

A publication of the Global Ministries Commission of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



INSIDE: Fall 2012

**short
stops**

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Fighting the Good Fight!

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”

– EPHESIANS 6:12

IMAGINE THE SCENE: Methodists, Baptists, Pentecostals, Evangelicals and Christians from various faith traditions gather for prayer at a city gate in Mexico. A few days ago, the heads of several murdered victims were placed at this very spot to intimidate those who would oppose the drug cartel. The unified voices of the Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico – members of various denominations who previously did not know nor recognize each other are now humbling themselves before God in prayer and fasting, repenting for caring more about protecting and growing their own individual churches than about the lost people of their cities. With renewed strength and an unprecedented unity the Church of Jesus Christ in northern Mexico is standing together against the violence and fear propagated by the true enemy of humanity, the Devil and is reclaiming cities, towns and individuals in the strong

name of Jesus Christ! We praise God for Rev. Elias Martinez, Director of the EC Church of Mexico who not only shares this testimony with us but who is a key leader in this amazing movement of God! The reality is, the Church of Jesus Christ, including the Evangelical Congregational Church in Japan, India, Nepal, Mexico and Liberia is engaged in direct spiritual warfare for the souls of the men, women, boys and girls who occupy their towns, villages, cities and nations. Our international EC leaders regularly testify to the amazing power of God at work within their midst as pastors, laymen and local congregations let go of their personal agendas and join together hand in hand with each other under the power and authority of Jesus Christ and meet the enemy head on.

Our international EC Conferences may not have the financial and educational resources that churches in the U.S. enjoy, but they do have much to teach the increasingly fragmented, independent-minded, post denominational Church in the United States about how to engage the enemy and advance the Kingdom in unity and power! 🌍



– by Randy Sizemore,
Executive Director Global
Ministries Commission

COVER: Young girl draws clean water from newly refurbished well in Liberia

Graphic Design: Maureen Logan / mlart1@verizon.net



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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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The Lesson Plan

—by Lamar Stoltzfus

AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER, I was required to prepare daily lesson plans. These plans listed objectives, activities to achieve those objectives, required resources, and academic standards. A lesson plan is an outline for the teacher to follow so that they can guide their students toward achieving a particular skill. Just as any plan can be interrupted, so can classroom lesson plans. Discovering that a

student had been cutting himself and was planning suicide takes priority over the lesson prepared for tune up procedures on a Cummins engine. Smashing my fingers in a heavy piece of equipment after a jack failed during a skill demonstration immediately changed the direction of my lesson for that day. The next day, I realized that my students learned more from my ability to hold my tongue under pressure rather than the original lesson. Moments like these opened the door for me to share why life is precious and why I chose not to swear. It gave me the opportunity to talk about God and why I live for Him. Each day I would enter the classroom with my lesson plan, only to have events occur or discussions take place, and each day became more about life than just the original lesson plan.

I believe that we all do the same type of thing when we map out our life plan. We list our goals and objectives for what we want to accomplish in the next ten to twenty years. We ask ourselves, “What must I do to achieve these goals? What resources will it take to reach my goals, be it education or financial decisions?” Then we compare our

lives and our goals to a standard to measure our success. But whose standard are we using? Are we using the world’s standard or God’s?

For the first seven years of my teaching career, I thought I had my life plan all figured out. My goal was to be employed as a fully certified teacher and to work toward a financially secure retirement. My activities would involve being knowledgeable in my subject area and being a positive influence in the lives of my students. After all, this was my mission field. The resources that I needed were the evening courses which led to my vocational teaching certificate in diesel

mechanics. I jumped through all of these hoops so I could reach an acceptable standard of financial security when I retire. Throughout my career, I wanted to be remembered by my students as a teacher who truly cared about them. All in all, not a bad plan, right?

Just as a lesson plan is an outline of intended goals, so is a life plan. You start out thinking you know what is going to happen, but one small thing can change the entire plan. This is what happened to me in 2001. After hearing Brian and Missy Wagner, EC missionaries in Kenya, speak at Lancaster Faith EC Church, my wife, Janice, said, “That sounds like something **we** can do.” That simple statement brought about a change in our plans! However, I had to change first. It was not part of the plan that I saw for myself! I certainly did not understand how God could use a diesel mechanic in missions. Thankfully, God is able to change hearts and minds, and he changed mine. He also changed our plans. Jeremiah 29:11 says “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (NIV) All we had to do is trust Him!

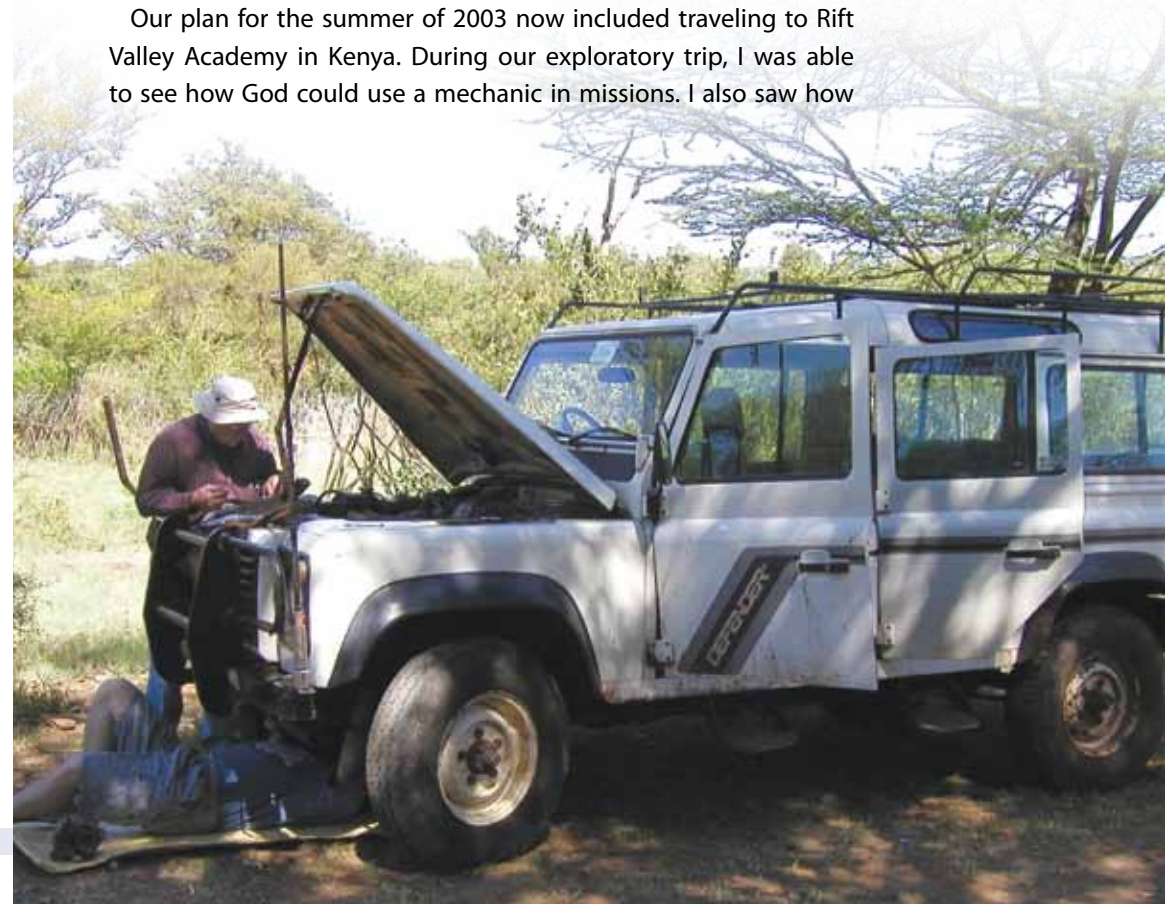
Our plan for the summer of 2003 now included traveling to Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. During our exploratory trip, I was able to see how God could use a mechanic in missions. I also saw how

BELOW: There is no AAA in Orus - with Art Davis in Pokot in 2005



“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

— JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)





He can use anyone with any skill for His kingdom. He opened my eyes to support-related ministries within missions, those who work behind the scenes so that those on the front lines can do their work more effectively. Support-related ministries can include those who serve as doctors, nurses, plumbers, carpenters, airplane pilots, counselors, and, yes, even mechanics and teachers! We returned to the USA knowing that future journeys to Kenya could be in the plan, but when?

The answer to that question started as a joke. We had teased the Wagners that the next time they went on home assignment, we should trade places with them. They could live in our house in Pennsylvania, and we would live in their house in Kenya. Little did we know that this was indeed God's plan.

As we approached our school administrators about our plan to spend the coming year in Kenya, we were faced with many

struggles and delays. In fact, it took several months before our requests were even presented to our school boards. Many folks told us that maybe this was God saying it was not His plan. However, we felt strongly that God was leading us back to Kenya. He just kept reassuring us through our devotional times, praise and worship times, and prayer experiences. During this portion of the journey, our faith grew immeasurably because we knew that He was in control of the plan.

Finally, we were released by our schools but with only three months remaining to raise our financial support for the year. Many people told us that this was impossible and maybe God was closing the door. Again, we felt that this faith-building experience was all part of God's plan for us. We continued our preparations, following His leading, and in less than two months, we were fully supported for the year! The verse in Jeremiah echoed in our minds as we prepared to serve the 2005-2006 academic year in Kenya at Rift Valley Academy.

Upon our return to the U.S. in 2006, we were unsettled. All that we had worked toward and planned for had somehow become less important. Our minds began to entertain the idea of full time mission work in Kenya instead of retiring as public school teachers. But

what about our plans? What would it mean for our family? What about our retirement and the future? One by one, God laid our fears to rest. He proved over and over that His plan was far beyond anything we had imagined.

In August 2009, we began our lives as full time missionaries. We are serving at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya as dorm parents, teachers, and in various other roles. Looking back, we can see how God has blessed our decision to follow His plan rather than sticking with our own. We can see how He has taken care of everything. All we have to do is trust Him. It still is not easy at times. We still would like to know all the answers so that we know how to plan. We still would like to be the planners and decide all of the objectives and outcomes. But that is not what God tells us in Jeremiah. What He requires is that we trust Him and follow His plan. Trusting does not mean sitting back and letting things happen. It requires action on our part. A plan is just a plan unless it is implemented. God asks us to become active participants in His plan and not just remain satisfied with being observers.

What does my lesson plan look like now? A lot of blank spaces! But I trust that God knows the objectives for my life. He knows the activities that I will participate in to achieve those goals. I know that He will equip me with the resources I need to successfully complete the task. And I know that if I follow His plan, my life will meet the standard that He has set for me. So, what are the plans for your life and who is the author of those plans? 🌍

Looking back, we can see how God has blessed our decision to follow His plan rather than sticking with our own. We can see how He has taken care of everything.



TOP: Repairing a gate at the Davis compound in Orus in 2011

BOTTOM LEFT: Teaching the next generation of mechanics with Donovan in 2010

BOTTOM RIGHT: Giving instruction on mower maintenance in 2009

BELOW: At home in the dorm in 2011





GMC Office Assistant Position Ends December 31, 2012

WE ARE ALWAYS EVALUATING how we can best steward the funds donated to operate the GMC office. Our goal is to operate the administrative department of GMC as efficiently as possible so that more resources can be applied to our missionaries and international conferences. After an extensive

evaluation, the GMC has determined that the part time GMC Office Assistant position currently held by Carla Sizemore could be eliminated without negatively affecting the work of the GMC office. This transition will take place at the end of the year. Beginning in January 2013, Deputy Director Pat Strain will assume the majority of the Office Assistant's duties, including the scheduling of missionaries for our local churches. Carla will continue to coordinate the Missionary Prayer Partner program and help in other areas in a volunteer capacity. We thank Carla for her years of service as the GMC Office Assistant and for her willingness to continue to serve the GMC as a volunteer! 🙏

RALLY UPDATE BYLINE — by Carla Sizemore

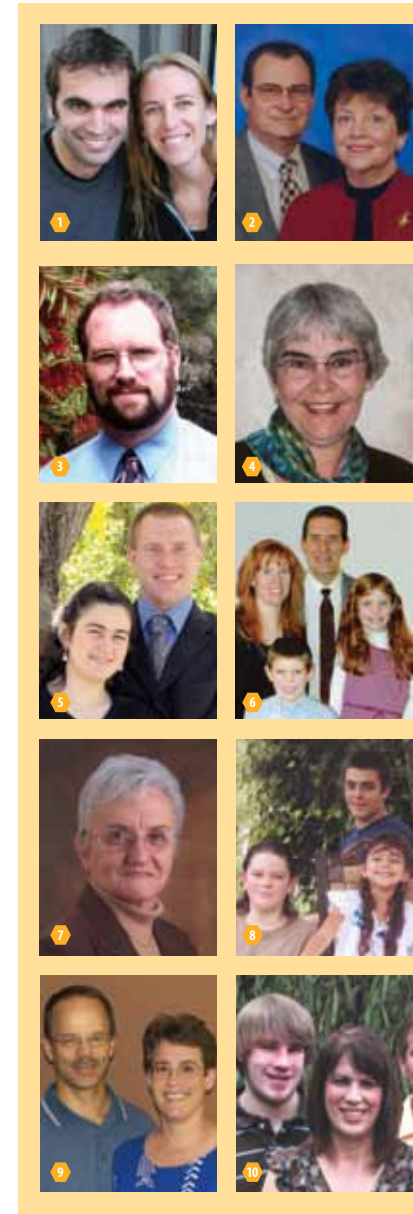
WE HAD OVER 40 pastors, wives and mission leaders for the Pastors' lunch on Friday October 12, 2012. The rally was held at Trinity EC in Boyertown. Nick Lakatos shared his ministry. It was a privilege to have Rev. Elias Martinez from Mexico along with his wife Myrna. They shared about the exciting ways God is working in Mexico.

On Saturday October 13, 2013 we had the Fall Family Missions Rally. The program included a children's track, a teen program and an adult program all running at the same time. There were over 60 children throughout the day hearing from missionaries and many hands on activities. Over 12 teens joined Tim King and his drama team for the day. We also had over 80 adults who heard from Gloria Smethers, Dan Dixon, Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus, Nick Lakatos and Rev. Elias & Myrna Martinez from Mexico. Many thanks to all who made the day so successful.

Here is a youtube link if you want to see the highlights of the rally.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Sjgx-MxIJY> 📺

Missionary Prayer Partners Update

THE FOLLOWING MISSIONARIES still have months available for 2012. Please check out the webpage, call or email Carla Sizemore at csizemore@eccenter.com to choose your missionary and month.



- 1 **Chris & Deb Bowers** have December
- 2 **Dave & Celia Dick** have December
- 3 **Dan Dixon** has November and December
- 4 **Marcia Hopler** has December
- 5 **Jeremy Kunkel** has December
- 6 **Nick & Lisa Lakatos** have December
- 7 **Kitty Miller** has December
- 8 **Ed & Val Schubert** have December
- 9 **Jim & Janet Stahl** have December
- 10 **Dan & MaryLyne Wills** have December

All the missionaries for **2012** had at least two months filled and many of the missionaries had their year pretty much filled. 54 EC churches participated in the Missionary Prayer Partners for 2012.

The missionaries for **2013** will be:
 Ron & Brenda Anderson, Jamie & Anita Farr, Jim & Joan Farr, Kurt & Nancy,

Roy & Sue Haglund, David & Emily Hershey, John & Carolyn Miller, David & Conce Roof, Gloria Smethers, and Joe & Wendy Toy.

Churches are beginning to sign up for months but there are plenty that are still available. The materials will be mailed to the churches by the end of November for the beginning of 2013. 🙏



October 2012 International Church Updates



ABOVE: Reaching the next generation of Japanese

JAPAN:

The EC Church of Japan continues its progress toward becoming a National Conference under the direction of Rev. Nobuo Abe. A project group of pastors and laity has been meeting to facilitate this progress. They are researching the governing structures of other like-minded churches in Japan to help

them in creating a culturally appropriate governing structure of their own. The EC Discipline's Articles of Faith have been translated into the Japanese language and plans are being put into place for Nobuo to travel to Myerstown next fall to meet with the GMC leadership to evaluate their progress and discuss the next steps toward National Conference status.

The Fuchinobe Community Church plant also continues to gain strength and stability. Tomoyuki and Jessica are praising God for the two cell groups that are meeting on a weekly basis and for the lives that are being impacted with the Gospel. Here is an excerpt from their latest newsletter:

"About a year ago we asked you to pray for a lady who had been attending Fuchinobe Community Church since the earthquake of March 2011. It is with great joy that we can now tell you that she became a Christian....and has started her baptism preparation with Tomoyuki....We are looking forward to seeing more of God's wonderful work in their lives."

Jessica continues taking Japanese language classes twice a week and reports that she is able to finish most sentences she starts and sometimes gives a short message in Bible study!

Sagimahara Grace Chapel is reaching their neighborhood with a children's day care ministry and has begun a new Mothers' Bible

study with eight participants. The GMC has agreed to designate this ministry as the 2013 VBS project. More details about this will be available shortly.

When we asked Rev. Abe about his visit to the EC Church of Nepal in December of 2011, he responded that he was surprised to see so many young people involved in the church and that the people of Nepal look like the people of Japan! He said he felt very close to them and desires to build a strong relationship between the EC Churches of Japan and Nepal.

The EC Church of Japan continues to help the churches in the regions that were affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Currently Rev. Abe is involved in a project to help the churches in the Tohoku region.



ABOVE: Rev. Abe prepares a new Christian for baptism

INDIA:

Evangelical Congregational Church of India:

The EC Church of India is certainly living up to their General Conference theme, "*Evangelism Through Perseverance*"! General Director (Bishop) L.B. Angam sent the January-June 2012 report of their missionary efforts which includes:



- 210 missionaries in 5 countries working among 31 people groups
- 102 new converts
- 87 baptisms
- 79 re-dedications
- 25 back sliders restored
- 90 pledges for regular tithing

He also reports the successful missionary training retreat held at the Baptist Church compound in Guwahati, September 14-18, 2012. In his words, this is the first of its kind in the mission history of ECCL. We are currently in the process of organizing another leadership seminar in November/December of 2013 in North East India in conjunction with a visit the EC Church of Nepal. Allow Angam's words from the conclusion of his report to encourage your heart:



If you would like to financially partner with the EC Church of India in sending missionaries out to this needy part of the world, make your contributions to GMC, clearly marked: "EC India" and send it to the GMC office.



To financially partner with the EC Church of Japan in reaching their people with the Good News of Jesus Christ, make your contributions to GMC, clearly marked: "EC Japan" and send them to the GMC office.





ABOVE: ECCI missionaries in training

"Let us thank God for all He has done through our missionaries in the mission fields such as new converts, back sliders restored, construction of new church buildings, schools, hostels, recruitment of new mission-

aries, the installation of hand pumps and the purchase of land for churches. Let us also pray for God's provision and protection on all the ongoing projects mentioned above!"

Evangelical College Of Theology – a ministry of the EC Church of India:

- In the last issue of *Window On The World*, we asked you to pray for God to open doors for Rev. Lalrosiem Songate, the new Principal of Evangelical College of Theology to obtain a Doctoral Degree to meet the accreditation requirements for our college in India. I am happy to report that Lalrosiem is now enrolled in a PhD program at Concordia Seminary in Indiana. He will probably be there for at least two years and from time to time when he has breaks we will try to schedule him to speak in our congregations. Over these next two years the GMC will be financially supporting some of Lalrosiem's educational expenses and we are inviting individuals and congregations to join us in this investment that will benefit not only the College of Theology but the entire EC Church of India and beyond. Contributions can be marked, "Songate education" and sent to the GMC office.

- You will read in this issue of the tremendous success of this year's VBS project which was to help raise funds to build a security wall around the campus of Evangelical College of Theology in India. Principal Lalrosiem Songate has invited us to take this project one step farther and send a work team to help begin the actual construction of this wall in the summer of 2013. Maybe we could call it the "Nehemiah Team" since we will be building a wall around the campus! Actually the main purpose of this team will not only be to help our brothers and sisters begin to build this wall, it will be to build a stronger connection and partnership as we work together to fulfill the Great Commission. (see page 19)

- Speaking of partnering with Evangelical College of Theology, we can now offer individuals and churches the opportunity to sponsor

a student at \$25/month. Each sponsor will receive a prayer card with the student's photo, name and brief testimony. If you would like to receive a student sponsorship packet please contact Carla Sizemore at csizemore@eccenter.com.

NEPAL:

We praise God that He answered our prayers for another temporary residence of Mercy Home until the permanent one can be built. As I reported in the last issue, Rev. Janga and his wife Mercy are caring for 8-10 orphan boys in the home they were renting. They were told rather abruptly that they would have to move from this home, but God has provided another residence that meets their needs. Rev. Janga has started building a permanent building which will house the EC Church of Nepal headquarters and provide space for caring for the orphan boys. Unfortunately, funds are very limited and the construction will probably take several years to complete. The ministry in Nepal continues to grow and it seems almost once a week I receive a report from Janga about a training seminar, ladies crusade, evangelistic meetings, new converts, the beginnings of a new church fellowship and lots of photos to go with the reports! We thank God for what He is doing in and through the EC Church of Nepal. I have invited Rev. Janga to travel with me to visit the Annual Conference of Liberia in February 2013. If you remember in 2011 the EC Church of Nepal generously sacrificed their entire year's building fund of \$500 to help their brothers and sisters of the EC Church of Liberia. I am excited to have them now meet face to face! Please pray with me that Janga will be granted a visa to travel to Liberia.



If you would like to partner with the EC Church of Nepal in sharing Jesus Christ among this Hindu nation, make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked "EC Nepal" and send it to the GMC office.

BELOW: Mercy Home relocates





ABOVE: EC Church of Mexico continues to grow

MEXICO:

According to the 7th edition of Jason Mandryk's prayer guide, *Operation World*, Mexico has its share of challenges:

- 60% of Mexicans struggle with poverty
- Unicef reports the average minimum wage at \$4/day,
- 26% under-employment,
- 4-9% live on less than \$1/day
- 11 million children under the age of 15 work to support their families
- 800,000 are homeless or street children
- 1/3 of population is age 15 or under
- 8.3% of population is Evangelical Christian

Mandryk goes on to say that while Christianity is accepted, in many areas believers face persecution, prejudice, harassment, evictions and damage to church property. The national, indigenous believers are doing a great job at reaching their fellow countrymen but foreign missionaries are still needed for specific roles such as mobilizing Mexicans for missions, children and youth work, theological education and leadership development (p.579-584).

The EC congregations of Mexico and the United States have been partnering together for many years to meet these challenges both inside and outside of the church. We are excited at the progress we have achieved together. Today the EC Church of Mexico is reaching into

the challenging statistics above, into homes, families and communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their congregations are growing both spiritually and numerically. The attendances at youth camps and other youth programs is on a steady increase. Men, women, boys and girls are being brought to faith in Jesus and then intentionally disciplined using a new discipleship initiative approved at the April 2012 Annual Conference. We are excited that ECCM Director Elias and his wife Myrna were able to be with us in Pennsylvania for the Fall Family Mission Rally hosted by our Trinity Boyertown congregation to share this great news in person!

LIBERIA:

– Rev. Abraham Powell

The EC Church of Liberia continues to minister the Good News of Jesus Christ to their war-devastated nation in both word and deed. The following article written by Rev. Abraham Powell highlights one component of their efforts to minister to the spiritual, physical and social needs of Liberia.

Background

The Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Program (ECREP) is a local non-governmental organization established under the Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia in August 2003 during the heat of the crisis in Liberia, (commonly known as world war 1,2&3) when men ,women and children were brutalized, and killed in cold blood. Mostly discouragingly, children became vulnerable, lost their childhood right of protection and care and were forced to either join the fighting forces or roam the streets in search of protection and security. Consequently, their future became bleak and hopeless. It is against this background that the vision to establish an organization to cater to the holistic needs of the children was seen. Hence, on August 16, 2003, this vision was born and a Board of Directors comprising of seven persons was formed to provide support and guidance in the implementation of the organization's vision.

Since 2003 to date ECREP has been providing humanitarian services in most parts of Liberia involving rehabilitation, reconstruction and development services benefiting more than 100,000 men, women and children in nine of the fifteen political sub-divisions of Liberia. This narrative will give highlight of some of ECREP's activities carried out as per project implemented.

Psycho-social Counseling

In 2005, ECREP conducted psycho-social counseling with (100) One hundred war affected children (73) male, (27) females. These children have been counseled and going to school while others are part of ECREP training program. This training program was sponsored by the National Council of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia.

BELOW: Rev. Powell leads ECREP



Vocational Training

In 2006 November, ECREP conducted four (4) months vocational training for fifty-five (55) war affected youths (21 males, 29 females) in sewing, Tie & dying, computer operation, typing and pastry. These youths are now carrying on their own activities.

Peace Building and Conflict Mitigation

2006-2007, ECREP was awarded a contract by the USAID/Liberia Community Infrastructure Program (LCIP) to carry out peace building and conflict mitigation with (500) Ex-combatants (mostly youths -402 males, 98 females), these Ex-combatants were rejected by communities dwellers on ground that they played a major role in the war, ill-treated their own people and looted their properties therefore, the communities will not accept them. However, having conducted series of counseling with the communities' dwellers followed by peace building activities, they finally decided to forgive the Ex-combatants and accepted them back into their communities

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2007-2008 Children from schools and communities in Timbo District, River-Cess County had no safe drinking water. They fetched water from creeks and opened wells, thus making them very vulnerable to water borne diseases. Outbreak of diarrhea and cholera was reported at all of

the health centers in the area and the death rate of children became very high. ECREP intervened in this District by providing safe drinking water through the construction of concrete culvert lined hand dug wells to minimize this epidemic. A total of 20 hand dug wells installed with Afridev Hand Pumps were constructed, nineteen existing damaged hand dug wells rehabilitated, twenty family shared latrines constructed and health/hygiene promotion benefiting 25,000 people with children covering 60% of the total beneficiaries. Children are now drinking safe water and living healthy life and no longer using the creek to fetch drinking water, nor the environment as latrine.

WASH Activities in Grand Gedeh County

The Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Program (ECREP) and the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) entered into an agreement to implement

the Child Friendly School Package Project in ten (10) schools in Grand Gedeh County.

Over the period of two (2) years now (2010 – 2012), ECREP has constructed 70 cubicles latrines in eighteen (18) schools with each of the latrines having clear separation for girls, boys and teachers; repaired thirty (30) existing latrine cubicles which include separation for girls, boys and teachers. In order to enhance the hygiene activities on the various school campuses, hands washing facilities were constructed and hygiene club established in each of the schools.

ECREP also constructed thirty (30) hand dug well fitted with Afridev pumps, these wells are presently providing safe drinking water at the schools for students and school administrators. ECREP also distributed soap, buckets, jerry-can to encourage the mothers to properly wash their baby cloths and to also encourage the kids wash their hands regularly (after using the latrine, before eating, after playing etc). At the schools, ECREP Animators worked with the school administration to teach the children how to wash their hands and carry out proper hygienic practices.

Agriculture

In 2010, ECREP implemented a Livelihood project in (2) districts in River-Cess County under the sponsorship of UNDP. Thirty acres of farm land was cleared and planted with cassava cutting. The objectives of this project were to empower the single farming mothers to enable them pay their children school fees and to make sure that there is enough food in their homes. The cassava was harvested and sold and the proceeds were used to empower the women to establish their businesses through which they have been receiving funds to take care of their children. Importantly, for a hungry child, going to school is not important; having enough food to eat is. Therefore ECREP had endeavored to empower the parents through growing more food to ensure that the children are well fed so that they will concentrate while in school.



ABOVE: Children in Liberia look for a brighter future

BELOW: Providing clean water



Rural Artisan Apprentices Program (RAAP)

ECREP was awarded a contract from USAID/LCIP (Liberia Community infrastructure Program) to train 220 At-Risk-Youths in different kind of skills. This project was implemented in three (3) Counties in the south-eastern region of Liberia; namely Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and River-gee. These At-Risk-Youth with ages ranging from 18-25 were trained in the following skills: electricity, carpentry, pastry; masonry, two-stroke engine repair, auto-mechanics, cosmetology and electronics. This project lasted for (9) months with training sessions commencing from 8:30---4:00 PM, on a weekly basis. In order to make the trainees committed to the training, ECREP provided meal on a daily basis.

Workshops were built for each Artisan with materials and tools supplied to the shop at the end of the training. This training positively impacted the lives of these young people in these counties and many of them have been established and their businesses have improved beyond expectation. For example, if you went to Fish Town in River-gee County, the most talked about restaurant, is "called Success pastry Shop" and the Motor-cycle workshop called the "McCarty two-stroke engine repair workshop". There are many others, but just to mention a few, many of these artisans have built their personal houses from their businesses.

BELOW: Randy visits ECREP



Conclusion

Over the years, ECREP has been providing humanitarian services through donor organizations for the children and youths of Liberia. These activities though very helpful but it is just like a drop of a finger of water in a 55 gallon drum. The needs in Liberia for the provision of safe drinking water, latrines facilities, and food cannot be over emphasized. The availability of safe drinking water in Liberia is put at 45% of the population while latrine facilities are less than 15%. Majority of family households live on 1 meal per day and it is provided late in the evening. All of these put the children at risk and many died between the ages of 1 – 5 years.



ABOVE: Food for widows

WORK TEAM being formed for Evangelical College of Theology, North East India – August 2013

You may recall that the VBS project for 2012 was to raise funds that would help the Evangelical College of Theology in North East India build a security wall around their campus. We did well at raising the funds – we collected a little over \$17,000! The GMC wants to take this partnership one step further and send a work team of 10-15 people to help our brothers and sisters in the EC Church of India begin building this wall. Actually, they know how to build a wall, they built the entire campus! Our goal is to build something even stronger than a brick & mortar wall – we want to build the relationship between the EC Church in India and the USA! So as we build the wall together, we will also be strengthening our partnership in the Great Commission. The proposed dates are August 1-13, 2013. The estimated cost will be around \$2,500 per person. If you are interested visit the GMC website at www.ecglobal.org, find the "Short Term Opportunities" tab on the left and print out the "application for work team" form and send it in to the GMC office by January 1, 2013. If you are selected you will be asked to submit the other forms and a \$500 deposit by January 15, 2013. If you have any questions about this work team please contact the GMC office.





MISSIONS



FALL 2012

♦ **Lititz Trinity** – This past summer, from July 8-14, 13 youth and 5 adults traveled to Broadalbin, NY for a mission project through Reach Workcamps. They spent the entire week repairing homes and encouraging the residents in this local area. For more information on Reach work camps: go to www.reachwc.org or contact Pastor Ryan Taylor at ryant@ptd.net.



♦ **Sinking Spring Community** – A group of 20 adults and teenagers traveled to Somerville, Tennessee to minister with Group Workcamps. While on the trip, the group members joined together with over 400 youth to help locals with home repairs such as painting, roofing, and deck and ramp con-

struction. A wonderful time was had by all as we enjoyed the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in Somerville. – *Rev. Matt Hill, youth pastor*

♦ **East Weissport** – Teens and adult leaders from People’s EC Church in East Weissport served on a one week short term mission trip in Manassas, Virginia through Group Work Camps. While there, the team worked on community beautification projects, church revitalization efforts, and also worked with children who had disabilities. The teens and adults presented their experiences to the congregation during a special Sunday morning celebration service. – *Rev. Ken Ogden, pastor*



♦ **Grace Community, Willow Street** – **Nicole Lapp** traveled to Maranatha School for the Deaf located in Hill Top, Jamaica for a ten day trip along with a group of ten from Timberline church. During their time there they built a fence around the school property, assisted the school teachers, performed puppet shows for the school and community, and shared God’s love with the children and everyone they met. While sharing God’s love with the children Nicole received a great understanding on why missions work is so important and how such a small act of love and compassion can impact an entire community.

♦ **Sarah Sweitzer** – This summer I went on a missions trip to Guatemala with Wycliffe Bible Translators. I went with a group of about 12 girls and together we



learned all about bible translation by encouraging missionaries already in Guatemala and by living in villages with host families that have been blessed with having the bible translated into their language. Through this missions trip God changed my view on missions and showed me that I don’t have to travel out of the country to share His word.

♦ **Terre Hill** – **Jeff Swartz** and his daughter **Megan** worked at Camp LIWA outside Fairbanks, AK this past summer. Megan was especially impressed with the teamwork exhibited and the amount of work accomplished in a short period of time.



♦ **Grace ECC Kutztown** – **Bill Chatten** and **Lauren Jones** traveled to Armenia July 22-August 7 with the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. They helped impoverished Armenian families build and renovate homes.

♦ **Leah Crow** traveled to Panama July 7-15 with Susie Shellenberger, the former founding editor of BRIO magazine. Leah and her team ministered to people there through drama in parks, schools and poverty-stricken neighborhoods and churches.





Marsh Day Camp. She led Bible studies and skits and worked with campers.

◆ **Stephen Welsh** spent 11-12 weeks this summer on Urban Ministry in Alaska with CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). He worked with homeless, soup kitchens, and helped to launch a CRU ministry at University of Alaska.

◆ **Pastor Adam Roberts and Youth Pastor AJ Martel** took a group of **7 youth and 5 leaders** to Canyon Falls EC Church in Beattyville, KY, July 7-14 to lead a week of Vacation Bible School. A number of children responded to the gospel and some great relationships were built!

◆ **Christiana Mauro** served as site director at Youth Works in Washington DC throughout the summer.

◆ **Rachel Mauro** went to Sandy Cove this summer to be a counselor at The

◆ **Jon & Terri Yeakel** traveled to the Czech Republic to present the gospel to kids and parents as they came to a baseball camp with Push The Rock Ministries, July 5-15.

◆ **Mohn's Hill** – This past summer, 23 youth and 4 adults traveled with the youth ministry of Mohn's Hill EC Church to Bear Branch, Kentucky to serve with Big Creek Missions from July 21-29. We were privileged to have youth from Brownstown EC Church, Palmyra EC Church, and Reich's EC Church as part of our group.



We served the people of Clay and Leslie Counties in one of three ways: construction (providing home repair), children's ministry (running day camps), or community service (helping with food distribution, visiting nursing and veterans' homes, etc.). To learn more about serving with Big Creek Missions, please visit their website at www.bigcreekmissions.com or feel free to contact Pastor Jeff Berger at jeff@mohnshill.org.

◆ **Boyertown Trinity** – A team of 12 from Boyertown traveled to Honduras to work with Ed and Val Schubert in the village of Zambrano during July and August. The team lead a four day VBS



for about 80 kids in the Los Pinos community. The children were loved, fed, taught and played with, and many of the children accepted Christ when the Gospel was presented using Woofi the Missionary Puppy and the EvangeCube. A one day retreat was also held for about 50 local women. Honduran speakers and worship leaders taught the ladies and lead the group in praise, and one lady gave her heart to Jesus for the first time. Lunch and many practical gifts were part of the fun and excitement of the day. The team was blessed and honored to interact with these ladies and spend many hours in prayer over their minds and hearts. While the team was only able to spend 9 days in Honduras, one member, Amy Friedlund, spent six weeks living and working with Ed and Val, completing a second internship in long-term missionary work.

◆ In early July, a group of 45 men, women and teens from Boyertown Trinity attended the **Christian Endeavor Life Builders Work Camp** in Pine Grove, PA. The team was able to help many different families in the community to clean

out and rebuild their homes and properties after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee left behind much flooding and destruction. Families and team members were blessed by the interactions, and a clear Christian witness was presented through the generous love of unified, joyful labor. – *Kathy Friedlund*



♦ **Lakeside EC Church** – From July 25th – Aug 4th, a group of 29 youth & adults from Lakeside EC church in Transfer, PA served in Baja California with *Missions to Mexico* (www.gomissionstomexico.com). The team spent the week serving in the small village of Camalu. After opening up in prayer each morning, half of our group worked on construction projects, while the other half participated in a community outreach and prayer ministry. Each afternoon, we had the pleasure of eating traditional Mexican meals prepared by the women of our host church. Following lunch, we played with the many beautiful children of Camalu and hosted a VBS with music, puppets, crafts and a snack. During the week, we handed out two

cases of Bibles and prayed for healing for many friends and family members of our host church. We celebrated with the church as God answered many of our prayers for healing. This was our third trip in four years with *Missions to Mexico* and our hope is to return again in 2014. Team Members include: **Pastor Janor, Jaden, Jim, and Nancy Bestwick, April and Lexi Chrastina, Reneda Eakman, Jarred and Justin Gerasimek, Dick, Willie, and Katie Hetrick, Don, Sarah, Patricia, and Abby Hinkson, Daniela and Tiffany Lockhard, Carl McDermott, Bev, John and Kate Morrison, Joy and Luke Sallmen, Makena Schaller, Miles, Kim, Jake, and Micah Smith.** – *Janor Bestwick, Associate Pastor at Lakeside EC Church*



♦ **Dixon Bethel Church** (IL) sent 5 different people to 3 different places in the world last summer.



♦ **Elizabeth Wolbert** spent 2 weeks in Ecuador early in the summer reaching out to school children in the Amor y Esperanza School (Love and Hope). The trip was organized by her Greenville College Missions group.

♦ **Tyler Mey, Garrett Kerr and Nathan Kruger** (L-R) spent seven weeks this summer in Eastern Asia ministering with Campus Crusade for Christ.

They spent time building relationships with college students and sharing their faith. Over 100 students expressed interest in learning about God while 14 began a new relationship with Him. These col-



lege students will be followed up with by full-time missionaries to grow in their new faith. Nathan, Tyler, and Garrett continue their outreach this Fall as they use their new language skills to minister to East Asian students at the University of Illinois.

♦ **Anna Brady** (pictured kneeling by the wheelchair) went to Poland with Joni and Friends in June. The Joni and Friends Poland office partnered with several local churches, ministries, government offices, and local nursing homes/residential facilities to distribute wheelchairs and train local churches and agencies in disability ministry. The team had the privilege of speaking and training at an international church as well as a conference for agencies who work with people with disabilities. She very much enjoyed these opportunities, as the audiences were very receptive to their message, and God spoke to many hearts through these trainings.



♦ **TWO WORK TEAMS** went to Camp LIWA near Anchorage, Alaska this summer to serve through their willing hands and hearts. **The first team**, headed by Rev. Bill McEllroy of Steelstown St. John's E.C.

Church, included Lester and Kathy Henry (Knox Grace), Jeffrey and Megan Swartz (Trinity, Terre Hill), Dean Youndt (Mohn's Hill) and Cindy Yutz (Ebenezer, Brownstown.)



The second team consisted of Kathleen Luthor, Bethanie Shoemaker, Kathy Walck and Kieran Geiger (Horizon, Allentown) April Leisey, Michael Reed Sr. (Riverhill, Clarion), Keith Reed-team leader (Zion, Bridgeville), Douglas Lorah (Zion, Bridgeville), Frederick & LaRue Schmidt (St. Matthews, Emmaus) and Richard Steigerwalt. 🌐

Randy Sizemore Elected To a Second Term As DGM

AT THE OCTOBER 25TH MEETING of the National Ministry Team Randy was elected to serve a second 5 year term as the Executive Director of the Global Ministries Commission. The Director of Global Ministries may serve a total of 15 years but must be re-elected every 5 years. Randy's new term begins on July 1, 2013. The nominating committee expressed their deep appreciation for Randy's innovative leadership of the GMC in his first term and his willingness to be considered for a second term. Please keep Randy (and Carla) in prayer as he continues to oversee the work our 53 EC missionaries, our 400 international EC churches, provides leadership to our National Conference and engages the local EC congregations in here at home in the Great Commission. 🌐

JAPAN VISION TOUR

August 2013

THERE ARE STILL A FEW OPENINGS for our Japan Vision Tour, scheduled for July 19-31, 2013. The purpose of this trip is to build fellowship with our EC churches in Japan through partnering in different outreaches. The two weeks will include teaching English at an English camp, worshipping in several of our churches, and seeing some of the beauty and culture of Japan through some sightseeing. During part of the trip you will experience home stay, giving you an insider view into Japanese home life.

The cost is estimated at \$4000. If you are interested, we must have a \$500 deposit by the end of this year. For more information, contact Pat Strain at the GMC office or Rev. Mike Snedeker, team leader, at mike@communityec.org. 🌐

SPAIN VISION TOUR

September 2013

THE GMC IS ALSO SPONSORING A TRIP TO SPAIN, to see the work of Ron and Brenda Anderson in the Madrid area, and BJ and Rachel Whitaker in Alcora. The trip dates are September 3-16. In addition to some sightseeing, the team will do some English conversation classes, worship with churches planted in the area, and visit local ministries. We will learn more about the work of European Christian Mission International (sending board for Andersons and Whitakers) and learn why Europe is once again a mission field.

The estimated cost for this trip is \$2500-\$2800, including airfare, ground transportation, housing and meals.

Please contact Pat Strain at the GMC office (pstrain@eccenter.com) or call 1-800-866-7584) if you are interested. A deposit of \$500 will be needed by the end of the year to hold your place. 🌐





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Vacation Bible School Project Update

ALL THE MONIES collected for the 2012 Vacation Bible School Project totaled \$17,000. The monies will be used to build a security fence around the Evangelical College of Theology in Northeast India. We appreciate everyone who gave toward this project. The project for 2013 will be helping Japan improve the daycare facilities at Sagamihara church by adding a handicap ramp and child size bathrooms. The goal for this project will be \$10,000. 🙏