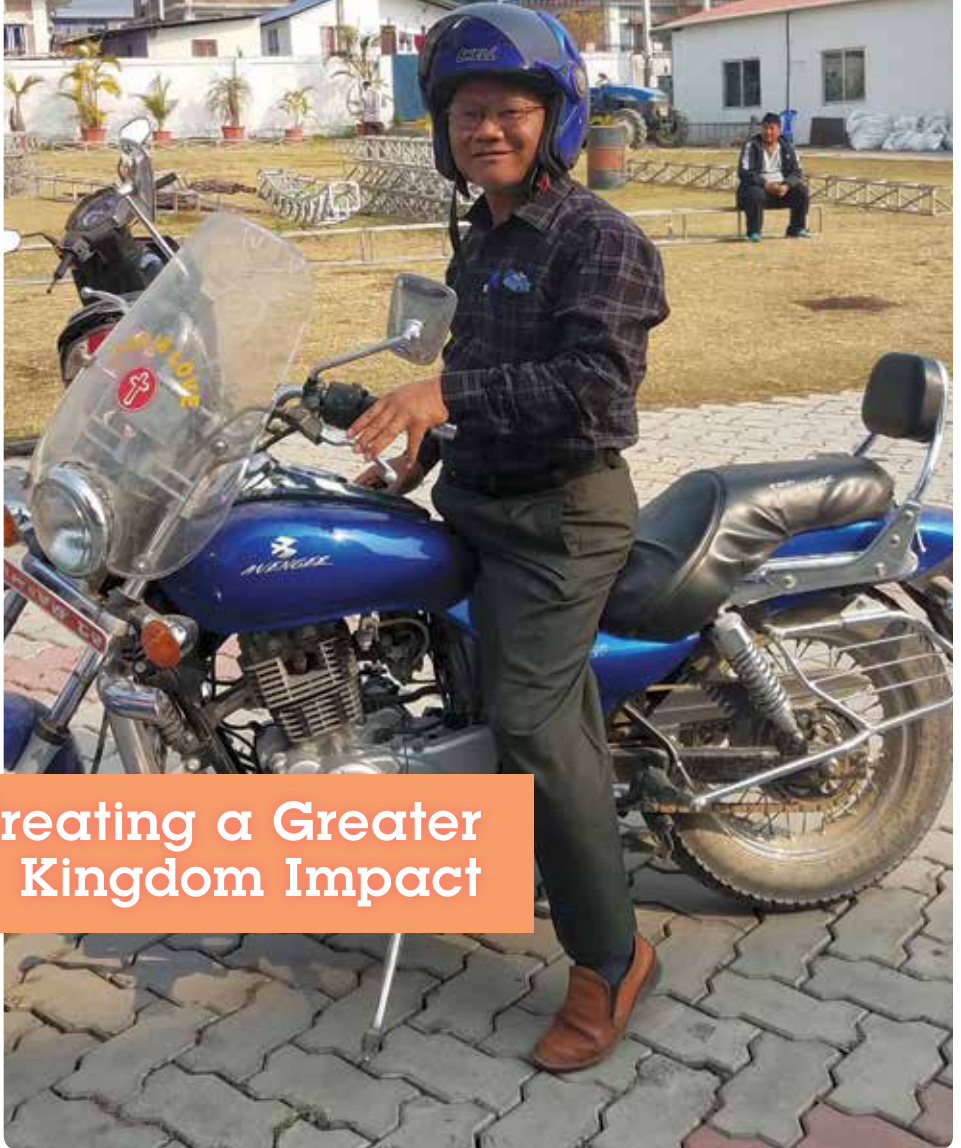


A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church



# Window

ON THE WORLD



**Creating a Greater  
Kingdom Impact**

# CONTENTS

- 3** • Creating a Greater Kingdom Impact
- 5** • Moving to Europe to Minister to Asians
- 7** • Up Lift Liberia
- 11** • EC Chaplain Appointed to National Position
- 12** • Saying 'Thank You' to Those Who Have Served
- 13** • Delaware Mission Brunch a Success
- 14** • International Church Update
  - 14** • Japan      **16** • Nepal      **18** • Liberia
  - 15** • India      **18** • Mexico
- 19** • Engaging the Church in the Great Commission / 2019 VBS Project
- 20** • Missions Short Stops



A publication of the Global Ministries Community  
of the Evangelical Congregational Church  
Spring/Summer 2019 • Volume 31 Number 1

**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.



100 West Park Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
717.866.7584  
717.866.7583 (fax)  
[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

#### GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Rev. Ted Rathman – Global Ministries Associate  
Patricia Strain – Managing Editor, Associate Director of Missionary Care  
Rev. John Friedlund – Vice Chairman, Executive Committee  
Calvin Cramer – Finance Committee  
Timothy King – Short Term Missions Representative  
Andrew Maitland – Great Lakes Region Representative  
Nancie Young, Lucille Putt – Volunteer Services  
Rev. Timothy Sanger  
Barry Winchell  
Brenda Custer

# Creating a Greater Kingdom Impact

– by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA

**I REMEMBER WHEN** I was in the US Navy and we were transiting the Suez Canal heading to the Persian Gulf; our little Aircraft Carrier had to travel through the Red Sea for a brief time. I recall looking out over the *sponson* (that's a Navy term) and being absolutely amazed how glass-like the Red Sea appeared. It was probably the smoothest looking body of water I had ever seen, and for some strange reason all I really wanted to do was throw something into it. I had



the urge to grab a rock and toss it out into the sea and watch how it created (or would have, I didn't actually do it) ripples throughout the entire Red Sea. I'm sure it is an image you are familiar with, we've all probably done it at some point, or watched someone else do it, or yelled at some kid who did it while we were trying to fish. It is amazing the kind of effect that small stone can have on a huge body of water. And of course, some of you wanted to find the biggest rock you could to throw in the water and see the kind of waves you could create, perhaps even trying to capsize small canoes (I've heard that people try to do that; I never did).

I'm sure you may have heard this analogy used before regarding the Church. The Church is planted within a community and even though it may be small has the ability to impact the people, organizations, institutions, and even the world surrounding it through a ripple effect of sorts. As God drops his church into communities, the ripple effect moves outward creating a much larger kingdom impact than what one might think possible. Now, what if we threw something much larger into that pond (multiple churches); imagine the energy created in those waves. Well, that is why we partner together as the Evangelical Congregational Church, because we believe that when we "surrender self-sufficiency and autonomy to join together in love. Embracing our common Discipline and our common purpose – to know Christ and make Him known—" we will achieve a greater kingdom impact than if we engaged in this mission alone.





The Global Ministries Community is also embracing that same mindset as we seek to begin pursuing partnerships with other like-minded missions' organizations to develop ways we can better serve our missionaries, deepen our relationships with our international churches, and also help those sensing some kind of call to missions. The GMC has certainly impacted the kingdom in some amazing ways already and now we will endeavor to broaden that impact by intentionally utilizing the gifts God has given other organizations to help the EC Church take the message of Jesus to the "ends of the earth." These partnerships, I believe, will help the GMC offer support to our local churches to enable them to nurture a global vision and create a kingdom impact much greater than our size. This will be an important element of the Global Ministries Community going forward as we provide local churches the assistance needed to cultivate a vital connection to our international churches, support our missionaries, as well as help for those sensing a call to "go and make disciples of all nations". God has not ceased calling people to leave their native land to serve him, and we (EC Church USA) need to be sensitive to the Spirit calling these people in our churches, and the GMC wants to be able to help them step out in obedience to serve the Lord. I will be sharing more in the months ahead on how we have already begun to look for partners to help us create the kind of ripple effect that has a far-reaching kingdom impact, and I want to encourage you to ask the question of your church as well. What is our kingdom impact and how can you send, not just ripples, but waves throughout your community? 🌊



# Moving to Europe to Minister to Asians

– by Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe

**MONTHS AGO**, God started stirring our hearts to pray specifically for direction for our future. One question that fueled our reflection was how we could serve Him as an international family, with the burdens and gifts He has given us. We are excited by the answers we finally started envisioning, after our “quest” took a number of unexpected bends: for Tomo, being a missionary to the Japanese expatriates in France, and for Jessica, serving with the Evangelical Free Church of France, her denomination of origin. So, we are moving to France...

## A chapter ends in Japan

In June 2009, nearly ten years ago, we flew from Pennsylvania to Tokyo. The following year, we started the adventure of planting and pastoring Fuchinobe Community Church with the EC Church of Japan. As we look back, we can remember many blessings and challenges, but overall we are struck by God’s faithfulness, to us personally, to his people here, and to his work of redemption in Japan. We are grateful for those who started or continued on their journey with Jesus, and for the many seeds that were planted in the hearts of neighbors and friends. We cannot express enough our gratitude for the partnership of the EC Church USA over the years, without which this ministry would simply not have been possible.



*Tomo, Jessica, Alyssa & Talia*

March 10 was FCC’s last Sunday service. Several people already had plans to move away, and some will find churches close to where they live, which we think will help them become more actively connected to church. Seven other members have joined Grace Chapel, our mother church, (about 20 minutes away from our past location). One of FCC’s community groups keeps meeting as before. We said goodbye to one another with sadness. At the same time, we look forward to seeing how the Lord will use each one of us, FCC members, for his service in the various places we are going.

## A new chapter starts in France (by Tomo)

This was definitely an unexpected turn in the journey of discerning where God was leading us: I had not imagined I could



keep ministering to the Japanese... in France! Last September, I heard for the first time about OMF's Japanese Diaspora and Returnee Ministry in Europe. When I contacted the leader of this ministry to find out more, I was in for a surprise. "Two days ago," he said, "we had a staff meeting. We talked about the need for a missionary to the Japanese expatriates in France, because there is no one there. We prayed that God would send someone... and you showed up!" It was a promising start and, as I kept learning about this ministry, I grew even more interested. In a nutshell, here is why:

- **JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE OPEN TO THE GOSPEL OUTSIDE OF JAPAN THAN IN JAPAN.** The statistics are telling. The relative baptism rate per year is seven times higher among the Japanese Diaspora (3.8 million people worldwide) than in Japan (126 million people). Japanese people abroad tend to feel greater freedom from the pressures of the cultural traditions and social expectations of their home country. It is easier for them to respond to the Gospel.

- **JAPANESE CHRISTIANS IN EUROPE NEED PASTORAL CARE AND LEADERSHIP.** They do not easily join local churches. Some will travel a couple of hours to attend a worship service in Japanese. There are few pastors or missionaries to minister to these churches or Christian groups in Europe. In France (27,000 Japanese expatriates), the only Japanese church is in Paris.


- **MINISTRY TO THE JAPANESE DIASPORA CONTRIBUTES TO THE GROWTH IN THE CHURCH OF JAPAN.** Most Japanese



expatriates  
in Europe  
will go back

to Japan after a few years. The Diaspora churches or Christian groups have a high turnover and remain small, but the potential impact on the churches in Japan is large. With this awareness, OMF is developing training programs to equip Japanese Christians in Europe to live out their faith in Japanese culture and serve strongly in the church after they return.

I believe God has called me to this ministry, and that he has actually been preparing me for it through pastoral ministry in Japan! In October, I was approved by OMF to partner with them as a missionary in France. Around the same time, Jessica was called to serve the (French) Church in France. After being in the fog for quite a while, feeling the complexity of changing the course of our lives not only as individuals but also as family, all the pieces of the puzzle had amazingly come together. And now, here we are, about to leave Japan and relocate halfway across the world on April 17! 🌍



# UpLift Liberia

— by Rev. Rick Sergi, Chairman  
Liberia Committee

**IMAGINE STEPPING** out from the warmth of your home into a blowing winter storm where you get blasted by high winds and pelted by snow and sleet. You tuck your head, lift your arm to shield your face, and press forward trying to limit your exposure as much as possible. It's an image many in the northeast US can identify with!

Requests for help, especially monetary, often evoke a similar response. We are so barraged in our culture by solicitations, demands, and needs seeking to separate us from our money that our instinct to "duck and run" when we see another request coming has been honed. It's become (as they say), part of our "muscle memory!"

Yet Christ has given His church the mandate to "be our brother's keeper!" Through more than 50 "one another" passages in Scripture, we are commanded to:

- **ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER** (Heb. 10:25)
- **SERVE ONE ANOTHER** (Gal. 5:13)
- **BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS** (Gal. 6:2)
- **CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER** (1 Cor. 12:25)
- **LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY, FROM THE HEART** (1 Pet 1:22)
- **MINISTER ONE TO ANOTHER** (1 Pet. 4:10)
- **PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER** (James 5:16)
- **BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE** (Rom 12:10)
- **BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER** (Eph 4:32)

In fact, love within the body of Christ is to be the hallmark by which His people would



be recognized. Jesus said:

*“As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all [people] will know that you are my disciples” (John 13:34-35)*

Such concern within the body of Christ has been part of its DNA since its founding. The apostle Paul would frequently carry gifts from one part of the church to another. Congregations in Achaia, Galatia, and Asia would send gifts to the church in Jerusalem. Christians in Macedonia *“kept begging for the privilege”* to give! Even amidst great affliction, *“they joyfully gave beyond their actual ability!”* (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)

It was love in action and it bound the body together despite distance and culture.

With this in mind, the Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church (ECC) invites you to consider *“encouraging,” “serving,” “ministering to,”* and *“pouring out of your love”* upon your far-away brothers and sisters.

Within the ECC, we have international conferences in Japan, India, Nepal, Mexico, and Liberia. Each faces their own challenges socially, politically & economically. Stories of need arising in one have an echo in another! Our bringing to you the struggles of one conference is not intended to exclude another. We seek only to *“spur the people of God*



*to love and good works”* (Hebrews 10:24) in some practical way.

Plagued by fourteen years of civil war, the Republic of Liberia, regarded by the original settlers as the “promised land,” currently stands as one of the world’s most impoverished nations. Located on the western coast of Africa, the country whose name literally means “Land of the Free” was established in 1822 (with the support of the

American government) as a colony for free-born and formerly enslaved African Americans. From its inception, though, ethnic issues divided the population of Liberia and fueled hostility between people groups.

Though Liberia is a country boasting natural resources including iron, diamonds, rubber and timber, decades of war and political corruption have left it poor and destitute. Road systems and buildings are in shambles. Rich farmland is now covered by brush and unkempt forest. Worst of all, the people are left traumatized and scarred by a nation in constant conflict.

***UpLift Liberia!*** is an effort undertaken by the Global Ministries Community to minister to both the spiritual and practical needs of our brothers & sisters in the country through the funding of 4 long-range initiatives:

- **ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS (BASSA)**



- **PASTORS & LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM**

- **DIGITAL SCRIPTURE RADIOS**

- **THE EC SCHOOL SYSTEM** We lay these needs before you in the hope you as an individual or as part of a group might consider “carrying the burden” of your Liberian brothers & sisters.

## **Adult Literacy Programs**

In our rapidly changing, technology-driven world, low levels of literacy can hinder the economic development of a country. This has proven true in Liberia where the estimated adult literacy rate has only just reached approximately 45%. Adult literacy is a gauge of adults 15 years and older who can read with understanding and write short, simple statements in their everyday life.

To address this, the EC Church of Liberia has begun a program to help adults learn to read and write. With these tools they can improve their economic opportunities and break the cycle of poverty. Beginning in communities where EC churches exist, adult trainees are already becoming literate in their native language of Bassa. This is an important first step, not only serving as a stepping-stone for further learning but also equipping them to grow in their relationship with God. Once these adults learn Bassa, the long-term goal is to help them to learn English, the language of commerce. Contributions to the Adult Literacy Program help buy Bibles and teaching supplies and help with transportation costs for the instructors.

## **Pastors & Leadership Training Program**

One of the greatest needs in the church of Liberia is for trained pastors and leaders to shepherd those coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ. While this is true in any area of the world, the need is especially acute in this country where so many are functionally illiterate and access to formal theological training presents a tremendous hurdle. The urgency of the need is increased by the growing presence of both the prosperity gospel as well as the Muslim influence.

The EC Church of Liberia is seeking to overcome this obstacle by providing simplified training to equip those serving as pastors and leaders throughout Liberia. Bible-based training programs and resources are being developed as part of their Pastors and Leadership Training Program. Participants in this two-year program will be personally grounded in their own spiritual walk and equipped to lead their congregations with competency through training in subjects that include:

- **SIN & GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION**
- **CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**
- **CHURCH LIFE AND ADMINISTRATION**
- **TEACHING PRINCIPLES AND METHODS**
- **OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT SURVEYS**
- **BIBLE STUDY METHODS AND RULES OF INTERPRETATION (HERMENEUTICS)**

Support helps provide transportation, food, and lodging for the pastors, leaders, and teachers enrolled in the program. Sessions are being offered on a quarterly basis to start but the frequency will increase as funds are available.



## EC School System

Education in Liberia was severely affected both by the civil wars that ravaged Liberia from 1989 to 2003 and the Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) outbreak of 2015. Existing state schools are poorly operated and hampered by inadequate supplies, a lack of qualified teachers, and corruption. Private schools are available but their fees are generally out of reach for the nation's poor. The Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia (ECCOL) is trying to change that!

Beginning with St. Paul's EC School in the capital city of Monrovia, the ECCOL is now operating 4 schools throughout Liberia and more are planned! The mission of the schools is to educate Liberia's impoverished children, preparing them to succeed in the future and leading them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

St Paul's currently has an enrollment of 100 students in grades Preschool-8<sup>th</sup>. The faculty includes a principal and 14 teachers. The school, as with all the ECCOL schools, is operated as

a ministry to the local communities.

Its goal is to pay a salary of approximately \$40 US per month to each teacher, but funds are frequently unavailable to pay them.

**UpLift Liberia!** is seeking to improve both the quality and accessibility of education available to children in Liberia. Funds will go toward:

- SALARIES FOR QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.
- THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND TEACHING RESOURCES.
- THE PURCHASE OF FOOD FOR LUNCH PROGRAMS.
- THE BUILDING OF NEW SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS THE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES.

## Digital Scripture Units

With so much of the country being unable to read and write their own language, exposure to the life-changing message of the God's Word is limited to those times when a pastor or other "literate" church member is available to read the Scriptures to the people. To increase

access to the Scriptures and as a tool for the Adult Literacy Program, **UpLift Liberia!** would like provide audio Scriptures to our Liberian brothers and sisters.

After 2 years of searching, we recently obtained and tested 10 pre-recorded digital units that let groups of up to 300 people listen to the





audio Bible together. The solar-powered units produce a **clear, audible sound without any distortion.**

The New Testament is recorded in Bassa and embedded in the player.

This microchip cannot be erased and will not wear out from frequent playing. A single unit cost approximately \$45.

## Love in Action

These are but a few of the areas of need in the EC Church of Liberia. As with many of our international fields, there is always more need than there are funds. During a recent trip to the country when our car broke down yet

again and we were waiting on the roadside, Rev. Abraham Powell noted nonchalantly, *"This too is Liberia. We suffer!"*

Oh, my brothers and sisters of the EC Church – USA, please don't "duck & run!" This is not simply another request for help for an unknown group far away. This is our family! We prayed and partnered and sought God that they might come to faith in Christ. We ate at their tables and got dirty walking with them.

Please consider helping in some small (or big) way. Your prayers on behalf of Rev. Powell and the ECCOL are cherished! We ask as well that you might consider either a one-time financial gift or perhaps a monthly sponsorship for 1-2 years. Contributions can be submitted to the Global Ministries Community marked for **UpLift Liberia!** 🌍

## EC CHAPLAIN APPOINTED TO NATIONAL POSITION

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Dr. Juliana Leshner, who was appointed to the position of National Director of Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy. Juliana had been serving as the Chief of Chaplain Services for the South Texas Veterans Health Care system in San Antonio, TX. Her new position required a move back to the east coast as her new office is in Washington, D.C. Juliana was sworn in on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to begin a two-year term, with the possibility of being reappointed for one additional term. This is both a great honor and a great responsibility. Please keep Juliana and all our EC chaplains in prayer as they serve our country and our God. 🌍





# Saying 'Thank You' to Those Who Have Served

**ON SATURDAY**, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, over 50 people gathered in the Commons of Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown to say thank you to two missionary couples who have served on foreign fields for most of their lives. An appreciation luncheon was held for John & Carolyn Miller and Jim & Joan Farr, all of whom served as Bible translators with Wycliffe-SIL.

John and Carolyn Miller served in Viet Nam and then Thailand for over 50 years, working with the Bru tribespeople to translate the scriptures into their heart language. While working in Viet Nam, John, Carolyn and their youngest daughter LuAnne were captured by the Viet Cong in March of 1975. They were released in November of that year and reunited with their other three children. Carolyn went

on to write a book about their time in the prison camp, entitled "Captured". The Millers graciously brought copies of the book to the luncheon and signed them for anyone who wanted one.

Jim and the late Cindi Farr served among the Baruga and Korafe peoples of Papua New Guinea for over 30 years before Cindi's unexpected homegoing in





January 2008. Jim felt called to remain and continue the work on the scripture translations, but also keenly felt the need for a partner to work with him. The Lord let him to Joan Henry, a single missionary also working with SIL in Papua New Guinea among the Kombio tribe. After a quick courtship, Jim and Joan were married in Ukarumpa, PNG in February of 2009. The Farrs saw the dedication of the completed Baruga New Testament in June of last year. (The Korafe New Testament had been finished in 1984 and revised in 2003.)



Rev. Ron Miller spoke on behalf of his brother John and sister-in-law Carolyn, Rev. Dr. Fred Moury spoke on behalf of his late sister Cindi, his brother-in-law Jim Farr and Joan. It was very special to have Jamie Farr, Jim's son, come as the Wycliffe representative to honor both families. Jamie grew up in Papua New Guinea, plus he and his wife Anita served under the Millers when they

began their missionary service in Thailand at Grace Christian School.

Jamie shared that between Jim & Joan Farr and John & Carolyn Miller, adding up their years of service individually, over 200 years of missionary translation service have been given.

That's quite a legacy! Both the Millers and the Farrs also shared about their work and thanked the EC Church for its support, both financial and in prayer, over the years.

Scrapbooks with notes and photos of those attending were given to the Millers and the Farrs, for them to read at their leisure. John & Carolyn live in Houghton, NY with their daughter LuAnne and her family, and Jim & Joan will be settling in Florida later this year near son Jamie and his family in Orlando. 🌍

## DELAWARE MISSIONS BRUNCH A SUCCESS!

**ON THURSDAY**, March 28<sup>th</sup>, the annual Delaware Region Missions Brunch was held. Hope Community Church in Fogelsville, PA once again graciously hosted the brunch. Over forty people came out for the food, fellowship, and update on EC missions. Global Ministries Associate Rev. Ted Rathman shared his vision for moving the GMC forward, and then Beth Grimm and missionary candidate Dan Quigley shared about their respective fields of service. Beth had just returned from a trip to Mexico to test, assess, and create lessons for missionary children who were diagnosed with learning disabilities. Dan shared about his work with street children in the heart of Managua, the capital city of Nicaragua. It was a good morning with great food. Thanks to all who came out and joined us. 🌍



# International C

## JAPAN

**ACCORDING TO JOHN WM. MEHN**, in his book *Multiplying Churches in Japanese Soil* “the country of Japan has the tenth largest population in the world with 127 million people; however, the percentage of Christians in Japan is miniscule: under 1 percent.” It is in this context in which the EC Church of Japan seeks to share the gospel and build the kingdom.

### 1. Grace Garden Church

Rev. Yoriyoshi Abe is the pastor of Grace Garden Church and ministers alongside his wife Emiko and his daughter Kanae. In his latest newsletter Yoriyoshi shares some of the challenges the church faces in reaching out into their community. He also shared this story from one of the Grace Garden Church members who, in the midst of living in a challenging culture, stood firm on her convictions as a follower of Jesus.

***According to a statistic, 98 million people all over Japan go to a shrine on New Year's Day to pray for their fortune for the year. One of the members of Grace Garden Church, who became a believer almost a year ago, also went to a shrine with her family because that was her family's tradition. But when she was offered the purification ritual at the shrine she declined it and said, "I don't need it. That's not***

***my god." Everyone who heard the story was encouraged by her faith. Like her, people who become the first Christians in their family usually confront that kind of cultural/spiritual battle.***

### 2. Fuchinobe Community Church

(See article on p. 5 from Tomoyuki and Jessica about their exciting plans.)

Tomo and Jessica have sensed God leading them to transition their family to continue their service and ministry in France. On March 10<sup>th</sup> FCC held their last Sunday service and will rejoin their mother church Sagamihara Grace Chapel which is about 20 minutes away from their current location. The EC Church of Japan will be sending Tomo to France as a missionary partner with an organization called OMF International (Overseas Missionary Fellowship...used to be China Inland Mission) which seeks to reach the Japanese Diaspora in Europe. In October Tomo was approved by OMF to partner with them in France and will be pursuing this relationship as they make their move in April. As part of this transition back to Jessica's native home, she will also begin a pastoral internship at an Evangelical Free Church in September.

### 3. Sagamihara Grace Chapel

Grace Chapel is the mother church of

# Church Update

– by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA

Fuchinobe Community Church and will prepare to receive FCC members following the last celebration service on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Grace Chapel continues to be pastored by

the Chairman of the EC Church of Japan, Rev. Nobuo Abe. Grace Chapel continues to hold its services, prayer meeting, and church school on a weekly basis.

## STATISTICAL REPORT FROM JAPAN (avg. for the year)

**Sagamihara Grace Chapel** – 29 in Worship Service/ 3 in Prayer Meeting/ 10 in Church School

**Fuhinobe Community Church** – 21 in worship/ 11 in prayer meeting/ 4 in Church School

**Grace Garden Church** – 19 in Worship Service/ 2 in Church School

**Kyodo Grace Church** – 35 in Worship Service/ 12 in Afternoon Service/ 8 in Prayer Meeting/ 14 in Church School

**TOTALS: WORSHIP** – 104 **Prayer Meeting:** 22 **Church School:** 30

## INDIA

**IN APRIL 2019** ECCI will hold its Annual Leaders' Conference. Originally Bishop Bruce Hill and I had planned to attend this conference. However, through correspondence with Rev. Kap Vaiphei, the current General Director, he also requested that we come in 2020 for the General Leaders Conference in which more leaders from the six presbyteries will attend and at which point a new General Director (Bishop) of ECCI will be elected. I decided not to attend the 2019 Conference for a number of reasons. One, as a shared ministry position my travel is limited and therefore could not justify traveling to India in 2019 and 2020 without having visited all the International Conferences at least once.

Second, it seems more beneficial to attend the conference where the majority of the leaders from ECCI will gather. Third, I believe it will be important for the GMC to attend the conference in which the new Bishop will be elected and (fourth) where I will have the opportunity to begin building a relationship with the newest leader of ECCI. Therefore, we will plan to travel with a delegation to India in 2020 for their General Leaders Conference.

During Randy's tenure as GMA you may remember that we focused on "cross-pollinating" (taking leaders from other conferences on trips to build relationships with all of our international leaders) the EC Church worldwide. This April the GMC will be helping Rev. Kap Vaiphei (General Director of ECCI) attend and speak at the National Conference of ECC Japan.



## Evangelical College of Theology

Here is an update regarding the work of ECT and Dr. Lalrosiem Songate:

***Here at ECT, we take the practical ministries of our students very seriously and we also monitor their involvements in their local churches during the weekends. Students staying in the campus are also assigned to participate in the Sunday School ministries of nearby local churches. We believe that theological education should not be just a raking of knowledge in the brain, but should lead to the practice of what is learned through ministry and evangelism.***

***We are thankful to have Rev. Dr. Ginneithang Ngaihte, a veteran missionary to Thailand and other Asian countries to teach Urban Mission to our M.Th. students during this current***

***module. Rev. Dr. Ngaihte completed his doctoral study at Fuller School of World Missions, California. His intellectual knowledge, rich experience in missionary work, plus his commitment to world mission is indeed a tremendous resource to our students of missiology.***

- ECT had Rev. Tony Jackson from the UK to visit during the latter part of February until early March. He will be a main speaker during the Spiritual Retreat and he will also minister to some of our local churches.
- ECT has been able to set up an E-Library in addition to the normal physical library. However this has highlighted the need to incorporate a basic course on computer operation as many of our students have never touched a computer before. The students need to have a basic knowledge in order to make use of the E-Library.

## NEPAL

**THIS PAST JANUARY** 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> was my first trip as the GMA. Rev. John Friedlund and I went to Nepal in order to accomplish these objectives:

- ATTEND 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION OF MINISTRY LEADERS FROM THE EVANGELICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE
- ORDAIN A GRADUATING PASTOR, ELDERS AND DEACONS
- DEDICATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICIAL ECCN YOUTH DEPARTMENT
- BAPTISMS

This trip came about rather quickly during the fall. I had not planned on traveling anywhere in January, but Janga made it clear that he really desired my presence for the very first graduation of the Evangelical Leadership Training Course. I felt it important to go to provide some legitimacy to the ELTC, honor the graduates, and put Janga's fears at ease with a new GMA transitioning into leadership.

While in Nepal I had the privilege of ordaining one pastor as well as a number of elders and deacons (all three of these leadership positions receive ordination). The conference was being led by some



of the local pastors and the youth groups from the various ECCN churches. I was very impressed with the amount of young people involved and the amount of leadership they had in running the Conference. It is a positive sign for the next generation of ECCN to lead the church. Janga shared with me his desire to have GMC help sponsor the building of new churches for many of these congregations being represented. Unfortunately, many of them do not actually have any kind of building to worship in due to their inability to afford construction costs. Janga's vision is to provide, not only spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and prayer support, but also something tangible and physical in order to bless these new fellowships.

I led a special dedication service for the establishment of the ECCN Youth Department and for that I got my name on a nice little stone that now stands outside Bethel Church in Nepal, and designates EC Center Nepal as a place where the youth can grow in their faith. After that service we went to the baptismal and I did 10 baptisms of mostly young people. I was also privileged to baptize 3 of Janga's orphan boys.

While the trip came about rather quickly, I was glad to make Nepal my first official visit as the new Global Ministries Associate. I had met Janga in 2013 and so I appreciated the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between us now as the GMA. Janga was also very thrilled that the very first trip of the new GMA internationally was to Nepal, he mentioned that a couple times...and he also mentioned he is glad the new GMA is his size. Janga is an excellent leader and has grand visions for ECCN. Unfortunately those grand visions take a lot of resources that I fear the GMC will just not be able to give much support to. I know this was one of Randy's concerns as he was leaving. As ECCN expands, and will need more support, the GMC will struggle to keep up with the demand due to its shrinking support base. However, EC Center Nepal was a God sized vision that was shared with me when I was there in 2013 and in 2019 I performed ordinations and baptisms, dedicated a youth department, and held the first ever graduation of ELTC at EC Center Nepal, so I told him we will need to pray together on how God will fulfill His purposes.

### **ECCN 2018 STATISTICS**

**NEW CONVERTS** – 109

**NEW BAPTISMS** – 87

**NEW CHURCHES WERE ESTABLISHED IN 2018** – 2

**TOTAL CHURCHES** – 12

**TOTAL FELLOWSHIPS** – 10

### **NEPAL PRAYER AND GOALS FOR 2019**

1. To have 5 more local churches established
2. To Have couple seminar in March or April fund we have already
3. New ELTC to begin in April
4. In April ECCN annual council





# MEXICO

**REV. JUAN ZUÑIGA**, the leader of the EC Church of Latin America, has shared that there are currently 11 churches and 3 missions operating in Mexico. The mission churches are being supervised or managed by Pastor Justino Bautista, Flaivo Ramirez, and Elias Martinez. Two of the missions' works are operating just north and south of the city of Monterrey in the central part of Mexico and Elias Martinez, the previous Director, manages the

mission outreach in Veracruz which is in southern Mexico. Elias is also seeking to train another couple to eventually begin a mission work in the state of Oaxaca in the southern region of Mexico as well.

Recently an institute was opened to give training in pastoral ministry and eight couples already serving in ministry went through this training. I am currently in correspondence with Juan for a potential trip to Mexico sometime during the fall of 2019.

---

# LIBERIA

**THE 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE** of the EC Church of Liberia was held from Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Annual Conference convened at the Duane M. Ray EC Church in Tiah's Town, Gbee District, Nimba County. The theme for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was *Wear your Dream* taken from Judges 7:7-9. During the conference a new building, constructed by the National Council of the EC Church, was dedicated to the Lord for worship. Also an additional 50 bags of cement and 5 bundles of zinc, nails, paints etc. were purchased for the

reconstruction of Philip D.V. McClain EC Church and the UCA EC Church. The Conference ended with the baptism of 21 new converts and more than 200 conferees who recommitted themselves to the Lord and to the dream/vision of the EC Church of Liberia.

Rev. Abraham Powell, Bishop of the ECCOL, shared that he is launching a Bible purchase campaign for 2019. Rev. Powell is challenging people to purchase 20 Bibles (Old and New Testament of any size) this year and to distribute them to 10 people who cannot afford to purchase a Bible.

# ENGAGING THE CHURCH IN THE GREAT COMMISSION:

— by Rev. Ted Rathman, GMA

**I SHARED PREVIOUSLY** that one of the goals for the GMC was to begin using social media as an avenue to nurture a global vision in our churches. In the domestic airport in Nepal, while waiting for our flight, I began a Facebook page for the GMC. I was able to use this page to update everyone on the trip while John and I were there. The goal is to use the page as a way to keep people updated on things that are taking place on the International Fields as well as with EC missionaries on a more regular basis. The challenge will be to keep fresh content on the page so people will utilize it. The same can be said for most media and technology endeavors; while we will look to utilize these platforms more regularly and to a greater extent the challenge will be investing the amount of time needed to do these things well and keep them fresh.

In addition to utilizing multi-media to engage local churches, we will seek to begin pursuing partnerships with other

like-minded missions' organizations to develop ways we can better serve our missionaries, deepen our relationships with our international churches, and also help those sensing some kind of call to missions to be able to clarify and pursue their calling. These partnerships, I believe, will help the GMC provide assistance to our local churches to enable them to nurture this global vision. This will be an important element of the GMC going forward because we want to be able to offer support to someone who believes God is calling them to serve as a missionary somewhere, but needs help in discerning that call, equipping and training them, and ultimately getting them to where God desires to use them in this world. God has not ceased in calling people into this type of work and we (EC Church USA) need to be sensitive to the Spirit calling these people in our churches, and the GMC wants to be able to help them step out in obedience to God and serve Him. 🌍

## 2019 VBS PROJECT

**EACH YEAR GLOBAL MINISTRIES** selects one of our international churches to receive the VBS monies for a project to augment their ministry. This year the project monies will go to Japan. Instead of just one major project, the EC churches of Japan have decided to focus on Children's Evangelism. The VBS funds will go towards getting Bible story DVD's for each church, providing each child with a Bible, helping children to get to Kids Camp (chartering a bus, etc.) These are all necessary but costly parts of reaching out to children in Japan, where there are very few churches and most children have had no exposure to Christianity at all. Materials will be made available soon for your 5-Minute VBS lessons. Please bathe this project and our EC churches in Japan in prayer, as they face overwhelming odds in a country that still sees less than 1% of the population identifying as Christian, even after almost 400 years of exposure to the Gospel. 🌍

## SPRING 2019

### **Bethany EC Church** • ASHLAND, PA

Three women from Bethany EC, Karen Snyder, Joann Birster, and Janet Maurer, traveled to Boone, North Carolina, November 26-30, to volunteer at the processing center for Operation Christmas Child. We worked inspecting, taping, and packing the shoeboxes into cartons. The boxes on those particular days were being shipped to Togo in West Africa. – *Janet Maurer* ●



### **Pitman EC Church** • PITMAN, PA

Pitman EC Church has a Mission trip scheduled July 7-14 to go to Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, KY. 21 adults, teens and children are signed up to go – *Pat Hummel* ●

### **Bethel EC Church** • DIXON, IL

Bethel EC Church sent a team to Honduras to work with Ed and Val Schubert. The team, consisting of Steve Counihan, Dave Bowers, Mark Slagter, Sadie Miller, Dan Royer, Kristin Royer, Ron West, Sarah Smith, Alyssa Kruger, and Jerry Virtue spent a week (March 10-17) working for the Schuberts and some of the families to whom they minister. They placed concrete floors in two Honduran homes and tiled a large bathroom in the Tegucigalpa Casa de Luz facility. ●





## Grace Community Church

• WILLOW STREET, PA

Grace Community Church is planning to take a team of youth and adults to South Carolina to do Hurricane Relief work. We will be doing construction projects and ministering to the families affected. We will be leaving on Sunday, June 9 and returning on Saturday, June 15. – *Rev. Addison Roberts, Student and Community Ministries Pastor*

Grace Community Church will once again be sending a team to the Dominican Republic to serve along Rick and Tammie Romano. Rick and Tammie work with MissionTwenty-five35. This ministry serves those in and around Santiago, with education, clean water, health care, and gives them the good news of Jesus Christ. We look forward to sending another team this coming June 21-29, 2019. - *Pastor Paul Weitzel*

Terry Erb from Grace Community Willow Street participated in the Sports Xchange mission trip in February. They played fast pitch baseball against local teams in the Baja region of Mexico, and then gave testimonies in the communities where they played. Almost 100 people came forward to accept Christ during the week the team was in Mexico. Sports Xchange works with local churches so they can continue to disciple those who become believers – *Fred Stehman* ♦

## Trinity EC Church • BOYERTOWN, PA

This summer, July 22-August 1, three members of Trinity EC Church will return to Chincha, Peru with e3Partners. Ashley Drumheller, Gretchen Rogers, and Mary Lee Boswell were in Chincha in 2018 and will return to the same area to continue evangelism, discipleship, and church planting with local pastors and church members. They will be sharing the story of salvation using the 3 Circles strategy and establishing relationships with nationals, translators, and new believers in the Chincha area. – *Mary Lee Boswell* ♦



## Sinking Spring Community

• SINKING SPRING, PA

I will be taking a short term team to Cyprus in July 2019. We will be teaching English classes and running a kids camp. – *Rev. Tim Sanger* ♦

## Trinity EC Church • BOYERTOWN, PA

Youth from Trinity EC Church went to Allentown to work with another EC ministry and to serve food to the homeless around Christmas time. – *Dale Miller, youth pastor* ♦



## Bethesda EC & Grace EC Churches • SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA

**October 14, 2018:** Bethesda (Reedsville) and Grace (Schuylkill Haven) EC Churches worked cooperatively for The Church Has Left The Building. Approximately 120 volunteers came together to work on approximately 40 projects in the communities of Schuylkill County. Volunteers became involved with gutter, electrical and plumbing work; light carpentry, landscaping and painting. A continuous meal of soups, sandwiches and desserts were served through the fellowship hall of Grace EC Church throughout the day. District Facilitator Jim Price and his wife Kathy also were part of this opportunity. A hand-full of jobs not completed on 10/14 were completed over the following weeks. ●



## Bethesda EC Church • (REEDSVILLE) SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA

**March 8-12:** We will be sending work teams to their own back yard. Approximately 25 homes are still in some level of recovery following the flooding of Summer, 2018. Working through Schuylkill VOAD and EMA, Bethesda volunteers hope to assist homeowners in a variety of demolition and renovation aspects -- particularly in the Tremont, Tower City and Pottsville areas. – *Rev. Mark Brooks* ●

**Trinity Lighthouse Church • ROYERSFORD, PA**

**March 1-17: TEACHING IN NEPAL.** A team did Pastor/ leadership training on studying the Bible, in extremely rural areas near Mount Everest region. Three men from our church go for 16 days. We also do visitation of schools and churches that have been started in the last year through Reach-Out Nepal.

**June 8-16: WORK TRIP TO PALOWICE POLAND WORK.** We will rebuild the bunks that go in the new bunk-houses to fit the new mattresses; shelf and wardrobe for each of the bunk houses; weather and money permitting we can also build one more bunk house.



**July 6-16: ENGLISH CAMP IN POLAND.** We help teach English to teens. Games, classes and nightly meetings are used to introduce Christ and what a commitment to Christ is. In the past 35 years these camps have been very fruitful.  
– Curt Sandberg ●





Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Lebanon, PA  
Permit No. 215

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Evangelical  
Congregational  
Church  
GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY



100 WEST PARK AVENUE, MYERSTOWN, PA 17067

 **window**  
ON THE WORLD

A publication of the Global Ministries Community  
of the Evangelical Congregational Church  
Spring/Summer 2019 • Volume 31 Number 1

