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and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea
and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.
-Acts 1:8*



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GCC International Report

Letters from John & Herschel



Our Strategy: *The Acts 1:8 Local Church*

by John Hopler, GCC Director

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." -Acts 1:8

These are the very last recorded words of our Lord before He ascended to heaven. His disciples understood that they, by the power of the Holy Spirit, were to be witnesses of Christ in their city, nation and world.

This verse has been an inspiration to Great Commission churches to love and reach out to people, not only in their own community, but also in other parts of the United States and overseas. Each member church in our association has sought the Lord on how He wants that church to fulfill the Great Commission. As a result, each church has developed its own Acts 1:8 outreach plan, sharing the gospel in new regions throughout the world. That plan might include starting a new church, sending short-term mission teams or supporting long-term missionaries with their prayers, encouragement and finances.

Here is how you can be a part of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ: Ask your pastor about the church's Acts 1:8 plan. He can give you some practical ways that you can get involved.

So, come along! Be a part of something great! Join your church in advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth!



On a Mission: *A Letter from Herschel*

by Herschel Martindale

Recently, I re-read this statement, "55 people die every minute, and 80,000 die every day, probably most without

a Savior." I am not sure who keeps the numbers or how accurate that is, but when Jesus told the illustration of the broad road and narrow way, he said that many are on the broad road and only a few on the narrow (Matthew 7:13-14). I also read, "...when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself" (John 12:32). These statements challenge me regularly. Our spiritually lost and blinded world staggers me, but our Savior, daily drawing a helpless world to Himself, amazes me.

I am so thankful that the Core Values booklet of the Great Commission movement states, "Our mission as individuals and as churches is to fulfill the Great Commission." God's desire is that every individual in the church personally embrace the Great Commission, and that in one sense, we are all missionaries wherever we are located. All believers are to be "on mission." What a sobering challenge!

Our Savior also promises His grace and power to each of us as we seek to obey Him and finish His work. He promised His incomparably great power (Ephesians 1:19) to help us accomplish the "impossible." "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

There is a whole world to reach. Every believer on mission is essential.

Great Commission Latin America



Church plant in Dallas, TX

Latin America Update

By Karisa Rivera

For over 30 years, Great Commission Latin America (GCLA) has shared the Gospel and served the Hispanic community in many countries.

Today, all throughout Latin America, GCLA has 25 affiliated churches, which are led by a growing group of 33 pastors and 500 local leaders.

With headquarters based in Miami, Florida, GCLA serves its affiliated churches through leadership and consultation. They also promote and coordinate the planting of new churches.

Every year, GCLA mobilizes hundreds of short-term missionaries from the U.S. These missionaries give vital support to our new church plants, walk-in clinics,

East Asia: Building a Mission-Sending Base

By ChingYu Wang

In October 2009, Great Commission Churches leaders sought the Lord concerning Asia. It was recognized that GCC must continue building a mission-sending base from the U.S. in order to establish a home base in Asia. As of June of this year, Pastor Craig Swing and his family from Summitview Community Church in Loveland, Colorado moved to Hong Kong to help strengthen the GCC church in that area.

There have also been two key elements in establishing the home base in Asia. The first is e3 Leadership Group (e3lg), a GCC member ministry that focuses on equipping emerging and existing leaders in healthy leadership. The second is Asia Belongs to Christ Ministries (ABCM). This is a ministry that helps fan into flame missional leaders and churches. Both of these ministries play a critical role in connecting the U.S. and Asia.

The leadership development in Asia is guided by the ConneXions (cX) model, and has been introduced in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Nepal, and a creative access country. This model's Christ-centered leadership principles



provide momentum for these churches by granting a common language and unified vision.

Five years ago, one summer project was held in Hong Kong, which has since exploded into 20 projects that took place throughout Asia this past summer, where 30 people accepted Christ as Savior.



infant nutrition centers, orphanages, day-care centers for single mothers, youth outreach centers, ESL and computer educational centers, and many more. These missionaries are a great asset to our organization.

“We continue to expand our territory as God opens more doors and provides

the resources. We rejoice with what God has done through our organization and are very hopeful as He continues to use us.” - Nelson Guerra, founder and director of Great Commission Latin America

India & Philippines

India Update

by Tom Short

With more unsaved and unreached people groups than any other nation in the world, India poses significant challenges to effective evangelism, yet God is at work in this land. Recently, the third Faithwalkers India conference took place and was attended by over 600 students. Yohannan Abraham is being trained in student ministry and currently leads Bible studies on 12 campuses attended by over 500 students. GCC pioneers and church planters, Mike and Su (last name withheld for security reasons), returned to northern India in 2009. Based in one of the most unevangelized parts of India, they show the Jesus film and train pastors in hopes of establishing a church-planting movement which will spread throughout the entire nation.

Philippines Update

by Herschel Martindale

Pastor Mike Bergen from Lee’s Summit Community Church in Lee’s Summit, Missouri has been involved in the work that is happening in the Philippines for many years. Both he and I have been very encouraged by what God is doing in the capital city of Manila. During a trip together a few years ago, we were asked to begin a Leader Development ministry, which Mike and I have now been working on for around four years. This work is focused in Bulacan, an area north of Manila. There are a number of trainees taking part, which has resulted in eight churches working together as a Great Commission fellowship. Pastor German Arce, a local pastor, is working with us and helping to direct this ministry. The ministry emphasizes obedience and life transformation rather than simply theological knowledge. All of the trainees are nationals.



Great Commission Europe

GCE Update

by Daniel Goering

GCE stands not only for Great Commission Europe, but also for “God first; Community in action; and Engaged in ministry and mission.” For over 20 years, God has been using the GCC churches from the United States to plant and nurture churches across Europe.

The GCE family of churches extends across six countries, is networked with and is influencing churches in an additional four to six countries, and has wide open doors into several more. All that is needed to go through those open doors is more laborers (Matthew 9:38), both Americans and Europeans. There is a great work left to be done, but the foundation has been laid and is ready to be built upon.

Even though Europe is the least Christian continent and a very difficult mission field, the same basic spiritual principles continue to be effective. The simple strategy of making disciples and planting churches is reaching Europe.



Pastor Timmy Powers (second from right) and friends in Kiev, Ukraine.

International Student Ministry

ISM Update

by Jim Wiebelhaus

International Student Ministry (ISM) is one cultural group of people crossing cultural boundaries to love and serve people of another cultural group. With over 670,000 international students and millions of immigrants to the U.S., there is a high need and opportunity for the gospel through ISMs.

What effect does ISM and short-term missions have on those doing the ministry? Here are a few examples: Six people from one church are being much more diligent to learn the Chinese language from their Chinese friends. A high-school senior is praying about teaching English in China after graduation.

There are a growing number of former international students now working in the U.S. who are very engaged in ISMs in their respective Great Commission churches. One young couple is preparing for ministry in Asia as they continue their many years of ISM work in their church. For another church, hosting high school exchange students continues to be very fruitful for the gospel. Just recently, a Chinese professor studying here in the U.S. asked during a Bible study what he should do since he belongs to the communist party and therefore it is illegal for him to become a Christian. God is fulfilling His will and command to "Go and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matthew 28:18-20).



New Areas Update

New Areas at Work within Great Commission Churches

By Herschel Martindale

The Lord continues to bless work being done all across the world. Here is a list of what is happening in some "new areas" around the world in Great Commission Churches.

- Nepal: Pastor John Meyer and others continue to develop relationships.
- Colombia: Nelson Guerra is planning for an exploratory team to visit this country for a possible church plant.
- Dominican Republic: Pastors Herschel Martindale, Aldo Miranda and Thomas Lemus continue to train leaders.
- Sweden: Pastors Robbie McAlister and Mike Bledsoe are working with leaders and students in the northern part of the country.
- Europe: Pastors Timmy Powers and Steve Nelson are working in several countries around Europe to develop house churches.
- Africa: Many GCC churches are regularly sending short-term mission teams to various countries in this continent.

If you have any information about a possible new area in the world to start a Great Commission church, please contact Herschel at info@gccweb.org.

GCC Affiliate Churches

Great Commission Churches is affiliated with churches in the following regions. If you would like more information about these churches, log on to: www.gccweb.org/great-commission-association/international-church-directory.

ASIA

E. ASIA

Bangkok, Thailand
Hong Kong, China
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Nepal
Singapore

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Philippines

INDIA

EUROPE

GERMANY

Berlin
Dortmund
Dusseldorf
Koln

ITALY

Turin
Milan

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam

POLAND

Poznan

SPAIN

Madrid
Pamplona

UKRAINE

Kiev

LATIN AMERICA

COSTA RICA

San Jose
Guapiles

EL SALVADOR

San Salvador
La Libertad

GUATEMALA

Guatemala City

HONDURAS

Choluteca
Comayagua
Danli
El Progreso
La Ceiba
La Entrada Copán
Olanchito
Puerto Cortes
San Pedro Sula
Siguatepeque
Tegucigalpa

MEXICO

Monterrey

NICARAGUA

Managua

PANAMA

Panama City

USA

Miami, FL
Plainfield, NJ

VENEZUELA

Valencia