

A publication of the Global Ministries Commission of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



**Inside: GMC heading
in a New Direction**

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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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DEEP CHANGE and New Direction

In the Spring 2013 issue of *Window On The World*, I wrote about the three drivers of deep change taken from Steve Moore's book, *Seize the Vuja De*. To review, they include:

1. The reality that grass roots, bottom up initiatives now outnumber the top down professional mission efforts;
2. The removal of the intermediary (middleman/denominational mission agency) in the mission sending and support supply chain;
3. Lower costs and relative ease of travel and technology has given individuals and local groups the same mobility and ability to connect with internationals as the professional mission agencies and denominational offices used to enjoy exclusively (pages 77-82).



– by Randy Sizemore,
Executive Director Global
Ministries Commission

The GMC (Global Ministries Commission) has recognized these deep changes over the past few years and intentionally began to make paradigm shifts in our structure and operations to ensure that we continue to serve our EC missionaries, international conferences and local congregations in a combined effort to make disciples of all nations.

We realize that our role has shifted from being the “driver” of missions in the global EC Church to being the group that comes along side local congregations, missionaries and international partners to provide as many resources as possible to help them achieve their mission goals. We praise God that because of this strategic change, we are seeing greater impact and influence for the Kingdom of God.

The next step in the GMC trajectory is to ensure the viability and sustainability of the needed administration – home office – to



coordinate our combined efforts of facilitating mission workers, empowering international churches and engaging the Church in the Great Commission.

The National Ministry Team has approved a proposal from the GMC which will help secure the future funding of the DGM (Director of Global Ministries) and bring a measure of stability to the GMC home office. This new strategy involves allowing the DGM to enter into a shared ministry position with our Bethel EC Church in Dixon, Illinois. After re-locating to Dixon in mid-December, I will assume the lead pastor role for the Bethel Church and continue to be the Director of Global Ministries. Deputy Director Pat Strain will continue her current responsibilities of caring for our missionary workers and will also administrate the day-to-day GMC operations at Church Center.

My work with and travel to our international EC conferences will not change and the GMC will continue to offer our broad range of publications, training seminars, informational venues, customized assistance for local congregations, scheduling of missionaries and basically everything we offer now. We plan to better utilize the

new denominational website to post short video and power point updates to keep you informed. I will still be available to speak at local churches, gatherings, etc. on a limited basis when I return to Pennsylvania in March and October of each year for the GMC and National Ministry Team meetings.

While we are confident that we have most of the logistics of this new ministry paradigm worked out on paper, we know there will be a few wrinkles along the way. However, we are excited to lead the GMC in this new direction of effectiveness as we continue to serve the global EC Church in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Please note: This shared ministry position will help eliminate some of the reoccurring financial shortages in the administration category of the GMC budget. However, to remain financially viable, we will still need to maintain the same level of donations from individuals and local churches to the general fund. Thank you for your faithful and continued financial partnership with the GMC! 🌍

"...we are excited to lead the GMC in this new direction of effectiveness as we continue to serve the global EC Church in fulfilling the Great Commission."

FRUIT from the Amazon

– Connie Berger

THE SONSHINE PRAISE PUPPETS, a ministry of the First Evangelical Congregational Church in Palmyra, PA, recently returned from the mission fields of Brazil. The team was based in Belem, Para which is located in northern Brazil, 1° below the equator. David, Conce and Andrew Roof were our hosts. They opened their home to all ten of us. Conce blessed us every day with her cooking while David coordinated our daily events and Andrew did what teenagers do best (hang out with other teenagers). The team was only sure of three things on this trip: It was going to be HOT, it was going to be HUMID, and it was going to RAIN. After all, we were in the Rain Forest. The rest of the trip was placed squarely in God's capable hands. One verse comes to mind when I think of our trip; Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control."

Our host church, Convenção Nacional das Igrejas Missionárias, showed faithfulness even before we set foot on the Brazilian soil.



SPREADING GOD'S WORD
THROUGH OUR HANDS!



They had been faithfully praying for us since our trip was announced. Their prayers did not go unanswered. We believe that those prayers were the reason many of the obstacles we faced were overcome with minimal difficulty. Goodness and kindness were also evidenced by the way we were received by the congregation and their pastor.

Peace came on Saturday when the young people of our team were invited to attend the Youth Group meeting at the church. They were eager to attend. Andrew and David assured Lois that they would be in good hands. But still, there was the uneasiness of dropping half of the team off at a stranger's home in a foreign country, and then letting them walk two blocks in the dark to the church where the meeting was to be held. All of us were very anxious, but God provided the Peace that calmed our nerves. This meeting of the youth solidified a relationship between the two groups that will last a long time.

Patience can be summed up very simply: seven women – one bathroom. David and Conce's home has three full baths. One was reserved for the family. The second belonged to the three gentlemen in our party, which left the final bathroom to the largest segment of our group. Yes, we survived without incident. No one complained about cold showers. Because it was so hot, a cold shower felt great! Everyone was considerate of the others' needs and showed a great spirit of cooperation. Patience was also on display with the team when we discovered what "Brazilian Time" meant. We quickly discovered the meaning the

moment our flight touched down. No one was in a hurry to get off the plane. Everyone took their time, helping anyone who was in need of assistance. It is a slower, more relaxed pace than in the United States. For instance, Sunday School begins at 8:30 a.m., give or take 30-40 minutes. But the team took it in stride. It was nice not to be rushed.

Gentleness was experienced through two beings. The first is a one hundred pound Rottweiler named

Bear. He is the gentle giant who patrols the Roofs' home. All who enter through the gate are greeted with a wagging tail. But try to climb over the wall...well, let's just say I wouldn't want to try it. Bear is also a gentle teacher. His student is the newest addition to the Roof family, a

We believe that those prayers were the reason many of the obstacles we faced were overcome with minimal difficulty.



pit bull puppy named Oreo. The second gentle character we met was the man who drove our group to our different events. He guided us through the pot hole-riddled streets and crater-filled dirt roads with skill. His steady hands helped us in and out of the vehicle. His smile made us all want to sing (which we did for almost two hours on one trip).

Self control was given to us during the second day of the Puppet Workshop. What is the last thing you would expect to run out of in the rain forest?!

Yes, we ran out of running water. The pump that services the church's neighborhood failed. We did not have running water in the church for two days. That meant we had no way to wash our hands and no way to flush the toilet. It was interesting to try to make papier mache' puppets, but once again God provided us with a way to cope. We were able to catch rain water off of the roof so we could make the paste mixture for the tree puppets. We also were able to use some of the water to clean our hands after the work was done.

Love and Joy could be found everywhere we went. We felt loved by the members of the congregation. We could see the joy in the eyes of the children who attended the Happy Day club. We were privileged to be witnesses to Jesus' great sacrifice to a large group of high school students. But the biggest show of love and joy came from the Sunshine Praise Puppets of Brazil. They took hold of the challenge that was laid before them. Ten individuals committed themselves to serve on the Sunshine Praise Puppets of Brazil [S.P.P.B.] for the next year.

The Brazilian people, especially the children, were hungry for spiritual food. Many of our planned "events" did not have the outcomes we expected. No, they were much more than we could have ever hoped for. God was truly working through us to affect a positive change in the District of Outiero. We reached beyond our borders and trusted in the One who is able to accomplish what seemed to be impossible. 🙏



...once again God provided us with a way to cope.



Camp Noah in Newtown, CT

– Dave Hershey

Camp Noah is a day camp that teaches resiliency skills with a focus on reliance on God.

"I am not religious. I'm okay with God, but I don't like church because people always seem so fake...like they put on nice clothes and pretend they are better than everyone else."

"Why are there so many divisions in Christianity? It is so confusing!"

THOSE ARE JUST two of many comments I heard from the team of Penn State students I led to do Camp Noah in Newtown, CT in mid-July. This team, filled with psychology and education majors, was tasked with putting on Camp Noah - a day camp that teaches resiliency skills with a focus on reliance on

God. Most Camp Noahs take place following natural disasters; ours was unique in taking place after the shooting in Newtown.

I was Noah for the week, though the kids never really bought into my disguise. They totally unmasked me on Thursday in a barrage of water balloons, buckets of water and sprays from the hose! A great time was had by all!

Throughout the week, the PSU students led small group classrooms as well as times of recreation, art and music. For a variety of reasons, I can't share much about the kids in the camp. I can say that I heard many parents say that our camp was the best thing that has been done for the kids in Newtown. A week of camp, focused on helping the kids, does much more for their well-being than free Yankees or Giants tickets (as fun as such things may be).

What I can talk about are the PSU students! Going into the trip, I knew very few of the students. I work with Christian Student Fellowship on campus, leading weekly Bible studies and other similar activities. None of the students on this trip were members of CSF, so I had no idea of their spiritual beliefs. All I knew was that I would have the opportunity to lead devotions and be there as a spiritual leader for them.

The story of how I got involved in Camp Noah in the first place is encouraging. A few years ago I gathered Christian faculty and staff together for times of prayer. Through this I got to know Dr. Jayne Leh, professor of special education. She had done Camp Noah with her church and it was her idea to have a group of PSU students do one. Penn State Berks, at Jayne's leading, was the first non-

church group to do Camp Noah. As she planned it, she wanted me involved. She knew it would be a great opportunity for me and my ministry on campus. The trip to Newtown was the second year in a row I have been able to do Camp Noah with Jayne and PSU Berks.

Of the 24 students on the trip, only three were guys. The four of us shared a room (the one room in the church with wifi, nice!) and thus spent a lot of time together. Both the quotes above come from these guys. Early in the week they weren't sure about how to interact with me. I imagine they asked themselves a variety of questions about me: Would I condemn their music? Would I reprimand them if they used bad language? And if I am a pastor, why aren't I wearing fancier clothes? But as we spent time together, and they realized I was there to get to know them and help them, they started to open up. On Thursday night I sat in the room with Matt as he shared with me all sorts of stories from his life, some very sad, and lessons he had learned. All of these, he said, contributed to his desire to be a guidance counselor.

I told him that God had used Matt's experiences, both good and bad, to teach him and set him on his current path. I assured Matt that I would continue to pray for him as he pursued his academic goals, and as he sought the God he was not so sure about.

At the end of the week, both Matt and the other student returning to PSU Berks in the fall, Zach, asked for my cell number. I look

Many parents say that our camp was the best thing that has been done for the kids in Newtown.



forward to many more discussions with them in the fall. They are works in progress, and I can see how God is working to reach them.

These guys, like many of the ladies on the trip, could count among the “spiritual but not religious” crowd that defines many twenty-somethings. They are the “nones”- people who are part of no church, though they believe in God and Jesus and consider themselves Christian. They are certainly not atheists.

At the end of the week I had the opportunity to lead our team in a celebration of the Lord’s Supper. I shared with them that, regardless of what they believe, I believe they were doing holy work this week as they poured their lives into these kids. Also, and again regardless of what they believe, I believe they did this work on the strength of God’s Holy Spirit. I shared with them how communion points us to Jesus Christ who gave his life to restore God’s relationship with each one of us.

I am sure many reading this would love to hear about conversions that happened. Maybe some are wondering why I did not pressure the guys to say a sinner’s prayer and to get saved. Real life change does not happen in a moment (though sometimes it might). I would rather have these kids take two uncertain steps towards God now and continue on that path then be shoved into a fake, emotional conversion that will not last.

I am a realist, even to a fault. Will these students attend church and CSF in the fall? Maybe some, but probably not many. Yet after spending a week with them, I am also confident. I am confident because most of these students truly desire to know truth and to know God. Throughout the week I encouraged them to keep seeking because if they are truly and sincerely seeking, they will find God in the person of Jesus (or perhaps, God will find them). I am confident that the Holy Spirit will bring growth in the midst of any seeds I or others plant.

A few days after I returned I got an email from the third guy on the team, James. James has graduated already, so he won’t be at PSU Berks in the fall. He thanked me for the week and for the help I offered him (even though he still didn’t understand why Christianity is so divided). He said that he really wants to grow as a Christian and be involved in a church, and that he had actually attended church with his mom the Sunday after we returned.

That is pretty cool. Yes, the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of these students. 🌍

I am confident that the Holy Spirit will bring growth in the midst of any seeds I or others plant.



Sharing Ministry in Alcora, Spain

—by Rev. Jim Heckman

THIS SUMMER, ten young people and adults from Grace Community Church of Willow Street, PA, traveled to Alcora, Spain to work with BJ and Rachael Whitaker for twelve days. The primary mission of the trip was to set up and run an English language camp for the children of Alcora. This camp ran from Monday through Friday and involved 45 elementary aged children. The camp program consisted of English lessons, crafts, games, music, and opening and closing activities. On the final day of camp, we had a closing program to which the parents of the children were invited. We had approximately 80 parents and relatives attend this program. In attendance also were the local TV station and the mayor of Alcora, who expressed her heart-felt thanks for the week we had spent running the camp.

In addition to the camp, we also had opportunity to meet with the adults in the community in the afternoon hours. The Spaniards are very interested in learning to speak English and like to practice their English with native speakers. This allowed us to build relationships with those in Alcora, which was one of the main objectives of the trip. BJ is the only evangelical pastor in the town of Alcora, which has 10,000 residents. Our work was not to be openly evangelical, but rather to establish relationships and trust with the people to aid BJ in his efforts to open a church in Alcora.

We were also able to attend church in a nearby town on two Sundays. The first Sunday, our group participated in leading worship and the message was preached by Pastor Jim Heckman, translated by BJ Whitaker. Our group hopes to someday return to Spain and continue to help BJ and Rachael in their work. 🌍



TRIP TO INDIA:

Building a Wall, Building Relationships

—by Dean Youndt



AS I ARRIVED in Churachandpur, Manipur, I couldn't help but think that the plane made a wrong turn and I was back in Port-a Prince, Haiti. The dusty streets, hectic traffic, animals in the streets, the nasty smell of trash fires, kids in clean uniforms walking to school, all brought back memories from 2010. Of course that doesn't explain the 15 hour plane ride or the chick pea and curry wrap they served us on the plane. One difference though, the drums we awoke to early in the morning were a call

to worship at a nearby church, not the voodoo drums of Haiti.

Building
a wall...

I volunteered to help build a brick security wall around the ECT college, one of various objectives this team of 11 had. Our one core objective was to serve and build relationships with our brothers and sisters in this area. I have very little experience laying brick, but that was not much of an obstacle since we needed to learn their methods anyway. While the trip lasted 15 days, we spent five days working on the wall. We made good progress on the wall but the other days were just as productive as we were kept busy preaching at churches and visiting ministries of the church. I really underestimated the impact our team would have on the people we met. We heard over and over again how much they appreciated us traveling all the way from the USA just to serve them. I found these people to be very humble with a serving attitude themselves.

This trip was definitely a stretching experience for me. Before we left, thinking I didn't have a lot to contribute, I asked God to use me in whatever way I could be used. On our first day there I was informed that the church I would be attending in the morning would be expecting me to preach. Now I really felt unqualified. My message was, 'Depending on God when You Don't Feel Qualified.' By the grace of God they liked what I had to say.

The most lasting impression on me was to see the power of the gospel to change an entire culture. Only 100 years ago this area was filled with headhunter tribes fighting among themselves. Now the population of 275,000 is 93% Christian. I was very impressed with the high priority given to missions and spreading the gospel. While none of the churches I visited had the comforts we would expect in the USA, they all had a large list of missionaries they were supporting posted on the wall as a constant reminder. They are having a big impact in the world with very limited resources. 🌍

... building
relationships!



JAPAN

Vision Team

“That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”

– Romans 1: 12

–by Rick Reisch



IN THE SPRING 2013 EDITION of *Window on the World*, Reverend Nobuo Abe of the Japanese EC Church was quoted saying “we believe God is working among the Japanese in an unprecedented way”! A contingent from Community Evangelical church in Sinking Spring, PA saw this work first hand and has amazing things to report. For two weeks in July 2013, this group traveled to Japan to connect with two of the EC churches in Japan, as well as teach at a camp hosted by an English school in Japan.

Our hosts in Japan were Reverend Abe’s son Tomoyuki and his wife Jessica along with their two month old daughter Alyssa, who are ministering at the Fuchinobe EC church, along with newlyweds Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe. Yoriyoshi is a student at the Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, PA. Yoriyoshi and Emiko gave up their honeymoon to help us on our trip. We were blessed to have these four lead us through the streets of Tokyo, and educate us on the cultural differences of Japan.

After the group used a couple of days to acclimate to the climate, culture, and traditions of Japan, we traveled to an overnight camp in the woods of suburban Tokyo called Ochizawa. While the purpose of the camp was to teach English words and phrases to Japanese children, our goal was to teach our lessons in a VBS style where we intermingled scripture, songs, lessons and most importantly the name of Jesus into our presentations. Many of these children had never heard of the name of Jesus, or seen a Bible. By the end of the week, 12 children had prayed with Pastor Mike to accept Jesus into their hearts!!! The children were clamoring for the Bilingual Bibles that we handed out towards the close of camp. It was as if we were handing out candy or toys; many of them read the free Bibles for the next several hours before their parents picked them up. As an answer to prayer, an adult helper at the camp talked to Pastor Mike and Yoriyoshi about the happiness in his heart when we talked about Jesus to the children in lesson and song. He also prayed to bring Christ into his heart... what a blessing!!!

God answered many prayers on this trip, not the least of which was our travel to and from Japan, which went flawlessly; no delays, no lost luggage, and no lost team members! We ask for continued prayer for the people of Japan. While an economi-

cally and culturally rich nation, they are a spiritually poor people. Approximately only 1% of the people of Japan claim to be Christians. The majority of Japanese citizens ritualistically and ceremonially follow Shinto and Buddhist religions, while others have no religious affiliation.

We had the opportunity for homestays with several Japanese families, who graciously opened up their homes to us and allowed us to eat, sleep, and pray with them. This was truly an unexpected blessing of the trip. While some of the members of the families were Christians, some were not. This allowed us the opportunity to minister to them while being in their home. Please continue to pray for these people, who have now become friends, that they will seek God’s will in their lives.

During our trip, we ministered at two of the EC churches in Japan; Kyodo Grace church and Sagami-hara Grace Chapel. Our Sundays consisted of greeting church members, ministering through singing and reading scripture, and Pastor Mike preaching a message of going out to create disciples. Members at both

churches worked hard to provide delicious lunches on these Sundays as well.

Our group has been deeply affected by our trip to Japan. Drawing on our team verse, we are all called to share our faith, encourage one another, and build relationships. The biggest impact on our team and in Community Evangelical Church in Sinking Spring is the introduction of three exchange students from Asia (Japan, China, and South Korea) for the 2013/14 school year. The call of the mission field is not limited to visiting foreign countries and ministering there, but also bringing the people into our country, churches, and homes to minister to them. We don’t need a passport to tell others about God’s love; we only need a place for them to call home. 🌍



Computing

A New Ministry

—by John Price

THIS TRIP WAS a spontaneous one for me, as it came about simply by meeting Rev. Sizemore at my church one Sunday. I am already a missionary to Kenya for IT and I happened to mention to him that if he thought my talents could be used somewhere to let me know. He immediately said that India was a possibility. In all honesty, it was not a country that I had wanted to visit, but

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience with the natives of Churachandpur and particularly with Lalrosiem Songate who is the Principal- Elect at ECT where we worked. In fact, I have already made plans to go again, by God's good grace. It is funny how God works!

My portion of the trip was about gathering, refurbishing and configuring laptops (10 in total) that we took to the college for students to use. I am told this simple act has already had a huge impact. The college had set aside a computer room complete with bars for security and ample electrical sockets to supply power, which I must admit I was worried about, but God was already at work and everything was ready for me.

I didn't know what level of knowledge the students (and some select faculty and church members) had with computers, but I started with basic typing and then started to teach basic Microsoft Office use (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) through a self-paced program. I

found out that most of the students did not have much experience with computers so we spent most of the time just learning how to type. I use a program that actually shows where to place your fingers on the keyboard and tells you what to type. Some became very proficient and could possibly even out type me; others took a lot of time. Those who were already proficient went straight to learning the basics of Office.

My days were set with two, 2-hour classes; one in the morning and the other after lunch. Each class had beginners and what I would call advanced students. I learned for future teaching it would be better to have a class of all beginners and one with more advanced students so the classes would go more smoothly, but we managed. During this time I not only taught but had time to have some very good spiritual conversations with a few students, and started relationships with them that have continued through them friending me on Facebook, after I returned to the States. It is these continuing relationships that make me eager to go back (aside from the obvious desire of

going where God wants me to go.)

My next trip will be more of a technical nature where I hopefully will be installing and configuring a Server-based system for the laptops. This will require broadband internet being installed beforehand. This will give the students much needed research tools and keep the college on par or even ahead of other learning institutions in the area, so this is much needed to stay competitive.

I am excited about what the future holds. I am just a tool that has committed his talents for the Lord and has been blessed by all whom I have met in India, maybe more so than those I went to help from a spiritual standpoint. Only 100 years ago this region was too dangerous to visit as they were head-hunters, now approximately 93% of them are Christians and it shows. They are some of the most honest and loving people I have ever met. To be honest, America (and American Christians) could learn a lot from these people. While there, I also preached four sermons in four different churches, which was a unique experience for me. 🌍



SAVE THE DATE!

THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION is combining its fall missionary program and the MMK rally into one large annual event. The first Family Missions Program will be held on Saturday, March 1st at our Trinity EC Church in Boyertown, PA. Similar to our former fall missions program, there will be tracks for all ages – children, youth, and adults. There is a registration fee, which includes lunch (and a curio for the children.)

More information on times and speakers will be sent later this year, but mark your calendars now! Spring will be here before we know it, and you won't want to miss this special event! 🌍



Missionary Prayer Partners for 2014

—by Carla Sizemore, Missionary Prayer Partner Coordinator

DO YOU WANT a special way to connect with the missionaries you support? Now is the time to sign up for Missionary Prayer Partners for 2014. There are 13 missionaries to choose from that you can pray for. You will receive all the information you need to pray for your missionary during the month you choose. The process is a very simple one. Just go to www.eccenter.com; there is a link on the left hand side “Missionary Prayer Partner Calendar”; click on that and it will take you to the calendar with the missionaries available along with the months that are open. Choose your month and missionary then click where it says “click here” and a form will appear. Fill in all the information; you can use this form to choose multiple months and missionaries. You will then receive

a confirmation email saying that I have received your email. All the information for the missionaries and the necessary forms will be sent to you in plenty of time for you to be creative and send the prayer calendar to your missionary to let them know you will be their prayer partners for the month. If you are not computer literate you can call me at 717-602-7086 or email me at csizemore@eccenter.com and you can choose your missionary that way. I will be glad to help you in any way I can. **The missionaries for 2014 are: Randy & Chris Amberman, Chris & Deb Bowers, David & Celia Dick, Daniel Dixon, Marcia Hopley, Nick & Lisa Lakatos, Kitty Miller, Robert & Bettina Schaeffer, Ed & Val Schubert, Ken Sears, Jim & Janet Stahl, BJ & Rachel Whitaker, and Jonathan & Kathy Wilson.** 🌍



For Ladies Only

—by Kathy Friedlund

“THIS IS THE FIRST TIME we have ever had the privilege of participating in a seminar just for women.” A leader in the ECCI (Evangelical Congregational Church of India) Women’s Ministries was speaking for the group as we wrapped up our week together. The group of 35 female ECT (Evangelical College of Theology) students and local ministry leaders were excited and grateful for the chance to interact with each other and learn practical applications for evangelism and discipleship.

On the first day, the group was hesitant and unsure of what to expect. We had five mornings together. As we talked about the art of mentorship and God’s directions for women, we practiced hands-on methods of evangelism with women and children, and used small groups to learn through interaction. The ladies, carving time from their typical daily schedules, shyly embraced the new learning styles, growing more confident as the week progressed.

By the end of our time together, bonds had been formed between the Indian ladies and their unmet sisters around the world; bonds that will only be fully realized in heaven. More importantly, bonds were formed between the younger students, and their older sisters who live and work right there in the local community. These are the bonds that will develop into effective networks of shared ministries, the older mentoring the younger, and new faith growing from intentional friendships.

I am continually amazed by God’s gracious use of a willing heart. And I am delighted that He allowed me the privilege of meeting and ministering to my Indian sisters. After years of seeing pictures and hearing stories, experiencing ECCI first-hand deepened my understanding of our work as a Global Ministries Commission. What joy heaven will bring with its limitless time to interact freely with our brothers and sisters of every nation and every tongue. 🌍

ROOF VEHICLE PROJECT

DAVID AND CONCE ROOF, EC missionaries serving as church planters in northern Brazil with OMS, have a problem. They need wheels! Four of them, attached to a reliable SUV/van body that can haul people and materials over third world roads. David and Conce have logged many miles on their 13-year old car, but it is no longer reliable. They need a vehicle that can carry up to seven people as well as hold up to the pot holes and other road hazards they encounter on a daily basis.

The Global Ministries Commission has approved the Roofs’ request for a vehicle fund. David and Conce need to raise \$20,000 to cover the cost of the vehicle they would like to buy. If you would be interested in helping them, donations can be made payable to Global Ministries and sent to: Global Ministries Commission, 100 W. Park Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067. Please note in the memo section that this is for the Roof Vehicle Fund. Since this is an approved project, all donations will be tax deductible. 🌍



Deputy Director Pat Strain Ordained Deaconess

—by Randy Sizemore

CONGRATULATIONS to Deputy Director Pat Strain who was ordained a Deaconess for missionary care in the National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church on September 29, 2013 at Zion EC Church, Myerstown. After completing a Masters of Arts degree in missions and counseling at Evangelical Seminary, Pat was licensed by our conference for the ministry of missionary care in the former “Alternative to Pastoral Ministries” category in 2007. The “Alternative to Pastoral Ministries” category has been renamed, “Deacon/Deaconess” for those individuals called by God and set apart by the National Conference for specific ministries outside of local pastoral ministry. We thank God for Pat’s ministry to our missionary workers, local churches and the Global Ministries Commission! 🌍



INTRODUCING

OUR NEWEST GMC MEMBER! Pastor J. Ted Rathman began his ministry at Grace EC Church, Schuylkill Haven, PA in July. Ted is originally from Reamstown, PA, located in Lancaster County PA.

After graduating from Cocalico High School, Pastor Ted served in the US Navy for four years. Upon his return, he attended Penn State Berks Campus as an International Studies major. It was at this point in his life that he felt a call to ministry. After graduating from Penn State with honors, Pastor Ted began his studies at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, where he graduated with honors in May 2012.

Pastor Ted was commissioned from his home church, St. Paul’s EC Church in Reamstown to become Pastor at Grace EC Church in Schuylkill Haven. He is excited to be beginning this new journey with his wife, Jessica, and daughter, Lily, by his side.

As pastor of Grace EC, Ted strives to build a heart for missions into the DNA of the church. Pastor Ted has served as Outreach Coordinator and Missions Chair at St. Paul’s EC in Reamstown, and currently provides leadership to Grace EC’s Outreach Commission and missions efforts. Perhaps most formative in Ted’s life include the various mission trips he experienced in youth group, as a youth leader, and most especially his month long stay in Ukraine working with Hope International. God has given Ted a heart for His work throughout the world and his past experiences, his travels in the Navy, and his time as an International Studies major have only deepened this passion for God’s mission around the globe. Ted is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the EC Denomination as a member of the Global Ministries Commission. 🌍



October, 2013

International Church updated



Rev. Nobuo & Keiko Abe

12 children and at least 1 adult experienced salvation in and through Jesus Christ! You can read more about this exciting trip in this issue.

This spring and summer were truly a memorable time in the EC Church of Japan. Pastor Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe welcomed their first child, Alyssa to the world in May and Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe were united in marriage in July just two days before the arrival of the GMC team! Yoriyoshi and Emiko have returned to Pennsylvania for a final year of study and practical ministry experience before they return to the work in Japan.



The GMC invited the director of the EC Church in Japan, Rev. Nobuo and Keiko Abe, to travel to Pennsylvania September 27 – October 7, for discussions about the work and our partnership in Japan with the GMC. The Abes also had the opportunity to meet with denominational leaders, speak in local churches and participate in Deputy Director Pat Strain's ordination as a Deaconess for missionary care.

JAPAN:

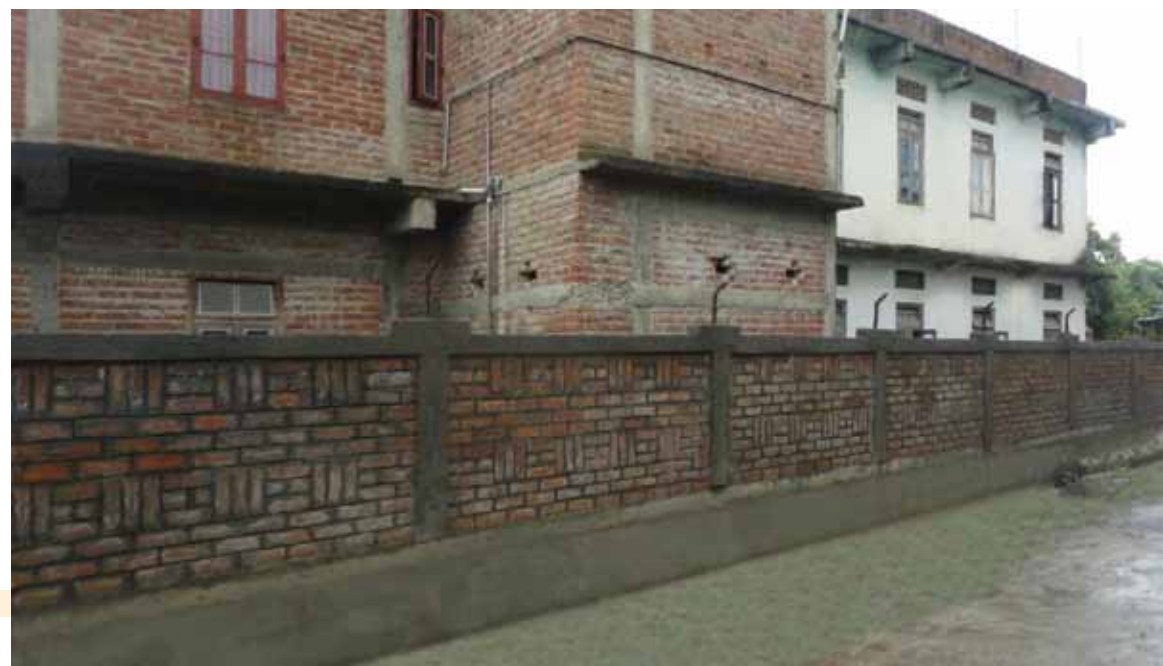
"...that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Romans 1:12).

This verse was adopted as the primary mission of the GMC Japan Vision Tour led by Rev. Mike Snedeker July 17-30, 2013. This group of 8 people partnered with the EC Church of Japan in various ways to impact their culture with the gospel. God blessed their efforts and during their ministry together

INDIA:

THE GMC TOOK A NEW DIRECTION in our partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church of India (ECCI) by sending the first-ever ministry/work team to North East India in August of this year. You may recall that we designated the Evangelical College of Theology (ECT) in North East India as the VBS project for 2012. We collected funds to help them build a security wall around their campus; then we decided to send a work/ministry team along with the funds to help build the wall and provide computer training. This team of 11 carried donated laptops with them for computer classes with the ECT students, taught evangelism, church leadership and seminary classes, attended worship services and spoke in local churches along with mixing mortar and laying bricks to build the wall, lasting relationships and a new direction in our partnership for the Gospel. **You can view the India Team's short videos at www.eccenter.com.**

The latest statistical report from Rev. Angam, the General Director of ECCI details their determination to reach their culture with the gospel. Currently their local churches deploy 199 missionaries to 74 mission stations. Gospel camps, seminars, workshops, revival





If you would like to financially partner with the GMC and ECCI in impacting North East India for Jesus Christ, make your contributions payable to GMC, clearly marked "ECCI" and send them to the GMC office.

meetings, retreats and missionary training sessions have resulted in 69 new converts, 87 baptisms, 120 restorations and 105 pledges to begin tithing.

Along with the spiritual harvest, ECCI also celebrates the construction of missionary quarters, child development projects, church buildings, hostels and schools throughout their conferences. The next step in the new direction of our partnership involves a regional church leadership training event of approximately 150-200 leaders planned for November 29 – December 2, 2013 in Churachandpur, co-sponsored by ECCI and GMC. I will be preaching five times during this event as the devotional leader and experienced national church leaders will be teaching the workshops.



NEPAL:

"There is no more joy than to see people saved and God's Church growing, but it is a great task to bring these new believers and congregations into maturity as followers of Christ".

THESE WORDS BY REV. JANGA, the director of our work in Nepal give us a glimpse of the excitement and the challenges of evangelism and church planting in this predominantly Hindu nation. The Church of Jesus Christ is growing in Nepal and we celebrate with Janga's report of 82 new converts and 59 baptisms so far this year. Recently appointed evangelists are forming new fellowships in the hill areas that will become local congregations, and previously unreached tribes such as the Murmu tribe are being penetrated with the Good News. The construction on the Bethel and Hebron churches has been completed with the celebration of dedication services. Unfortunately the construction of the official headquarters or "Church Center" which also includes the Mercy Home orphanage has suffered a devastating setback as a landslide triggered by the rainy season has destroyed about 50% of the foundational retaining wall. Now we must wait until the rainy season is over, assess the damage and then once again find the funds to replace the critical retaining wall in order to continue building the actual building on the property.

I will be leading a GMC team to visit Nepal and participate in their Annual Conference and ten year anniversary celebration on December 5-9, 2013. Once again our EC pastors here in the USA will be sponsoring general bible commentaries and dictionaries to help resource their fellow ministers in Nepal. We praise God for our continued partnership in reaching the great nation of Nepal with the truth of Jesus Christ!





If you would like to financially partner with the EC Church of Nepal to help with their evangelism and church planting efforts, make your contribution payable to GMC, clearly marked: **"EC Nepal"** and send it to the GMC office.

MEXICO:

"Mexico is as safe and as dangerous as ever".

THIS HEADLINE TOPPED a June 9, 2013 [CNN.com](#) article I recently read. Most experts say that at least 60,000 people were killed in the years-long drug wars between the cartels and security forces from 2006-2012. However, they are quick to point out that over six million U.S. citizens visited Mexico in 2012 without a single incident. The local congregations that make up the EC Church of Mexico (ECCM) are located in the region of some of the heaviest drug trafficking conflict. In spite of this challenge, they continue to intentionally impact their communities with the powerful story of Jesus.



Through marriage conferences, children's ministries, mission outreaches and evangelistic campaigns they are introducing men, women, boys and girls to the saving power of Jesus and eliminating the greatest of all threats against life, the condition of being spiritually lost and separated from our Heavenly Father. Spiritually and physically the conference continues to grow with construction projects and the addition of new pastors, members and congregations. Pastors and local leaders are being developed and trained through the Bible Institute and local church discipleship programs. Rev. Elias Martinez continues to lead this mission conference steadily toward the goal of becoming a national conference. The ECCM has been supporting the EC Church of Liberia in prayer and financial support for the last three years. They have designated 2013 as the year to begin to learn more about their brothers and sisters in the EC Church of Nepal and how they can partner with them in prayer and financial support. I have invited Rev. Martinez to join the GMC team traveling to Nepal's annual conference in December 2013. The ladies of the EC Church of Mexico have already asked permission to send gifts along with Rev. Martinez to the ladies of the EC Church of Nepal!

If you would like to financially partner with Mexico in their evangelism & church planting efforts, make your contribution payable to GMC, clearly marked: **"EC Mexico"** and send it to the GMC office.





LIBERIA:

THE GLOBAL EC CHURCH continues to partner with the EC Church of Liberia (ECCOL) as they have been called by God to lift their people from spiritual, physical and emotional poverty following one of the most brutal 14-year civil wars in recent history. There are many praises and even more challenges to share. In our limited space here, allow these excerpts from their second quarter report (March – June, 2013) to give you a glimpse of the broad scope of the work of the ECCOL.

- The second quarter began with the holding of the Missionary National Prayer Conference, the United Choir Association Conference, Youth Evangelistic Campaign, Minister Training Conference as well as the conducting of communion services at every first Sunday at each local church.
- 48 leaders gathered from March 16-25 to host the week long Prayer Conference. More than 100 others representing 30 EC Churches gathered with them throughout the week. Five persons were healed from various diseases, the downhearted, frustrated and weary gained hope and we thank God for this wonderful breakthrough.
- 60 ministers from 45 churches gathered April 20-29 for the Ministers' Training Conference. The topic of the training was, "What God Looks For in His Vessel".



- 35 Choir leaders met on May 18, 2013 for the 24th Annual United Choir Association Conference. The topic of the conference was, "Be Excellent Choristers".
- The ECCOL Youth Minister conducted a three-day evangelistic campaign with help from about 30 youth from four churches in the Monrovia district. We praise God for the 20 persons who responded to the gospel invitation.
- From the above mentioned conferences and other ministries reported from local churches, 601 persons accepted Christ and 10 baptism services were held.
- The President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf visited the St. Paul's EC Church in Monrovia for the funeral of the mother of Liberia's famous soccer star, George Weah. Mrs. Weah was a credentialed evangelist of ECCOL. All of the major Liberian news agencies carried the story and were very favorable to the EC Church and Rev. Matthew Gueh's preaching during the services.

The complete report ends with this statement: "It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to strengthen us to do more for Him". 🌍



If you would like to partner with ECCOL with your financial support, make checks payable to GMC, clearly marked "EC LIBERIA" and send them to the GMC office.





from Community EC Church



MISSIONS

Fall 2013

Community Evangelical Church (Sinking Spring, PA) – A team of 8 individuals traveled to Japan to minister to and with the EC Church of Japan. We traveled from July 17 thru July 30 and had many amazing experience as we stayed with, interacted with, ministered with, and fellowshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Japan. The purpose of our trip was to conduct an English camp for children and also to minister to and encourage the church of Japan. We were the ones who received the greatest blessing as we saw 12 children and 1 adult come to faith in Christ. (read more about this team in this issue of Windows.)

A team of 20 teens and adults traveled to Puerto Rico to minister with 21 other teens and adults from First Presbyterian Church in Reading. While in Puerto Rico the group of 41 was able to participate in small home repair projects and lead four days of VBS at a local housing project. The trip was a wonderful success with teens and adults sharing the love of Christ through games, crafts, and practical needs based ministries; with the greatest joy coming in the form of

15 boys and girls accepting Christ as Savior. Community Church had six of its members go with a medical team to El Salvador, June 1-9, 2013. Patty Gaul, Lois and Becca Wade, Lori Koons, Barb Matiatos and Dave Brock traveled with 44 others on a trip sponsored by the Christian Medical & Dental Associations to serve the communities of Chalchuapa and La Magdalena where 1450 patients were seen. The Lord's hand was at work as people responded to the love, preaching, evangelism and home visits.

– Rev. Matt Hill, youth pastor



from First EC Church

First EC (Palmyra, PA) – The youth participated in an event that was planned by Lebanon County Christian Ministries and hosted at Faith Fellowship Church in Cleona. It was called “Box City” and was “A

fun and meaningful event in which people camp for the night in a temporary dwelling to increase awareness of the many homeless families in our own community, AND raise money to support Lebanon County Christian Ministries’ Emergency Shelter.” – Jeff Stansbury, Assistant Pastor

Grace EC (Akron, PA) – Due to a date conflict we were unable to join with “The Ephrata Project,” which is a group of Ephrata and Akron based churches that run a local work camp for students in the greater Ephrata Area. Instead we waited and picked up the jobs they could not get to.

We called our eight days of ministry “Adventure Week” and began with a pool party on Sunday July 14. Over the next three days we did small repair and clean up jobs for four local residents as well as at Akron Grace.

We ended the week with a four day camping trip to Little Buffalo State Park to reward the students for their hard work and to focus in on building community. We of course picked the

hottest week of the summer and so most of the weekend plans were scrapped in favor of the swimming pool! But, God certainly knew what he was doing, six hours of keep away in the pool provided the team building just as well if not better than any game or activity we may have planned. – Rev. Stephen L. Holubec



from Trinity EC Church

Trinity EC Church (Harrisburg, PA) – A group of seventeen went to North Carolina for their summer mission trip. During this time we did a lot of yard work and helped in repairing a trailer. We were also privileged in working with a pastor from the area in clearing vines that had grown up around a house he owned. The Lord taught us so much through this trip and God bonded us in new ways. We are very excited to see where God will continue to lead us in the coming year!

– Ryan Martin, youth pastor



from Grace EC Church





from Pequea EC Church

more.» Another of the Bible Club teachers lives in one of the biggest slums and teaches 35 children out of her small but clean home. The whole trip was challenging as we see these people cheerfully doing a lot with the little they have - when in the

USA there is so much more and we often complain about minor inconveniences.

Pequea EC (Pequea, PA) – Mrs. Robert Dimick and a coworker spent 3 weeks in Recife, Brazil teaching spiritual warfare at two weekend conferences, spoke at three additional church services and ministered to 5 individuals at the BCM missions office. It was a time of incredible blessing as they had opportunities to hear some amazing testimonies to God’s power and grace in the lives of many.

– *Roberta Dimick*

One visit that was a special blessing was to one of 7 camps established for drug rehab for men. The man who established them is himself a former drug lord over a very large area of Brazil. He is now a pastor. These camps are and self-supported as much as possible by the men who grow much of their own food, make brooms and raise song-birds to sell.

At the second church conference, the people stayed 2 hours after the stated time (and would have stayed longer if we could have) saying «please, we want to learn

USA there is so much more and we often complain about minor inconveniences.

Trinity EC (Manheim, PA) – sent a Mini-Mission Youth Work Team of six to Twin Pines on June 9-12. The team scrubbed and sanitized the kitchen, patched the pool with bonding cement, and cleared trails to help ready the camp for the summer camping ministry. This is the sixth consecutive year that a group has been sent from Trinity to work at Twin Pines.

Our team included: Jordan McKey, Mason Eller, Kole Hollinger, Kyle Parks, Kayla Eller and Pastor Jeff. – *Rev. Jeff Schell*



from Trinity EC Church

People’s EC (East Weissport, PA) – This year a group of eight teens and four adult leaders went to Newark, New York for a short term mission trip. The group worked at various locations, including nursing homes, private residences, a center for domestic violence victims, and a shelter for abused and neglected animals. After the trip the group presented their adventures to the congregation who had financially supported their efforts. In their presentations, each teen spoke about how they learned about life and about God by helping others. – *Rev. Ken Ogden*



from Peoples EC Church

Reedsville Bethesda ECC (Reedsville, PA) – supported a group of adults who

worked with members of Grace Community ECC through the ministry efforts of Mennonite Disaster Relief (Storm Aid) in Staten Island. These teams worked together on several homes April 21-25.

Bethesda Youth Ministries sponsored a group of teens and adult leaders through Christian Endeavor’s Life Builder’s Ministry. This team worked on two different homes in the Southport, NC, area from July 13-19. – *Mark Brooks, Ass’t pastor*



from Reedsville Bethesda EC Church





from Bethel EC Church

◇ **Bethel EC** (Dixon, IL) – This summer I spent two months in California participating in a Cause for Life internship with Joni and Friends. During this multi-faceted internship, I attended lectures by Joni Tada, pastors, college professors, and others who work with people with disabilities. I also volunteered as a camp counselor at two different camps that are specifically designed to minister to people with disabilities and their families. I volunteered in several Californian churches to assist them in their outreach to people affected by disability. Additionally, I spent a week in Port at Prince, Haiti, where I joined with a local church to host a vacation Bible school every morning. During our afternoons in Haiti, our intern team partnered with a local orphanage for children with disabilities. Overall, this was a very fulfilling and insightful learning experience, and I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him this summer. – *Anna Brady*

◇ **Steelstown St. John's EC** (Steelstown, PA) – 17-year-old Emilie Geib of Belle Grove, Lebanon County, graduated



from St. John's EC Church

from high school in May, and already knew how she would spend her summer. The Lord led Emilie to sign up for Teen Missions this past summer. The team she was assigned to was originally designated to go to Southern Sudan, but because of unrest in their target area, the team was re-assigned to travel to Uganda, Africa (west of Kenya and south of Southern Sudan).

Teen Missions Team 13016 spent their time in Jinja, the second largest city in Uganda on Lake Victoria and source of the Nile River gardens, and in Koboko in northern Uganda. They worked on building projects and in ministry to children through puppets and Bible stories. Sundays were set apart for worship in different locales, evangelizing through songs, testimonies, and the Word. Emilie was gone from June 20 through August 10.

◇ **Grace EC** (Kutztown, PA) **ALASKA PARTICIPANTS:** Gary & Jane Jones and daughter Lauren, from Kutztown, Grace, traveled with a team from the EC Church to Camp LIWA in Alaska, July 20-August 3. They did physical labor as well as office work.

MEXICO TEAM: Grace Church sent nineteen people, from a few months old to many years of experience, to Mexico this summer. They traveled from August 1-8 to assist at Mission Mazahua, near Mexico

City. Mission Mazahua is an outreach center run by the parents of a member of Kutztown Grace. The heart of Mission Mazahua's goal is the proclamation of the Gospel as they love and serve the marginalized, not only



Mexico team from Grace EC Church



Kentucky Team from Grace EC Church

with compassion but acts of mercy as they point people to Jesus. Our team was able to participate in the life of the mission in a variety of ways from encouraging the staff, to visiting microenterprises facilitated by the mission, to providing needs for local families. It was a huge blessing to be a small part of what God is doing at Mission Mazahua! Please continue to pray for the mission and their work for Christ and His Church!

KENTUCKY TEAM: On July 13, a team of 13 students and adults from Kutztown, Grace traveled to Canyon Falls EC Church in Beattyville, KY to serve in a fun and work-filled week leading Vacation Bible School and assisting in work projects around the church property. We praise God for a large VBS attendance and for several older children who made commitments to follow Jesus! This was Grace Church's second mission experience with Canyon Falls Church and Pastor Adam Roberts' fifth. We are already planning a return visit to Canyon Falls to lead VBS in summer 2014 and are looking forward to what God has planned! – *Pastor Adam Roberts*

◇ **Hope Community Church** (Fogelsville, PA) – The Rock Climbing Clones Youth Group served with Reach Workcamp in Newfane, NY from July 14- 20th. We were part of the largest group that the Reach Workcamp organization has ever hosted. There were over 600 students and we were able to serve many families in the area. – *Pastor Ken Kalisz*



from Hope Community

Top left in picture: Zack Bauer, Noah Heilman, Pastor Ken Kalisz, Ben Cramsey, Connor Ilgenfritz. **Lower left in picture:** Janelle Roth, Mandy Bauer, Hailey Ilgenfritz, Denise Kalisz, Ben Fry, Noah Hamilton, Drew Parry, Mr. John Ilgenfritz.



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window ON THE WORLD

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