

*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*



international edition

christianity in ACTION

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GCC International Report

Letters from John & Daniel



Our Strategy:

The Acts 1:8 Local Church

by John Hopler, GCC Director

The last words spoken by a man before he dies are really important. Those words give an indication of what is really on his heart.

Jesus, our Savior and Lord, is not dead. He is alive! But these words recorded in Acts 1:8 were His last words to His disciples before He ascended to heaven. They show what is on Jesus' heart: People hearing the gospel.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and by this verse, Christians in Great Commission churches are reaching out with the love of Christ to people in their cities, states, the U.S. and throughout the world.

Each member church in our association has followed the Holy Spirit's lead in developing its own Acts 1:8 outreach plan. That plan might include starting a new church, sending short term mission teams or supporting long-term missionaries with their prayers, encouragement and finances.

Would you like to be a part of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ? If so, ask your pastor about the church's Acts 1:8 plan. He can give you some practical ways that you can get involved.

You have been given power by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ has chosen you and your fellow church members to be His witnesses. So, get involved! Join your church in advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth!



United for Europe 2014

A Letter from Daniel

by Daniel Goering

In a desire to help the GCC churches fulfill "the uttermost" part of their Acts 1:8 vision, GCC is teaming up with Great Commission Europe (GCE) on a long-term strategic plan called "United for Europe 2014." This is an exciting cooperative initiative to make a significant impact in five or six new countries of Europe in the next few years.

The leadership teams of GCC and GCE believe that the time is ripe to take some bold new steps in teaming together to reach Europe. After 20 years of laying foundations, uniting on core values, and seeing several beachheads established and reproducing, GCE is in a position to provide laborers and support for teams to be formed in reaching strategic new parts of Europe in the next few years. The lessons learned, and the structures in place (regular conferences, pastors' summits and huddles, regional coaching, etc.) convince us that the hour has come to step through doors which God has been opening in the following countries: Latvia, Sweden, Moldova, France, Romania and Albania. There are also possibilities in Scotland, England, Russia and Kazakhstan.

The steps forward are simple, yet challenging. We will be seeking to connect interested individuals and churches from the U.S. with churches and regions within Europe, to take steps of faith through those open doors as God gives direction and opportunity. This will involve a screening/selection process, much pre-field training and preparation, short-term mission experiences, and for some, eventual relocation to new countries.

With consistent communication through our "round-table model," which helps keep the goals, responsibilities and expectations clear between the sending and receiving churches and regions, we are confident that we will see permanent progress in spreading the gospel in Europe. Please be praying along with us for God to lead and provide.

Check out Great Commission Europe at www.gcweb.org.

Great Commission Europe

GCC is Uniting with GCE to Start Churches In

Albania

Population: 3.2 million

Religions: Muslim (62%)
Christian (30%)



Albania has undergone major changes in the last few years. It is now in a very critical stage of transition and is in desperate need of Christian workers. The Torino, Italy church (il rifugio) has a number of Albanians, and among them are several who have expressed an interest in returning to help strengthen and build the struggling church in Albania.

Romania

Population: 21.2 million

Religions: Christian (96.9%)
[Evangelicals 5.4%]
Non-religious (2.4%)



Romania is a country that God continues to place on our hearts, and He is opening up doors of opportunity. A brother from the GCC church in Salt Lake City, Utah, has a burden for Romania and senses that God may want him to move there.

Latvia

Population: 2.24 million

Religions: Christian (60%)
[Evangelicals 7%]
Non-religious (38%)
Muslim (0.4%)



In the spring of 2010, Timmy Powers (Kiev, Ukraine) made a connection with Andris Dekants, and they quickly formed a strong friendship. During the summer, Andris spent two weeks in Ukraine laboring with the Kiev team and the relationship with him further developed. Steve Nelson and Timmy both contact him on a regular basis, with Timmy more specifically coaching him in ministry.

France

Population: 62.6 million

Religions: Christian (61%)
[Evangelicals 1%]
Non-religions (26%)
Muslim (10%)



For many centuries, France has been an influential country in Europe and the world. The most strategic starting point for us in reaching this spiritually dark country seems to be Grenoble. Even though other parts of the country are even more unreached, God has given us an open door in this city.

Moldova

Population: 3.6 million

Religions: Christian (73.4%)
[Evangelicals 3.7%]
Non-religions (21.56%)



Two years ago, Stas Boronets (Chisinau, Moldova) discovered the Simple Church Europe website, and he contacted Timmy Powers to ask for help in reaching his country with the gospel. Currently, Stas has regular coaching appointments with Timmy, he attends events held in Ukraine, and Timmy has conducted conferences for them in Moldova. Stas and his team have been involved in training leaders and planting churches in several cities over the past two years.

Sweden

Population: 9.3 million

Religions: Christian (57.2%)
[Evangelicals 7%]
Non-religions (38%)
Muslim (0.4%)



For the past two years, Riverbend Church, Columbia, SC, has had a strategic partnership with two national church groups in Luleå (rhymes with "Julio"), Sweden, the Evangelical Free Church of Sweden and the Pentecostal Church of Sweden. We have sent several short-term trips, one from Rock Berlin (Germany), for evangelism and training and have assisted them with a church planting conference.

Please send inquiries to:

u4e12@gceweb.org

For more information, please visit:

www.gceweb.org

Latin America

Growth in Great Commission Latin America

This year, the local churches continued to grow in their impact and in numbers. During the closing message for the discipleship conference, Manus Dei, over 250 young men and women under the age of 26 stepped forward in a public commitment to leave it all behind through the power of God's hand and live for the Great Commission. Several churches in Honduras have started satellite church locations, including the church in La Ceiba that has doubled attendance, and the church in San Pedro Sula that has brought in 300 new un-churched people. The needs of the poor and lost continue to be great, but with God's grace, His message of hope and salvation continues to go forth!

East Asia

Building The Kingdom

By ChingYu Wang

Progress has been made on several fronts in East Asia.

We held the first annual Great Commission Leaders Retreat in Taiwan. A group of 11 house church leaders in the Philippines formed a new organization, calling themselves the Great Commission Churches of the Philippines because of their desire to work closely with the other Great Commission churches worldwide. Leadership development has continued, especially in a creative access country. Pastor Craig Swing's family moved to Hong Kong as a bi-vocational missionary in June 2010. Twenty short-term mission projects were conducted resulting in over 30 salvations. Countries in Asia where Great Commission churches currently work with partner churches are Hong Kong, Taiwan, Nepal, India, Japan, Singapore, the Philippines, and a creative access country.



India and Philippines

India Update

By Tom Short

This year, a Great Commission missionary (name withheld for security purposes) conducted 55 one-day and two-day training events, during which 3300 pastors and leaders were trained in evangelism, follow up, discipling, leadership development, and church planting. Surveys that were taken just weeks after each training session showed that 857 trainees had shared the gospel to 32,673 people, of which 9644 professed faith in Christ. They brought the gospel to 197 unreached villages, and started 41 new churches. A grace oriented, Great Commission-focused movement has also begun. In 2011, we hope to train many more, and we expect the new movement to grow rapidly.

Philippines Update

By Herschel Martindale

Pastors Herschel Martindale and Mike Bergen have been working for almost five years training leaders in Northern Philippines. The work has progressed and much of that work has now been turned over to national leaders there. While Herschel has now focused his labor in the Dominican Republic, Mike will continue to oversee the ministry in the Philippines and in other areas of Asia.

*Herschel and the
Philippines' team.*



International Student Ministry

ISM Update

By Jim Wiebelhaus

This year, International Student Ministry (ISM) helped churches start and/or grow an effective outreach and discipleship to international students. The ISM ministry developed and distributed an ISM manual for equipping new and veteran ISM workers, conducted training workshops and seminars, promoted ISMs at conferences, communicated with pastors and potential ISM workers in person and via phone, email, and letters. 2010 was a year of seeing a few more churches make significant investments in international student ministry in their local situation.



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.

Europe: Churches in Spain and Germany have new ministry centers for gatherings and reaching out. New partnerships for disciple-making and church planting are being established throughout Ukraine, and in Albania, Georgia (former Soviet bloc country), Sweden, Latvia, Moldova and France.

Sweden: Pastor Robbie McAllister is building partnerships in the city of Lulea, where there is a technical university with very little active Christian ministry. The Holy Spirit has brought together several key Christian leaders in the city which brings exciting opportunities in Lulea.

Costa Rica: Nelson Guerra and GCLA have recently launched the Institute of Leadership and Theology, which is believed to be a great asset to the 33 churches in 9 countries of GCLA.

Asia: God has opened a new door in a “Creative Access Country” for a house church pastor to bring his church planting strategy in, to begin reaching many for Christ.

Dominican Republic: Pastors Matt Gordon, Thomas Lemus, Aldo Miranda and Herschel Martindale are very encouraged as a result of the success of two Short Term teams being sent this year. Many professed salvation and a young church has been planted.

Africa: Several Great Commission churches have sent short term teams to different African countries this year.

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

Bangkok, Thailand
Hong Kong, China
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Nepal
Singapore, Republic of Singapore
Manila, Philippines

INDIA

Due to the sensitive nature of Christian Ministry in this region of the world, contact information is withheld for our Indian churches.

AUSTRALIA

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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