

*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



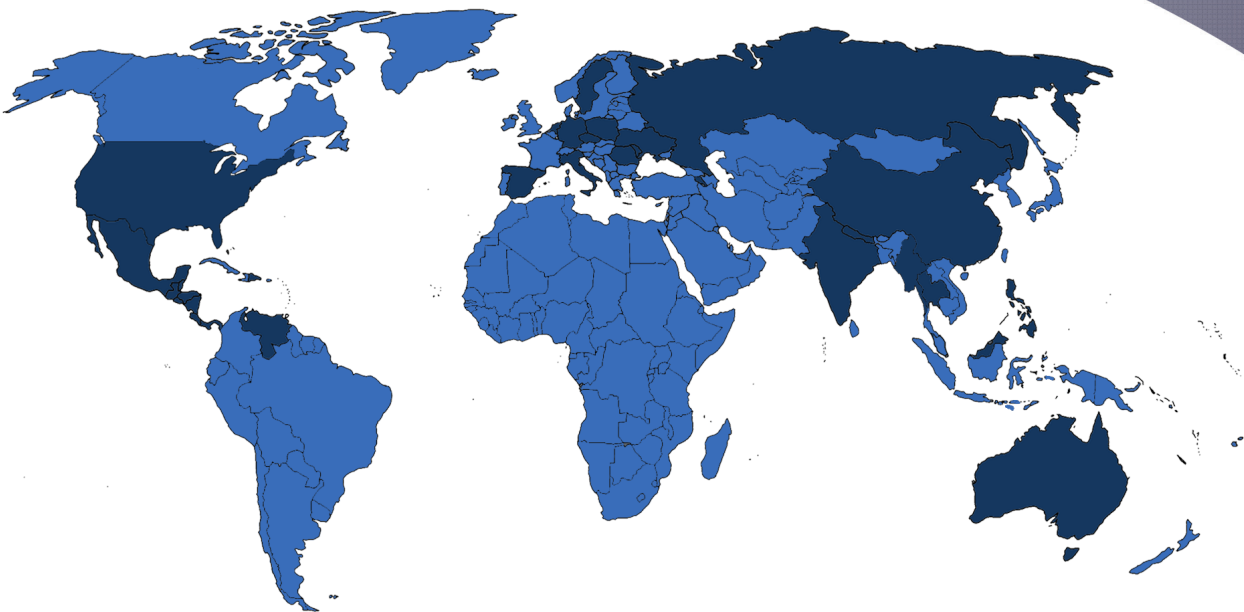
GREAT
COMMISSION
CHURCHES

international edition

christianity in ACTION

*GCC International Report
Fall 2015*

International Churches:



ASIA

China, Hong Kong
India
Japan, Tokyo
Myanmar (Burma)
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines, Bulacan
Taiwan, Taichung
Thailand, Bangkok

EUROPE

Armenia, Yerevan
Germany, Berlin
Germany, Dortmund
Germany, Koln
Italy, Milano
Italy, Torino
Moldova, Chisinau
Moldova, Transnistria
Netherlands, Amsterdam
Poland, Poznan
Romania, Brasov
Spain, Gijon
Spain, Madrid
Spain, Pamplona
Sweden, Lulea

Ukraine, Alvchesk
Ukraine, Chigirin
Ukraine, Dimitrov
Ukraine, Kiev
Ukraine, Krasnayarmesk
Ukraine, Odessa

EUROPE : NEW WORKS

*Czech Republic, Prague
Romania, Sardu
Spain, Barcelona
Sweden, Skovdev*

LATIN AMERICA

Costa Rica, San Jose
Costa Rica, Guapiles
D. Repub., Santo Domingo
D. Repub., San Pedro de Macoris
El Salvador, La Libertad
El Salvador, San Salvador
Guatemala, Guatemala City
Honduras, Choluteca
Honduras, Comayagua
Honduras, Danli
Honduras, El Progreso
Honduras, La Ceiba
Honduras, La Entrada Copan
Honduras, Olanchito
Honduras, Puerto Cortes

Honduras, San Pedro Sula
Honduras, Tegucigalpa
Mexico, Monterrey
Nicaragua, Managua
Panama, Panama City
USA, Atlanta, GA
USA, Dallas, TX
USA, Miami, FL
Venequela, Caracas
Venezuela, Valencia

GCE Affiliate Churches & New Works

Great Commission Churches works with Great Commission Europe in these countries:

At GCE, we are seeking God's **20/20 Vision**. We are believing God to expand our influence to 20 countries by the end of 2020. We are working to double the number of existing churches and missionaries to accomplish this goal. Join us in taking the gospel to the nations through Europe!

Unique Opportunity in Western Europe

There is significant opportunity for university students to combine missions with education. **Tuition-free education** is available in Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, etc, and in many cases in English-only programs. We are creating a "clearinghouse" to connect Americans to locations where they can be active in missions while getting a free degree.

Armenia

Tigran Z. oversees five house churches in the area around Yerevan that focus on the poor.

Czech Republic

Timmy Powers connected with several leaders in Prague open to future partnership. Jack Stockdale led two short-term teams the past two years.

France

After repeated attempts to gain traction in Grenoble, there is not an on-going presence. We could use a team to help establish a beachhead and a few locals would be interested in joining.

Germany

The Dortmund church continues to focus outreach on children to reach families. They are forming a team to begin a new church plant near a Turkish community. Under the leadership of Martin & Heike Bonnet, The Bridge in Cologne is consistently reaching students at the university. In addition to raising up national leaders, Martin has combined faith and his occupation as a professor to speak to other professors and graduate students. The Rock Berlin, led by John & Stephi Goering, is reaching the neighborhood where the church meets.

Italy

Turin's Il Rifugio continues transferring responsibility to nationals and outreach at the university under Paul & Janice Meiburger. Anthony & Nikki Testa are ministering in Cheiri, on the outskirts of Turin. Anthony also trains people through his ministry Into the Wilderness. In Milan the work at Bicocca University is growing through the leadership of Frank & Pam Apisa and Steve & Debi Ogle. They are particularly effective using English Clubs for outreach.

Moldova

A team of nationals coordinated by Stas B. is multiplying disciples and small churches in Chisinau. In Transnistria, Anton O. leads a new house church that is very engaged in the gospel.

Netherlands

Amsterdam50 has transitioned leadership to two full-time missionary pastors – the O'Grady's and Kuykendall's, and nationals – the Deventer's, Chang's, Korstansje's, and Marcus, under Joe Dunn and former pastor John Shepard.

Poland

The Zubenkos minister to a growing house church in Poznan. The church-planting efforts and Gospel Music ministry of Andrzej Gorski are encouraging.

Romania

David & Amy Cato are in the beginning stages of a house church network in Braşov, focusing on students, university faculty, and young families. In Şardu, although plans for a permanent location are on hold, The Rock, Salt Lake City continues to partner with existing missions for gypsies and the poor.

Russia

Vitaly K. leads two St. Petersburg house churches focusing on students and young families and coaches house churches in other cities.

Serbia

Fellowship Church (Texas) sent an exploratory team to southern Serbia the last two summers. They are forming a permanent team for deployment in 2017 and are looking for other key team members.

Spain

Iglesia Cristiana Biblica is reaching and training people in Madrid. Pastors Alex Gonzalez and José Cabal focus on evangelism and are raising up other leaders. Dom & Damaris Marrone in Pamplona developed excellent relationships with other evangelical groups and are reaching students on both the public and private university campuses. This year they opened a ministry center near campus allowing them to have a gathering spot to reach students. Wauner & Ana Ruiz moved to their hometown Gijón from Madrid, and host a growing fellowship there. After a job transfer to Barcelona from Singapore, Adrian & Susan Lim provide the basis for a new work.

Sweden

Riverbend Community Church partnered with churches to revive outreach at the Technical University. Sarah Bedi helped coordinate this work and will move to Stockholm next spring. She will serve Luleå and the grassroots work in Stockholm. We are praying for a team of nationals to lead in Stockholm from the beginning. In Skövde, Rom & Sarah Rwamamara worked with two short-term teams to reach students and they are trusting God to raise up a growing house church.

Ukraine

In Kiev, Spring of Hope is an established, family-focused church led by nationals and coordinated by Andre Y., with David & Mindy Henson co-laboring for discipleship. Sasha S. and Kolya S. lead another church with an effective training program reaching students, families, and internationals. Networks of "simple churches" are in seven cities. Ministry focuses on young people and families, and working with orphans, addicts, alcoholics, and women with unplanned pregnancies. Pray for the simple church leaders.

Please send inquiries to:

U4E14@gceweb.org

For more information, please visit:

www.gceweb.org

A Double Team

by Mike Bergen

Years ago I dreamed of going to other countries with a **team** to share the gospel. Now I have the privilege of coaching a team of Philippine Christians who are preparing to go as missionaries to another Asian country where there are no churches. The team is made up of two pastors, their families (one pictured to the right), and a single brother. I'm excited about this because:

- Most of the world's unbelievers, and unreached people, live in South and East Asia.
- Filipinos can fit in easily with Asian culture, especially among the poor, much easier than Americans.
- This will be the first GC team to be sent from one Asian country to another Asian country. Hopefully many more will follow.

But it will take a **double team**. What do I mean by a "double team"? Since this missionary team is from small, poor churches who can't support full time pastors, it will be almost impossible for them to receive complete financial support from their Philippine churches. This is where a team that includes Americans becomes important. Please pray with me for American financial partners who would make up the second team to help send the Philippine team.

Expanding the Kingdom, Strengthening the Church

by Doug Brown

e3 Leadership Group is a resource ministry to GCC and other like-minded ministries and churches seeking to influence Asia for Christ.

This summer God opened doors for our teams in four Asian countries to share the Gospel to hundreds of men and women. We expanded the Kingdom of God and strengthened the Church through a variety of projects/events including basketball competitions, evangelism, orphanage care, leader development, pastoral care, English camps, and the American Life camp where we share the Gospel through celebrating Christmas and Easter holidays.

We had over 100 prayer partners praying for 20 missionaries on 12 projects in four countries! We had the privilege of seeing 26 saved, five rededicated, 170 express interest in learning through Discovery Bible Studies, and five new cities engaged! These are cities we have been praying about for open doors to establish new hubs for the Kingdom.

Our teams were like the "12 spies sent into the land" exploring new partnerships, opportunities for the spreading of the Gospel, and for leader training. We were well received and look forward to deepening and expanding the "work" in these cities.

Are you interested in Asia ministry? Besides the ministry we did this summer, there are opportunities to reach exchange students, women's ministry, worship training, hiking into villages with the Jesus film, or entering new territory and establishing new church plants! Contact Doug at doug@e3leadershipgroup.net.

Missions in Nepal

by Jack Stockdale

Evangelical Christians comprise less than one half of one percent of Nepal's population but their numbers are increasing. Through the efforts of faithful Nepali believers, foreign missionaries, and short term mission teams like the one I led this summer, things are changing.

The April 25th **earthquake** in which 9,000 people died and many hundreds of thousands were left homeless resulted in an evangelistic opportunity for our already-scheduled mission trip. In addition to sharing the message of Christ we were able to show His love by delivering supplies.

Missionary Mike (**RUN Global**) introduced us to the leadership of a local Nepali church. As we labored alongside dear believers who served as our translators we were free to walk the streets speaking to the people who readily gathered to hear something of interest from the white westerners. Our team of eleven (members from three GCC churches) made a total of 870 gospel presentations. 35 people responded in repentance and faith.

In the few months since our team returned the political situation has heated up and some violence has erupted. Radical Hindus want Nepal to declare itself a Hindu nation and make evangelism illegal. This appears to be in response to the effectiveness of Christians reaching out to their fellow-countrymen.

The spiritual battle is raging in Nepal but the kingdom of God is advancing!



Asia and Latin America

GCLA Snap Shot: Costa Rica

by Carlos Gomez



Great Commission Latin America's mission is to plant, develop, and multiply churches in Latin America.

The GCLA church in San Jose, Costa Rica is located in a crowded, downtown neighborhood with lots of problems (prostitution, homelessness, failing buildings, slums, kids home alone, migrant workers, broken families), successful business families, and our church. As people come we ask them to tell the stories of their life.

The ministries we provide to the community are Celebration (Worship), Kidz, Teenage Group, Single Mothers Ministry, Women's and Men's Bible Study, Professionals, Computer, Conversational English, GED classes, Quilting, Dance, and more.

How you can partner:

1. Mission teams work with us through:

- Working with adults at the training center
- Construction projects, repairs, painting, building furniture
- Teaching English or Vacation Bible Clubs for children
- Ave-Angels (as in Avengers) to work on previously identified needs for kids, providing beds, study desks, wheelchair ramps, and more
- Sports Camps with soccer, basketball, tennis, or ping-pong

2. We seek **partners** to support us with prayer and finances.

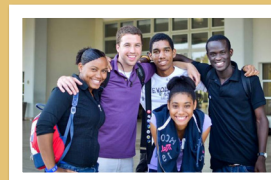
3. Our leaders speak English, and we can benefit from **training** your leaders can provide.

4. We need volunteers, mission teams, and sponsorships. Would you consider becoming our **advocate**?

Media: <https://www.facebook.com/cdibarrimexico> or <http://english.igcla.com/>

Reaching the Caribbean

by Thomas Lemus



The **San Pedro, DR** church is growing and expanding to villages. In Santa Fe they lead a school for underprivileged kids. In Quisqueya the church camp grounds are blessing many. Please pray for funds to become available for a baseball camp and training facility they are planning. This facility will serve as both spiritual training and practical help to those looking at baseball as their ticket out of poverty.

La Vid Church in **Santo Domingo, DR** has been blessed with many GCC churches coming to do university outreach. There are close to 40 members and seven leaders. Pastor Sabino, Herschel Martindale, and I meet them regularly to train them and equip them for shepherding the church and raising future church planters. Missionary Peter Swanson moved here to help with training and building up of the church. Missionary Alicia Jones has been helping with follow up and discipleship of the girls here.

In **Haiti**, Florida Pastors Mark Trujillo and Mark Villoria went on an exploratory trip. They hope to minister near Cape Haitian in the north and also the northern part of the DR near the border.

Please pray for laborers! The Caribbean can be reached in our generation! Contact Thomas at lemusthomas@gmail.com.

International Student Ministry

2015 In Review

by Jim Wiebelhaus

At least 19 GCC churches started or continued ISM or Love Your Immigrant ministries in 2015. Many internationals are never invited into an American home. Two UNL international students responded to an invitation saying, "This is our first time to a church. And we heard we were invited to your house for lunch. We are so thankful to be invited!"

The **Bridge Builders Conference** was May 22-24. God is using this conference to grow many in faith, skill, and strategy to reach nations with the gospel both in the US and throughout the world. Students from Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, and Korea shared their God-stories at the conference. One woman shared that she spoke with an Asian friend via the internet what she was learning at the conference, and her friend made a decision to trust Jesus!

After networking at the last two Bridge conferences, Malaysians from Iowa and Nebraska prayed for a team for Malaysia. In October 2015 there are plans for six people to have a series of meetings with ministry leaders in Malaysia for collaboration. During this visit there will be an ISM Alumni reunion, with students who attended GCC churches over 20 years ago through just returned graduates.

Prayer requests include more workers for expanding ISM and immigrant ministries, and for effectively seeing new and young believers be part of a church.



Meet a Missionary:

Dominic Marrone (Pamplona, Spain)

This August marked my 25th anniversary with the GCC movement. I fondly recall how the Lord led me to Gator Christian Life at the University of Florida. I had never experienced the intense love, unity, and commitment to God's Word this group demonstrated.

One brother invited me to join him on campus each week sharing the gospel. The Lord used those times to grow my love for the lost, train me in how to share the gospel, and see people cross from death to life. At Leadership Training God confirmed His calling to full-time ministry. Additionally, I studied abroad in Italy where God revealed the tremendous spiritual darkness in Europe.

After graduating, I went on staff with Great Commission Ministries at UF with a focus of reaching internationals for Christ, training students in evangelism, and leading overseas mission teams. In 2003, the Lord brought me my lovely wife, Dámaris, who is a Spaniard. All of this was certain preparation for what God had in store for us in Pamplona.

It has been seven years since we were sent to work here. By God's grace, we have been breaking up the hard soil of unbelief and sowing seeds of the gospel while steadily seeing new lives in Christ. In 2013, we opened La Roca Pamplona, a ministry center located near the three universities where we hold Bible studies, worship services, English outreaches, etc. We continue to seek God first and to not grow weary in doing good for in proper time we know will reap a harvest (Matt. 6:33; Gal. 6:9)!



Letter from John:

Grace to All

by John Hopler, GCC Director

"You purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation." Revelation 5:9

What a scene this is!

In heaven we will see people from every tribe and tongue and nation washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, by the grace of God. And we will be praising Him for all of eternity.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have the privilege of proclaiming the gospel of His grace, not only to Americans but to people throughout the world. Jesus gave His blood. Now we are to give our voices.

This newsletter tells some of the ways that GCC church members have proclaimed the grace of God overseas. You may be asking, "How can I be a part of this great mission of making disciples of all the nations?" My suggestion is that you meet with a pastor in your church and ask him about the church's "Acts 1:8" plan for reaching the uttermost with the gospel.

Find out what your church is doing—and join in! You won't regret it. When we worship the Savior together with people throughout the entire world, we will all say, "Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to part of the greatest cause in the world—the mission of Jesus Christ to bring the grace of God to all people."



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