

A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church

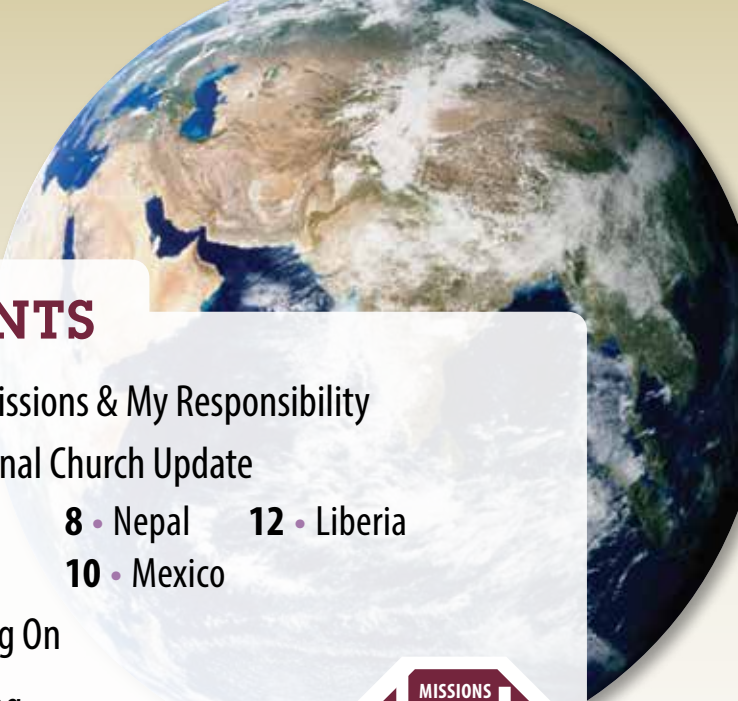


# window

ON THE WORLD



**Bringing  
Light into The  
Darkness**



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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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# Money, Missions & My Responsibility

I INNOCENTLY TYPED the word “missions” into my browser and was inundated with more information than I could process! One site, [www.aboutmissions.org](http://www.aboutmissions.org) gave me 3 pages of statistics from various resources. Here are just a few that deal with missions, money and unreached peoples.

- Christians make up 33% of the world’s population, but receive 53% of the world’s annual income and spend 98% of it on themselves (Barret and Johnson 2001, 656).
- Only .1% of all Christian giving is directed toward mission efforts in the 38 most unevangelized countries in the world (Barret and Johnson 2001, 656).
- Americans spend 95% of offerings on home-based ministry, 4.5% on cross-cultural efforts in already reached people groups, and .5% to reach the unreached (The Traveling Team).
- There are 430,000 missionaries from all branches of Christendom. Only between 2 and 3% of these missionaries work among unreached peoples (The Traveling Team).

My point is this; even with all our technological, educational, medical and financial advances, if we are going to reach the unreached, the old mission paradigm of Pray, Give & Go still applies today. Will you pray with me, asking God to call individuals from within the EC Church who will go to the unreached populations of our world and share the Good news of Jesus with them? Will you give financially so that they can go? Will you go to others in your church, Sunday school class or small group and invite them to do the same? May the articles and updates in this issue inspire and encourage you to get or remain engaged in the Great Commission! 🌍



– by Randy Sizemore,  
Global Ministries  
Associate



# The EC Church of Japan

## Creating Christ Communities

**THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST** is shared, received, planted, nurtured, understood and applied in the context of community. The EC Church of Japan understands this and has been creatively creating opportunities where Japanese men, women, boys and girls can encounter Jesus within community. Our two youngest congregations, Fuchinobe Community Church and Grace Garden Church are using English classes, cell groups, international gatherings, organizational seminars, child care and family festivals to introduce people to Jesus and his Good News. Since our last report, there have been at least three individuals who have been baptized as a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment to follow him.

The GMC is thankful that we can continue to financially support these two young works at their current level for the next two years. We are intentionally facilitating relationships between our Japan Conference and local congregations here in the USA such as Grace Community of Willow Street and Community Evangelical in Sinking Spring, PA. These two congregations are committed not only to supporting the work financially



but they also maintain regular contact with our Japanese pastors and visit the work in Japan on a regular basis.

Rev. Nobuo Abe shares that at Sagami-hara Grace they still have their mother and children's ministry for ages up to three years. They get 8-10 children a week. They also restarted their children's only ministry, which gives the mothers a break for a few hours. So far they have three boys. Their daughter Kaori and another lady, Yuka are in charge of this ministry. Yuka is not a believer, but enjoys working at the church. Nobuo also has a ministry to help folks with schizophrenia; currently there are three coming.



God is moving in Japan! The Japan Congress on Evangelism was held in September 2016 with about 2000 people attending, including our EC pastors. Yoriyoshi shares that even though the Franklin Graham Festival in Tokyo has ended, local churches continue to work together for the evangelism of children and youth. On November 3, 2016 they hosted a Children & Youth Festival at an amusement park in Tokyo with more than 2,000 children, youth and parents attending. 🙌



# India

The EC Church of

## Training & Equipping For Ministry

**M**any of those attending learned for the first time the necessity of the five "solas": Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, Jesus Christ alone and for the glory of God alone. Their eyes were opened to the essentials of the Evangelical doctrine. Most of them received new insights, new visions and a new understanding of the missionary life and were encouraged to accomplish the Lord's purpose for their lives."

This is how General Director Kaitinkap Vaiphei described the most recent ECCI Missionary Training held December 15-18, 2016 in Arunachal Pradesh, North East India. The GMC partners with the EC Church of India to offer regional training opportunities like these for their missionaries and pastors. This particular training event had 37 participants and was offered in the Assamese, Hindi, Nepali and English languages. Along with plenary sessions, the workshop topics included:

- A Missionary In The Field
- The Life & Commitment Of A Missionary
- Conflict Management
- Personal Evangelism
- Missional Church
- Foundations Of Evangelical Doctrines

Along with these regional training venues, the GMC also helps the EC Church of India support their Evangelical College of Theology which trains men and women for pastoral and mission ministry. Recently they held a one day Youth Music Festival with choirs and groups from several local congregations attending. Lalrosiem Songate, Principal of ECT

is scheduled to complete his studies and defend his doctoral dissertation at Concordia Seminary in February 2017 and then return to India.



Once again, by partnering with local EC congregations here in the USA, we were also able to secure the funding of a lap top computer and projector for a missionary in the remote area of Assam to show the Jesus Film and other media during VBS and community programs. 🌐



# Nepal

The EC Church of

## Bringing Light into The Darkness

**THE COUNTRY OF NEPAL** continues on the front line of the struggle between the light of the Gospel and the darkness of disbelief. The persecution has seemed to settle down somewhat in the last few months but it can always flare up again. We praise God for what great things He is doing through our brothers and sisters in Nepal. It has been a busy quarter which included a VBS program of 4 local churches reaching 75 children with 10 professions of faith! ECCN also continues to train the leadership of this

young conference. Their most recent Leadership Seminar included Old & New Testament survey courses, classes on local church administration and workshops on performing child dedications, funerals and Holy Communion.

The October Youth Conference attracted over 200 youth, many of whom responded to the challenge of reading the Bible for 30 minutes each day and a commitment not to marry outside of the Christian Faith. There is a growing problem with Christians marrying Hindus. Two

new congregations have been established and in 2016 ECCN recorded 189 new converts and 194 baptisms! The major construction work on the Mercy Home/ECCN Office building is completed. They recently painted the exterior and will continue to finish the interior as funding becomes available. The GMC will host an international delegation to Nepal's Annual Conference November 8-12, 2017 where we will dedicate this new building to God's service. 🌍



# Mexico

The EC Church of

## On Mission!

**AS I HAVE BEEN REPORTING** for the last year, the EC Church of Mexico is on mission to become a National Conference. Becoming a National Conference (being self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating) is not an end in itself, it is actually a beginning- a commencement if you will. Now that the local congregations have organized, strategized and identified their unique role in the global Church of Jesus Christ, they can begin to reach their communities, cities, states, country and world together! In their application/documentation submitted to the GMC for National Conference status, they list their primary purpose as fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ both inside and outside of their beloved country of Mexico. In my last report I noted the various ways they are reaching into their communities with the Good News of Jesus including youth camps,

marriage ministries, men and women's ministries, small groups and of course the IGLE Kids program that was the recipient of our GMC/VBS project offering in 2016.

Along with these local programs, the EC Church of Mexico once again sent a mission team to Veracruz in southern Mexico to minister to the marginal indigenous population there. Taking food, clothing and shoe boxes full of items for the children, they have open doors to share the gospel in both word and deed to many forgotten people.

Our plan is to have a delegation from the EC Church of Mexico at our 2017 National Conference sessions to officially grant them National Conference status and then the GMC will host a small delegation to Mexico July 27-31, 2017 to celebrate this achievement with them at a gathering of their conference members. 🌍

### EL RETIRO CHILDREN'S HOME:

**WE CONTINUE TO HELP** El Retiro Children's Home transition as our official partnership with them will come to an end in January 2018. The children utilizing ERJ have been relocated to other service providers. We have encouraged directors Carlos & Martha to take a short sabbatical following the relocation of the children while the Board of Directors of ERJ continues working on future ministry options for the facility. 🌍



# Liberia

The EC Church of

## Struggles in Sustainable Ministry

**SINCE HIS ELECTION** and installation, Rev. Abraham Powell, the newly elected Bishop of the EC Church of Liberia (ECCOL) continues to connect and interact with the four districts comprising the ECCOL to prioritize their extensive needs. In the mean time, local and district wide ministry continues. Their annual Youth Camp in August was attended by 114 youth from three of the four districts. The Gospel is being shared in word and also in various other hands-on

ways. If you are a Facebook friend of Abraham, you have seen the photos of him taking food and clothing to needy villages in the name of Jesus. Below is an excerpt from his post edited by me.

*Liberia is getting more challenging economically than ever before. You will not believe that children in the rural and semi urban areas don't even have clothes to wear. Their parents will struggle and purchase one suit for them and that will be kept for only occasion like church service or visit of an important guest to the town. We traveled to Gbii District, Nimba County which is approximately 200 miles away from Monrovia. There are over 300 children here in Tiah Town with no opportunity to go to school, no clothes to wear and no access to any sort of health care. The EC Church of Liberia has 8 local churches in this district alone. We cannot preach the Gospel of Jesus without addressing some of these needs. GOD BLESS YOU.*

The GMC is committed to helping ECCOL share the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed. We continue to discuss

ways to help ECCOL meet needs and develop ministries that can be as sustainable, successful and as self-sufficient as possible. Last July we found out that Henry Dennis, one of the ECCOL leaders was in the U.S. on a short visit and we were able to quickly secure donations of laptops, a projector and a few other items to send back with him for ECCOL. Thank you EC Church for your rapid response and generosity! We praise God that we were able to send funds in 2016 that enabled them to purchase motorcycles for the more remote district pastors who are often forced to walk many hours in order to minister to their congregations. We have also selected the Biblical literacy program as the VBS project for 2017 with a goal of raising \$10,000 to help Liberians learn to read their Bassa translation Bibles. Pastor Rick Sergi, chair of the GMC Liberia Committee is helping me recruit some other people to join us on the committee to help steward the work in Liberia. 🙏



# Journeying On

— by Beth Grimm

**ALTHOUGH SOME MAY** remember me from quite awhile back, many may find my name new to this mission venue. After college, I taught in a one-room school setting for Missionaries' Kids (MK's) for five years in Tanzania, followed by five years in



of breast cancer and three years of dealing with herniated discs followed by back surgery, now all fully healed. So here I am fifteen years later with a lot more experience after working in a small private school for kids who have learning disabilities

Pennsylvania for graduate school and working on staff at my church. While investigating more options for MK education in addition to boarding school or home school, I taught and led a supervised home school extension program called the Field Education Program (FES) in Guatemala for four years, followed by one year teaching middle school at Christian Academy of Guatemala (CAG) and trying to draw attention to the needs of struggling students by tutoring a few of them. Returning to the States in 2001 for another round of graduate school, I expected to return there, but was sidetracked by a variety of obstacles and health issues, such as two episodes

and being in private practice for over ten years dealing with a variety of students from cyber school, privates schools, home school, college, and even serving seminary students who need accommodations. All the while, my vision to assist MK schools worldwide remained on the back burner. It did not take much of a spark to reignite when requests came from Guatemala, Mexico, and other missionaries on furlough needing specialized psycho-educational testing for their children who struggled in school. During my parenthesis of illness, recovery, and low energy, the Lord brought kids to me here in Lancaster, whose families are missionaries from Tanzania, China, and Russia for testing, while several home

school mothers contacted me by email for consultation on intervention ideas.

What does an international MK school consultant do? Anyway, that title is too long, so how about just calling me an educational specialist! With certifications as a School Psychologist, Reading Specialist, Educational Therapist, Dyslexia Therapist, and Elementary Education, the Lord has fully equipped me to “come along side” parents, teachers and students in missionary school settings to assist with consultation, intervention and assessment. These three prongs mean that I give parent-teacher in-service workshops or seminars, brainstorm with parents and teachers about which well-researched intervention strategies might work for them, and do a lot of testing to see whether or not the child has a learning disability, and if so, what kind and to what extent.

Which is better: to spend “a little bit” for me (one person) to go from school to school, country to country, or to have a family return to their country of origin because they cannot access appropriate education for their child or children? Learning Disabilities such as Dyslexia,

Nonverbal Learning Disabilities, ADHD, Asperger's (Autism), Gifted with ADHD, Anxiety, and/or any combination of these may become major stumbling blocks for kids who learn differently than the majority of their peers. And when the children are struggling, it affects their parents' work and ministry, often to the point that the family decides to leave the mission field to get the help they need. So my ministry enables them to stay in missions!

Once upon a time, I began itinerating around the county doing substitute teaching in 12 different public school districts and 12 Christian and private schools. Eventually, I was itinerating around the country of Guatemala in the FES program supporting missionary families by traveling to their village areas to provide the curriculum and help supervise their home schooling, giving the moms an occasional break. Now I'm on the verge of itinerating around the world! I am going to MK schools in Guatemala and Oaxaca, Mexico annually, with other requests from Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and home school families in Central Asia. Your prayers are essential for my health and safety in these adventures! 🌍





## Introducing...

### IVY LIMBERT

#### IVY IS ONE OF OUR NEWEST

missionary candidates. She grew up in Lititz, PA (one of America's coolest small towns, as she is proud to point out) and is a member of our Trinity EC Church there. Music is a big part of her life, and she plays seven instruments (mostly brass.)

Ivy is the youngest of three girls and was homeschooled. She did her higher education at Lancaster Bible College, graduating with a degree in teaching English as a Second Language. She has worked at Sturgis Pretzels in Lititz for several years, exposing her to many



tourists from other countries. This fueled her desire to serve the Lord by teaching English overseas in a missions setting. Using her college training, she has started the process of writing an apologetics course for English language learners.

Ivy will be teaching at Black Forest Academy, a boarding school for missionary children, located in Germany. She is currently raising support and hopes to be in Germany in time for the fall school year. Ivy is available for limited deputation (due to her responsibilities at her home church.) Contact the GMC office if you wish to have her speak at your church.

### CASSANDRA WELLS

**CASSANDRA, OR CASSIE AS SHE'S KNOWN**, is native to Royersford PA and is a member of our Trinity EC Church there. She comes from a large PA Dutch family and enjoys family gatherings. She loves music and theater, and even was classically trained in opera singing while in school.

Cassie went to Gettysburg College, at first to become a veterinarian, but God had other plans for her life. She changed to a double major in Religious Studies and History. Cassie has had the opportunity to visit the Dominican Republic and Morocco through college programs, and also has met a number of international counselors at the camp where she



also served as a summer counselor.

While at Gettysburg she became involved with Disciple Makers, a campus ministry. She felt led to get involved with this ministry after graduation, seeing how some students struggle to find themselves during their college life. Cassie is currently living in the Lehigh Valley area of PA and support raising while continuing her training with

Disciple Makers. She hopes to receive her assignment (which will be a campus somewhere in PA) soon. Cassie is also available to share about her ministry. Contact the GMC office if you would like to have her come to your church. 🌍

## OUR 2017 MMK/VBS PROJECT

**MOST OF US OWN** at least one Bible; more likely we have several, each a different version. Thanks to organizations like Wycliffe Bible Translators, portions of the scriptures have been translated into 1300 of the world's languages. More people than ever can read God's Word in their heart language.

What do you do though, when the problem isn't translation, it's literacy? That's what our EC churches are facing in Liberia. After more than a decade of civil war and then the Ebola epidemic, Liberia as a nation is slowly trying to rebuild its infrastructure. During those 15 years of disaster, most institutions which we take for granted – schools, post offices, banks, etc. – did not operate or only operated spasmodically. As

a result, there is an entire generation that has not had any schooling, so they are functionally illiterate.

The bishop of the EC Church of Liberia, Rev. Abraham Powell, has developed a plan to help his people with both their ability to read and also to learn the scriptures. He wants to open learning centers in strategically located EC churches, where people would be taught to read using the Bassa translation of the Scriptures. Most of our EC church members are Bassa tribe members, so this means they will learn to read the Bible in their heart language.

We are hoping to raise \$10,000 for this project. Funds are needed to provide Bibles and to pay teachers for each location, as well as learning materials. Watch for more information on our GMC page on the denominational website, [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com). 🌍

## Work team going to Alaska

**Fairbanks, AK** - The Global Ministries Community will once again sponsor a work team to Camp LIWA in Fairbanks, Alaska. The team will spend two weeks (August 5-19) cleaning, painting, and whatever other work needs to be done to get the camp ready for winter. GMC has been sending teams to Camp LIWA for over 15 years! 🌍



## Sinking Spring PA

**Community EC** is taking a summer mission trip to Merida Mexico July 7-15 through Christian Endeavor. We will be conducting a VBS and also doing work projects that week. We will attend church on Sunday July 9, and later that afternoon we will attend a cultural event in town center.

– *Tim Sanger, youth pastor*

## Manheim, PA

**Trinity EC** will send a Mini-Mission Work Team of youth and adults as volunteers to Twin Pines Camp from June 18-21, 2017. This is the tenth consecutive year that a team will help prepare the camp for the summer ministries.

Previous projects included: clearing or widening

trails, painting or staining playground equipment/gazebo, pool repair, kitchen inspection clean-up, and building bridges around lower pond.

– *Rev. Jeff Schell, pastor*

## Reedsville, PA

**Bethesda EC Church** - April 2-7 – 12 adults will be traveling to Greenbrier, West Virginia. Working with Mennonite Disaster Relief, this work team will be focusing on repair and rebuilding jobs in the community -- on June 23, 2016, most of West Virginia was hit by thunderstorms, torrential rain, and flash floods. Some areas received up to 10 inches of rain within 24 hours time, which led to this storm being known as a 1000-

year event. Greenbrier County was the hardest hit, with over 1200 homes damaged, roads washed out, and bridges destroyed. – *Rev. Mark Brooks*

## East Weissport, PA

**People's EC Church** will be undertaking a short term mission trip to Wayne County, New York this summer. The trip, sponsored by Group Work Camps, will have the missionaries aiding the elderly, working with children, and cleaning up the community. There are currently 12 congregants, six children and six adults, registered to attend this trip. Out Of the six children, four will be attending their first mission trip. Please be in prayer for our group from July 23-28.

– *Rev. Ken Ogden, pastor*

## Steelstown, PA

**St. John's EC Church**, – The youth ministry is planning to send 10 students from the ages of 13-16, and 4 adults to serve in Kentucky this summer. The team is scheduled to work with Big Creek Missions, located in Bear Branch, Kentucky, from June 25-July 1. They will have the opportunity to use their skills and abilities to serve in children's ministries, community ministries, and construction projects. – *Joel Wolfe*

## Grace Community Church, Willow Street PA

**Sports XChange International** – February 2-11 – A team of three GCC members recently returned from Colombia, South America where they participated in a fast-pitch softball tournament. During intermissions, the team offered evangelistic messages to the teams and fans. Hundreds were in attendance for several of the games, and in one game 47 individuals responded to the invitation to Christ! Terry Erb, Randy Kelley and Fred Stehman of GCC were blessed by this opportunity to serve the Lord...and of course...play ball!

**Relief Bus** – January 27-29 – Teams of 8-12 members of GCC traveled to Elizabeth, NJ to participate in the Relief Bus. With the Relief Bus ministry, volunteers traveled into New York City to distribute free food and supplies to the homeless. In many instances, volunteers had the opportunity to not only share bread and

soup with those in need but also share the love of Jesus. Bill & Linda Hershey, Lois Yost, Allen & Fran Gruver, Mike & Jen Schneider, Rob Barley, Denise Weidman, Heather Ranck and Sherry Snyder returned from the trip in January feeling beyond blessed!

**Romania** – June 21-July 5 – Members of the GCC family will join with a local church in Millersville, PA to travel to Casa Ray Orphanage in Romania this summer. The team will host an English reading camp and provide a Vacation Bible School for the children in the surrounding community.

**Kentucky** – June 17-24 – Middle and High School Students at GCC look forward to the yearly Kentucky Missions Trip. Each year, a team of 20+ students and leaders travel to Canyon Falls EC Church to partner with the congregation to care for a host of service projects. In addition to providing general labor, the team

also provides a Vacation Bible School and offers care to local families in need.

**Spain: Caitlin Hickey** – GCC Young Adult, Caitlin Hickey, will travel to Spain June 23-July 2 as part of an internship with LBC and World Team. Caitlin will participate in a Basketball and English Camp for children in the local community of Caceres, Spain. Caitlin's goal is to build relationships through the basketball and English camp while communicating the Gospel through words and actions.

**Spain: Young Adults** – May 22-June 2- Members of the GCC 18:30 Young Adult ministry will travel to Spain this summer to serve alongside BJ and Rachel Whitaker. The Young Adult Ministry, for adults ages 18-30, is a rapidly growing ministry at GCC. Young adults will walk the Camino De Santiago trail witnessing to travelers and sharing the Gospel. The group will travel nearly 50 miles on the trail! 🌍



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