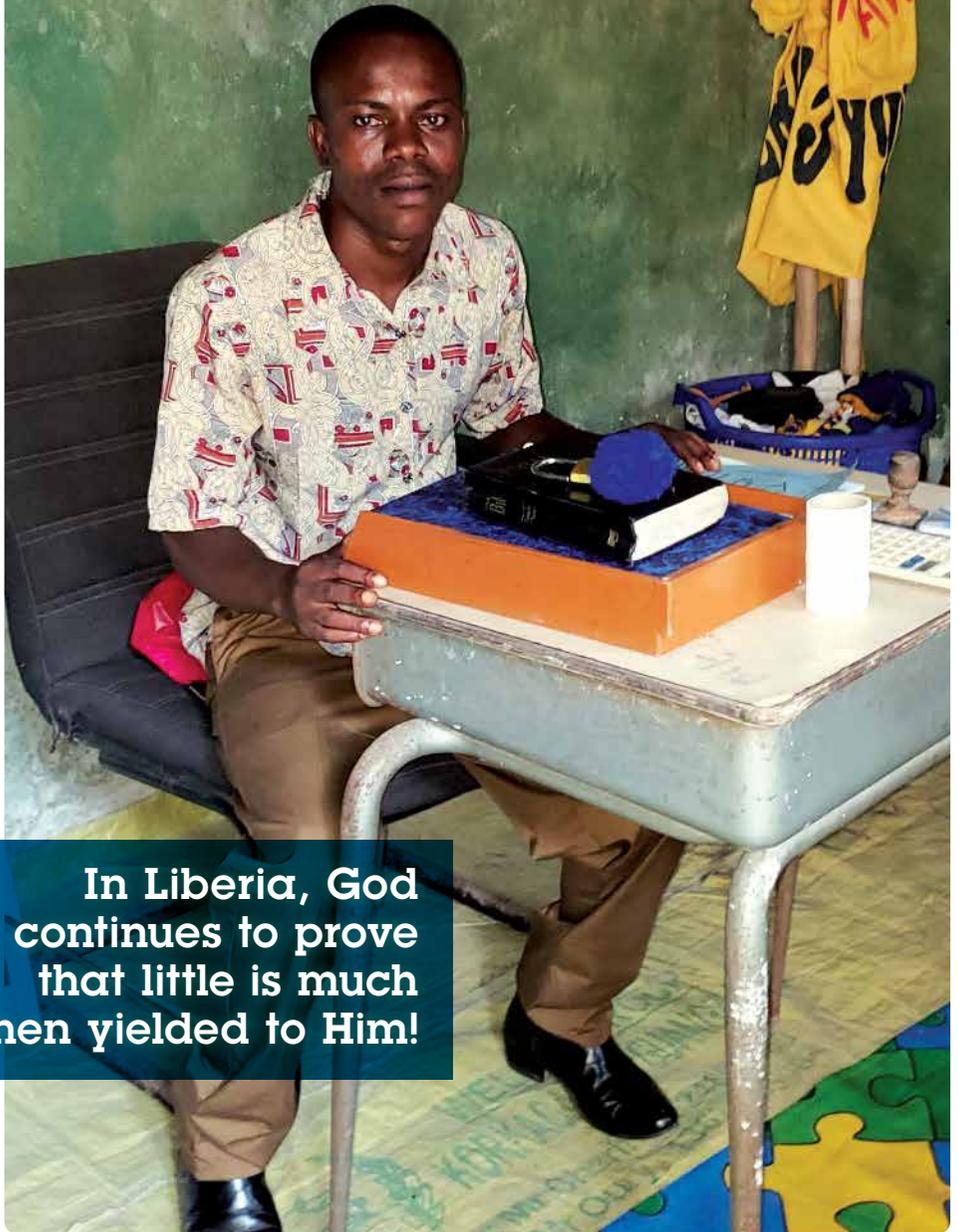


A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



In Liberia, God continues to prove that little is much when yielded to Him!

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



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HE IS RISEN.... COVID 19.... HE IS RISEN!

– by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA



ALL OVER THE GLOBE we are inundated with reporting on the Covid-19 pandemic. Perhaps for the first time, certainly in my lifetime, the entire world can identify with one another like they never did before. On a daily basis we can follow real-time numbers of those tested, those infected, those recovered, and those who

have died from just about any country on this planet. We are experiencing life in a way, that I think it is safe to say, most of us have never experienced previously. I remember leaving my home on Thursday March 12th around 7:30 a.m. for some meetings and when I returned later that day at 4:00 p.m. the world had changed. The world has seemed to change on a moment by moment basis from that point forward. Even as I write this today, the day after Easter, I experienced a Resurrection Sunday unlike any other; sitting in an empty room speaking into a camera on my laptop saying “He is Risen” to a virtual community.

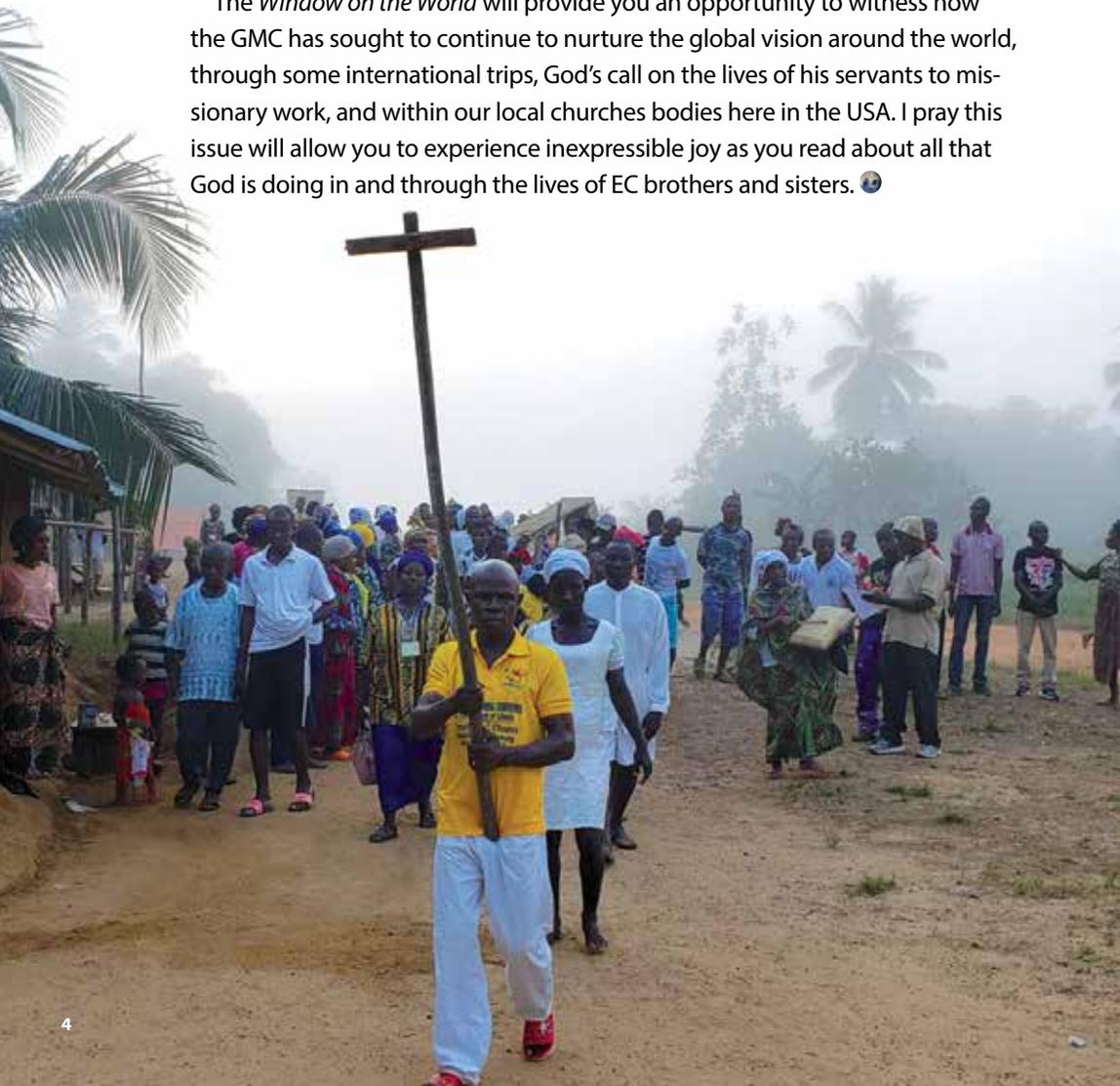
It is into this current backdrop of world history that millions of people all over this globe watched on their computers as pastors from every nation and language utter the words “He is Risen” once again on another Easter Sunday, perhaps flooding the internet with the most Jesus the internet has ever experienced. Our current crisis, like many crises before, has NOT stopped God’s people from celebrating his victory over sin, disease, evil, and death itself. The grave is empty, God’s kingdom is advancing, and nothing will thwart this story of redemption that God is writing. Peter’s words to the church continue to inspire us even these 2,000 plus years later:



“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:8-9 NIV)

We, God’s people, are filled with an “inexpressible and glorious joy” because God has accomplished through Jesus the salvation of our souls, and Jesus has said to his disciples “as the Father sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21), so that we might communicate this same Easter message to the “ends of the earth.” The Global Ministries Community takes that commission seriously and we continue to strive to do the work God has called us to, in the midst of whatever this world brings our way. While some trips, events, and meetings have been cancelled due to Covid-19, the mission of supporting our International Churches, missionaries, and local church communities remains the same.

The *Window on the World* will provide you an opportunity to witness how the GMC has sought to continue to nurture the global vision around the world, through some international trips, God’s call on the lives of his servants to missionary work, and within our local churches bodies here in the USA. I pray this issue will allow you to experience inexpressible joy as you read about all that God is doing in and through the lives of EC brothers and sisters. 🙏



ANSWERING THE CALL

ONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS we have had at recent Global Ministries board meetings is in regard to the fact that about one-third of our current missionaries are reaching retirement age within the next 5-7 years. Global Ministries doesn't go out and recruit new missionaries, but we do pray that God will continue to call up folks to serve Him in a global capacity.

We are happy to announce that two new missionary candidates were approved at our March GMC board meeting. The first is **Rev. Gene Stevenson**. Gene is no stranger to many of our central PA churches; he was assistant pastor at First EC in Palmyra for a number of years and served as the pastor of Trinity EC in Frackville as well. He has also been the head of Religious and Theological Abstracts for several years.

Gene and his wife Beth felt led to move their family out to Arizona in the middle of last year. Beth is a licensed marriage & family therapist, and quickly found a job in her field. Gene applied and was accepted at the Indian Bible College in Flagstaff. This school is open exclusively to Native Americans, primarily Navajo, and provides them with a biblically based education so that they can

minister to their own communities. The student body is small because IBC doesn't charge the students tuition; otherwise most could never afford higher education. All of the staff and faculty at IBC serve as volunteers or missionaries so the students can graduate debt free. Gene is both a professor and administrator at IBC, currently supervising the Academic Department (Registrar, faculty and library staff), working with the Student Life Department, teaching at least one course per semester, as well as writing and compiling materials for accreditation.

Gene sees himself and his family remaining in Flagstaff and serving at IBC "for the long haul." He will be contacting our churches to ask for support and tell



about his work in the near future. You can contact him directly at gstevenson@indianbible.org. Please keep Gene, Beth and their family in prayer as they seek to serve the Lord in this new outreach.



ANOTHER 'NEW' MISSIONARY CANDIDATE is also a familiar name. **Rev. Tomoyuki Abe**, his wife Jessica, and their two daughters are not strangers to most E.C.'ers. Tomoyuki and Jessica (a native of France) met at a bible college in Colorado, fell in love, and married after Tomoyuki's first year at Evangelical Seminary. Jessica joined him and both graduated in May 2009. They returned to Japan where they were church planters for nine years, forming the Fuchinobe Grace Church.

About a year or so ago, the Abes were feeling that God was preparing them for another ministry; they just weren't sure where or what. After a visit with Jessica's family in France, they learned that OMF International, a mission agency that ministers to Asians all over the world, was looking for someone to work with Japanese expatriates in

France. It seemed tailor made for Tomoyuki, who made inquiries. At the same time, Jessica learned of opportunities with her home denomination, the Evangelical Free church, in France. After much prayer and discussion, Tomoyuki pursued application with OMF International, with the blessing of Global Ministries and the EC Church of Japan. They relocated to Orleans, France where Tomoyuki started his training with OMF. Jessica was offered a position in a local church as assistant pastor.

Currently Tomoyuki is in intensive French language training but has to do it remotely due to the strict 'stay at home' orders in France and much of Europe. Tomoyuki, Jessica and their girls had planned to come to the USA in July to visit friends and supporters as well as share about their exciting new ministry. However, as with so many plans this year, the Covid 19 situation made that impossible. Folks living in Europe are not to travel outside of their country at this time, and we were also afraid that, even if they were able to come to the USA, they would be quarantined for two weeks upon arrival. So they made the difficult choice to put off their trip until next year. However, the Abes are still looking to raise support for Tomoyuki's work with OMF International. You can contact the GMC office to find out how to do that. Email to ecglobal@eccenter.com or call Pat Strain at 1-800-866-7584.

Please keep the Stevensons and Abes in prayer as they seek to serve the Lord in the fields to which He has called them. 🌍

VBS PROJECT FOR 2020

THIS YEAR OUR VBS FOCUS will be on the EC Church of Latin America. Our EC brothers and sisters in Mexico are part of our newest National Conference. Their name reflects their desire to move beyond their current location of northern Mexico to not only the rest of Mexico, but also Central America.

To that end, the project for this year is to raise funds so that the EC Church of Mexico can have a Biblical Institute for Missions that would, in the words of Superintendent Rev. Juan Zuñiga, *“work to equip our pastors, men, women, youth and children of all our churches for the missions work.*

With that we could develop better growth projects. We have a place already but it was abandoned and the building need(s) lots of work, to be equipped with materials, dormitories and a kitchen. If you could help us with funds, it would be great and we would be grateful.”

Our goal is to raise \$10,000. We are in the process of getting 5-minute lessons together to share with your VBS. These will be put on our website and available for distribution. Please be in prayer now for how your church can aid our brothers and sisters south of the border. 🌎

Delaware Missions Brunch

CANCELLED

THE ANNUAL DELAWARE MISSIONS BRUNCH, scheduled for late March, had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic. There are no plans to reschedule at this time. We are hoping that we will be able to hold the Susquehanna Missions Brunch in October, and everyone will be welcome to attend, no matter what region they live in. At this point, it is uncertain when life will get back to ‘normal’ and what the new normal will look like. 🌎



FOR LOVE OF GOD AND COUNTRY

By Rev. Rick Sergi – Chair, GMC Liberia Committee

“What is one thing you love about your country?”

RIDING IN THE BACK SEAT of a rented car in Monrovia, Liberia, I posed this question to Olive Powell, wife of Rev. Abraham Powell – Bishop of the EC Church of Liberia (ECCOL). Without hesitation, Olive responded, “We

are free to worship and to serve God without any hindrances!” She quickly added, “...and we are kind to each other!”

Ted Rathman and I had been in Liberia for nearly a week to bring encouragement to the EC Church of Liberia and to participate in their 51st annual conference. We were finally riding on a “paved road” in Monrovia, Liberia’s capital city after nearly a week of traversing “non-existent roads” to Saturday

Town, a remote village in Liberia’s Grand Bassa District. The Executive Mansion and a number of very large church buildings were still in view as I asked a follow up question; “*You and Abraham live just*



ROAD TO SATURDAY TOWN



outside the city yet your ministry is mostly to small, remote villages of the interior. What is it that draws you to the interior?" Olive responds, "I love the interior! I love the people there and want to bring God's love to them!"

Being Jesus' "ministers of reconciliation" can be challenging in any era and culture but Liberia has some unique obstacles. Fourteen years of civil war and the recent Ebola crisis decimated a nation that was already hindered by poverty, political corruption and little to non-existent infrastructures for education, power, health and sanitation.

Yet, this is the context in which Abraham and Olive Powell carry out their ministry to the people of Liberia. Their devotion to Jesus and for the country in which they live and serve is as an unquenchable fire burning deep within them that compels them to carry His life-imparting message of salvation and hope to the people of Liberia. They embody the passion Paul exudes in 2 Corinthians 5:14 –*"For Christ's love compels us!"*

The ECCOL today includes some 36 congregations and approximately 2500 members scattered throughout the country. Since his election as Bishop in 2016, Rev. Powell has sought to rebuild, reunite, and refocus the fractured denomination as well as reignite its evangelistic fever. Primary initiatives have included implementing a leadership training program, starting Christian schools, teaching illiterate church members to read and write their Bassa language, and the revitalization of neglected church properties. In his 2020 "State of the ECCOL" address during the annual conference, Rev. Powell reviewed the cultural context of their ministry and gave understanding and updates on a number of their initiatives. Here are a few highlights with our observations added:

MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION

Liberia is currently peaceful but "fragile." Its long history of political unrest, social and economic disparities, and lack of



physical and social infrastructure still impact what it is today. The physical insecurity and the looming fear of violence from the war have been largely replaced by economic insecurity.

The ECCOL is a voice of reconciliation in the midst of Liberia's brokenness. This is true both spiritually, in seeking to reconcile the lost to God through Christ, as well as socially. While "Christianity" appears to be widespread in Liberia, it is a "cultural religion" at best, devoid of its power and of the person of Jesus Christ. Liberia's struggles and lack of true understanding of the gospel are fuelling the growth of both a prosperity gospel and Islam. The ECCOL is renewing their commitment to be a voice of truth in this setting and in 2019 held their first ever national crusade. 84 people came to faith in Jesus Christ through this outreach! In addition, over 200 young people attended their 2019 "joint" (with other churches) youth camp and 45 of them accepted Christ as their Savior!

Rev. Powell also lends his voice to help reduce the social stresses of the coun-

try. The inauguration of former football (soccer) star George Weah to Liberia's presidency in 2017 held great promise for the country's much-needed transformation. Yet, three plus years later, as the country still languishes under the same burdens, voices of frustration are rising. In response, Rev. Powell has been speaking and teaching biblical submission and trust in God. *"President Weah is our leader and he is in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Anyone who touches him touches our God,"* Bishop Powell declares. *"Instead, repent, turn to God and seek His face. Pray for our government leaders for they are given of God."*

Another door of reconciliation that God has divinely (and somewhat unexpectantly) opened is with congregations that had left the ECCOL in past years. The ECCOL was not immune to the social strife that was rampant in Liberia in recent decades. Distrust did not stop at the church doors and led to several churches leaving the denomination. Yet, three of these churches approached the ECCOL in humility and repentance in 2019 and have now been reunited with the denomination!



FOUNDATION FOR NEW EDUCATION CENTER IN MONROVIA

EDUCATION & CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The quality of education in Liberia is generally poor and weak outcomes persist throughout the school system. Estimates are that roughly 80% of Liberians are illiterate. Literacy is generally higher in the cities while illiteracy rates climb in Liberia's interior where the largest percentage of the ECCOL presence is located. Legal provisions to widen educational access have been defined but remain ineffective, and barriers to educational access remain. Issues include income, geographical access and gender. This is a cyclic problem in that limited access to education perpetuates both poor economic prospects and social grievances.

In response, the ECCOL has been striving to launch low or no cost schools in each of the villages where they have a church. Their goal is to present a God-centered answer to the ongoing problem. They have now launched schools in four villages with financial limitations being the main hindrance to this effort.

Even the low (by US standards) goal of paying teaching staff the equivalent of \$40 (USD) a month is still beyond their ability to meet. But Rev Powell and the ECCOL are compelled to press on! Many of



their teachers and staff serve for little or no pay, trusting God to meet their needs. The ECCOL school system graduated 16 students in 2019.

The vision stretches beyond establishing lower-level Christian schools. Rev Powell and another church leader recently took out mortgages on their homes to fund the pouring of the foundation for a new education center in Monrovia! Their vision is to use the facility as a Christian school during the day and a life-skills center in the evening. The new foundation is ready. An extensive pile of cinder blocks lies nearby waiting to become walls.

The denomination funded three students through high school and are continuing to pay for two of those to complete nursing school. They also provided a scholarship for the "General Secretary" of the denomination to attend secretarial training school.



Women attending nursing college on ECCOL scholarships



LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Illiteracy rates impact ECCOL discipleship efforts as well. The ability to provide trained pastors and church leaders for each village church is constrained by the availability of men and women who can read, write, and impart accurate understanding of Scriptural truth in the village contexts. The ECCOL has been running quarterly training sessions for these men and women but that is a complex and expensive undertaking. Discussions during our trip focused on this as one of their most pressing needs.

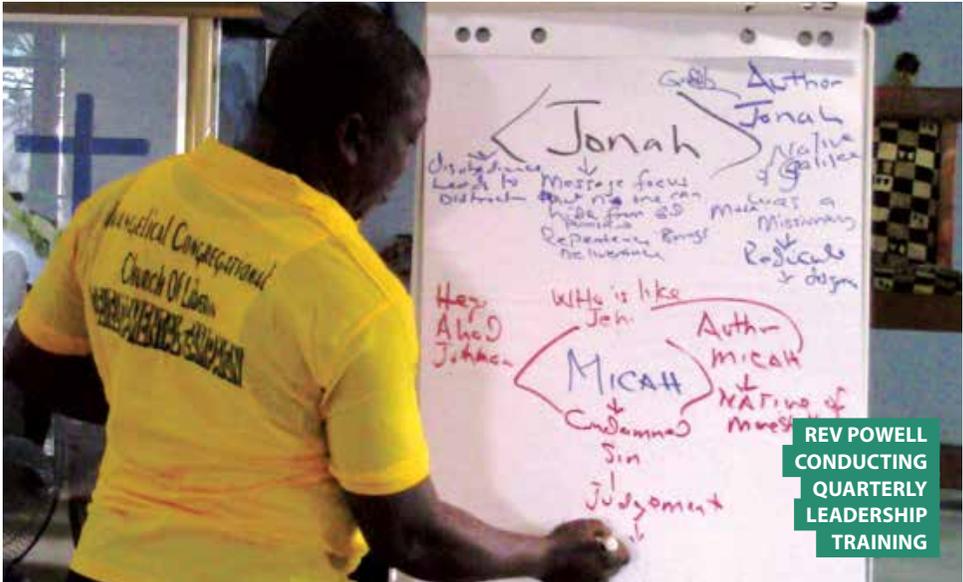
As a follow-up to our visit, we investigated the possibility of creating and circulating audio recordings of leadership training modules and other messages to the ECCOL pastors and church leaders. Our search identified solar-

powered, digital broadcast units from Megavoice with a microSD memory card capability. After successful testing, GMC outlined for the ECCOL the complete capability and purchased the equipment for Rev. Powell to implement a new, audio-based training approach for his leadership team. This will facilitate more regular and less costly training and communications throughout the denomination than their current quarterly training. Recordings

can be made at the denomination's headquarters and distributed via memory cards to their leadership team. As of this writing, 36 digital broadcast units, a laptop with recording software, and an extensive list of other needs (all supplied by GMC) are en route to Liberia to launch the "Megavoice Communication & Training Network for the ECCOL."



Megavoice broadcast units with microSD card capability





IN LINE FOR GAS

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

High inflation rates continue to plague Liberia's economy with recent months reported to be over 30%. When we visited, gasoline was unavailable at many outlets and where it was, the price was upwards of \$6.50 (USD)! Rev. Powell shared his struggle to maintain the ministry of the ECCOL with the quarterly allocation they receive from GMC.

A large gap exists as well in what he receives as Bishop and the needs of his

family. His part-time work as CEO of a local, non-governmental organization called "The Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Program" (ECREP) helps close this gap. ECREP facilitates the funding and construction of water and sanitation in various areas of Liberia.

All of this is but a snapshot of the continuing ministry in Liberia. Despite, or perhaps empowered by their struggles, the ECCOL is lifting up the name of Jesus Christ and in doing so, their country as well! 🌍



NEW BUILDING,
TRINITY EC CHURCH



RENOVATED,
ST PAUL'S EC CHURCH



International Church Update

– by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA

INDIA

THE PLANNED TRIP to ECCI by Rev. Ted Rathman and Bishop Bruce Hill to attend the election of the new General Director had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. India is in strict lockdown and cancelled all visas as of mid-March. ECCI was unable to hold their national conference in late April as planned for the same reason, but hoped to have a one day conference of the leadership so they could elect the new General Director of ECCI.

In November of this past year Rev. Randy Sizemore was invited to Evangelical College of Theology's Christmas Celebration and spend some days interacting with ECT students and faculty during his week-long stay.

Evangelical College of Theology

Here is an update regarding the work of ECT and Dr. Lalrosiem Songate:

Two things happened during September. One is observation of Teachers' Day by our students on September 5, 2019. This day has been observed as Teachers' Day all over India in commemoration of the birth anniversary of our beloved former President of India Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. We appreciate our students for taking the time to acknowledge the contributions of their teachers by presenting gifts and sending them their best wishes. Another event is the mid-term examination held during the third week. Exams and Tests are times of testing for the students and we are thankful that they have been able to complete well.

Two events will mark the month of October again. First is the annual sports which began today the 2nd October and will last till Friday. Students will compete in various items and will conclude with prize distribution. Second is the Days of Challenge that will be held during October 16-18 with Dr. Michael and his team.

The Conference Hall construction with the help received from GMC has enabled us to install the roof, the walls and the restrooms. We received some donation from our new friend Pastor Jeffrey and we have been able to install the ceiling as well. We hope God will provide us necessary funds to install windows and door, tile floor and necessary furnishing as well. 🙏

JAPAN

A NUMBER OF EXCITING THINGS has happened in the EC Church of Japan during this past number of months. In November of 2019 Bishop Emeritus Rev. Mike Sigman travelled to Japan to assist with the ordination of Yoriyoshi Abe. Yoriyoshi and Emiko lead the Grace Garden Church and the ordination was a wonderful time to recognize and celebrate all God has been doing in their lives since they began the journey of pastoral ministry. It was wonderful that Pastor Mike had the opportunity to join Yoriyoshi for this special day due to the vital role Grace Community Church of Willow Street has played in Yoriyoshi's journey in pastoral ministry. Along with the exciting accomplishment of ordination, at the end February Yoriyoshi and Emiko welcomed the newest addition to their family; a baby girl, Wakana Abe. Praise God for His goodness!

Unfortunately, a planned Vision Tour for May with members from some of our Japanese EC churches had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. They had hoped to join EC Church-USA at National Conference, which was cancelled as well.

Grace Garden Church

- Yoriyoshi has worked with a Christian publishing company and he wrote a Christmas tract for children and their parents. It was packed in Christmas DVDS

and sold as Christmas gifts in Christian bookstores in Japan. It was a great way to deliver the gospel message in Japanese during this special season.

- Yoriyoshi is working on a new project, writing 24 short messages from the Old Testament & New Testament along with commentaries for children and their parents. It will be attached to Super Book DVDs.
- Due to Grace Garden Church's worship leader Emiko Abe (Yoriyoshi's wife) being due with their 2nd child in February they needed to form a new worship team. The change has brought a good influence on the church with the worship teams' level of commitment to the church increasing. Yoriyoshi reports that about a half year ago the problem was a decline of a sense of commitment among members. However, through this transition they started to come to church earlier to have rehearsal and pray together for the service. Yoriyoshi asks for prayer for their discipleship through the worship team.

Update on Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe

Tomo and Jessica continue to serve the Lord in Orléans, France. Jessica remains on staff at the church and Tomo is taking intensive French language courses at a local college. Tomo was approved as a missionary candidate at the spring GMC board meeting in early March. 🌐



NEPAL

IN FEBRUARY 2020 Rev. Th. Janga attended and spoke at the EAC Conference which makes up one of the presbyteries of the EC Church of India. As the church grows in Nepal the training and infrastructure needed also increases, which at times stretches the ability of the GMC to keep up with the pace financially. We continue to rely on God and the faithfulness of the EC Church USA to help support and partner with the work taking place in Nepal and all our international conferences.

- The Evangelical Leadership Training Course (ELTC) continues to equip and teach leaders in the EC Church of Nepal. The latest session of the ELTC will begin stage 2 on April 22nd. In order to graduate the ELTC a student must complete all eight stages. There are currently 27 students going through the training courses.

- When I was in Nepal in 2019 I had the privilege of baptizing three of Janga and Mercy's sons from Mercy Home (the orphanage that Janga and Mercy started). Now two of their sons are involved in the church worship team.
- Rev. Janga held their leadership seminar on Jan. 18th and 19th with 58 leaders (Pastors/Elders/Deacons) in attendance.
- ECCN Annual Conference was held at Bardhan EC in the town of Laxmimarga which is in southern Nepal. The Conference was held from January 22nd – 24th with the guest speaker Rev. Allan from Australia (a friend of Rev. Jangkhola the Missions Director of ECCI).
- Currently Bardhan EC Church in Durdimba is under construction, and they are hoping construction is completed this year. They are also looking to build Namuna EC Church with the hope that they will be able to inaugurate this church with the GMC Director's visit in 2021. 🌍

LIBERIA

ON JANUARY 28th Rev. Rick Sergi, from Immanuel EC Church in Bethlehem, and I departed for Liberia for a 9-day trip and returned on February 6th. I did update briefly throughout the trip on the GMC Facebook page with material from the 51st National Conference of the EC Church of Liberia. The Conference theme was entitled "No Weapon" taken from Isaiah 54:17 and Rick and I had the opportunity to preach multiple times around the theme

that there is no weapon that will prevail against the advancement of God's people. Rick and I came away from that trip excited about the people God has called to lead the EC Church of Liberia and their vision for reaching the lost. Rev. Abraham Powell, the leader of ECCOL, has an inspired vision for the future of the church and a group of gifted spiritual leaders surrounding him. God is certainly moving in the country of Liberia. I'm grateful for the leadership Rick Sergi has exemplified as the Chair of the Liberia Committee and his sacrificial love for the EC Church

of Liberia. It was clear that they (the leaders of ECCOL and members) are so thankful for him (as his Liberian name means “blessing”) and overjoyed that he was willing to return for the third time. As the director of GMC, I too am grateful for Rick’s leadership and for Immanuel EC Church’s generosity and support of ECCOL and the GMC.

As this was my first time in Liberia, I was honored to officially receive my new Liberian name “A-jay” (which we would probably pronounce “Gee” which means “because of us”. Rev. Abraham Powell said, “because of us”, meaning because of my brothers and sisters in the church of Liberia, you (Ted) left your home, your family, your church

and you came to be with us. They said, “It was my love for the EC Church of Liberia that I left my family and my church to be with them”. I loved the name because it reminds me of Jesus; because of us, Jesus came. It was his love for us that he left his throne in glory to put on flesh and walk among us; because of us...he came, and it is because of Jesus that I went to Liberia. I am thankful to the EC Church USA for providing me with the opportunity to travel to the ECCOL to encourage them and strengthen our bonds of love as brothers and sisters in Christ, and as part of the global Evangelical Congregational Church family. I couldn’t do this without all of your generosity and faithfulness to the work of the GMC. 🌍

ECCOL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019

- 33 Baptisms done at National Conference.
- We went to a creek close to the village and Rick and I were able to baptize 33 new believers on Sunday morning at the Conference.
- Approximately 36 churches make up ECCOL.
- Held First National Crusade in which 84 people gave their lives to Christ.
- 3 new churches dedicated and 4 churches under new construction.
- Quarterly leadership training held.
- 1st National Men’s Fellowship Conference held.
- Established another school (Evangelical Congregational School System) at Trinity EC Church in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

MEXICO

DUE TO MY CANCELED TRIP in 2019 I am currently setting up a time to travel to Mexico this year to visit Rev. Juan Zuñiga, the

leader of the EC Church of Latin America, and the pastors of the EC Church. I am still in search of a chairperson for the EC Church of Latin America field committee and reorganizing this committee to see how we can best support and partner with our newest National Conference. 🌍





UPCOMING SUMMER TRIPS

Community EC • SINKING SPRING, PA

Community EC is taking a summer mission trip to the Boston MA area. The dates are July 11-18, 2020. We will be working with an agency called Praying Pelican Missions. The cost is approximately \$650. That may change depending on whether we need to rent an additional van if our numbers increase. We will be working alongside of a local church doing a VBS program, work projects, and mercy ministries. The church is bi-lingual (Spanish/ English). We are open to other churches joining us. – *Rev. Tim Sanger*

St. John's EC

• STEELSTOWN, ANNVILLE, PA

The youth ministry at St. John's E.C. Church, Steelstown, PA is planning to send youth who have completed grades 5-12, along with adult chaperones to serve in Kentucky this summer. The team is scheduled to work with Big Creek Missions, located in Bear Branch, Kentucky. They will have the opportunity to use their skills and abilities to serve in children's ministries, community ministries, and construction projects. – *Joel Wolfe*

Grace Community Church • WILLOW STREET, PA

My name is Cristina Winchell and I am the Youth Coordinator at GCC! Addison Roberts, our youth pastor, asked me to inform you about what our youth group will be doing this summer in regards to missions. June 5-12, we will be taking 10 of our youth to Philadelphia to partner with Urban Hope Training Center! We are excited to dip our toes into evangelizing to those in Philly. During our week with Urban Hope we will be working with the Homeless Shelters, Rescue Missions, Prayer Walks through neighborhoods, and much more! We will also be stretching ourselves by evangelizing in the Reading Terminal Market and Mifflin Park. This is incredibly different from what we usually do so we are excited and eager. This is a trip that is most definitely going to stretch our youth!! – *Cristina Winchell*

COMPLETED TRIPS



For two weeks in January, Pam Gochenaur accompanied Beth Grimm to Guatemala to help out at Christian Academy of Guatemala. As a clinical social worker, Pam assisted the School Counselor by doing a number of small group workshops for a variety of people in the CAG community. She did two parent seminars on Adoption and on Self Injury, and met with the faculty to do a workshop on Communication Styles. Pam also did the Communications session with small groups of Middle School and High School students, spread over six different class periods. – *Beth Grimm, Grace Community Church, Willow Street, PA*

Bethany EC Church • ASHLAND, PA

On December 2-6, 2019, Karen Snyder and Janet Maurer spend time in Boone, NC, volunteering at the processing center for Operation Christmas Child. We helped with inspecting, taping, and packing the shoeboxes into cartons. The boxes on those particular days were being shipped to Ukraine and Uruguay. Pictured in the photo is Karen, Alex, and Janet. Alex received a shoebox as a child and is now volunteer staff.





Community EC • SINKING SPRING PA

Two members of Community Evangelical Church (CEC) in Sinking Spring PA took a trip to Nicaragua in November, 2019. Another 2 members took a trip to El Salvador in January, 2020. Both of these trips were through Global Health Outreach (GHO), a ministry of the Christian Medical and Dental Organization. GHO is a short term international missions program dedicated to providing healthcare while spreading the gospel by sending medical, dental and surgical teams around the world. GHO partners with those who are focused on ministering to unreached people groups in challenging areas around the world, where the Savior's love is shared. These trips are life changing, as experienced by one gentleman that followed God's calling on his life to GO and serve on the El Salvador trip. His testimony about following God's leading and being blessed is a story of God's goodness and faithfulness. Two trips are already being planned by CEC's church members in November 2020 to Nicaragua, January 2021 to El

One couple was asked by the pastors of the village to give a Marriage Seminar to the pastors and their wives. Sixty people attended. In this picture they are holding the Spanish Bibles that were given to them.

Salvador and possibly one to Greece in the Fall of 2020. If anyone would be interested in joining our members on any of these trips, please contact the Director of Global Ministries, Bonnie Brown at 610-858-6125.

Also, a team of youth and adults from CEC will be traveling to Boston, MA., this summer on a mission project. They will be partnering with Praying Pelican Missions to minister at a bi-lingual church in one of Boston's suburbs. The week will consist of teaching Vacation Bible School and various work projects. The cost is \$650 per person. Contact Pastor Tim Sanger for additional information, 610-670-1942. – *Bonnie Brown*



Praying with the wife of a patient on a home visit in Nicaragua.



Two of our Church members and their interpreters in El Salvador.

A home visit by members of a team while serving in El Salvador, January 2020.





Zion/St Paul's EC • PITMAN, PA

Our churches sent a team February 15-22 to Guayaquil Ecuador. Our team consisted of 6 from Pennsylvania and 2 from Nebraska. Most of the week we scraped, repaired and painted the outside of a seminary building for Association De IGLESIAS EVANGELICAL ECUATORIANAS. Each day they served us a delicious Ecuadorian meal for lunch. Tuesday we traveled to Chongon (just outside the city) to do a kids outreach. Megan Zimmerman taught a lesson on the parable of the soils. The kids sang songs they learned in VBS the week before. We handed out backpacks filled with school supplies. Thank you to Darryl and Kelly Chambers for hosting our team, showing us around the city and teaching us more about Ecuador. – *Deb Heim*





Zion EC • PITMAN, PA

Our church is planning to again go to Big Creek Missions, Bear Branch, KY from July 5-11, 2020. We have 20 Adults and youth registered. Here is a picture of a limited group making ham and cheese sandwiches as a fundraiser this weekend. Praying for God to unfold plans in His time and way! – Pat Hummel



Bethesda EC • SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA (REEDSVILLE)

Our church sent a work team of ten individuals to Twin Pines from 3/8-3/12. Work sites at the retreat and conference center included painting the walls and trim of Dorney Lounge; mason repair work on a block bath house, an exterior wall of the staff lounge, as well as the stones steps leading to the porch area of the dining hall; the demolition and repair of an interior wall of the staff lounge; and clearing away an overgrown area under power lines behind Dorney Lounge. The weather cooperated allowing the Bethesda Team to complete the work assigned to them. A thank you to the staff of Twin Pines for their extreme hospitality!!! – Rev. Mark Brooks





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