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



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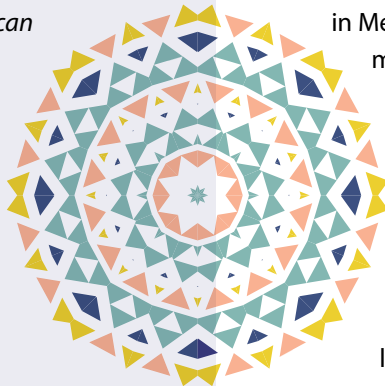
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MEXICO – Through

THIS YEAR at our National Conference-USA, held at Messiah College at the end of May, we had the opportunity to approve the application of our Mexico EC churches to become their own National Conference. Two of the couples in leadership, outgoing field leader Rev. Elias Martinez and his wife Myrna, along with newly elected Superintendent Rev. Juan Zuniga and his wife Rosie, came from Mexico to be part of the celebration.

In turn, a delegation from the USA was invited to Mexico in late July to celebrate with the churches in Mexico at their annual conference. Rev. Randy Sizemore and his wife Carla, Bishop Bruce Hill, Rev. Carlos Kelly from York St. Paul's/Iglesia Cristiana, Jerry Virtue and Mike Reinders (both active in many work teams to El Retiro and our Mexican churches) went along to be part of the festivities and the formal installation of Rev. Zuniga. We asked several of them to send their thoughts about this historic occasion.



Watching the Flowers Grow

By Carla Sizemore

MEXICO BECOMING the third National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational church is so exciting for me. I see this as a huge milestone for the pastors and wives and a testimony of the faithfulness of God in the work in Mexico. I have seen so much growth in the lives of the pastors and wives. My first trip to Mexico was in 2010 where I had the privilege to teach the pastor's wives and other ladies about being a woman after God's own heart. In the years since then I have returned three times to share with them more about being Godly women, dedicated to following God daily. What a privilege to see these beautiful women grow in their relationship with God, their husbands and congregations. I have discovered as I have prayed for them and their families

in Mexico and they have prayed for me and my family, that we are different flowers from the same garden, a unique sisterhood of pastors' wives. Our desire is to grow this interdependence with other pastors' wives around the world.

We may not speak the same language but the connection in Jesus Christ is very real.

Different Eyes

The EC Church of Latin America

By Bishop Bruce Hill

IT WAS MY JOY and pleasure to travel to Mexico with a small team of EC'ers from The Evangelical Congregational Church, USA to celebrate our denomination's newest National Conference: the Evangelical Congregational Church of Latin America. During the days of our National Conference our members voted unanimously to declare our Mexican brothers and sisters a National Conference.

I've said to people that a few of us had the happy opportunity to celebrate this twice: one time at our National Conference mostly in English with a little Spanish and then again at their National Conference mostly in Spanish with a little English. Either way, they were joyful times celebrating what God is doing in and through his people. And the good news is that God isn't done yet! During their session I installed Juan Zuniga as their new Conference Superintendent. One of his first goals is to focus on their role in sharing the Good News about Jesus in Mexico and beyond.

The Great Commission spirit is alive and well in all our EC conferences and churches! What a joy it is for us to serve the Lord in expanding the boundaries of his Kingdom!

MEXICO 2017

By Jerry Virtue

IN 1991 John and Sherry Michel along with Jerry and Nancy Virtue were sent down to Mexico to repair the El Retiro Children's home by the then Director of Missions, Rev. David Hornberger. The facility had not been maintained in years so it needed in a lot of work; however Mae Royer, the Children's Home Director, insisted we spend an equal part of our time helping the 10 EC churches in Mexico.

After 14 work teams between 1992 and 2011, the children's home was upgraded, the Monterrey and Guadalupe churches were constructed and, along with the help of several Pennsylvania work teams, all the churches had some type of construction improvements. As we worked along with the pastors and congregations, we often wondered and prayed that the Mexican EC churches would unite and work together.

In July of this summer as we attended the services where the Mexico EC Church celebrated their National Conference Status and installed a new Director, I could now see a united church and a church working together to serve the Lord, even sending out their own work teams. Thanks be to God! 🌍



The EC Church of Japan

Growing In Grace and Love Grace Garden Church



“At the beginning we never knew who would come to Grace Garden, but God has sent believers and non-believers to His church. It is still a small congregation, like a small seed, but we believe God’s Word will make us grow and turn this city into His beautiful garden”

THESE WORDS FROM church planters Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe’s newsletter capture the gratitude and hope of Japan’s newest church plant. March 26, 2017 marked the one year anniversary of Grace Garden Church in Ebina City, Japan. Beginning with a vision meeting of the members from the other EC congregations in Japan, members from Grace Community Church, Willow Street, Pennsylvania and other friends, the newly planted church was sprouted in the soil of prayer. Throughout the year Yoriyoshi and Emiko gave leadership to the small but growing congregation. Yoriyoshi used a flannel graph board to illustrate Bible messages for the children and discovered that the adult seekers were also impacted by these simple but powerful stories.

God continues to bless this congregation with both young and old who are growing into a church family. The family oriented atmosphere is quickly becoming the DNA of Grace Garden. A young adult group has been launched and God has sent other folks like Chris and Yuri to help in the work. Chris is a professional English teacher who helped start an evangelistic English Bible Study group, held in a local restaurant to be visible to others who may want to join. The members and friends of Grace Garden continue to pray for their city as they engage in various outreach strategies. One of the themes for their second year is

“Team Work” as they strive to create an atmosphere where everyone can use their talents to build up the church.

Fuchinobe Community Church

WHILE NOT QUITE as “new”, Fuchinobe Community Church also continues to grow into a mature expression of the Body of Christ in Japan. Pastors Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe are praising God for the seven couples who completed the recently held marriage course. As an added praise, they were also able to introduce this course to two other local churches. One of the non-Christian couples that attended the marriage course have also completed the parenting course. May they keep looking for answers and find Jesus! After launching a “community life” cell group ministry last year, this year they want to focus on children’s ministries. A paragraph from their recent newsletter celebrating the baptism of two new believers gives us an insight on how God is reaching into the lives of the community.

Yuri was first introduced to Christianity by her host family when she was an exchange student in the U.S. 30 years ago. Yuki started going to church upon the invitation of an American friend in Japan a few years ago. They were both baptized last month at FCC. Many of the people who helped them in their spiritual journey came to the service, including eight guests from the United States! It was a wonderful testimony to God’s gentle and persistent work in their lives. We are glad he works in that way too. We often wish things would move faster but for a lot of Japanese it takes a long time and contacts with many believers to turn their hearts and lives over to Jesus. 🙏



India

The EC Church of

A Rising Tide of Leadership

YOU'VE HEARD IT, I've preached it; "Everything rises and falls on leadership". The EC Church of India believes it! ECCI (EC Church of India) recently held their 50th Annual Leadership Conference with the theme, "We Are Ambassadors For Christ" from II Corinthians 5:20. This coming October the GMC is once again partnering with ECCI to host a regional missionary training event in Wangoon Manipur specifically to train the missionaries working among the Meitei people. Along with these annual training events, we also partner with ECCI's accredited training institution, Evangelical College of Theology. Our most recent partnership was to help their newly elected principal complete his PhD program in the United States. On April 3, 2017 ECT offi-

cially installed Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate as their Principal. Praise God with me as you read a few excerpts from his most recent newsletter.

After completing my doctoral studies in the U.S., I returned to India and took charge of the office of Principal. The academic year soon came to an end in May and 20 students received their Bachelor of Theology and Masters of Theology degrees. It was a delight to see groups of young people stepping out of the seminary and pursuing the calling they received from the Lord... We began a new academic year on July 14 with a total enrollment of 75 students... This year sees a dramatic improvement in our enrollment and we praise the Lord for that.

I want to share about two things that deeply touch my heart as I interact with prospective students during the admission process. First is the enthusiasm to study God's word exhibited by prospective students. I was specially touched by one student who told me that since the time of his childhood, to study God's word and to be involved in ministry



has been his aim in life all along. There is one young student who often cried because of homesickness, yet remained steadfast to her decision to study God's word. The more I interact with this group of students, the more excited I am about this ministry!

Second, many of these students are genuinely in need of financial assistance. There is one student who told me that his brother who is selling stones as a laborer will be paying for his fees and another student told me that he is living alone with his sickly mother and has no one to support him. There are many cases of students with genuine needs. I am tempted to ask God why he is not calling rich people with lots of money to study his word. They could have easily paid for their studies, but then, this could be God's way of giving you an opportunity to be involved!



On a more tangible level, the EC Churches in the U.S. generously responded to the need for Dr. Songate to have a sturdy vehicle that would allow him to carry out the duties of his office and to continue the much needed partnership development between the local churches, communities and individuals and Evangelical College of Theology. With great thanksgiving, the leadership of ECT has ensured us that this new vehicle will be a true blessing and encouragement to the work of the seminary for years to come. 🌍



The EC Church of

Nepal

Building The Kingdom, One Name at a Time

IN ALMOST EVERY ISSUE of *Window On The World* you read statistics like these from our EC Church in Nepal: Number of new converts to Christ - 45; Number of baptisms - 37; Number of new churches planted - 2. It is easy to forget that these numbers involve people with names and names are so important. Let this edited testimony from Janga's latest report illustrate my point.

A woman named Parvati was brought to the church for prayer because she was under the control of a demon for many years. We told her about Jesus who could heal her and give her new life in Christ. She was very interested in learning more about accepting the Lord as her personal Savior so we changed her name to Martha because Parvati is the name of the wife of the Hindu god, Shiva. The Devil began to torment her, throwing her to the ground. We prayed that Jesus would free this woman from the Devil according to the Scriptures. She became unconscious and we said to the demon, "you go from this woman because she is no longer Parvati but now she is Martha and you do not have the right to trouble her because she wants to give her life to the Living God". The demon spoke through her and said, "I will not go from her, I will take her life". By the grace of God she was set free after two to





three hours of prayer and worship! Both she and her husband are now preparing for baptism in the Lord.

While we are praising God for the new names written down in glory, we are also praying for those with names who were impacted by the severe flooding in southern Nepal in August. Several homes and churches connected to our work there were either damaged or completely destroyed. We praise God that through your generosity we could send immediate relief funds that helped buy rice and provided financial assistance for those with the greatest needs. 🌍



Mexico

The EC Church of

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Expanding The Mission To Latin America

WHAT A PRIVILEGE to have Rev. Elias & Myrna Martinez and Rev. Juan & Rosie Zuniga, leaders from the EC Church in Mexico travel to the U.S. to interact with our churches and join our National Conference gathering at Messiah College in May. Of course the main event was the official vote by our conference delegates to recognize that the work in Mexico had indeed matured to the point of being granted National Conference status. Now the Evangelical Congregational Church of Latin America becomes the third international mission conference to achieve national conference status. The weekend before traveling to Messiah College to attend our conference, the

leaders of Mexico spent some time with the Illinois district churches, celebrating the long relationship the Great Lakes Work Team and churches have had with our brothers and sisters in Mexico. The GMC sponsored a luncheon at the Dixon Bethel EC Church to honor Jerry & Nancy Virtue and John & Sherry Michel. These two couples pioneered the work team movement from the Great Lakes Region to the conference in Mexico in 1991.

The leaders of the EC Church of Latin America reciprocated by inviting a delegation from the U.S. EC Church to join them in their special session of Conference in July to inaugurate their new National Conference, to express their appre-

ciation for our years of partnership and to join them in the installation of their first Superintendent (Bishop) of the National Conference. It was a joy to recognize the sacrificial work of their conference leaders, pastors and lay delegates, to celebrate the exemplary leadership of outgoing Director Rev. Elias Martinez and to help install their new Superintendent, Rev. Juan Zuniga. Following his installation Rev. Zuniga

shared the three areas of his vision for the new conference. He encouraged them to increase their involvement in missions to include Latin America; he wants to explore arranging the conference churches into districts to encourage fellowship and cooperation among the congregations and he wants to promote training of pastors and lay leaders through their Bible institute. 🌍



VBS PROJECT UPDATE:

THE 2016 VBS PROJECT funds have supported the remodeling of the previously unusable second story “patio” of Bethel Church in Rio Bravo.

This new space will be used

to continue the Iglekids program that is being launched in both the EC and non-EC churches in Mexico. With the floor, wall supports and roof installed the project is 95% completed. All that’s left is for the chain link fencing to be installed around the perimeter to complete the open-air, flexible facility. 🌍



Liberia

The EC Church of

Opening the Word of God To the Church



HOW MANY BIBLES do you have in your house? How many translations do you have access to on your smart phone, computer or tablet? What if you couldn't read any of them? Our 2017 VBS project is to help the members of the EC Church of Liberia learn to read their Bibles. Rev. Abraham Powell, Bishop of the EC Church of Liberia explains the Liberia literacy strategy below.

Brief Background:

Since ECCOL was founded in 1965, the salvation message reached many and today we have more than 5,000 poverty stricken people becoming Christians and joining the ECCOL. Of the 5,000 only about 10% are literate and 90% illiterate. What pricks my heart most is that these "illiterate" people as they are called, can speak the Bassa dialect fluently but unfortunately they cannot read nor

write what they speak thus making them disadvantaged as Christians because they cannot read the word of God that has been translated in the Bassa dialect. They only hear the word of God read by someone but they cannot read it by themselves. Hence, they are not able to quote scriptures and to lead people to the Lord by directing them in the bible to read. We are experiencing many false teachers and preachers and as the Muslim religion is gradually spreading throughout the world, it is very much expedient that vigorous efforts be made to teach the reading of the Bassa bible to our people.

Strategy:

Two teams comprising of two persons per team will be organized, trained and sent to villages where EC churches are and will establish training sessions for the members. They will train a targeted number of 500 persons in two years. The National Council will on a regular basis monitor the progress of the training. The monitoring will take into consideration, "Attendance per session, lesson taught, output and impact."

Materials and Equipment:

Two portable generators, five tape recorders, pens, pencils and copy books, assorted teaching materials, Bassa bibles, one photo copier, transportation and compensation for trainers.

Expected Result:

That within 24 months period, 500 EC'ers will be able to read the Bassa bible and will

have acquired some level of skills in evangelism, thus reaching out to the lost.

Imagine the excitement that will flow through our churches and communities as more and more people read, study and share the Word of God in their own dialect! Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help ECCOL launch the first year of this two year endeavor. 🌍



If you would like to contribute to this literacy project make donations payable to "GMC" clearly marked, Liberia VBS project and send them to EC Church Center, 100 West Park Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067.



READY TO GO! By Pat Strain

MISSIONARY CANDIDATE Ivy Limbert was commissioned as an EC missionary on Sunday morning, July 16th, in her home church of Trinity EC in Lititz, PA. Ivy had just been approved for missionary candidacy last fall at the October Global Ministries board meetings, so we were surprised to learn that she had been successful in her support raising and was ready to go for the fall 2017 school year!

We had to scramble a bit to get a date for her commissioning before she took off for the field, but Pastor Nathan Fry was flexible and worked the commissioning into the 10:30



morning service. In addition to Pastor Fry and Pat Strain from Global Ministries, Walt Pasedag, the missions chairman at Trinity and a couple representing Ivy's mission agency, Teach Beyond, were part of the laying on of hands in the ceremony.

Ivy left August 1st to teach English as a Second Language at Black Forest Academy, a boarding school for missionary children in Germany. Please keep Ivy in prayer as she begins this exciting season of full time missionary service. 🌍

SPECIAL EVENTS Global Ministries is sponsoring two events, and being good EC'ers, both involve food! ☺

On **Friday, October 20th**, an appreciation luncheon will be held for all active and retired pastors and their wives. This will be held at the Commons of Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, PA. We will begin at noon and the program should be finished by 3:00. GM Associate Rev. Randy Sizemore will bring an update on our international churches, and there will be missionary speakers. There is no charge, but reservations are required. Contact the GMC office at 1-800-866-7584 or ecglobal@eccenter.com to make reservations. **Deadline is October 6th**.

Attention Susquehanna Region Mission Minded People! The annual Missions Brunch will be held on **Saturday, October 21st** at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown, PA. The brunch is Dutch treat (you pay for your own meal) and begins at 10 a.m. The meal and program will end by noon. Rev. Randy Sizemore will be bringing mission updates, and Beth Grimm will share about her ministry and most recent trip to Papua New Guinea. The restaurant needs a head count by **October 6th**, so please call in your reservations to the GMC office at phone or email listed. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you! 🌍



Tamaqua, PA



Tamaqua Youth Ministries of **Bethany EC** went to Big Creek Mission in Bear Branch, KY on June 11th thru 17th. 21 people served in construction, community outreach and children's ministry. The construction group did roofing as well as installing drywall and insulation. The community group served at a food pantry, did nursing home visits and mowed lawns for the elderly. The children's ministry group served at a community pool, where they played games, assisted with Bible lessons and helped to serve lunch and breakfast. There was a plumber in our group who completed a lot of plumbing projects at

the mission. In addition to serving, each day included worship, a study from the book of Acts, and prayer. The experiences at Big Creek have made a great impact on all who participated. – *Rev. Kevin Roberts*

Harrisburg, PA

11 youth and three adults from **Trinity EC** went on a mission trip to Pittsburgh, PA from July 23rd- 28th. We went through the organization Group. The kids worked at a Habitat for Humanity Store, two different homeless cafés, World Vision organization, two local churches, and the Boys and Girls Club of Pittsburgh. It is absolutely amazing to see the kids

interact with their sites but to also hear their experiences.

Every evening I would ask the youth about their God sightings for the day. One of my youth broke down because there was a family; a mother and her three small children,

that came to the church where we were staying to ask if there was any food for them. They had fallen on hard times. It wasn't long ago that this youth and his family were experiencing the same thing. This was this young man's first mission trip. He will be forever changed because of that evening.

At our site there were probably close to 100 people. On Wednesday evening they had an alter call. There is something very powerful about kids and watching them fall to their knees crying. The Holy Spirit was present that evening for sure. – *Cathy Shaffer, Director of Youth and Family Ministry*





Reedsville, PA

This summer from June 11 through June 17th, the Youth Ministry at **Bethesda EC** was afforded the opportunity to serve the people of Bear Branch, KY by connecting with Big Creek Missions. Throughout the week, those who attended were taught the importance of keeping Christ central to everything we do while being given the opportunity to serve in different capacities within the community. For some, they were placed on construction teams which performed tasks like putting on tin roofs and supporting the floors of some homeowners. The community teams had the opportunity to serve in an elementary



school and adult day care. In all each individual that attended was impacted in a very powerful way as we all came to understand the power that comes from allowing God to use us in different ways to serve people that were in desperate need.

While we were there, a great deal of emphasis was placed on the importance of building relationships with the homeowners above anything else. While the task we were assigned

were important, getting to know and build relationships with those we were ministering to was to take precedence over just getting a job done. In all, the teens and adults that attended were challenged and grew in many different and powerful ways and it we were all challenged to be more alert and aware of the needs that are going on in our own community.

– *Stewart MacDonald,*
Pastor of Children and Youth



Sinking Spring , PA -

Community Evangelical Church

took a short term mission trip in July to Merida, Mexico. Merida is the capital of the Yucatan Peninsula with a population of over 778,000. Our team consisted of 15 students and five adult leaders. We partnered with Christian Endeavor (CE Mission Weeks). This was the first international trip that CE Mission Weeks had offered and our team was excited to be part of it.

The team attended a worship service at our host church on Sunday morning, spent the afternoon with the youth at a cultural festival and began our work project that evening at the church plant across town. The first thing we did was invite neighborhood kids to come to the VBS program

that started on Monday.

The church plant is a vacant lot with a metal roof pavilion. Our mornings were filled with work projects: we mixed concrete, built a cinder block building, dug holes for fence poles, secured the poles with concrete, put wire fence around the entire perimeter of the property, cleared rocks and debris from the site, and spread sand on the property to make the surface level. We also painted a cinder block wall and designed and painted colorful murals on them with Scripture references.

In the evenings, we returned to the church plant to participate in the

VBS program. It was wonderful to interact with the youth of that church and the children who came out to the program each night. We ate dinner together with the Mexican VBS volunteers each evening and quickly developed strong bonds with them. It was hard to say goodbye to our new extended family the last night we were there.

Our CEC team consisted of: Duane Bailey, Abby Bentz, Christian Burrus, Chris Burrus, Jame Burrus, Olivia Burrus, Rhona Forbes, Dee Hoffman, Gideon Jones, Paul Lockard, Derecke Moore, Craig Murray, Lindsay Sanger, Tim Sanger, Dana Schultz, Ally Snedeker, Cassidy Snedeker, Tyler Strickler, Devyn Wise, and Skylar Wise. – Rev. *Tim Sanger, youth pastor*



Boyertown, PA

Trinity EC - Our teens served a One Day Work Camp experience here in Boyertown over the summer during Boom Week. There were five groups; one group spent the afternoon tearing down vines and brush away from a garden bed, and then finished the job by edging the perimeter of the garden. That same group then

went to another site to do some minor yard work. The second group helped clean and sort bricks for the Colebrookdale Railroad. The task of cleaning and sorting bricks has been a multiyear project for this organization, and our teens were glad to help with this big project. The third group went to an assisted living organization and helped a lady move to another

location. The fourth group helped a family move their things to a new house they had recently bought. The last group served by mulching a playground area, and weeding around our church. In doing service projects close to home, it was reinforced to students that they don't have to travel far in order show God's love and meet needs in a community. – *Pastor Dale*



We were a team of five from **Trinity EC Boyertown**, and part of 32 from the USA. Together we traveled to Chincha, Peru, about five hours south of Lima. Daily, we went in groups, with translators and nationals, and walked door-to-door throughout the town. We prayed with many locals, shared the gospel message, and many accepted Christ! At least 550 souls came to Christ ~ so blessed to be a small part of that I can't even begin to explain it. Being able to see the physical transformation in someone once the Holy Spirit comes into them is truly amazing! – *Michelle Salerno*



food bank where they provided basic food items to the local people and also

Akron, PA –



Grace EC – ABLAZE Youth Ministry sent 16 youth and three adults to serve in Oak Hill, West Virginia this summer. The team worked with Mid-Atlantic Christian Endeavor from July 9th – 15th. They had the opportunity to use their skills and abilities to serve in construction projects and make connections with local residents.

– *Tiesha Sensenig, Conestoga Valley High School*

Missions, a Christian ministry located in Bear Branch, Kentucky, an area considered to be one of the neediest locations in the United States. From June 24 to July 1, God used each team member to serve the community through Children’s Ministry, Community Ministry, and Construction Ministry.

The Children’s Ministry helped with children’s day camp where they shared the gospel of Christ through crafts, games, and lessons. The Community Ministry team worked in a

ministered to community members by serving hot meals and by praying with them. In addition, the Construction Ministry worked on local homes that needed repair, built bathrooms at Big Creek, and helped lead craft time at the children’s day camp by building wooden crafts. Each St. John’s team member was blessed by this opportunity, and the team was able to end the mission experience with a renewed passion for Christ and for ministry.

--*Rebecca O’Neal*

Steelstown, PA



St. John’s EC sent ten youth and four adults to Big Creek



FALL 2017

Manheim, PA

Trinity EC participated in the annual community-wide mission project named "The Manheim Project." This group of nine churches made an offer to help residents of the Manheim Central School District who needed repairs in their homes. The Project was targeted for a two week period in July. Trinity helped seven families with repairs such as HVAC repair, gas line repair, weeding, shrubbery trimming, power washing, window washing, etc. More than 100 hours of volunteer time were provided by Trinity alone.



The residents were thrilled to have the help and the workers were humbled by the appreciation. It was a great way to fulfill the Lord's command of helping

others. The group is going to continue mini-Manheim Projects in other seasons of the year as well. – *Loren Gochnauer*

Trinity EC also sent a group of nine Students and two Adults on a Mini-Mission Work Trip June 18-21 at Twin Pines Camp, assisting in the preparation for the Summer Camping Season. The group split into two teams tackling repairs to the swimming pool and shrubbery trimming. This is the tenth year a Trinity group has helped Twin Pines. - *Loren Gochnauer*



Lancaster, PA

Faith EC - Three students: Matt Latschar, Connor Kime, and Oliver Marvin; went to Europe with Dr. N. Sanford Good and Live 10:27 Ministries. The trip consisted of backpacking two weeks through the countries of Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Along the way, the full team of seventeen students conducted world view surveys that ask very intentional questions about what people believe and what they think will happen to them after they die. The data will eventu-

ally be used by Dr. Good in a publication. The survey questions are also used as a way to engage complete strangers in conversation about their beliefs and possibly open up questions about the student's beliefs. This often offers an opportunity to share the gospel with very religiously starved people of Europe. The students also handed out booklets such as *The Life Book*, *More than a Carpenter*, and *The Gospel of John* to those people with whom they talked. Students also looked to give a Muslim a copy of *Seeking Allah*,

Finding Jesus due to the rapidly growing Muslim population in Europe. Dr. Good encourages the students to intentionally seek contact information of the people they talk to and continuously stay in their lives through prayer and correspondence. This intentional investment in stranger's lives is meant to set apart the students from others, causing the individual to question what makes the student the way they are. The answer is their faith in God and love for people giving credibility to the gospel that was shared. - *Rev. Joel Kime*



Global Ministries

We once again sponsored a work team to Camp LIWA, a Christian camp just outside of Fairbanks, AK. The team served August 5-19. There were a few unforeseen glitches before the team left, such as having the team leader and another member drop out due to health issues, but in the end a group of 10 were able to go and work on the new dining hall/conference center, among other duties.



FALL 2017

East Weissport, PA

A group of tweens, teens, and adults from **People's EC**, participated in a short term mission trip through Group Mission's Week of Hope program. The group worked in and around the town of Newark, New York. Duties for that week included helping in a shelter for victims of domestic violence, assisting local food programs, and working in programs for the elderly.



The group also had an opportunity to visit Chimney Bluffs State Park and see Lake Ontario. Everyone who participated reported the details of their trip in a special service

at People's EC held on 8/6/17, and all conveyed the awesome impact the adventure had on their lives. People's is planning their next trip for 2019. – Rev. Ken Ogden



Royersford, PA

Trinity Lighthouse Church

– A team traveled to Palowice, Poland to assist in an English Camp for Polish youth. The team led activities and helped teach

American English as well as helped with several building projects on behalf of the church in Palowice. Several youth gave their lives to Jesus and were baptized as new believers. Trinity has



plans for the youth group to travel to Poland next summer to participate in the English Camp. – Pastor Wayne Houck



park, which received very positive coverage in the local newspaper. The fair had a first responders theme and the team gave a fire prevention demonstration. The team also assisted with some minor

Cressona and Ashland, PA

A team from **Bethany Christian Fellowship** in Cressona, and a team member from **Bethany EC Church** in Ashland went to Alcora, Spain, in June to work with missionaries BJ and Rachel Whitaker. The team consisted of folks from ten to seventy

years old and was led by Pastor Dennis Snyder. The team helped to teach English to young adults who live in Alcora, visited the local fire station and prayed for the firefighters (not at all common in Spain). The team also put on an American fair with traditional American games for families in the

renovations at the church, which consisted of painting a mural on the wall in the children's room and making a wall hanging for in the worship area. BJ and Rachel ask that you please pray for the seeds the team helped them plant to grow and produce fruit of eternal life! – *Pastor Dennis Snyder*



Willow Street, PA

Grace Community Church

- On February 2, 2017 three men from Grace Community Church, Willow Street; Terry Erb, Randy Kelley, and Fred Stehman, embarked on a ten day mission trip to Colombia, South America with SportXchange. They were part of a group of 34 whose purpose was to travel around and play fast pitch softball while sharing the Gospel with softball fans who attended the games.

We were on the ground in Colombia for eight days, with a schedule of seven softball double-headers, and a variety of other

sports related ministry efforts to pursue whenever time and schedule allowed.

All of our softball games (with the exception of a day game Sunday 2/5) were played in the evening. Most games were played in small ballparks in the barrios of Cartagena and Monteria. Typically, after the game, we would present each player with a copy of the New Testament, signed by all of the Sportxchange players. Between games we would use the ballpark sound system to share the Gospel message with the crowd. The Colombian



people from the barrio were very appreciative of Sportxchange coming to play ball in their neighborhood. They are also great baseball fans and love supporting the home team. They are very polite and attentive during the time when the Gospel message is presented. Many, with the help of the Holy Spirit, responded to the presentation of the message.

– Fred Stehman

GCCWS went to our Canyon Falls EC Church for a week of service and VBS. The team of adults and students (students pictured below) installed a handicapped accessible shower, a tin roof, and various improvements around the Canyon Falls church campus. The team also helped Canyon Falls with their yearly VBS. Everyone had a great time as we partnered together in ministry! – Addison Roberts



Willow Street - The Romania mission trip team, including four **Grace Community Church** members – Andrew and Beth Railing, Danielle McMichael and Reed Buffenmyer, spent their time ministering at the Casa Ray orphanage.

Children ages seven to 20 listened to VBS stories from the book of Proverbs. They played games and made crafts with the team members in addition to learning a few new English songs about God's love and joy. Three of the

children were baptized while the team was there; this was a huge honor to experience young people taking such a large step in their faith for Christ.


– Brandi Wenger 



Willow Street - This summer I had the privilege to go to Lebanon to teach Syrian refugees. I taught both children and adults while I was there. It was an amazing experience. God is doing amazing things in the lives of the Muslims in the Middle East through the Church. The Arab people are the most generous and hospitable people I have met, and some of the most misun-

derstood. It was a joy to be in a place that is so dark, but see so much hope and light in the name of Jesus. I taught third grade Syrian refugees for three weeks and I'm praying that I showed them love and that I impacted them in a

way that points them to Jesus. Praise God for He is mighty, and He is moving!

– Rachel Kumher 



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