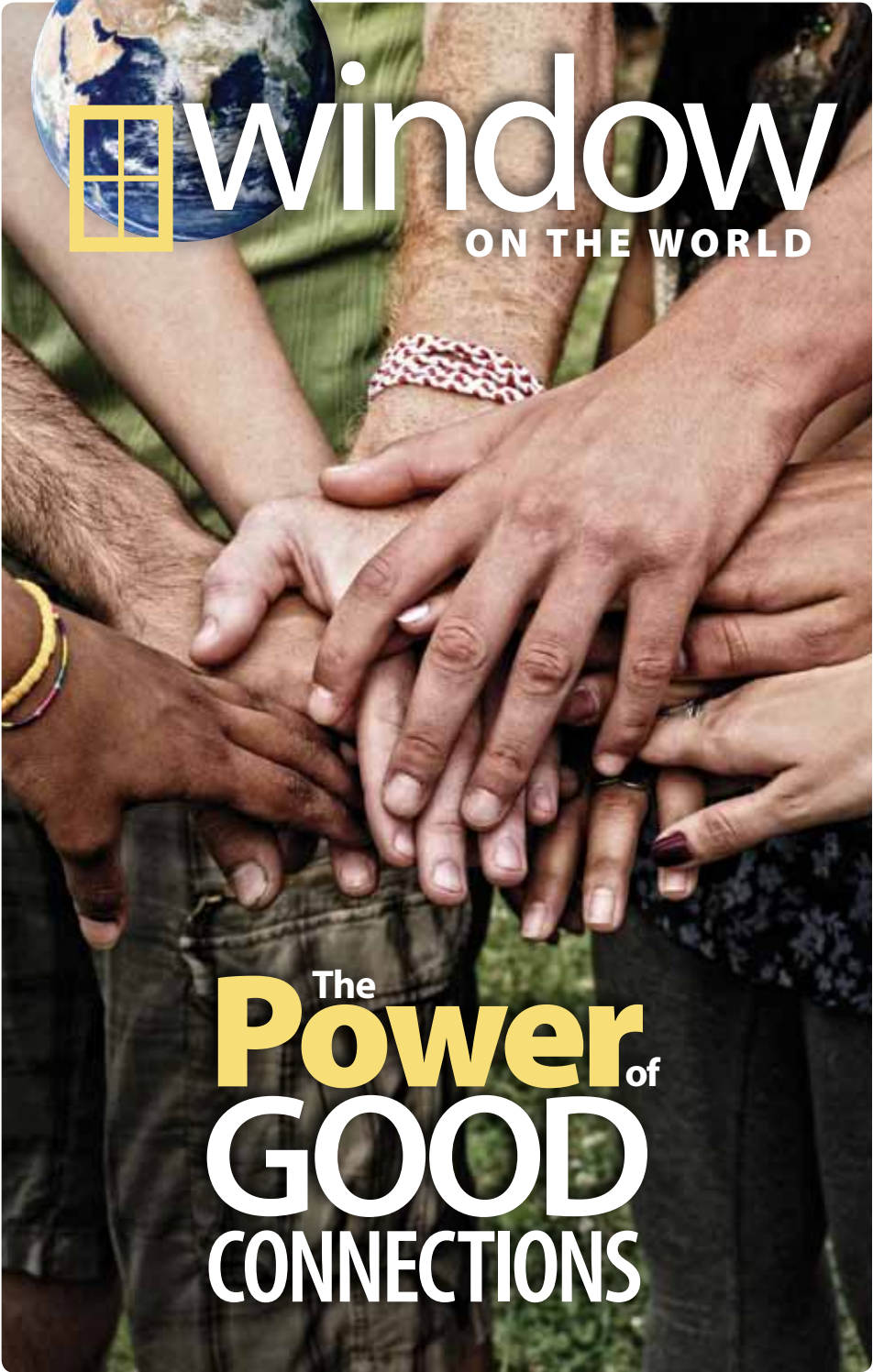


A publication of the Global Ministries Commission of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



The
Power of
GOOD
CONNECTIONS

Spring 2012 • Volume 24 Number 1

CONTENTS

- 3 The Power of Good Connections
- 4 Connecting Local Missions Leaders
- 5 Connecting the Global EC Church
- 6 Connecting with the Local Church: Creating Global Christians
- 8 Connecting through Heart Language
- 12 2011 VBS El Retiro Update
- 12 Missionary Prayer Partner Updates
- 13 International Church Update: India & Nepal
- 14 International Church Update: Japan
- 15 International Church Update: Mexico
- 16 VBS Project 2012



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The **POWER** of Good Connections

DR. HERBERT JACKSON told how, as a new missionary, he was assigned a car that would not start without a push. After pondering his problem, he devised a plan. He went to the school near his home, got permission to take some children out of class, and had them push his car off. As he made his rounds, he would either park on a hill or leave the engine running. He used this ingenious procedure for two years. A new missionary came to the station and when Jackson proudly began to explain his arrangement for getting the car started, the new man began looking under the hood. Before the explanation was complete, the new missionary interrupted, "Why, Dr. Jackson, I believe the only trouble is this loose cable." He gave the cable a twist, stepped into the car, pushed the switch, and to Jackson's astonishment, the engine roared to life. The power was there all the time. Only a loose connection kept Jackson from putting that power to work.

(EARNEST B. BEEVERS)



— by Randy Sizemore,
Executive Director
Global Ministries
Commission

The GMC's Japan Committee is organizing a **"VISION TOUR"** with the EC Church of Japan in 2013 for the youth of our conferences to continue to build the great connection between the USA and Japan EC Church

 **window**
ON THE WORLD

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of the Evangelical Congregational Church
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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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IF LOOSE CONNECTIONS result in a loss of power then strong connections must result in a surge of power! In my role I am privileged to see the amazing power that exists in the EC Church and the exciting potential of even more power as we tighten our global and local connections! Individual Christians and local congregations connect with one another and with our missionaries, who in turn are connecting with other missionaries and mission agencies. Our international EC Churches are connecting with us and with one another in unprecedented ways bringing fresh power to our mission of making disciples of all nations. I love to see the expressions on peoples' faces when I tell them that we have over 600 local congregations totaling over 100,000 members in the global EC Church who send out well over 250 missionaries, operate camps, orphanages, schools and a variety of relief and development projects in the name of Jesus Christ. In this newly formatted issue of *Window on the World*, we want to celebrate our connections and the resulting power of God among us as the Evangelical Congregational Church family. Who knows, perhaps a few of us will be encouraged to lift the hood and tighten our own connections. 🌍

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Connecting Local Missions Leaders



THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION empowers over 500 international churches in 6 nations, facilitates 53 mission workers in 9 countries, ministers to the marginalized in many of these same countries and seeks to help create global-minded Christians through informational and educational initiatives. **All of this is accomplished through the connection and cooperation of the local EC Churches here in the USA!** Without the prayer, financial and practical partnership of our local churches, the mission movement in the EC Church would grind to a halt. The local mission leaders and pastors in our churches are the key link in this chain of partnership!



You can imagine that with such a large ministry scope there are always updates, programs, changes, challenges and exciting developments to share with our local church partners, so the GMC has decided to host a regular informational **Mission Leaders' Brunch** in both the Susquehanna and Delaware regions to help our local mission leaders learn what God is doing

in and through the EC Church around the globe. In addition to these gatherings, I have also made a commitment to travel each year to the Great Lakes region in order to update, inform and interact with our congregations in western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois to build strong connections between the local church and the GMC. Julie Beltz is helping me schedule a GMC trip to connect with our churches in Ohio and western PA September 8-17, 2012. If you would like more information or would like to be included in the schedule, please contact me at rsizemore@eccenter.com.

– by Randy Sizemore

- Empowering International Churches
- Facilitating Mission Workers
- Engaging the Local Church

Connecting the Global EC Church

The Evangelical Alliance of Churches International Conference

T.E.A.C.H. 2013

EVANGELICAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH



PARTNERING FOR
THE WORLD

The GMC gathers the leaders and delegates of our international EC conferences together once every five years for the T.E.A.C.H. International Conference to strengthen our connections, or as the EC Discipline states, "to establish the procedures and criteria for developing strong autonomous churches in every area of the world, to identify areas for church planting and the extension of the church, and for developing an international partnership for the support and direction of missionaries to carry out the Great Commission" (440.1). A steering committee has been formed and has been meeting to

carry out the myriad details involved in bringing our international EC leaders and delegates to the USA from all around the globe. We will be asking for your help with housing delegates, transportation, meal preparation, financial help with the costs of T.E.A.C.H. and a variety of other needs. We plan to hold the majority of the sessions at Church Center and Evangelical Seminary immediately before and after our own National Conference in May 2013. We are also planning to incorporate the delegates into our National Conference program, have them available to speak in some of our local churches on that Sunday morning and we are planning one or two open sessions for the entire EC family. Please be in prayer for this exciting opportunity to forge and strengthen our global EC Church connections.



Henry Dennis shares at the 2008 TEACH Conference

– by Randy Sizemore



Connecting with the Local Church: Creating Global Christians



DR. LARRY REESOR is often quoted as saying, *“If we are to teach people to be like Christ, then we must teach them to have Christ’s global vision, passion and heart. We must intentionally teach them to be world Christians, to have a heart for the world like Jesus did – if we do otherwise, we are not developing Christians at all!”*. The GMC endeavors to develop a global passion and heart in the members of the EC

Church. We do this by offering information, education, and opportunity to learn as well as experience missions in many different forms for all ages.

INFORMATION – Global Ministries provides a number of publications to inform and update our members about our missionaries, mission programs, and our international churches. These include:

- **WINDOW ON THE WORLD**, a magazine published three times a year, with updates on our International Churches, Missionaries, GMC happenings and events (current circulation 6,000)
- **EC GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE**, a monthly prayer calendar (current circulation 4,500)
- **SHORT STOPS**, a semi-annual newsletter highlighting the short term mission trips and mission projects of our local churches (current circulation 4,500)
- **GMC INFORMATION PACKET**, various brochures explaining and highlighting the ministries, resources and services of the Global Ministries Commission
- **GMC WEBSITE**, (www.ecglobal.org)

EDUCATION – Global Ministries provides programs, seminars, and educational materials for children to adults. These include:

- **GMC TRAINING SEMINARS**, customized missions training for local church leaders (to date over 300 participants)

- **REGIONALIZED MISSION LEADERS’ MEETINGS/BRUNCHES**, hosted regularly to inform, educate and engage the mission leaders and pastors of the local church
- **MISSION MOBILIZERS**, trained volunteers sent out by GMC to help local churches with their missions involvement, questions and challenges
- **MISSION MINDED KIDS**, GMC provides assistance and curriculum for children in 1st-through 5th grades. These programs can be customized by the local church.
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROJECT** - annually the GMC selects a mission project that can be incorporated into the local or community VBS complete with 5-minute mission lessons
- **MISSION SPEAKERS** – the GMC office is happy to schedule available missionaries and GMC staff for speaking engagements in local churches and denominational gatherings
- **EMAILS, LINKS & DVD’S** sent out from the GMC and Church Center to local churches and mission leaders

OPPORTUNITY – Global Ministries provides short term mission opportunities through:

- publicizing opportunities to serve with our missionaries
- contacts with the many non-denominational agencies with which we are associated
- work teams to Alaska each summer to serve a Christian camping ministry.

Through our Missionary Prayer Partner program, you can interact with EC missionaries directly by praying for them on a specified month while they are praying for you. This program can be done by churches, Sunday School classes, or individuals.

Global Ministries continues to look for ways to provide you with the information you need to be in informed prayer for our missionaries and international churches. If you have any questions, please contact us at ecglobal@eccenter.com or go to our website www.ecglobal.org.

– by Pat Strain



Connecting through Heart Language

— by Kathy Wilson



ABOVE: Jonathan & Kathy at airport in Popondetta, Oro Province

BOTTOM: Visiting with Athanasius Jr. on way home from church, Oro Province

WE WERE ATTENDING a special celebration in our village when the gentleman that was sitting beside Jonathan patted his leg and said “Did you know that my grandfather ate one of you white people?” Thankfully at sometime between that grandfather’s meal and our arrival, some other missionaries had come and preached the gospel to the Binandere people. As a result, their practice of cannibalizing their enemies was abandoned and many had placed their faith in Christ.

Though the gospel was first presented to the Binandere people in the early 1900’s and many placed their faith in Christ, many Binandere Christians failed to go on to maturity in their faith because they had no Bible in their own language. In fact, even to this day there are many Binandere people who live in fear of sorcery and actively engage in ancestor spirit worship.

Yet at the same time we are seeing some positive signs that God is at work. Wilberforce, one of our most faithful co-translators let us know from the start that he had a healthy respect for the ances-

tor spirits and sorcery. But then as he began helping us translate the Gospels of Mark and Luke, we noticed Wilberforce becoming more concerned about honoring the Lord and less concerned about offending the ancestral spirits. Then one Sunday morning we were attending the morning service at the Anglican Church in our village. Towards the end of the service, the priest in charge motioned for someone behind us to come forward. That Sunday morning, Wilberforce, our co-translator publicly turned over several items used for sorcery to the Anglican priest to destroy! We had not asked Wilberforce to do this. Rather, this was something he himself wanted to do because God had been working in his heart as he had been working at the translation desk.

In Isaiah 55:10-11 we read: “For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud...so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please...”

This is one of the reasons why we are excited about Bible translation. Translating God’s word into a language which people can read and understand produces transformed lives!

Jonathan & I, along with our three children have been serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea among the Binandere language group of 7,000 people since 1991. Papua New Guinea is a small island nation, located 2 degrees south of the Equator and 100 miles north of Australia. Though Papua New Guinea is only slightly larger than California, it is the home of over 830 different language groups, making it the most linguistically diverse na-



ABOVE TOP Sarah and Jonita with Dad and Mom at Ukarumpa

ABOVE: Kathy reads the Gospel of Mark aloud with a Binandere student at the Friday morning ladies’ literacy class, in Nindewari Village

(continued on page 10)



(continued from page 9)

tion in the world. (It also has the largest butterflies in the world and is the home of nearly 3,000 different species of orchids.)

Now nearly 20 years later, our two oldest children are settled into the states and attending Moody Bible in Spokane, WA. Our son Justin recently was married and will be continuing his studies in aviation mechanics/bush pilot training. Our new daughter-in-law also attends Moody Bible majoring in Bible/counseling. Our 19 year-old daughter, Sarah, is in her first year of college majoring in international ministries.

Our youngest daughter, Jonita, is 14 yrs old and in the 9th grade. She will be returning with us to Papua New Guinea this summer to finish her high school education at the Ukarumpa International School. Each of our children has been an integral part of our team and is deeply loved by our Binandere village friends.

Partnering together with our EC churches as they faithfully prayed and sacrificially gave toward our work during this past five year term, we were able, through God's help, to accomplish these goals:

- 1) Translate 25% more of the Binandere New Testament [Now 33% of the N.T. has been drafted].
- 2) Train 6 different Binandere men in introductory translation courses.
- 3) Print and distribute a new Binandere song book containing 81 hymns and 59 Binandere gospel choruses
- 4) Complete the construction of, and pay off the debt owed on our new Nindewari village house.

goals

- 5) And, thanks to those in the EC churches we have been able to be your representatives and Christ's ambassadors to the Binandere people.

We now have at least 10 different Binandere men helping us translate various books of the New Testament. We have had to tell the leaders of our Binandere Translation support group to put their brakes on recruiting any more translators, because we are afraid we will not be able to keep up with checking through drafts produced when we return from furlough!

One of our Binandere friends, Pastor Hilarian, strongly urged us, "Please let the people in the churches back home who are helping support you know that we are thankful for their partnership with us in getting the New Testament translated into Binandere." So we say thank you for your encouragement. May God bless you for being willing

to do your part to see God's Word reach this far off corner of the world. 🙏

BOTTOM LEFT: Kathy teaching reading class how to tell time

BOTTOM RIGHT: Binandere family traveling back home from the garden on dugout canoe



RIGHT: Translating Luke with Roy and Wilberforce





2011 VBS El Retiro Update

Our main 2011 Vacation Bible School Project was the replacement of the

roof on the dining hall of El Retiro Children's Home in Mexico. In conjunction with collecting funds for that purpose, we had a hands-on project for our churches. Churches were asked to provide a backpack full of school supplies and a pair of shoes for a child in residence at El Retiro. There were 32 children and all received a backpack and a new pair of shoes for school. The children were thrilled to receive such wonderful gifts, and it saved El Retiro the expense of providing these necessities. Many thanks to all the churches who supplied backpacks, supplies and shoes for the children. 🙏

International Church Updates

India and Nepal connect for two powerful conferences.

What a privilege to travel to the Third Annual Conference of the EC Church of Nepal in December 2011! An eight-minute video from the Nepal trip is available on the GMC website or by contacting the GMC office. Rev. Lalrosiem Songate, General Director of the EC Church of India and a few others from ECCI helped Rev. Th. Janga and the fledgling mission conference of Nepal successfully execute their conference. This was truly another global EC Church connectional event with the leaders from the EC Church of Japan, India, Nepal and the USA participating in the baptism of 15 new Christians and the ordination of 11 individuals to various offices of ministry. The EC Church of Nepal also collected a love offering of \$500 for the EC Church of Liberia! To continue the connection between Nepal and Liberia, I have invited Rev. Janga to join me and Rev. Matthew Gueh from Liberia at the General Conference of ECCI in Northeast India April 20-22, 2012. The agenda will include electing a new General Director since Rev. Lalrosiem Songate has completed his term. Dr. Khaute Khaizakham will also be completing his term as Principal of Evangelical College Of Theology. A group of delegates from the USA National Conference including Bishop Bruce Hill, GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore, Dr. Gordy Lewis, and India/Nepal Committee chair Rev. David Swift will be joining delegates from India, Nepal and Liberia for ECCI's conference. 🙏



TOP: Rev. Lalrosiem Songate (right) is recognized by Nepal's Conference leaders.

BOTTOM: Janga, Nobuo, Lalrosiem and Randy ordain ministers at Nepal's conference.

Missionary Prayer Partners Update

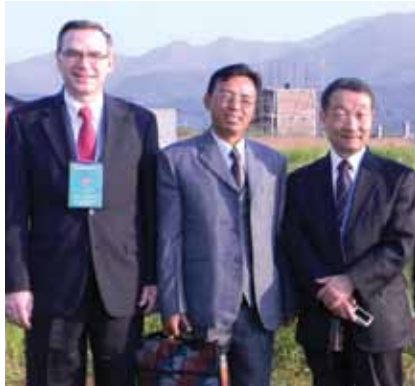
The following missionaries still have months available for 2012. Please check out the webpage (www.ecglobal.org), call or email Carla Sizemore at csizemore@eccenter.com to choose your missionary and month. 🙏

- **Randy & Chris Amberman** have June, July, August, November and December
- **Chris & Deb Bowers** have June, July, August, September and December
- **Dave & Celia Dick** have May, June, September, November and December
- **Dan Dixon** has October, November and December
- **Marcia Hopler** has May, June, July, August, October and December
- **Jeremy Kunkel** has April – December open. (Only one month is filled)
- **Nick & Lisa Lakatos** have May – December
- **Kitty Miller** has April, June, July, September, October, November and December
- **Robert & Bettina Schaeffer** have March – July
- **Ed & Val Schubert** have May, June, July, August, September, November and December
- **Ken Sears** has April and Juner
- **Jim & Janet Stahl** have open April, June, July, August, November and December
- **Dan & MaryLynne Wills** have May, June, August, October, November and December





TOP: Rev. Abe connects with members of the Nepal EC Church



BOTTOM: Randy with Nepal Pastor Shem Subba & Rev. Abe

Japan's local and global connections are producing positive results.

The country of Japan marks the one year anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami in March. Much progress has been made in rebuilding the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of this country. Our EC Churches have been very engaged in the relief efforts and have witnessed God's power to heal as a result of the connection between the EC conferences of USA, Japan and other local churches working together to help those affected.

Fuchinobe Community Church plant experienced positive feedback from the marriage course they held in October-December of 2011. They are planning another course this spring. Their Christmas service was highlighted by the baptism of a young woman who became a Christian last summer and her non-Christian husband came to the church for the first time! A new cell group began in January under lay leadership and Tomoyuki

and Jessica's other ministries of counseling and English classes continue to present Christ in both word and deed.

Kyodo Grace EC Church is experiencing new life under the leadership of Rev. Sudo who was Rev. John Masuda's assistant for many years. **The GMC's Japan Committee is organizing a "Vision Tour" with the EC Church of Japan in 2013 for the youth of our conferences to continue to build the great connection between the USA and Japan EC Church.** In order to continue strengthening our global connections I invited ECCJ Director, Rev. Abe to travel with me to the annual conference of the EC Church of Nepal in December 2011. He and Rev. Janga (EC Church of Nepal field leader) were excited to discuss some ways to better partner the EC Churches of Japan and Nepal in the future. 🌍

Mexico's ability to connect pastors and people offers a promising future.

The EC Church of Mexico continues to grow toward National Conference status at an encouraging pace under the leadership of Rev. Elias Martinez Osorio. Since our strategic planning meeting with their leaders in 2009, they have been successfully building their own buildings, paying their pastors, supporting their conference with ministry funds, partnering with other local evangelical churches in community outreach, developing new ministries and basically revolutionizing and re-writing the DNA of the entire conference! In April 2012 at their 35th Annual Conference, their leaders and I will propose a plan to help them reach the next level of completing the requirements of becoming a National Conference. This strategy involves replacing the current part-time Field Superintendent model with a full-time Director model, under the continued leadership of Rev. Martinez who has the expertise and administrative ability to spiritually shepherd the conference and lead them to maturity. What is the secret to their success? I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit used the ongoing drug wars and daily violence to help them to understand that they were too self-focused to be effective. Now the pastors and local church members are paying attention to their conference leaders and have realized that by cooperating and connecting together, they not only accomplish far more than they ever imagined for the Kingdom, but they are actually enjoying their times together as local congregations and a conference! 🌍



TOP: Mexico's Pastors and lay leaders enjoy training during Annual Conference



BOTTOM: Randy prays for Elias Martinez, the Director of the EC Church of Mexico



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VBS PROJECT 2012

SUMMER may seem like it's a long way off, but we are already planning our VBS project for this year. The Evangelical College of Theology, our Bible college in North East India, has been training men and women to be pastors, teachers, and missionaries for decades. They have requested assistance in raising funds to replace the functionally useless brush fence that surrounds the women's dormitory with a brick structure for security reasons.

The students who attend our Bible college come from all over North East India and are very poor. Most rely on scholarships in order to study. The school cannot add the burden of the total cost of the fence to the tuition, so they have asked us to partner with them in raising these funds. We hope to raise \$10,000 with this year's project to provide peace of mind and safety for the female residents at our Bible college. Five-minute VBS highlights will be provided for you to use with your VBS program to inform your church about this project. 🌍