

A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church



# window

ON THE WORLD



**Called to  
be a Global  
Community**



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**THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY** 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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**UNDER OUR NEW** denominational structure, the Global Ministries Community is now the Global Ministries Community (still GMC). A community is a group of people who share things in common such as location, historical heritage, beliefs, culture, customs, interests and common goals. When most of us hear the word, “community” we think of a group of people who live in a particular locality under a common social/political structure. However, with the advancement of technology and the shrinking of the world there are countless communities of people who do not live in the same neighborhood but share enough commonality to be considered a community.



– by Randy Sizemore,  
Global Ministries Associate

The Global Ministries Community is such a community. The language, culture, customs and geography of our international conferences and missionaries could not be more different but we do share a common leader, Jesus Christ; a common historical heritage, the Evangelical Congregational Church; and a common mission, making disciples of all nations. The benefits of belonging to a community are numerous including mutual encouragement, support and sharing of resources. As you read this issue of *Window On The World*, thank God that he has called us together with so many others in the Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church. 🌐



# Homegoing of a Faithful Servant

## Well done, good and faithful servant...

**D****DOROTHY R. STERMER**, 94, of Above and Beyond Assisted Living, Allentown, formerly of the Episcopal House, Allentown died Tuesday, March 8, 2016 in VNA of St. Luke's Hospice House, Bethlehem. Born in Allentown, she was the daughter of the late Henry R. Stermer, well known music teacher in Allentown and organist at the former Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church and Helen (Wentz) Stermer. A 1938 graduate of Allentown High School, Dorothy attended Huntington College in Huntington, IN. She continued her education at New York City Biblical Seminary graduating in 1951. Dorothy was a missionary with TEAM, the Evangelical Alliance Mission, having served in Japan, Australia, Canada and Zimbabwe from 1951 until retiring in 1990. A lifelong member of the former Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church, Dorothy was a choir member and served as treasurer from 1990 to 1998. In 1998 the church merged with St Matthew's Evangelical Congregational Church, Emmaus and Dorothy became an active member serving as Home Department Superintendent and teaching Sunday school. She served as President of CELTS, Christian Endeavor Long Timers, from 1991 to 2000.

Dorothy's most important passion was reaching people for the Lord. 🌎



## Memories...

**W**e appreciated her warm sweet servant spirit in her time in Zimbabwe. We were glad she was in PA as we would pass by and see her occasionally on our furloughs. :) Welcome Home faithful Servant of Jesus.  
– **Dick & Mary Ann McCloy, Zimbabwe friends**

**D**orothy arrived together with Bea Long, just about a year after Barbara Dean and I arrived. Soon after that the four of us singles moved into a large house where many of the fun parties were held during our language studies. Later we served together on MatsubaraKo Bible Camp committee and other places. What a special friend she was through many years. We miss her here, but know she is rejoicing in the presence of her Lord and Savior whom she loved and served so faithfully.

– **Phyllis Chamberlain Geisler, Turlock, CA**

**D**orothy was a true Christian and one of my best friends. I just received a birthday card the day prior to her leaving us. I shed more tears than her many years. I was blessed to have her as my dear friend. I know she prayed for me fervently. Dorothy had the most peaceful soul of anyone I've known. Her love of the Lord was immeasurable and I know she now knows even more peace as she rests with our Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot wait to see her in heaven when the Lord calls me home. My love and blessings go to a friend who will be missed terribly. Dorothy always left me with a Bible verse the last being Isaiah 40:29. – **Deborah Selinsky, Palmyra, PA**

**I** first met Ms. Dorothy Stermer, when I was a student at Tokyo Christian College. She was a secretary of the president of the college. At the time, it was surprising for me to know that there were another missionary from EC Church other than Rev. John and Machi Masuda. Although I was not good at speaking English, she spoke to me in fluent Japanese, so I could enjoy talking with her. I believe she spread the aroma of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, as she serving Japanese people. I'd like to express my gratitude to her from my heart. – **Rev. Nobuo Abe, the Chairman of the EC Church in Japan**





# ...and a Little Child Shall Lead Them

– by Crystal Tobias

**It wasn't loaves and fishes, but when one small boy had a heart for missions, God gave the increase.**



**WE DIDN'T HAVE VBS** for several years at Bunker Hill EC Church. We didn't have any kids. But now as our church has gradually grown and we have some young families attending, we felt we had enough children to hold VBS again these past 3 years. We have only averaged 12 to 15 students each year and the oldest child this year was 9 years old. We have lots of little kids! VBS has been challenging, but fun!

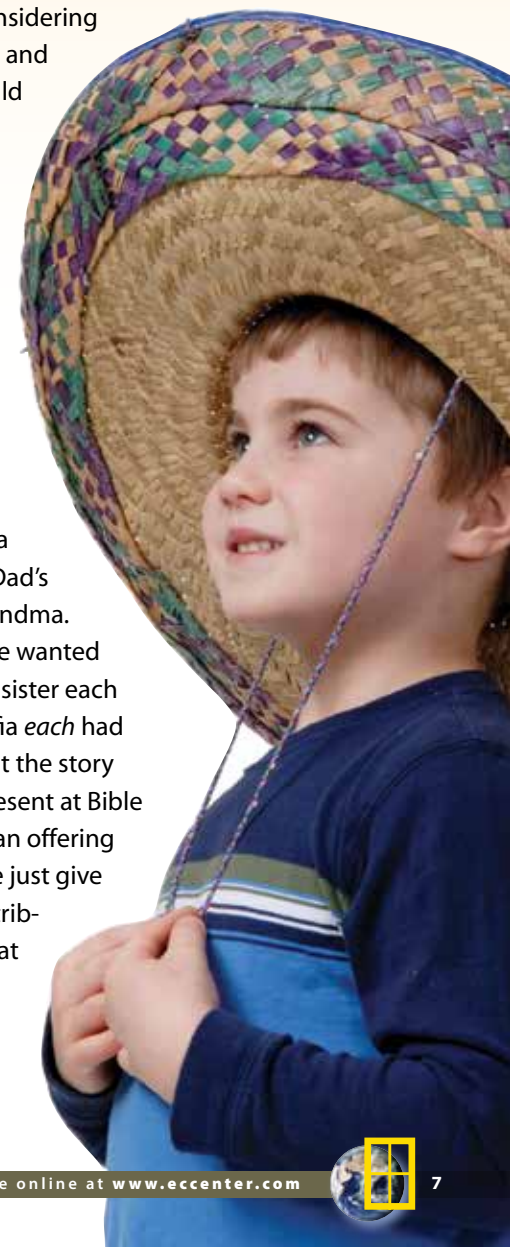
One of the things we enjoy doing is taking an offering every night to support the Bible School, and making the offering and attendance a friendly competition between the boys and the girls. Even with our small group of children, we have managed to make the Bible School self-sufficient. No small feat given that our Thursday night offering has always been devoted entirely to the mission project. And that is where this story really begins.

In 2014 our missions offering was \$141.00. As VBS director I was very proud of that, given our small group. Then in 2015 with approximately the same number of people, our mission offering was \$241.00 and I thought, "Wow, \$100.00 more than last year! Who would have thought we could do that?" I was very moved by the giving spirit of our children and

staff. We always make it a point to tell the children about the mission project during the early part of the week and then on Thursday when we take the offering, we try to do something special and explain more about the project for the year. This year I wore a huge sombrero that I bought in Mexico years ago and we had a piñata that the children broke during their game time. Here's where the story really gets good.

Enter eight year old Jeremiah who got up Thursday morning and asked his parents if he could have \$50 to put in the missions offering that night. No one knows why he came up with that amount. I suppose it sounded like a lot of money to him and a good amount to give. His parents didn't think they could afford to give him that much, considering his six year old sister Sofia was also attending VBS and would have wanted the same. They said they would think about it. Later in the day, without the other knowing, each of his parents gave \$20 to each of the children for the offering that night. When they realized what they had done, Jeremiah's dad thought it was a shame that the kids were now so close to having the \$50 each that they wanted, but he didn't really feel that they could give them anymore. He called his mother and explained what was going on and she said she would give each of the kids \$10.

And the snowball started rolling. Grandma went home and told Grandpa and Great-Grandma about what Jeremiah wanted to do. Then one of Dad's co-workers got involved along with the other Grandma. Then Jeremiah's next-door neighbor heard that he wanted to give \$50 to missions and gave the brother and sister each \$50. And so until God was done Jeremiah and Sofia *each* had \$151 to put in the missions offering that night. But the story doesn't end there. There were only 12 children present at Bible School that night. The other 10 children brought an offering totaling \$86. That's great! (How many times do we just give \$1 to God?) And the 12 teachers and helpers contributed \$271 for a grand total of \$659! Just think what a few people can do when God is at the center! I don't know how we're going to top this one next year! But I can't wait to see what God will do! 🌍



# Worship in Different Forms By Rev. Janor Bestwick

**THE DAY AFTER** Easter this year I joined Bishop Hill, Randy Sizemore, and Carlos Kelly for a week in Mexico to attend the International Conference of Mexico.



I have spent many summers in Mexico and have grown to love the people, the culture, and yes....the food is pretty good too. So I was thrilled to be allowed to join these men in

meeting our Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ. It was wonderful to see how God is working in Mexico.

We had the opportunity to attend a couple of worship services. One was in a nice church with lots of people. They had a band with a very passionate worship leader. It was loud and we sang songs for about 45 minutes. The other was in what could hardly be called a building with far fewer people, yet it was packed. The roof was just a couple of tarps. We sang hymns from old hymnals with only one instrument and a passionate, yet more restrained worship leader. But the spirit was the same in both

houses of worship. The churches couldn't have been any more different. Regardless of the size of their place of worship, their style of music, the number in attendance or resources they had available, the Gospel was being preached in both places and people are growing in their faith.

I learned that no matter what our situation may be, we are to serve faithfully with joy. 🌍

**– Rev. Bestwick is the pastor of our Seneca EC Church in Seneca, PA.**

## Helping the Most Vulnerable

**OUR VBS PROJECT** for this year was to raise \$10,000 for the Mexico EC Conference. Bethel EC Church in Rio Bravo has seen the need to reach out to the street children in their community. These children often have only one parent and are at greater risk of being recruited by the drug cartels to carry drugs for them.

Bethel church has a large open patio, perfect for holding child evangelism programs. However, in order to protect the children, and to make it usable in all sorts of weather, they need to put a roof over the patio and a chain link fence around it. So far (as of the end of August), we have received \$9300 towards our goal. If your church held their VBS program already, please forward the offering as soon as possible. If your church doesn't hold a VBS program, or you are involved in a community VBS, would you consider taking a special offering to help us meet our goal? As you read in the previous article, one young boy's vision led to a miraculous response! Is there a Jeremiah in your church? Use some creative ways to encourage your Sunday School classes (adults and/or children) to help children in Mexico to hear about Jesus. Our hope is to be able to send the full amount of funds by the end of this year. Thank you to all who did participate in this project; you are helping to grow the Kingdom! 🌍

# A Glimpse of Heaven

By Rev. Tomoyuki Abe

*Rev. Tomoyuki Abe and his father, Rev. Nobuo Abe (Chairman of the EC Church-Japan) joined GMC Associate Rev. Randy Sizemore, Bishop Bruce Hill, and Rev. Th. Janga, head of the EC Church of Nepal, for the EC Church of India National Conference this past spring.*



where we stayed, there are many churches (including ECCI), Christian schools, shops and buses with biblical words on windows, walls, etc. One night I was awakened by the noise of a loudspeaker outside: a sermon was being broadcast throughout the town in the middle of the night for the

people who would not be able to attend the next Sunday service! For me, who lives in a country where Christians are few, I thought I could get a little glimpse of heaven just being in Churachandpur!

Secondly, I was encouraged to meet many leaders there who serve inside and outside of ECCI, especially young people who have been trained at the ECCI seminary to become leaders in the Indian church. As we think about completing the Great Commission given by Jesus, we need more leaders in the next generation, and there is definitely hope in those leaders-to-be in ECCI. 🌍

**– Rev. Tomoyuki Abe and his wife Jessica are church planters in Fuchinobe, Japan.**





# Japan

## PLANTING AND HARVESTING GOD'S GRACE IN JAPAN

**WITH THE CHRISTIAN POPULATION** hovering around 1%, Japan is often seen as a spiritually barren field even though it is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. However, God in his loving kindness continues to reach into Japan, planting the life-changing truth of the Good News through local expressions of the Body of Christ. One such new expression is the Grace Garden Church plant, launched on Easter Sunday by Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe in Ebina City. The reasoning behind the name is intentional. *"We pray that this spiritually barren field turns into the garden of grace so we named the new church: Grace Garden Church."* After much prayer, consideration and vision casting this new fellowship began with thirty people in attendance, about half of which were not Christians. Since the launch Grace Garden Church is averaging sixteen people with new visitors almost every Sunday. They have begun a women's group and hope to start other small groups in the near future. Prayer is the power behind the success they have achieved so far. If you doubt that God is intentionally reaching into Japan, consider this edited excerpt from Yoriyoshi and Emiko's recent newsletter.



*One of the biggest surprises to us was to meet an international family who returned to Japan six months ago. They were looking for a church near their house in Ebina City. The husband is an American who has taken seminary courses and has a passion to teach and worship and his Japanese wife used to work at a church in Tokyo. He is helping Emiko's worship ministry and she is interested in helping our church in various ways. We believe that*

*their coming to us was the result of prayer and we hope to build a good ministry team with them.*

Tomoyuki and Jessica are also experiencing God's intentional love for the people of Japan through Fuchinobe Community Church. They testify to God's faithfulness in their Spring newsletter (edited).

*At the end of May we celebrated FCC's sixth anniversary and God's many blessings. Philipians 4:4-7 reminded us that in the midst of the uncertainty and various challenges we face as a small church plant... there have been many things to be thankful for. Recently we witnessed the salvation of a young gal whose twin sister had become a Christian in January. Now these two with their mother have been growing in the faith as a family and taking an active role at FCC.*

Tomoyuki is preaching on vision and leading the members of congregation to consider their specific roles in the vision of the church. About a year ago the GMC agreed to open a building fund to start facing the major challenge for FCC – a lack of space and limited resources in a



country with very expensive property. We are at about half way to the goal of raising enough funds to start renting a space big enough for all the ministry needs. 🌐

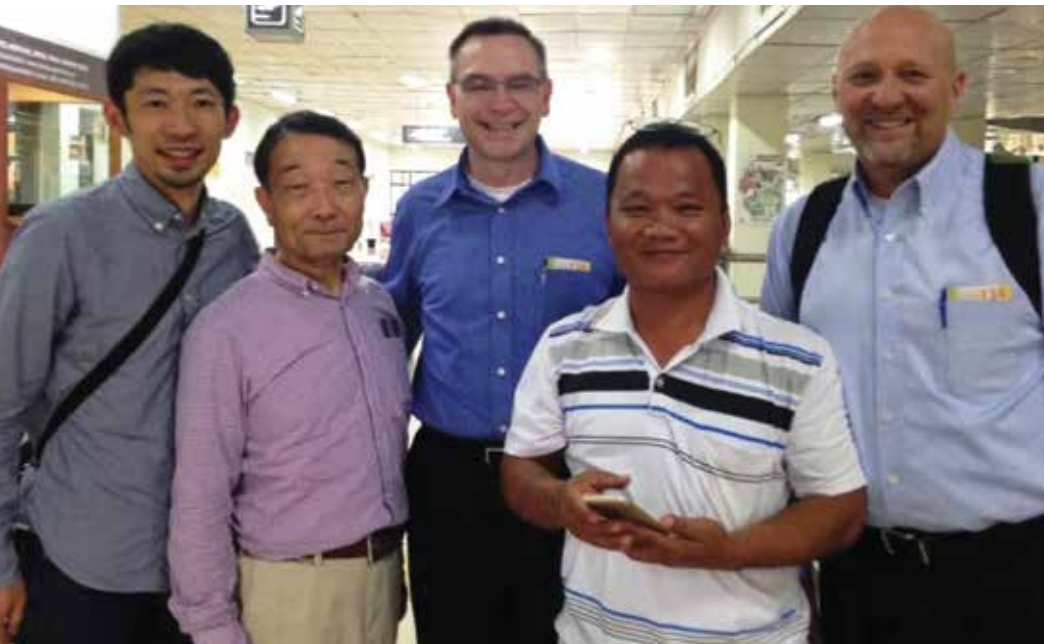
***Want to get more involved in what God is doing in Japan? Contact the GMC office to learn more about receiving these church planters' newsletters and/or how you can help with financial needs.***



# India

## NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW VISION FOR AN OLD MISSION

**NORTH EAST INDIA** is often considered a predominantly Christian area of the world however that is an oversimplification. Even though the Gospel has been in this part of the world for over 100 years, North East India is comprised of many states that range in Christian population from .03% to 90%. The Evangelical Congregational Church of India (ECCI) is made up of six presbyteries or conferences totaling about 60,000 members formed along tribal/language lines to reach as many of these states as possible. Currently the six conferences deploy over 200 missionaries in 80 stations working in over 20 people groups and languages and 5 major religions. Through the work of these missionaries and the 2,000 members within these mission stations, churches are planted, schools established and the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared in both



word and deed. In 2015 the mission stations reported 262 new converts, 150 baptisms and 65 backsliders restored.

Most of the states have a higher population of youth and young adults so efforts concentrate on reaching and preparing them for the mission. Recently 150 youth from 13 local churches gathered on the campus of the Evangelical College of Theology, to get to know one another while cleaning and preparing the campus for the start of the new academic year. This is the first time in the history of the EC Church of India that such a “work team mission” took place.

The leaders of the six presbyteries met together April 22-25, 2016 for the Fourth General Leaders’ Conference. The GMC hosted a delegation to this conference which included Bishop Bruce Hill, Chairman Nobuo Abe and Tomoyuki Abe from EC Japan, Director Th. Janga from EC Nepal and Rev. Randy Sizemore, Associate of Global Ministries. Our team was privileged to serve as speakers and resource persons for the conference, to support the election of the next General Director of ECCI, to strengthen our relationships with new and existing ECCI leaders, to encourage the faculty and staff of the Evangelical College of Theology and to cross-pollinate our USA, India, Nepal, Japan conferences.

Rev. Dr. Kaitikap Vaiphei was elected to serve as the General Director (Bishop)



of ECCI for a four year term. Besides the election of a new General Director, other key leadership positions were filled and the conference officially endorsed the “Covenant of ECCI” drafted by key leaders at a special gathering in October 2015 which maps out the way forward for the six presbyteries to proceed in unity, purpose and the mission of telling the old, old story of Jesus and his love. Please continue to pray for and support the work of the EC Church of India. Even though the Church continues to grow, conversion usually brings opposition. Political and spiritual persecution of Christians is on the rise and separatists and insurgents with competing agendas complicate daily life and hinder the work of ministry. 🌍





# Liberia

## YOU FEED THEM!

**YOU'VE READ IT**, I've preached it. Jesus' startling command to his resourceless disciples overlooking a multitude of needs, "You feed them!" Rev. Abraham Powell, the newly elected Bishop of the EC Church of Liberia has a good idea of how Jesus' words to his disciples must have felt. Since his election and installation, he has conducted a tour of the four districts comprising the EC Church of Liberia (ECCOL) and has comprised a rather

daunting list of the needs. Here are a few of the major needs and challenges facing ECCOL.

- The growing Muslim population: Muslim males marrying Christian girls and forcing them and their children to convert.
- Bible illiteracy: Many Believers cannot read English or their Bassa tribal language so they are susceptible to false teachings and synchronizing the Christian doctrine with tribal religion.
- Physical state of the local church facilities: most church buildings are in deplorable condition.
- Lack of transportation for local & district pastors: many must walk for miles to minister.
- Lack of education: Some villages where we have churches have upward to 100 children and no nearby school.

- Lack of resources and equipment for children and youth ministry: It is easy to attract 150 children and youth to a Christian camp IF you can feed and house them and have materials and equipment to "do camp" with them.

The GMC is committed to helping ECCOL share the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed. Let's be honest, if we were able to miraculously meet all these needs today, there would be more tomorrow, therefore we are determined to help ECCOL meet needs and develop ministries that

can be as sustainable, successful and as self-sufficient as possible. The GMC has decided that the best way we can help in the short term is by raising the funds for motorcycles for district pastors in 2016 and by helping to fund a pilot Biblical literacy program on a small scale in 2017 with the hopes of increasing the scope of the program as we work out the wrinkles and come up with a reproducible program.

***If you would like to contribute to the cost of the motorcycles estimated at \$2,800 each, please make your check payable to GMC, clearly marked "Liberia motorcycles" and send it in to the GMC office.*** 📧





# Mexico

## TIME FOR THE HARVEST

### THE PASTORS, WIVES AND DELEGATES

from the 12 congregations and mission stations that make up the EC Church of Mexico met March 30-April 1, 2016 for their 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference under the theme, "Time For The Harvest." The GMC hosted a delegation to this conference which included Bishop Bruce Hill, Rev. Carlos Kelly, Pastor Janor Bestwick and GMC Associate, Rev. Randy Sizemore. We were privileged to be speakers and resource people for the conference. Both Bishop Hill and Janor Bestwick led small group workshops during the conference. We were very excited to see first-hand the impact of the previous year's intensive training for the pastors and wives and

pastoral families. We also made a follow up visit to the building project, Casa De Dios in Rio Bravo where the Great Lakes Work Team recently installed electrical wiring and lights.

Amidst the challenging conditions of poverty, drug violence and the disintegration of the family, the EC Church of Mexico is actively and effectively sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since my last visit they have established two new mission stations and continue to reach into their culture in a variety of creative ways. During one of the conference sessions the pastors and delegates shared how their local congregations were intentionally reaching into their communities. These efforts included the following ministries.

- Conference-wide church camp for youth
- Marriage and family ministries
- Women & men's ministries
- Implementing the IGLEKids children's ministry
- Small group ministries
- Youth ministries
- Adult Bible Institute programs

Through these ministries and more, last year 44 people were brought to Christ, 12 were baptized and discipleship continues. The mission conference has

made steady progress toward being granted National Conference status and our hopes are that the remaining steps can be completed so that we can grant National Conference status to the EC Church of Mexico at the 2017 sessions of our USA National Conference at Messiah College. 🌍

## EL RETIRO CHILDREN'S HOME

**WE CONTINUE TO HELP** El Retiro Children's Home transition as our official partnership with them will come to an end in January 2018. Many of the children utilizing ERJ have been relocated to other service providers and the remaining few will relocate with their current school cycles. We have encouraged directors Carlos & Martha to take a short sabbatical following the relocation of the children while the Board of Directors of ERJ continues working on future ministry options for the facility. 🌍

# Nepal

## CHURCH PLANTING, POLITICS AND PERSECUTION

**Note: because of increased scrutiny and persecution, we are not printing specifics in this Nepal update. Contact the GMC office to receive a specific update via email.**

*"No person shall be entitled to convert another person from one religion to another and shall not take actions or behave in a way that would create disturbance in another's religion"*

This statement in Nepal's constitution has made converting others to Christianity illegal in a Hindu majority nation since 2015. The ambiguous wording is also being used to define "converting" as something as simple as handing our Bibles or literature

or inviting children to VBS. Last September Hindu extremists warned all foreign Christian missionaries to leave the country, accusing them of corrupting the nation.

In spite of these obstacles the Gospel goes forward and the Church continues to grow. Our friends in Nepal are dealing with various kinds of persecution and scrutiny so open communication and internet postings have been kept at a minimum. Please pray for pastors, missionaries and Christians in Nepal as they continue to share the Good News, plant local congregations and minister to the marginalized. 🌍



# Introducing...

**ACTUALLY, SHE** doesn't need any introduction. Beth Grimm is known to many EC'ers, especially if they have been involved with missions in the EC Church for a length of time. Beth was initially commissioned as a missionary in 1978. She served for a number of years with Africa Inland Mission in Tanzania as a teacher at Victoria Primary School. Beth returned home to complete her graduate studies as a Reading Specialist. She eventually was seconded to Wycliffe Bible Translators and worked in the Field Education System, a method of home school extension program geared for missionary children in the field. She worked out of Christian Academy of Guatemala for several years. During this time she had an increasing burden for children with learning disabilities. So Beth returned to the USA once again for training with the National Institute for Learning Disabilities.



Beth has continued her training while in the USA. She is currently a licensed school psychologist and education specialist. Beth has been self-employed for the past nine years, doing tutoring, testing, academic coaching, and consultations with home schools, Christian and cyber schools as well as private schools. Beth's unique skills as a school psychologist, reading specialist and educational therapist have made her in high demand for missionary boarding schools around the world.

Beth will be serving under Wycliffe Associates and currently plans to make 2-3 trips overseas a year as a consultant. Her work load may increase as time and finances allow. Beth will be re-commissioned on October 16<sup>th</sup> at her home church of Grace Community at Willow Street, PA. We welcome Beth back into active missionary status and know that God will use her talents to serve His servants around the world. 🌍

## SUPPORT NEEDS

**WE DON'T OFTEN** publish lists of our missionaries who have support needs, but several of our EC missionaries have serious ongoing support shortages. It's reached the point that some may have to leave the field or take on second jobs, just to be able to support their families. This will have a very negative impact on their ministries. Please look at the following list and prayerfully see if you can help. Even one time gifts will help build their balance, so we don't have to keep cutting back on what we send for them. Thank you. 🌍

- **John & Carolyn Miller** short \$200/month (until end of 2016)
- **Rev. Joe Toy Jr.** short \$500/month
- **Rev. Kurt G.** short \$1000/month
- **Rev. David Dick** short \$1000/month
- **Chris & Deb Bowers** short \$950/month

## FALL 2016



### First EC Church, Palmyra, PA

Jay Johnson led a work team of 22 people from our church and neighboring churches to **Victory Bible Camp in Alaska** for a two week mission trip. Victory Bible Camp ministers to youth through a variety of camps and provides year round Christian programs. Victory Bible Camp began with 40 acres and now includes 389 acres.

Our group spent two weeks (May 21<sup>st</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup>) working on different projects to prepare the camp for the incoming groups of campers. We renovated Alpine Lodge to include a Chapel and Activities Room with a sound booth and

improved stage area. Much painting was done inside and out as well as some wiring and carpeting. There was painting of fences and railings, demolition of decks, building of new decks, resurfacing deck area of boat docks, firewood cutting and splitting, dry walling and many more smaller projects too numerous to mention.

Our mornings were special with group devotions as well as private time of worship before breakfast. The full-time staff made all of us feel very welcome and appreciated! God is truly good and we would like to recommend Victory Bible Camp to all church groups.   
– Jay Johnson



### St. John's EC church, Steelstown, PA

The youth group leaders are teaching the elementary age children about "service". In May the church was invited to a sit-down spaghetti dinner in our church grove pavilion where the children served us. The purpose was to collect items for Voice of the Martyrs ministry. VOM sends medical bags to other countries. The bags include band-aids, gauze, lip balm, etc. and are sent to countries where these items are not readily available. The guests were asked to bring either a monetary donation or medical items to be placed in the bags which the children will be filling and sending to VOM.   
– Linda Patches

### Faith EC Church, Lancaster, PA

Tyler Kime, Matt Latschar and Oliver Marvin all backpacked through **Western Europe** with Live 10:27 Ministries, learning what it means to be a disciple of







### Trinity EC Church, Harrisburg, PA

Group Missions Trip. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of July three youth advisors and I, accompanied by 7 teens journeyed to **upstate New York**. We had a great time bonding with one another during the long 4 hour trip.

Once we arrived and unloaded everything we were met by the Group Leaders, and also the other youth groups which came from Pittsburgh PA, Halifax PA, southern VA, even as far as Solon, Iowa. Our youth served in nursing homes, playing games with the residents and conversing with them. We also served in a shelter for abused and battered women

Jesus, and sharing the Good News with any whom they crossed paths with.

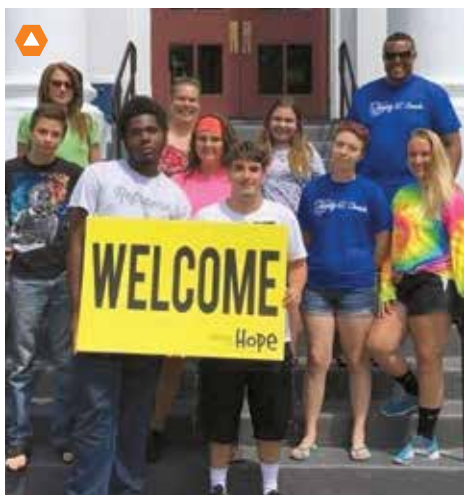
Joel, Michelle and Connor Kime traveled to **South East Asia**. Connor spent a week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, working with Harvest Bible Chapel KL, an international church pastored by Michelle's brother-in-law. Joel and Michelle were in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, working with Imagine Goods, the company founded by Aiyana Ehrman and Michelle to empower survivors of trafficking through employment.

– Rev. Joel Kime

and children, our kids brought so much laughter and joy to the women and children there.

Then there was a beautiful resort called "Sugars" for children with terminal illnesses who are at the end of their short lives, a place that they can come take refuge and transition to God in a peaceful, beautiful setting. Our kids and staff painted homes and benches, cut grass, pulled weeds, planted flowers, built memorials at the trail of hope, fed and played games with less fortunate children, interacted with those young and elderly that needed to know Christ loves them.

– **Chuck Lamon, Director of Youth & Family Ministry**



### Bethesda EC Church, Reedsville, PA

From July 23-30, Bethesda Youth Ministries worked with Big Creek Missions, **Bear Branch, KY**. Fifteen students and four adult chaperones ministered in three different areas -- children's ministries, community outreach, and construction -- helping individuals and families in the northeast Kentucky area. A hats-off to this vital and valuable ministry in the Appalachian area.

– Rev. Mark Brooks

### Sinking Spring Community Church, Sinking Spring, PA

Our summer mission trip to **Ocean Isle, NC** with Christian Endeavor had a team that consisted of teens and adults. Trip dates were July 17-24, 2016. We did some renovations on homes including flooring, plumbing, and trim work. We



### GMC sponsored team

A team of 14 members from various EC and non-EC churches spent August 6-20 at Camp LiWa near **Fairbanks, AK**. GMC sponsors a team each year to help out this Christian camp, which depends on volunteer help for special projects and getting the camp ready for fall and winter programs.

### Ebenezer EC Church, Jim Thorpe, PA

Church member Mary Jane Sterling made her seventh trip to **Scotland** this summer for two weeks in June. She and Rev. Marie Terry of Christ Redeemer Church in Coaldale spoke and gave testimonies at various events. Mary Jane also played the accordion at several events. She is coordinator of SCOT (Scotland Christian Outreach Teams.)

– Rev. Tim Sanger







**Grace EC Church,  
Schuylkill Haven, PA**

July 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grace Youth Ministry sponsored a mission trip in which 22 students and adults spent a week ministering to the community of **Leslie County, Kentucky** and the surrounding area. Working with Big Creek Missions, located in Bear Branch, Kentucky, the team had the opportunity to participate in children's ministries, various community ministries, and construction projects for local residents. The team had the opportunity to bring some joy into the lives of many kids and families struggling with

life in the area. The trip certainly left an impact on the team from Grace Churchy.  
– *Rev. Ted Rathman*

**Trinity EC Church,  
Lititz, PA**

This was Lititz Trinity's first time to send a short-term overseas team. Our goal was to involve families and children as well as adult in the overseas mission experience. In partnership with Orphan Resources International, Lititz Trinity sent a team of 11 to **Guatemala**. At the Rehoboth Orphanage the team helped build a home for the older teen boys, build "Blessing Boxes" for a counseling proj-

ect for abused girls, and hold a sports camp and pizza party for the children. Members of Trinity's "Knit Together" group knit over 200 hack-sacks to distribute and two other team members sewed 140 pillowcases for children. Additionally every team member participated to deliver food to 4 different orphanages daily.

Trinity sent a work team of 12 youth and adults to **Gettysburg, PA** from June 26 to July 2. The team, working through an organization called Reach, helped repair homes and show the love of Jesus to many in that area. The team accomplished not only their home repair projects but delighted when one of the families they served started to come to evening worship with the group.



**Zion EC Church,  
Clarks Valley, PA**

CVZ 2 Africa, a short term mission team put together by Clarks Valley Zion EC Church of Dauphin, PA, traveled June 16 – June 27, to **Tanzania, Africa**. The 16 member team served through a week long VBS program at Haven of Peace Academy in Dar es Salaam with the help of our missionary host, Rose Carper, who was the Athletic Director at the school. The purpose of the trip was more than just doing a VBS, it was also about encouraging and uplifting the missionary families serving in Dar es Salaam. The Mission Minded Kids class of Clarks Valley Zion EC Church "adopted" some of the missionary families to pray for and send along with the team care packages. Some of the men on the team did a 3-day service project of adding concrete steps to a family's back porch.

**Grace Community,  
Willow Street, PA**

Derek and Stacy Martin took a mission trip in June to the **Dominican Republic**, with Feed My Starving Children through Praying Pelicans. We distributed boxes of manna packs to the villages in and around Batey 106. We also handed out food and hope to a men's home for drug and alcohol recovery. Visiting the special needs orphanage was a time filled with such mixed emotions, but you truly saw God's love through the workers there. Good Samaritan Hospital also receives manna packs that we pack at our yearly events. We just couldn't get over all the love we saw and shared in. God's word is so cherished there as were we while we served.

A group of adults and teens went to Canyon Falls EC Church, **Kentucky** and conducted VBS, helped with clean-up and

repair jobs, distributed groceries and food and served in the name of Christ.  
– *Deb Shank*

**Zion EC Church,  
Anville, PA**

Frank Wampler joined 9 men from the United Christian church for the trip to **Monterrey, Mexico** from April 9-16, 2016. The theme for this trip was "Everybody has a Story" "but mine is not about me" based on Galatians 2:20. We worked on a house that Time Ministries purchased to house visiting missionaries and workers. Doug Gibson, who grew up in the Anville UC church has been in Mexico for approximately 25 years. He started a church in Monterrey and ministers to the local people there. We worshipped there on Sunday.

– *Frank Wampler*





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**“...WE ARE DETERMINED** to help the EC Church of Liberia meet needs and develop ministries that can be as sustainable, successful and as self-sufficient as possible.”

