



CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

GCC INTERNATIONAL REPORT
FALL 2018

INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES & MINISTRIES:



ASIA

China, Hong Kong
Bangladesh, Bogra
Bangladesh, Jessore
Bangladesh, Kushtia
Bangladesh, Satkhira
India, Bihar
India, Jaunpur
Japan, Tokyo
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
Myanmar (Burma)
Nepal, Biratnagar
Nepal, Dhangadhi
Nepal, Jorpati
Nepal, Kathmandu
Nepal, Khadkwar
Nepal, Kohalpur
Nepal, Mahendranagar
Nepal, Nepalgunj
Nepal, Pokhara
Nepal, Ranjha
Pakistan
Philippines, Bulacan
Taiwan, Taichung
Thailand, Bangkok

AUSTRALIA

EUROPE

Armenia, Yerevan
Germany, Berlin
Germany, Dortmund
Germany, Koln
Italy, Chieri
Italy, Milano
Italy, Torino
Moldova, Chisinau
Moldova, Transnistria
Netherlands, Amsterdam
Poland, Poznan
Romania, Brasov
Spain, Gijon
Spain, Madrid
Spain, Pamplona
Sweden, Lulea
Sweden, Stockholm
Ukraine, Alvchesk
Ukraine, Avdeevka
Ukraine, Brovari

Ukraine, Dimitrov
Ukraine, Juravka
Ukraine, Kiev
Ukraine, Krasnayarmesk
Ukraine, Nikolaev
Ukraine, Novarodovka
Ukraine, Ocheretino
Ukraine, Odessa
Ukraine, Rivna

EUROPE : NEW WORKS

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
Czech Republic
Romania, Garceni
Romania, Sardu
Serbia
Spain, Barcelona
Sweden, Skovdev

LATIN AMERICA

Costa Rica, San Jose
Costa Rica, Guapiles
D. Repub., Santo Domingo
D. Repub., San Pedro de Macoris
El Salvador, La Libertad
El Salvador, San Salvador
Guatemala, Guatemala City
Honduras, Choluteca
Honduras, Comayagua
Honduras, Danli
Honduras, El Progreso
Honduras, La Ceiba
Honduras, La Entrada Copan
Honduras, Olanchito
Honduras, Puerto Cortes
Honduras, San Lorenzo
Honduras, San Pedro Sula
Honduras, Santa Rosa de Copan
Honduras, Tegucigalpa
Honduras, Tela
Honduras, Valle de Angeles
Mexico, Monterrey

Nicaragua, Managua
Panama, Panama City
USA, Atlanta, GA
USA, Dallas, TX
USA, Miami, FL
USA, Ocala, FL
Venezuela, Caracas
Venezuela, Los Guayos
Venezuela, Valencia

LATIN AMERICA : NEW WORKS

Columbia, Bogota
Costa Rica, Heredia
Honduras, Cofrida
Honduras, Siguatepeque
Mexico, Queretaro
USA, Jonesboro, GA

NEWS FROM GREAT COMMISSION EUROPE

GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES WORKS WITH GCE IN THESE COUNTRIES

ARMENIA

Tigran Z. oversees five house churches in the area around Yerevan that focus on the poor and church planting efforts of other mission groups.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A church plant team from Michigan is partnering with GCE and Pioneers to strengthen a work in Sarajevo and serve as a training location for expanded Balkan ministry.

CZECH REPUBLIC

This summer for the second year in a row a team from Raleigh, NC helped to lead an English Camp in Ostrava. There were eight salvations and several baptisms.

GATEWAY CITIES

Robbie McAlister and Joe Dunn are forming partnerships in 'gateway cities' to adopt the unreached, unengaged peoples who have migrated to Europe. New laborers are in Amsterdam, Berlin, Sarajevo, and Stockholm and cities that are being targeted for new ministry efforts are Brussels, London, Paris, and Rome.

GERMANY

The Dortmund church continues to focus outreach on children to reach families. A second church in the south of Dortmund just started. Under the leadership of Martin & Heike Bonnet, The Bridge in Cologne is reaching university students and refugees. A small house church in Berlin is reaching the neighborhood where the church meets and sharing the gospel with refugees through German conversation and nationals with English conversation.

ITALY

Torino is continuing its vision of training people to "know God and make Him known," as leadership responsibilities are being turned over to European nationals by Paul & Janice Meiburger. Anthony & Nikki Testa continue to coach a growing house church network led by nationals near Torino. In Milano, the work at Bicocca University is growing through the leadership of Frank & Pam Apisa. Steve & Debi Ogle are currently in Milano but are searching for other areas where they can expand the ministry of Great Commission Italy.

MOLDOVA

A team of nationals coordinated by Stas B. is multiplying disciples and churches in a number of locations. River Ridge Church from West Virginia actively engages with Stas and the group of churches there.

NETHERLANDS

Currently a team is focused on working directly with the refugee community to reach fellow immigrants with the gospel in hopes of beginning a network of house churches. Three refugees have come to faith in Christ. Several others are studying the Bible and discussing the gospel with those reaching out to them.

POLAND

Sasha & Anya Zubenko, missionaries from Ukraine serving in Poznan, are encouraged by how their house church has multiplied to new spheres of influence in the past year. Their team of laborers is seeing new opportunities in the workplace and in their neighborhoods.

ROMANIA

David & Amy Cato continue to see a house church network develop in Braşov, focusing on students, university faculty, and young families. This past year they have seen the Lord at work in the nearby community of Garcini. They have launched an after school program and a Sunday Bible study, which has grown into a church plant.

RUSSIA

Though he has moved to Ukraine, Vitaly K. continues to coach house churches in St. Petersburg focusing on students and young families and he coaches house churches in other Russian cities as well.

SERBIA

Fellowship Church (College Station, TX) has formed a church planting team that will be in Sarajevo temporarily in preparation to re-locate and reach an unengaged, unreached Bosniak people group in southern Serbia.

SPAIN

In Madrid, Pastors Alex Gonzalez and José Cabal focus on evangelism and are raising up other leaders. Dom & Damaris Marrone in Pamplona have seen the Lord establish La Roca Pamplona, a campus and community church, focused on making disciples, building strong families and reaching students on the university campuses. In 2017, the Spanish government confirmed La Roca as a registered Evangelical church in Spain.

SWEDEN

Two long-term teams in Stockholm are being formed with nationals starting mission initiatives in different neighborhoods. One team focuses on university students and young professionals while the other focuses on refugee and immigrant communities.

UKRAINE

Spring of Hope Church in Kiev focuses on youth and families, with an added emphasis on humanitarian aid, due to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Sasha S. and Kolya S. lead another church with an effective training program that reaches students, families, and internationals. Networks of "simple churches" in nine cities are focusing on young people and families as well as orphans, addicts, alcoholics, and women with unplanned pregnancies. This past year, there has been significant fruit in Western Ukraine among the displaced people and the families of soldiers. Several new house churches have been planted in Eastern Ukraine.

OTHER GCE NEWS

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Over the past five years, God has allowed unprecedented numbers of refugees to migrate into Europe. These asylum seekers are coming from the hardest to reach countries in the world. This provides GCE with a unique opportunity to bring the gospel to people who otherwise would not hear. GCE is praying that God will provide more laborers and effectively equip existing churches to reach these people.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN WESTERN EUROPE

There is significant opportunity for university students to combine missions with education. Tuition-free education is available in several European countries and in many cases the programs are English-only. Contact GCE (info@gceweb.org) for more details.

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION IN CAMBODIA

By Mike Bergen

Have you ever spent a whole year learning a new language full-time? That would be very hard for most of us! That's what the Philippine missionaries, Francis and Jeje Olaes, have been doing in Cambodia since January. They desire to build a strong foundation for a discipleship and church planting ministry that will last. Before this, they spent two years learning to work with a team to start a new church and train leaders. Their team mates, Rex and Marilou, are making plans to join the Olaes family in Cambodia. This young couple will also have a year of language training. So far, this team has invested three years worth of time, energy, and money to prepare.



Why is such a huge investment being made? The pleas of Cambodians help us know the answer. While the missionaries have been in this time of intensive training, Cambodian friends have been begging Francis and Jeje to move to their area to tell people about the Lord Jesus and to start churches. Some are asking them to come to a village of 50,000 people where there are only Buddhist temples and no churches.

A second reason for building a strong foundation is that strong churches are essential for the growth of the future new Christians. The missionaries know this from the spiritual heritage they experienced in the Philippines. They know that healthy churches are like families in that they don't happen overnight; they require continuous and intentional investment for long periods of time. But this is how the Lord Jesus invested the years of His ministry. For three years He concentrated on building a small group of disciples who would go and help many others—His strategic plan to make a difference in the world. His example has motivated the Philippine missionary team to invest in much training and preparation.

GCASIA UPDATE

By Doug Brown

Into Thin Air

The start of our summer expedition was physically challenging yet relationally bonding. We set up camp after we trekked over ten miles to an elevation of 14,734 feet. Our team of six combined with seven Chinese college students spent four days of discipleship and evangelism, hiking in the fresh mountain air and camping in a misty rain. On the way down the mountain, Victor moved from being an atheist to a seeker of Jesus. Also, each of the believers shared something they learned about the trekking experience and how they could apply it to their walk with Christ.



Beachheads: Rooted and Grounded

The Lord has led our SALT (Strategic Asia Leadership Team) to pray and work on strengthening three Gospel "beachheads" in Asia: Taichung, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. We have mission teams in each of these places yet they need additional support to be well rooted. We are praying for men and women to join these beachheads to support and strengthen these works. We just placed three Americans in Hong Kong for two years for this purpose.

Asia Expedition Trips

Two times a year we provide Asia expeditions for teams of six to eight for leader training, disciple-making, evangelism, and cultural understanding. It is our desire to build eternal friendships while making a better world. In the Fall, Winter, and Spring, trips are focused on leadership development. We travel with one or two mature believers who have a leadership, teaching and/or pastoral gift. The need is great and it is urgent to build healthy pastors and leaders so that the Asian church of Jesus Christ multiplies well.

Pray for the Gospel to run and for Jesus Christ to be glorified throughout the people groups in Asia.

RUN GLOBAL

By Mike Keator

The gospel is racing across India, Nepal, and Bangladesh! It is amazing to see what God is doing through RUN GLOBAL teams via Training For Trainers (T4T). The number of RUN GLOBAL launched churches has doubled from 58 to 125 in the last six months, while our training groups have also doubled from 261 to 524. In spite of increased threats of persecution, our teams and their disciples reach 12,000 people every week with face-to-face gospel presentations.



When Nepal declared itself a secular nation, the radical Hindu government of India closed the border, cutting off the supply of food, fuel, and medicines, to force Nepal to stay Hindu. After eight months of this intense pressure, the Nepal government buckled and enacted anti-conversion and anti-evangelism laws. It is now illegal to witness. Severe penalties of five years in prison hang over our heads. I have been told that all Christians in Kathmandu have stopped witnessing—except our teams and their disciples. They are ready to go to jail. We are ready to back them up in every way. Your prayers are keeping us courageous. Your gifts are fueling a mighty revival. God bless you!

If you would like to contact Mike, please email him at mike@runglobal.org.

ASIA & LATIN AMERICA

HEALTH CARE MISSION TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

By Jerry Van Dalen



On June 24 through July 2, 41 volunteers from The Rock Miami Church and 40 volunteers from Iglesia Cristiana de San Pedro de Macoris were deployed for a short-term missionary outreach in two very needy areas in the city of San Pedro. Among the volunteers were eight doctors, five dentists, two pharmacists and three nurses. 995 patients received free medical/dental care and medications according to their health needs. As a direct result of this outreach, 582 prayed to receive Jesus as their personal savior. We give credit for this to prayer, the combined effort of two churches, and the free medical/dental care and medications that opened hearts to the gospel.

Our mission was inspired by Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV), *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

In addition to the medical/dental outreach, there were two lectures on domestic violence, distribution of personal hygiene products, and a gift of school supplies to a local private school. The San Pedro church is following up with those who were reached, reviewing the gospel with them, and placing a Bible in their hands.

For more information on our next outreach, email jerry@therockmiami.com. To see a video of the mission trip, visit therockmiami.com/ministries-missions.html

GCLA UPDATE

By Carlos Garcia



In GCLA we believe that church-planting is an effective way of making disciples of Jesus Christ. In September 2015, we proposed to plant over 20 churches by 2020. In 2016, two new churches were started. In 2017, three more churches were planted. In 2018, we are in the process of planting six more churches in five different countries.

When we set the goal of 20 churches in five years, we realized that to be a genuine multiplication movement of churches we have to continue stepping out into the unknown. We are trusting God for the results of this endeavor. In pursuing this goal, we have experienced a greater sense of TOGETHERNESS and a missional urgency has imbued our churches and pastors.

This mission provides the opportunity for our next-generation leaders to learn to be risk-taking, missional leaders. Carlos Lagos is one of these leaders. A few years ago, Carlos moved from Honduras to San Jose, Costa Rica to be part of a church plant. In January, Carlos started a Bible study with new believers in an outdoor student hangout spot in a town called Heredia, which has the largest concentration of colleges in Costa Rica. The members of this Bible study have become the core group of the church plant in Heredia.

Join us in praying for and rejoicing over the work that God is doing in and through our movement of churches.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY

BRIDGEBUILDERS ISM IN THE U.S. AND OVERSEAS

by Jim Wiebelhaus

Through the prophet Isaiah (49:6), God foretells that it is too small a thing for Jesus to save just a remnant



of Israel, but that He will bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Though His salvation may tarry, we must wait for it, as it will surely come to pass.

ISM in action: On Christmas day, a student from China was in our home to hear the gospel. Within minutes she was on the phone with her parents in China, her parents telling her not to become a Christian. Seven months later, returning to Lincoln from a trip to her home country, she realizes she has come to believe in God and the Lord Jesus. This is one example of how God is moving people from their home city or village to places where they will meet Christians who will share the gospel with them. Already, to her surprise, she told her mother she will pray for her and her problems. Her mother did not object. God's grace is extravagant. Now, her ailing and non-Christian grandmother has a new nurse who is a believer singing songs to the Lord and witnessing to her grandmother! May these students and their households be saved!

Four people doing ISM work here in the U.S. moved in 2018 to two cities in Asia in order to do God's work. Some are taking college classes, others have found careers, and together they are living in Christ-centered fellowships that allow new believers and seekers to get a first-hand experience of God's love, as well as a chance to read the Bible and ask questions.

Thank you for praying and don't grow weary in continuing to pray earnestly for more workers to reach the leaders of tomorrow—the one million international students and scholars studying in the United States.



SUMMER TEAMS ADVANCE THE GOSPEL ACROSS THE WORLD

By Robbie McAlister

For many of us, summer is a time for long days, outdoor activities, and vacations. For some it is also an opportunity to participate in short-term mission trips. While there are many trips that could be highlighted, I would like to share about two this summer that were a real blessing.

First, the Southeast Regional Ministry of GCC runs Laborers Impacting Nations for Christ (LiNC), a leadership development ministry. This summer there were three sites in Orlando, Florida; Clemson, SC and Cologne, Germany. Through LiNC, 2,000 were talked to, over 1,500 were prayed for, over 1,000 heard the gospel, 75 trusted Christ and over 150 Christians were trained in simple disciple-making tools.

Secondly, as described earlier in this newsletter, the Rock Church in Miami took a medical team to the Dominican Republic, which shared the gospel with 995 patients while providing them with medical and dental care. The results were phenomenal! 582 made a decision for Christ.

We don't celebrate statistics; we celebrate that many heard the good news and that God saved many! He was glorified through these and other trips like this. We also know that the people on these trips return home with a greater enthusiasm for evangelism.

We hope and pray that many GCC churches will participate in short-term mission trips and training ministries that advance the gospel to the ends of the earth. As the famous missionary CT Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." Let's make our lives count for eternity and share Christ to the ends of the earth! Shall we?



LETTER FROM JOHN: VICTORY IN JESUS

by John Hopley

About five years ago, I was meeting with leaders in GCC churches for a time of prayer. I came to this particular meeting with high expectations that God would speak in a fresh way. After a couple of hours of prayer, Robbie McAlister referred to Matthew 12 :18-21. The next morning, I was surprised to see in my daily readings the very same passage. Then at the meeting in the morning, Herschel Martindale (who missed the meeting the previous day due to a snowstorm) shared a devotional in which he also quoted the same

Matthew 12 passage. Needless to say, the Lord was getting my attention!

Matthew 12:18-21 tells of Jesus as the Servant who came to lead "justice [or judgment] to victory" and that "in His name the Gentiles would hope." This passage shows the heart of God. He is a God of justice who will judge the world in righteousness. But His judgment is for the purpose of a greater victory—the leading of Gentiles to hope in His name.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we join in on His mission. God demonstrated His justice at the Cross by taking away the sin of the world and raising Jesus from the dead. Now we walk in that victory in His mission, which leads to all nations hoping in Jesus Christ.

This newsletter demonstrates how we in GCC churches are walking in that victory. May God use these stories to inspire you to join with your church in its international ministry, so that people from every tribe, tongue, and nation will praise the Name of Jesus Christ.



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