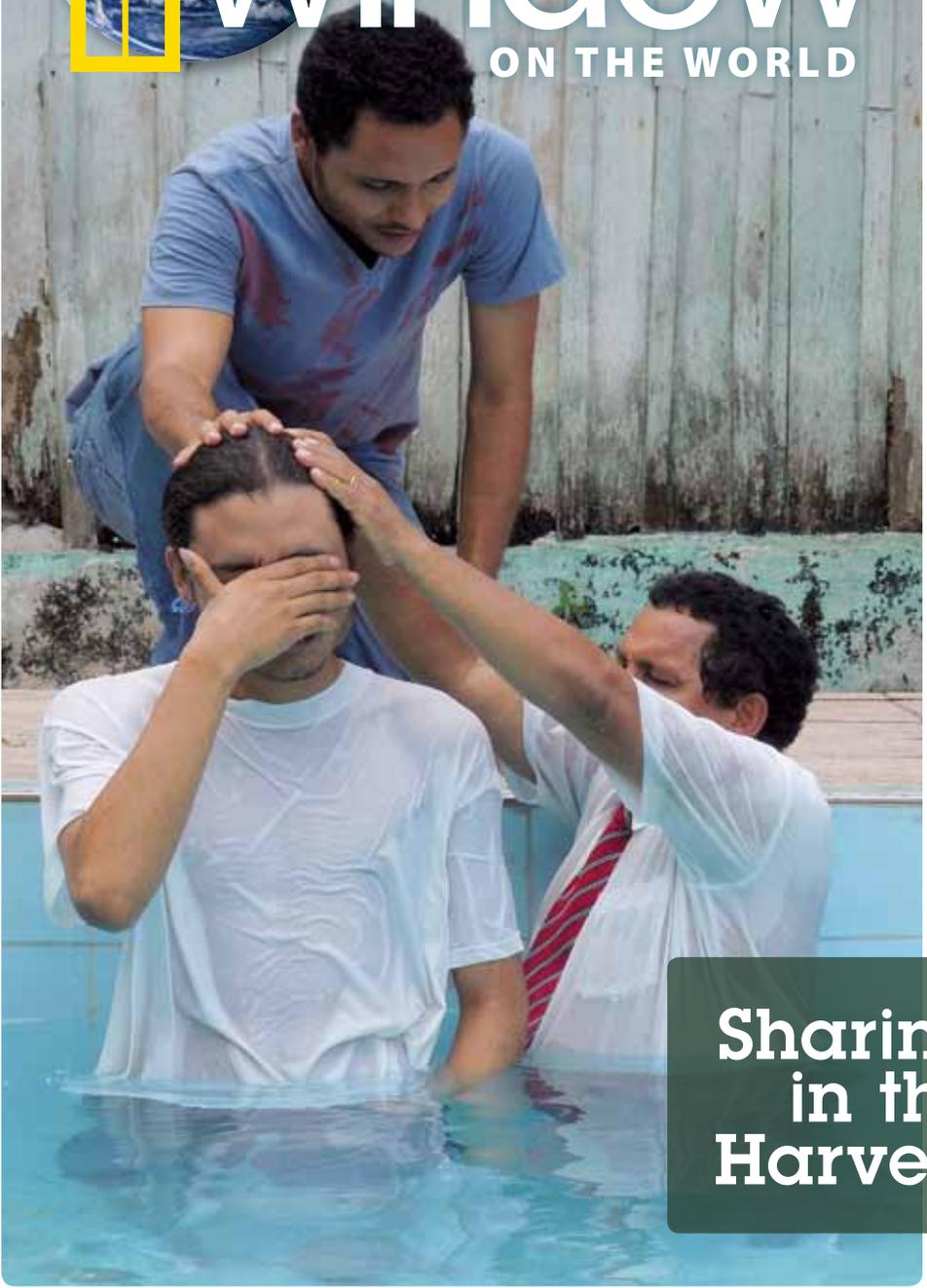


A publication of the Global Ministries Commission of the EC Church



# window

ON THE WORLD



**Sharing  
in the  
Harvest**

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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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# Sharing in the Harvest



I OPENED the refrigerator yesterday and saw a harvest of beautiful beets, crisp cucumbers and gorgeous green beans! I knew at once where they came from. A friend of mine loves to garden and loves to share the harvest. In the last issue of *Window on the World* we celebrated the various ways God uses us in planting the seeds of the gospel. In this issue you will read of the bountiful spiritual harvest that God is reaping through the efforts of our missionaries, international churches and folks at home who are engaged in the Great Commission! This ongoing process of preparing the soil, planting the seeds, cultivating and nurturing the young seedlings to maturity is exactly what Jesus had in mind when he spoke to his disciples about how our individual efforts combine to expand the Kingdom.



– by Randy Sizemore,  
Executive Director  
Global Ministries  
Commission

*Thus, the saying, “One sows and another reaps” is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor (John 4:37-38).*

The spiritual harvest we are celebrating in this issue is the result of a combined effort of many people both inside and outside of the EC Church, rolling up their sleeves and working hard in God’s fields! 🌍





# Droning on About Missions

By Dan Moury

**SOME ARE SMALLER THAN YOUR PALM.** Others can be a big as a dining room table. They might take the form of a plane, or maybe they have multiple propellers and no wings at all. Some carry cameras and some can fly almost all by themselves. Of course, I'm talking about "Drones."

Over the past few years, these devices have gained tremendous popularity. They've become everything from sources of fun for hobbyists to viable tools in fields like agriculture, delivery services, photography, videography, search and rescue, bridge inspection, real estate, and much more. As their popularity and potential uses have grown though, so have the concerns over the negative impact associated with the idea of a sky filled with drones. Now hold on a minute. This is a publication on missions. Why in the world are we talking about drones? Believe it or not, drones are becoming very useful even in the work of missions.

Imagine you are living in the jungles of Ecuador and are awakened in the middle of the night by a scream nearby. You quickly discover that a snake

has bitten your child. Immediately, you run to the home of your village leader and ask him to help. He has no anti-venom, but he does radio a medical base 20 miles away with your urgent request. A worker at the medical base loads life-saving medication into the drop pod on the bottom of a small flying wing. Knowing the GPS coordinates of an open landing strip near your village, he turns on his radio control transmitter, plugs in the plane's high-capacity battery, quickly programs in the flight path, and sends the craft off into the night sky. Half an hour later, you have retrieved the small pod from the airstrip and are giving the anti-venom to your child. Waiting till morning light for a full-scale plane or helicopter to fly to the village would have been a fatal decision.

This is no far-fetched story. In fact, the group I-TEC (Indigenous peoples' Technology and Education Center), started by Steve Saint (son of the martyred missionary, Nate Saint), is developing the equipment and training personnel in Ecuador to fulfill this very type of mission. In a recent conversation I had with their Director of Imagination, Troy Townsend, I was told that after talking with many bush pilots on the mission field, he confirmed that a great number of their flights consisted of transporting items no bigger than things that can be carried by hand—medica-

*...a great number of their flights consisted of transporting items no bigger than things that can be carried by hand—medication, radio parts, and other small equipment.*



tion, radio parts, and other small equipment. This is clearly an area where emerging drone technology can have a very positive impact in the world of missions. In speaking with several people in my own organization (Wycliffe Bible Translators), it's apparent that these same needs exist in many of the undeveloped areas in which we work, particularly those with challenging terrain and little to no transportation infrastructure.

So, what is my connection to all of this? For me, this emerging technology has become much more than just fascination. As a videographer and photographer for Wycliffe, the direct applications are obvious. Including aerial video of locations around the world can provide valuable context

to our stories and can give audiences dramatic and compelling views that couldn't be captured any other way.

Two years ago, the desire to capture just this sort of footage propelled me into this field. We were preparing for a trip to Papua New Guinea, and my Sr. Videographer was looking into the possibility of getting a small quad copter that we could equip with a GoPro camera. After getting approval to buy a "Show special" at a technology convention, he brought home Wycliffe's first quad copter about three weeks before the trip. Unfortunately, the competence of the salesperson

at the convention far outweighed the competence of both the craft and my Sr. Videographer's piloting skill. It was flown and crashed. I was asked if I could fix it, which I did. Then it was flown again, crashed again, and I was asked to fix it again. After the second rebuild, the mechanical engineer in me decided that this stuff wasn't all that complicated, and I just might be able to build something more capable for far less cost.

At the same time, a close friend of mine at Wycliffe, Kyle Edwards, was also beginning to dabble in radio-controlled aircraft and was curious about building them himself. Together, we started researching the methods, materials, and components needed to pull it all off. We began building cheap RC airplanes out of Dollar Tree foam board (yes, \$1 a sheet). We built tri copters out of scavenged materials, some items from the local hardware store, and cheap electronics from discount RC hobby websites. Soon we were flying...and crashing. But the way we developed our aircraft, we rarely broke anything more than a propeller and a few zip ties. All of this culminated in the opportunity to build Wycliffe's second quad copter this past spring. This was a custom design developed by Kyle and me over the course of about a year. It's purpose was to be a cost-effective, stable video platform that was easily packable, crash-worthy, and easy

**All of this culminated in the opportunity to build Wycliffe's second quad copter this past spring.**

to fix with common parts. We've used many a lunch hour this summer to test the craft and get it ready for service. While we haven't taken it to the field yet, it is slated to go with me to Finland in September and to Nepal in October of this year.

Whether it's capturing video for promotional pieces and narrative story telling, or delivering medication in the Amazon rainforest, drone technology has some amazing uses in the world of missions. It's exciting to be on the leading edge of these developments, and it's even more gratifying to see the ways that God has allowed my mechanical engineering background to be a very valuable asset to the work I'm doing for Wycliffe. It's also a blessing to be able to build some relationships with people like Troy Townsend at I-TEC, and be part of the discussion about how this technology can be used to minister around the world. So the next time you see something in the news about drones, positive or negative, just think, "God can even use drones for his glory."

If you would like to see an example of the footage we can capture with the aircraft we've designed, go ahead and check out a video I produced about another project I was part of this past spring called, "One Day for the Akebu." My friend, Kyle, did the piloting. I just rode my bike. The video is found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Saiyr9h0xac>.



# Called...not for a summer, but for a lifetime.

By David Roof



**THIS PAST JULY WE LEFT** our Brazilian home in Belém at the mouth of the Amazon River to come back to Pennsylvania for a brief three-month furlough. We returned via a weeklong conference with our Missionary Church's pastors and wives at a small church camp near the town of Iguaraçu. While there, in a conversation with a recently graduated seminary student, she asked me "How long have you been in Brazil?" I replied, "I first arrived here in 1987." Without hesitation, she responded, "that's been 28 years!" I was astounded at how fast she made the calculation even as she continued on saying, "I was born in '87" which enlightened me as to how she calculated so quickly the number of years. Not to be outdone with quick-wittedness, my response was "I guess that makes me as Brazilian as you are because we've both been here the same amount of time"

which brought with it that familiar and wonderful moment of laughter that is always present in Brazilian friendships!

To tell you the truth, just hearing that number "28" astounded me even more than the quick calculation had! It had been quite a long time since I myself had stopped to think about "how long have I been in Brazil?" Long enough for someone who was born the year I arrived to be a full time co-laborer with me for the cause of Christ? Astounding! Oh how God had plans so much greater than my small-time thinking way back in '87, when I first went to Brazil with Teen Missions. "I'll just dedicate this summer to the Lord and then get on with my life" was as far ahead as I could see back then! Now, Brazil has been a part of my life longer than it has not. By God's grace I've far exceeded the short sightedness I had that summer!

Fast-forwarding from our Teen Mission days to our present ministry with OMS, we are now in our fifteenth year serving with them and their



affiliated church in Brazil, the *Igreja Missionária*. You'll remember our first assignment was in the southern city of Londrina. Currently, we are now in our eighth year serving in the northern city of Belém. For both OMS and the *Igreja Missionária* this has been a pioneering effort. Brazil is a big country, bigger than the continental United States, and the vision of the church is to be present in every region of Brazil preaching the Gospel. After over fifty years of existence, there still was no *Igreja Missionária* outside of the central, southern and southeastern states of Brazil. Our role as OMS missionaries is to partner with the church and help them realize their ministry goals. As Conce is from the north and as our history with Teen Missions and our marriage all happened in northern Brazil, we were the natural choice to open up the North and plant the very first *Igreja Missionária* in the city of Belém.

When we first arrived back to Belém in June of 2008 we went there saying we want to plant a church and get a good foothold in the region for the



advancement of the Gospel. It's been a long and challenging process, but without a doubt that foothold has been established. Perhaps not yet with all the spectacular size we had dreamed about but by God's Grace the *Igreja Missionária* de Belém will flourish, winning many souls to Christ. No wonder when God calls us He calls us not just for a summer, as I had thought back in '87, but for a lifetime. It's already been half a lifetime of labor in the fields of Brazil and in so many ways we still feel that we are just beginning!

**Brethren, let each one remain with God in that calling in which he was called.**

1 Corinthians 7:24 (NKJV)

"Just beginning", yes, in the sense of finally feeling we are beyond the "getting a foothold stage" and are really now beginning on building the permanent.

The Lord has been so gracious in leading our small congregation through the metamorphoses of informally meeting on a house porch, to being ever present through the years of renting a facility, to faithfully providing for a place to call our own. True, a physical structure is not the church but in our case it has seemingly paralleled our church's journey to maturity.

Back in June of 2008 when we moved to Belém, we literally arrived there with an ECC work team to begin construction on the church. The group from Myerstown Zion graciously camped in tents set up around our home full of unpacked moving boxes and began the arduous task of tying steel, digging holes and mixing concrete to lay the foundation of the future church. Many of you are familiar with the saga this project has been through, reading our prayer letters and updates! Finally, seven years later, we are nearing completion of the first stage of construction and are planning to move in by the end of this year with a service of celebration and

thanksgiving to the true owner of the building - our Lord Jesus Christ!

Even as the church building has risen, more importantly we have seen the church body rise to the call of being the church. I can't yet give you statistics of large numerical growth as our numbers continue to hover around 45 members, but I can give you evidence of spiritual growth of a congregation that has matured and is recognizing it too has a lifetime call to ministry. From the beginning the church has had a vision of reaching beyond its walls and sharing the Gospel. The very first outreach was with children in the surrounding neighborhood. Literally, dozens and dozens of children have had contact with the Gospel and experienced the



love of God through the children's ministries. Today several of our own young people, involved as teenagers at its beginning, are now leading the children's ministries. What's more, as young adults, they have gone on to lead the church youth group and have become involved in university campus ministries where five currently are studying. This past July three went beyond Brazil's shores to Panama, participating in an evangelistic training seminar and outreach in local Panamanian churches together with other university students from all over Latin America and the Caribbean. We are excited to see what fruit will be born from this experience!

Perhaps our most challenging outreach to date continues to be working along the banks of the Moju River. For a small church like ours, making that 90 mile trip across unpredictable roads and rivers challenges our resources and resolve to their limits. Working with *ribeirinhos* (river dwellers) is working in a culture within a culture. Even though it's Brazilians reaching out to Brazilians, bridging the gap between city dwellers and the river dwellers is a long term process. Each group has its own way of thinking. For several years now, the church has been reaching out to this community. Since the beginning, a Saturday morning children's program has been the strong point of the outreach with inroads to the parents being sporadic at best. Only within the last year have we had any consistency in ministering to several parents. We, the city dwellers, always assumed we could attract the

**Being confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)



parents to the church through the children. Several times we organized special services or events with nominal success. Differently than we always imagined, our greatest contact with parents has turned out to be a separate meeting on the opposite side of the river. In making visits to homes of "our kids" at the end of last year, a grandmother expressed to us that she doesn't go across the river because she has a fear of traveling on boats. A *ribeirinho* with a fear of boats? That was a thought that never crossed the minds of us city dwellers! Graciously, this grandmother opened up her home for meetings and since the beginning of this year as we've gone out for the children's ministries once a month we've been staying overnight, sleeping in hammocks hung in the church and crossing the river the next morning to hold Sunday morning service with this grandmother and her extended family. This has been a wonderful door of opportunity for advancing the Gospel among a people where the spiritual needs are so great.

Half a lifetime's work to feel we are still at a beginning? Perhaps Jesus himself gave us insight when He said "...*The harvest truly is plentiful,...*" *Matthew 9:37 (NKJV)*. After 28 years gone-by we recognize more and more how vast the fields of harvest are. Endless opportunities to share the gospel still exist. On



an ever expanding horizon one can only feel still at a beginning. No one lifetime can reap so vast a harvest. Poignantly in the same verse Jesus declares "... *the laborers are few*" but he goes on to give us the strategy for such a large task-"*Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*" *Matthew 9:38 (NKJV)*. We've probably heard these words of Jesus at just about every missions conference we've ever attended. I praise God that the EC Church still takes them seriously. Without a doubt,

recognizing my call was the result of those who prayed for laborers. What a privilege to be brought together with such prayer warriors and senders for such a task. How exciting to mingle with passionate doers who have literally come along side with boots on the ground and been a part of the harvest in Brazil through work and evangelistic teams. Within God's strategy He amazingly accomplishes the harvest, intertwining life calls and using the gifts, talents and creativity of his people, seemingly as vast as the task at hand. Truly, these are Divine orchestrations that only become more amazing as time marches on.

Speaking of time marching on, as time goes by and my hair is turning white so I cannot deny its progress, I'm appreciating something new! Second only to

seeing someone come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, what has brought the most joy to my heart in recent years is seeing a new generation assume the calling of a lifetime. Be it our graduating seminary students, be it a lay team dedicated to going to Moju, or be it our Brazilian and American youth coming and going to foreign shores as passionate followers of Jesus Christ, I'm privileged to rub shoulders with a new generation sold out to Jesus. The harvest can only be taken in when someone arrives to do the work and it thrills me to see hearts of a new generation responding to the call of the Lord in the same way I did 28 years ago! May we never tire of praying, sending and working side by side as instructed by our Lord. It's the call of a lifetime! To God be the Glory! 🙏



SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>** – The Susquehanna Region Missions Brunch will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on Route 422 in Myerstown, PA. The brunch will begin at 10 a.m. and finish no later than noon. GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore will bring updates on our international churches and missionaries. This will be 'Dutch Treat' but reservations are necessary so we can give a head count to the restaurant. Please contact the GMC office by phone (717-866-7581 or 1-800-866-7581)

or by email ([ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com)) by **October 9<sup>th</sup>** to make your reservation.

Our pattern has been to have the Delaware Region brunch in spring and the Susquehanna one in fall. However, all interested parties are welcome to come. We look forward to seeing you there! 🙏

## CALLING ALL PASTORS!

Mark your calendars for the date of **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Global Ministries is once again sponsoring lunch for pastors and wives. It will be held at Community EC Church, Sinking Spring, PA, starting at noon. Missionaries Ed & Val Schubert and Rev. Ken Sears will be giving updates on their ministries, as well as updates on the international churches by GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore. The meal is free but reservations are required; a response by **October 9<sup>th</sup>** is requested. 🙏

# India & JAPAN



## CROSS-POLLINATING THE GLOBAL HARVEST: INDIA & JAPAN

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

My name is Rev. Robert H. Vaiphei, a teacher on staff at the Evangelical College of Theology, Churachandpur, India (EC Church of India). Currently I am enrolled

in the ThD program at Yonsei University, and live in Seoul, South Korea. As the summer was drawing near, I was wondering how best to spend my vacation. With much prayer I approached Rev. Randy Sizemore about the possibility of visiting the EC Church Japan. He answered me promptly, and connected me with the leaders of the ECC Japan.

I left Seoul for Tokyo on 17<sup>th</sup> July and returned on 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2015. On my arrival Yoriyoshi Abe and his father Masao picked me up at the airport. During my ten days stay in Japan, I was warmly welcomed and wonderfully treated by the leaders and members of the EC Church of Japan. I was also told that I am the first person from the EC Church India to visit them and I thank the Lord for it! I also equally had the privilege of ministering the word of God and presenting the mission and works of EC Church India. I was invited to preach at Sagamihara Grace Chapel, Fuchinobe Community Church and at Kyodo Grace Chapel. I was also able to serve in the homeless ministry, accompanied by Emiko F. Abe and Pastor Kenichiro Sudo, Pastor of Kyodo Grace Church, the first EC Church in Japan.

One thing I would like to share with you all is, the fact that Japan is in great need for evangelism and I'm convinced that we can be effectively involved in various missions to reach the unreached Japanese. To my surprise, in the homeless ministry which was

conducted in a park downtown Tokyo, we were permitted to use a sound system for the open air preaching and evangelism. Let us continue to pray for the Lord to bring revival in Japan, and also lead millions of Japanese to Christ (as he does in China). He wants you and me to take part in building the kingdom of God in Japan!

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to God for all the blessings both physical and spiritual rendered to me during my visit to Japan. My sincere gratitude to all the leaders and members of EC Church Japan for their warm welcome, hospitality and everything they did for me and also a special thank you to Yoriyoshi who was my main contact and organizer of my trip. I want to say thanks to Rev. Randy for helping make this trip possible. 🌍



# Nepal



## EXPERIENCING A HARVEST AFTER DISASTER IN NEPAL

THE HARVESTING OF A GRAIN FIELD involves cutting, plucking, grinding, chopping, shredding and a lot of dust and dirt. The end result of this violent process is heaping piles of individual golden kernels of grain. On April 25, 2015 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake and several aftershocks hit Nepal, killing approximately 9,000 people and injuring at least

22,000 more. Out of this violent natural disaster a spiritual harvest continues to pile up. Many in the global EC Church and beyond responded with prayer and substantial financial support, giving our EC Church of Nepal the resources to help the families affected with the basic necessities of life and the Good News of Jesus. Janga reports that in the first quarter of this year God blessed them with 47 conversions, 32 baptisms and the ongoing planting and construction of local churches. We are so thankful that in spite of the earthquake, Rev. Janga and his wife Mercy were able to travel to the USA visiting with our churches, strategizing with the Global Ministries Commission and attending the National Conference sessions in May. Please continue to pray for the EC Church of Nepal as they assist the families affected by the earthquake and continue the work of planting churches and making disciples of Jesus Christ. 🌍



*If you would like to help the EC Church of Nepal, make your contribution payable to "GMC", clearly marked "Nepal" and send it to the GMC office.*





## THE HARVEST IS HAPPENING IN JAPAN!

**A WOMAN WE MET** *through English classes came to the Parenting Children course. After this course she joined the Alpha Course, a course introducing the Christian Faith. Now that the Alpha Course is over, she and her husband are studying the Bible with us.*

This living example of Fuchinobe Community Church's vision of reaching whole families for Christ in Japan was recently shared by church planters Tomoyuki & Jessica. Offering the Alpha Course, Parenting Course and Marriage Course is core to the vision and methodology of Fuchinobe Community Church. While the great news is that more people are attending these courses, the need of finding adequate space – parking space, meeting space and child care space- to continue these ministries is also increasing. The EC Church of Japan and the GMC have set up a building fund to help raise the additional financial resources needed for renting and equipping adequate space to continue these effective, life changing ministries. (See the box at the end of this article for directions on how you can donate to this need).

Yoriyoshi and Emiko are also preparing for the spiritual harvest God will bring in and through their church planting efforts in Japan. They ask, ***“Please pray for our church planting. Pray that we build strong relation-***

***ships with our neighbors and that we can find a place to meet near a metro station.”***

Yoriyoshi has been busy preparing his part in the upcoming Franklin Graham crusade scheduled to take place in Tokyo on November 20-22. Yoriyoshi and Emiko have also been busy preparing themselves for ministry by attending training seminars on marriage and prayer, participating in international church gatherings and connecting with other churches, ministries and believers.

Under the leadership of Rev. Nobuo & Keiko, Sagamihara continues the ministries to young mothers and preschool children. They are blessed to have a Nursery School teacher, who recently became a Christian, working with them. Thank God for His harvest!

The EC Church of Japan continues to provide leadership in our efforts of cross-pollination and becoming a true global church. They serve as a prayer partner for our EC Church of Nepal and generously participated in the recent emergency relief efforts for the EC Churches of Liberia and Nepal as well as hosting Rev. Robert Vaiphei, a teacher from the EC Church of India's College of Theology for ten days of fellowship, interaction and ministry in Japan (see more about Robert's trip in a separate article in this issue). 🌍



***If you would like to contribute to the need for more space for the Fuchinobe church plant, make your contribution payable to “GMC”, clearly marked “Japan building fund” and send it to the GMC office.***



# Liberia



## THE ONGOING HARVEST IN LIBERIA

IN MARCH 2014 the Liberian people began to suffer from the deadly disease called Ebola. This disease spread through twelve of the fifteen political sub-divisions of Liberia, taking away more than 4,000 lives and leaving 3,000 orphans while wives became widows and husbands became widowers. The EC Church of Liberia formed Ebola Response Teams to minister to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of those caught in the path of this deadly disease. Eighteen months later, we are celebrating the end of the rapid spread of the virus, the small number of new cases and reports of the beginning of a return to normalcy. However, the work is not completed and much remains to be done as illustrated by this edited report

from Rev. Abraham Powell, General Secretary of the EC Church of Liberia.

*As the situation improves, it has been reported that survivors are going blind and encountering other sicknesses, including weakness, pain in the bones, etc., which are side effects from the various medications they were given. Secondly survivors and their families are not socially free to assimilate back into their communities. We are addressing this situation through counseling. Thirdly, the low income and lack of food for the survivors, especially for those who lost the major income earners in their families, is a major problem.*

*The EC Church of Liberia is trying to meet as many of these needs as possible with the following strategies:*

- *Transporting victims/families back to their villages and helping them assimilate.*
- *Providing basic food, necessities for them during this transitional period.*
- *Regular visits to the villages to provide counseling, training and help in any way.*
- *Finding homes within the church for the approximately 100 orphans and monitoring them.*

*Finally the members of the EC Church of Liberia wish to extend their appreciation and gratitude for the prayers and financial support from the global EC Church family!*

There remain many needs in Liberia but after meeting with the leadership of the EC Church of Liberia, we have agreed that the best way we can partner with them in this mission is to raise enough

funds to help purchase a sturdy vehicle for the EC Church of Liberia that will help them transport people and supplies to these villages as they minister in the name of Jesus Christ. (See the box at end of this article for information on how you can help).

In spite of the devastation of the Ebola virus, God is reaping a spiritual harvest in Liberia. Listen to the conclusion of Rev. Powell's report.

*Interestingly, the Ebola outbreak in Liberia helped evangelize many to the Lord. The evangelism teams at various churches had no real need of going out to do evangelism, instead many came to the Lord willingly. Throughout the EC Church of Liberia a total of 3,200 people accepted Christ in 2014 and 600 were baptized. 🙏*



***If you want to help the EC Church of Liberia purchase a much needed vehicle, make your contribution to "GMC"; clearly marked, "Liberia vehicle" and send it to the GMC office.***



# Mexico



Along with the external brick and mortar building taking place in Mexico, the internal building up of pastors, their families and their congregations also continues. This Fall, the year-long intensive personal and professional development courses offered for pastors and spouses called, "Transforming Ministers" will conclude with training that will allow the pastors to implement the lessons and strategies learned throughout the year in their own local congregations. Please pray with me that the rekindled flames now burning in the personal lives of the pastors and their spouses will spread a mighty fire of revival in and through the local congregations and the communities where they minister! 🙏



AS I HAVE BEEN WRITING and speaking about the exciting growth and maturity taking place in the EC Church of Mexico, God's people here in the U.S. have not only been encouraged, they are investing in the harvest! Through generous financial gifts, the funds needed to build the roof on the Casa De Dios church building in Rio Bravo have been sent and the concrete roof should be framed up and poured by the time this article goes to print! You may remember that the GMC wanted to send a work/ministry team to help with this project this summer. Unfortunately we just could not get the dates and logistics together in order to send a team. The good news is that our inability to send a team did not slow down the progress of this project at all! With all of the local churches in Mexico contributing finances, labor, prayer and logistical support, this new church serves as yet another indicator of Mexico's desire and ability to become a self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating National Conference.





**short stops** Schuylkill Haven Grace EC & Reedsville Bethesda EC

July 5-10, 2015, Grace Youth Ministry and Bethesda Youth Ministry joined forces to participate in a local Summer Work Week in the **Schuylkill Haven community**. Jr. and Sr. kids lend some help to the Schuylkill Haven School District and the Schuylkill Haven Borough. For one week they "lived" at their respective churches and worked on projects like park cleanup, mulching, painting, building and repairing benches,



landscaping, and other really fun tasks. Along with blessing the community in Jesus Name, the two groups shared meals together and focused on our theme in Mark 1:14-15 of looking for "Kairos" moments in our lives. All in all it was a great week of service and building relationships between GYM and BYM. - *Rev. Ted Rathman*

**short stops** Pitman EC Church PITMAN, PA

partnered with Men for Missions July 31-August 8, 2015, sending a group of 10 individuals to serve God in **Haiti** near the Port-au-Prince area on the "Bon Repos Project." We were warmly welcomed by the people and we used our gifts and talents to help build homes for the poorest of the poor whom were devastated by the earthquake of 2010. We planted the Gospel Message wherever we traveled and prayed with and for the broken people of



our area. We were blessed to take part of a local church service and many of us wept as we visited our neighboring orphanage. Words can't describe and pictures can do no justice to what we have experienced in our short time with these people. The Haitians are very dear to our hearts and we are blessed that God chose to stretch us in this way. Please pray for Haiti and the Gospel continues to move powerfully there. - *Pastor Todd Wolfe*

Translators and you give your gospel presentation. When we are done preaching we give each one of the students a tract. In addition to the kids we also try and talk to people on the streets and the parents that are at the school. This year we visited 535 schools, shared the gospel with 239,958 people and saw 236,885 people make public professions of faith in Jesus.

**short stops** Community at New Direction TALLMADGE, OHIO

Hi my name is Ruthie Stahl and this summer I had the opportunity to go to the **Philippines** with the Bob Tebow Evangelistic Association. This was my third year going with The BTEA. The mission of this trip is to preach the gospel; we do this by going to school classrooms. You are paired up with one of the Filipino Pastors/



**short stops** Sinking Spring  
Community  
Evangelical Church  
READING, PA

Two work teams traveled to **Fairbanks, Alaska** to minister at Camp Li-wa. Our first team, 14 teens and adult leaders traveled June 28-July 6. The teen work team took

part in collecting, cutting, splitting, and stacking firewood, as well as scraping paint and other small tasks. The second team, 8 adults traveled July 5-July 13. The adult work team took part in felling and removing trees, removing brush, building maintenance shelves, cleaning bunk houses, and office work. - *Rev. Matt Hill*



term mission trip sponsored through Group Work Camps, Week of Hope. During the week, the teens and adults worked with high risk children and inner city children from low income families. Others taught English to refugee children from Burma, Africa, and China. Still others partnered with a local nursing home to assist the elderly, while others completed various construction projects for the community. The teens and adults also had a free night to experience the sights and sounds of downtown Nashville. While the trip was long, everyone came back with a great sense of accomplishment knowing that they had revealed the love of Jesus during their time in Nashville. More conversations are underway about how we can take what we did in Nashville and bring it to our community. - *Pastor Kenneth Ogden*

**short stops** People's EC Church  
EAST WEISSPORT, PA

In July of 2015, five teens and four adults went to **Nashville, Tennessee** on a short



**short stops** Grace EC Church  
AKRON, PA

This summer our youth group traveled to **Alcora, Spain**. We had the amazing opportunity of helping BJ and Rachel Whitaker with a five day English camp. For around three hours every morning we held an English camp at a local rec center with the theme of American sports. Every day we would have a sport of the day and our stations would revolve around that sport. We would have a list of simple verbs, nouns, and phrases in both English and Spanish. Crafts would do activities, lessons would go over the words of the day, drama would come up with a game or memorizing activity, and finally the kids would try to play the game of the day in sports. Throughout each station we would try and reinforce English and the words they had learned so far. The kids were so amazing and were extremely excited to learn. By the end of the camp it was incredibly clear that both the kids and us learned a lot and had an amazing time. - *Kalihan Sensenig*



**short stops** Bethany EC Church  
TAMAQUA, PA

A group from served at Big Creek Mission in **Bear Branch, KY**, from June 14-20. There were a total off 24 people, which included individuals from 3 local churches. While at Big Creek Mission they served in one of three ways. Some did children's ministry at an elementary school, "holler clubs" (backyard ministry) and playground ministry. Others served in community outreach where they visited with people in nursing homes, served in a soup kitchen and did community giveaways of hygiene supplies. The remainder of the group served in construction, where they did various building projects to improve the living conditions for those who were unable to help themselves. Most of all, they WERE able to show and share the love of Christ in a caring compassionate way. - *Rev. Kevin Roberts*





**short stops** **Bethel EC Church**  
DIXON, IL

Matthew Kerr spent 7 weeks in **Eastern Asia** this summer as part of a CRU team reaching out to college students. He spent part of his time taking classes in the morning and meeting with spiritually interested students in the afternoon and evening. He shared Jesus with them and taught them core truths about who God is and how Jesus died for them. Some had never heard the gospel before and were awestruck to think that God loved them so much. He is quick to point out that the students he met with regularly were not projects; they became close and lasting friends. He left East Asia with a great peace within him knowing that the Lord is doing wonderful things on the other side of the world.



Dixon Bethel's Local Outreach Commission and Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups participated in a community wide event called "Go Loco" during the first part of August. Go Loco was a local mission opportunity for teens who wanted to "Go Loco" (cRaZy!) for Christ! They joined forces with other evangelical churches in order

to show Christ's love to our community. In the morning there was a Kids Club where they helped with games, crafts, and Bible lessons. The afternoons consisted of service projects for individuals or community groups; even some volunteer projects for the city. In the evenings, they gathered together to share experiences and worship our God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This summer Dixon Bethel's Amanda Smith served as one of the CREW supervisors at Life Action Camp in **Buchanan, Michigan**. The camp's vision is to provide a place where families have the opportunity to reconnect with God and each other through worship services, activities, and time away from the business of life. Along with ministering to families, the camp also has a huge impact on the teenagers and young adults (CREW) who volunteer their time to help serve the families. As CREW supervisor, she was given the opportunity to build many meaningful relationships with these CREW members. She is so thankful that she got to be a part of all God has done in people's lives this summer!



**short stops** **Faith EC Church**  
LANCASTER, PA

AIM missionaries Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus got to welcome a team from Lancaster to their home in **Kijabe, Kenya**. A team of 15 spent an intense and informative 10 days in Africa with the Stoltzfus family in and around Rift Valley Academy. A walk down the hill to Kijabe for lunch introduced the team to many people in the village who were anxiously awaiting the return of Alyssa, Lamar & Janice's daughter, who traveled with the team from the States. They ate authentic Kenyan food and visited the local dukas (shops). The next three days the team worked 8-10 hours sanding and painting a boys' dormitory, including a kitchen/lounge area and a dozen bedrooms. On Sunday, they joined in worship at the "tree church" at the Internally Displaced People's camp in the valley, an area where displaced Kenyans were relocated after election violence in 2007-08. The team helped distribute food and T-shirts to the children and visited the homes of some of the church members. Other activities on the trip included a visit to the homes of two of the Stoltzfus' Kenyan friends to share a cup of chai (tea), a visit to a tea plantation, a hike to the top of the dormant volcano Mt. Longonot, a safari through Nakuru Game Park, and a visit to a giraffe sanctuary in Nairobi. – *Lisa Bartelt*



**short stops** **Bethesda EC Church**  
REEDSVILLE, PA

Leaving Saturday, July 18, and returning Sunday, July 26, a team of 8 had the opportunity to minister in **Trinidad** through the efforts of Brad & Maxine Waldman of Caribbean Children's Ministry Network. Staying and working at Calvary Tabernacle in South Oropouche, the team presented the VBS Cactus Canyon. It was an amazing experience to work with the local people in this largely Hindu community. Over the five-day VBS experience, about 150 contacts were made with children, teenagers and adults who attended this weekday afternoon ministry. – *Rev. Mark Brooks*



**short stops** **Grace Community Church**  
WILLOW STREET, PA

Beth Grimm returned to her former place of service after an absence of 14 years to work at **Christian Academy of Guatemala (CAG)** May 1-11. Using her skills and training as a School Psychologist and reading Specialist, she was able to provide psycho-educational testing, reports and parent conferences for five students who participate in the Discovery Center program for kids who struggle with Learning Disabilities. Additionally, she did parent-teacher consultation and presented a workshop on Memory Strategies. She hopes to be able to revisit CAG annually and has invitations from a number of other MK schools to provide similar services.



Ten members of Grace Community Church in Willow Street ministered in the town of **Kilkenny, Ireland** this summer from July 18-27. The group worked with the Kilkenny Community Church in running a coffee café, doing VBS and teen ministry, as well as participating in various service projects in the Kilkenny and Tipperary communities. This trip was run by a short-term mission organization called Adventures in Missions out

of Gainesville, GA. During this trip, we had many opportunities to see God work

in the Irish people and to learn about our own spiritual growth as well. Our group also had the opportunity to join the worship services at the church and teach in their Sunday School program. We found the country of Ireland to be beautiful and the people very friendly and open to the gospel. From what we learned, the evangelical population in Ireland has steadily increased over the past number of years. Please pray for Ireland! – *Jim Heckman*

A team of 10 people from Grace Community Church (Willow Street) left last October to go to **Elizabeth, New Jersey**. We arrived late in the day and had a briefing with an Outreach Leader from the Relief Bus organization.



The next morning we prepared a special soup in large commercial kettles, mixed up hot chocolate and lemonade. Additionally, a small group left to get bread from a Portuguese bakery and others prepared toiletries to be handed out. We then loaded all the items on a large



bus with an opening on the side designed to serve people. Before we left we prayed and chanted the battle cry, "These things we do that others might live".

The trip out was spent in prayer and worship through song. After we arrived we quickly began setting up. Several team members served soup and bread while others handed out toiletries. The remaining team members began to talk with the people we were serving. If we found someone had a specific need, they were interviewed by an Outreach Leader who connecting them with the services needed. This included housing, drug and alcohol treatment, and help finding a job. One of the most important and fulfilling opportunities was to pray for those we had a privilege of serving.

We packed the bus up about 3 pm and heading back to the Outreach Center for clean up and debriefing. This included time in prayer and reflection on what God had done that day. – *Rob Barley*

Willow Street -We went to **Beattyville, Kentucky** to partner with Canyon Falls EC Church. We assisted in some projects at their church, as well as reaching out to neighbors in the community through work projects and providing needs such as groceries, etc. We

also organized a 3 day VBS for the children of Canyon Falls and had a community night where many people from the area joined us for a night of food, fun and fellowship. It was trip filled with blessings for the both our group and the Canyon Falls church, and surrounding community.

**short stops** **Trinity EC Church**  
HARRISBURG, PA

took a group of eleven to a GROUP Mission Trip: **Week of Hope in Pasadena, MD**. During the week, the group volunteered at a Therapeutic Horse Farm, Nursing Homes, Homeless Shelters, and much more. We had a great time serving, and growing closer to God. Four of our students gave their lives to Christ during the week and two rededicated their lives to Christ. Truly He is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20)! – *Ryan Martin*



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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Pastors Lunch, Sinking Spring  
Community EC Church

**Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Susquehanna Mission Brunch  
Country Fare Restaurant

**Mark your calendars now!**

