



# THE CALL

Photo By Ninno-Jack Jr

February/March 2020

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**Bishop Talmadge Gardner**

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

'Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

As the COVID-19 pandemic began its spread from Asia, through Europe and the Middle East, and now onto the United States and the Latin America and Caribbean Region, I have been reminded about how fragile and finite life is. Crises, natural disasters, tragedies, and pandemics have a way of doing that to you, unfortunately. If there is a silver lining to this pandemic, it is that we have re-focused and prioritized things that have significance and meaning in our lives, and hopefully, we will learn from this enriching experience.

The first thing I do when I wake up each morning is read a selected passage of scripture on my iPhone using the Bible App. At the top of the page on Sunday, March 15th's reading, there was this statement: ***"No matter what we face, we don't have to live in fear. In uncertain times, we can seek our unchanging God."*** What a reassurance to know that Jesus Christ is the solid rock on which we can stand, and what a reassurance to know, amidst all of the chaos and confusion brought on by this pandemic where circumstances and situations are changing by the second, that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8 - ESV)

We want you to know what steps World Missions has and is taking to safeguard our missionary family. On February 28, 2020, we sent the following communique to our global missionary force:

"Dear Missionary Family:

'Grace to you and peace from God, Our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

With the reported spread of the Coronavirus globally, please know that your health and safety and that of your families are of paramount concern to World Missions Ministries.

Please never do anything to jeopardize either.

Your calling positions you on many different frontiers and in uniquely different circumstances that present their own unique challenges. Know that we are respectful and understanding of that. So, always do what you deem best and necessary in any circumstance for your family and yourself.

As a courtesy and so that we know how to pray and reply to questions being asked by your families and our IPHC family, please keep your regional director and the Missionary Care department (Steve Cofer and Kathryn Shepard) apprised should you need to reposition yourselves or come back to the U.S.

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are asking the Holy Spirit to plant a thick 'hedge of protection round about you,' and we are pleading that 'precious and cleansing power of the blood of Christ over you.'

Scripture affirms that no weapon that is formed against those of us who are followers of Christ will harm us, but as free moral agents, we are also required to be good stewards of the gift of life that the Lord has given us. So, use some good old-fashioned common sense!

Dr. David Carter, a medical doctor and IPHC family member, offers the following practical advice: "The precautions to take to avoid getting the virus are like any other. Practice flu precautions by washing your hands, avoiding hand to face contact, getting sleep, and staying hydrated. The healthier you are, the better your body will fight off the virus if exposed." The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued notices advising that precautions be taken when traveling concerning the Coronavirus. The link below will provide you with pertinent information related to warnings regarding affected countries:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

Standing on the word of God, we affirm that *'Our God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 4:19)"

**In essence, what the February communique did was, effective immediately, place our missionary personnel under indefinite international travel restriction, based on advisories issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. State Department.**

**World Missions also requests that all planned trips by missions teams and other short-term ministry trips be deferred until after the present crisis is resolved. The health and well-being of our missionaries and global family members is a priority.**

I was reminded about the significant impact and influence that our missionaries have made and are making this past Saturday, March 14th, when I was privileged to participate in the funeral services for the Rev. Charlene Helen West. As a part of the remarks that I had crafted honoring her missionary legacy, I invited one of her spiritual sons, Bishop Hernando Brochero, president of the Federation of Pentecostal Holiness Churches in Venezuela and senior pastor of Caracas Christian Center (which is just one of the many churches that she planted) to send me a short tribute honoring this revered mentor. Here is a brief excerpt of what he said:

**"I thank my church, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church for sending our missionary to Venezuela. With her, I learned to be a Christian, to serve in the Church, through her I became a Pastor, and now preside the National church throughout Venezuela. She is with us through her legacy, and this work will always rest upon the shoulders of this giant of the faith, my mother."**

The apostolic influence of our missionaries and your faithfulness as Great Commission partners has enabled the IPHC to birth a ministry presence in 100 countries globally. In each country where we have a ministry presence today, you can identify the role that missionaries played in passing on that apostolic mantle and anointing to key national leaders.

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for remembering our missionaries in prayer and with your faithful financial support. One of the weaknesses that we are trying to correct is that many of our missionaries are isolated from other missionaries, and in situations like this, they cannot rely on family and friends. Your prayer support and notes of encouragement to them give them HOPE! Let me also thank our regional directors for their pastoral care of the missionaries under their charge.

Know that we pray for you, our IPHC faith family, daily.

Remember that **“no matter what we face, we don’t have to live in fear. In uncertain times, we can seek our unchanging God.”**

‘The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.’

**Bishop Talmadge Gardner**  
**Executive Director,**  
**World Missions Ministries**





# MEET THE WEST FAMILY

The West family served in northwest China for many years among the unreached Chinese, Muslim, and Tibetan Buddhist people groups there. Pioneer evangelism is their passion and they will not stop until every last tribe, language, village, and family have heard the gospel and read God's Word for the first time.

Now, the Wests serve in Peru, where some of the deepest jungles, highest mountains, and driest deserts in the world lie. In Peru, there are hundreds of towns without any evangelical presence.

Pray for boldness, open doors, wisdom, and protection for their team as they fight adversity to carry the gospel to the hardest places.

## *ITINERATING MISSIONARIES*

Jason & Catrina Bicket  
Darrel & Bonnie Clowers  
Dan & Brenda Clowers  
Mauricio & Lulu Salazar  
Jeff & Kimberly Oeder  
Mitch & Jewel Nichols  
Greg & Latoya McClerkin  
Allison Jones  
Janene Wooten  
Danny & Judith Williams  
Ernest & Cheryl Turner

TO LEARN ABOUT HAVING  
THESE MISSIONARIES COME  
TO YOUR HOME CHURCH,  
PLEASE CALL: (888)474-2966

”

*Where grace  
happens,  
generosity  
happens.*

“

Max Lucado

# UPDATES

## PRAYERS FOR ZIMBABWE

Joe Delpont returned to South Africa this month after having a six-hour meeting with the church national leaders in Zimbabwe. Please join the Delponts, along with the World Missions Ministries family, in praying for the deteriorating situation in the country of Zimbabwe.

In June 2019, the official inflation rate was at 97.9%. People are now struggling just to make ends meet each month. Their complete dependence and trust must be in the Lord during this time. Leaders in Zimbabwe are especially zealous to plant new churches. However, finding funding for building structures is a real challenge. If you would like to help with this cause, please email [wmminfo@iphc.org](mailto:wmminfo@iphc.org).



## RECEIVING THE MAYOR'S FAVOR IN PERU

San Jan de Lurigancho is the home to the worst of anything. Last April, God inspired our church to behold a harvest outside of the comfort of our four walls. We have now been in schools, street corners, and bus stations, uniting churches. Unknown to us, our mayor and regional directors were watching this faith.

In early February, we were having a service on the main road. As we finished, an entourage from the municipality arrived. The mayor approached, smiled, hugged me, and thanked our church for believing and for stepping out. He expressed, "If there were more like you, this city could change."

*By David Hodges*





# UPDATES

## EMMANUEL COLLEGE SEND WEEK 2020

SEND week at Emmanuel College can be described as encouraging, inspiring, transformative, and so much more. Throughout the week, The Awakening hosted events, including two mission emphasis chapel services, a night of worship and prayer for the nations, an unconventional missions presentation with the Schweighardts, and an informational panel with several IPHC missionaries, including the Schweighardts and Janene Wooten.

Overall, the campus was inspired to see every nation disciplined. I believe students were given a glimpse of the widespread love of the Father that is not just available for those in the U.S.

*By Dylan Maynor*




## PROGRESS IN MADAGASCAR

World Missions Ministries celebrates the tremendous progress being made with our church project in Antananarivo, Madagascar. They are now installing poles, which will hold the timber in place so they can pour the second story's concrete.

The bottom portion of this building will be utilized as a training center, as well as a place where destitute people will be assisted in their time of need. The second story will be utilized as the sanctuary. Pastor Tojo and his wife, Deborah, are doing a remarkable work for the kingdom in the country of Madagascar. Please join the World Missions family in prayer over this great work.





*“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.”*

*Mike Stachura*

# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

## THE AWAKENING - OPEN TEAM MISSION TRIPS

BY RACHEL LOWDER

Every summer, The Awakening hosts Open Team mission trips for anyone who may have an interest in missions but doesn't know where to begin. Rachel Lowder, a former traditional intern with The Awakening, first got involved through these trips. Ever since, she's had a love for taking the gospel of the kingdom to the nations.

*My first of many experiences with The Awakening began in 2013 on an Open Team mission trip to Panama. My young spirit didn't know what to expect. As a fourteen-year-old, I was nervous; my family was nervous, but there was also a strong peace that we all felt. I knew everyone was in good hands, and I had a deep trust for who the Lord sent me with on this trip.*



*Since 2014, I have been honored to serve in ministry with The Awakening a number of other times, and these Open Team trips became something I could look forward to every year. I'm not one to enjoy much time outside of my comfort zone, but God makes wild things happen like that! I remember the spiritual freedom I felt when I was encouraged to pray for a group of children in Panama. My prayers were seldom prayed out loud, but it was then that the Lord showed me the power of using my voice. The enemy can't know our thoughts, but he knows when we speak, and that's what was revealed to me when I began to step out of comfort.*

*During these times of ministry on short-term trips, our days are full and usually very productive. I never noticed a minute being wasted! We are always strongly encouraged to participate and prepare our hearts for whatever the Lord may present to us. Some days, we spend time with children, playing games with them at their schools and barely communicating as we try to speak each other's language, then laughing when we fail. Other days, we might plan a Vacation Bible School at a local church, or walk the streets of a neighborhood inviting individuals and their children to come with us.*

*A most impactful experience I will never forget is knocking on doors in Guatemala while having the privilege of praying for some people who were in what looked and seemed like hopeless situations. While it was completely heartbreaking, I will always remember the presence of the Holy Spirit that was so strong in every home as we began to pray for each person and their situation. I don't recall a single person who wasn't willing to receive us into their homes or offer us whatever they had to give.*

*The Awakening Open Team trips have significantly impacted me in a different way every time: specifically, stepping out of comfort and into the power of prayer, my purpose in ministry, a realized love for the nations, complete freedom in worship, and more compassion and humility. I have built strong, lifelong friendships through these trips, and I will always be so grateful!*

To join us on an Open Team trip this summer contact our Coordinator of Teams, Betsy Hope, at [betsy@goawakening.org](mailto:betsy@goawakening.org).

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## EAST AFRICA BIBLE COLLEGE (EABC)

*BY KEVIN SNEED, IPHC MISSIONARY*

EABC is currently offering a two-year diploma program that will equip its students with biblical, theological, and practical ministry training. Classes are offered on a semester system, which includes four months per semester. These semesters take place twice per year.

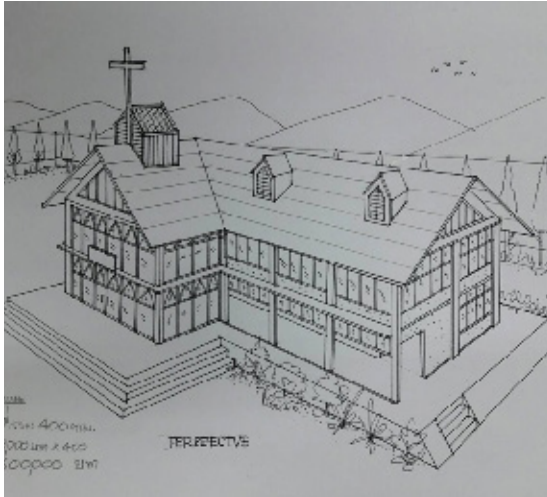
Each September includes six courses. EABC also has a part-time program that is offered only in April and August for a tuition fee of 3,000 Kenyan shillings (\$30 USD). The EABC campus possesses dormitories for both men and women. This college is serving men and women of God from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi, and South Africa.

As the directors of EABC, Summer and I work together to help prepare men and women for leadership in the IPHC churches throughout East Africa. EABC offers holistic education, and we are passionate about seeing each student's calling fulfilled.

A new term recently opened in January, and God is already doing remarkable things in the students. For a video with an update from the students themselves, please visit <https://vimeo.com/391040633>.



# UNFINISHED PROJECTS



TTS

## Thailand Theological Seminary (TTS)

The TTS compound is a building project under the leadership of Dr. Wallapa Wisawasukmongchol's foundation, Thai Foundation for Education. This building project is intended to help the IPHC ministry in Thailand. Many pieces of this compound have been completed, and Dr. Wallapa and the other Thailand leaders are seeking to increase the impact this incredible ministry facility can make.

To donate to this project, please earmark your check **74520P**.



ETS - NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

## The Evangelical Television Studio (ETS)

This project is intended to create a Christian television studio to evangelize and spread the good news around Ukraine and beyond. The studio is located at the Christian Hope Church's (CHC) complex. We have done much preparation work for this project. We put together the list of various Christian-themed videos, and we have assigned a group of professional producers and operators for this project. Our plan is to begin shooting in September of this year. \$1,500 USD is needed for completion.

To donate to this project, please earmark your check **41006P**.



EASTERN EUROPE CHURCH PLANTS - NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

## Church Plants in Eastern Europe

This is a unique time to plant a new church in Eastern Europe. In Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and Romania, the cost is only \$5,500 USD. There have been 60 plus new churches planted recently, and national leaders tell us they are ready to do hundreds more. What a harvest! Most U.S. churches can only do one church plant in the time compared to one of our small Eastern Europe PH Churches, which has up to 10 new plants in three years.

To donate to this project, please earmark your check **41002P**.

“FOR THE LORD  
GAVE US THIS  
COMMAND WHEN  
HE SAID, ‘I HAVE  
MADE YOU A  
LIGHT TO THE  
GENTILES, TO BRING  
SALVATION TO THE  
FARTHEST CORNERS  
OF THE EARTH’”

ACTS 13:47