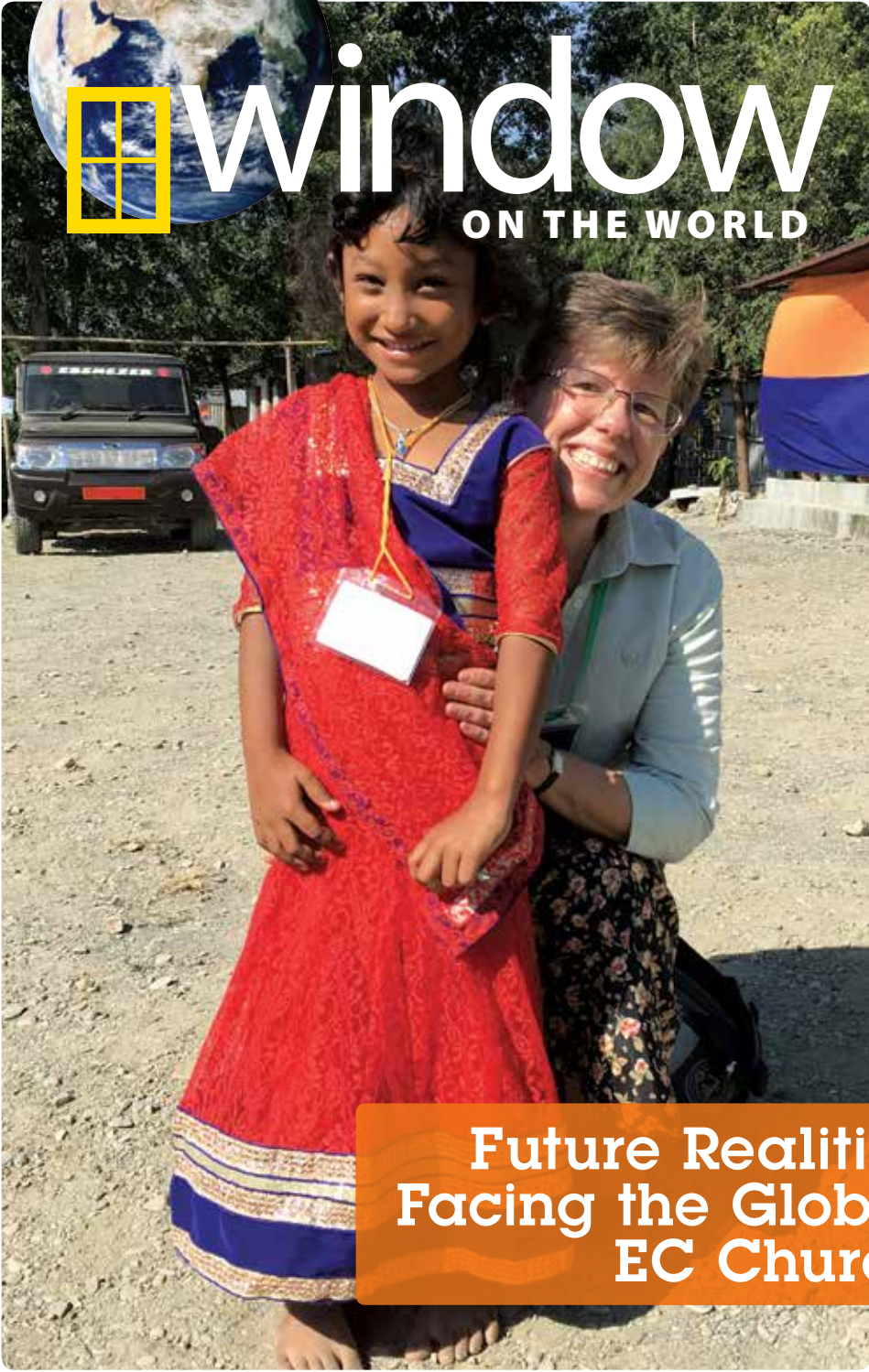


A publication of the Global Ministries Community of the EC Church



# window

ON THE WORLD



## Future Realities Facing the Global EC Church

Spring/Summer 2018 • Volume 30 Number 1

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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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# Future Realities Facing the Global EC Church

**THIS WILL BE** my last issue of *Window On The World* as the Global Ministries Associate. My term will end June 30, 2018. Rather than chronicle all the changes, success and failures we have experienced over the past ten years, let me list what I think are the encouraging realities facing us as a Global EC Church.



– by Randy Sizemore,  
Global Ministries  
Associate

**1. WE ARE CROSS-POLLINATING!** Our international conferences, missionaries and local churches know more about one another, connect more with one another and are working more with one another for the sake of the Great Commission.

**2. WE ARE COMMITTED!** Our international conferences and missionaries are committed to the Kingdom and to working together as the EC Church family. The one reoccurring conversation I have had with leaders and missionaries over the past ten years is the one where they tell me that God has brought them to work with the EC Church and even though it may be more physically, financially or professionally beneficial for them to work with another group or ministry, they're staying put until God tells them to move.

**3. WE ARE CONTRIBUTORS!** Whether we measure it in money given, materials provided or personnel placed, the EC Church family is a **GENEROUS** group of people who are contributing far and above expectations for the cause of Christ.

**4. WE ARE COMPELLED!** The Word of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the opportunity for every person to be born-again by the Holy Spirit of God compels us to pray, give and go, making disciples of every nation. Although spiritual, political, financial, cultural and other forces are trying their best to stop us, we won't quit until Jesus returns!

Carla and I have counted it a privilege to serve the global EC Church, our National Conference and the GMC. God has allowed us to work together with, worship with and walk with so many beautiful people all over this world. We have repeatedly found that Jesus







is the One who brings and keeps us together and that the EC family is a great place to call home! Please remember that this was and will continue to be a group project. We share our successes, struggles and failures together. Thank you so much for your personal support and various expressions of partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ over these past ten years!

We covet your prayers as we transition from the global arena to focus on Dixon Bethel EC Church, and Northern Illinois. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Pat Strain who has given so much of her life and love to the mission efforts of the EC Church and the greater Kingdom of God. She is well loved and appreciated by our national and international EC family. I also want to publically express my appreciation to Bishop Bruce Hill for his personal support and for his readiness to travel to and engage with our global Church. Last, but not least, many thanks to the staff at Church Center for their excellent-often-behind-the-scenes-support. 🙏

# Cassie Wells Commissioning

**CHANGE SEEMS TO BE** the buzzword for the Global Ministries Community this year. As Rev. Randy Sizemore steps down after 10 years of service as Global Ministries Director/Associate, our missionary family is also changing. Some long term missionaries have retired or are planning to in the near future, others are just starting a missionary career.

Cassandra Wells, who goes by Cassie, was formally commissioned on Sunday afternoon, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at her home church of Trinity Lighthouse EC in Royersford, PA. Cassie has been an approved missionary candidate since fall of 2016, and has been working diligently to raise her support so she could begin her work. She was able to reach her goal in January of this year, so we are very happy to have her be commissioned this spring.

Cassie is working in campus ministry with Disciple Makers. She has already begun work at her assignment which is Kutztown University. Cassie is available to speak in churches as her schedule permits, and she does so with great enthusiasm. Please keep her in prayer as she seeks to reach college students with the Good News of Christ. 🌍



# Upcoming Change

**AS YOU HOPEFULLY KNOW** by now, our current Global Ministries Associate, Rev. Randy Sizemore, gave notice that he would not be running for a third term. Randy will have served 10 years when his second term ends officially on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

In response to that news, Bishop Bruce Hill appointed a task force to develop a job description and advertise for a new GMA. The position required that only ordained elders could apply and remained part time. Candidates had to apply and were interviewed by the Task Force and Bishop. They then came to a decision and brought a name to the National Ministry Team meeting in mid-March for ratification.

The name of the recommended candidate was Rev. John T. Rathman, known as Ted. He was approved by NMT, and will be installed at National Conference this year.

Pastor J. Ted Rathman began his pastoral ministry at Grace EC Church, Schuylkill Haven in July 2013. Ted is originally from Reamstown, located in Lancaster County PA. His parents, Ken and Bonnie Rathman, reside there. Ted also has 3 siblings and 7 nieces and nephews.

Ted was commissioned from his home church, St. Paul's EC Church in Reamstown where he attended all his life and where his grandfather John H. Bixler pastored from 1954 to 1961. Ted and his wife Jessica, and daughter Lily moved to Schuylkill Haven in 2013 where they have since added to their family with their daughter Leah Grace Rathman arriving in June of 2014.

After graduating from Cocalico High School, Ted served in the US Navy for 4 years. His first duty station was in Norfolk, VA on the USS Enterprise (CVN 65), and upon completing Operation Specialist "A" School in Virginia Beach, VA he served three years on the Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) in Mayport, FL. When Ted was honorably discharged in 2004 he returned to his home in Reamstown in order to

attend Penn State Berks Campus as an International Studies major. It was at this point in his life that he felt a call to ministry. After graduating from Penn State with honors, Ted began his studies at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, where he graduated from the Masters of Divinity program with honors in May 2012.

**Ted is excited and honored to follow the great leadership of Rev. Randy Sizemore in leading the GMC to continue its work.**



# in GMC Leadership

Ted has served on the Global Ministries Community as a board member since he entered the denomination as lead pastor at Grace EC Church. Ted's first experience with missions was through his youth group at St. Paul's and became an important and formative part of his life. Ted's heart for missions continued through his time in the US Navy, his studies at Penn State, and the opportunities to lead mission trips as a youth



leader. In 2013 Ted traveled with a GMC delegation to Nepal to celebrate EC Church Nepal's 10 year anniversary. Ted also served as the chair of the GMC taskforce which studied the future role, responsibilities, and staffing of the Global Ministries Community as it transitioned from a Commission based structure into the new "Community" based model.

Most recently, Ted led a GMC team to Nicaragua to assess the ministry of our newest EC missionary candidate Dan Quigley. Ted is excited and honored to follow the great leadership of Rev. Randy Sizemore in leading the GMC to continue its work of encouraging and inspiring the EC Church USA to be engaged in God's global vision and mission in reaching the ends of the earth with the Good News of Jesus Christ. 🌍



# LEGACY:

## Because Eternit

**T**o ponder the word *legacy*, one might consider a definition as, "...*heritage, endowment, gift, birthright, provision...*" One could describe the essence of *legacy* as "*something we leave behind after we are gone*". When we researched the word *legacy* we were intrigued to discover that synonyms listed were words such as: **consequence, effect, repercussion, aftermath, footprint, product, and result.**

These are words that leap off the page for us because they describe the goal and passion of our **Intern Ministry** which we offer to young men and women. Through this ministry, our intentions are to **effect change, create positive consequences, leave a lasting footprint, impact a result for the next generation, design a product that brings eternally positive choices, and echo a resounding repercussion for the Gospel** for the up-and-coming leaders of the world.

We are Ed & Valerie Schubert, and we have been serving as EC missionaries for the past 17 years in the Central American nation of Honduras. For six of those years we have been engaging in a life-changing ministry of hosting young

men and women in our home who serve as interns alongside our family and in conjunction with our ministry staff.

The word **legacy** is a perfect descriptor for our Intern Ministry because this is a ministry where our goal is to **leave something of significance for the next generation**. In the six years we have been involved in Intern Ministry, we have hosted and experienced life-altering events with **16 Interns** who came to us from all walks of life. Each intern has brought with him, or her, a unique set of hopes and dreams. Some interns arrived in Honduras having been raised in a city, others transplanting from rural countrysides, and yet others arriving from small, quaint mid-west towns. Various interns were fresh high-school graduates, others had some college experience prior to arrival, and one was a college grad. Some were athletic; others collegiate; some reserved; while others were extroverted and full of rowdiness. Each Intern has been a tremendous blessing and presented with his or her own customized challenges.

For the first eleven years of our mission work, we didn't consider an Intern Ministry as part of our calling. But, in 2012 the Lord impressed a burden upon our hearts for

# LEGACY:

to effect change, create positive consequences, that brings eternally positive choices, and echo



## **A Narrative about A Unique Intern Ministry**

By Ed & Valerie Schubert

With Contributions from Some Incredible Interns

# y Matters



the next generation of Christian leaders and presented us with an opportunity to walk in obedience to His call upon us. We obeyed, to the glory of a merciful God, and we have reaped the benefits of that obedience sixteen times over!

Our interns run along a wide spectrum of spiritual maturity. God has sent us newly baptized interns, interns with a long history of loving Jesus, and others in need of a fresh word from God. Interestingly, as different as our individual Interns have been, there are three things that have proven true with all our Interns.

**1.** God has always had a specific healing, instruction, call or lesson for

each Intern. As He would transplant the Intern from “*known, safe, predictable*” to “*new, scary, different, uncertain, hard*” a wonderful work of eternity would begin and a new depth of relationship with Christ would develop. This translates into **legacy... next generation impact, effect, repercussion.**

**2.** God has always had a tender breaking work to do... not only in the Interns but in us as well. An eternal work will cost in obedience and will require one to be spent on behalf of another. One’s own agenda will have to die, and much love will have to be poured out. It is sometimes frightening to live in transparency with new Interns. Even mission workers have grumpy days! It takes courage to live authentically in front of strangers who take up residence and live intimately alongside us. But, the result is a true “New Testament” church experience. This translates into **legacy... a Kingdom consequence, a desired product, an eternal work.**

**3.** God has always orchestrated life-changing events through the Intern Ministry. Our family, our ministry staff, our Honduran neighbors, the at-risk children we serve, and the Interns themselves experience events which God

leave a lasting footprint, impact a result for the next generation, design a product a resounding repercussion for the Gospel for the up-and-coming leaders of the world.

fills with His power, and lives are changed for eternity. This translates into **legacy... positive aftermath, a footprint, the leaving something of eternal value behind.**

**Currently we are hosting** a lovely, dynamic Intern from Dixon Bethel EC Church located in Dixon, IL. Sarah Smith is a 19 year-old talented young woman who is on a tremendous journey through her internship. These are Sarah's own words: *"The Lord has used my time as an intern at Casa de Luz to open my eyes to more of who He is, who He calls us as followers to be, and different ways that can look. When you become an intern at Casa de Luz, you become a part of something so much bigger. The heart behind the internship is what sets it apart from so many others. Ed and Val focus on building relationships with each intern; they do not just have us come to be an extra set of hands. Instead, they welcome us as part of their family and pour into each one of us on a personal level. In a place where darkness is so prevalent, the Lord has provided a safe and secure place in the Schubert's home.*

*There are two major aspects to this internship: 1.) working at Casa de Luz and 2.) experiencing life with the Schuberts. The Lord has*

*"I would encourage you to consider this internship if you are thinking about long term missions, but also if you want to gain a new perspective on the importance of truly living out the call of Christ.*



*used both areas to change my perspective and change me personally. I honestly cannot express to you the impact that this internship has had on my own life. I have experienced the unconditional love and acceptance of the Father despite what I can bring or do. I have seen the importance of prayer and the reliance we must have on the Lord to find our strength. I have seen the sacrifice that living as true followers of Jesus looks like. The Lord has used this time to equip me for near and far battles. The Schuberts live transparent lives which gives us the opportunity to see how to handle the good, bad, hard, and joy that comes with each day. Through the way that the Schuberts live, you have a glimpse of what life on the mission field looks like but also what living completely committed to the gospel looks like.*

*I have spent a majority of my time in Honduras serving at Casa de Luz. I have worked with the teachers, children, and volunteers during this time. It is here where I was immersed into the Honduran culture and had the opportunity to build relationships with the people of Honduras. As you spend more*

time with the people and learn about their stories it begins to change your perspective. A brokenness comes over you as you see so many people who are in desperate need of the gospel. As you begin to process through the different cultural environment and as the Lord begins to reveal different truths to you, the Schuberts are right there to help you walk through it. The way that they live serves as one of the greatest examples to each of us of what it looks like to love the Lord with all our hearts and to love others with the same love that we have received from the Father. Not only do you learn how to be a part of a ministry, but you have the opportunity to see behind the scenes. You see the genuine heart that goes into loving each of these individuals, the biblical mindset, and the passion of seeing lives changed. The Lord has used that to challenge me to continue to seek after the heart of Christ.

The area of this internship that has one of the greatest impacts is seeing how ministry and family go hand in hand. They have made it very clear through their actions that loving God comes first, loving their family comes next, and then serving the people in the ministry. In a culture where family gets put aside, this internship brings a healthy family environment which the Lord has used to give us an example of what a godly husband, wife, father, and mother should look like. I would encourage you to consider this internship if you are thinking about long term missions, but also if you want to gain a new perspective on the importance of truly living out the call of Christ. He is using their internship and obedient hearts to impact the next generation. This provides an opportu-

*"The internship was good for me. God taught me many things that I just couldn't have learned otherwise. He opened my eyes to the very real world of poverty.*

*nity to live outside of the normal way of life and gain qualities that will set you up for the future. The things that I have learned here I will carry for the rest of my life."*

**Our current male intern**, Samuel Rockwell, from Grinnell, Iowa, shares his view about our internship ministry: *"I have been with Casa de Luz for a total of 12 weeks. I believe the intern program works well because you aren't just coming to work alongside the Schuberts. You are brought into the family to live among them. You are treated the same way they would treat any of their children. I think it is very interesting that each intern is placed in the ministry according to their specific gifts and talents. Another important aspect that stands out to me is the way that the workers, volunteers, interns, and Ed and Val can come together from so many backgrounds, but all maintain the same vision. I believe others should consider interning with Casa de Luz because Ed and Val have shown me the purity and Godliness that they not only possess but practice in their everyday lives. They are open and honest in their faith and truly want to support each intern's spiritual growth. They are always willing to mentor us and listen to what is weighing on our*



hearts and minds. Internship is a valuable element to the ministry because it not only gives the ministry extra feet on the ground, but it also gives the intern a perspective in ministry work. It prepares the intern for a future in the mission field if they feel led by God to come back. It allows you to see the inner workings of a ministry as well as the challenges that they face from day to day."

Former intern, James Sopata from Wisconsin, expresses his experience like this, "The internship was good for me. God taught me many things that I just couldn't have learned otherwise. He opened my eyes to the very real world of poverty. He showed me that the people whom you see in magazines struggling with hunger and looking for safety are very real people with wants and needs, some beyond the physical. I really can't say enough about what this experience meant to me. It helped shape the way that I think and the person that I am. It opened my mind to the reality of the Worldwide Church".

**Destiny Davis**, a 2015-2016 Intern, shares that God had a theme for her during her time of service. "During my time as an intern God taught me so much more than I can put into words. A theme of what He was teaching me during the first half of my internship was relying on Him...in all areas of my life; for fulfillment, energy, for the ability to serve Him and the people He has placed in my life, for communication, and love. I learned a lot about how God is fully sufficient and that, in Him, I lack nothing."

Potential Interns typically contact us by email, then we follow-up with phone interviews, video calls and many times a face-to-face interview. Various references are requested and a timetable is chosen upon positive review of the references. Interns then proceed to raise their ministry finances. Costs for Interns are \$650 per month of service, plus round-trip airfare.

For us as leaders, mentors and hosts, depth of relationship with our Interns is critical. We were once asked by a fellow missionary if our intention with our Intern Ministry was simply to gain free workers, or if we held to a desire to influence the next generation for Christ. We settled that question a long time ago. We are in this for legacy! **LEGACY:** to **effect change, create positive consequences, leave a lasting footprint, impact a result for the next generation, design**





**a product that brings eternally positive choices, and echo a resounding repercussion for the Gospel** for the up-and-coming leaders of the world.

If you, or someone you know, have a similar vision, please go to our web-site: [www.foundationcasadeluz.com](http://www.foundationcasadeluz.com) and check out testimonies of our Interns and answers to the most asked questions. Or, contact us directly for more details: [edvalerieschubert@gmail.com](mailto:edvalerieschubert@gmail.com) **LEGACY... Because Eternity Matters!** 🌍



## 2018 VBS PROJECT

**THE MMK/VBS FOR THIS YEAR** is to help the library of Evangelical College of Theology in Churachandpur, India. They are planning to start an M.Th. program in July.

Here is what the principal, Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate, has to say about the need; "According to the latest assessment of our library books, it is estimated that we have just more than eight thousand titles and a little over ten thousand volumes.

Now to meet the demands of our churches, we are going to start a new graduate program called Master of Theology (M. Th.) which is a program beyond the M.Div. degree when our new academic session begins in July 2018. Initially the M. Th. program will be offered in the area of Missiology.

Our only weakness is in the area of library because we need to have at least twenty thousand volumes of books in our library and most of the books have to be related to Missiology. We believe that the VBS project will enable us to procure sufficient books for our Library and particularly for our M. Th. program."

Our goal is to help ECT get the number and type of books they need so the new program will be accredited, and those attending will have the resources they need.

Five- minute VBS lessons will be posted to the GMC page of the denomination's website by May. Our goal is to raise \$10,000. Please help by participating! 🌍





## DELAWARE MISSIONS BRUNCH A SUCCESS!

**THE ANNUAL** Delaware Region Missions Brunch was held on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at our Hope Community EC Church in Fogelsville, PA. Hope Community has hosted this brunch for us in the past and always does a great job, and they didn't disappoint this time either!

Guest speakers included Rev. Robert & Bettina Schaeffer, and Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus. Both couples brought updates about their respective ministries. Rev. Rick Sergi, pastor at Bethlehem Emmanuel EC Church and chairman of the Liberia Committee, gave a report on his December trip to that country with GMA Randy Sizemore. Over 40 people were in attendance.

Many thanks to Dawn Mengel, the caterer and to the host team from Hope Community for their hospitality. 🌍



# A Faithful Servant – Mary Good

**T**HE EC CHURCH and Global Ministries lost a valued servant and dedicated worker recently. Mrs. Mary Fry Good passed away at the age of 90 on February 9<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Mary was born in Reading, PA and even though she lived much of her adult life in Myerstown, she always considered Reading her home. Mary graduated from Albright College with a B.S. in Education and taught in elementary schools in Reading. Mary was the first Director of Alumni Programs at Albright, a position she returned to several decades later, after raising her family. She was a lifelong member of First EC Church in Reading, until recently changing to Zion EC in Mohnton for convenience' sake.

While living in Myerstown, Mary was chair-woman of the local Women's Club, Education Chair of the Isaac Meier Foundation, and for many years served as the President of the Eastern Branch Missionary Fellowship. Her dedication to the missions program and the missionaries of the EC Church is unsurpassed. Under her guidance, the Eastern Branch produced Mission Minded Kids program material annually, held 2-day Missionary Conventions every year, and developed the fall Festival of Missions. All of these were large and well coordinated events featuring EC mission fields and missionaries, many times tied in with the VBS project to raise funds for a specific need.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, the late Dr. Kenneth Good, and is survived by her daughters Mary Elizabeth and Martha Good, as well as two granddaughters. She most certainly heard the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant" as she entered into the presence of the Lord she loved and served so well. 🌍



# Another Faithful Servant Called Home- Rev. Jack Murray

**REVEREND JOHN M. MURRAY** (known as Jack) 89, passed away peacefully on March 10, 2018, in Grass Valley California. He was born on May 31, 1928, in Maybole, Scotland. It was at age 16 that Jack attended a church meeting that changed his life forever. He recognized his need for a Savior and committed himself to follow Jesus. This eventually led to his attending Bible Training Institute (BTI) in Glasgow. At that time he was the youngest student to attend. God began to give him a concern for the spiritual condition within Europe. He joined European Christian Mission (ECM) and went to Italy in the early '50s. In 1954 Jack married his wife, Martha Cramer from Findlay Ohio and co-parented Harvey and Wesley Copperwheat, her two young foster children. 1961 marked the birth of their son John to the family.

Jack's passion in life was to further the Church. He committed himself to promoting missions, preaching, radio broadcasting, equipping and encouraging missionaries. He traveled widely to churches and Bible schools in the United States, Canada, South Africa and Australia sharing his burden for Europe. His work in Italy primarily focused on establishing Christian radio.

During visits into Communist Eastern Europe in the 1960s and 1970s, he met many believers in the underground churches. On two occasions he was restrained by authorities. Jack was inter-



rogated for hours as a result of trying to smuggle Bibles across the border into Eastern Germany. Another time he was held at gunpoint in Yugoslavia because he was caught throwing gospel tracts from the car window while driving through towns and villages.

Folks were naturally drawn to Jack by his charming Scottish accent accompanied by his exuberant personality. Jack was an avid reader, and when engaged in conversation he could enthusiastically tell you about world events, political happenings, and mission news

Jack and Martha lived in London,



Milan, Verona, Paris, Kandern (Germany), Rossendale (UK), Northampton (UK) and eventually California. During their time with ECM Jack went from being the British Director to European Director and then General Director. His official retirement from ECM was in 1993.

Retirement did not hinder his passion or motivation. He and Martha moved to California to live with John and Melody in 1996, and he quickly involved himself with the missions program at Central Peninsula Church. It wasn't long before he was hired part-time as the Missions Pastor. His remaining 11 years in Northern California provided opportunities to engage in Men's Bible Study, some traveling and further en-

Jack's passion in life was to further the Church. He committed himself to promoting missions, preaching, radio broadcasting, equipping and encouraging missionaries.

joyment of the family. He impressed many by his ability to use the iPad and remained faithfully loyal in communicating with hundreds around the globe before passing into the heavenly realm.

The immediate family left to cherish his memory are Wesley and Michela, John and Melody along with grandchildren: Gabrielle, Elena, David, Stephanie, Lesley, Riley, and Evan, additionally by great-grandchildren, Casey and Acadia. 🌍

**H**is lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' **MATTHEW 25:23**

## Kathryn Kunkel – Home with the Lord

**WE RECEIVED WORD** in December that Kathryn Kunkel, wife of Rev. Donald Kunkel, was called home to be with the Lord on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Kunkels served as EC missionaries for many decades with Village Missions. Most of their service was in Idaho, helping to sustain rural churches by equipping them with pastors. The Kunkels were members of the former Seibert EC Church in Allentown, PA. Kathryn was predeceased by one son and is survived by her husband Donald and another son. 🌍



# The EC Church of Japan



**CHURCH PLANTERS AT GRACE GARDEN CHURCH,** Yoriyoshi & Emiko celebrated the birth of their first child, Kanae Abe on December 26, 2017. Her Japanese name means “to praise God’s name”. They also report having a new Christian couple attending their church. This couple had moved into the area and was looking for a church to connect with. Yoriyoshi, Emiko and Kanae are planning to visit during our National Conference sessions in May. They are also working with a Pennsylvania church about the possibility of them planning a trip to Japan in the summer

to help with an English camp. As mentioned in my last report, in order to continue cross-pollinating our international conferences, I invited Yoriyoshi and Nobuo, Chairman of the EC Church of Japan to join the GMC delegation that traveled to visit the EC Church of Nepal in November 2017. Their presence was a great encouragement! Below are some of Yoriyoshi’s observations and impression of his trip to Nepal.

*Thank you for giving us the opportunity! I was truly inspired and ignited by the trip. God refreshed my vision and even expanded it for His greater Kingdom. Here are my observations and impressions of the trip.*

- *I felt that Nepalese people in general were calm and moderate, like Japanese.*
- *Nepalese and Japanese are very similar in terms of appearance. They said that I resembled the people from one of their tribes.*
- *The Nepalese religious viewpoint is similar to Japanese one:*
  - *They believe Hindu and there are many gods; and Japanese believe Shintoism, an animistic belief, and there are many gods.*
  - *I walked around Kathmandu and found many idols and shrines along the street. We also have those idols and shrines in Japan.*

- *I liked their energetic worship style and I was glad to see many youth.*
- *Through this trip, we are also connected with EC India through their leader, Rev. Kaitinkap. We actually started conversations about having EC India visit Japan 2019. I hope we can encourage each other as EC Asia.*



Tomoyuki and Jessica, Church planters at Fuchinobe Community Church, are rejoicing in the two individuals who were baptized this summer and in the fact that they now have two small groups up and running. They are currently training a worship leader and have begun a children's ministry. In January they began the first of three sessions of the Alpha course. They recently hosted an interest event as a way to meet and develop relationships with non-Christians. Their event was a "Katazuke Seminar".



This organizational seminar was led by Ms. Ida who regularly appears on TV as an organizational expert and happens to belong to the EC Church. As she is sharing tips on home organization, she also tells her audience how she found deep and lasting peace through relying on God.

Pastor Abe of Sagamihara Grace Chapel and Pastor Sudo of Kyodo Grace Church continue to lead their congregations to be life-long students of their culture and communities, praying, engaging and experimenting with various methods of reaching a population of people that are regularly evaluated at less than .03% Christian. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Japan as they continually overcome spiritual and cultural barriers in order to share Jesus with their countrymen. Chairman Nobuo Abe has invited me to travel to Japan in April for some strategic meetings, to teach a leadership seminar and interact with the conference leadership and pastors as they continuing growing into their new National Conference structure. 🌐



# India

The EC Church of



*my expectation. The Nepal EC Church Conference was helpful for me to learn many things. I appreciated their openness to the gospel and their willingness to learn new things and praise the Lord in their own way. I really appreciated the USA Drama team for the efforts they have given for such task. The people of Nepal really appreciated and learn good and new things from them.*

**ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES** from our Japan conference, I also invited Rev. Dr. Kaitinkap Vaiphei, the General Director of the EC Church of India to join the GMC delegation on our visit to the EC Church of Nepal. You may remember that the EC Church of Nepal was birthed out of the EC Church of India so it is a blessing to be able to maintain a good working relationship between the two conferences. This was the first time Kap had visited the EC work in Nepal. According to his comments below, he learned much from his trip.

*Thank you so much for your concern and invitation which enabled me to attend the Nepal EC Church conference where I have learned so many things from the Lord and from other people which is beyond*

While in Nepal, Kap, Rev.

Nathan Kennedy, Chair of the GMC India/ Nepal Committee and I had the opportunity to discuss the work of ECCI and specifically to learn about the progress they have made with the 2016 Covenant that set the pace and direction of their National Conference.

The GMC has designated the 2018 VBS project to help with the development of the library of ECT (Evangelical College of Theology). Principal, Dr. Lalrosiem Songate explains that they are introducing a new M.Th. (Missiology) degree in July of 2018 and will need to have a certain quantity and quality of books in their library. We are happy to help them and have set a goal of raising \$10,000 for this project through our VBS offerings. I am



excited to report that Lalrosiem has gone one step further in developing their library and is working with other local institutions. See his explanation below.

*There are several theological institutions in Churachandpur and our common weakness is in the area of library. Recently, we had a meeting of Principals and Librarians of theological institutions of our town and decided to form a body called **Association of Theological Libraries in Churachandpur** with a purpose of sharing our library resources with one another. We are hopeful that this initial step will come a long way in helping the education of our theological student community.*

Since Lalrosiem has taken over the role of Principal of ECT, he has brought all of his wisdom, experience and creativity to help strengthen and transform ECT into an attractive, effective and efficient training institution for those called to mission and ministry. His development of the ECT Prayer Letter keeps both local and global partners informed and engaged in the mission of ECT. The paragraphs below are a sampling the newsletter and of the student life on campus.

*Being aware of the famous dictum "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!" we set aside three days during October 13-15, 2017 for our Annual Sports event as a part of our extra-curricular activities. Students and staff are grouped into different houses such as Blue House, Yellow House, Green House, etc. Competitions on vari-*

*ous items such as High Jump, Long Jump, Badminton, Carom, Shot put, Volleyball, Soccer, etc. were held. This was a refreshing experience for our students from the strains of their mid-term exams held during the previous month.*

*October 31, 2017 marked the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and as a religious institution, we did not want to let it just pass by unnoticed. Classes were called off and a program was held at the chapel from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Lectures on various themes of the Reformation were presented by the faculty members. Various denominational leaders were also invited to attend the program. This program was the first of its kind and was greatly appreciated.*

If you would like to receive ECT's newsletter via email, contact Lalrosiem Songate at [lsongate@gmail.com](mailto:lsongate@gmail.com) and request to be put on the mailing list. 🌐



# Nepal

The EC Church of

**THE EC CHURCH OF NEPAL** continues to grow and mature as a mission conference.

From November 6-14, 2017 a delegation from India, Japan and the USA traveled to Nepal to participate in the Annual Conference of ECCN which included a first-ever "Youth Gospel Olympics". This new youth component included:

- A singing and dancing competition with 50 participants
- A "mini-football (soccer) tournament" with 20 teams participating
- Christian drama team training by our own U.S. Drama Team

This exciting conference was held at the new ECCN compound in Dharan with 250 registered for conference and about 350 attending daily.

One of the highlights of this trip was the official dedication of the new structure called Mercy Home which serves as the headquarters of ECCN, an orphanage

for boys and the "parsonage" for Janga's family. One of the local EC congregations, Bethel Church is also located on the compound. Once again I invited other international EC leaders to join our team to continue the cross-pollination of our conferences. The international delegates included:

- Rev. Dr. Kaitinkap Vaiphei, General Director of the EC Church of India
- Rev. Nobuo Abe, Chairman of the EC Church of Japan
- Rev. Yoriyoshi Abe, church planter in EC Japan
- Rev. Bruce Hill, Bishop of the EC Church, USA

Because Janga had asked me to bring some youth, I also invited Tim King, GMC member and Director of Ministries for *Drama Ministry*, to consider bringing some of his Drama Team members with him. I am so thankful he was willing and



that Alex, Becca, Emily, Joseph, John and Scott were able to join us! Rev. Nathan Kennedy, chair of the GMC India/Nepal committee, Moti, Nobuo's Japanese/ Nepalese translator, Carla Sizemore and I completed our GMC delegation. This is the largest international delegation to travel with me to date – 15 in total!

During the conference we were able to deepen our relationship and partnership in the Gospel not only with Nepal but with Japan and India. We participated in the baptism of new believers and the ordination of Pastors, Elders and Deacons. Tim King and his Drama Team taught the Nepalese youth how to use drama to present the Good News of Jesus and the Nepalese youth taught them a few things as well.

In June of 2003 Dr. John Ragsdale officially inaugurated the EC Church of Nepal with 3 small churches. Today there are 23 churches and fellowships with approximately 2,500 members, a home for orphan boys and the Evangelical Leadership Training Academy which has 15-20 pastoral and lay students enrolled. In 2017 through these local congregations there were 209 conversions, 187 baptisms



and 2 new congregations established! Rev. Janga has even developed the, "Voice From The Himalayas", the official newsletter of the EC Church of Nepal! (To receive this newsletter via email contact Janga at [thjanga@yahoo.co.in](mailto:thjanga@yahoo.co.in) and asked to be put on the mailing list).

One of our concerns is the new, strictly enforced, "anti-conversion" law in Nepal. Will this law prevent the spread of the Good News? Not according to Rev. Janga. He concludes the first issue of his newsletter with this bold statement:

*Despite of the threat for preaching gospel in public as it is strictly prohibited inviting trouble either in the form of penalty for Rs. 50,000 or imprisonment up to 5 years, every church has great willingness and commitment to stand for Christ as Paul said in Phil 1: 29-30, "not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for the sake of Christ". Your prayer and encouragement is our strength!* 🌍





# The EC Church of Latin America

**IN MAY OF 2017** the Evangelical Congregational Church of Latin America became the third international mission conference to achieve National Conference status.

The leaders of the Conference invited a delegation from the U.S. EC Church to join them in their special session of Conference in July, 2017 to inaugurate their new National Conference, to express their appreciation for our years of partnership and to join them in the installation of their first Superintendent (Bishop) of the National Conference, Rev. Juan Zuniga. During the months following his installation, Rev. Zuniga has been busy! He

has divided his conference up into three districts and has appointed a District Coordinator for each one. Each district will develop its own plan for evangelism and missions. They will meet monthly and report to Juan. In order to keep them on mission, Juan will meet with each district on a regular basis. ***By the way, this is just one more example of the benefits of cross-pollinating our international leaders. Juan was inspired to try this idea of districting because he spent face to face time with Bishop Hill, exchanging ideas and learning from our own conference organization.*** Juan and his leadership team have also established a retirement fund for their pastors and a mission fund. They have installed two new pastoral couples and on November 4, 2017 they began their Bible Institute for pastors and lay leaders' training. 🙏







# Liberia

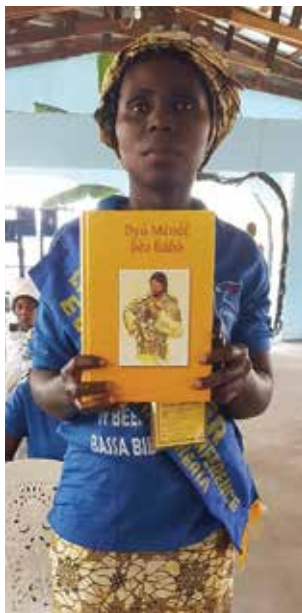
The EC Church of

**JANUARY 18-29, 2018** Rev. Rick Sergi, chair of GMC Liberia Committee and I traveled to Liberia to participate in the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the EC Church of Liberia, (ECCOL). We were excited to interact with newly elected Bishop Abraham Powell and his leadership team and to follow up on several GMC/ECCOL joint projects including the Bassa Literacy project, a Leadership Training project and School System project. The Literacy project involves teaching people who can speak the Bassa language to read and write it as well so that

they can read the Bassa translation of the Bible and be involved in discipleship. You may remember this was our VBS project for 2017. Rick and I met with representa-

tives of this project and were encouraged by the progress being made so far. What a blessing to see adults lovingly holding a copy of the Bible in their own language and being so excited to read it for themselves!

As the old saying goes, "everything rises and falls on leadership", so in order for ECCOL to grow in effectiveness in their mission, Abraham has instituted training for pastors and lay leaders. Rick is helping Abraham with this project by researching and sharing teaching resources and by helping Abraham come up with a two year schedule of classes and subjects. Speaking of education, over the past years, a few of the local congregations





of ECCOL were trying their best to operate Christian grade schools somewhat independently. Abraham has appointed a Principal and is working to connect these schools in a conference wide school system that will be accredited by Liberia's education ministry. The progress they have made in each of these projects in the past two years with the limited resources available to them is very encouraging. Rev. Sergi and the Liberia Committee are currently working on a brochure that will explain these important joint projects and invite your participation in them – stay tuned!

To say that Abraham and his leadership team have been busy these past two years would be a gross understatement! The work of his leadership team includes the construction and/or renovation of



several church buildings, the awarding of scholarships to ECCOL youth to attend academic school, the purchase of musical equipment and furniture for local congregations, the implementation of a new financial accountability structure for the conference, providing motorcycles for rural pastors and most importantly, a renewed vision and determination to reach Liberia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both word and deed. 🌍







## Manheim, PA

**Trinity EC Church** - Travis High traveled to Corpus Christi, TX. Travis' employer, Signature Custom Cabinetry along with Christ in Action (located in Ephrata) sent a team of ten people to provide disaster relief.

**Trinity EC Church** - In May of 2017, I, along with 17 others, went to the Dominican Republic for a week. Throughout the week, we learned more about how Compassion works and what goals they strive for and how they meet the needs of the children, not

only physically but spiritually. We led Vacation Bible School on two separate days, where we planned games, music and crafts for the children. We visited a local church and got to experience their church service and some of our group helped to lead worship. Seven members of our group currently sponsor children in the DR and they got to meet their child, which was an

amazing opportunity! It was truly amazing to see God at work in the Dominican Republic.



- Katrina Schell





**Trinity EC Church** - has a Mini-Mission Work Trip planned for June 17-20, 2018. The trip is an opportunity for Youth to take part in work for a mission. We are encouraging our young people to “give back” and “pay it forward” as a way to meet the Lord’s commandment to love one another. For many years we have assisted Twin Pines Camp prepare for their Summer camping season by completing miscellaneous tasks such as painting, path clearing, landscaping, even a swimming pool repair. It is always a working time but also fun!

**Trinity EC Church** - will once again join in the Manheim Project. This is a common time frame for many local churches to assist folks in the Manheim community. It is an arm of a larger project organized by the Lancaster County group Love, Inc. The goal is to show our love for our neighbors in the local mission field.



Volunteers are assigned to repairs and assistance (based on their skill level) for anything from a new roof or wheelchair ramp to yard work. Volunteers come together to accomplish the tasks. We even

have folks who plan their vacation time to take part in this assistance project. The best part of this project is the relationships we gain in the community and the blessings our volunteers receive. – *Loren Gochauer*



## Fogelsville, PA

This year the Youth from **Hope Community Church** will be doing a local work camp. For a week in August they will camp at a local farm and spend their days doing home improvements for elderly members of the congregation. The week will close with a banquet at the church for all the residents and the team. - *Pastor Ken Kalisz*

## Reedsville, PA

**Bethesda EC Church** - Twelve adults will be forming a work team through Mennonite Disaster Services to Ft. Myers, FL. The work will take place the week of March 11th, and consist of continued Hurricane Irma clean-up and repair. Work will consist of roofing, drywall, insulation, flooring, trim, painting and the installation of kitchen cabinets and vanities. - *Rev. Mark Brooks*

## Temple, PA

The youth group at **Faith EC Church** is planning a mission trip to West Virginia with Christian En-

deavor. We will be going the first week of July. We are excited and ready to the work of the Lord. This is our 4th mission trip. The exciting part this year is that some of our adults are interested in participating. Our youth group consists of 7 students. We are looking forward to this year's mission trip.

-*Tammy Schaeffer,*  
*Youth Group Leader*

## Sinking Spring, PA

**Community EC** will be traveling to Boston MA from July 14-21, 2018. We will be working with Praying Pelican Missions for a week. The team will consist of teens and adult leaders. We will be ministering to the homeless in shelters and on the street. We will also be doing a sports camp for kids. A local high school basketball coach runs the clinic - we will assist him. We also have the opportunity to do some small home repair projects (painting, plumbing, painting, etc.). Boston prides itself on

intellectualism and is considered one of the largest unreached people groups in the country. We have an incredible opportunity to minister to the community in practical hands on ways.

- *Rev. Tim Sanger*

## Royersford, PA

**Trinity Lighthouse Church** will be supporting three mission trips this year:

- **June 11-22** – Palowice, Poland – to build a 3<sup>rd</sup> story on an existing church that will be used to house and minister to addicts.
- **July 8-16** – Palowice, Poland – for our youth to help in an American English Camp where 200-300 kids will be taught English and hear the Gospel.
- **Also in July** – Ebina, Japan – to support one of our denominations church plant at the Grace Garden Church near Yokohama. We still have room to add another person or two to the group that is going to Japan. If you are interested and would like additional information, please contact us at: [Outreach@TrinityLighthouse.org](mailto:Outreach@TrinityLighthouse.org).



## **Willow Street, PA**

**Grace Community** - (1-26-18) Fred Stehman was on a mission trip with SportX-Change International to Panama for 10 days. He traveled with a Masters Ministry group, playing Fast pitch Softball and sharing the Gospel with the fans attending the games. They traveled from town to town, playing softball and engaging in other ministry activities as opportunities arose. Fred was suited up as player/coach - mostly 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach.

**Grace Community** is taking a group of youth and adults to serve with C.E. Mission Weeks in

Fayette County, West VA. The group will do home repairs for the rural poor in that area. The dates are June 24-30.

- *Rev. Addison Roberts*

## **Pitman, PA**

**Zion EC Church** is sending a team of families and teens to Big Creek Missions July 8-14 in Bear Branch, Kentucky. We have 15 on our team. The three areas in which we can serve are construction, community outreach and children's ministry.

- *Pat Hummel*

## **Clarion, PA**

**Clarion, Riverhill Church** - Five people are going

to Brazil to work with the Roofs in June. The group is being led by Michael Reed from The River EC Church in Clarion.

## **Steelstown, PA**

**St. John's EC Church** - The youth ministry is planning to send 11 students from the ages of 12-16, 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 23-June 30. They will have the opportunity to use their skills and abilities to serve in children's ministries, community ministries, and construction projects.

- *Joel Wolfe*



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