her late missionary partner Pauline Horst taught generations of young people, not only to know their math and literature, but to know the Lord. Even after Pauline passed away and the school closed, Fern remained at Canyon Falls and served in various capacities at the



church but primarily as a mentor and encourager of the members.

Fern’s health began fading several years ago, and it finally became necessary for her to move to a nursing home. Although her strength and mind continued to fail, she still loved to sing hymns and

smiled at anyone who came to visit her.

The Lord called Fern home to be with Him on May 5th of this year. Services were held both at Canyon Falls, KY and in Reamstown, PA. Fern chose to be buried in the family plot in PA.

Fern dedicated her life to serving the Lord and touched many lives in both PA and KY. Her legacy of faith and service is one that we all hope we can pass on to the following generations. 🙏



A Faithful Servant Called Home



THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION lost a good friend and faithful servant in early July when Rev. Russel Jones was unexpectedly called home to be with the Lord. Russ was a local preacher with the EC Church and had served as pastor of the Gratz and Williamstown churches, as well as filling pulpits for other EC churches in the area.

Russ served on numerous GMC work teams over the years, including those to Mexico, Costa Rica,

Kenya and Spain. However, it was the work teams to Victory Ministries camps in Alaska, especially Camp LIWA, where Russ' heart lay. He went to Camp LIWA in summer for over 20 years, usually as the team leader. He used his many construction skills, especially carpentry, to benefit not only the camps in Alaska but many of our EC missionaries over the years. Russ was also the chairman of the Delaware and Susquehanna Regions Work Team Committee for many years, and led the Committee members in doing much of the work rehabbing the third floor of Church Center in order for the Global Ministries office to move there.

Along with his construction skills, Russ loved sharing the Lord with people. He kept lists of all the folks who served with him on work teams and stayed in communication with most of them. Several have given testimony to Russ' influence in their lives. Russ was preceded in death by his wife Faye earlier this year. The two of them served together on many GMC work teams.

So many places and people around the world have Russ' fingerprints on them and their lives. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family throughout the EC Church and the world. 🌍

In Memory

WE WISH TO THANK the following people who donated to the Global Ministries Commission in memory of Rev. Russel Jones.

Leaders' Brunch

THE ANNUAL GMC Susquehanna Region Mission Leaders' Brunch was held on Monday, October 20th at the Dutch Way Restaurant on Route 422 just east of Myerstown. The group gathered for good food and an update on what was happening in the world of EC Missions. Director Randy Sizemore brought field updates, and Pat Strain spoke briefly of the recent Vision Tour to Spain to see and participate in the work of the Andersons and the Whitakers.

Next year we are considering holding the brunches on a Saturday morning. We realize that if we alternate between weekdays and Saturdays, we hope to be able to reach a wider audience. Also, you do not have to be the Missions President or Chairman of your local mission society to attend these brunches; all interested parties are welcome! Watch for the announcement of next year's dates; we will publish these soon. 🌍

2015 VBS Project

AT THEIR FALL board meetings, the Global Ministries Commission has appointed the country of Nepal to be the recipient of our 2015 VBS Project. We will be raising funds for the Mercy Home, an orphanage operated by Rev. Janga, the field leader, and his wife. More information will be sent in future publications. 🌍

MMK UPDATES

The Mission Minded Kids Lessons for 2014-2015 are available on the denominational website. The country of Liberia is being featured.

Save the Date: March 7, 2015 – The Mission Minded Kids Rally will be held at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown. More details will be sent out soon, but reserve this date! 🌍

- Lucille Putt
- Paul & Marla Myrick
- Dale L. Jones
- Gail Paul
- St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Reinerton, PA
- Dr. James & Karen Bouchard
- Edgar Cowan III
- Ebenezer EC Adult S.S. Class
- Grace EC Church, Muir, PA
- Nancie Young
- Patricia Strain
- John Cheyney
- Jean Link 🌍



OCTOBER 2014

International Church Update

JAPAN ENGAGES THE NEXT GENERATION

WE HAVE BEEN partnering with our brothers and sisters in Japan to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to their country for over fifty years since Rev. John and Machi Masuda were commissioned to return to Japan in 1962 and begin what we now know as the Evangelical Congregational Church of Japan. Recently recognized as a self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating National Conference, the leadership of the EC Church of Japan under the direction of Chairman Nobuo Abe is engaging the next generation with the Good News of Jesus Christ. In September GMC Director Randy Sizemore and Bishop Bruce Hill lead a delegation to Japan to celebrate their new National Conference status and to discuss our future partnership in evangelism, discipleship and church planting in Japan. Chairman Abe and his leadership team plan to use a variety of strategies to engage their culture including reaching out to:

- Mothers and infants through nursery programs
- Couples and parents through marriage and parenting courses
- Individuals through the Alpha course and prayer ministries
- Friends and family through small group ministries
- Children through English camps and programs
- To the community through music programs

Fuchinobe Community Church plant continues to grow and mature under the direction of pastors Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe. Once again this summer they hosted an English camp for 40 children and had the



opportunity to build relationships with many who do not know Christ. Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe have completed their training in the states and have recently returned to Japan to begin the next phase of church planting. The GMC has committed to help financially support the current church planting efforts in Fuchinobe and the new work which Yoriyoshi and Emiko will lead. The EC Church of Japan has made great progress and stands ready to engage the next generation with the Gospel. The global EC Church is committed to stand with them as they share the love of Jesus in this challenging and sometimes unwelcoming culture.



INDIA'S COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY WELCOMES COMPUTERS

IN 2013 THE GMC organized a work team to travel to Churachandpur, North East India to help the EC Church of India's Evangelical College of Theology (ECT) build a security wall, train women in evangelism and to begin establishing a computer lab for the college students. John Price from our Plymouth Meeting EC Church was the point person and catalyst behind the computer project. He graciously agreed to return to ECT this summer to continue the computer project. Below is an excerpt from his most recent trip.

"Our goal was to create a server-based system for the laptops that we took last year. This required having to completely reinstall all the software on all the laptops and install a new server and configure it. In addition to this project, about two weeks before the trip Lalrosiem Songate contacted me about the possibility of funding a solar generator for the computer lab. The cost was \$900 and with contributions from me, my parents and a family from last year's trip we were able



to fund the project. I was privileged to witness the installation of the much needed equipment. In addition to my work with the computers I was invited to preach at Lalrosiem's church the Sunday I was there.

I trained the teachers and students how to use the new computer system and worked with a new friend named Benjoy who will now oversee the computer lab. By God's grace there might be a third trip in my future to continue the progress. I am not sure who is blessed more on these trips; me or those I go to help. I come back spiritually recharged from the strong faith of the people of the area!"

If you would like to partner with the church planting efforts in Nepal, please make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked **"Nepal"** and send it to the GMC office.

NEPAL GROWS TOWARD BECOMING NATIONAL CONFERENCE

REV. TH. JANGA and his wife Mercy are doing an excellent job of leading the fledgling mission conference of the EC Church of Nepal or ECCN toward maturity in the midst of financial limitations, a lack of experienced and trained leaders and the increasing opposition and threats from the non-Christian communities in which they are planting churches. Currently Janga is in conversation with a local



"Bible School" to see if he can partner with them to help provide some of the much needed training for his pastors and mission workers. Janga has also begun forming his pastors and leaders into a conference, teaching them about accountability and financially supporting the conference. Under his leadership they began drafting a constitution to guide their growth toward National Conference status.

Like our other international EC Church leaders, Janga has a true global vision and is leading the ECCN in partnership with our other international conferences in prayer and financial support. We continue to receive regular reports and photos of the new works springing up from their foundation of prayer, fasting, study and sacrificial lifestyle. In his latest report Janga highlights 80 new converts, 58 baptisms and the planting of 2 new congregations! I am working on the logistics of inviting Rev. Janga and Mercy to the USA next spring to deepen our connection and partnership between the USA and Nepal conferences and to strategize the way forward for ECCN.

MEXICO GAINS FORWARD MOMENTUM

THE EC CHURCH OF MEXICO under the leadership of Rev. Elias Martinez continues to build momentum as they move forward to becoming a self-governing, self-supporting, self-propagating National Conference. In the last issue of *Window on the World* I documented at length their local and cross-cultural evangelism outreach strategies. At their Annual Conference sessions in April the local churches reported 36 conversions and 13 baptisms from their localized congregational ministries and 25 additional conversions and baptisms from joint campaigns and crusades. A new chapter in the life of this conference is the construction of a building for the newly chartered "Casa de Dios" congregation in Rio Bravo. What makes this building project so exciting is that it is truly a conference-wide project with over 50% of the EC congregations



If you would like to help the EC Church of Mexico with the costs of the new church construction, make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked **"Mexico construction"** and send it to the GMC office.





contributing finances, materials or labor to see this church built! The GMC Mexico Committee and Great Lakes Work Team are currently discussing a plan to help with this project, not by sending a work team to lead the work, but by sending a team of laborers to work under their leadership similar to the way we sent the team to help build the security wall around the Evangelical College of Theology for the India conference last summer.

EL RETIRO CHILDREN'S HOME FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

CURRENTLY ERJ is ministering to 27 children. In the last year and a half the GMC and the Board of Directors of ERJ have been struggling with the way forward because of the new comprehensive government regulations now required for all children's homes and orphanages. These new regulations are so difficult to implement that 30 of the 68 homes in the surrounding area have closed. ERJ is one of the 38 homes left but in a recent visit

by the government department that oversees the new regulations, ERJ failed the evaluation and was given a list of 40 indicators to comply with before they can be granted certification to remain in operation. We are now one of seven homes on a "critical list". Without going into great detail about the indicators, I can say that they would require more staff, more training, more expertise, more administrative capacity and of course more income and revenue than we now have or know how to generate. We do not have a deadline or time line to know when we have to comply with these regulations

If you would like to partner with ERJ as they continue to minister to the needy children in Mexico make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked, "El Retiro" and send it to the GMC office.

and what exactly will happen if we cannot. In the mean time ERJ remains open and we continue to minister to the needy children of Mexico. Please keep Directors Carlos and Martha, the Board of ERJ and the GMC in prayer as we walk through this largely unknown journey together.

LIBERIA CHALLENGED WITH DEADLY VIRUS

THE EC CHURCH OF LIBERIA (ECCOL) has been caught in one of the most serious health crises of a generation. The Ebola virus outbreak concentrated in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has been responsible for 2,400 deaths. The World Health Organization has record of 4,784 cases of Ebola but is very clear that this is a serious underestimate. WHO is estimating that some 20,000 people could be affected. At the time of this writing there were 400 new cases in Liberia in a week's time without a single hospital bed available. In response to this crisis, the GMC has sent \$25,000 to the leadership of ECCOL to help as many of our members as possible. We have lost at least one pastor and several members to this virus and if the WHO's predictions are accurate, we will most likely lose





more. The recent edited update below from Rev. Powell in Liberia gives a true picture of the challenges they are facing.

"...the virus is spreading like wild fire. It continues to kill leaders and future leaders of our nation. It has spread to 12 of the 15 counties of Liberia. Just this weekend one of our Pastors,

Peter Garway, his wife and brother died from the Ebola in Margibi County. This was the place where the outbreak first started and we were (through your support) able to remove our members and took them to safe place. When the situation subsided and the Government announced that the area was now safe, we carried them back. Unfortunately, again, a wider and severe outbreak has emerged. Pastor Garway has been one of our strong and dependable Pastors in that region. His death is a big blow to the ECCOL and work in that area. The total death including Ophelia Scott has increased to 4. May their souls rest in perfect peace. The heart breaking thing is that while we worry about the

entire grave situation in our country, prices of goods and services are on the increase and all of the funds you sent including those ones we raised locally have been depleted. However, we give GOD thanks for his provision. We are only trusting God for further movement.

This crisis will very likely hinder the forward progress of the church planting and discipleship ministries of ECCOL. The Annual Conference of ECCOL which includes the election of new conference leaders to replace expired terms is scheduled for January 2015 but depending on the status of the virus outbreak, they may not be able to hold the conference. Our prayers are that God spares the leadership team of ECCOL so that the church can continue to minister in the midst of this crisis and then rebuild once it is over. 🙏



If you would like to partner with Liberia in their ongoing ministries, make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked "Liberia" or if you would like to help with this specific Ebola crisis make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked **"World Emergency Fund"** and send it to the GMC office.





◆ **Ashland Bethany EC** – My name is Rachel Stankiewitch and within the past year I've had the opportunity to take two trips to Guatemala (in March and in November) to do mission work with Gospel Rooted Ministries. The first trip I took was with a group of students from my college (Carson Newman

◆ **Ephrata Grace & Akron Grace, PA** – A group of 19 people from House of Blessings-Ephrata, Akron Grace and Ephrata Grace traveled to Whiteriver, AZ in July 2013 to serve on the Apache Reservation with AIM. Most of us, plus a few new members, returned in July 2014. We partnered with Riverside Church to help with their ministry to children. We held VBS for the children for two hours in the afternoon. We also presented a women's retreat two mornings while we were there. We volunteered at a pregnancy center, sorting clothing and painting. Pray for Pastor Tina and her congregation at Riverside Church as they face many difficult circumstances. The suicide rate on the reservation is very high as are alcohol and drug addiction. The people feel they are without hope. Pray that we planted seeds of the hope we have in Jesus with the people in Whiteriver.

University) and the second time was with another Carson Newman student. During my time in Guatemala I was able to visit various parts of the country to spread the gospel and work on service projects. Most of these projects included hosting vacation bible schools at the elementary and middle school levels, delivering water filters, constructing a small church, building stoves, and preparing a fish farm. I also had the opportunity to speak at church services, women's bible studies and in schools, sharing my testimony and what it means to be a follower of Christ. Gospel Rooted Ministries is a fantastic ministry that I hope



to do more work for in the future. The love and support I receive from friends, family and church family is a wonderful representation of Christ's love. I'm so blessed to have them supporting the opportunities God lays before me.

◆ **Manheim Trinity EC** sent a volunteer group of young men to Twin Pines Camp for a Mini-Mission Work Trip. During the four day June 2014 trip, the group painted outside equipment and cleared a trail for vehicle access to a remote area. The group worked independently to assist in the preparation for the Summer Season of campers. This annual trip has allowed Twin Pines personnel to be free for other projects needed at the Camp. – *Lauren Gochnaurer*



◆ **Harrisburg Trinity EC, PA** – The Trinity youth group took a group of 14 to Manassas, VA to serve in Group's Week of Hope from June 22-27, 2014. . During this week, we served by working with kids in summer camps, volunteering at homeless shelters, beautifying local parks, and volunteering in nursing homes. Also, God met with our group in amazing ways during this week and all of us had life changing experiences that we will remember forever! – *Ryan Martin*





I would be remiss in not mentioning Rev. Angam. Pictured on the right next to Elder Gante the chairman of ECCI, he is the General Director (Bishop of ECCI). He spent time touring me around and getting me from place to place. He also helped to provide many new insights as we built better relationships as brothers in Christ. These relationships will hopefully lead us into a stronger

church here and abroad. – *Rev. David Swift.*

◆ **Zion EC Church, Myerstown, PA** –

On April 23 I left Myerstown to travel to The E. C. Church of India located in the city of Churachandpur, Manipur in the north east region of India. This would be my fourth trip in 14 years to the first of our International conferences. The initial purpose of the trip was to accompany Dr. Ken Miller as he was to present the Evening addresses to the 43rd Annual Leadership Conference. My presentations were to focus around meeting with leadership and addressing the ECT our College/Seminary in Churachandpur. When Dr. Miller was not granted a timely visa my responsibilities then included the Conference also.

Meetings with the leadership helped to cement relationships established over the last few years as well as to be able to see the work accomplished by the work team of 2013. I saw the wall they constructed and heard stories of the relationships built through the seminars held for the women during the wall construction.

◆ **Bethesda EC at Reedsville** –

A team of eight - Pastor Jeff and Tasha Byerly, Steve Minnich, Sara Stoyer; Doug, Kirby and Tristan White; and Connie Wright - traveled to Belem, Brazil, from July 24 to August 5 to minister with David, Conce and Andrew Roof. Despite challenges in getting to their destination the Lord enabled them to arrive just one day late! The congregation at the Icoaraci Church welcomed them warmly and provided the base for outreach. About 70 children



participated in a special “Happy Day” event, similar to our VBS. Then, youth and adults attended a three day English camp, provided by the team. While appreciating the sights, sounds and tastes of Brazil, the team would probably say that the best part of the trip was the relationships they formed with the Brazilian people. Thanks to the Roofs for their wonderful hospitality! – *Connie Wright*

Amy Babb has been an active participant in the ministry of Youth With A Mission during 2014. In January she began discipleship training at YWAM’s Texas facility and then served in New Orleans and Panama. After a short visit home to PA in June, Amy returned to YWAM Texas, where she is attending the School of Evangelism and will eventually minister in Detroit and Mexico.

◆ **Faith EC Church, Temple, PA** –

Hi my name is Tammy Schaeffer. My youth group and I went on a mission trip in 7/2014. We went to Blue Knob, PA, right outside off Altoona with an organization called Team Effort. The youth group, Andy Becker and I were working on the home of a widow and her brother. Some of things that we worked on were: we tore down the back porch and started building another one, we put primer on the outside of the house and we redid her garden in the front of house. This was a very trying week for my group; not only did we deal with some accidents we also had to deal with the death of a loved one of our youth leader. The youth worked so hard to get the back porch completed and to tear down the walls. We did not get the back porch done

but we managed to get pretty far on it. The one project we did get done was the new garden in the front of the house. I had the pleasure of watching God work thru my youth and how satisfying that was to my heart. We shared lots of sweat and tears that week; however there was lots of laughter too. The youth that went were Connor Becker, Tyler Becker, Owen Schaeffer, Trevor Schaeffer, Catherine Green, and Brandon Bogoniewski. On a side note the youth group did fundraising and raised all the money on their own.





◆ **Sinking Spring Community EC, PA** – Lori Koons, a nurse, served at a camp for orphans south of Moscow in late June-early July. Agape Unlimited promotes health and shares God's love through medical assistance to those who have little or no access to health care. There were 34 children served at the camp.

Three youth served as counselors at Twin Pines camp this summer; Joshua Kuipers, Kaitlin Price, and Jason Price. This was the first year for Josh and Jason, but Kaitlin had served before.

Seven teens and four adults traveled to Dinwiddie VA for a GROUP work camp along with over 400 others from all over the nation. They ministered to local people through home repair and light construction projects. Among other things, the Community group built a number of wheelchair ramps and decks

◆ **California EC, Morgantown, PA** – The youth had a great experience with Christian Endeavor's Life Builders Work Camp in New Jersey this July. We worked on home repair projects for families in Atlantic City whose houses were damaged during Hurricane Sandy. We hung drywall, taped, spackled, sanded, painted, and put in tile and laminate flooring. In the evenings we enjoyed worshipping with other youth groups and studying the Bible along the theme of "Strong in the Storm." Mark 6:50

◆ **Ebenezer EC, Brownstown, PA** – Justine and Austin Eldridge and Ben Imhoff from had the privilege to serve with Big Creek Missions in Kentucky. They were part of the work team from Mohns Hill.



for secondary exits. 37 projects were completed in the week long session (July 27- Aug 3.) The team consisted of Pastor Matt Hill, Harold Wheeler, Chip Hunter, Kathy Schultz, Sydney Schultz, Dana Schultz, Celah Hunsicker, Sammy Bentz, Corinne Hunsicker, Sarah O'Boyle and Cameron Brichta.



◆ **Ebenezer EC Church, Jim Thorpe, PA** – Mary Jane Sterling and Dana Dunbar joined Pastor Marie Terry of Christ Redeemer Church on an evangelistic visit to Scotland (Dec. 23, 2013- Jan. 3, 2014). Mary Jane is an accordionist and was able to play at various programs, including hospital visits and church services. They also did street evangelism and prayer walks.

◆ **First EC Church, Palmyra, PA** – In June, Jay and Barbara Johnson saw their dream to take their family to Alaska on a mission trip come true at Victory Ministries of Alaska. The Johnson family's "home" for 10 days was named Aspen Lodge and boasted 7 bedrooms with 3 toilets. The 13 family members shared

their home with the most beautiful view anyone can imagine. One project that was assigned to the Johnsons was to finish siding, sand, and stain a large log cabin that needed much attention. It looked like an overwhelming project to us. But the family attacked the log cabin and after five days, all of Victory including ourselves, were astounded at the completion and beauty of the home. We were then given the task to sand and stain a 150 foot porch/deck attached to the conference center. The family worked together very diligently and tirelessly till completion of their projects. They also stripped, waxed, and buffed the huge dining room floor on their own whim.

At 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 2nd, 7 members of the Sunshine Praise Puppets, from Palmyra First EC, started on an 8-day journey to Joplin, Missouri. At Joplin, they worked with the Boys and Girls Club spreading God's Love by conducting an all-day VBS type program from 9am – 6pm Monday thru Friday. The puppeteers were tired by 6pm each day, but excited to be able to share God's Word through singing, puppets and evangelizing to more than 200 children / youth. Through this program, 90 students/ leaders received Christ as their Savior for the first time or re-dedicated their lives. Friendships were developed through this trip. The team was showered with blessing after blessing on this trip; from travel mercies, to being part of children receiving Christ, to the new friendships they received, and for all the love and support they received to do this mission trip.





◆ **Hope Community Church, Fogelsville, PA** – sent a team to Punta Gorda, Belize to teach VBS, tutor students, and make friendships with the kids at the LOL Children’s Home. Over thirty children live at the home - all are either orphans, abandoned, or have been abused. The kids range in age from 3 to 17. In addition to spending time at the Home the team also traveled to San Felipe village where they spent an entire day teaching and playing with the kids of the village.

One of the highlights of the week was building a ga-ga pit and introducing the game to the kids at LOL. The team traveled from July 12 through July 20, and included Dawn Mengel, Doris Zellers, Megan Kulp, Drew Parry, John and Hailey Ilgenfritz, Chuck and Alisa Hardy, Joe and Suzi Siddons, along with Pastor Ken and Denise Kalisz.

◆ **St. David’s EC Church, Weigelstown, PA** – sent a work team of 13 youth and adults to Wycliffe Associates (WA) in Orlando, Florida. Wycliffe Associates is a ministry of Wycliffe Bible Translators. The team served from June

27 through July 4. The team performed tasks that assisted in the maintenance of WA property and facilities and organized materials for its English Language Learning ministry. They also visited the Discover Center of Wycliffe Bible Translators and toured the Jesus Film Project at Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) headquarters.

◆ **Trinity EC Church, Boyertown, PA** – Jonathan Knier—Ethiopia, MaryLee and Bill Boswell and Doug and Diana Smith—Ecuador, Week of Hope—Jr. High Work Camp Team, Christian Endeavor Sr. High Work Camp Team, Corinne Mancini—Malawi



families to Jesus. While we were there, we also got to experience some really neat cultural events that helped us to appreciate and understand the Spanish people better. One of our most important jobs in Spain was our interactions with our host families. We pray that Rachel and B.J.

On June 20th, seven of us from Trinity Boyertown traveled to Alcora, Spain to lead an English Camp for 64 kids. We joined Amy Friedlund, who had spent the prior 3 months doing an internship with Rachel and B.J. Whitaker. They had all spent the weeks leading up to English Camp doing a lot of advertising and preparation work. Our goal was to teach the kids some English, but mostly, it was to love them with the love of Jesus and introduce them to Rachel and B.J. Whitaker, who are living among them and want to have the chance to introduce their

will have an open door to continue a spiritual conversation with them, and eventually lead them to Jesus. – *Kathy Friedlund*

◆ **Trinity EC, Lititz PA** – sent a team of 14 (Sr. High youth and adult leaders) to a Reach Workcamp in South Webster, Ohio from July 6-12. The team helped paint, replace roofs, build decks and handicap ramps, and provide desperately needed repairs to numerous homes in the area. If you would like more information about Reach work camps please contact Pastor Ryan Taylor at logoyouth@gmail.com or visit www.reachwc.org



◆ **Grace Community Church, Willow Street, PA**

– On Saturday, July 19, 2014, a **team of nine** left to serve at Camp LiWa in Fairbanks, AK. Over the next two weeks the team assisted camp staff with numerous jobs around the camp which allowed the camp's staff to continue with their normal day-to-day camp operation tasks. The team also interacted with summer campers and counselors. Why participate on a work team?

Said one LiWa staff member, "I've been trying to get that job finished since October." God blessed the hearts of the team in many ways, He taught lessons in patience and flexibility and most important the opportunity to share His love with others. Members of the team were: Don and Diane Hess, Rick Hess, Kate and Laura Laukhuff, Heather Ranck, Dwayne Steager, Lindsey Ulmer and Denise Weidman.



This summer a six member team traveled to Dobreni Romania to serve at the Casa Ray orphanage. While there we conducted a Vacation Bible School program for the 20 children who call Casa Ray home. The Bible lessons focused on 2 Peter 1:5-6 and the children learned about prayer, brotherly kindness and knowledge. The children also learned how these characteristics could be seen in the life of Joseph and they concluded the lessons by performing a play of his life. A lot of time was also spent taking walks, baking treats, doing crafts and playing with the kids.

A team of 10 Students and 9 Adults from GCCWS served a mission week in Kentucky Appalachia, working to support the ministry outreach of our sister congregation, Canyon Falls EC Church. It was a very special week for each of the participants. During the week the team performed:

- Participating in the Sunday morning worship service by the students; Mike Hilt presented the morning message.



- Minor repairs/construction work on four homes in the community.
- Minor repairs at the Canyon Falls EC Church.
- Conducting a community outreach service on Tuesday evening.
- Conducting a fun night for youth in the church and community

The most special experience was one that was not originally in our plans, but God made a connection for this team to assist a senior, widowed female who was living in a broken down shack with her disabled son. She had no sink, no countertop or base cabinets, no cook stove, broken out windows and overgrown weeds and debris around the exterior of the shack. In spite of the horrible condition in which this lady and her son were living, she was full of the joy of the Lord; we never heard her complaining about these things; rather, she inspired all of the volunteers with her love for Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and her love for our team. What a BLESSING and INSPIRATION she was to all of us. The youth did a marvelous job cleaning up the exterior of the home. Base cabinets with sink and countertop were installed. Broken-out windows

were covered with clear plastic to keep out insects, bats, etc.

◆ **A crew of ten volunteers** from Grace Community Church of Willow Street, spent a week (April 26-May 2) at the Mennonite Disaster Service Storm Aid's Staten Island project, finishing the interior of 3 homes and partially finishing a 4th home.

Tasks included: installing, laminate and vinyl flooring, window & door trim and baseboards; installing kitchen and bath cabinets and countertops; and painting of the trim. We were blessed with a time of sharing with several of the families, including a family with a special needs child and another adopted, special needs child. 🌍



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