

June/July 2020

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Bishop Talmadge Gardner, Editor & Chief Madeline Raglin Editor





**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 into the United States and the Latin America and Caribbean Region, I have been reminded about how finite life is. 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 experience.

As of the writing of this report, our missionaries are still under indefinite international travel restrictions based on advisories issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. State Department.

World Missions is also requesting that all planned trips by mission 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 our global family members who are trying to put their lives and ministries back together again are a priority!

Also, we want to assure you that World Missions Ministries continues to process contributions and make monthly disbursements to our missionaries around the world.

While the current COVID-19 pandemic has affected up to 205 countries, areas, and territories, the global Church remains steadfast. Many IPHC missionaries and national leaders have taken to the frontlines to help their respective neighborhoods, cities, and countries by providing essential needs and the message of hope during this crucial time.

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To date, the COVID-19 International Relief Fund has distributed \$507,377.88 to 60 countries. We are grateful and humbled by every contribution that we have received to-date. I would be negligent if I did not 'pay honor to whom honor is due' by recognizing the significant contribution that Wing Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church in Hong Kong, China, recently made to this fund in the amount of \$250,000 USD.

We are so grateful to Rev. Donavan Ng, field superintendent of Hong Kong and Rev. Joanne Wong, pastor in charge of Wing Kwong PHC, for modeling our seventh core value, 'Generosity.' As Dr. Tramel so aptly expressed when I apprised him of this generous contribution: "As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country." [NKJV]

Let me reiterate our pledge to you that 100% of every contribution is being disbursed to the field to assist with the many requests.

To contribute to this fund or to learn more about the relief efforts that these funds are assisting, visit <a href="https://iphc.org/missions/covid-19-international-relief-fund-report/">https://iphc.org/missions/covid-19-international-relief-fund-report/</a>

Jesus reminded us in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 16, verse 18, that 'He would build His Church, and that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' In spite of the many challenges presented by this global pandemic, good things are happening, and our church has been able to take advantage of the unprecedented ministry opportunities that are becoming available to us globally. Here are just a few highlights from the South America, Continental Asia, and Europe and the Middle Eastern Regions:

- · In Venezuela, we planted two churches last month in Higuerote, Miranda province.
- · In Uruguay, we planted two churches in the area of Salto and are getting ready for a third one in Maldonado.
- · Our church in Chile is establishing three life groups in the towns of San Fernando, La Ligua, and Chiloé (four hours south of Santiago) that we hope will grow into a church plant in those communities.

# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- · In Bolivia, our National leader Tulio Vargas has opened a small group in Santa Cruz that continues to grow, and when COVID-19 lifts, he hopes to turn it into a constituted church.
- · Dozens have been baptized, and three new house churches have been established in Dumka and Narganjo, India, thanks to the efforts of dedicated evangelists and believers who have reached out to minister to their communities in these times of hardship.
- · Amazing things are happening in the Narganjo region. Two new house churches were established in two weeks. We are amazed at how people are hungry for God. We are grateful to God for Pastor [identity concealed] and his team who are utilizing this time when people are out of work to visit new villages and preach the gospel. Most of the people come to the Lord after deliverance from evil spirits.
- · In Maesai in northern Thailand, Pastor Chang began a new church plant initiative before the COVID plague, but he has followed through to get the church established in spite of the difficulties. He made a special effort to minister to the needs of the local community by aiding with food during the time of the lockdown when work was scarce. Through this practical demonstration of the love of Christ, relationships were strengthened, and the foundation of the church was solidified.
- · Bishop Reshetinsky and our church in the Ukraine recently planted a Russian speaking church in Bulgaria that is growing weekly.
- · In June, Bishop Valery hosted a pastors' conference in Kiev and invited a few independent churches' pastors. Two of them joined IPHC Ukraine at that conference.
- · In Azerbaijan, our goal is to plant four churches in 2020. We are on target for that.
- · In Armenia and Georgia, new groups have been started and will be visited when flying restrictions are lifted.
- · In the country of Israel, which has been in lockdown for several months, IPHC Living Israel has just opened another Rehab Center for women/churches in the suburbs of Tel Aviv. This is the 33rd location.

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# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In August of 2019, I was privileged to travel to Zambia, Africa, to preside over their General Conference. In his report to the General Conference, Bishop Samson Phiri, general secretary, made the following statement: "We do not only serve to grow the work of God, but the work of God grows us." 'The work of God' has grown us personally, and WMM corporately as the COVID-19 coronavirus has impacted almost every corner of the globe.

Stephanie and I are humbled and grateful for the outstanding service of the team members of WMM during this crisis. They all profess a sense of 'call' to serve WMM and our global Church family. During this pandemic, they have demonstrated exceptional creativity, an openness to learning, resourcefulness, perseverance, compassion, and a strong work ethic. I challenged our team in March to review every policy and program that we currently offer as a ministry. We have done that and have consequently positioned ourselves to be a more effective and relevant ministry.

Never underestimate the effect that your partnership is having. The gospel of Jesus Christ, wherever it is preached, still has the power to save and set people free!

Until Christ returns, I ask you to continue partnering with us in this Kingdom-advancing work through your prayers and generous financial support.

This is our season; this is our time; this is our Kairos moment!

Believing that 'the best is still to come,'

Blshop Talmadge Gardner Executive Director, World Missions Ministries



#### ITINERATING MISSIONARIES

Danny & Judith Williams
Darrel & Bonnie Clowers
Ernest & Cheryl Turner
Greg & Latoya McClerkin
Janene Wooten
Jason & Catrina Bicket
Jeff & Kimberly Oeder
Mauricio & Lulu Salazar
Mitch & Jewel Nichols
Russell & Sonya Schweighardt

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

# MEET THE RILEYS

The Riley family has a heart and calling for the continent of Africa. They went to South Africa to work with the regional director of Southern Africa, helping to network, train, and equip churches and local leaders in South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, and other surrounding countries.

They have now completed their internship season, and are relocating to to the Western Africa Region. There, the Rileys will minister through the avenues of building relationships, teaching, and discipling.

They believe that the transformational power of the gospel, working in harmony with the Holy Spirit, is essential if the church is going to be successful in reaching the lost.

Their desire is for the church in Africa to be a unified, spirit-filled, disciple-making, and missionary-sending body. Thank you for partnering with the Riley family through your prayers and support.

## **UPDATES**

#### NORTH INDIA EXTENSIVE NEEDS

In North India, the government is overwhelmed by the extent of the need, and has called upon the churches to help. Bishop Michael John reports, "Our church people are coming forward to donate to this ministry and show the love of Christ to their communities. In a society where Christians are viewed with suspicion and hostility, this is a great opportunity to show what we stand for. We are confident that these acts of generosity will open up new doors for ministry."

#### By Russell Board



#### UPDATES IN THAILAND

We are finally relieved after the restrictions imposed by the Thai government, related to the Corona Virus, were lifted on July 1. We did all of our church activities online during the lockdown. Even in times of crisis like this, our worship for the Lord is never hindered.

While observing all precautionary measures to avoid infection, our first worship service at Don Muang church was held on July 5, and our first IPHC/ACA meeting of pastors and leaders was held on July 10 in Bangkok. The Thai group met in the morning, while the international group met in the afternoon. It was a great meeting!

#### By Albert Gonzales



## **UPDATES**

#### THE AWAKENING EUROQUEST

With the Corona Virus pandemic among us, The Awakening was unable to host Euroquest in the same in-person manner that has always been done. However, this issue did not prevent the Euroquest family from meeting together virtually for a time of prayer, worship, and the sharing of the Word via Zoom.

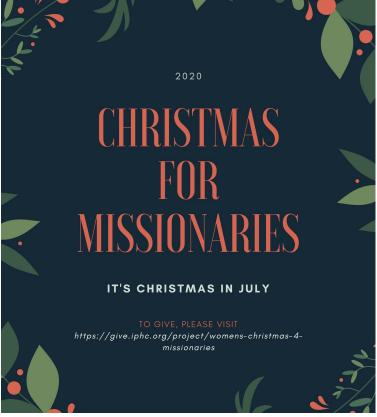
During this time, missions efforts, especially, have had to find new creative avenues for effective ministry. The Awakening family is no different. They cannot wait for the day when they get to reunite. Until then, they will not stop until the last has heard.

#### CHRISTMAS FOR MISSIONARIES

It's Christmas in July! For many years, Women's Ministries has raised support for our IPHC missionaries to receive a monetary gift at Christmas. They are now promoting Christmas in July - a time for your church to help be a part of this effort of support.

Many families have been blessed tremendously through the years by the Christmas for Missionaries offering. Our missionaries sacrifice so much to serve all over the world to spread the gospel. This is a small way we can show our appreciation. Learn more at <a href="https://iphc.org/discipleship/women/christmas-4-missionaries/">https://iphc.org/discipleship/women/christmas-4-missionaries/</a>





### MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

#### TAB COFFEE HOUSE



It's not peculiar to walk into TAB Coffee House only to be met by the stirring sounds of conversation, laughter from one table over as a new champion emerges from a sociable card game, and music flowing from the corner where some students from the nearby high school have planted themselves with at least one person holding a guitar or ukulele in hand. It's there, with coffee fumes filling the air and brownies slowly disappearing from the dessert platter on the counter, where you can find the rawest of interactions between The Awakening Base staff

and all of their newfound friends from the community who are drawn in for another day of caffeine and companionship.

TAB Coffee House, found on the ground level of The Awakening International Training Base in Szigetszentmiklós, Hungary, first opened in March 2018 and is currently ran by The Awakening's base staff Krisztina Révész and Justin Long, along with various Awakening interns learning, training, and ministering on site.



One of the Coffee House's largest functional advantages, perhaps, is its location in proximity to the town's high school situated directly across the street. When The Awakening Base first opened and the team started teaching English in the school, they knew it was only a matter of time until the Coffee House became a safe place for teenagers to come get an after school treat.

"Our priority is to provide a space for the students where relationships can be formed between themselves and with us," Justin said of the Coffee House. "We aim to be a safe space for anyone who needs it."

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The Coffee House provides just that as its open doors invite people in for not only the everyday coffee breaks, but for movie nights, paint nights, game nights, and cookouts. Through such events and continual relationship building, a bridge has been built between the community and the local church as the team has seen students from the high school begin attending church and even volunteering to help with different ministry opportunities such as kids camps.



Through the simple offer of sharing a coffee or a sweet treat, the team in Hungary has been able to not only minister to a community, but they've been entrusted to minister from within as they take the time to just sit down and talk, answer questions, and share the truth of the gospel.

"The Students ask us about Christ and the gospel and what it means to be a Christian because they see that we are sincere and that we value our friendships with them," Justin said. "The Coffee House has afforded us the chance to put the time in and become friends and family rather than just missionaries and ministers. The gospel is relational, and that's what we aim to be in the TAB Coffee House also."



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There is no ocean too wide, no mountain too steep, no climate too cold or hot, no circumstance too difficult or unpleasant. Go we must, and tell we must.



John Parker

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## HOPE COMES TO LIVES

BY VAN & JANE BLOSS



We are happy to share that we were recently able to help 41 Irular tribe families who were in desperate need of their daily essential groceries. These people are our target unreached people group.

Food has become scarce in several countries, and many families are facing starvation. This is true, especially in India and, particularly, in Odisha state.

Within this state, 50% of the total population live below the poverty line.

People have been under a strict lock down system and in quarantine for many days. There is an urgent need for food, more than anything else, to survive during this lockdown period.

We are thankful for the financial support that helped us to distribute food packages to 974 families in 12 villages (Pastor Pani). This has brought life and relief to the people in need throughout the lockdown.

#### Partnership in Action

The nationals and those in America are working together and giving to provide for the hungry and starving in economically struggling nations. You are making this possible through your sacrificial gifts.

To continue giving to the COVID-19 International Relief Fund effort, please visit <a href="https://iphc.org/missions/covid-19-international-relief-fund-report/">https://iphc.org/missions/covid-19-international-relief-fund-report/</a>. World Missions Ministries thanks you for being a part of making a difference and showing the love of Jesus throughout the world during these unprecedented times.

"We owe Christ to the World: to the least person and to the greatest person, to the richest person and to the poorest person, to the best person and to the worst person. We are in debt to the nations."

David Platt

## UNFINISHED PROJECTS



A VILLAGE IN TINCA, ROMANIA

#### Romania Ministry

In the villages of Tinca and Cociuba are two care homes for 80 destitute elderly people. They need to replace pillows, blankets, and sheets (\$60 per package). Also, they need a small screen TV. The total needed is \$5,000 USD.

To donate to this project, please earmark your check **42000P**, or visit give.iphc.org.



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

#### **Indonesia Church Plants**

The purchase of land and construction of a church building and conference ministry center in Bali is needed. The place for this is in a very strategic location for our Indonesia work. Bali is a major tourist destination and the only area of Indonesia that is majority Hindu. \$130,000 is needed to complete the task.

To donate to this project, please earmark your check **27006P**, or visit give.iphc.org.

KNOW THEREFORE THAT THE
LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD; HE IS
THE FAITHFUL GOD, KEEPING
HIS COVENANT OF LOVE TO A
THOUSAND GENERATIONS OF
THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND KEEP
HIS COMMANDMENTS.

**DEUTERONOMY 7:9**