

A publication of the Global Ministries Commission of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



**Inside:
Ordination
Overseas**

Spring 2014 • Volume 26 Number 1

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Spring 2014 • Volume 26 Number 1

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



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The Victory is Ours, Not Mine

*On every hand the foe we find drawn up in dread array;
Let tents of ease be left behind and onward to the fray.
Salvation's helmet on each head, with truth all girt about,
The earth shall tremble 'neath our tread and echo with our shout.
Faith is the victory!....That overcomes the world!*

THIS THIRD STANZA and chorus from John Yates and Ira Sankey's hymn, "Faith Is The Victory" has always painted a picture for me of an advancing army of believers so vast in numbers that the ground literally trembles under their feet and the entire earth reverberates with their battle cry of victory! While we may agree in theory that there is strength in numbers, practically I am concerned that in this postmodern, post denomination, post Christendom world the Church of Jesus Christ is failing to put this theory into practice. Let me explain.

While having breakfast in Nepal with the leaders of the EC Churches of India, Nepal, Mexico and the USA, the topic of "why we belong to a denomination" came up. It seems that all of our international conferences are dealing with a culture that is questioning the necessity of belonging to a conference or denomination. Local congregations and pastors are asking why they should belong to, cooperate with and pay for a formal organization like a national

– by Randy Sizemore,
Executive Director
Global Ministries
Commission



conference. I have also had similar conversations with denominational leaders in Brazil and Ukraine. Let me be the first to say that I whole heartedly agree that we must be continually evaluating the structure, cost and effectiveness of our denominations, organizations and conference. However, I see little value and even less biblical support for independence in the Church. This independence

trend is very concerning to leaders who have witnessed the great impact and strength the Church of Jesus Christ has when we combine our resources and advance together! I truly believe that one of the major challenges facing the global Church of Jesus Christ in the next decade will be our ability to build and sustain the needed connectivity and synergy required to ensure our effectiveness in the Great Commission.

I do not have the space here to outline the biblical and practical reasons for fulfilling the Great Commission together but I can say that all of the exciting ministry updates and forward progress of the Good News that you will read about in this issue are the result of many individuals, congregations and conferences advancing together! 🙏

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Completing the Circle

– by Ken Sears

COMPLETING MY ORDINATION PROCESS was on my to-do list for 20 years. Talk about a procrastinator! But once I came to Ukraine, in 1995, the notion got nudged to the back burner because it didn't seem very relevant to my local work; also, I knew it meant a serious investment of energy in doing the application. Finally, last year, Bishop Hill nudged the notion back to the *front* burner, saying it was *time* to check this off the to-do list! How could I say no?

So last year I submitted all the documents and had my interview, by Skype, with the Conference Relations Committee. The committee approved my application, and as for the ceremony we agreed it would be conducted as soon as I was "in town", probably on my furlough in 2015. So I thought, well, *that's that*.

It bowled me over, therefore, when soon afterwards I heard from Bishop Hill and GM Director Rev. Randy Sizemore that they had talked it over and decided they'd like to *come to Ukraine and conduct the ordination here!*

My first thought was "Absolutely not!" I couldn't see the expense and hassle for the sake of a twenty-minute ceremony. And I *really* didn't want that kind of fuss made over *me*. But when I mentioned it to my Ukrainian friends and they were highly enthusiastic, and when I considered that I'd be able to share my life and work here with Bruce and Randy—well, that clinched it. My only remaining anxiety was that they wanted to come in *February*....

When the good Reverends landed in Dnepropetrovsk (DNK), an hour's drive north of my city Zaporozhye, I was not there to meet them! The highway between the cities was totally blocked by snow. When our Bible college driver and I realized we'd never get to DNK that evening, a frantic series of phone calls ensued to arrange for church friends in DNK to meet them and put them up for the night. And so it was. They slept in the



Eduard Petrov translating for "Brother Randy"



Ken Sears translating for "Brother Bruce"



village home of a Ukrainian family who treated them royally. The next morning, our *second* attempt to drive up to DNK failed! More urgent phone calls! Finally, Bruce and Randy were put on a train that brought them to Zaporozhye, where I met them at the station with great relief.

That evening the three of us enjoyed a relaxed, *warm* get-together at the home of my dear friends Vova and Marina Gorbenko. Both the food and the conversation were rich and abundant!

The next morning we participated in a World Missions class at the college. I translated as “Brother Bruce” gave a brief historical background on the EC Church, then our missions teacher Eduard Petrov translated as “Brother Randy” spoke on the EC Church’s missions work and philosophy. Then the Bishop preached in our chapel service with my friend Vova translating.

Saturday the three of us did some sight-seeing and souvenir-shopping in town--the cold made it painful going! We were joined by ZBCS president Vladimir Degtyaryov at Zaporozhye’s best pizza place, where the four of us chatted energetically for two hours!

Sunday was the big day. We gathered at my church, where Vova is pastor. Two ordinations were conducted: brother Oleg’s as a deacon in the Ukrainian Baptist style, then mine as an EC elder, following the EC service of ordination. The different customs made it quite interesting!

Revs. Hill and Sizemore participated in the prayers of ordination over both Oleg and me, together with Ukrainian Baptist officials. There was a wonderful sense of unity; in fact, Bishop Hill referred to me as a “son” of both the EC and Ukrainian Baptist churches, thus uniting the churches as well, to which the congregation responded with great delight. The impression made that day has remained very meaningfully in our hearts. And I have noticed that the church folks seem to consider me even more one of their *own* pastors now.

The impression made that day has remained very meaningfully in our hearts.



Celebration lunch

After the service we enjoyed a wonderfully prepared, very Ukrainian lunch back at the Bible college, and quickly hit the road to bring Bruce and Randy to their hotel at the DNK airport (by now the road was open!), for their flight on Monday. The whole thing went so fast!

I had much trepidation about all of this, from a certain embarrassment at being the focus of an “event,” to concerns over travel and weather,

to more dramatic factors like Ukraine's current political crisis. But I continually sensed, *in spite of myself*, the Lord's urging to

...who wonderfully represented the EC Church's sincere love for the family of God the world over.

just plow on and "let this happen; it's a *good thing*". It definitely was, and it's great to check something off the to-do list after 20+ years, too! Many thanks to Bishop Hill and Rev. Sizemore, who wonderfully represented the EC Church's sincere love for the family of God the world over; no one doubted our unity in one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In retrospect, I'm glad I procrastinated; this was the best ordination I could have wished for. 🙏

Ordination Overseas

– by Bishop Bruce Hill

Zaporozhye Bible College

ON A BRIGHT, COLD TUESDAY morning in January Randy Sizemore, Director of Global Ministries, and I, as Bishop, left a snowy Chicago O'Hare Airport to head for a colder and snowier Ukraine. After our own little adventure of planes, trains, and automobiles we were finally met by missionary Ken Sears and a driver in Zaporozhye, Ukraine. We were in Ukraine to visit and encourage Ken Sears, learn more about his ministry, and to officiate at Ken's ordination. Ken is not only a missionary who has served as a professor and administrator at Zaporozhye Bible College for the last 19 years; he's also a licensed Evangelical Congregational pastor. Prior to his service in Ukraine Ken graduated from Evangelical Seminary and served as Associate Pastor of Mohn's Memorial EC Church, Mohn's Hill, PA.

The Delaware Region Conference Relations Committee along with the National Conference recognized that Ken has fulfilled all the requirements for ordination including evidencing the gifts, graces, abilities, and proven ministry skills. So in May 2014 they approved his ordina-



tion. The next question was ,when would he be ordained since it would be at least a couple of years until he returned to Pennsylvania on furlough. That's when I felt the ordination would be even more meaningful and encouraging to Ken and the church he is working with if he were ordained there. And that's why Randy and I went to a cold and snowy Ukraine.

...I felt the ordination would be **even more meaningful and encouraging** to Ken and the church he is working with if he were ordained there.

Randy and I have discovered that when we travel together plans just never seem to work out the way we think. When we arrived in the city of Dnepropetrovsk, we discovered that Ken was not there to greet us! Roads from Zaporozhye were closed due to the snow and high winds. But there was a gracious brother who responded to a frantic phone call and dropped what he was doing to drive to the airport and meet us. The only complication was that he only spoke Russian and we only spoke English. Not only did he warmly welcome us, he took us to the home of a Christian family who provided wonderful hospitality to unannounced house guests from America who couldn't speak their language. The next day the roads were still impassable so a local pastor, who could speak English, got us on a train, told us to sit there until we got to Zaporozhye, and then bid us farewell. When we arrived in Zaporozhye Ken was there to welcome us and get us settled in the beautiful guest rooms at the college. In the succeeding days Randy and I were able to spend time with Ken, interact with the leaders and staff of the Bible College, as well as speak in classes and in chapel.

L-R: Bishop Bruce Hill, GM Director Randy Sizemore, Rev. Pavel Metlenko, Senior Pastor; and Vladimir Degtyarov, President of ZBC
Ken Sears kneeling



On Sunday, February 2 we gathered for worship with the local church where Ken is involved in ministry. Following times of strong singing, prayer, special music by a choir and a quartet, and two sermons (one by the president of the area's Ukrainian Baptist Church and one by me) we entered into two ordinations: one for a Deacon of the local congregation who was called to a ministry with vision impaired individuals and the ordination of Ken Sears as an EC Elder. It was a time of celebration as the body of Christ gathered together to confirm the calling God has placed on Ken's life. This was probably the first time our ordination liturgy was translated into Russian as we asked Ken the prescribed questions and he responded. Finally, Ken prayerfully knelt before us as I laid my hands on him along with Randy Sizemore, the president of the Ukrainian Baptist Church and the President of the Bible College and ordained him. Following the service the congregation stayed to enjoy warm fellowship and light refreshments. It was a joy to get to meet the people who have welcomed Ken into their hearts and homes.

I think the value and spiritual impact of this trip is best reflected in Ken's own words: "The after-glow of your visit and associated events goes on here. It left many at the college and church with a deep impression of my home church's care, concern and solidarity with me and, by extension, the people of Christ here. Even though I've had other EC people over here, I think this was the first time it really *sank in* on my local church circle that I myself am an *extension* of a distinct Christian church's life and work in America."

Ukraine was not the happiest of countries while we were visiting, and the turmoil and unrest has gotten even worse since we left. Randy and I, as well as our wives Carla and Gloria, were well aware of the many people all around the world who were praying for our safety. We did see some riot police guarding government buildings but for most Ukrainians those days were pretty normal. Since our return home the unrest has spread and deepened. But even now I believe the Lord can use the present unrest to work in the hearts of people searching for answers and peace. Please join me in prayer for Ken Sears as he continues to work alongside our brothers and sisters in the Lord; for those in his local church and the students and faculty of Zaporozhye Bible College. God is still at work transforming lives! 🌍

"I think this was the first time it really *sank in* on my local church circle that I myself am an extension of a distinct Christian church's life and work in America."



Loss of a Pioneer

– by Gloria Smethers

EMMA CAROLYN SALTENBERGER was born in Philadelphia on May 10, 1925 and grew up in the former Jarretstown EC church. After high school she attended Germantown Hospital of Nursing and then Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill. She was challenged about committing to missions service at the churches’ “School of Methods” at Waldheim Park in Allentown, PA in her high school years. After working with the denomination’s outreach in Kentucky for a year she joined Africa Inland Mission, going to Belgian Congo in 1954 until she retired in 1995. All the 41 years were at Rethy, Congo with an exception of 4 years when she was assigned to Oicha, Congo (currently Democratic Republic of Congo).

For a good number of the early years she helped to keep the hospital going without a resident doctor. She worked with Dr Carl Becker Sr. at Oicha and later when he made periodic doctor visits to Rethy for surgical trips. Aside from her many hours in the maternity ward, she also taught the new missionaries Swahili in their first months in Zaire (then called Belgian Congo). Daily Swahili lessons for singles or couples were conducted each morning for two hours Monday through Friday. As soon as a new missionary had enough language to do some part of the ministry practically, she arranged for them to do it in Swahili. Carolyn also taught in the nursing school there at Rethy Hospital.

Carolyn loved children. For many years each Sunday morning she would be found teaching Jr. Church to many little kids at the Rethy Church. Often times the room was “wall to wall”, with an average of 140 kids. She encouraged ladies from the church to teach and help her teach those who came each Sunday.

...one was not long
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Upon Carolyn’s passing on Dec. 8th, 2013, I started to make a list of the number of missionary children who were delivered by Carolyn. I came up with at least 20+ missionary children whose births were in the guest room at Carolyn’s and my house at Rethy. Now a good portion of these children are following the Lord in Africa or in their home countries as adults. Another larger number of MKs have memories of Carolyn setting a broken limb, stitching a cut head, staying in her guestroom for weeks with serious illness, being treated for malaria or getting an x-ray done by her.

Carolyn had a great sense of humor. She was quick with a funny answers or remarks keeping us laughing. She loved red carnations, playing Scrabble

and Yahtzee, poinsettia flowers, birthday parties, and despite all the deliveries, she saw each birth as still a marvel and wonder! She knew when to listen and when to give advice. Her knowledge of the language and cultural traditions of African people at Rethy and medical expertise was invaluable! BUT most of all one was not long with Carolyn without knowing that she loved the Lord the most. Her daily dedication to the medical ministry, teaching Swahili, teaching Jr.Church or at the nursing school she did because she was serving the Lord!



In 1995 she retired from working in Africa even though she would have rather stayed in Congo. She spent that first year in Pennsylvania to have two knee replacements. She moved to Florida to Africa Inland Missions Retirement Center in Minneola, Florida in January 1997. It was a hard adjustment for her, but she relied on the Lord for acceptance to the new environment and living situation. The last 8 years of her life she was living at the Health and Rehab in Clermont, Florida due to Alzheimer's disease. On Dec. 8, 2013 she entered her eternal home celebrating Christmas in Heaven! 🌍

IN MEMORY

WE WISH TO THANK the following people who donated to GMC in memory of Faye Jones, who passed away on February 8th. Faye was the wife of Rev. Russel Jones, local preacher and chairman of our Delaware/ Susquehanna regions Work Team Committee. Faye was a member of Ebenezer EC in Williamstown, PA where she was active as a part of the women's auxiliary. 🌍

- Ebenezer EC Adult Sunday School Class
- Dr. Gordon Lewis
- Nancie Young
- Charlotte Noll
- Ronald & Brenda Wolfe
- Dale Jones
- Peggie Bond
- The Schaeffer kids – Holly, Jack, Peggy and families
- Edgar Cowan III
- Patricia Strain
- Joseph & Diane Ferron
- Lucille Putt
- Russel Jones



Spring Family Missions Festival a **Success!**

– by Pat Strain

THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION held their first combined Spring Family Missions Festival in late February/early March this year. Trinity EC Church in Boyertown once again hosted the two-day event. On Friday, February 28th, a Pastors' Luncheon was held. This event was not only for pastors, but their wives, lay delegates, mission leaders, and any others interested in finding out about the missions movement of the EC Church. We had over 50 in attendance to hear from Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe. Yoriyoshi is finishing his M.Div. degree at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown in preparation to return to Japan in September. He and his new bride, Emiko will be church planters there.

On Saturday, six missionaries as well as representatives from many of our related ministries presented to the adults, teens, and Mission Minded Kids in three different programs. The theme for the MMK portion was 'Til the Whole World Knows', and each missionary shared with that age group how they spread the gospel – Jim & Janet Stahl through training Bible story tellers, Brian & Missy Wagner through teaching MK's in Kenya, and Marcia Hopler as a cross cultural link between Anglos, Africans and African Americans. Dave Hershey shared about campus ministry with the adults. In addition, Shawn Fetterhoff presented the work of Twin Pines Camp, and Rev. Dan & Kim Blank shared about their experiences with Operation Christmas Child. Each adult and child was asked to bring items to pack a shoebox during the OCC session, which was then brought back into the sanctuary at the closing program. 28 boxes were filled and will be sent overseas to not only minister to the physical needs of underprivileged children, but will also tell them about a Savior who loves and cares for them. GM Director Randy Sizemore gave updates on what God is doing in and through the EC Church around the world, especially in Mexico, Japan, Liberia, Northeast India and Nepal.

All told, over 200 adults, teens and children learned and worshipped together during this Family Missions Celebration. Many thanks to Boyertown Trinity for hosting and cooking the meals for this event on both days. Praise God for willing workers! 🙌

Join us... Spain

GLOBAL MINISTRIES is sponsoring a Vision Tour to Spain this fall. The purpose is to visit Ron and Brenda Anderson in Madrid, and BJ and Rachel Whitaker in Alcora, learn about their ministries, and encourage them. Possible activities include an English Class open house for adults, prayer walks, visiting other European Christian Missions Int'l ministries in the area, and some sightseeing. We will worship with Spanish believers and learn of the issues faced by evangelicals in Spain.

2014 Vision Tour!

The dates are October 7-14, and the estimated cost is \$2800 (final amount will depend on exchange rate.) If you're interested, contact Pat at the Global Ministries office (ecglobal@eccenter.com or call 1-800-866-7584) for a brochure. A down payment of \$500 is necessary to hold your place as there are a limited number of spaces for this vision tour. 🌐

2014 VBS Project

THE GMC HAS DESIGNATED that the 2014 VBS project funds go to help support the Youth Camp program for EC Church of Liberia. The funds will go to help with the purchase a generator, video equipment, bibles, teaching materials, bedding and other supplies for this camping program.

Five minute lessons that you can use in your Vacation Bible School will be posted to our EC website soon. 🌐



International Church Update



JAPAN:

DIRECTOR NOBUO ABE and the Global Ministries Commission are excited to announce the graduation of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Japan to National Conference status at this year's USA National Conference sessions held at Messiah College in May 2014. The late Rev. John Masuda,

If you would like to help Japan in their church planting efforts, make your contribution payable to GMC, clearly marked **"Japan"** and send it to the GMC office.

Rev. Nobuo Abe and their leadership team have proven the ability of the EC Church of Japan to be self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. They have submitted the required proposal which includes the translation of the Articles of Faith and Christian Practice sections of the Discipline into Japanese, as well as the organizational structure of their National Conference governing body, ministerial qualifications and responsibilities, and the financial structures necessary to support their conference. (While the EC Church of Japan is able to financially support the day to day operation of their conference, we strongly encourage individuals and churches to continue financially partnering with Japan in their church planting efforts through the GMC office). The EC Church of Japan will bring a delegation to our National Conference sessions in May for the official action that will grant them National Conference status. GMC Director Randy Sizemore and Bishop Bruce Hill will lead a delegation to Japan in September 2014 to mark this historic event!





INDIA:

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCES of the USA and India are enjoying a new partnership strategy of working together to provide much needed mission, ministry and leadership training on the campus of their Evangelical College of Theology and in the various regions of North East India where the church is engaging different people groups and cultures with the Good News. Our first off campus training seminar was a regional missionary worker training seminar in 2012 and the second was the recent Church Leaders' Seminar held November 29- December 1, 2013. This last event impacted approximately 300 church leaders. I was privileged to serve as the keynote speaker for this conference presenting five messages on biblical principles of leadership from 1 Timothy, and Rev. Angam also scheduled two other accomplished church and civil government leaders to present four seminars on various topics of practical leadership principles. In addition to these regional seminars, Dr. Ken Miller has traveled to India twice on behalf of the GMC to teach at Evangelical College of Theology and he has been invited to return in April 2014 as the keynote speaker for the Annual ECCI Leaders' Conference. The laptop computer project that we began last summer at the college is also expanding under the supervision of John Price from our Plymouth Meeting EC congregation. He is planning to return to India this summer to continue building this important technology program for the students and faculty.



If you would like to help with these training seminars and/or the laptop program, make your contribution payable to GMC, clearly marked "India" and sent it to the GMC office.



NEPAL:

The EC Church of Nepal celebrated its 10th anniversary in conjunction with their Annual Conference sessions on December 6-8, 2013. An international GMC delegation including L.B. Angam and Elias Martinez, the directors of the EC Churches of India and Mexico; GMC member Pastor Ted Rathman; Rev. Carlos Kelly and EC missionary Dr. David Dick accompanied me for this celebration. During this celebration, the EC Churches of Mexico and India presented the EC Church of Nepal with love offerings. Rev. Janga estimates that approximately 500 people attended the decade celebration.

If you would like to help with the generator or replacing Janga's laptop, make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked "Nepal generator" or "**Nepal laptop**" and send it to the GMC office.

During the Annual Conference sessions our team members had opportunities to preach and bring greetings. The international GMC team ordained 1 pastor, 4 deacons and 1 deaconess in the EC Church of Nepal. We also participated in serving the Lord's Supper and the baptism of 18 new believers. Pastors and congregations from the USA contributed funds to purchase 3 resource/study books for each

pastor in the conference. In conjunction with the Annual Conference we also held a one day training seminar specifically for the pastors.

Currently the Nepal conference has 16 chartered congregations. Some of these congregations have satellite fellowships that will mature to be-



come official congregations. While the membership of the conference is around 2,500, their goal is to have 100 churches and have reached 100,000 souls for Christ by 2015. In 2013 they saw 208 conversions and baptized 147 new believers. They also hosted several women's prayer seminars and a youth seminar with over 200 youth participating. They feel they are on track to plant at least 5 new churches in 2014. Rev. Janga is in need of a portable generator to use for ministry in the villages and while I was there with him his old laptop, which had already been re-built once before, had just crashed.

Along with providing leadership to the conference, Rev. Janga and his wife Mercy house 10 orphan boys in their home. Praise God the EC Church of Japan supplied enough funds to purchase a new set of clothes for the boys for Christmas! Please pray for Janga and Mercy and the ministry of Nepal. They are currently in their second rented location but will have to vacate this house in the summer of 2014. Janga is trying to build a permanent building that will serve as the headquarters for ECCN and the orphans.





MEXICO:

In 2012 the GMC entered into a strategic plan with the EC Church of Mexico to lead them through the process of becoming a National Conference. We praise God for their progress of becoming self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. The conference is now self-supporting as far as the operational expense of their conference is concerned. The GMC continues to send

financial support for ministry initiatives such as the education and training of pastors, evangelism, and other ministry projects. The conference is currently in the process of implementing a governing structure and is actively planting new congregations and beginning new ministries.

This conference continues to reach their communities through VBS programs that impacted approximately 1,000 people last year, evangelistic campaigns in several locations that experienced 200-250 persons per night and other informal evangelistic strategies. Once again this year they sent mission teams to least reached and marginalized communities in the southern part of Mexico. The teams took school supplies, shoes, clothing, gifts, toys and food as a way to show the love of Jesus. They used movies and other means to communicate the message of salvation. The first time they took bibles to give away they ran out because so many people were eager to have the Word of God. In one village the authorities would not let them use public buildings to show the movies so the people of the village offered their homes to them!

The EC Church of Mexico officially chartered a new congregation this year in Rio Bravo and is planning to plant more local congregations. In their churches and the Bible Institute they are training and educating



their congregations about the need to be actively involved in missions and hope to be able to send out missionaries in the near future. Bethel Church in Rio Bravo piloted a children's ministry that had 80-100 in attendance every Saturday. Now they are training and equipping the other congregations to implement this ministry throughout the conference.

EL RETIRO CHILDREN'S HOME

ERJ continues to minister to somewhere between 33-39 needy children in a difficult environment. We have made progress over the past five years building sustainability for this ministry in large part because of your faithful prayers and financial support. Our partnership with the local ministry group called Back 2 Back continues to benefit the home and children. ERJ

If you would like to financially partner with the EC Church of Mexico, make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked **"Mexico"** and send it to the GMC office.



directors Carlos and Martha Reyes continue to seek out and secure as many local resources as possible. Because of their ability to network with others, the children enjoy donations of milk, bakery items and even professional services from the community. We continue to implement the new government requirements and regulations for children's homes in Mexico. While these new requirements are for the benefit of the children being cared for, they place a huge financial and logistical burden on our ministry that already struggles to operate with limited resources. We have been experimenting with some new gardening and animal projects like a chicken house,

goats, and cows to help provide for the children and when possible generate some much needed income. The GMC is only able to provide about 33% of the operational expenses of ERJ. Practically that means we can cover their costs for four out of the twelve months each year. Please pray for the Board of Directors of ERJ as they seek God's direction for new partnerships and creative strategies to continue the physical, spiritual and emotional ministry to Mexico's marginal children.

If you would like to help EL Retiro minister to the marginalized children of Mexico, make your contribution to GMC, clearly marked "**EL Retiro**" and send it to the GMC office.

LIBERIA

Imagine undertaking a church planting, discipleship, relief and development ministry that spans a distance over hundreds of miles and includes cities, towns, villages and jungle. Imagine you must carry out this ministry without the benefits of electricity, reliable vehicles or roads, a lack of food, water, gasoline, bibles, building materials, teaching materials, and basically all the necessities of life and most of the people you are training as well as those you are trying to reach, cannot read! The EC Church of Liberia continues to minister in this challenging environment in variety of ways to introduce men, women, boys and girls to faith in Jesus Christ and to disciple them to maturity. Please continue to pray for the strength, health, safety and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in the EC Church of Liberia! 🌍



The GMC has designated the **2014 VBS project funds** to go to help support the **Youth Camp program for EC Church of Liberia**. The funds will go to help purchase a generator, video equipment, bibles, teaching materials, bedding and other supplies for this camping program.



◆ Akron (PA) Grace, House of Blessing, and Ephrata Grace

– A group of 18 people from House of Blessings, Ephrata and Akron Grace traveled to Whiteriver, AZ in July 2013 to serve on the Apache Reservation with

Adventures in Missions (AIM). We partnered

with Riverside Church to help with their annual revival tent meetings.

We held a VBS style meeting for the children while their parents attended the revival meetings. The attendance

was 45 to 65 children each night, Sunday through Friday. During the day we worked on lesson plans, handed out invitations to the meetings, did some upgrading to their church building, constructed a sign for the church and interacted with the Apache people. We also experienced breakthroughs in our own spiritual journeys during shared team devotional times.

Everyone on the team experienced life change through this trip. We made many friends in 2013 and we have decided to return in 2014. Please pray for us as we raise the needed funds for the return trip and for God to prepare us as we anticipate serving the children and their families. Pray for Pastor Tina and her congregation at Riverside Church as they face many difficult circumstances. The suicide rate on



Pictured seated L to R: Jeff Stauffer, Pastor Abe Montanez, Freedom Dowlin, Cody Refi, Hannah Weaver, Kaylyn Rissler.

Standing L to R: Elijah Montanez, Paul Amico, Eddie Dowlin, Kim Warner, Justin Gehman, Rene Gehman, Josh Weaver, Abi Montanez, Jeff Keith, Sue Keith, Ed Dowlin, Sr.

the reservation is very high as is alcohol and drug addiction. The people feel they are without hope. Pray that we can share the hope we have in Jesus with the people in Whiteriver. – *Kim Warner*

◆ **Lakeside EC** – Feb. 1st 2014 through Feb 16th Norm and Sue Simons, Lakeside EC, went to Kenya on a construction project to build a training center for the Africa Gospel Church and develop relationships with the people of the church.

◆ **Lakeside EC** – In late January 2014, Lakeside EC member Bob Good spent a week in Haiti on a short-term mission trip. As President of the Board of Grace Mission to Haiti, the primary purpose of Bob's trip was to transition the operations of of

the recently completed Grace Training/Conference Center and Guest House from American leadership to Haitian leadership. The Center is now under complete operation of the Haitian Mission with a Haitian manager and staff. Bob participated in the Mission's annual Pastors Conference in Carrefour, Haiti with about 70 church leaders in attendance. He also shared a message of encouragement with the Carrefour



Church on Sunday morning.
– Bob Good

Bob with children from the Carrefour church

◈ **Lititz Trinity** has a team of youth and adults going to Scioto County, OH from July 6 to 12 to repair homes as part of Reach Workcamp. – *Ryan Taylor*

◈ **Reedsville Bethesda EC** – is planning on making a trip to Brazil this summer from July 25 to August 4. We'll be joining the Roofs at Belem to do an English Camp. – *Connie Owens*

◈ **Trinity EC**, Boyertown, PA – "The Triumphant Women of Zambrano". That's the name the 62 women gave themselves at the end of the week of a combined health conference and

vocational training. In January, 11 ladies from Boyertown Trinity traveled to Zambrano, Honduras to partner with Ed and Val Schubert. Our mornings were spent teaching a total of 12 classes on various physical, spiritual and emotional health topics to all 62 women. In the afternoons, we divided into smaller groups and spent intensive time learning how to use recyclable or easily obtainable materials to make items that can be used in their homes or sold to increase their income.

While half of our team was teaching the women, the other half was loving and teaching over 75 children who came with their mothers or lived in the neighborhood. God is working in a powerful way in the town of Zambrano. Many of the ladies are attending Val's weekly Bible Study. They see that they can make a difference, that things can change, and that love and beauty live within them. They are finding that together, they can be triumphant, and that Christ is the One who heals all wounds.

◈ **Mohn's Hill EC** – Dave, Jan and Tim King were part of a short term Drama Team that went to Colombia, South America in February. – *Bob Pawling*

◈ **Palmyra First** – The Sonshine Puppet Team will be going to Joplin, MO in August for a week to organize and run a Vacation Bible School in conjunction with a local church. 🌐

◈ **GMC** – The GMC is once again sponsoring two work teams to Alaska this year. The first consists primarily of members of the Willow Street Grace Community Church (July 26 to August 2) and the second team is August 2 to 16. Team members will be working at Camp LIWA (Living Waters) in Fairbanks, AK.



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window ON THE WORLD

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The EC Church of Mexico sent mission teams to least reached and marginalized communities in the southern part of Mexico again this year.

