

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

In preparation for WMM's October Council Meeting, our 12 regional directors were requested to prepare a report covering their region for the time period of April-October 2020. The reports are to follow. These reports are encouraging and demonstrate that nothing - not even a pandemic - can stop Jesus from continuing to build His Church.

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

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### CARIBBEAN & WEST INDIES – STEVE COFER (INTERIM)

Working with our conference leaders and pastors in the region over past months has presented numerous needs beyond the norm. The current demand for essential items, food being at the top of the list, far exceeds any normal request for assistance. Overall, the faith and the resilience of our IPHC people in these countries speak loud amidst their consistent, demanding, unparalleled circumstances.

There is no doubt that COVID has brought unfamiliar paths to the whole world. We are so thankful for the faithful support of World Missions donors and their spirit of generosity. Numerous voices from the field are in harmony, "We will get through this with God's strength and his provision." We are so thankful for our IPHC family in America and their timely support and grace shown to us from U.S. churches. Please tell our brothers and sisters in America that we are praying for them and may they be blessed abundantly.

Conditions for all Caribbean and West Indies countries are basically the same as shared in my April report. Restrictions on travel, shelter in place, churches not permitted to have services, loss of jobs, etc. continue and, in many locations, has intensified.

A special "thank you" to the church in Hong Kong for their financial blessing for COVID relief. It is extremely timely and has provided a second round of much needed assistance with COVID conditions rising and spreading into other locations.

Back in April, I shared that all teams, Advance Training sessions, and other scheduled events and visits for the region were canceled or postponed until later in the year. These have now been moved to 2021. Also, national business conference events and other conference fellowship meetings have been rescheduled until sometime next year.

#### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Hong Kong COVID funds provided \$2,000 that have been applied to Bishop Sinanan's recent request for additional help. Bishop Sinanan shared the following update on the Rapture Ready Church and building project plus is his recent request for additional help:

*We experienced hindrances concerning water, electrical hookups and rain causing problems in the final layer of oil sand on the church entrance road, otherwise everything else came along quite well for our projected opening date in August. We were able to have some meetings at the church beginning in August, but recently the Prime Minister announced that the current lock-down is extended to Oct. 5. Online services continue for both Wednesday 7pm and Sunday 10am services. Other meeting and preaching points have been established during COVID and hopefully these will develop into church plants.*

*Our current estimates for food hampers (our most urgent need) is 30 hampers at \$100 per family (we gratefully are able to get the groceries at wholesale cost so it's costing half what we estimated last time) per month. Even one month (\$3,000 US total) would be a great help. These hampers would include: TP, Soap, Bleach, Rice, Flour, Baking Powder, Dried beans, Cooking Oil, Spices (curry, salt, etc.), Sugar, Ketchup, Eggs (36), Milk, Vegetables/Provisions, Meat (tins). Any assistance that could be offered here would be great.*

***Thank you so much for your assistance!***

***Blessings,***

***The Sinanans***

## **CUBA**

Hong Kong COVID funds provided \$7,500 that have been applied to Bishop Adonis' original request.

Please review the following email from Cuba regarding COVID funds received earlier this year and an update on restrictions and conditions regarding church services and meetings. As you can see, the additional funding from Hong Kong is timely and will be a tremendous blessing.

**On Wed, Jul 15, 2020, Adonis Gato Cruz wrote:**

*Blessings and a dear greeting Steve, here we are with regards to the number of sick and deceased by this terrible disease in Cuba. We are having few cases, and most of the congregations began to worship in the country. Only here in Havana we have many limitations, but already this Sunday we begin the services in Havana. It is expected that next month the borders will be opened. Regarding the economy, there are many shortages of important products. Food and toiletries.*

*All products sold are regulated and controlled. The little that is sold. We here have made efforts to acquire some products for families, but it is very difficult because everything is scarce. When possible, families are bought something or else we give them the money and they manage their own purchases in their provinces. The packages that have been delivered are for \$35.00 usd per family and we have supported 80 families. Greetings to all, and blessings.*

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Hong Kong COVID funds provided \$3,000 that have been applied to Bishop Pedro's recent request for more assistance. In addition to Bishop Pedro request, he sent the following praise report regarding Tropical Storm Laura in August.

*Greetings Brother Steve,*

*Thank you for your attention and your help with previous Covid funds. Our current need now is still basic items, requiring an estimated food package and essential items of face masks, soap, chlorine, hand sanitizer, detergent, eggs, rice, bean, toilet paper, pasta, sugar, salt, matches, and oil. 25 dollars per family, to deliver 125 to no income families from our churches. The storm passed through the Dominican Republic, causing heavy rains and wind across several provinces. Fortunately, IPHC properties were not damaged except for, one member's house which was destroyed. Photo attached.*

## **GUYANA**

Hong Kong COVID funds provided \$2,000 that have been applied to additional assistance.

Political unrest, along with COVID, continue the restrictions on all communities. Amid food shortage and other essential items, chaos and mayhem plague the people with increased violence and deaths. Opposing political parties have taken their war to the streets. Recently, two young boys related to one of our church members were hacked to death. Many family members and church members were afraid to attend their funeral. Later, in a WhatsApp call with Bishop Livan, he received a message that another church member had been informed of her uncle hacked and found dead.

Here is a praise report from Bishop Garfield and their appreciation for COVID assistance.

*Rev Steve*

*Good Night Praise be to God. I am so exhausted and feeling tired, but we were able to give 6 churches food today. The curfew time catch us on the road, but thanks be to God the cops didn't stop us because we would have to pay a fine. It brings tears to my eyes to see how people in our churches are so grateful for the food. Many don't have anything, so on Behalf of Bishop Garfield, we want to say thanks to all those who make this successful for us here in Guyana to have food. We pray God Bless for them in abundance. The Marakaboi Crusade trip was very successful. We were able to establish another church plant in a nearby village. Basic access to that area is by small boat. I have attached two photos of our evangelism team and one of a food supply point.*

**God Bless you,  
Judy Livan**

## **JAMAICA**

Hong Kong COVID funds provided \$3,680 that have been applied to additional assistance to Bishop Paul Johnson's request for the Jamaican church and its outreach to the surrounding community.

In March, the leadership in Jamaica thanked WMM for offering financial assistance to help with COVID needs, but shared they were currently managing on their own. As COVID increased and more restrictions imposed, many church members and connecting families loss their jobs. Also, the lack of available resources and higher prices brought more needs than what could be met through the local church. WMM (donor donations and RD account) sent \$2,000 to Jamaica to assist that request. Below is an email from Associate Pastor Wilmore Smith, on behalf of Bishop Paul Johnson:

*Thanks for your concern regarding the COVID-19 needs of our members. The Care package (photos attached) cost US \$28.40 per person, therefore with 50 packages (50× US \$28.40) the cost would be US \$1,420. This would be for a onetime distribution. Thanks to everyone for helping us. We also ask if this could be repeated for at least 3 more times if possible. Please express everyone's thankfulness and appreciation for World Missions support during these challenging times here in Jamaica. May the Lord bless our brothers and sisters in America.*

## **HAITI**

Hong Kong COVID funds provided \$5,000 that have been sent to assist all the churches in the Haitian conference.

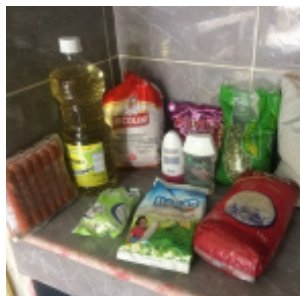
Bishop Abraham and his wife are currently in the States. They were able to enter the U.S. for ongoing medical issues. Both have been going through tests and treatments and will be returning to Haiti soon.

All photos of the first distribution packets to the churches (in some areas monies were given to buy food locally) are on Abraham's computer in Haiti. In a recent phone conversation, he asked that I express their love and appreciation to all parties responsible in aiding during these difficult times. He shared that they were so glad to be a part of the greater IPHC global family. *"And tell the American church how much they feel their love and value for the people in Haiti. And may the American churches be blessed for their giving hearts."*

Some of our Haitian IPHC schools are still closed. Currently, the school located on the IPHC compound is open with students attending. However, during the COVID shutdown, thieves stole the compound's generator and later returned and took the inverter and batteries. This was a major hindrance for reopening the school and a major financial undertaking to replace.

A special thank you to STM Roger and Ginger Johnson for their generosity by providing \$7,000 from their ministry account to replace the generator and later, when informed about the batteries and inverter providing \$5,000 to replace the batteries.

Bishop Abraham reported that they have two new preaching points and are developing into church plants.



*Previous Distribution in Cuba*



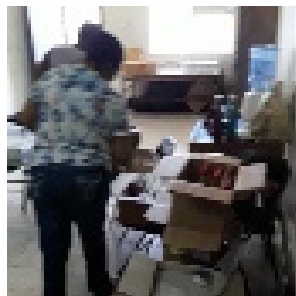
*IPHC Church Member's House in Dominican Republic*



*Food for one Distribution Point in Guyana*



*Outreach Ministry/Church Plant in the Marakaboi Mission Outreach*



*First Distribution of Food and Items in Jamaica*



## CENTRAL AMERICA – DAN CLOWERS

I trust this finds you doing well. I appreciate the time you have allowed me to share what God is doing in the region of Central America. Of course, for the last eight months, my region has been in the same shape as the rest of the world, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regardless, I am happy to say that we are not defeated and that God is still on the throne. The reports from my leaders are always with a positive heart. I would also like to say thank you for the years of ministry we have shared together. I have seen many council members come and go over the course of my 34 years as a WMM Missionary, and each one has ministered to me in a special way. I cherish your friendship and your leadership. You will always have a place in mine and Brenda's hearts.

I submit this final report to you for your consideration.



## **SCHEDULE:**

Our time in the states was scheduled for furlough, but due to the closing of many churches, we were unable to schedule services. We have, however, still had a few ZOOM meetings and a few special services. For the most part, it has been a challenging time to be in the States.

Brenda and I have occupied our time by staying in touch with the field and helping with the COVID aid that PTP has given. We also have volunteered in helping in many areas, such as our local conference, to fill in where a pastor is needed as churches have slowly reopened.

## **MISSIONARIES:**

Our region only has the four missionaries, Jeff and Kimberly Oeder, and ourselves. I have maintained communication with the Oeders, and they are well. They have been back and forth in the Appalachian conference and have maintained contact with their supporters. I am very excited for what God has in store for them in Central America.

## **FIELD REPORTS:**

### **COSTA RICA**

I recently was in touch with our interim Superintendent, Joaquin Quesada, who shared his thoughts for the future of Costa Rica. As you may recall, our Superintendent of 17 years, Jose Angel Salas, passed away a few months ago. Many things were not ready for a transitional time such as this, especially with the problems that COVID-19 presented in addition to the passing of Jose. Legal papers with the bank had not been signed; finances were in shambles; and the conference was at an all-time low with discouraged leaders and different ideas of ministry. I so wanted to be there with them to help them through this difficult time. Without a legal meeting of the pastors and an election of new board members, they cannot make any legal decisions or withdraw or use any money that is in the bank under the name of the conference.

Joaquin has mentioned to me that the present situation after the new Superintendent is established and the vacant council members positions are filled is to start basically from scratch and rebuild this conference. At one point, the IPHC was one of three leading denominations in the country. Joaquin is excited to get the conference back to that status again by reestablishing ministries that have been cut, such as youth ministries, women's ministry, Christian Education, and missions, as well as emphasizing again the Bible School Ministries. Many of these were dropped in exchange for the latest apostolic fad that came over the last few years. I truly see this as the main problem that affected the conference.

The special called assembly is now scheduled for October 10th, and according to Joaquin, there are several candidates for the position of Superintendent. Please be in prayer for this conference and the leadership. I will not be able to attend. As you can read below, residents of Oklahoma are not approved to enter Costa Rica, even though they are open to other states. This does not make sense, but it is what it is. I will send a greeting by way of video to pray and try and move them into some kind of solidarity as a conference. I will report on the sale of the property in a separate report, but just to say, it is moving very slow. My heart goes out to Costa Rica, and I pray they are able to organize again and make it a great conference once again.

## **COVID TRAVEL INFORMATION:**

As of September 1, 2020, U.S. citizen tourists who are residents of New York, New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia may enter Costa Rica on flights departing from the United States. As of September 15, residents of Colorado, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Wyoming, New Mexico, Michigan, and Rhode Island can also enter Costa Rica on flights departing from the United States.

Residents of California will be able to enter Costa Rica as of October 1. U.S. citizen tourists from these states wishing to enter Costa Rica must complete a digital epidemiological health pass, obtain a negative PCR-RT coronavirus test taken within 72 hours of their departure from the United States, and purchase travel insurance that covers accommodation in case of quarantine and medical expenses due to COVID-19. U.S. tourist must also demonstrate, via a valid driver's license or State ID card, that they live in one of the authorized states. No forms of documentation establishing residency in these authorized states other than a valid driver's license or State ID card will be accepted at this time.

## **EL SALVADOR**

I have been so impressed with the work in El Salvador over the last few months. I always knew we had a great leader, but he has really shined during this pandemic. Francisco Olivo, our national leader, has not ceased to preach and pray every day of this pandemic. What started out as an online prayer meeting has continued each day with the preaching of the word and prayer for the country of El Salvador. When the church could not have services, they had them in the homes and under trees. During this time, two new churches have been established, bringing the total of our churches to six in this small country. Please be in prayer for Francisco and his wife, Glenda. Glenda has a son from a previous marriage that has special needs that is living in Texas. Before the borders were closed, Glenda came to Texas to work on her citizenship to the US. This would, of course, give her an advantage in helping her son. This couple had agreed to make this sacrifice of separation for the time it would take. However, they had not considered the impending pandemic that was about to hit. Please pray that they can work out this situation and continue as the strong ministry couple that they are in El Salvador.

The churches are doing well, and attendance has not dropped off even though the locations have changed.

## **COVID TRAVEL INFORMATION:**

Are U.S. citizens permitted to enter? Yes, beginning September 19. The Government of El Salvador has announced the reopening of the International Airport on September 19 with enhanced health protocols, which may include but not be limited to required wearing of a mask at all times, maintaining social distancing, and temperature checks. For more information regarding the reopening of the airport and the measures that will be implemented, please consult the website of the Comisión Ejecutiva Portuaria Autónoma (CEPA). There are no exit restrictions in place.

The U.S. Embassy has facilitated repatriation flights for U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents until September 18. For more information, please visit our repatriation flight booking page. Is a negative COVID-19 test (PCR and/or serology) required for entry? Yes. The government of El Salvador is requiring all airlines to obtain an original negative PCR test within 72 hours of departure for all international passengers prior to allowing them to board. It is very important that you consult with your airline for full details prior to attempting to travel.

## **HONDURAS**

Superintendent Juan Javier Cruz reports that things are not well. The government in Honduras has been very strict due to the pandemic. Banks have been limited as to when they can open. This has slowed the transfer of funds from the churches to the conference account and also the funds from the conference to the churches. Our Superintendent's family has suffered a lot of sickness over the last few months, but none of it was COVID related. Javier reports that the churches are struggling and just maintaining at this time.

Honduras has been our most productive conference in Central America for several years. They have produced many new works. I pray that this time of the pandemic will not set them back but rather be a time to prove what has been established for the Lord. Javier reports that the conference was behind with their association payments with the government but thanks to the funds that have been sent in they were able to make this payment.

### **COVID TRAVEL INFORMATION:**

Are U.S. citizens permitted to enter? Yes, visit the local government's COVID-19 website for updated information. Is a negative COVID-19 test (PCR and/or serology) required for entry? As of August 17, 2020, yes. Are health screening procedures in place at airports and other ports of entry? Yes, tourist visas are not required for stays of 90 days or less. Contact Honduran Migration regarding extensions for residents and/or tourists at (504) 2232-7800 or [consultasentradasysalidas@inm.hn.gob](mailto:consultasentradasysalidas@inm.hn.gob).

#### **Movement Restrictions:**

Is a curfew in place? Yes

Are there restrictions on intercity or interstate travel? Yes, a letter of safe passage or permission to transit called a salvoconducto is required. Salvoconductos must be processed by the Honduran Police. Please visit the following website to process a request for a salvoconducto: <https://www.serviciospoliciales.gob.hn/salvoconductos>.

#### **Quarantine Information:**

Are U.S. citizens required to quarantine? Yes

Individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, who within the last 14 days have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or traveled to a country with confirmed cases, may be isolated in a medical center or at the traveler's place of residence/temporary stay for monitoring by the Ministry of Health for up to 14 days.

## **NICARAGUA**

Our Nicaragua conference has probably been more affected by the COVID pandemic than any of the others. We have lost a total of four members in the conference, and many that have been sick but did not report, according to our Superintendent Denis Obando. The churches have been struggling to keep the pastors supported during this time as in other areas of the world. Our leader states that in spite of all this, they are moving forward. Where they are allowed to have church, they are, and in other areas, they are still in the homes. The online church has not been as strong in this country due to the lack of Internet in some homes. I am in constant contact with Denis Obando, who is very good to report on how things are going.

### **COVID TRAVEL INFORMATION:**

Are U.S. citizens permitted to enter? Yes. Is a negative COVID-19 test (PCS and/or serology) required for entry? Yes. Are health screening procedures in place at airports and other ports of entry? Yes. While the Nicaraguan government has not officially imposed any restrictions as a result of the worldwide outbreak, borders and airports are effectively closed.

Officially, travelers do not need any particular documentation to enter/exit Nicaragua. Unless arriving from a country with known yellow fever risk, then one must demonstrate vaccination against yellow fever at least 10 days prior to entering zone of risk.

Airport and immigration officials in Nicaragua have required travelers to report if they have visited any of the countries significantly affected by COVID-19 and have requested negative coronavirus tests. U.S. citizen visitors and residents in Nicaragua should contact Nicaraguan Immigration directly regarding visa extensions and residency processes: Direccion General de Migracion y Extranjeria, Direccion: Semáforos de la Tenderí 300 metros al lago, Teléfonos: 22512271 – 22512272, [relacionespublicas@migob.gob.ni](mailto:relacionespublicas@migob.gob.ni) – <https://www.migob.gob.ni/migracion/>.

## PANAMA

Our work in Panama has not had much change in the way of opening churches. The pandemic continues to create challenges for the work. Throughout the pandemic, the church has taken an upfront stance in the community to help with medical equipment and food. The churches are doing well, and attendance has not dropped off even though the locations have changed.

Our church in Chitre is having services with social distancing in place. The church does have a radio program that has been a great tool for the church during this time. Both pastor and co-pastor have services broadcasted regularly.

### **COVID TRAVEL INFORMATION:**

Are U.S. citizens permitted to enter? No. Is a negative COVID-19 test (PCR and/or serology) required for entry? Yes. Are health screening procedures in place at airports and other ports of entry? Yes.

### IN CONCLUSION:

Please continue to pray for Brenda and me as we transition into this retirement mode. We are finding many exciting challenges with the Medicare system and our prescription needs. We need a lot of wisdom. Thank you again to WMM for all the blessing you have been to us at this time.

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## CONTINENTAL ASIA – RUSSELL BOARD

The global COVID-19 pandemic has forced a radical revision of the calendar for 2020, preventing travel and disrupting ministry activities. In addition to the risk of potentially deadly infection posed by the virus, government-imposed lockdowns have brought severe financial hardship to many developing countries. These harsh realities have challenged the faith, perseverance, compassion, and ingenuity of believers around the world. Nevertheless, our confidence remains unshaken, for our God is still on the throne, working His will and building His Church regardless of the circumstances. We continue to press on as He guides and provides, serving the cause of world missions in response to the Great Commission mandate.

### MISSIONARY PERSONNEL

- Albert and Jiep Gonzales in Thailand
- Hiro and Eryn Bamba (Justin, Ax, Hunter, Olivia) in Japan
- Danny and Judith Williams on furlough in North Carolina
- Raeha Butler on furlough in Oklahoma
- Chase and Kristina (Mercy) stateside after evacuation
- Vijay and Aparanjani Balla (Roslin), National Missionaries in Bangladesh
- Merlyn Lamanilao (Kezia), National Missionary in Cambodia
- Marites and Gopi Kumar (Anya, Nathan), National Missionaries in India

### MISSIONARY NEWS

Due to rapidly deteriorating conditions in Nepal and the uncertainty of the availability of future flights, we decided that it would be advisable to evacuate **Chase and Kristina (and Mercy)** on June 4th and bring them to the US. They had already spent 73 days in lockdown, with little opportunity to leave the house or neighborhood.



A mass influx of migrant workers returning to Nepal brought increased pressure to an already strained social system, resulting in an immediate risk of food shortages and civil unrest. Chase and Kristina will remain in the US through the birth of their second child, expected in December. The timing of their return to Nepal will depend upon developments and circumstances in that country.

After struggling to secure airline reservations during a period of continually changing flight schedules, and experiencing the disappointment of several cancellations, **Raeha Butler** finally made it to the US on July 27th. She was forced to spend her last week or so with friends as her apartment lease had expired, and her visa was also nearing expiration when the flight reservations came through. During this term, Raeha showed commendable faith, tenacity, and commitment, working mostly on her own in a difficult situation.

### COVID-19 RELIEF IN NEPAL

Even after the departure of Chase and Kristina, relief activities continued in Nepal under the direction of Ashok Lama, Assistant National Director, in close consultation with National Director Danny Williams. A determined and resourceful individual, Ashok managed to find creative ways to navigate government restrictions in order to get funds and supplies to where they were needed. The efforts of pastors to minister to the needs of their local communities resulted in the baptism of many new believers who were led to faith after seeing the love of God demonstrated in tangible and personal ways.



### NORTH INDIA: RELIEF AND REVIVAL

When the government of India effected a lockdown to try to contain the virus, it caused severe hardship for families who were dependent upon daily wage labor for their survival. Local authorities in the Madhupur district of North India summoned all the registered charitable organizations and demanded that they provide financial and practical support. Our North India Society eagerly seized the opportunity and, with assistance from the International COVID-19 Relief Fund, distributed food supplies to those in need. Our local churches caught the vision and drew upon their own resources to help their own communities.

These acts of charity and generosity not only demonstrated the love of Christ to people in desperate need but also gained favor for our churches with the local governments, which heretofore had viewed Christians with disdain or suspicion. Best of all, this community outreach has resulted in many giving their lives to Christ, and a number of new village church plants!



## THAILAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Led by missionary Albert Gonzales and National Director Dr. Wallapa Wisawasukmongchol, the groundbreaking ceremony for the main building of the Thailand Theological Seminary (TTS) was held on June 30th. Dignitaries from Petchabun Province took part in the ceremony, including the governor, vice governor, and director of social development. TTS received a \$50,000 Project Antioch grant to initiate this construction. Work is ongoing, as are efforts to raise an additional \$100,000 to complete the building.

## BUILDING THE KINGDOM IN CAMBODIA

Led by Conference Missions Director Larry Meadors, a team from the Appalachian Conference came to Cambodia in February to begin construction of a new church building in Pursat. With their continued financial support, the building was completed and dedicated on June 13th. It is a beautiful structure, unique in that district. National Leader Merlyn Lamanilao continues to lead the pastors in activities of training, outreach, and discipleship, in spite of COVID-19 restrictions that have shut down most churches.



## CRACKDOWN IN HONG KONG

China has taken a number of forceful measures to suppress the autonomy of Hong Kong, including the passage of a security law to squelch demonstrations, the arrest of journalists and protest leaders, and the postponement of local elections. Given the tight restrictions imposed by Beijing on churches in the mainland, Hong Kong congregations face an uncertain future.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for India, which will almost certainly become the nation with the highest number of coronavirus cases and deaths. The virus is spreading rapidly, but daily wage earners cannot survive a strict lockdown.
- Pray for continued relief efforts to assist churches in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, and for continued spread of the gospel through these efforts.
- Pray for the funding and construction of the Thailand Theological Seminary in Petchabun.
- Pray for freedom and democracy to endure in Hong Kong, and pray for the pastors there as they lead their flocks through perilous and uncharted territory.
- Pray for the recovery of Aparanjani Balla, national missionary from India to Bangladesh, who underwent quadruple bypass surgery in Minnesota on August 19th. The surgery was successful, thank the Lord. If all goes well, she and her husband Vijay are scheduled to return to Bangladesh in early October.
- Pray that missionaries and national leaders will have wisdom to discern new opportunities and develop new models of ministry in this challenging season.

# EASTERN / SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA – RON WOOTEN

It is an honor to once again report to this Leadership Team about the work in East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Of course, this has been an “Unprecedented Time” in all our lives, but it has also been a very fruitful time of ministry, and we have seen growth in our work in some of our countries. I will give overviews of our work below in ESSA from our Missionaries and our Leadership.

## EAST AFRICA PROVERBS

1. If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go FAR, go together. (Kenya)
2. Do not allow the BELLY to make you useless. (Maasai, East Africa)
3. He who does not seize opportunity today, will be unable to seize tomorrow's opportunity. (Somali)

## RD OVERVIEW & PROJECTS

I think it is probably good to start this report by giving an update on COVID-19 in my region and its effects. I am not going to focus on this much as too much attention has been focused on it since it arrived in our world. In ESSA, we have not been hit like much of the world. This is possibly due to several reasons, but a few major ones are: 1) the availability and accuracy of testing; 2) most East Africans take hydroxy-chloroquine for malaria on a regular basis, and this medicine is in their system; and 3) border and internal shutdowns were pretty quick and very strict. Of the 440 million persons in the eight countries of ESSA, there were 224,285 reported cases and 7,653 deaths. By far, Egypt has been our hardest-hit country with over 100,000 cases. Ethiopia is second with just over 64,000. In all of our countries, the majority of all cases are in the capital cities.

We have tried to assist and help where we could. I do not have exact figures from all our missionaries, **but through the COVID-19 International Relief Fund, we have received over to \$20,000. We have also been able to assist with more than \$10,000 above this through personal ministry accounts, our International Church in Nairobi, and private donors.** These funds have been used primarily to buy bulk food, but also have been used to assist with house rent, medical bills, and sadly a few funerals of IPHC members. For countries where we do not have a missionary presence, I have sent cash through what means we have available at the present time. I have personally sent cash to our leaders in Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, Eastern DR Congo, Rwanda, Egypt, and remote conferences in Kenya. South Sudan's money has been directed through Hope4Sudan and most of Rwanda's funds through the Tignors.

Most of our countries have now opened up at least 60 to 70%, but travel within the region is still very hard. I hope to travel to Ethiopia before this meeting takes place, but I am still waiting to see if doors will open. With that said, we had three major building projects going on and a few smaller ones in the past six months. The Centre in Addis Ababa and Nairobi are both progressing slowly but are moving forward. We have **finished the first floor of major construction in Addis, and we have almost completed the offices and classrooms at the List Conference Centre. Kevin Sneed has been overseeing the construction of a wall around our Bible School property in Eldoret, Kenya, and I have finished the renovation of our ESSA Headquarters Sanctuary in Nairobi.** We have some roof projects going on from the money I have raised through the East Africa Roofs Project account. Our lead pastor in Kigali, Rwanda, has been overseeing a project of building a border wall around our IPHC property in the capital city. This has been funded mostly by Tim Eades. I will put pictures at the end of my report for some of these projects.



The churches in most of our countries have been closed since March, like many other places in the world. However, in many of our rural areas, the churches never closed or were only closed for limited times. I have heard from several of our Bishops in the past eight months, and since the beginning of 2020 (mostly during the COVID-19 time): Ethiopia has opened 25 churches; Kenya has opened 13 churches; and Uganda has opened four new IPHC churches. This would be a great praise report at any time, but it is even more exciting to see this happen this year. Philip List Sr. would give a big “Bwana Asifiwe” and say “Njili Mbele” (“Praise the Lord” and “Forward with the Gospel”).

## **ESSA CAREER MISSIONARIES**

1. **Ron & Sharon Wooten** – Ron and Sharon have been able to remain very busy during this time. They have kept many of the building projects moving forward along with doing as much humanitarian work in the eight countries in their region. Sending money to some of our countries has become a bit challenging, especially the eastern part of DR Congo, but thankfully we keep coming up with creative ways to get funds to them. Along with that, they have kept a pretty heavy preaching schedule at the International church and, from time to time, sharing messages with other groups online, hosting Zoom prayer meetings, and meeting privately and praying and counseling individuals. They have also been able to maintain the monthly feeding program through the assistance of a friend and to keep purchasing food for IPHC schools and orphanages. Ron has worked to keep up communication with the ESSA Missionary family and helped meet any needs.

2. **Gailya Williams List** – Ms. Gailya is doing well. On September 20, Gailya turns 85 years old and is actually doing remarkably well. She has been sidelined from any public ministry in Kenya because of her age. Kenya has passed a ruling that anyone over 65 cannot attend any public services of any kind. She is not very happy with this, but she has maintained ministry through phone calls, writing cards and letters, and even inviting people to her home (against her daughter’s wishes). If she makes it to April of 2021, she will have served 60 years as a full-time career missionary in Africa and 41 years here in Kenya.

3. **Kevin & Summer Sneed, Abbie and Nathan** – Kevin is still serving as the Director of our East Africa Bible School, and Summer is trying, with all restrictions, to keep the Girl’s Ministry moving forward. All schools have been closed to public classroom work, so our Bible School has been completely closed. Online schooling is not an option because the majority of the students could not access it. Kevin has been working with the Department of Education and has given our facility to serve as a Tutoring Centre for Elementary through high school students in the Eldoret area. The School has taken on the financial responsibility to do this, and it has proven to be a great tool to promote the School and the local IPHC church, as well as help many families in the area maintain their children’s education. The Sneeds have also done several feeding outreaches to the IPHC children’s homes in their area and pastors. I am attaching some pictures of the Bible School fence and school project.

4. **Matthew & Iris Wong, Enhua** – The Wongs have continued to communicate and reach out to their Chinese congregants. They faced some discrimination issues at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, but that seems to have passed. They have had some of their families who have left Kenya during this time. Still, they have stayed very active as a church with online services, prayer meetings, and humanitarian outreaches. I will include a few pictures of some of their food distribution to our IPHC churches.

5. **Michael & Leslie Tignor, Josiah** – Michael and Leslie returned to the field after the birth of their son, Josiah. They arrived just a few weeks before the COVID-19 outbreak. Rwanda has carried out one of the toughest quarantines in East Africa, second only to Uganda. This has kept them homebound more than some of us, but thankfully in the past few months, they have been able to travel in Kigali city. They are doing well physically, and Josiah is growing and excelling. He has not yet been able to attend his first service in an African church, but we hope it will not be long.

## ESSA MISSIONARIES

1. **James & Jessica Dunning, Sophie & Ethan** – Jamie and Jessica and the kids are doing good. I did not mention with the Sneeds or the Wongs, but they are all doing homeschool with their kids until classes begin again. We have been told January, but we are hoping sooner. Jamie has been the main missionary in East Africa to request COVID-19 funds from our field for food distribution. I chose to let him handle this at the beginning. As of July, several of us have also requested funds. Jamie has sent in an update of PTP and the work they have done through food distribution. I am attaching their report.

2. **Russell & Sonya Schweighardt** – Russell and Sonya are still in the Itineration process. They are working with their ministry, Hope Ministries Uganda. I know this ministry has received funds at least one time from the COVID-19 International Relief Fund, and they have been dispersed. Just with their personalities and love for their work here, I know they are very plugged into everything that is happening in western Uganda.

3. **Greg & Latoya McClerkin, Ethan & Colton** – The McClerkins have been on furlough for almost a year now. They want to be back but got stuck and could not return. I think they have been released but are awaiting travel documents from the States. They have continued to stay in communication with the work in South Sudan and in Eldoret, where they base while in Africa.

## ESSA SHORT TERM MISSIONARIES

1. **Michael & Tammy McRae, Joseph** – The McRaes have had a challenging year. They were on furlough and returned to Kenya at the end of 2019 after being home for over eight months. They changed their status from Career to Short Term at that time. After arriving back in Kenya, they had some personal family issues, and Michael traveled back to the US for what was supposed to be a three-week trip. He got caught by COVID-19. At the same time, Tammy traveled to Tanzania on a personal trip to attend a friend's wedding. She got stuck and could not come back to Kenya. I urged her to work on a flight to the US if she could not come back to Kenya. She wanted to stay in Tanzania, but I refused. After a week of working, before everything closed, Michael managed to book her a flight to return to Alabama. They have been stuck since. The borders are now open, but their older son is getting married in October, so they hope to return in November.

2. **Rhonda Wood** – Rhonda is still living and working in eastern Uganda. She has not left during the year. Most of her work closed down, even more so than other places. I think Uganda may have had the strongest quarantine laws in East Africa. Rhonda has, as always, managed to stay very busy overseeing what she could from her home and travel out when she could to our Centre. She does a great job overseeing the work for New Life Church from Roanoke.

3. **Laura Warren** – Laura has just left Kenya to return back to the US after her first eight-month term of working here. Laura is a very driven and highly motivated young lady. She has worked hard to identify and assist many at-risk children and women in one of our slums here in Nairobi. She spends several days each week working, teaching, and helping many people. Unfortunately, the main work we wanted her to do with our IPHC churches in Nairobi has not been able to be accomplished because of shutdowns. Hopefully, when she returns, the main ministry of initiating Sidewalk Sunday School Outreaches in existing IPHC churches will begin. Laura does have some personal issues that need looking into, but I will leave this to the WMM Staff and Director.

4. **Mike Reed** – Mike lives in the Tulsa area and has worked with WMM and in Uganda for many years. He was actually our first ever resident missionary in the early 2000s. Mike is still trying to visit and support the IPHC work in Uganda and help maintain some of the infrastructures he was able to establish over the years. He is largely responsible for much of our work there, and we hope he can continue to be an asset.



## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR ESSA

1. With the new law that has been passed in Sudan becoming more open to Christianity, I am praying for God to raise up a trained Christian leader who can move there and start a work for IPHC. We do not know how long this door will be open, so we need to move ASAP. To support an African pastor to go to Khartoum would take around \$1,000 a month. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/july/sudan-drops-apostasy-law-death-penalty-christians-alcohol.html>
2. Pray for the leadership in our region to be able to stand as the difficulties and challenges of COVID shutdowns continue to loom over much of Africa.
3. Pray for land issues to be reconciled in several places and our registration to be completed in Uganda.
4. Pray for the funds to finish our major projects. (i.e., List Conference Centre, Addis Ababa Conference Centre, and Burundi City Church)
5. Pray for missionary resident's permits to be approved. Right now, we have three pending renewals and two first time approvals.
6. Pray for peace in Ethiopia. For the past two years, they have had incredible political & tribal unrest. We have lost churches to looting and burning; thousands of people have been displaced; and some have died. The situation seems somewhat better, but there is still a great deal of underlying anger.

## DUNNINGS' REPORT

**Dunnings' Ministry Snapshot: March-September 2020. Jamie has some pictures on Facebook, I believe.**

*COVID Relief/Disaster Response:*

- *2,500 households have received relief (the majority have received relief 2-4 times)*
- *36,000kg (40 US tons) of food distributed (approx.)*
- *Additional COVID relief items (soap/masks)*
- *Church/Communities Served:*
  - *Calvary Worship Center Ruai*
  - *Kariobangi IPHC*
  - *CMD Nakuru*
  - *Dandora IPHC*
  - *Pastor Chris Mutira's Church*
  - *Emmanuel Worship Center, Kanja*
  - *Isiolo IPHC*
  - *Lokichoggio IPHC*
  - *Oloitokitok (18 Masai Churches)*
  - *Tana River Communities: Odhole, Peponi, Bandi, Vumbwe, Danisa, Gardeni, Mtampani, Kikoroto, Ramada*

- o Community relief efforts in Kibera (2 locations)
- o Community relief efforts in Githruai
- o Community relief efforts in Kayole
- o Community relief efforts in Njoro/Longonot
- Educational Support Program (due to schools being closed):
  - o Hosanna Children's Home
  - o St. Joyuna Academy

### **Additional Projects/Ministry:**

- Hosanna Children's Home:
  - o Dairy Project Expansion: purchase of a new heifer
  - o Office Repair (Flood Damage)
- Calvary Worship Ruai/St. Joyuna Academy
  - o Chicken Project Revitalization (coop repairs, purchase of new flock, micro-loan given for additional flock)
  - o Water kiosk (income-generating project) established
  - o Multiple relief distributions to community
- Tana River Communities
  - o Relief Distribution (three times)
  - o Community Farm Projects funded reseeding and planting initiatives after the flooding
  - o Micro-finance loan to Bocha/Hadija for personal self-sustainability business
- Nakuru CMD
  - o Plumbing repairs and new lines run
  - o Academic building window replacement and repair
  - o Multiple relief distributions to community
- Days 4 Girls Sanitary Pad Program:
  - o Micro-loan to sustain the enterprise through the initial months of COVID
  - o Funding for building expansion
  - o People to People Child Sponsorship:
  - o Pastor and Program Payout (April and August)
- \* Started Update Cycle (limited due to COVID)

## SNEEDS' REPORT



*New Entrance to Bible School Compound*



*Picture of the wall that will cover the complete road frontage of our property.*



*Children in our Tutoring Program – currently, we have 75 students*

## WONGS & CHINESE CHURCH REPORT OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO IPHC CHURCHES IN KENYA



## EAST AFRICA PROJECTS



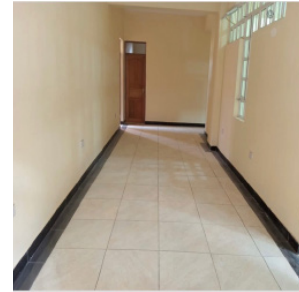
*Renovated Sanctuary at ESSA Headquarters in Nairobi – building built by Philip List in the 1990s*



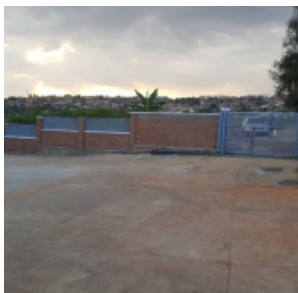
*A district leaders' meeting in the List Conference Centre Auditorium/Worship Centre*



*List Conference Centre Entrance*



*Offices & Classrooms Entry Hall*



*Perimeter wall in Kigali, Rwanda, at our main church and office for IPHC Rwanda*



*A church in Kenya we will be roofing from the East Africa Roofs Project. The people have built the building to this point. We have four or five buildings right now that are all Renovated Sanctuary at ESSA to be roofed and some that are close. The blue building on the right is the old church.*



*Worshippers on the ground floor of the Addis Ababa Conference Centre. They have been in a tent on the property. The rains drove them inside the construction site. The two persons in the front are Bishop and his wife, Lydia. Two of his five children are just behind him.*

# EURASIA & MIDDLE EAST – BOB CAVE

“Virtual” greetings to the World Missions Council and fellow colleagues in Jesus’ name. Well, what can we say? COVID-19 has changed a lot of how we do LIFE! How we do work! If some people can work! How they go to school! If they go to school! How they buy groceries! How we go to church! If we can go to church! Whose restrictions do we obey! When do we push through all obstacles and go! How long are we quarantined if we go! How bad do we need to be in a certain country! So, the question is, “How do we do life?” Well, I know my “Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb.13:8), so I will “occupy until He comes”. We have seen our overseas churches rally to their people’s needs and keep forging forward, and it is a joy to come along beside them and do life together. We have amazing leaders who continue to evangelize, disciple, and plant churches. Here is a brief glimpse of what has transpired in their countries.

## MISSIONARIES:

**Miriam Presley:** has returned to the USA and will be marrying Trevor Clowers in October. After a honeymoon and itineration, they will serve in Northwest Europe.

**Ben and Marianne Janssen:** Ben and Marianne are in Canada at this time, and Marianne has secured her Canadian citizenship. She qualified as they lived in Canada for 25 years before missions and did not get it until just this summer. They are in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and have been ministering to the First Nations people of Northern Quebec until they can travel overseas.

**Dan and Noomi Gutierrez:** Dan and Noomi are in Antalya, Turkey. They are active in leading home bible studies, outreach evangelism, and assisting in a local evangelical church. Dan was part of Jonathan and Corrie Shirey’s Discipleship Beyond Ministry until the Shireys left last year.

## COUNTRIES

**UKRAINE:** As the world closed down during the spring and summer months, Christian Hope Church, the mother church of 1,500 members, was forced to close until July. As most people took public transportation, which also shut down, the Church was isolated. There is no online banking system, so therefore the finances took a major hit. Thank the Lord for our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund that has been a Godsend for them. The 230 plus churches across the country in towns and villages fared fine as they are more dependent on the land and local work.

The humanitarian arm, Barnabas Foundation, which has been self-funding, lost its ability to keep funds coming in as their patients and staff usually have secular jobs that fund the work, and that was lost. Again, the COVID fund has kept it all afloat, so this has turned out to be a very important relief effort. We have been able to continue our homeless feeding program in Kiev, and this makes a big difference. Our drug rehab centers in the rural country are doing okay as they too live off the land with gardens and farm animals.



Krushinka, Ukraine: The Drug Rehab Center building project is still building, although there is a countrywide shut down as they have materials and labor (the ex-addicts that live on the premises). As you may know, we bought a large four-plex that had only two operational units for the 30 men that live there. We have been working the past year with our own labor to renovate and complete the other two units and tie them all together. We have also moved our church plant facility into the building. In September, we sent them \$35,000 to put in all the heating, plumbing, and heat pump systems. At this time, we need to raise only \$27,000 to finish the whole project.

**ISRAEL:** The country went through early lockdowns with many job losses. All the churches that have drug/alcohol rehab centers are sustained by the ex-addicts working and paying much of their income into the center to run it. Those jobs were mostly lost during the last six months. The majority of our work is with Russian speaking Jews and those that are “set free” and now eager to work for Christ. One said, “This is the BEST thing going in my life!”. One other new convert said to me, “all I need is a bedroll, a plate, and fork, and I’m ready to work for Christ”. So, no wonder they are turned on for Yeshua, and the ministry is growing. They are not looking for anything much beyond a place to sleep and meals to work in the ministry full time.

In spite of lockdowns and job losses, they are planting churches and winning the lost. Last month, they baptized 36 more NEW converts in the Jordan River. Also, last month was church plant number 33, which was a women’s rehab center/safe house and church. This was financed by a donation from a widow in Doug Bartlett’s territory. This was a very needed project, and much appreciated!

We are ready to plant church number 33 in the town of Migdal Emek, which has a population of 25,000, of which 10,000 are Russian speaking Jews. What an open door. This is in the Valley of Megiddo (Valley of Armageddon). So, just as soon as we can raise \$8,000, we are ready to go. DO YOU KNOW A US CHURCH THAT WOULD SPONSOR THIS NEW CHURCH PLANT?

### **PALESTINE TERRITORIES:**

**BETHLEHEM:** In our Bethlehem church, Pastor Khader tells me his church has COME ALIVE since COVI-19. Palestine went into lockdown early in the year. After, Khader got permission from the local police to start distributing food hampers and picking up prescription medicines for his locked in Muslim neighbors. Well, that success snowballed, and the Bethlehem Mayor got on board and gave Khader additional names to add to his list. They gave what they had in hand, and at first, it was 15 families, then 150 families, and now they are up to 500 plus families thanks to COVID-19 Funds.

Then, someone donated the use of some fertile land, and they have a “greenhouse project” on the go from an \$11,000 donation from North Carolina. This greenhouse will produce food to give away and also to sell to keep the project funded. So, Pastor Khader has not just sat there to wait for “normal” to return. He has gone outside the church walls to find the lost, and as he tells me, “his Church has come ALIVE!”

COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund has been such a lifesaver to many of our countries as job losses have cut off their self-sufficiency. These funds have mostly been used to buy food and keep our crucial staff employed, especially in our drug rehab centers. Thank you, Bishop Tal and Bryan, for keeping this moving forward.



**BELARUS:** A small (not quite 10 million) country is in turmoil today. Last year when I was there, we saw four new churches planted, and all was peaceful. The country is very much under the thumb of Russia, and they have invested heavily to make it look like an ideal showcase. The people are open to the gospel, and there is a desire for spiritual growth. The country then had its presidential election and “seemingly” reelected President Alexander Lukashenko, who has been said to be Russia’s puppet for almost 30 years. Protest/riots against the election results have turned the country violent, and many protesters have disappeared. Please pray for our Christian leaders, pastors, and new churches. This could be their hour to shine.

**HUNGARY, ROMANIA, AZERBAIJAN, BULGARIA, GEORGIA:** They all have no major changes and are coping with COVID-19 restrictions. Romania’s Peniel Elderly Home still needs any help we can give as all their patients are either homeless or have dropped through the cracks in the government system.

**TURKEY:** Turkey is often in world news and not necessarily for good reason, but for aggressive moves to let the world see them as a power broker in the Middle East. Now in the Mediterranean, there is a showdown going on over oil and gas and power.

Meanwhile, there are 80 million Turkish Muslims to reach with the Gospel and very few Christian churches in the whole country. We have one in the Capital of Ankara where Ismail Serinken and his family live and one in Laodicea, and the other in Antioch. The next best thing is reaching the lost and seeking through satellite TV, which Ismail is on every day and all kinds of social media like YouTube and Facebook. All the services are online, as well as teaching programs. These are reaching as far away as Germany, where there are over 2 million Turks residing.

We had an online Zoom meeting with all our Middle East and European leaders in September, and Bishop Tal read an excerpt from Ismail’s September newsletter that I wanted to share as the emphasis from Ismail’s daughter Siyona is: “JESUS IS COMING SOON:

### ***GREETINGS FROM GALATIA, TURKEY! | SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER***

*We’re entering the last days!*

#### ***The Unexpected Visitation from an Angel***

*One morning we were worshiping as a family. While we were worshiping our daughter Siyona, who had just turned 11 years old, heard someone singing along with us very beautifully. When our worship song finished, our daughter asked us if we heard the voice singing with us. We said no but told her that maybe angels were singing along with us and we continued worshiping. Our daughter asked us again if we heard someone else singing with us, and during our worship, we noticed that our daughter looked back a few times. There was nothing visible behind her, so we asked her what was happening. Siyona said that she saw the angel that was singing with us. She described the angel to be shining brightly and looked like a blue-eyed child about her age. As we continued to worship, the angel touched our daughter’s shoulder and whispered a word gently into her ear. When our daughter started saying the word, she told us that she felt great power and authority. After she said the word a few times, to our surprise she started speaking in tongues for the first time. We were very excited and joyful. Suddenly, she said: “I know the meanings of the words I’m saying!” She told us that one of the words meant that Jesus Christ is coming soon. Then when she looked up at the ceiling, she saw heaven with Jesus sitting on a golden throne smiling down upon us. We were so encouraged and excited by this experience of our daughter during this current pandemic.*

Two months after this visitation had passed, one evening she saw a vision; she shared her vision with tears in her eyes in the morning: She said she saw the return of Jesus last night. He suddenly appeared in the clouds, and she said I have a feeling that He is coming back much sooner than we expect.

One of the very clear signs of our Lord's glorious return is the Gospel being preached to all the nations of the world. We are preaching and reaching Muslims as never before because of our television and social media ministries. Here is a letter from a young Muslim boy who is looking for God and longing to be found by God: "Hi, my name is Enes and I'm 15-year-old. I'm searching for the truth. I bought a Koran and a Bible for myself. At the moment I'm reading the Koran and after I finish it, I'll read the Bible. Frankly, I don't know why, but I feel closer to Christianity. My father has left my family when I was very young. I was raised by my mom; we're close and I respect her a lot. I want to find God so please pray for me. Thank you very much.

Some Sundays we have a lot of policemen in front of our church building; we don't know whether it is for our security or government intimidation...

We are experiencing God's grace in increasing levels and grateful for it. May God bless you and prepare us all for His glorious return!

Donation to our personal WMM support account as Ismail Serinken # 43303P



Feeding and Clothing outreach to the Homeless in Kiev

Serinken Family



Women's Drug Rehab Center/  
Safe House and Church



Typical of House Church  
Meeting Area

# GULF OF MEXICO – RON ROY

We are presently located in Mexicali, working with five local churches. On August 23rd, churches were allowed to open with 30% seating capacity. To counter the updated restrictions, some of our churches have gone to outside services, while others are holding multiple meetings. To attend a service, everyone must sign up in advance with name, address, phone number, etc. A mass online prayer meeting has been ongoing for some time. The report we have received is thousands are participating with us – PTL

**JUDY PEREZ :** On July 18th, Ruben finished his course and is now in the presence of the Savior. Ruben and Judy were married from 1977-2020. He will be missed. Judy is doing as well as can be expected. She is staying busy working with Emmanuel College. Emmanuel College is online with several extensions.

**GENE & LIZ HANCOCK:** Gene and Liz are itinerating. Liz has had some problems with vertigo. She had an MRI done. The medical report says there is nothing serious, and it should clear up over time. Gene reports none of our people have contracted COVID in Belize.

**KEVIN LUNDQUIST:** Kevin is a sower who is working construction when not in Belize. He comes to us from the North Carolina Conference. Since June, Kevin and Gene have been trying to get into Belize. Kevin will spend two to three months a year working under and with Gene Hancock, missionary for Belize, southeast Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, and the northeast section of Guatemala.

**JOE AND ROBIN PETTUS:** Joe and Robin reside in the Cornerstone Conference. They are waiting for travel restrictions to lift. We are looking forward to their participation soon.

**AMBER ROY BURGER:** Amber has agreed to come on board as the coordinator for the World Intercession Network (WIN) Director with the Gulf Coast Region. Her duties are to work with missionaries and conference leaders to help develop a strong intercession network. PRAYER AND INTERCESSION CAN CHANGE PEOPLE – CITIES - NATIONS

## MEXICO

Most, if not all, of our churches have produced an online presence. We have reports of some services with numbers as high as 7,000. As of this writing, churches are opening - PTL!

During the pandemic, we were invited to attend a new work, but due to roadblocks, it was decided not to travel at that time. However, the work prospered despite the restrictions. As the country opens, we believe a harvest is still waiting.

## BELIZE

In July, missionary Gene Hancock received news that an organization had a work that fell apart. We have a church and pastor in the same city. The local overseer called our pastor, stating that the decision was made to gift the land and building if they wanted it. Of course, the gift was received with thanksgiving. That same organization, some years back, excommunicated that same pastor for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.



## HUNGER IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

Belize experienced a nationwide shutdown, causing economic hardship. The Gulf Coast team put together a plan, gathered funds as well as resources, and was able to help needy families.

By the grace of God, the generosity of donors, coordination with the home office, missionaries, conference leadership, and the local churches working in unison, we were able to help people in need.

## GUATEMALA

As with all of Central America, Guatemala has been under a travel ban. Within the last six months, we have lost two pastors, one directly related to COVID-19.

## MAZATENANGO BUILDING PURCHASE

The Gulf Coast region was able to raise funds and purchase the land and building in the city of Mazatenango. Retired missionary Joyce Ward got the ball rolling along with Michael and Jamie Worley, and others from the Cornerstone and North Carolina Conferences. We were able to raise the \$26,000 needed to make the purchase.

## FINANCIAL SUMMATION

\$10,000 COVID-19, FEEDING FAMILIES

\$26,000 MAZATENANGO LAND AND BUILDING PURCHASE

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Qualified workers - we need them
- Finances to continue to move forward
- Open doors into new areas



RON AND PHYLLIS ROY  
Account #55061S



JUDY PEREZ  
Account #54031S



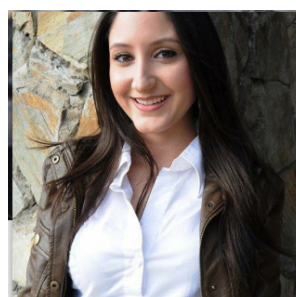
GENE & LIZ HANCOCK  
Account #69021S



KEVIN LUNDQUIST  
Account #90368M



JOE AND ROBIN PETTUS  
Account #90317M



AMBER ROY BURGER  
Account #90366M



# THE INDO-PACIFIC – TIM SALLEY

We have seen a huge surge in salvations and water baptisms in the region since the start of COVID19! The vast majority are being reported in Indonesia (Muslims/Hindus), Myanmar (Buddhists/Animists), and Pakistan (Muslims/Hindus). It seems that almost every Sunday I am receiving reports from our local church pastors and leaders that someone received Christ and that they are following Him in public water baptism! It is truly amazing!! We honestly have not seen this kind of surge in a very long time. We are very encouraged how the Lord is moving in the hearts and minds of the people in these Unreached People Groups!

## PAKISTAN MOTORCYCLES PROJECT

We have distributed funds to purchase 15 motorcycles for our pastors in Pakistan. These pastors are now equipped to travel more effectively and efficiently in fulfilling their ministerial duties. We would like to recognize Rev. Dean Morgan and the many congregations and people in the South Carolina conference for their very generous support for this Pakistan Motorcycles Project! We plan to distribute the remaining funds before the end of this year which will be enough to purchase 20 more motorcycles.

## SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Two of our SOMs have officially restarted with in person, on-site classes. Our flagship SOM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, restarted on August 10. Our Myanmar language SOM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, resumed classes on September 14. The SOM in Bicol, Philippines, hopes to do online classes soon. The remaining SOMs in the region are still suspended due to the Coronavirus restrictions in the respective countries.

The online option is not a viable option for many of our SOMs so we are praying for restrictions to end soon so we can resume classes throughout the SOM network in the region. Please keep praying for these SOMs, the directors, the teachers, and the students. Thank you.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Our Pacific region missionary staff remain under strict quarantine in their respective places of residence in the Philippines: Douglas & Remy Barton (Victoria, Luzon), Debra Crook (Baguio City, Luzon), and Al & Coli Argo (Cebu City, Cebu). Their ministry is done online and through social media means. The government of the Philippines has imposed some of the strictest quarantine measures of any country in the region. Our missionaries remain encouraged and are trusting the Lord for openings soon. Please pray these restrictions will be lifted.

The countries of Indonesia and Myanmar continue to implement quarantines that limit traditional church services, evangelistic endeavors, and Bible school classes. However, our ministers and leaders in both places are using online and social media as much as possible.

Pakistan has gone back and forth with restrictions and lifting of quarantines throughout the year. Since early September they have been in a phase of having onsite services at their buildings. However, in early September massive rains caused severe flooding in Karachi. We are thankful to PTP Disaster relief for sending \$10,000 to help in aiding our churches and people that were most affected.



Malaysia & Singapore had short lived restrictions and have been back to some semblance of normality since July. Both places have returned to on-site church services albeit with limited capacities.

Australia has done very well under the Pandemic season, especially Western Australia, the location of Perth and suburbs, where most of our churches are located. The restrictions in West Australia were limited from the start. Churches have resumed since late June and are at normal capacity.

## **FOOD DISTRIBUTION WITHIN PACIFIC REGION**

Many of our national pastors and workers in the Pacific region continue to distribute food stuffs and other supplies to their members and communities. As a result, we are seeing many unreached peoples come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (as earlier mentioned in this report). We are thankful that they continue to do this even when they do not receive support from IPHC America. We are very thankful for the thousands of dollars The Pacific region has received from the IPHC's COVID-19 International Relief Fund.

## **NEW AREAS OF MINISTRY**

**Fiji:** IPHC Australia National Leader Chris Friend informed me in August that there is a couple in Lautoka, Fiji, that is interested in planting a new church under IPHC. The couple, Anesh & Sangeeta Kapoor, are contacts made during GCEC events in 2018/19. Jim Eby, Vijay Balla, & Chris Friend traveled to Fiji to hold these events. We are thankful for their initial work in Fiji and trust the Lord that Anesh & Sangeeta will have great success as they undergo this new ministry!

**Dubai:** Bishop Pepito Gadallo, National leader of Philippines PHC, has informed me in August that there is a couple living in Dubai that have already planted a church there. Pastor Delver Mangaoile leads the Love of God International Church. They fondly call themselves the LOGIN Church. This fellowship is a missionary church plant out of the Northwest Luzon Conference in the Philippines. They normally have services in a hotel but due to COVID19 are forced to meet in homes. Their congregation is made up mostly of Filipinos and Africans. We are very excited to be connected to this ministry and are thankful to call them a part of the IPHC family. I have plans to visit them once travel restrictions are lifted.

Dubai is only a 1-hour flight from our Pakistan National Headquarters in Karachi, Pakistan.

**Taiwan:** Pastors Joule & Myla Bonus have been missionaries from the Philippines PHC to Malaysia for over 10 years. The Lord has called them to minister and plant a church in Taipai, Taiwan. Joule & Myla have been investigating how they can obtain a visa to live in Taiwan. They recently contacted an organization that will sponsor a visa for them. However, due to COVID19 the situation is being delayed time and again. We are praying and believing that Joule and Myla will be able to move to Taiwan sometime in 2021 so they can begin their new work in that land.

## **OTHER NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

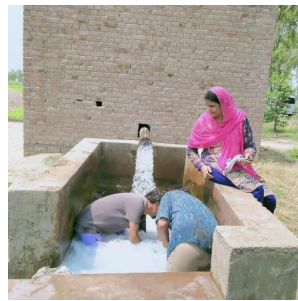
**Rev. Khadim Sabir:** Rev. Khadim Sabir went home to the Lord Jesus Christ on June 12, 2020. He had contracted COVID19. He served as one of our network pastors in Karachi, Pakistan. Pastor Khadim is survived by his wife, Bilqees and his five grown children, Sana, Dawood, Raja, Junaid, and Saher. Please pray for Pastor Khadim's family. We sent a love offering of \$800 to his family.

**Pastor Biak Thang:** On April 1, one of our Pastors in Myanmar, Pastor Biak Lin Thang, was arrested in Hakha (Chin state) and put into jail for preaching the Gospel during the coronavirus lockdown in Hakha. Pastor Thang was about to hold a gospel camp in the outskirts of Hakha, in an isolated area. Someone reported him to the authorities, thus his arrest. We first heard of Pastor Thang's situation on April 25. At that time we learned that his court case would be heard on April 27. We began to mobilize prayer for Pastor Thang. The April 27th court hearing was postponed to May 6. Our Myanmar national leader, Rev. James Sai, contacted the Chin state chief of court and the chairman of the coronavirus control committee requesting that they release Pastor Thang with only a fine. We are happy to report that on May 8th Pastor Biak Thang was finally released from jail after paying a \$100 fine.

**Rev. Che Ming Yau:** Pastor Yau planted a Chinese-speaking congregation in Singapore in 2009 under the authority of the Wing Kwong PH Church in Hong Kong. We have had a friendly and cooperative relationship with him all these years. In late 2018, he was diagnosed with cancer. He underwent surgery and chemo. Later in 2019, he was diagnosed with another form of cancer. Please pray with us for Pastor Yau's complete healing from this cancer. Thank you.



*River Baptism  
Kalaymyo, Myanmar*



*Irrigation Canal Baptism  
Lahore, Pakistan*



*Barrel Baptism  
Batam, Indonesia*



*Pastor Christopher on his  
new motorbike*



*KL SOM restart: Aug 2020*



*KL Myanmar language  
restart: Sept 2020*



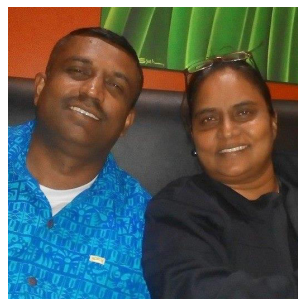
*National church worker  
distributes COVID19 relief  
to Muslim lady: Batam,  
Indonesia*



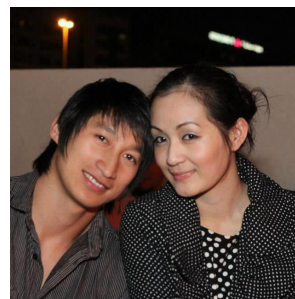
*Ps Gedeon & family:  
Myanmar church planter;  
recipients of COVID19 relief*



*Ps Asher giving COVID19  
relief to church members:  
Karachi, Pakistan*



*Anesh & Sangeeta*



*Pastor Delver & wife*



*Myla & Joule*



*Pastor Khadim*



*Pastor Thang reunited  
with his family after release  
from jail*



*Pastor Yau*

## THE MEDITERRANEAN – LINWOOD BERRY

I want to begin this report by borrowing and paraphrasing Isaiah 6:1. “In the year (2020) that many of our plans, paradigms and parishioners died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” COVID-19 and the political response to it, initially brought us deep concerns and disorientation. Despite the many challenges, we have seen a sovereign God move in our midst.

Many of our early 2020 plans have changed. Travel across the Mediterranean Region (for now) is not feasible. More than half of our church membership is not able to attend services in their local church. Pastors cannot perform many routine pastoral duties (hospital visitation, weddings, or even in situ funerals). The Mediterranean Region (MR), especially Spain, Italy, and France, were severely tested. As I write this report (mid-September), COVID-19 is once again raging through these nations. Many areas are once again locked down. There is no end to this insight.

IPHC Mediterranean Region, however, is a much stronger, healthier, and committed church in September 2020 than it was in January 2020. I will highlight in this report the current state of the IPHC MR church. I will also provide a few links to resources giving more detail to places, events, and perspectives mentioned.

### OVERVIEW

**Spain:** Online church, weekly pastors’ meetings, social ministry, confinement and release, purchase and renovation of Madrid building, 2nd outbreak, postponed ISPE conference, Yarlot’s book, plans to plant new churches in north Spain, and becoming a sending church/nation.

**Italy:** New church plant, baptisms, COVID, and Portugal on hold.

**Cyprus:** Strong church plant, baptisms, networking and prayer across Cyprus, workers and colleagues from Switzerland and Egypt, open doors in Israel and Egypt, online schools of Holy Spirit and Evangelism.

**Malta:** Health issues of key leaders; some young leaders coming alongside; 30th anniversary; and Joe finishing his PhD (I think we should highlight and recognize that).

**France:** Ville Luminaire board along w/ Jim Eby.

**North Africa the Maghreb:** On hold until travel restrictions lifted, Beirut, Imed.



**Missionaries:** Salazars temporarily seconded to Belgium (per Bill Schwartz's request). Wanting now reassignment there. Pettys: transitioning into short term missionary status; two issues: Gary's health and ongoing crisis in Spain.

## **PERSONAL:**

1. Nancy's mother, quarantined, six months apart, had to remain in Spain to navigate the purchase of a building. Only reopened for limited travel on 1 July.
2. My Camino de Santiago.
3. Return to USA: a) situation Nancy's mom, b) second outbreak is bringing more confinement and making an exit more difficult. (just time to go).
4. Missions in the time of limited mobility: Rethinking our wineskins.

**Spain:** Spain and Italy were hard hit by COVID-19, and the government response was to shut each country down with severe restrictions. Spain did not reopen until 1 July. All our church buildings were closed. Most people also could not work. All schools were closed (and still are in most of the country.) Every local church developed an online service. This is working quite well. I met via ZOOM with our pastors every week from March to July (when many churches resumed meetings on-site). We also had bimonthly prayer vigils and united meetings for the entire IPHC Spain church family. Despite many hurdles, IPHC Spain has thrived.

Our giving has not suffered major loss. In the Madrid church, we have maintained 100% employment. That cannot be said for our neighbors and friends. Outreach through several food banks and soup kitchens has increased ten-fold in some areas. Every church that has a ministry of practical help is growing.

**Purchase of the building in Madrid:** Spain restricted movement at the precise time we were finalizing the financing and purchase of the building in Madrid. Amazingly, we could complete everything and obtain the keys on the day before our purchase option expired in May. This is no small miracle. In the end, the purchase was made with a little over 200K € (including \$100K operation Antioch grant) in cash, and a bank mortgage of 175K € (which included the closing costs of 25K € and 50K € for remodeling and upgrading the facility to meet modern code requirements). The IPHC Spain Conference is the holder and guarantor of the mortgage.

Work is well underway. It turns out the building is much larger and much better than we initially thought. Here is a link to a video showing the progress of the work: <https://youtu.be/XQ8hIrkV30>. When all the work is completed later this year, the building is expected to be worth over 1.2 million Euros. On a personal note, as president of IPHC Spain, I was required to sign and personally guarantee everything. I had no choice but to remain in Spain until the purchase was completed.

Yarlot Morfiz, pastor of our Barcelona church, has written a very good book: Faith Anchored in the Invisible (Fe Anclado en lo Invisible). It is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Faith-anchored-in-the-invisible-hecho-Spanish/dp/B08GVLWFH4/). <https://www.amazon.com/Faith-anchored-in-the-invisible-hecho-Spanish/dp/B08GVLWFH4/>

Sadly, COVID-19 is resurging. Many of the cities and regions of Spain are once again locked down. We had postponed the Spain quadrennial conference meeting to November. We are likely going to postpone it further to Spring 2021.

**Cyprus:** Dutch missionaries Willem and Vera Fiege are doing a great work. They are evangelizing, making disciples, and planting the first IPHC church in Limassol, Cyprus. I am attaching a video link they sent me as an update on their ministry and recent baptisms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSpgOgqllWY&feature=youtu.be>.

**Italy:** Italy was hit hard by COVID and suffered severe restrictions on movement. I had to cancel a visit to our newest church plant in the north of Italy, near Bologna, because it was shut down nearly six months. Even so, this young church has prospered. The pastor is a disciple of one of our EVUSA Hispanic churches in the Raleigh, NC area. She is married to an Italian. We connected her to our Spain pastors' zoom meetings. When in July, some movement within Italy was permitted, our IPHC national leader, Giuseppe Fiano, and his wife, Daniela, visited the church and led a baptism service for new believers (all of whom came to the Lord during the confinement). There have been many healings. Also, in Italy, as well as in Spain and Cyprus, the preaching of the Word has been accompanied by practical help, especially food distribution.



**Malta:** The Word of Life (WOL) IPHC church celebrated its 30th anniversary on August 9, 2020. It has struggled more than most churches during the COVID crisis. Many key leaders, including Pastor Joe Agius, are struggling with serious health issues. Even so, Joe is on track to finish his PhD later this year. I think it would be good for IPHC WMM to recognize that achievement and honor WOL Church in its 30th anniversary with an official resolution and letter from IPHC WMM. I am linking their web page that you might know more about this fine IPHC congregation. <http://www.wordoflifemalta.org>.

**France:** In my previous report, I spoke of former IPHC missionaries Mark and Judy Kamleiter's remarriage and return to Paris. They also attended the GCEC training in Spain in February. Shortly after that event, they returned to the USA to take care of personal business. Sadly, Mark suffered a fatal heart attack and passed away. COVID closed the EU (European Union) about the same time, and Judy was obligated to remain in the USA indefinitely.

She along with her brother (and former IPHC missionary), Phil Mayo, is committed to returning to Paris and continuing the work begun before Mark's death. They have an NGO and are building a team for this, "Ville Luminaire". They asked Jim Eby and me to serve on their advisory board, and we have both accepted. We have had several meetings online. I believe this is a positive step that connects our missions' efforts from more than 35 years past to a vision to move ahead.

Once again, a link to this ministry:

[https://www.facebook.com/mskamleiter/?eid=ARAmD2U8hqr1Go2scMABhnSs7i-YaUpkXthHhVzWzmEoTYtgzvwsKEU4RsKSkGEZtgwQtpP6TYqfsEPU&timeline\\_context\\_item\\_type=intro\\_card\\_work&timeline\\_context\\_item\\_source=631631696&fref=tag](https://www.facebook.com/mskamleiter/?eid=ARAmD2U8hqr1Go2scMABhnSs7i-YaUpkXthHhVzWzmEoTYtgzvwsKEU4RsKSkGEZtgwQtpP6TYqfsEPU&timeline_context_item_type=intro_card_work&timeline_context_item_source=631631696&fref=tag).

**IPHC Missionaries:** Gary and Kathy Petty have been in the USA since March. They are in a time of transition. Gary has chronic health issues and has received care at the VA hospital in OKC that he cannot get in Spain. They have requested a change from career to STM status. I agree with that. Mauricio and Lourdes Salazar were loaned to Belgium for an urgent temporary need there. Since then, they requested permanent reassignment to Belgium. Again, I am ok with that.



**Personal:** Nancy and I are both well. For the last couple of years, Nancy has traveled to the USA sporadically to help care for her aging, 92-year-old mother. This year, that visit caught her in the USA, and unable to return to Spain because of the lockdown and travel restrictions on USA citizens in the EU. I was in Spain, and besides being in the lockdown, I was navigating the purchase of the Madrid building. As you know, we had WMM meetings planned and then canceled. I decided to stay in Spain until September, celebrate the Spain conference, and then return to the USA for our WMM meetings in LA. Of course, all that changed.

We finished the purchase of the building in late May, and on the 1st of July, we were finally able to move around within Spain. Our IPHC Spain pastors were just reopening their churches and did not need a distracting visit from me. Likewise, travel outside of Spain, even within the EU, is not yet open to travelers from Spain or the USA. That left me with the unprecedented challenge of a couple of months without travel or meetings (except for our ongoing zoom and online meetings). I prayed about what to do and felt a very strong impression from the Lord to do an 800-kilometer prayer walk across the top of Spain known as the Camino de Santiago (the Way of Saint James). I set out on the French border at Roncesvalles on 2 July and arrived in Santiago de Compostela (West coast of Spain) on 5 August. It was an incredible and life impacting experience. I do not have time in this report to share it with you. I am preparing a separate document on my experiences on the Camino titled: "Why I made an 800 KM prayer walk and why you should too". You can access the document from this link on my Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/dry3waanr7rqcr9/Why%20I%20Walked%20800%20Kilometers%20Praying%20and%20Why%20You%20Should%20Too.docx?dl=0>.

Returning from the Camino, many plans had changed. A resurgence of COVID has brought a renewal of confinement and lockdowns. Madrid is particularly hard hit. We were obligated to postpone our Spain conference from September to November. Likewise, the meetings in Los Angeles were canceled. The final blow came as Nancy's mother was hospitalized and began a serious decline in health. I decided to return to the USA (while I can still travel) and support my wife and family. All ministry, for now, is done over the internet. Like many, I am in the USA and waiting on the Lord.

**Final thoughts:** The last six months have been difficult and challenging. Many of our wineskins and strategies have been tested. God has been amazingly faithful. Despite everything, the IPHC Mediterranean has not only survived; it has thrived. Nancy and I are also very strong (spirit, soul, and body). I have great confidence in the Lord and in the direction of our church. IPHC has taken to seize the moment as a catalyst towards Arise 2033. It is indeed a great honor and joy to serve Him, and you, in the Mediterranean Region.

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## NORTHWEST EUROPE – HAROLD PRESLEY

**First, the good news.** We don't really have any bad news this time. Next to the Gospel, that's our good news! Advance and increase are the reports from each of our missionaries and national leaders; all varied, but all good. Legal restrictions differ greatly from place to place. However, all ministries continue strong in some form or another. No church has shown loss of members, and some are testifying to more participants and salvations. Plus, two new churches are being planted.

This is tremendous considering the confined, threatening, fear-filled season we're living in. We give God the glory and a huge commendation to each of our ministry leaders.



**We raised over \$15k to purchase a food-vending truck** for our Estonian ministries. Estonian leader, Aleksandr Mazur, is pictured with second leader, Jan, and baptism candidates . They have already been winning people to Christ via feeding the hungry, and this truck will help especially during the long, bitterly cold winters. \$10k came from the USA, but Aleksandr raised the balance within Estonia. That's particularly impressive as their constituents are all ex-cons and drug rehab'ers. (It's an interestingly "twinned" scenario

to the ELI Project Kenya money.)

They have 2 rehab centers and 2 new churches and preparing for the third. These guys are going to spread the gospel and multiply disciples throughout the Baltic States!



**Larry Meadors** is building an evangelistic and leadership-training team to join me in Estonia in April 2021. (Thanks, Larry.)

**"The Bridge Church" in Eupen, Belgium** is now open. That's open in "Oi-pen" This is all due to the evangelism and diligence of Mark & Jeannie McClung, seasoned church-planters. They are to be commended also for raising approx. \$16k to cover the usage of the building pictured. That will cover all costs for one full year. (incredible deal!) The plan is that by Autumn 2021 the new church will be financially self-sufficient.



**Devil's Island.** Steinar Valdersnes and his wife, Ingunn, (circled in photo) have continued the church-planting work in Vardo, the far northwest of Norway. It is known as "Devil's Island" due to active witchcraft and dark religious beliefs. As I type, Steinar is there with Lucas, a Czech brother from Gulf Shores, Alabama who is helping refurb an old building for the new church. Yes, a native of Czech Republic from Alabama now in the Arctic circle. No, I have never met him. Yes, I am from Alabama, too. God has a clever HR department, eh? My visit to Vardo is still pending due to imposed travel restrictions.



**Dmitry**, leader of the rehab ministries in the Ukraine, is also circled in the photo which was taken at the Valdersnes' Rehab in Norway.



**New Church in Wales.** We now have a new church in the Vale of Neath thanks to Todd & Stephanie Presley. Being veterans at planting churches, they wisely began with a local partnership church, and then carefully put together a team of workers and ministers. Even during all the pandemic and moving locations 3 times, they have 45 attending. Of course, ELI Project purpose and goals are integral in this new church and they hope

it will be a good model for other churches to incorporate outreach and care to families with special needs children.

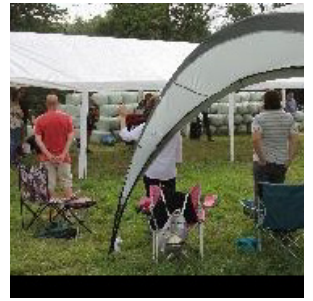


**ELI Project also raised \$15k USD** to help their rep in Kenya purchase a ministry vehicle. That's Rev. Marion Wathingira from IPHC-London now based in Nairobi. \$10K was raised in the USA and the remainder in the UK.

(It's an interestingly "twinned" scenario to the Estonia project.)



We have **two schools of ministry** in our region: London (LSM) and Belgium (Logos) which operate independent of each other. Both have carried on completing the end of one term and starting a new.



**Bill & Gretchen** opened a second campus in Antwerp. London has added new students and new instructors. I taught an 11 hour class on "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Leadership Function" the second weekend of September as well as other preaching and teaching sessions. The London school just purchased \$1,700 worth of high-res tech equipment to advance their teaching sessions to distant learners.



**With Linwood Berry's blessings, Mauricio & Lulu Salazar** were strategically released to assist temporarily with our ministries in Belgium. Bill & Gretchen Schwartz lost some key leaders during the early days of the pandemic which left them shorthanded and put some of the ministries in stress. While there, the Salazars have helped in many ways, such as: minister in the newest church, "Christian Community Church" in Antwerp, teach in the Logos Bible College, open small-group ministries in Dutch/English, offer

evangelism and counseling to men and women trapped in the sex and human trafficking industry, open ministries to the growing Spanish-speaking community, and mentor rising leaders.

The Schwartzes are excellent team-builders, and their teams are effective and productive in ministry.



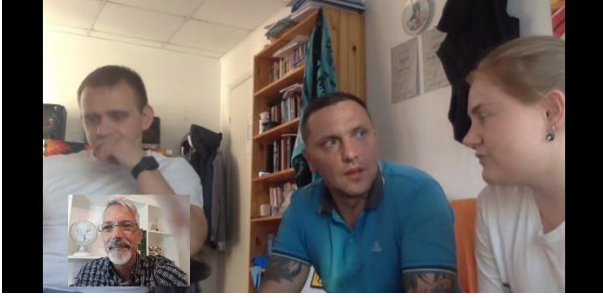
**The Miningers** and I have tried to find a pastor to step into the role Pastor Johanna Karela is vacating in Jyväskylä, Finland. It's good in that Johanna is engaged to be married to a godly man, Mr. Atte Takkinen. The not-so-good thing is that he lives 3 hours away. That along with current restrictions is placing this church on the fragile list.

**Personal note:** Our daughter, Miriam, will be wed to Trevor Clowers on 16 October in Westminster, SC. We are very pleased. They have known each other more than 13 years and all via WMM. Both have a lot of ministry experience and a strong sense of Divine calling on their lives.



Pray for our church in Jyväskylä, Finland to get a pastor and a venue.

Pray for Pastor Johanna as she prepares to marry and move to the North of Finland. We hope to keep her and now her husband engaged in ministry with us.



Pray for Steinar as he deals with accusations from a Norwegian agency for taking funds to our rehab centers in the Ukraine over a period of 19 years: not for withholding funds but giving a total of \$50,000 USD. Rather strange. Not sure of the details. Steinar is not so concerned about the money, but it's deeply discouraging to our Norwegian brother.

Pray for Trevor & Miriam as they begin married life as itinerating missionaries and prepare for a life of service to the Lord together.

Pray for Kathleen as she undergoes knee replacement on her other leg. First one is great. Docs are now advising for the other knee before too much damage takes place. The op will take place 23 October in Lavonia, GA. She is otherwise in excellent health.

I am constantly in touch with our missionaries and national leaders via telephone, WhatsApp, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Messenger, etc. It's virtual which means "almost real". (sigh)

Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!

## SOUTHERN AFRICA – JOE DELPORT

The Southern Africa Region, like so many regions around the world, is also experiencing the scourge of COVID-19. Apart from this challenge, we are adjusting to virtual meetings, which have become the norm. There are still many restrictions in each country, which is constraining pastors and leaders to continue with the ministry as usual.

### MISSIONARY PERSONEL

- Maggie Delport continues to do an excellent job administering the Southern Africa office in Krugersdorp. She also takes care of the compound in Krugersdorp, which at times, becomes exhausting and overwhelming. She started a small COVID-19 food parcel ministry to assist the many needy people in our community. Eventually, it ended up that we gave over 400 food parcels to ten of our churches in Johannesburg. Maggie is a great asset to our ministry in Southern Africa.
- Althea Meyer is doing well in Malawi, also having to endure the COVID-19 situation. Once the borders open, she will pursue her ministry with children in the region.
- Yasinta Mrema is doing well in Tanzania. Although her work visa expired and there was a possibility of her having to leave the country, God opened the door for her to renew her work visa for another two years.
- David and Michelle Riley and their children have relocated to Dakar, Senegal. We were sad to see them leave, but we believe God has a purpose and plan for this new chapter in their lives.



## SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNTRIES HIGHLIGHTS

Since my last report, the world has become a very different place due to COVID-19. All of the Southern Africa countries have been infected and affected by this pandemic at different levels. It has been quite challenging, especially when churches have been a place of interaction and socializing. Most of the governments have restricted the gathering of people to a maximum of 50 people per service. One of the biggest challenges the churches are facing is the financial decline of tithes and offering. Many are struggling to pay their monthly bills.

### 1. GREAT COMMISSION EQUIPPING CONFERENCE (GCEC)

Last year in October, we had the first Africa GCEC in South Africa, but not all the leaders were able to attend. The RDs for Africa, Dr. Terry Tramel, and the IPHC All Africa Fellowship are working on presenting phase one to those who could not attend. We are also preparing to present phase two by virtual means to the leaders who have completed phase one.



### 2. MAURITIUS

Our church in Mauritius, called End Time Ministries International, is growing very well under the leadership of Rev. John Leopold. They have planted four branches since lockdown and still growing. Recently, they baptized 20 new converts in the Indian Ocean.



### 3. MADAGASCAR

One of the most progressive church plants we have is in Antananarivo, Madagascar, called New Life in Christ. Pastors Tojo and Deborah Ranaivoarimanana have an exceptional ministry. Pastor Tojo informed me this week that he is now preaching on the radio, and the church membership has just about doubled, as many people are surrendering their lives to Christ. They are building a beautiful three-level church. (See Number 5 Building Projects)

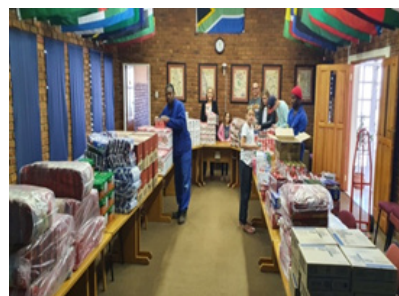
### 4. COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

#### A. Regional Director 2020 Budget.

I am so thankful to Bishop Gardner and the WMM Council for allowing the RDs to utilize their 2020 budget for COVID-19 assistance in their regions. To date, I have disbursed the following funds in my region:

a. Angola	\$2,000
b. Madagascar	\$4,000
c. Malawi	\$4,000
d. Mozambique 3 x \$4,000	\$12,000
e. South Africa	\$2,000
f. Tanzania	\$4,000
g. Zambia	\$4,000

**Total \$32,000**



## B. Donor Aid through WMM COVID-19 International Relief Fund

a. Eswatini	\$4,000
b. Malawi Children	\$2,000
c. Malawi	\$5,000
d. South Africa	\$10,500
e. Zimbabwe account	\$5,000

## 5. BUILDING PROJECTS

I am so excited that even during COVID lockdown, God is still growing His church significantly all over the Southern Region. There are nine building projects underway at different levels in various countries, which will be a great asset to the Kingdom of God.



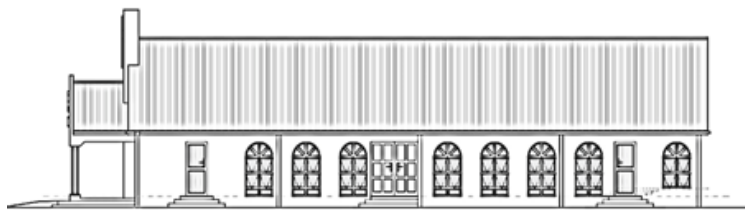
*House of Prayer & Worship building project - Zambia*



*Damofalls & Cowdry Park Church building projects - Zimbabwe*



*Church roofs to be erected in Tanzania*



*Bethel Worship Center Proposed New Building – South Africa*



*New Life in Christ Church project - Madagascar*



*Groundwork done for Southern Conference Center - Malawi*



*Francistown temporary church to be replaced by new building soon - Botswana*



*Christian Education Ministry Training Institute dormitories project - Zambia*



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the cessation of the Coronavirus infestation taking place throughout the world.
- Pray for the development and preparation of African missionaries, as God prepares them for world harvest.
- Pray for the missionaries and their families on the field, for health, protection, and continued financial support.
- Pray for the multitude of unsaved and lost souls who need Jesus in their lives.
- Pray for a fresh anointing and outpouring of God's power upon the nations of Africa.

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## SOUTH AMERICA – MAX BARROSO (INTERIM)

It is a privilege to serve our church family in South America as well as World Missions in this capacity. I am very grateful to Bishop Gardner for his trust in this regard. This region holds tremendous potential in so many facets of ministry, the Lord has been and continues to be faithful.

Historically, this region has been one of our strongest regions in terms of indigenous leaders and it continues to be so in many different places. We are blessed to have individuals of the experience and expertise such as Pastor Brochero in Venezuela and Pastor Coronel in Argentina. It has taken some time to stabilize and regain momentum in the region, but for the most part, we are on the right track.

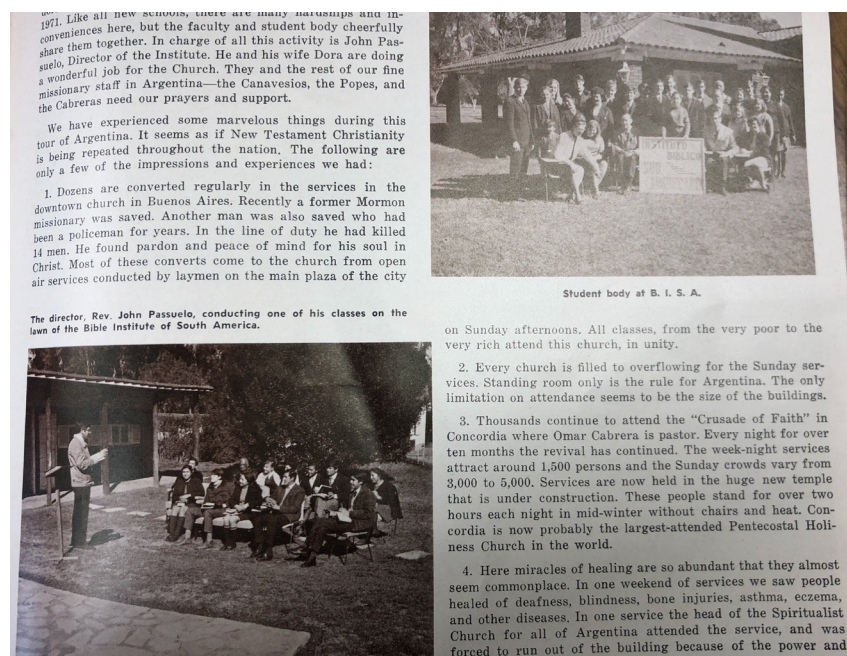
### THE CURRENT STATISTICS FOR THE REGION ARE:

COUNTRY	CHURCHES	MEMBERS
ARGENTINA	110	14,100
BOLIVIA	6	520
CHILE	1	120
COLOMBIA	20	900
ECUADOR	8	521
PARAGUAY	9	1,250
PERU	9	650
URUGUAY	8	867
VENEZUELA	73	17,332



We are extremely grateful to the Lord to have seen over the last year and half church plants taking place in nearly every country in the region. I am also very grateful to many of you in this council for your help in the church plant push we set in motion for Venezuela. When the appeal was presented during our Council meeting held in Santiago de Chile, our conference in Venezuela had 49 churches. As of this report we have seen 24 church plants take place! To God be the glory!

Another major milestone has been connected to our Bible School in Argentina. When the World Missions Board in May of 1971 sent the original grant for the opening of this seminary it was with the vision to serve all of South America. Over the years, we have seen multiple generations of ministers graduate and accomplish great things in ministry but they were only serving ministers from one conference in the region.



Worldorama Article about the Bible School in 1971

The hope of the board was somewhat fulfilled, because graduates from this Bible school have pioneered our works in Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Ecuador. However, we know that the need for biblical and ministerial preparation offered from our unique historical and theological vantage point is of vital importance. I have been working with the National Board in Argentina and they have agreed to open up the school to serve the training needs of our entire region. We have just established a satellite campus in Paraguay. We have students enrolled in their online program from Chile, and when the residential module is allowed to re-open after the quarantine, we have a few nations in the region ready

to send students. This would be a perfect location for a missionary unit with an educational background interested in ministerial and theological formation.

The registration process for IPHC World Missions Chile has concluded and we are, as of July 7th, 2020, a legally recognized entity. We have now moved forward and constituted our founding board and are setting all things in motion and preparing for growth. The Awakening Church in Santiago is doing exceptionally well under the leadership of Pastors Eduardo and Kathya Gonzalez. We are also already targeting three communities for church plants (we have already established small groups) and we are in the Vinal stages of adding two more churches to the conference.

Our missionary personnel in Peru continues to do an exceptional job and we are working together to continue to assist and provide leadership to the conference in Peru. Ben West, as well as David and Ceci Hodges, have been of significant assistance to me in developing the path forward for our church in Peru.



## **MISSIONARY PERSONEL UPDATES:**

Misael and Daniela Lucano are planning to come to the US for furlough in October 2020. This will be their first time back as a family since they met with this council. The quarantine in Santa Cruz enables Misael to continue to lead his church remotely while visiting with pastors and churches. I am extremely grateful to Steve and the missionary care office for their assistance to the Lucanos in this process.

The Hellands are doing a great job in Brazil working alongside PAZ (they are seconded to this movement). They serve as Children's Pastors for their church in Sao Pablo and they have been developing great resources during this season. I am also extremely grateful to Aaron as he accepted the appointment to serve the region as WIN Prayer and Intercesión Coordinator for the South America Region as of September 2020.

The Wests continue to serve in Lima doing an excellent job. They have been very active in providing food and care items to families in Peru during this season as well as raising additional funds to assist families and churches in need in Venezuela.

The Hodges are doing a great job leading Iglesia Vida in Jicamarca as well as serving the communities all around them even during this pandemic season. They are distributing food and serving people in need on a daily basis. They also held a mirror of The Awakening's School of Missions during the summer months with 40 students!

The Nichols are continuing their itineration process in the Cornerstone Conference and continue to keep in touch with their contacts and churches on the field. Many of you saw Jewel's plea for prayer support on behalf of Isabel, a little girl diagnosed with cancer in one of our churches in Quito. Thank you to all of you that joined us in prayer on her behalf.

We are very, very excited to see the Bicketts making their way to Jicamarca, Peru, on October 22nd! The government has opened the border and allowed for travel to take place. This will be their first term as a family in Peru after Catrina served a term there prior to marrying Jason. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this new chapter as a family. My intent is to be there on the ground to receive them and help them to get settled alongside our missionary team if possible.

## **MOVING FORWARD**

The Lord is doing great things in South America and we firmly believe the best is yet to come. If you have any questions or comments regarding any particulars in my report, please don't hesitate to reach to me at your convenience. At His service,

# WESTERN AFRICA – ERNEST TURNER

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to share my report with the World Missions Ministries Council. Cheryl and I are honored to serve the Lord in West Africa. It is a great joy for us to serve alongside some of the finest national church leaders on the continent of Africa today. We thank God for His protection over the Church during this season of COVID-19.

## SUMMARY

Since the last council meeting in **April 2020**:

- Itineration has continued as we visit congregations, pastors, and supporters.
- Regular communication has been sustained with leaders in all fields in West Africa.
- Assisted with coordinating the transfer of the Rileys to Dakar, Senegal.
- Cultivation of new relationships in Cameroon.

Cheryl and I are visiting as many pastors, churches, and supporters as possible, given the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our experiences have mostly been positive, and we feel especially blessed of the Lord. We are most grateful to those that have opened their doors to us, welcomed us, and have been very kind to us. Occasionally, we have had to cancel appointments due to alterations in state and federal government regulations or where individual church communities have faced health issues due to the COVID-19 virus.

We would like to thank Pastor Keith Gilliam and his wife, Lana, for all their continued personal encouragement, kindness, and support. Steve Cofer has also been sensitive in gathering the itinerating missionaries together in Zoom meetings with a pastoral approach. This has given us an avenue to encourage one another. It has also helped us in the sense of understanding that we are not alone in the challenges that we are all facing during this season. On one



occasion, Steve briefly shared the story of the four lepers found in II Kings 7:3-20 and challenged us to “do something” rather than staying “at the gate.” Bishop Tal has also taken time to visit with us between assignments, boosting our faith as we move along the way. Several pastors have invited us to visit with them, which has always been a blessing and great joy for us.

We have all become very familiar with the now popular quote by Dr. Terry Trammel, “We may all be in the same storm, but we are all in different boats.” The different boats are represented by the unique fields we all serve in. Some live from pay-check to pay-check, and some live day-to-day, and others from meal-to-meal. The picture below serves as a reminder to all of us how life challenges everyone differently.

We are told to wash our hands with soap and water. Wear a mask and social distance. In order to wash your hands this way, one requires soap and water. Soap is a pure luxury in some places, and water can be difficult to obtain. Some walk several miles to their nearest water supply and can then only return “home,” with what they are able to carry. Some are improvising and using laundry detergent to wash their hands. Ultimately, we are all doing what we can to survive and help others to do the same.

I share that anecdote to say this, "Thank you for all that you have done to make a difference in the West African Region. Thank you for all that you have given toward assisting these that are in "different boats." World Missions Ministries has been able to make contributions to every one of our 8 countries in the West Africa Region. Each nation, in their own way, has sent messages of thanks, from hearts full of gratitude and appreciation. Thank you, IPHC USA, for helping us through World Missions Ministries in an effort to help those that are hurting in ways that we know not of.

## SIERRA LEONE

Rev. Santigie Khargbo, our leader in Freetown, Sierra Leone, says, *"We are grateful to God that the country of Sierra Leone has been experiencing a downward trend in the rate of the COVID-19 infections. Churches are reopening for worship services but with restrictions for only 50% of seating capacity. Consequently, many churches now hold multiple services on worship days and use of face masks is now mandatory in church and all public places.*

*The government has instructed all schools to reopen gradually following the schedule below:*

*Nursery Schools – 15th Sept 2020*

*Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary Schools 15th Oct 2020*

*This covers our Schools."*



*School Teachers getting ready to collect their food parcels in Freetown, Sierra Leone*

*"I am so grateful to God for His protection over us. So far, none of our members, teachers, and students have been infected with the Corona virus. We continue to trust God to keep us and all our partners safe.*

*Shalom to you all. May the good Lord continue to bless and keep you, now and always."*  
(This was dated on the 11 September 2020.)

In the pictures above Rev. Santigie (the man with bags in his hands left slide) and some of the church folks are helping to organize some of the staples that were purchased from the funds they had received from WMM. In an earlier message, he thanked us for those funds. A good investment in God's people!

## LIBERIA

Habakkuk Giah and Charles Harris are the two key leaders of the IPHC in Liberia. They are both young and eager for the work of God and are doing everything they can to assist and encourage the growth of that work.





**Left:** Food supplies being presented to a rural church in Buchanan. (  
**Right:** Habakkuk Giah, in white, presenting food supplies to Pastor Charles Harris in the Monrovia Church recently.

None of our leaders have their own computers in Liberia and are literally doing all their communications on their cell phones. One of my goals is to see a small computer in the hands of at least one key leader per country in West Africa. That is only eight (8) computers. Please pray with me concerning this very practical need: **Project No. 11486P – Liberia.**

As soon as the finances were received to assist with the COVID-19 related needs, these leaders immediately started organizing and arranging for delivery to help those in our churches with the greatest hardships.

It is now the rainy season in West Africa, and several places are experiencing flooding, including Liberia. At the typing of this report, Habakkuk was on his way to one of our churches that had been damaged due to heavy rains.

## IVORY COAST

Rev. Daniel and Agatha Bobou are the leaders of our work in the Ivory Coast. They too have done an excellent job of distributing the assistance that was provided for their respective churches, and we are very encouraged. The church there seems to be more at peace, in spite of the political tension presently looming in the nation. The vision that the leaders are sharing now is one of growth, church plants, a new school, and Bible School.



**Left:** Churches - open again. Some masks and an attempt at social distancing. **Right:** Basic needs ready for distribution.

Church members, thankful and happy for the little help they have received.

## GHANA

In many societies across the African continent, there still remains a sincere respect and honor for the elders. This is something that seems to be fairly customary in Ghana. I noticed this when I started receiving reports back from Bishop John Botwe. In the first report, he not only thanked me on behalf of WMM for the contribution they had received but also included 2-3 pictures, seen below. Their focus was more on the retired pastors and the senior generation when it came to considering the “priority needs.”





Retired Rev. J.E. Dankwah, almost 90 years old, with grandson.



Mary Yiadom Owusu.... well into her 80s.



Pastors receiving their "Love-Offerings" in Benin.

## BENIN

When I received the picture below from Rev. Pierre Agomai Koudakpo, our leader in Benin, I jokingly asked him why they all looked so sad. I asked, "Were those envelopes that they are holding empty? Or did they really have some money in them when he handed it to them?"

**This is a portion of his response to me;** *"I don't know how to explain these faces of some pastors, like they are not happy. Please, plainly, I would like you to know that even if their faces are sad, their hearts are very happy. They were so happy. Here are some reasons which make me know it and because of which I reassure you that they are happy:*

1- Only God knows the situation in which we were before WMM assistance attended us. I couldn't describe it. It was so difficult to buy a piece of bread for our children before we received those funds.

2- Because of the joy which stimulated all the pastors, after the distribution, the Pastor AKAKPO Jephté (diseased – he walks with crutches, he is cripple) lay down on the ground in front of all the pastors, as he was so happy. Please, we are so grateful and since this moment, the name of Mrs. Lybrand and WMM are on the tip of our lips.

3- The wives of the pastors phoned me; some pastors came with their families for express their thankfulness. The widow's mother and her daughter too. Dear Brother Turner, many cry for joy.

Please, one suggestion: we will redo another picture in which the pastors will smile."

By the time I was finished reading this, I, too, was in tears. Lesson: e-mail does not always know when it is meant as a joke, especially when you are dealing with another culture!



Pastors and Church Leaders ready to distribute some "Food Aid" in Nigeria.

## NIGERIA

Dr. Samuel Akpan continues to excel in Abak, Nigeria. The church he is pastoring has just bought an adjacent piece of property, and they are planning to expand their youth facilities in the near future. They are currently working with their conveyancer and surveyor so they can get the property consolidated before the end of the year.

Dr. Akpan continues to use the internet for teaching and preaching. He is on several times a week now and seems to be doing very well. I also want to express my appreciation to Dr. Akpan and all the church leaders that assisted him in distributing the “Food Aid” that they were blessed with. Many pastors and struggling church members were assisted during a lockdown period in the larger cities. The reports I received were all positive and full of gratitude for the blessings they received from WMM.

Dr. Nnadi continues to oversee the West Africa Bible College and is working hard to complete the curriculum in time for the final exams in October. He also has a couple of small projects going on at the College: a small dormitory renovation costing around \$1,500 and a new generator costing around \$1,000. Both are desperately needed.

## **THE RILEYS**

The Rileys are settling into their new home in Dakar, Senegal, and adjusting very well. The children all seem to be enjoying their new school and are making new friends. David is staying busy learning a new language and a new system. He is very eager to get things moving. In a recent call to David, he wanted to know how to go about registering the IPHC in Senegal. I asked him if he had a church-plant started already. He said no, but he wanted to know how to go about that so he could be ready when the opportunity presented itself. Michelle is also adjusting to the severe heat, humidity, and her new schedule. Cheryl and I are looking forward to working more closely with them in the future.

## **PRAYER NEEDS FOR WEST AFRICA**

1. Pray for wisdom and direction for itinerating missionaries during this unprecedented season.
2. Pray for protection against the COVID-19 virus in churches and people both in the US and in West Africa.
3. Pray for our pastors, school teachers, and all those that are without jobs and steady income.

## **CONCLUSION**

A special thanks to all the members of the WMM Council for your faithful prayer and financial encouragement. We believe your prayers are having an impact resulting in several new donors.

May the Lord keep you strong and safe from COVID-19 and continue to use you to be a blessing in these days of the end-time harvest.