

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

In preparation for WMM's April 2021 Council Meeting, our 12 regional directors were requested to prepare a report covering their region for the time period October 2020 – March 2021. The reports are to follow. These reports are encouraging, and I know you will be encouraged by what is happening around the world.

Bishop Talmadge Gardner
Executive Director,
World Missions Ministries

CENTRAL AMERICA – JEFF & KIMBERLY OEDER

Like most of the world, Kimberly and I have been greatly affected by COVID-19. And, like everyone else, we have had to change the way we approach ministry, not only in the United States but also here in Central America. It is reassuring to know that God still has a plan, is still in control, and we are seeing His kingdom advance, despite the obstacles that we are all facing.

In October 2019, Kimberly and I were officially approved as IPHC missionaries and began our itineration process. Looking back, it seems that we stayed one step ahead of the virus, visiting a church, only to see it close a week or two after we were there. The borders in Costa Rica were closed from mid-March until October 1, 2020. We are thankful that we were able to return to the field after one year in the U.S. A break-in at the mission house in November 2019 brought an awareness of the need to better secure the mission house and property. Thanks to the generosity of so many, I am happy to report that this project is almost complete.

Travel restrictions and border closings have hindered my ability to visit the other four countries in this region in 2021. Thankfully, Zoom meetings with all of our superintendents have given me the opportunity to foster the relationships that began on the field in 2017. As first-time Zoomers, it has been quite comical at times, but the technology has proven to be effective. As borders are opening and restrictions are being lifted, I hope to visit our other countries in the near future.

Here is a brief breakdown of the five countries in the Central America Region:

- 1. Honduras:** Almost all of the restrictions have been lifted at the time of this writing. The political influence cannot be ignored in this decision. This is an election year, and many people believe the restrictions are being lifted to gain votes, not for the well-being of the Honduran people. Our superintendent, Javier Cruz, reports that the hospitals are full, and people are still dying. Please join me in praying that the tide will turn for them very soon.
- 2. El Salvador:** Francisco Olivo, our superintendent, has informed me that things are quickly returning to normal. By normal, he means restrictions are being lifted, and churches are back in service. He has continued to press on and provide encouragement to the pastors and communities where he serves. During the pandemic, he helped one of his pastors start a microbusiness. With the purchase of a few chickens, the pastor is now selling chickens and eggs to help support his family. What a great idea!! In 2018, we helped the El Salvadorians build a church. This church is growing and doing well. They are now working towards purchasing the lot next to the church to build a parsonage.

3. Nicaragua: Denis Obando, our superintendent, reports that things are beginning to open up there as well, but they are still in the recovery process from back-to-back hurricanes in 2020. I am told they are making progress. Despite the pandemic, they have added two new churches to our Nicaraguan conference. This brings the total number of churches to 37. Obviously, God is still moving, and for that, we are grateful.

4. Panama: After a long period of complete shutdown, ALL restrictions have been lifted. The government is still advising biosafety regulations (masks and social distancing), but these are not required. All churches are now open, and our conference is in the process of signing papers to rent a building for a new church plant. Our main church, pastored by our superintendent, Cecilio Cigarruista, has returned to live services and is also broadcasting them online. According to Cecilio, the churches are growing, souls are being saved, the Spirit is moving, and they are experiencing miracles.

5. Costa Rica: Since the mission house is located in Costa Rica, it has allowed me to be directly involved in the affairs here. The government has lifted some of the driving restrictions, but curfews are ongoing. A negative COVID-19 test is no longer required to enter the country, but you will need special insurance offered through the government. Restrictions for our churches vary, depending on the size of the church. Live music is only permitted if there is a minimum of 15 feet between the stage and the front row. Masks and social distancing are still mandatory. Despite all of this, our church in Naranjo will be baptizing 14 new believers on Sunday, March 14th. Praise His holy name. God is still moving and saving here in Central America.

Since taking the position of Regional Director on January 1st, we have been, to put it mildly, busy but productive. Despite the pandemic, we are seeing the hand of God move to bring His will to Central America. We have been working with the new conference president, elected in October, to re-establish their relationship with the United States and repair relationships within our Costa Rican conference. I have expressed the importance of integrity, accountability, and transparency to accomplish this goal. I believe that without these three attributes, a healthy relationship is not attainable.

As Costa Rica begins a new chapter, we are working with the conference to transition from a receiving only (dependent) nation to a mostly giving (independent) nation. 2021 is a year of change for our Costa Rican conference. I praise God for the team of leaders that our missions' director, Melvin Mora, brought together to put a new roof on the mission house in February. Our roof had multiple leaks, and the rainy season is just around the corner. This project was a blessing for Costa Rica, as I watched the unity of the leaders and for us as we received the blessing. Melvin also directed the conference to replace a roof for a pastor who was in great need. The conference funded the materials and installation of the pastor's new roof! Praise God!! Let it rain!! Below I have included a few pictures of the mission house roof project.



*Team of pastors from I.S.P.
Costa Rica*



Removing the old roof



Installing the new roof



*President Alex Céspedes
and myself*

In 2018, God gave Kimberly and me a vision for Central America. This vision is to help Central America raise up missionaries to be sent to the nations. We are in the process of converting a vacant building that was acquired in a land transfer into a training center. I will be expounding on this in the upcoming Zoom Council Meeting. We will be able to utilize the training center for various programs, including discipleship, preaching/evangelism, missionary training, and language and culture immersion classes. We presented the vision for the training center to our Costa Rican pastors and leaders. I am excited to report that we have 22 leaders signed-up for English classes and 32 leaders committed to volunteering at the training center.

We believe this training center will be the epicenter for Central America by raising up the next generation of missionaries that God will use not just in Central America but throughout the world. We praise God for this vision and for moving so quickly to bring it to fruition.

Kimberly and I would like to thank each of you for giving us the opportunity to fulfill God's call on our lives. We would like to give a special thanks to Bishop Gardner for being our biggest advocate and encourager. We are honored to work with World Missions Ministries in advancing God's kingdom in these last days. May God give all of you supernatural wisdom in leading us into the future. I look forward to being able to share more with you in the upcoming Zoom Council Meeting.

CONTINENTAL ASIA – RUSSELL BOARD

The global COVID-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt travel and forced radical changes in regularly scheduled ministry activities. We are all learning to do missions in new ways. But God has not been taken by surprise, nor has He put the Great Commission on hold. These new challenges have brought new opportunities to exercise faith, courage, and perseverance and to seek creative avenues for ministry. I am impressed at the way our missionaries and national leaders have responded to the challenges and excited to see how God continues to work in Continental Asia.

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 Granstaff (Mercy and Mikah) recently returned to Nepal
- 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



Our newest Continental Asia Missionary Kid (MK) was born on December 3, 2020. The long-awaited appearance of **Mikah Meadow Granstaff** brought joyful smiles to the faces of her parents and her big sister Mercy. Mikah embarked on her first overseas journey at the tender age of three months, departing on March 10th on a lengthy flight to Kathmandu. Pray for Mikah, Mercy, Chase, and Kristina as they all have significant adjustments to make as a family of four in Nepal.

MILESTONE IN NEPAL

After fifteen years of ministry in the country and a couple of false starts under disappointing national leadership, we have finally been able to acquire **official registration for IPHC Nepal**. As the Maoist government is pro-Hindu and anti-Christian, this remarkable achievement is clearly due to the favor of the Lord.

In addition, credit is also due to National Director Danny Williams and his assistant Ashok Lama, who showed exceptional diligence and perseverance in overcoming every obstacle placed in his way. IPHC Nepal is registered as a Religious Trust, with approval to own property, hold training programs, issue credentials, perform baptisms, marriages and funerals, run orphanages, schools, elderly homes and community centers, produce literature and visual media, set up businesses, and engage in all sorts of relief and humanitarian activities. We must be careful not to run afoul of anti-conversion laws, so wisdom is necessary. But to obtain official sanction for such freedom of ministry is nothing short of miraculous.

COVID-19 relief efforts continue, targeting remote areas affected by shortages resulting from restrictions on economic activity. In response to these tangible demonstrations of the love of God and His people, many are coming forward for baptism to declare their faith in Jesus Christ.

REPORT FROM BANGLADESH

* The Holiness Academy and the Frances Carter Boarding School remain closed due to government restrictions imposed to halt the spread of COVID-19. This situation has dragged on for many months, and the students are suffering not only from lack of education but from lack of nutrition provided by the schools. Please pray that they may reopen soon.

*Some travel restrictions have been lifted so that National Missionary Vijay Balla was able to journey to the villages of south Bangladesh to distribute supplies purchased by International COVID-19 relief funds. Some 240 church families received much-needed help and were greatly encouraged by the loving generosity of their global IPHC brothers and sisters.

REPORT FROM NORTH INDIA

Good news continues to pour out of North India. As Bishop Michael John puts it, "God is moving in North India as people are flocking towards the King in an unprecedented way." In recent news: over 2,000 people gathered for an evangelistic meeting in the Narganjo region; a new church has been planted in Daryaon, with many delivered from demonic oppression; church planters are being trained in Gumla; new house churches were started in Chida Bamda and Tundi, and several new villages have been reached with the gospel through power evangelism or the digging of freshwater wells. Amazingly in the year of COVID, **\$3,100 was donated to Global Outreach** by the churches in North India!





REPORT FROM CAMBODIA

Periodic outbreaks have led to off-and-on restrictions imposed by the government on travel and group meetings. Inevitably, churches are the first targeted for shutdown. Still, our pastors have become adept at finding ways to minister to their flocks and their communities in spite of the challenges. Through English classes, computer classes, and other special events, they never stop spreading the love and the good news of Jesus Christ.

CRACKDOWN INTENSIFIES IN HONG KONG

China continues to tighten control of the Hong Kong government, implementing policies to ensure that only “patriotic” candidates can run for office, where “patriotism” is defined as loyalty to Beijing and the Communist Party. All civil servants are required to sign an oath of allegiance or face dismissal. More than 10,000 people have been arrested in relation to the massive demonstrations of 2019, 40% of them students. Pastors need grace and wisdom to shepherd their flocks during this time when freedom and democracy are in peril.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the Granstuffs, who have recently returned to Kathmandu as a family of four. And pray for our national leadership as they move forward to take advantage of unprecedented opportunities.
- Pray for additional funding and continued construction of the Thailand Theological Seminary in Petchabun.
- Pray for the Bangladesh government to permit schools to reopen so that students can be fed, educated, and nurtured in the faith.
- Pray for the national leaders, evangelists, pastors, and church planters of North India, who are making great strides in spite of antagonism from the radical Hindu authorities.
- 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.

EASTERN / SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA – RON WOOTEN

I am honored to be able to report about the work in East and Sub-Saharan Africa. We are continuing to live in an “Unprecedented Time”, but it is proving to be a very fruitful time of ministry, and we are seeing growth in our work. I am as always overwhelmed at the diligence and the faithful national pastors and leaders I have the privilege to work with. They have continued to work, pray, preach, and build the Kingdom and their ministries regardless of the situation.

EAST AFRICA PROVERBS

1. A Sinking Vessel Needs no Navigation. (Kenya)
2. You may well have two legs, but you still can't climb two trees at the same time. (Ethiopia)
3. The man who marries a beautiful woman and the farmer who plants his corn by the roadside have the same problem. (Ethiopia)

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. Thankfully, all of our countries are open. You can travel in and out of all of them, but the protocols make it very difficult. The biggest issue is most of them require some type of quarantine, even with a clear COVID-19 test. We do not have any vaccines available. Along with that, at the time I am writing this report, I still have not received my work permit or the one for Mrs. List (more in Prayer Requests about this).

We have tried to continue to assist and help where we could. In December 2020, I was able to send additional funds to several of our countries who were hit the hardest. I have just requested more funds from my personal ministry account to send another offering to each country we serve. These funds have been used primarily to buy bulk food.

One of the major things I need to officially report is that Rev. Mrs. Gailya List is going to be retiring this year. I may have mentioned this in the past meeting, but I did want to confirm. She will be leaving Kenya in the middle of May and wants to have some time in the US to visit conferences and churches before the retirement fully takes place, but she has decided it is time. She will be officially submitting a notice very soon. As of May 2021, she will have served 60 years as an approved IPHC full-time missionary. If she stayed until March 2022, it would be 60 years of resident service in Africa. They arrived in Africa in March 1962, three months after Sharon was born. We will have a special goodbye for her here in Kenya before we leave.

Since I have not been able to travel, I have not personally been able to check on the project in Ethiopia and other places. Because of this, I am sending money slowly. We have finished the basement foundations and the first floor completely. The second-floor pillars and the third-floor slab are completed. Now the construction on the third-floor pillars is being poured. So, hopefully, in a few weeks, we will pour the fourth-floor slab. The List Conference Centre in Nairobi is just about finished. The last major job was to finish the toilet/shower block, and we are almost finished. The contractor will be buying toilets and sinks this coming week. In Bujumbura, Burundi, we are building a multipurpose building on the property given to us by African Children's Outreach. Bishop Seth has worked hard and raised funds on his own through friends of his ministry. I have been helping where I could as well. The church project that the Schweighardts are doing in Western Uganda seems to be coming on very well. We have many other projects going on as well.

We are thankful that Michael McRae is back in Kenya, and last week he finished a 280-meter borehole for an IPHC church about two hours outside of Nairobi. It is for one of our Maasai churches in the Central Conference of Kenya. He will be drilling another one in a few months for an IPHC church in Nairobi. The funds for this borehole have been raised by Pastor Paul Chapman from the Appalachian Conference. Paul is planning to bring our first team since COVID began in June to be able to assist in this borehole. Michael drills other boreholes for other ministries as well to keep his equipment busy and to help raise money to drill for our churches. Even with our own truck, a borehole costs more than \$10,000 to drill. Then the pump, piping, water tanks, and towers can cost \$10,000 plus - especially if you have to do solar panels to power the pump. Almost every borehole he has drilled averages around 250 meters (820 feet).

The churches in most of our countries are opened but have very strict guidelines for meeting. Some of these guidelines are hand washing stations, temperature checks, age limits, registering all participants, and two-meter social distancing. Of course, this causes many physical structure issues, but our pastors are adapting and thriving. The city churches must hold strictly to these measures, while it is much more relaxed in the rural areas. I reported this in my last report, but to update the numbers, since the beginning of 2020, mostly during the COVID-19 time, **Ethiopia has now opened 30; Kenya has opened 15; Eastern Congo has opened three; and Uganda has opened four new IPHC churches (this is an increase of around ten churches since my last report).** This would be a great praise report at any time, but it is even more exciting to see this happen this year. We thank God for His blessings and favor, but also for the hard work of our Bishops, Pastors, and church members. I am trying to get statistical numbers, but since we still cannot have Conference meetings and even the District pastors' meetings are limited, new numbers are proving harder to get.

ESSA CAREER MISSIONARIES

1. Ron & Sharon Wooten – Ron & Sharon have been able to remain very busy during this time. Along with the normal duties that keep them pretty busy, they have added duties and responsibilities like everyone else with online meetings and navigating leading during COVID. Ron had a few health issues with some blood clots but thankfully is doing much better. Sharon has begun several new groups and meets with four to five groups weekly via online platforms with women here in East Africa and around the world. Ron & Sharon plan to go on furlough this May. The main reason for this is to help Gailya transition, but we have been on the field for three years and a few months. Even with COVID issues, it is time.

2. Gailya Williams List – Ms. Gailya is doing well, and I have already mentioned her pending retirement. She has continued to stay very active. She does not care for the Zoom and What's App meetings, but she is involved and is trying to adapt. The regulations of age limits have been lifted on worship attendance, so she is able to attend church and prayer meetings and visit people in their homes. She enjoys this.

3. Kevin & Summer Sneed, Abbie and Nathan – Thankfully, the Bible school has been able to physically open for classes again. This is hopefully opening the door for our other ministries of training from the Bible School in the rural areas and other countries as well, especially Uganda. Summer has been able to open training events for Girl's Ministries as well. Thankfully, the kids are back in school, so the burden of online study has ended for now.

4. Matthew & Iris Wong, En Hua – The Wongs have continued to communicate and reach out to their Chinese Congregants. They have not resumed any in-person meetings with the Chinese Church but do many house-to-house visits. They are still doing online services weekly and seem to be doing very well. En Hua is back in school as well, and she is very happy about that.

5. Michael & Leslie Tignor, Josiah – Michael and Leslie seem to be doing well under the pretty rigid COVID restrictions - by far the strictest in East Africa. This has kept them homebound more than most of us, but thankfully the past few months, they have been able to travel in Kigali City. They are doing well physically, and Josiah is growing and excelling. The Tignors plan to go on furlough in June of this year.

6. James & Jessica Dunning, Sophie and Ethan – Jamie and Jessica and the kids are doing good. The kids are back in school as well, and Jessica's work at the International School is back to in-person work. Jessica had a COVID scare last week when one of the employees at the school tested positive. After quarantining for five days, she tested negative. Food relief and assistance have slowed some, but Jamie has continued to help many of our ministries with other projects. I know he has been working to update the PTP kids in the past few months as well.

ESSA MISSIONARIES

1. Russell & Sonya Schweighardt – Russell and Sonya are still in the itineration process. I am not sure where they are at in this process, but I do know it is very difficult. They are working Hope Ministries Uganda, and they stay in very close contact with this work in western Uganda, and they continue to raise funds to help develop that work.

2. Greg & Latoya McClerkin, Ethan and Colton – The McClerkins have returned to East Africa. They have resettled into daily life in Eldoret, Kenya, and Greg has spent most of this time back in Southern Sudan. The work there proceeded on very well during the long absence. Latoya has gotten back involved in the IPHC church in Eldoret, and Ethan is back in school.

ESSA SHORT TERM MISSIONARIES

1. Michael & Tammy McRae, Joseph – The McRaes are back in Kenya since early January. As I mentioned earlier, Michael is already drilling boreholes and has spent a great deal of time working on and repairing the drilling rig. Tammy has gotten involved with helping several ministries that work with young ladies.

2. Rhonda Wood – Rhonda just returned to Uganda a few weeks ago. We have communicated a few times, and she is hoping that things are going to open for their work. The schools have not allowed them to get back involved in the health education classes, but thankfully the churches have been able to open. They are using the churches to do some of their trainings.

3. Laura (Warren) & Brandon Williams – Laura and Brandon arrived in Kenya in late January. They have already found a nice small house and have begun working in the children's ministry. Laura began last year. Brandon is an athlete/coach. He has found a school in the area where Laura is working and is helping their basketball team. They have started doing devotions with the kids. The challenge now is to get their work and efforts directed toward IPHC churches and ministries.

4. Mike Reed – Mike is still very involved in communicating with our IPHC work in Uganda. He communicates with Bishop Patrick and other leadership and still helps to disperse funds to the work monthly.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR ESSA

1. Continue to pray for the leadership in our region to be able to stand as the difficulties and challenges of continual COVID shutdowns continue to loom over parts of ESSA.

2. Continue to pray for land issues to be reconciled in several places and our registration to be completed in Uganda. Some of the Uganda issue is dependent on me being able to travel there to meet the national board to resolve a few issues and then sign the documents.

3. Pray for the wisdom in distributing funds to finish several of our projects. Since we cannot travel to check on these projects, it is hard to know that funds are being properly used and the direction of the work is going as we agreed with the national leadership. (i.e., List Conference Centre, Addis Ababa Conference Centre, Burundi City Church, and Bible Schools in Ethiopia and Eastern Congo)

4. Pray for missionary resident permits to be approved. As I finish writing this report on March 14, we have two pending renewals and two first-time approvals. One of the pending renewals is mine. I finally have the approval and my work permit, but now we cannot get assigned an appointment to get the passport stamped. This has been ongoing for over a year. To give you an idea of how this is supposed to work, Kevin Sneed applied for his permit in December 2020, and it was stamped a week ago. We really need a miracle for Latoya and Laura to get their permits. We apply for missionaries, and the Kenyan government requires Bible School degrees and ordinations. We are trying to get these pushed through and are trusting God for favor.

5. Pray that I get some favor to travel in the next two months. As I mentioned earlier, we are going on furlough in May, and I desperately need to get to Uganda and Ethiopia before I leave - and Burundi if possible.

Once again, it is a very distinct honor to serve the Lord and to work with IPHC World Missions Ministries. Thank you all for your faithfulness and sacrifices you make to serve us.



Ethiopia Centre – January 2021



Burundi Church – December 2021



Two Different Feeding Programs of the Many we help Monthly



A District Conference in Southern Ethiopia – March 2021

EURASIA & MIDDLE EAST – BOB CAVE

Greetings to the WMM Council, Executive Director, and staff. Well, as I will lay out in this report, it was a very different year, and we are now into year two, and the jury is still out as to how it will end for our world health system. One thing we can see is the birth pangs of one-world order. I feel so blessed that the Lord has shown His children how to navigate through this storm. This last year of restricted travel has caused me to reach out on a constant basis to the people around my region and across the US and Canada, and I have found a good reception as we interact. Obviously, Zoom and video meetings have kept the doors open, and I am seeing a continued interest in projects of all kinds.

I still feel this is a time of opportunity to present the gospel, and we have a receptive virtual audience like never before. I also believe the Lord is coming very soon, and the call is to “occupy until He comes.”

MISSIONARIES

Dan & Noomi Gutierrez in Antalya, Turkey

They are still newlyweds and formally worked with Jonathan and Corrie Shirey in Discipleship Beyond. They have an English club and Alpha courses they run with a local evangelical church there in Antalya. Since October, there have been a lot of lockdowns and setbacks as the government keeps things tight. Despite the setback, they have continued to build relationships almost everywhere they can go.

March 1st, the cafés and restaurants opened to half capacity, and people are getting more social again. They keep honing their Turkish language skills even though they both already speak fluent Turkish.

Ben and Marianne Janssen: Serbia - teachers to the world (ISOM, CICM, DCPI)

They are currently based out of Nova Scotia, Canada, where there are several Pentecostal churches where they can minister.

“The People to People situation is going well in Europe, where we monitor our obligations. The Romanian orphanage is looking after the updates themselves now. We taught the staff in Botosani how to do this once a year.

We also continue to financially support the two gypsy churches and the one Hungarian church in Stana, Romania. In the meantime, we stay in contact and try to encourage the different Christians in the countries we worked in. They now see the “handwriting on the wall” and are preparing spiritually for the coming of the Lord even more. In most countries outside the western world, the Christians believe that they will go through the tribulation and will see the Antichrist. That means that most Christians overseas are better prepared than the Christians in the Western world. There is a difficult time ahead of us because the Christians will be the target all over the world. No easier way than blaming the Christians for everything, like in the Roman Empire when Nero burnt Rome and put the blame on the Christians. Well, we have to continue till the very last day and encourage one another!”

EURASIA AND MIDDLE EAST REGION COUNTRIES

IPHC PRESENCE

Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Moldova, and Bulgaria

NO IPHC PRESENCE

Bosnia, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Armenia, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan

PRAISE REPORT

- Planted 65 new Ukraine churches (\$5,000 per Church plant) 2017-2020
- Since October 2020, we are planting three churches in Israel (\$28,000) and Bulgaria (\$6,000).
- Purchased a three-bedroom apartment as a mission base in Kusadasi, Turkey, for our Ukrainian missionaries (\$32,000).
- Palestine (Bethlehem) total components for large Greenhouse (\$11,000)
- Israel baptized 64 new Jewish converts in Jordan River (zero cost).
- Receive necessary funds to complete Krushinka Drug Rehab Center in Ukraine (\$60,000).

COUNTRY REPORTS

UKRAINE

Ukraine churches have been hit hard with the COVID-19 restrictions and many hardships. Thanks to the COVID-19 International Relief Fund, we have been able to keep all the staff and patients in our drug rehabs moving forward. The men in the Krushinka Rehab have been a valuable source of labor as they finish this Center and double the size to a 40-bed facility.

This winter Christian Hope Church felt they had to step in with a warming drop-in center that was put on the front of the Kiev property. There were 20 street people that froze to death in January, and this has probably saved several lives since.

Please pray as there is an attack on half the church property that they are holding for future development. These situations can get quite political as groups want to steal the property for their own development benefits.

Church Planting: With a goal for 2021 to plant 20 new churches – 9-Ukraine, 2-Russia, 2-Bulgaria, 3-Azerbaijan, 3-Israel, and 1-Moldova. We have received (\$60,000) towards those church plants, which will cover expenses for 14 of the 20 plants this Spring. It has long been a vision of Bishop Valery Reshetinsky to launch missionary outreaches into the ex-Soviet Union countries, and some has been done over the years. But now, national missionaries are being trained to cover some of the open doors. Ukraine leadership is training many in online classes, and some are already in their designated countries.

ROMANIA

There are 82 churches as they all seem to be surviving and a few thriving. Our Gypsy churches are hit with high job losses as most are non-professional laborers. Also, our Peniel Elderly home with 100 patients received COVID relief help which got them through most of the winter.

With restrictions but happy that they can meet every Sunday and Wednesday for prayer, the youth meet Friday and different other meetings either in-person or Zoom.

They say, “ We are thankful to the Lord that we could continue our feeding program and other social projects that we run, like children after school, tailor shop in gypsy community, disabled people, not only that but recently (and still working on it) we added a new social project that deals with human trafficking. We saw people coming to Jesus, and we had two baptisms last year and one (for now) this year.

Regarding prayer.... from the beginning of this pandemic, we started (and still continue) a chain of 12 or 24 hours with a one-hour prayer watch per person at home. This is done every Wednesday. We are thankful because we see God at work and people involved. Also, since we suspended our Sunday evening service, we gather (with whoever wants) for 15 minutes in prayer in the parking lot at our COVID hospital in town.

We are also happy that in this time, there were two new churches that were planted, one in Suceava and one in Brasov county and they requested spiritual covering from the PH of Romania. God is working, and we believe that more will come to be part of the Romanian PH Fellowship, and the ministry will continue to grow.”

HUNGARY

They are in the same place as the other Eastern European countries with restrictions, but they are operational. They are just completing the rewriting of their Conference Constitution for the Government and pretty well followed all the guidelines of our IPHC US model.

PALESTINE

Pastor Khader Khouri is definitely thriving in a COVID environment. His whole family got COVID themselves, laid low for two weeks, totally recovered, and were back delivering food to their neighborhood. As I reported before, COVID-19 has been a real door opener in Bethlehem as it pushed the church into addressing the needs of the Muslim community around the church. With their community “Greenhouse” project and food hamper deliveries to 500 families, the church has become a beacon of encouragement in the area. There is no government vaccination program, so the need for Khader’s food outreach is most important, and I am asking for continued help.

They are also in desperate need of a van or something they could use to continue their outreach ministry. This is about a \$30,000 project which we have not begun yet.

ISRAEL

The country is still one of the more locked-down countries in the world, even shutting down their only International airport for a short time. It is still quite restrictive. COVID-19 has hit some of our rehab centers, and almost everyone staying there would get it. At one time, there were 40 cases in three centers. Of course, there has been job loss and the inability for them to meet expenses.

One of the main burdens that hang over their heads is the final notice has been given that they must be out of the Monastery they have rented on the top of Haifa. It houses the Bible School, Buffer Zone (entry point for all new addicts for detox), and living accommodation for almost 60 persons. This place is their “hub,” and they can’t find anything they can afford to replace it.

They would need about four large houses, and they don't seem to be available to start with. Two houses could be self-supporting, but two have no income to pay the rent. To buy a large house is one million dollars (USD), just starting, so unless you had wealthy, it is unreasonable. They have four months and need a lot of prayer. They are standing at the flooded River Jordan and need a miracle to cross over.

The good news - since October 3rd, new house churches have been started, and 64 new Jewish converts have been baptized in the Jordan River. This is more than all the other 400 churches in Israel last year.

Adopt a Church Israel: As I have mentioned, we have 35 IPHC Living Israel churches. All of them are made up of first-generation Jewish believers. All but our mother church in Haifa are house churches that run between 30-50 persons on Sundays. I am looking for some US churches that will adopt (or take under their wing) an Israeli House church. Here is what it would include:

- a. Prayer covering from your US church each week, or so, in your church service for your particular Israeli church.
- b. Communication: We would encourage two-way communication with emails or social media, exchanging pictures and prayer requests, etc.
- c. We will send you a Dossier of information on one of the IPHC Israeli churches.
- d. Financial gifts: None have been asked for, but I believe we should bless Israel and commit at least \$100 a month towards their evangelistic outreach. Living Israel's churches are feeding about 500 Holocaust survivors and the elderly at \$20.00 per family. Because of COVID-19, their resources have dried up, and they are in need of all the help they can get.

BELARUS

As I reported, we have four new church plants there, and shortly after planting them, the country had its presidential elections, which were highly protested as a fraud. The long and short is the very pro-Russian government is very dictatorial. Our associate mother church in Minsk of 1500 persons is under a good friend of Bishop Valery's, Vyacheslav Goncharenko (Pastor Sasha). Pastor Sasha had his entire property confiscated and pushed his auditorium down to build a school. Pastor Sasha had founded his church in this city location 25 years ago, and the government would never give them a clear title.

Please pray for them as they hold their services outdoors in parking lots and other clear areas until God shows them the next step.

TURKEY

Ismail Serinken has a good report about navigating the Turkish government maze to get our work there recognized to the point where we could safely own our properties. Up until recently, there was almost no way a church could own property safely. Then the government recognized several small Islamic splinter groups that appear to be able to have a legal foundation. Up until now, these foundations had to have millions of US dollars in assets to qualify to even apply for that status. That all changed, and the Christian church was now able to qualify for Foundation status. We applied to the Directorate General of Foundations with a \$1,500 deposit, which actually will go into the Foundation. Two months later, we are approved with a Foundation Certificate and can now establish churches, schools, hospitals, etc., under this Certificate. We will move forward to get our properties into that covering, and future purchases can be made in like manner.

Pastor Ismail reports that they are making great inroads into ministering in Turkey through satellite TV and the internet's online programs. They have over 1,000 online followers each week, and a Christian satellite station in Istanbul recently called them to increase their content. His boys are well versed in editing and production, and their content is super.



Krushinka Drug Rehab Center and Community Church (Completion date July 2021)



*Christian Hope Warming/
Feedings Center*



*Feeding the Homeless in a
neighborhood near Church*



Belarus

GULF OF MEXICO – RON ROY



RON AND PHYLLIS ROY: We are alive and doing well. The area we are located in has opened up but had another shutdown since the last report.

Thankfully, we have now reached the green light level, and most churches are back to business. Our calendar is filling up, as we are booking meetings along with other ministerial duties. We are optimistic about the year 2021. PTL



GENE AND LIZ HANCOCK - BELIZE: Gene and Ms. Liz have taken the COVID vaccine and are doing well.

Gene will be leaving for Belize sometime in April if all goes to plan, and Ms. Liz will follow arriving in May. She has some therapy to take for vertigo she has been having to deal with.



JUDY PEREZ-MEXICO: Judy functions as Secretary-Treasurer for Emanuel College with extensions that include the following areas: Reynosa, Matamoros (2) Tamps.; Monterrey, N.L. Arenal Veracruz, Sabinas, Coah. Loma Bonita, Oax.; Atoyac de Alvarez, Gro, and León, Gto. She has been facing a few health issues. AN IPHC TREASURE



AMBER ROY BURGER: World Intercession Network Director with the Gulf Coast Region.

Amber reports that travel has been restrictive. However, she is still staying busy. Recently there was an outreach where food, water, and other household items were supplied to needy winter storm victims. There were many Spanish-speaking people who we were able to pray with and give resources to. Upcoming, she will be hosting a prayer conference on March 12th with her local church's prayer team. As borders begin to open, on their agenda for June, she and her husband will be going on a retreat to Mexico with a small group from their local church.



KEVIN LUNDQUIST: Kevin reports: "Hope everyone is doing well!!! No health issues, praise the Lord!!!! I have an appointment to get my first rounds of shots (COVID). I am also planning to head back to Belize in May, hoping to be down there for a few months, if not longer."



JOE AND ROBIN PETTUS: They are in Cornerstone Conference waiting for travel restrictions to lift.

MEXICO

As more of our churches are opening, people have begun to return. Some of our churches have resorted to drive-in services with good results. Once the travel restrictions lift, one of our goals for this year is to visit as many districts as possible.

PASTORAL MEETING

All pastors we have been able to meet with have been upbeat and optimistic about the foreseeable future.

HOLMES BIBLE COLLEGE ANNEX BEREIA BUILDING PROGRAM

\$12,561 has been distributed to help with the construction of the project. Berea is the work that will house Holmes. As soon as we can put the details together, Holmes will graduate 20 first-time students in Mexico.

BELIZE

Belize has opened, and travel is permitted by air only. Land borders are still not open. Gene, Ms. Liz, and Kevin Lundquist are in the process of returning to Belize. A construction/ministry group will be arriving sometime in June.

LAND PURCHASE SARSTOON #62005P

The land purchase is for a church/resource center. Sarstoon is centrally located in the northeast section of Guatemala, with twelve surrounding villages. Most of the locals do not speak Spanish, just a local dialect. The Boggs Resource Center will be instrumental in our ability to bring in pastors from this location for training (those who speak Spanish) and sending them back to minister to their people group. There is no IPHC work in the whole of this location. Village elders requested the IPHC to help their people with training and spreading of the gospel. We got the land, but now \$25,000 is needed for the material to build the church/resource center.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala is moving forward. Within the last three months, the conference has purchased three properties for construction. New churches are coming online. Building projects have been ongoing despite the COVID shutdowns. One church under construction will have the capacity to seat 2,000 people.

PRAYER REQUEST

1) Future leaders 2) Funding for construction projects 3) Safety for our churches and leaders and 4) God called missionaries (we need them)

CLOSING STATEMENT

This concludes the 2021 Gulf Coast Region WMM Council Report. We cannot express in adequate words our appreciation for what The Lord has and is doing on our field. I believe we have a unique, possibly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Focus and dedication to His Mission are imperative, lest we lose sight of the cause, WIN THE LOST, AND MAKE DISCIPLES.



THE INDO-PACIFIC – TIM SALLEY



*Former Taliban supporter,
Swat, Pakistan*



*Pool Baptism, Bali,
Indonesia*

SURGE IN SALVATIONS & WATER BAPTISMS CONTINUES

The surge in salvations and water baptisms that began at the start of COVID-19 continues!! The hotspots continue to be reported in Indonesia (Muslims/Hindus), Myanmar (Buddhists/Animists) and Pakistan (Muslims/Hindus). The Harvest truly is plentiful, and the Lord of the Harvest's laborers are winning many, many souls!!! To God Be The Glory!!

PAKISTAN MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE

The Lord has given us a great opportunity in our Pakistan ministry. A donor has offered to match funds earmarked for Pakistan ministry up to \$38,000. Currently, we have secured \$30,000. We need to raise an additional \$8,000 to reach the \$38,000 mark. Once we hit the \$38,000 amount, the donor will match it and we will get another \$38,000 from him. So, \$38,000 becomes \$76,000 for reaching Hindus and Muslims in Pakistan!! We have three projects that we are focusing on as we raise funds: 1). Water wells - \$1,700 each; 2) Church planting - \$1,500 each; 3) Bibles - \$8 each.

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY (SOM)

Our Srikakulam, India, and La Union, Philippines, SOMs have resumed in person and live training courses. Most of the 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 Indo-Pacific region missionary staff remain under movement control orders in their respective places of residence in the **Philippines**: Douglas & Remy Barton (Victoria, Luzon), Debra Crook (Baguio City, Luzon) & Al & Coli Argo (on furlough in USA). Their ministry continues online and through social media means. The government of the Philippines has imposed some of the strictest movement control measures of any country in the region. Vaccines are slow in coming also. Our missionaries remain encouraged and are trusting the Lord for openings soon. Please pray these restrictions will be lifted.

Indonesia and Myanmar continue to implement restrictions 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 opened since the first of the year. Church services are normal, and society is open for business, including schools.

Malaysia had a surge in cases in January/February and returned to strict restrictions. Church services restarted in early March with limits on attendance to fifty people.

Australia has done very well under the COVID-19, 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 2020 and are at normal capacity.

Singapore has done very well. Cases have been zero or in low single digits for months. Movement is allowed, with a mask mandate. Churches now can have up to 250 in attendance. Vaccines have been rolling out since December.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Many of our national pastors and workers in the Indo-Pacific region continue to distribute food stuffs and other supplies to their members and communities. In Myanmar, recent converts to Christ are blessed with food stuffs. In Pakistan, marginalized Hindus, living in harsh conditions in villages, are also being blessed by our pastors. In Indonesia, we blessed all our church members on Batam Island with 2,000 masks. Many more stories could be told of the hundreds and hundreds of people (believers and nonbelievers alike) that have been recipients of the generosity of the IPHC's COVID-19 International Relief Fund. As a result, we are seeing many unreached peoples come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (as earlier mentioned in this report). Additionally, many of our churches have sacrificed and have given from their own resources to be a blessing to the communities.

NEW AREAS OF MINISTRY

Fiji: IPHC Australia National Leader Chris Friend informed me in March that the new church under IPHC is on hold. Anesh, a local police official, has been deployed to Africa by the Fijian government for 2 years. Let's pray for Sangeeta and family as they await his return and, God-willing, the church plant can get back on track.

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 Taipei, 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, they have been stuck in Malaysia. They will leave Malaysia on March 22 for the Philippines. 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. Please pray the Lord will open the door for them and that prayer and financial partners will emerge to empower them in this calling!

OTHER NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Myanmar coup: On February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military overthrew the democratically elected government of Nobel Peace prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi. Protestors immediately took to the streets, including some of our pastors and members of the IPHC Myanmar. In the weeks that have followed, the protests have increased and so has the military's violent response. Dozens of protestors have now been killed by the military in the streets of many cities. Many government officials, including Aung San Suu Kyi, remain detained. Thankfully, there are no reports of our church members being detained or hurt. Please pray for our Myanmar national leader, Rev. James Lian Sai, and all our wonderful pastors and leaders in Myanmar.

Indonesia GKKI Congress: COVID-19 caused the postponement of the April 2020 GKKI Congress in Indonesia. The Congress meets every five years to choose national leadership for the IPHC Indonesia. Many GKKI leaders throughout Indonesia have been asking if a ZOOM Congress would be legal and acceptable to the leadership body and the general membership. The GKKI national leadership and the GKKI Congress organizing committee have agreed and have set the GKKI Congress to take place over ZOOM from April 8-10, 2021. Of course, this will be a very strategic meeting as many issues will be discussed, including ministry vision and strategy. Also, the GKKI Presiding Bishop will be elected. Bishop Hisar Simangunsong has been leading GKKI since April 2015. Please pray for a smooth and peaceful Congress and that the result will be a unified body of believers, leaders, and churches. I will give you an update on the Congress during the WMM Council meeting on April 12-13. Thank you.

Pastor John Mangpi: We learned in early October 2020, that Pastor John had been detained unjustly by the Malaysian government since March 2020. Pastor John and his family are from Myanmar and have United Nations refugee status as they reside in Malaysia seeking to be legally resettled permanently to a third country. Pastor John serves in the ministry to his fellow Myanmar refugees living in Malaysia. Pastor John works under the tutelage of one of our IPHC Malaysian churches. Pastor John has been detained in a Malaysian immigration detention center since March. Once we found out about Pastor John's situation, we began to mobilize prayer for him to be released. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!! Pastor John was released from prison on January 8, 2021!! He went directly to the airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and has returned to Myanmar. His wife, Grace, was able to see him at the airport before he left. He will now seek paperwork for his family to join him in Myanmar. The Malaysian government did not allow his Pastor John and his family family to accompany him back to Myanmar. Please continue to pray for Pastor John and his family to be reunited.



River Baptism, Kalaymya, Myanmar



Irrigation Canal Baptism, Lahore, Pakistan



New water well for Pakistan



Pakistan Bible distribution



Village Church Planting



Srikakulam SOM restart: Jan 2021



La Union, Philippines restart: Feb 2021



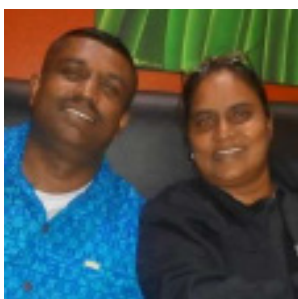
Mask distribution: Batam, Indonesia



Blessing Hindu villagers in Pakistan



New believers receive food in Myanmar



Anesh & Sangeeta



Myla & Joule



Rev. James Lian Sai



Bishop Hisar and national board



Pastor John Mangpi and family

THE MEDITERRANEAN – LINWOOD BERRY

I am writing to briefly give an overview of the past six month's highlights and insights concerning the IPHC in the Mediterranean Region. This report encompasses the time from 15 October 2020 to 15 March 2021.

COVID: As the year and colder weather advanced, so too a second, and in some places, a third outbreak of COVID assaulted the region. Every nation was locked down, and many of the restrictions imposed brought more confinement than in the initial outbreak in Spring 2020. Travel is still very restricted and that mostly to EU citizens who meet new health standards including, a specific health card, vaccination, quarantines. There are few flights. Airports are operating at 20% capacity. There is virtually no travel from the USA to the European Union (EU) and North Africa.

IPHC churches have adapted well to the virtual/internet church. In most places, our churches have not been able to resume in situ meetings. That is changing since March 1. We have resumed in church building activities (with some limitations) in Madrid, Seville, Barcelona, Toledo, Parla, Galicia, and Andalusia, Spain; in Rome and Bologna, Italy; in Malta; and soon in Portugal.

The second wave of COVID provoked more hardship than the earlier. We provided over \$20,000 from my RD funds in the form of COVID assistance to churches and pastors in Spain, Malta, Cyprus, Italy, and Morocco.

WMM missionary personnel: Arise 2033 encourages "receivers to become senders." 2020 has been a year of transition for WMM missionaries in the Mediterranean Region. Gary and Kathy Petty are processing their retirement. Mau and Lulu Salazar have been reassigned to Belgium. Nancy spent most of the year in the USA, unable to return to Spain and caring for her invalid mother. At the writing of this report, we do not have a single missionary physically present in the Mediterranean. (FYI: I will be returning in June).

Remember, our Lord challenges us to understand the Harvest is white, but the laborers are few. He personalized this to me as I was praying last Fall saying, "I have not canceled the Great Commission (due to COVID)." Clearly, the key to Harvest is not so much the environmental conditions or the climate we must work in but in the paucity of workers in the field.

I would like to dedicate the remainder of this report to sketch out what we are doing to populate our field with effective workers for this Harvest. For the sake of argument and brevity, I want to state upfront; I do not believe we can do pioneer work (opening new field and strengthening infant works) from a distant, itinerant, and technological strategy alone. We must have "boots on the ground", people who are committed to staying long enough to parent (not only plant) churches. We need incarnational missionaries who persuade through life witness, word, and deeds. We still need missionaries.

Arise in Prayer: I believe one of the fundamental strategies the Lord has given the IPHC to reignite a passion for God and His Kingdom priorities is Arise in Prayer. Nancy and I have been privileged to be involved in Arise in Prayer events over the last several months. An Arise in Prayer "prayer force" is being launched under the mentorship of Dr. Doug Small and Bishop Manuel Pate. Nancy and I have been asked to be a part of that and undergo the rigorous training that we, along with others, might restore the IPHC to a "house of prayer for all nations". Jesus only gave us one suggestion as to how to recruit laborers for the harvest, "pray the Lord of the Harvest..."

Strategy must be birthed in prayer. I believe He has given us a strategy to meet the number one need and key to Arise 2033 in the Mediterranean Region. That is the need for partners/workers in the Harvest.

If we count all of 2023, right up until December 31 of that year, we have less than 142 months, 12.5 years to establish a ministry presence in all 20 nations of the region. Adding to the challenge, in every single nation we are rebuilding the altar of God. This region received the first global expansion of the Gospel. There is Islam, atheism, and secular socialism in every nation. It is a difficult assignment before COVID. Despite this, I am 100% confident the Lord is with us and will help us do it.

This strategy has four unique and “new” components (in addition to any new missionaries the Lord might send us from North America). These are: Partnership with The Awakening; Partnership with the Spanish speaking (culturally/linguistically similar) churches and nations; a growing mature sending church in the Mediterranean Region; and partnership with denominations, missions, and organizations outside of the IPHC in strategic partnerships to leverage scarce resources.

The Awakening is the most exciting and promising strategy for producing workers for the Harvest that exists in the IPHC. I believe in The Awakening and partner with them whenever they ask. In the last six months, I have worked with The Awakening to mentor their interns in OKC, Holmes, and Emmanuel College. Plans are underway to partner to open schools of mission in Spain and perhaps an Awakening base.

Partnership with the Spanish-speaking world: For nearly 20 years, I have been networking with pastors and churches in the EVUSA Hispanic network as well as with many conference bishops and leaders in what used to be LAMCAR. The Spanish-speaking church is coming of age, and one of its special assignments is to take a more aggressive and responsible role in world missions. The desire is there but often lost because inexperience and a lack of logistical know-how.

I am particularly interested in partnering with Latinos because culturally and linguistically, they have historic roots in the Mediterranean. Frankly, they can adapt amazingly to the challenges.

Mediterranean Regional Office: When we purchased the building in Madrid with Operation Antioch support, we planned to set up a permanent office for the IPHC WMM Mediterranean Region. We now have that office open virtually while we await the final permits to occupy the physical office in Madrid. The Lord has given us a fine couple to work in this office as the liaison between the Spanish-speaking sending churches and nations and the Mediterranean. They are Nati Barroso and Camilo Hernandez. Nati is the sister of Max Barroso and a lawyer. Camilo is a gifted Bible teacher who teaches at a number of Bible colleges in Argentina. While we process their visa applications to move to Spain, they have already begun to work closely with me.

Together we are networking with all IPHC Hispanic ministries to provide training, logistical support, expertise, and opportunity to come to the Mediterranean as missionaries. Currently, they are preparing extensive dossiers on each nation of the region. This database is vitally needed to target and pray for open doors and effective strategies.

We hope to have Nati and Camilo in Spain by the end of 2021.

In the meantime, interest in Latin churches sending missionaries to the Mediterranean is growing. There are a time and season for every purpose. This is a Kairos for the Hispanic church. I truly believe we are going to see many new missionaries sent from the former receiving nations of LAMCAR. WMM can help them with expertise both from the sending nations to the receiving ones.

Growth/Maturity of Mediterranean churches: In November, the IPHC Spain Conference held a virtual meeting to postpone the election of new Conference officials until September 2021. We also resolved to be fully 100% led by national (not missionary) leadership. We are preparing our churches and pastors in a time of transition for this. I will then hold no official office or position in the Spain conference except for ex-officio leadership as Regional Director of the Mediterranean Region.

We have had extensive conversations as to how to move beyond merely becoming more autonomous. Autonomy is not the goal. Mature partnership is what we want.

Our excellent pastors in **Seville**, Guiermo and Sandra Valverde, are heading up our conference missions and evangelism directorship. They will work with our Mediterranean Regional office to partner on projects outside of Spain. Internally, they are directing new strategic church plants.

In **Italy**, where last year we added a new church plant in the north of Italy outside of Bologna, Roman pastors Giuseppe and Daniela Fiano have added a new couple to their pastoral staff. The primary job of this couple is to provide ongoing leadership to the local church in Rome as Giuseppe and Daniela continue to develop the church they planted in **Portugal**.

In **Malta**, our national leader Joseph Agius has received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Global University (GU). He was honored as GU's first successful doctoral candidate from outside of North America. I am copying a link to a short but moving video honoring Dr. Agius. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3wMfrmXHq0&feature=youtu.be>

Friends, 120 years of IPHC missions is yielding fruit. Whether from our Latino brothers or from our European church plants, we are moving into a season when IPHC WMM/USA is not the major component of God's end-time harvest. He is bringing in His sheaves and calling 11th-hour workers from around the world.

Strategic Partnerships: The enormity of what He has called us to do is beyond description. Frankly, we don't have the resources. He is coupling us, IPHC WMM, in harmony with strategic partnerships with other organizations and denominations for specific projects. I can only share one of these in this short report.

In 2019, I was invited to sit on the World Missions Commission of the Pentecostal World Fellowship. I made a number of new friends and, from that, was invited to speak last year at the Pingst conference (Swedish Pentecostals) with more than 480 pastors in attendance. They specifically asked me to talk about "strategies to use the arts to reach secular Europeans".

Since then, I have been asked to be a part of the 2021 Lausanne Conference in November. I paste below an excerpt of the invitation:

LAUSANNE EUROPE CONVERSATION AND GATHERING 20/21

17th – 21st November 2021

Wisla, Poland

Lausanne Europe 20/21 has two distinct elements: an extended Europe-wide conversation and a face-to-face gathering of representative leaders. 800 key evangelical leaders from all over Europe will gather around the theme Dynamic Gospel – New Europe. Participants will be drawn from mission organisations and those whose professional work is their mission frontier, including diaspora church leaders, local church leaders, women and men, the young, and the not-so-young. And artists too!

It is my privilege to invite a select group and artists, musicians, art catalysts, and art ministry leaders. This is why I invited YOU to participate last year. This is why I am inviting YOU to participate this year.

Below is the official press release. And please examine the website for the gathering. <https://www.lausanne.org/gatherings/regional-gathering/lausanne-europe-2020-dynamic-gospel-new-europe>

I close this unique report with great confidence in what the Lord is building, and He has included us in His plans. The Mediterranean Region is a vast but largely unplowed mission field. It is time to break up the fallow ground. I appreciate your consideration that allowed me to use this space for more than statistics and follow up on what has been done. Our best days are ahead. We have a plan. It was birthed in prayer. The same Spirit is calling and anointing. Receiving nations are becoming senders. New wineskins are being developed. We are arising. Thank you for the privilege of representing you in this Great Commission.

SOUTHERN AFRICA – JOE DELPORT

We are thankful to God for His protection and provision in the Southern Africa Region. Without Him, we would not be able to keep running the race and enduring the challenges. “I have told you these things so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world, you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world.” [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]” John 16:33.

MISSIONARY PERSONEL

- Maggie and I are still moving ahead with God's plan for our lives regardless of the COVID crisis we find ourselves in. We are due for a furlough but keep postponing the dates until we are sure the time is appropriate.
- Althea Meyer is doing well in Malawi and still being cautious of the effect COVID is having on the people of this country. Once the borders open and the assurance that the virus is contained, she will pursue her ministry with children in the region.
- Yasinta Mrema is doing well in Tanzania and staying safe. She is still involved in Women's Ministry activities in the local church and the region. She also provides humanitarian aid to people in Dar Es Salaam and local churches through People to People assistance.

SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNTRIES HIGHLIGHTS

The COVID situation has not changed much in the Southern Africa Region; thereby, everyone in leadership faces challenges on how to be more effective in ministry. Church attendance has been affected by the country COVID regulations as far as gatherings are concerned. Most countries only allow a maximum of 50 people in attendance, sometimes increasing the amount to 100 people. One of the biggest challenges the churches are still facing is the economic decline; thus, tithing and offerings are at an all-time low. Many churches are struggling to pay their monthly bills.

1. GREAT COMMISSION EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

The Great Commission Equipping training is still being taught in some countries where they can risk not contracting COVID infection. Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana have done the phase two training already.

2. AFRICA AWAKENING BASE

The Africa Awakening house in Krugersdorp, South Africa, is looking lovely since upgraded. It was pretty difficult to acquire some of the materials due to shortages in the country. Maggie is doing a meticulous job decorating each room and is busy refurbishing the bedroom furniture, which will look beautiful when finished. We recently had a Zoom conference meeting with the Southern Africa country Bishops. Bishop Tal and Max informed them of the purpose and vision of starting an Africa Awakening base in South Africa. The leaders are very receptive to the idea and have promised to embrace it. The team members will have to apply to the South Africa Embassy in the USA for a Temporary Work Visa to permit them to live in the country.

3. SOUTH AFRICA

The South Africa PHC, which has a quinquennial (five-year) term of office at the general and conference level, was to have elections in 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all the 12 conferences and the general conference had to postpone elections indefinitely. The General Conference decided that all elections will take place this year as some COVID restrictions are lifted, thus increasing the number of people permitted at the gatherings. Although it is challenging to implement, three conference elections have already taken place this year. We have to go forward even during these trying times. Rev. Spooner, a former West Indies mission to South Africa, always said, "Do not let God's work die."

4. MALAWI MISSION HOUSE

The sale of the Lilongwe mission house is progressing well, and the legal process is moving forward. I have been in consultation with the Estate Agent often, trying to find a way to prevent me from flying to Malawi to sign documents due to the COVID-19 restrictions. I have no option but to go there next week and have to go through getting COVID PCR certificates.

5. ADVANCE SCHOOL OF MINISTRY (ASM)

The ASM program, which we started at the Copperbelt Conference in Zambia, is progressing very well. Classes are in different districts, sometimes having to use primitive classroom settings. But, the eagerness of the leaders to learn does not prevent them from attending classes.

6. SOUTHERN AFRICA PROJECTS

A. MADAGASCAR

The church plants in Antananarivo, Madagascar, called New Life in Christ pastored by Pastors Tojo and Deborah Ranaivoarimanana, is still doing very well and growing. The building project is progressing well, although they will need additional funding to finish the building. The roof is complete, and the doors and windows are still to be purchased.

B. ZAMBIA

Christian Education Ministries Training Institute (CEMTI) dormitory and classrooms in the Copperbelt Conference are progressing well. We thank God for added funds that are helping to get the buildings functional. Training is one of the most essential tools to equip leaders in Africa.

C. TANZANIA

The Five Loaves and Two Fish Program from Wing Kwong church has helped the Kadash Church and USA River Church in Tanzania put roofs on the buildings. It is so important to have a proper place of worship that brings stability to a community.

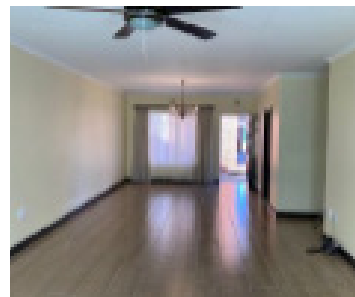
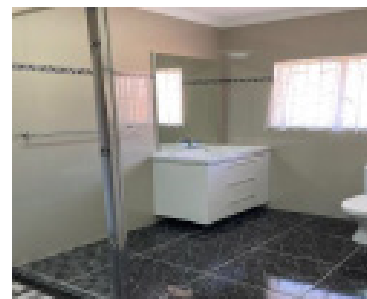
D. MOZAMBIQUE

The Manjacaze Church project located in the province of Gaza, was finally finished. It has taken a few years to complete due to funding, but the pastor and church family are very excited to have a permanent church building not meeting in an old worn out tent.

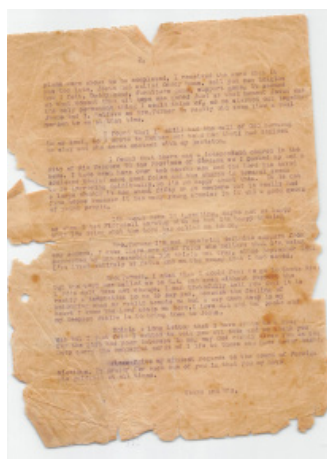
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the many families who are affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. So many have lost family and friends.
- Pray for the Africa Awakening base which is being established in South Africa. Also, pray for the team members as they raise their support and finalize their Temporary Work Visas.
- Pray for the missionaries and their families on the field, health, protection, and continued financial support.

- Pray for the multitude of unsaved & lost souls who need Jesus in their lives.
- Pray for a fresh anointing and outpouring of God's power upon the nations of Africa.
- Pray for the Arise 2033 vision. We are anticipating to plant 5,000 new IPHC churches in Africa.



SOUTH AMERICA – MAX BARROSO (INTERIM)



In 1952 the Executive Director of World Missions, Rev. W. H. Turner, and the board of foreign missions received the following letter from a single missionary serving in South America regarding the death of her father and addressing her situation on the missions field:

"... travel plans were about to be completed, I received the word that I was too late, Jesus had called daddy home. Well you can imagine how I felt Daddy gone, furniture gone, support gone; Just at that moment Jesus was the only permanent thing I could think of, so we started out together Jesus and I. Believe me Bro. Turner He really did seem like a real person to me at that time.

I found that I still had the call of God burning in my soul, so I wrote to mother and told her that I had decided to stay and she seems content with my decision.

I found that there was an independent church in the city of Rio Tercero in the province of Cordoba so I packed up and came. I have been here over two months now and the Lord has saved souls and healed some good folks and the church in general seems to be improving spiritually. So I am happy about this. It is not a large church it has about fifty or so members but it really has line hopes because it has many young couples in it and a good group of young people.

I am happy here in Argentina, maybe not as happy as when I had Floradell working with me but I am happy knowing that I am doing what the Lord has called me to do.

Bro. Turner I am not receiving definite support from any source, I know there are good folks who believe that I am being supported by the Assemblies but this is not true, Since September 1951 I have lived entirely by faith and on the money I've saved.

Bro. Turner, I wish I could feel to go to Costa Rica but the Lord has called me to South America and even without support the Lord's call does not change. I can truthfully tell you that it is tempting for me to say yes, because the feeling of belonging really tempts me, but way down deep in my heart I know the Lord needs me here. I love South America and her people and my deepest desire is to bring them to Jesus. This is a long letter that I wrote to a busy man but I just felt I wanted to tell you all this and to thank you for the gift and your interest in me, may God richly bless you as you help carry the wonderful words of life to those who have never heard. Please give my kindest regards to the board of foreign missions. My prayer for each one of you is that you may have His guidance at all times.

Yours and His,"

As this letter was being read, there were no IPHC works planted as of yet anywhere in South America, we had no pastors, no members, just a handful of single ladies that had been laboring at the end of the world and still had nothing to show for. It was time to call them home or send them somewhere where at least they could be cared for... therefore, the letters asking them to leave and relocate to Costa Rica were sent out.

"but way down deep in my heart I know the Lord needs me here. I love South America and her people and my deepest desire is to bring them to Jesus..." These words were penned by Dora Elson... my grandmother.

Against all odds and without support, two of these missionary ladies stayed in response to the call and the Lord did it, all of it! It took patience, hard work and faithfulness but just like the psalmist said "Those who sow in tears, shall reap with shouts of joy!" (Psalm 126:5 ESV).

There is a generation of laborers that laid down their lives so we could be here today. There is much good seed in the ground and the potential for a mighty harvest in this region truly is limitless! Day after day we can testify of all of the amazing things the Lord continues to do. In the midst of it, there is a lot of work to be done to continue to bring things into order and we position each field to maximize its potential. Step by step we can see the Lord doing it!

Missionary Personnel updates:

The Hellands in Brazil continue to serve with PAZ in Sao Paulo, Brazil (they are seconded to this movement). They continue to make an impact in resource development and leading the charge for children's ministry in Brazil. Aaron is also serving as our regional contact for intercession and prayer in the Region. We are looking forward to joining the Arise in Prayer efforts as more resources and strategies become available. The Wests are based out of Lima but continue to have an impact across Peru and in Asia. During this pandemic they have been very instrumental in channeling the funds from the COVID-19 Relief Fund as well as fundraising for specific needs in Peru and Venezuela.

The Bicketts have adjusted well to life and ministry in Peru! It is a joy to see how they are blossoming and already making a positive impact in the ministry fabric of our work there. The process to acquire the full residency permits has started and their cultural adaptation is going well.

The Nichols are continuing their itineration process in the Cornerstone Conference and working alongside the Missionary Care of Life during their season. I am hopeful they are able to return to Ecuador soon and resume their ministry service in that nation.

The Hodges are excelling in everything they put their hands to. Beyond the work in Jicamarca, it has been exciting to partner with them in the establishment of The Awakening campus in Peru. The transition from receiving to sending has begun in this nation and they are catalysts of this process. David and Ceci have also assumed key leadership roles in the IPS of Peru and we are trusting the Lord's hand to remain upon them.

Misael and Daniela Lucano are currently in the USA with their children as they await the imminent arrival of their third child (as you read this words she may already be here). Fundraising and connecting with our churches has been a struggle for them and we are discussing ways forward to better position them to continue to fulfill the Lord's call upon their life as well as to meet the needs of their growing family. Misael has been able to secure a role in the staff of a mega church in the States to support their family while stateside; this church has expressed interest in continuing to fund them once they return to the Lield. As Steve resumes his duties in the Missionary Care of Lice, we will be able to update you further.

We are thrilled to see Abigail Yates and Elizabeth Hagee joining the missionary team in South America as STMs serving at The Awakening Base in Chile as well as for your thoughtful consideration of the Feagins. The Lord in his faithfulness continues to send workers to his harvest.

NATIONAL UPDATES

Argentina continues to be our largest and most established Lield in the Region. COVID-19 has severely hindered all layers of Argentine society and the country is facing major political and economical challenges. Our conference has struggled to stay afloat during this time and the assistance from the COVID-19 Relief fund has been vital in assisting 100+ pastoral families. Over the last few months, issues in their leadership structure and administrative procedures have surfaced and we have been very proactive in providing assistance and resourcing their leadership to overcome the challenges. There is still a lot of work to be done on this area. The Bible School (IBSA) is resuming its residential program this April, and we are excited for the opportunity to serve these ministers in training.

Bolivia has adjusted well to the leadership of the new conference Superintendent, Rev. Tulio Vargas, and continues to make steps forward in its vision for national expansion. In March with funds from the regional GO allocation, we were able to assist a new church plant in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and we are grateful for this young conference that continues to move forward.

Brazil is a country where our relationship takes place through the ministry of our missionaries. The Hellands are serving PAZ in Sao Pablo with such a degree of excellence that is admirable. The church is growing and I am hopeful that some of the affiliate relationships we have in this nation will materialize into more concrete efforts into the future. Please keep Brazil in your prayers as the COVID-19 continues to advance in this nation. As of the typing of this report, all indicators pertaining to the pandemic were the worst in the region by a very wide margin.

Chile is our youngest Lield in the region and we are extremely grateful to see it continue to flourish under the leadership of Pastors Eduardo & Kathya Gonzalez. We now have four Local Church Ministers Certified in the conference. We are also in the process of adding two churches to our work and gearing up for the next church plant. The Lield is also ready for the arrival of the missionary team that will be launching The Awakening International Training Base in that nation.

Colombia continues to flourish under the leadership of Rev. Sergio Castro. We have been able to provide assistance in the acquisition of a property for one of our thriving churches in the conference at the beginning of the year. Pastor Sergio is looking forward to resuming the work of the conference beyond the local contexts covid regulations permitting.

Ecuador - Probably one of the most complex landscapes we are working in the entire region. Currently, there are three separate and autonomous works within the country that identify themselves as IPHC. One is a work associated with the American Korean Conference, one is a split that took place many years ago and has relationships with some congregations in the US, and one is the main group that WMM has historically worked with and where my predecessors focused the investments and attention (plane for the jungle ministry, buildings, PTP, Antioch grants, etc).

During my first visit to Ecuador after my appointment in 2018, I met with the Conference Superintendent Dan had appointed months prior (the former Superintendent was a National Missionary that had decided to return to his country). During this meeting, he informs me that his predecessor due to challenges in the immigration status of his spouse, had failed to report or file any documentation pertaining to the conference for roughly 14 years. Naturally, the situation was extremely dire. Our registration and assets were in jeopardy. We immediately started the process to bring everything back to order. Anyone with a real understanding of Hispanic bureaucracy understands how taxing and complex this can be. Moreover, we were not just catching up on taxes, updating listings, submitting supporting documentation, updating rosters, but we also had to track down a percentage of the members of the assembly from 14 years earlier across the country to "reconstitute the "conference" and bring it forward to today. The legal terms of this processes are both technical as well as ambiguous in its meanings. For example, things being legal can mean the government officials from one of the entities we had to work with saying: "you have started the corrective process and we will allow you to operate unhindered as things are resolved". We had to work with the State, Municipality, Registry of Societies, Ministry of Religion & Human Rights, Rentas (IRS equivalent), property registry, and update our legal representative. In each of these entities, paperwork was submitted, revised, returned for corrections, resubmitted, approved (awaiting delivery), delivered, notarized, and stamped.

The bottom line is that our church could have been shut down the moment we self reported. But, God intervened on our behalf. Very single layer of this corrective process has been completed, the debts have been paid, and we are free to move forward as the Lord leads the church. It has only taken two and half years with a global pandemic in the mix. The good thing is that as the process was moving along, we kept receiving "green lights" from the different officials and overseeing entities. God's favor is a great thing.

As we can now say confidently that things are in order, I'm expecting for the Lord to move in Ecuador like never before! The harvest is plentiful and we have great pastors and people in our Ecuadorian church family! The best is yet to come!

Peru had the opportunity to express the appreciation of a grateful church to Pastors Jorge Watanabe for his 16 years of service as Conference Superintendent. On March 25th, the conference met and elected a new conference board with Rev. David Hodges elected as the new superintendent. The Peruvian conference is experiencing a true kayos movement and God is moving mightily! We have 50+ churches inquiring about joining our movement; The Awakening Campus has just opened; and it has already hosted two rounds of the School of Missions and ministry trips to the Jungle areas. The missionary team serving in the nation is doing an excellent job, and we are looking forward to re-opening the coffee shop at the Elio property in Lima.

Paraguay is also preparing for a transition of leadership in the fall. Pastors Alfredo and Estela Cabral have been leading this work for almost 20 years and are very excited to continue to pastor the congregations under their care and handing the baton to the next generation. Our work in Paraguay is gaining momentum and their diligence in ministerial formation is bearing fruit!

Uruguay is one of our most promising fields in the region! They have been steadily planting churches and identifying new areas in the country to target with evangelistic efforts. National Superintendent, Juan Carlos Frias, is doing a fantastic job leading this conference and raising up younger leaders. We have 3 more church plants in the pipeline for this year in Uruguay and they are getting ready to start the GCEC training in May.

Venezuela is both the country enduring the most hardships of any as well as the most fruitful country in the region. Pastor Brochero is a world class leader in every sense of the word. At the end of March, I was privileged to join him and minister in the National Convention for the Venezuelan Conference. The quality and quantity of leaders in this work is outstanding! They are planting churches and aggressively pursuing the harvest in their nation!

Moving Forward

In a pastoral letter I sent to the Pastors and Ministers in the region you could find the following paragraph:

We are a missionary church. The DNA of our church is in every single one of the nations in which we serve in South America. We have been marked by the fingerprints of missionaries that came to our land to sow the good news of Jesus. We have also benefited through the years from the investment of ministry and resources that brothers and sisters from other countries have sown in our ministries. God has been more than generous with us and South America continues to be recognized as a land of revival. It is time that the lit torches from our continent begin to carry the Light to the darkest places on earth. In this 2021, we are going to take concrete steps as the IPHC in South America, to create opportunities and develop the necessary infrastructure to fulfill the call from God to missions in the lives of many. In the mature conferences this will be relatively simple, in other places we will be creative and work as a team. It is time for our harvest amongst the nations to be collected by us!

The Great Commission Equipping Conferences are a top priority for our region. While all of our Pastors and Leaders in Peru have received the training, ensuring that it is available across every country in the region is a top priority for the next few months.

Working alongside Lin Berry (RD Mediterranean Region) as well as a group of Superintendents and leaders in the region, we are working on the framework for an International Online Bible School that serves our IPHC ministry needs in the Spanish speaking world. We all value and appreciate the influence of our residential Bible Colleges, however, as we move further into the XXI century, making quality formation grounded in our unique identity and perspective is a must.

The Lord is clearly at work and the future is bright. The obstacles have been and are very real, but His grace continues to make way for healing, restoration, vision and growth to take place. I am honored to see the next chapter for our church family in South America! If you have any questions or comments regarding any particulars in my report, please do not hesitate to reach to me at your convenience.

WESTERN AFRICA – ERNEST TURNER

Mr. Chairman, World Missions Council, brothers and sisters in the Lord, thank you for the opportunity to share my report. This report covers the period between October 8, 2020 – April 11, 2021.

God has been very gracious to us this season. He has blessed us and kept us in good health, and met all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus. We believe that He has directed our paths and opened doors that under the present situation (COVID-19 pandemic) would not normally be opened! For this, we are most thankful.

SUMMARY

Since the last Council Meeting in October 2020:

- I have continued to communicate with missionaries and church leaders in West Africa.
- New relationships in Cameroon continue to strengthen.
- Itineration continues sharing with pastors, supporters, and congregations in the US.

As the COVID -19 pandemic has seemingly caught up with parts of Africa, we have heard of an increase in the number of deaths reported. One of the major questions that seem to go unanswered is: how many have actually been tested in West Africa? There may well be many that have contracted COVID without actually knowing that they have done so. This is particularly prevalent among the younger generations. This trend can be seen with multiple diseases in the past – and unfortunately, the lack of education on these health issues has always had a tremendous influence on populations all over the continent.

Some good news is that in West Africa, there are quite a few countries that are now receiving the vaccine through the World Health Organization, and they are doing their best to get as many people vaccinated as possible.

Ghana

I recently spoke to Bishop John Botwe about the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana. He was telling me that businesses in the city that he lives in, Kumasi, have been closing down in large numbers. Many of the congregational members that run their own businesses have had to shut down. One of the largest tithers in the Bishop's congregation came very close to losing his catering business.

Bishop Botwe then expressed his sincere appreciation to World Missions Ministries for the finances that were provided from our COVID-19 International Relief Fund.

Some of the beneficiaries of the aforementioned fund enabled ten students to return to their studies at the Bible School in Kumasi. In addition to these students, the church was also able to send around 50 children back to school - children whose parents had lost their jobs and could not pay their school fees.

Alberta Smith, once a church leader under the spiritual covering of Harold Presley in London, is now doing phenomenal work in a small town, Krobo-Odumase, about one and a half hours outside of the capital city Accra. She started a small orphanage in her home with about seven to eight children. When that number grew to around 20, she established a primary school with three classes for the group.

During this pandemic, the group has grown to over 200 children – all in school. She has a building that accommodates only a few classes but is managing with eight teachers and two cooks. This is what she told me; “We are all staying healthy by the grace of God. We haven't lost anybody to COVID, by His grace.”

Alberta also mentioned that the Ghanaian government has received around 600,000 doses of the vaccine, and they are praying that they will be on a list sometime in the future. The population of Ghana, as of 2020, was 31,072,940.

Let's remember to pray for them!

Ivory Coast

The Prime Minister of the Ivory Coast, Hamed Bakayoko, was recently taken to hospital in France where he became very sick. He was then transferred to a medical facility in Germany, where he died on the 8th of March 2021. He was only 56 years old. We are praying that the political situation will remain stable and peaceful during this transition.



In the picture to the left, our church leader in the Ivory Coast, Daniel Babou suffered a stroke in late December - 2020, which left him semi-paralyzed on his left-side. He continues to recover slowly. His speech is almost back to normal again, but he still has a bit of a drag on his left foot, as he walks.

Please pray for Daniel and Agatha Babou in Abidjan, the economic capital of the Ivory Coast.

The picture below is a group of church leaders and youth from two of our congregations in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, that came together one Saturday afternoon to pray for Daniel's healing and also to thank God for sparing his life.



Nigeria

Bishop Samuel Akpan continues to amaze me. One Monday in February, I asked him how his weekend had been and how the services were the day before. He told me that they normally start their first service at 7:00 am on Sunday morning, and it goes until about 9:00 am. They then go straight into Sunday school. After Sunday school is over, they go into their second service, which starts at around 11:00 am and it finishes around 1:30 pm. After a quick lunch, he takes off for an afternoon service about a 30-minute drive down the road in another town.

This is all in addition to him running the General Conference of Nigeria.

In October 2020, they had their first Great Commission Equipping Seminar, and the second one took place in February this year. Since then, they have been able to plant seven (7) new churches, which

have all been officially opened and organized as IPH Churches. It's been a long time since we've seen that many churches planted in Nigeria. We believe that the 'Spirit of Evangelism' has returned in an answer to prayer and the teaching of the Great Commission Equipping Seminars. We thank God for this and are praying that the same will spread to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Benin, and the Ivory Coast.

Bishop Akpan has expressed great appreciation for the COVID-19 funds that have been sent to Nigeria. Both he and Dr. Luke Nnadi were extremely happy with the emergency relief received from Bryan Nix in People to People for Sarah Nnadi's emergency surgery. She has totally recovered now and is doing exceptionally well. We thank God for His healing touch and continue to pray for strength and a new anointing of the Holy Spirit in her ministry this year.





One of the projects that the Nigerian conference embarked upon last year was the purchase of an additional piece of property to extend the New Wine Church facility in Abak, Nigeria (see below).

Togo

A few weeks ago, I heard on the radio that the government of Togo was wanting to give some financial assistance to the people in Togo that have really been suffering from COVID-19. Many of them

had lost their jobs and were struggling to feed their families. One interesting fact was how the Togo government determined who actually needed financial aid the most. They looked at all the phone records in the country, and those that did not purchase any airtime for their cell phones automatically qualified for financial aid. They were given \$8 a month for their families. Apparently, all local calls in Togo are free. The only people that are purchasing airtime are the ones that are calling outside the country - abroad. It is assumed that they are the folks with the means to provide for their families during COVID. They are the folks that have family members, friends, and contacts outside of Togo. Based on that assumption, the government assumes that they have extra money in order to purchase the airtime, and therefore, they don't need any government assistance. This also means that our leaders that have contacted me or the church outside of Togo received no aid.

I found that to be an interesting way of determining who is struggling financially.

One of the good things that is happening in Togo is that the government started a COVID-19 Vaccine distribution program on the 10th of March 2021. The World Health Organization is directing this, and they are using the Astra-Zeneca vaccine from Oxford. It is supposed to be about 90% effective.

To date, our Church in Togo has had no fatalities as a result of COVID-19. None of our pastors have had the virus, and none of our congregants have reported any cases either. All the children are attending school with masks and a form of social distancing. Many of the rural churches are back to normal services. However, that is not the case in the capital city of Lomé. Many of the businesses in Togo have been totally closed down, and the economy has been very badly affected.

Sierra Leone

This is a very poor country. Sierra Leone was recently assisted by the United Nations with 96,000 doses delivered and the promise of an additional 528,000 doses to be distributed over the next few months. So far, only 4,000 cases have been reported, mostly in the capital city of Freetown, with 79 deaths. Many of the people are saying that they just aren't sick and are therefore refusing to take any vaccine. We are encouraging our leaders to follow the recommendations of the World Health Organization.



Liberia

Pastor Isaac is blind and serves this congregation of approximately 70 members with passion and enthusiasm. Habakkuk has nothing but positive things to say about him and the congregation.

Pastor Isaac is blind and serves this congregation of approximately 70 members with passion and enthusiasm. Habakkuk has nothing but positive things to say about him and the congregation.

During the second week of March 2021, the Liberian government began distributing the Astra Zeneca vaccine among the population with the help of the World Health Organization.

The work in Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Cameroon have all shared similar reports as I have shared. There is rarely a week that goes by that I do not hear from the field in some form or another. Every one of them has received some sort of generous, monetary assistance from our COVID-19 International Relief Fund. They have all been most grateful to World Missions Ministries and have been very free in expressing their appreciation.

The Rileys

Dave and Michelle, and the children are all doing well in Senegal in spite of some minor political unrest in the streets of the capital, Dakar, in early March. The government was quick to deal with any violent protesting and unrest. It was not but two or three days, and the situation settled down fairly peacefully again.

Michelle is doing well at the school. The children all seem to be happy, and Dave is now officially registered at a language school, studying French. They have also received permission to remain in the accommodation that the School first provided for them, which means that they will not have to relocate as they originally thought they would have to do. That is good news for them as it also includes a very manageable rent – an answer to prayer.

The Turners

Cheryl and I continue to itinerate, and our account is good. Understandably, it was a bit spasmodic in February, but the pace has now picked up over the last few weeks. We are trusting that our support here in the States will level out as the vaccine is steadily distributed among the population, and those that have been out of work will find new employment opportunities.

Our churches are starting to move back toward normalcy in many parts of North Carolina. Our supporting pastors are becoming more confident in having missionaries come in and share with their congregations too. It definitely seems like the people in the places we visit are more open and receptive to visitors and strangers now. There is no doubt that the light at the end of the tunnel is shining brighter and becoming clearer than it was several months ago. We are positively optimistic.

PRAYER NEEDS FOR WEST AFRICA

- Continued wisdom as we navigate the reopening of churches, businesses, schools, etc.
- Pray for the economy and job creation for those that were left without jobs during 2020 in both USA and West Africa.
- Pray for wisdom for itinerating Missionaries, pastors, and local churches.

CONCLUSION

We especially want to thank the Lord for His faithfulness during 2020 and this COVID-19 season. He has opened several new doors of ministry in West Africa as well as in the US. He is fanning into flame the gift of the Holy Spirit across this Western Region of Africa and in many places here in the USA. A special thanks to World Missions Ministries for their continued support, prayers, and encouragement. God is hearing and answering our prayers, and we recognize that without Him, we can do nothing.

May the Lord keep you strong and safe. May He continue to bless you and use you to be a blessing to the nations in this the day of the end-time harvest.