

A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church



window

ON THE WORLD



**Nurturing a
Global Vision**

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



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Nurturing a Global Vision

PERHAPS YOU'VE READ or heard a lot of statistics regarding the challenges facing churches today. Maybe you've seen news articles, Pew research polls, or listened to various Christian commentators lamenting about the state of so many churches. If you read up on this sort of thing, as I try to do, you may have seen some recent research stating that 65% of churches are either declining or plateaued, or the fact that we now have a group of people described as religious "nones" making up 23% of the adult population, according to a Pew research poll. And if you didn't know that, now you are thoroughly concerned and you're thinking "thanks for all that encouragement..."

If you were reading carefully, you noticed that I failed to mention that all of this information describes the Church in North America and specifically the United States. Hopefully you're not like me, and at times slip into the mindset that when you read or hear this kind of data you automatically assume it is descriptive of THE CHURCH. I'm talking about the Church of Jesus Christ that has been called to faithfully commit and participate in the mission of God in this world until Jesus returns again. Nurturing a global vision enables us to see beyond our own context and observe that the Church of Jesus Christ continues to thrive around the world.

As the newest leader of the Global Ministries Community, I believe it is our job at the GMC to continue and also to develop new ways we can help the EC Church USA to nurture this global vision. In fact our *EC Discipline* states that a "healthy church places a high priority on proclaiming the gospel and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to a hurting world beyond its immediate neighborhood." So as we contribute to nurturing this global vision we pray we can also contribute to local churches in the USA revitalizing your church in your context as well.

Moving forward is one way the GMC will seek to nurture this global vision by utilizing social media platforms for the purposes of keeping you updated and informed on what God is doing through the EC Church around the world. Also, I hope to hear from you, and the part you desire to play in nurturing this global vision at your church. So the next time you're looking for some encouragement on the health of the Church of Jesus Christ I hope you will browse through pages past, present, and future of the issues of *Windows on the World* and be filled with joy at all that God is doing in His world. 🌍



– by Ted Rathman, Global Ministries Associate





In their own Tongue – Baruga New Testame

JUNE 9, 2018 ABOUT 4 AM: a rooster out to beat his rivals to the punch in protecting his turf made sure that 40 plus visitors whose alarm clocks are usually a lot quieter got the message, “It’s dedication morning! The Baruga people are about to receive their own translated New Testaments. The visitors have come from Canada, USA, Romania, Australia, Switzerland, some are pushing retirement, some not even a decade old yet, but all have come to see the end of a long cooperation between Wycliffe, the Summer Institute of Linguistics and committed Baruga men and women to make this day a reality.

However the 6 months before the dedication were full of drama. Early in 2018 there were two sudden boating deaths and a fatal crocodile attack that threatened to derail the dedication preparations. Some disagreements about preparing the venue and sleeping facilities also made final preparations difficult. But the Baruga translators, the villagers and the Farrs kept saying, ‘Let’s

not sweat the details. Let’s keep praying that the Lord receives honor and glory from all that we do.’

And lo and behold, the sleeping dorm was done just before the first helicopter arrived, the welcoming choirs had their jewelry in place, drums were tuned, headresses assembled and put on, and the food platform groaned under literally tons of taro, sweet potato, bananas and sugar cane. Eventually several pigs were added to the bounty.

Barugas delight in singing and dancing to their traditional music accompanied by hand drums, and new worship songs are constantly being written in this style. The dedication began with a long procession led by dancing drum choirs, followed by boxes of New Testaments carried on a shoulder litter. Next, nearly all the 29 team members, the Farrs, and the outside expatriate visitors processed. Anglican church officials from town were present in vestments, officially dedicated the books and spoke. Jim’s son Jamie and family were also present and



BARUGA PROJECT HISTORY

- 1989 Jim & Cindi start the Baruga NT project
- 1989 Cindi also starts her PhD in Australia
- 1990-1995 Only 8-10 day commuting type trips 2-3 times a year to the Baruga
- 1994 first Baruga Scripture— Mark's Gospel
- 1997 Dr. Cynthia J. M. Farr – Ph.D finished!
- 1996-1998 Jim is branch director of language work
- 1999-2003 Korafe NT revision
- 2003-2007 Halleluia! Fairly uninterrupted Baruga language work
- 2007 A second Baruga Scripture book of Luke, Acts and the Thessalonian Epistles is typeset; a 2008 dedication planned including a group of EC laymen from Allentown, Cindi's brother and nephew, Bishop Mike Sigman and Global Ministries Deputy Director, Pat Strain
- 2008 January Cindi is unexpectedly taken 'home' right from Erika village; but the mini-Scripture dedication goes ahead
- 2009 the Lord and Joan Henry help Jim continue as Joan becomes Joan Farr
- 2009-2017 As Jim & the Baruga team keep the NT work flowing, Joan takes over an adult literacy project and supervises recording of the whole Baruga NT.
- 2017 April, the Baruga NT off to the printers.
- 2018 June 9th, Baruga NT Dedication

the nt Dedication

By Jim and Joan Farr

Jamie, decorated with face paint, spoke in the Korafe language – a big hit. Books were presented to each team member, some received with tears of joy. Jim did a dramatic reading in Baruga of the passage in Revelation about every tribe, and tongue, and nation and how much we want to see every one of them there. An unexpected highlight was the afternoon presentation of cash gifts from two Korafe churches to help the Barugas with their ongoing translation work on the Old Testament – so touching!

Farrs recently heard that the recorded New Testaments are selling like hotcakes – they only have 20 left! Books are selling much slower but there is a steady trickle of buyers. There has been some major social upheaval since the dedication, due to two local deaths, including accusations toward the team. But things have settled sufficiently that they are planning a 2-week work session at the end of September.

Pray for the New Testaments, written and audio, to be used and lives to be changed as a result. Pray for good resolution of the remaining community tensions. Pray for the team as they learn how to work independently, being accountable to an outside organization, and that they will grow much spiritually with the challenges of these changes. 🌍



The Bible Changes N of Lives, and is Eternal

I GREW UP IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, the son of Jim and Cindy Farr. I have seen God use the Bible and believers willing to simply live as incarnational Christians to change an ethnic nation. Here are a couple of stories from the trip this summer with my family to celebrate the Bible Dedication with the Baruga and visit with the Korafe peoples.

The Bible is worth dying for.

What were they willing to sacrifice to get God's Word? The answer: even their lives if necessary.

Early in June, the Baruga communities from all across the Musa swamp and river basins of Papua New Guinea began their treks to Erica village for the dedication of the Baruga New Testament. Getting to the village, located several miles up the

river from the coast, required a hazardous journey by canoe and foot. In fact, the person who traveled the longest, walked or rode canoes for 14 days to get there. Others were willing to put the lives of their families in danger as they floated down the river for two days on rafts made from banana trees lashed to light saplings with vines found on the river's edge. This year alone, two Baruga women lost their lives to crocodiles in the Musa River. Some traveled on the open ocean through huge swells and then walked up through the jungle. We Americans can hardly comprehend such rigors, but the value each group placed on God's Word was evident through their actions.

The greatest surprise occurred on the eve of the dedication. Loud shouts of "Oro Oro" erupted as yet another set of visi-

tors arrived. I could identify immediately from some long remembered past the faces that appeared that afternoon. This latest group of visitors had come from the distant Korafe village of Sinei, during the south easterly storms, with about 50 of their church members to



ations, the Trajectory ly Significant

By Jamie Farr

celebrate with the Baruga people. Not only did they traverse the large waves, but they also came bearing gifts. My thoughts ran to the gifts brought by the wise men years ago in honor of the birth of Jesus.

These Korafes brought what amounted to a couple of years of their churches' offerings to give to the Baruga church as a blessing. After exchanging arrival greetings, they prayed for the Baruga translators and church and consecrated the ground. This is what every church planter dreams of! What I saw was a community profoundly grateful for the impact of the scriptures in their lives, eager to see another part of the church experience God's grace and power as well. The Korafe were truly ecstatic that the Baruga were getting the New Testament. As I remember back to when the Korafe received their New Testament 34 years ago, my eyes fill with tears. God has transformed the Korafe people in amazing ways. Their generosity and love for another ethnic group was remarkable to behold and I continue to thank the Lord for small beginnings.



The Truth comes

The Baruga Dedication Ceremony Day on June 9 was a memorable day for all.

The noises in the village started early with songs being sung at 4:30 am. The swish of ladies sweeping the ground to prepare for the day commenced not long after 5 am. Our hosts brought breakfast and served hot food and tea around 7:30 am.

The village population of a couple hundred had swollen overnight and

continued to grow through the morning.

The ceremony itself was powerful, simple and extremely revealing. The procession was preceded by Baruga dancers inviting God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus to come and take their place. The bibles led the procession, followed by church leadership, the translation team, extended family, and honored SIL guests all of which were brought in on handmade mats laid down as we walked into the worship structure.

The service itself featured church leadership from the Anglican Church leading some singing in English and then inviting the Baruga to study the New Testament in church and apply it in their lives.



This was followed by a skit led by the translation team and then greetings brought by Jim Farr, Translator, Irene Fumey (SIL Director), myself, and Sylvester, (lead translator). The distribution of the books to the Baruga Translation team and singing of worship songs in Baruga brought the biggest response from the crowd.

The revealing truth in my observation was the response by the Baruga people. The parts conducted in English were heard by many but participation was minimal while the sheer emotion and moments of profound silence could be felt in the audience when Baruga was used.

The greatest impact for me was watching the Baruga internalize a skit about how the Church came 150 years ago and brought the Bible but they could not receive it and subsequently the tears, hugging and holding the New Testament aloft by the translation team. Each member of the team was overcome with emotion as they received the New Testaments and proudly held them aloft. In that seminal moment, you could feel the emotion of the people as they responded to getting God's words for their people.

Farr kids' responses to the life among the Baruga people:

It was no small thing to take our family along with 15 other visitors from the US to be part of the dedication celebration trip to the Baruga and to visit the Korafe.



Sierra said that “getting to know the kids, making friends and going swimming in the river was great.” Sierra loved the kids and was loved by the Baruga family.

JJ said that playing “oka, oka, badua” (Pig, Pig, Bird of Paradise) and interacting with the Baruga kids in the jungle were his favorite memories of the time.

JJ enjoyed dressing up and participating in the preparations for the celebration.

Abby said the dedication was an amazing experience. She enjoyed painting nails, making friends, and watching the people dance and celebrate each other and the Bible.

Brandon said his highlights were helping to build the worship building, making Baruga friends, playing soccer in the evening and walking through the jungle. All of the kids remarked about how excited the Baruga were in preparing for the dedication. The enduring memories for our kids from that day probably were seeing the people joyfully getting their New Testaments.

When our kids left Eric village, their emotions were on overload. Sierra wailed, Brandon cried as we flew away and they said things like we will never see them again. These bittersweet good byes reminded me of myself so many years ago.

This summer provided experiences for our kids that we can probably never replicate again. Each of them expressed at the end of the summer how much they appreciated having gone on the trip. If you

had witnessed their attitudes on some days, you might have wondered. Perhaps, all of us have those days but have learned to hide them better. Each of our kids has summarized some favorite memories from this summer.



This story below demonstrates the impact of the Bible on a man, a community, and other languages. I heard this story while on the trip this summer.

The Bible completely transforms lives:

Moses had walked for eight days out of the deep jungle because his Korafe sister was ill and could be dying. News arrives by various channels carried through cell messages and brought through mountain trails. Moses had been working among the Yareba people for 17 years, but God had a story to tell, and Moses was called to share it.

Moses walked into the village of Baga, the day we arrived. I had not seen Moses in 17 years. We were welcomed to Baga as “kotofu” nobility by the various clans from the point, but challenged to identify why we had come. The spear-wielding man scared my aunts and daughters as he weaved through us

covered in black paint in a posture for war. I remember answering, “Na Buba ghortori, emo nanda reighiri. Na nanda natofo gharidai refena.” Translated this means: “I am of the leader clan and this is my land. I am coming to see my people.” The irony was that I really only had one question burning on my mind as I entered the village, and I desperately wanted to know the answer: “What has God been doing among the Korafe?”

As we were escorted by dancers and handmade mats were laid in procession before our feet, we were brought to the place where my mom’s body was buried years ago. There, the clan leaders and church leaders each took turns to greet us and our distinguished foreign guests. Then, as is custom, they sat down and asked me to speak. After introducing all of the guests and how they were related to our family, I shared my one question. The stories came each day and over three different evenings as people from



different families shared how God had touched their lives. Moses' testimony will stick with me forever.

Moses began by recalling how we used to play as kids and talk about God and the Bible, yet it never really meant much to him. He recalled how my mom taught him to read and study the Bible and how we did this together. I remembered the stories and weekly memory verses that we shared. Moses remembered that he came and always had his questions answered with scriptural truths. When the New Testament was finally dedicated by the Korafe, he began to read the Book for himself and realized that he was not right with God. This began a series of events that shook the spiritual foundations of his clan and the Korafe people as a whole.

Moses' father, Franklin, was a shaman known for casting demons on people, but also for making them well. His clan was renowned for their black magic. He had one particular power, however, that separated him from all others and

terrified the Korafe and neighboring tribes—a box simply called “guruguru,” which means “lightning.” Franklin would take out his box and chant and tell the lightning where to go, and it would go and strike the village where he sent it. He was frequently paid during droughts to send lightning so that with it would come the rain storms.

Moses shared that while his dad was old, he felt the Holy Spirit tell him to go and burn the items committed to sorcery and the black arts that his father had practiced. So Moses, with prayer and fasting with a few brothers, took out all of the medicine and materials from the box and lit them on fire while worshiping God. Because Moses was not harmed this resulted in many turning from fear and putting their trust in God.

Months later, Moses felt that he was to burn the lightning box which he shared with his family. In fear, the Korafe clans in Baga Village and even those on the opposite fjords scattered. People believed that lightning would come and

destroy them and the village. Only Moses and two younger boys and their aunt stayed in Baga and asked God for help. Moses and the boys fasted for several days and then went and burned the lightning box. Finally, Moses threw the remains of the box in the middle of the deep fjord. The people started to stream back into the village, acknowledging that the weather had been sunny and that nothing had happened to Moses.



Over the next several days, dozens of Korafes amazed by God's power accepted Christ and were baptized. Moses then left the village for a year of Bible school and formal training to go with his God-directed reading of the Word.

When Moses returned, he preached about God's power and forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, and the church across denominations began to grow. Moses was called a missionary by the Anglicans, the Christian Reformed Church, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Baptists. He began to make disciples, and then God burdened him for the mountains.

Moses walked off into the mountains and began to learn the language of the Yareba. The Yareba are a remote, spirit fearing people that had the church for over 100 years but showed little spiritual impact. Moses has been learning the language and lamented that the people do not have access to the truth, but that there are believers in each village where he has gone among the various churches he has planted. He also shared that his practice is to regularly fast and pray for two to three days each week. He noted that it is a very hard life walking through the jungles and sleeping beside rivers and paths, but he knows this is what God has called him to do.

Through Moses, and others like him, I received my answer. There are Korafes who are walking closely with God and yes, even going as missionaries. This truth deeply blesses my heart as I remember



the faithfulness of God and His desire to be glorified among the nations.

Moses repeated again and again that he wanted me to bring this image home to the US church: "The seeds were planted and nurtured by your parents and grew to become a tree. That tree now has borne fruit and other trees have sprung up and borne fruit. We don't want you and your dad, when he leaves, to return home to the US sad or wondering what God has done. We cannot forget you but the trees are reproducing now. Thank you!"

I cannot stop, however, without acknowledging those of you reading these stories. Thank you for your part. My family has received your faithful prayers, financial support, and your enduring love for almost five decades. We are humbled by your participation in this journey. I am truly blessed to have witnessed first hand the players in these stories. I revel in telling of God's goodness. We cannot thank you enough for the sacrifices you have made to partner with us in sharing the Good News! 🌍



The EC Church of Japan



LIKE MANY PARTS of the USA, Japan was hit with several natural disasters. The worst typhoon in over 30 years hit the southern islands and parts of western Japan, killing over 200 people. Within the same week, a major earthquake also rocked Japan, causing landslides in some rain soaked areas.

Although none of our EC churches or church members were directly affected, many of them had friends and/or family in the affected areas. Please keep our EC church members in prayer as they seek to help and witness to their fellow countrymen.

Sagamihara Chapel, pastored by Rev. Nobuo Abe, (Chairman of the EC Church-Japan) continues to minister in the Fukushima area which was devastated by a tsunami many years ago. They meet with churches there to encourage them as they minister to an

area that still has not recovered. Sagami-hara Chapel continues to minister to young children and their mothers at the park next to the church. They also go to a children's clinic monthly, sharing parenting tips and listening as they share their struggles.

Fuchinobe Community Church, pastored by Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe, now has an American Conversational English teacher with them. Denise has

committed to two years, so they will be offering English classes as an outreach. Jessica also has a Tea Time ministry with mothers of young children in the age range of her daughters.

Grace Garden Church, pastored by Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe, has started a nursing home ministry in two homes. Almost all the residents are non-Christians, but enjoy hearing hymns and the message. Emiko has re-started a small group for women to study Scripture and pray together. The church also held an English camp for children this summer, with help from two members of our Trinity Lighthouse Church in Royersford, PA.

Kyodo Grace Church, pastored by Rev. Kenichiro Sudo, continues to minister to various groups through the use of their building. A choral group meets there for practice, and Rev. Sudo brings a brief devotional each time. Although most choral members are not Christians, they often sing Christian-themed choral music and are intrigued by Christianity. 🙏

India

The EC Church of

The following is a report from Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei, the General Director of the EC Church of India, regarding their April Leaders Conference.

Warm greetings in the Lord's name!

We have completed the National Leaders Conference of ECCI last week. The Lord's presence was with us; the Business Session was without any interruption and problem. Out of 99 members, 77 members attend the session. There are 11 Local Church Choirs presenting Special numbers in wonderful ways and so much blessing to the congregation.

As a result of the Nepal EC Church conference, we have made ECCI common Scarf for all the active Pastors, about 140. Now the ECCI Pastors will use this Scarf for Pastoral ministries in ceremonial services like: Holy Communion, Baptism, Holy Matrimony, Funeral Service and others.

I am planning to visit Shillong ECCI churches this coming Sunday. I will meet Foundation English School Managing Committee members also.

May the Lord bless you, Kap Vaiphei 🙏



Nepal

The EC Church of

1. Evangelical Leadership Training Center
EC Church Nepal has been conducting Evangelical Leadership Training for their pastors and leaders in which the participants will complete six different sessions of the training in order to equip them for successful ministry in their churches and communities.

We were able to have 4th Evangelical Leadership Training Center during April and the 5th in June. Most attendees will be able to continue to come to all the sessions, praise God!

2. 43 new converts; 17 new baptisms Through our evangelistic emphasis in the villages throughout Nepal, the church has witnessed 43 people give their lives to Christ and has baptized 17 new believers.

3. New fellowship officially opened
Praise God that Mahima Gospel Fellowship was added to the EC family in Gije, Nepal this year.

4. Rev. Janga continues to place an emphasis on leadership development and training for the EC Churches in Nepal. In April he held the ECCN Leaders Council where he performed 5 Deacon Ordinations and also held training on proper financial procedures for financial secretaries in churches. ECCN will also be planning to hold a couples and youth seminar this year.





PRAYER AND URGENT NEEDS

1. It was during GMC Team visit that we all saw and felt the need to extend our land at the cost of USD 30,000 (Thirty Thousand.)

2. We are praying to have at least 3 more new fellowships to begin in this year; requesting your prayer for this. 🙏



Liberia

The EC Church of

Highlights of recent activities of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia

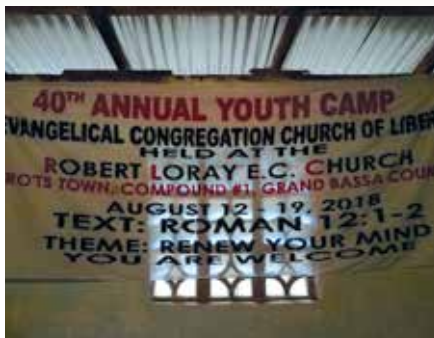
A total of 56 youths attended the annual youth camp. Twenty gave their lives to Christ. Teaching was focused on renewing your mind (Romans 12:1-2) with emphasis on the teaching of Christ. 🙏



Youths caught fish after been trained to fishing



Bassa bible learning training session



Please meet Abraham and Olive

PASSING THE BATON

THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMUNITY changed leaders this year for the first time in 10 years. Rev. Randy Sizemore finished his second term at the end of June 2018, and Rev. Ted Rathman took over as of July 1st.

Randy and Carla Sizemore were honored for their work with Global Ministries on Thursday evening, May 31st at National Conference held at Messiah College. They were presented with bike jerseys, a coffee-of-the-month club membership, and a memory book highlighting many of the trips they had made to visit the international EC Churches.

Various missionaries spoke at the event. Rev. Ron Anderson represented the missionaries serving overseas, Rev. Robert Schaeffer represented those EC missionaries serving in the USA, and Rev. Yoriyoshi Abe spoke for the international churches. There was much laughter and a few tears as a slide show of various trips and events was shown during the evening, triggering a lot of memories.

The evening finished with an ice cream social that featured one of Randy's favorite desserts – cherry pie! It was a great evening of fun, food and fellowship. Randy and Carla will continue to minister full time at Bethel EC Church in Dixon, IL.

Rev. John T. (Ted) Rathman was installed as Global Ministries Associate on the Friday morning of National Conference. His wife Jessica stood by his side as he answered the questions put to him by Bishop Bruce Hill. Ted is the 9th leader of Global Ministries (previously known as both the Board of Missions and Division of Missions.) The GMA position is part time, so Ted will continue to serve as senior pastor at Grace EC Church, Schuylkill Haven, PA.

Please keep Ted in prayer as he balances a young and active family, a growing church, and Global Ministries. 🙏

–Pat Strain

VBS PROJECT UPDATE – SUCCESS!

AS YOU HOPEFULLY RECALL, our VBS project for this year was to raise monies for necessary books at the Evangelical College of Theology in Churachandpur, Manipur, India. Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate asked for help, as the bible college is offering a new course and needed several thousand new volumes in the library in order to get accredited. We pledged \$10,000 to help them with the books needed for the new curriculum as well as to meet the requirements from the Department of Education.

Praise the Lord, as of the end of August, we have achieved our goal! However, we barely reached it, so if your church has not yet sent in their VBS monies, please do so as soon as possible. Lalrosiem needs to order the materials right away. And if your church didn't participate in a VBS this year, but would like to make a donation towards this project, any amount would be most welcome. Our monies will not cover the entire cost of the program. ECT trains men and women to be pastors and missionaries throughout northeast India and to neighboring countries. Please help us to help these servants of Christ spread the gospel far and wide. 🙏

Trinity EC Church

• MANHEIM, PA

A group of eight High school and Middle School students and three chaperones ventured to Twin Pines Camp in Stroudsburg, PA from June 17-20.

Those participating were: Chris III, Mason Eller, Matt III, Hunter Minnich, Ethan Dieter, Casey Miller, Kyle Dieter, Grace Miller, Mike & Donna Dieter and Pastor Jeffrey C. Schell. The group's goal was learning to serve others. The four day trip is an annual mission trip to benefit Twin Pines in their preparation for their summer camping season. Trails were cleared of trees, brush and logs. A drainage line was cleared of concrete debris. The pool had loose cement removed and was patched with new cement. – *Loren Gochbauer*



Mohns Hill EC

• MOHN'S HILL, PA

On July 13 and 14, volunteers from Mohn's Hill EC Church aided Bushkill EC Church in the remodeling of their new church building. The group worked on construction

projects including: the removal of two large gardens, installation of a set of attic stairs, construction of an office and front entrance, running new electrical wiring, removal of construction refuse, as well as other smaller projects. – *Rev. Ken Ogden* ●

Zion & St Paul's EC Church • PITMAN, PA

Our group from Zion consisted of 15 children, teens and adults. We ministered with the Big Creek Missions group which consisted of 185 other adults and teens serving in three areas: Children's ministry, Community service and Construction. Everyone found the week to be an amazing opportunity to serve the people of Bear Branch as well as be challenged in our own walk with Christ. The teaching each morning and evening was challenging and opened up great bedtime discussions for our group. – Pat Hummel ●



Grace Community Church • WILLOW STREET, PA

On July 21-28, 22 members from Grace Community Church of Willow Street, led by Pastor Paul Weitzel, traveled to Santiago, Dominican Republic where we served alongside Rick & Tammie Romano, workers with Mission Twentyfive 35. Mission Twentyfive 35 firmly believes in living out Matthew 25:35 & 36 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." This passage

in Matthew is not asking us to do the impossible; Jesus is asking us to do the common decent thing. As a result, we were able to help people come to know and follow Jesus. We handed out water filters, so people to drink and bath with clean water for the first time in their lives, visited orphans, prisoners, a youth detention center, a children's cancer hospital. We also provided medical care with the doctors and nurses who were on our team, and ran a week-long VBS at a local village

church. Finally, we helped continue the construction of a community center in the El Cabio Region of the Dominican Republic. At this center, villagers will one day receive medical care, practical education, and will hear the good news of Jesus. – *Pastor Paul Weitzel* ●





Sinking Spring Community • SINKING SPRING, PA

Community EC spent a week in the Boston MA area this summer. We partnered with Praying Pelican Missions and a local church. We conducted a basketball clinic in the community and replaced all of the light fixtures in the church. We also did some work projects in the community that were coordinated by the county’s social worker. Those projects included cleaning, organizing, and painting several homes. We also power washed the outside of a home and the fence that surrounded the property. In addition to that, we cleaned out flower beds, trimmed bushes, and laid mulch. We went into the city of Boston to do some evangelistic outreaches. – Rev. Tim Sanger



Trinity Lighthouse Church • ROYERSFORD, PA

POLAND - For the second year in a row, several members of Trinity Lighthouse Church in Royersford, Pa and two members from Trinity Boyertown, traveled to Palowice, Poland to help with the American English Camp. We taught English to 66 students using people of the Bible each morning, played fun camp games in the afternoons, and learned about Jesus and sang in the evenings.

– Amy Sandberg

PALOWICE, POLAND – In May a construction crew of five men from and associated with our church spent 1½ weeks building bunkhouses in support of the Evangelistic English camp to take place in July at an evangelical church in Palowice. This is the 18th year for the construction trip and the English camps have been ongoing for 35 years. Hundreds of kids over the years have been introduced to Christ and now



follow him through the reach of these English camps. Pastor Marian Pawlas (Polish pastor) oversaw the building of three more bunkhouses as well as repairs to the existing facility.

JAPAN - JULY - Two members spent 1½ weeks helping to teach English during the English Kids' Camp at Grace Garden Church in Ebina, Japan. Fifteen children registered and three of them were from non-

Christian families. English was taught with the gospel being explained through the English lessons.

NEPAL – In April two men from the church spent two weeks in Nepal with Reach Out Nepal, leading three leadership seminars. Teaching subjects were How to study the Bible and Jehovah's Witness beliefs VS Protestant beliefs. Reach Out Nepal is a ministry that seeks to provide training

in farther out areas of Nepal to pastors and church leaders that cannot afford or do not have access to any/limited Christian leadership training. We are normally teaching people with a



5th-8th grade education. We also provide some training to the pastors so that they can then teach both literacy classes in villages and anti-trafficking training (a large problem in villages.) While there is training available around the capital of Kathmandu, once you leave those areas availability and travel are problematic.

Reach Out Nepal seeks to solve some of these issues by taking the teaching to the farther out areas. Reach Out Nepal's phi-

losophy is to train pastors/ leaders who will then go back and train others. That way our time is multiplied.
– Curt Sandberg



St. David's EC Church • WEIGELSTOWN, PA

The Elevate Youth Ministry of St. David's held a local work team ministry on July 19-23. Twenty youth and adults served by weeding, clearing brush, mulching, painting and general cleaning at several homes of the church and community. The youth stayed at church members' homes in order to build fellowship among the youth and adults. Members of St. David's provided lunches and dinners for the workers.

A high-point of the work team ministry happened when the youth were grouped into two teams

that went to homes of the elderly and shut-ins for fellowship and prayer.
– Rev. Pat Teaford



Grace EC Church • AKRON, PA

Ablaze Youth Ministry had the honor of going to Trinidad this past July to serve along side of Brad Waldman and Trincity Church! Our week was filled with many acts of service which included preparing and building VBS props for Trincity church, walking many streets to hand out fliers for the upcoming VBS, visiting a children's home, and running a VBS style day for children from a nearby town that is made up of lower income families. If you would ask any team member what was most meaningful about this trip, they would tell you about the amazing fellowship and friendships they made with our "Trini" friends. As some of you who went on mission trips will know, plans really don't stick! With the unexpected changes, we were able to create lasting friendships and encourage new believers in their walk with God. Because of these changes, we were able to spend all our time with the church family at Trincity. We spent every waking hour with Trincity's youth group and other church family members. Our team of students grew in their leadership skills and were stretched out of their comfort zones. What always amazes me about short term mission trips is the way we can love people we just met so deeply. God can take complete strangers that live miles and oceans apart and bring us together so beautifully and bond us together for eternity by the blood of Christ!

– Jen Brubaker, Ablaze team leader ●





Work Team

- FAIRBANKS, AK

A work team of ten from various churches, sponsored by Global Ministries, went to Camp LIWA outside of Fairbanks for two weeks in mid-August to do construction and general work around the camp. We have been sending teams to this Christian camp for over 12 years. ●

Grace Church • KUTZTOWN, PA

Grace Church sent a team of fourteen adults to Mexico this summer. They traveled from July 13-22 to assist at Mission Mazahua, near Mexico City. Mission Mazahua is an outreach center run by the parents of a member of Kutztown Grace. The Mission's goal

is the proclamation of the Gospel as they love and serve the marginalized, not only with compassion but acts of mercy as they point people to Jesus. Our team participated in the life of the mission in a variety of ways from encouraging the staff, to visiting micro

enterprises facilitated by the mission, to providing needs for local families. It was a huge blessing to be a small part of what God is doing at Mission Mazahua! Please continue to pray for the mission and their work for Christ and His Church! – Pastor Adam Roberts ●



Trinity EC Church • BOYERTOWN, PA

PERU - We had three adults travel to Chinchipe, Peru to minister with E3 partners. Mary Lee Boswell, Gretchen Rogers and Ashley Stout-Drumheller traveled to Peru on July 22nd and returned on August 13th. This was the second trip to Chinchipe and a great opportunity to see the fruits of last year's visit while also developing new relationships and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people there. E3 missions stress developing relationships and connecting the people with local churches in order to foster a lifelong relationship with the Lord.

KENTUCKY - Eight of our senior high youth and three adults recently traveled to Kentucky and served the community there through Big Creek Missions. We worked on various construction projects for the local people. We also had our group serve the community in food service, child care and caring for the elderly. Based in Bear Branch, Kentucky, Big Creek Missions works to connect churches and volunteer groups from across the country with needs that exist in the Leslie, Clay, and Perry

County Kentucky areas. Their primary task is to locate ministry opportunities for churches that travel to their area, and in addition provide accommodations for those groups.



PITTSBURGH - A group of six junior high youth and two adults traveled to Pittsburgh and performed mission work with World Vision. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization that has a global commitment to community development, disaster response and child well-being. Our group helped by working at the Pittsburgh Global Distribution Center. While there, they sorted and packaged clothing and other items designated for specific areas of the world.

- Chas Krause, missions chairman ●



Faith EC Church • WICONISCO, PA



WORKING HANDS FOR CHRIST- WORLD VISION MISSION TRIP

- Lydia Riegel (age 13) traveled with the Millersburg Working Hands for Christ mission group on a World Vision Mission's trip to the Appalachia area of West Virginia. Lydia spent a week in West Virginia working at two different families' homes to do much needed repairs. Lydia and the group repaired a roof, dry-walled and painted bedrooms, repaired a bathroom and replaced a kitchen floor. She really enjoyed connecting with the families and seeing the smiles on their faces when

the work on their homes was complete.

HOPE'S HAVEN

CAMP - Morgan Riegel (age 20) and Ben Riegel (age 17) supported the Hope's Haven Camp Ministry this past summer as camp guides. This is Morgan's fifth year helping at camp and Ben's second. They spend two to three

weeks of the summer helping at Hope's Haven. The purpose of Hope's Haven Camp is to introduce abused and neglected children to the life-changing and healing reality of Jesus Christ and to help equip them to have meaningful, productive lives. We do this through a back-to-nature, fun-filled camping experience.

Morgan enjoys helping the campers with games, crafts and has also been a kitchen helper. Each sum-

mer she quickly formed a close bond with the campers she was assigned and was glad to be able to talk to them about Jesus and what his dying on the cross means for them and all of us. Ben enjoys playing the games with the campers and helping the campers with the Bible verse look-up races. He is able to show the campers how to be competitive in a good, Christian way. He also enjoys the camp fire time of sharing how the Lord is working in each of their lives. - *Debra Riegel*



Faith EC Church • LANCASTER, PA

Matt Latschar and Michelle Kime from Lancaster Faith ministered with Live 10:27 Ministries from July 16-August 3, 2018. Matt writes: "This summer, fifteen of us from all over North America, including Pennsylvania, Texas, Missouri, Delaware, New Mexico, and Canada,

traveled to Europe with Live 10:27 Ministries. This two and a half week mission trip focused on evangelism and forming relationships with others on the team as well as those whom we met while backpacking around Europe. We traveled through

Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Along the way world view survey cards were used by team members to start conversations with complete strangers and open up conversation about what they believed. These conversations were



not required, but geared toward the sharing of the gospel. Each team member was also equipped with books for those strangers who were interested in learning more about what was talked about. This trip forces team members to move outside of their comfort zone in a multitude of



foreign countries and trust God to provide a mission trip unlike any other.”

– Rev. Joel Kime

YOU LEAD PROGRAM – GREAT LAKES REGION

- On Wednesday, June 6th, six teens - Laurel Flynn, Hailie Panos, Krissy Royer, Grant Ace, Brandon Cross, and Heath Lewis, from the You Lead program, were led by Rev. Chris Lewis to Mukono, Uganda. You Lead is a leadership and spiritual formation camp for high school students looking to go in depth in understanding what it

means to be a Christian, how to pray, and how to be a light for Jesus where they are planted. You Lead works on a unique three-year cycle. The first two years these youth attend a week of summer camp. Each year helps them discover their gifts and graces that God has blessed them with and how they can use them to serve God. The third year they are able to use those gifts God has given them on a mission trip. These teens helped decide on where to go and they planned the ministry

aspects of this mission trip to put into practice their faith and the gifts God has blessed them with. They held a Vacation Bible School at the Blessed Christian Church for 175 children from the community. They visited several schools and were able to share Bible stories with the children, teach them songs and play with the children. They also did some community projects such as cleaning out the community spring and cleaning a school and its grounds.

– Rev. Chris Lewis ●



Trinity EC Church • LITITZ, PA



GUATEMALA - From July 16-23, ten members of our congregation traveled to Guatemala with Orphan Resources International (ORI). This was the second time that we sent a team to Guatemala. At *My Special Treasure* orphanage, we cleaned and painted the exterior of the girls' dormitory and spent some time helping dry-wall an addition that ORI teams had built earlier in the year. We ended each day with a soccer game with the girls living at this home. Each day through-

out the week, a different small group of us had the opportunity to travel with ORI staff to several orphanages throughout the area, delivering food staples and other essentials such as toiletries and cleaning supplies. We also were able to hand-deliver the school supplies, toys, and sports equipment that the group donated. It was very eye-opening to see the great need at these orphanages while making these deliveries. On our last two days in the country, we spent time with the children at two very different orphanages – one in Guatemala City and the other in rural Guatemala. It was such a blessing to us to see the smiles on the children's faces as we jumped rope, drew pictures, and played on the swings with them.

They also enjoyed the hot dogs, chips, soda and cookies that we were able to serve them – real treats compared to their usual diet. We were changed by the experience and hope to return with a team in two years. – *Karen Fry*

NEW YORK - Lititz Trinity sent a team of 13 students and adult leaders to serve at a Reach Workcamp in New Berlin, NY from July 8 -14. They helped repair homes for families in need. By the end of the week, homeowners walked out onto new decks, rolled up and down newly installed wheelchair ramps, smiled as they gazed upon their freshly painted homes, and celebrated “no more leaks” because of new roofs that were installed. Reach Missions is a great way for students to bless others, meet new people, work as a team, learn new skills and grow in their walk with Christ. Lititz Trinity has partnered with Reach for more than 25 years! – *Rev. Ryan Taylor* ●



Emmanuel EC Church • BETHLEHEM, PA

My son Joshua and I went on a mission trip to Dominican Republic June 30th-July 7th, 2018. We worked at a church called Centro Vision Del Rey in the town of Consuelo which is pastored by Pastor Julio. Our week consisted of Construction, Home Visits and Vacation Bible School. The construction consisted of mixing cement by hand and pouring concrete columns so they can build a

2nd floor to the church. On the home visits we broke into groups and walked around the community of Consuelo, knocking on doors and/or talking to people in the streets. Vacation Bible School was a blast and re-



quired lots of ENERGY. We had between 250-300 kids per day. – Laura Hoffert



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