

*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



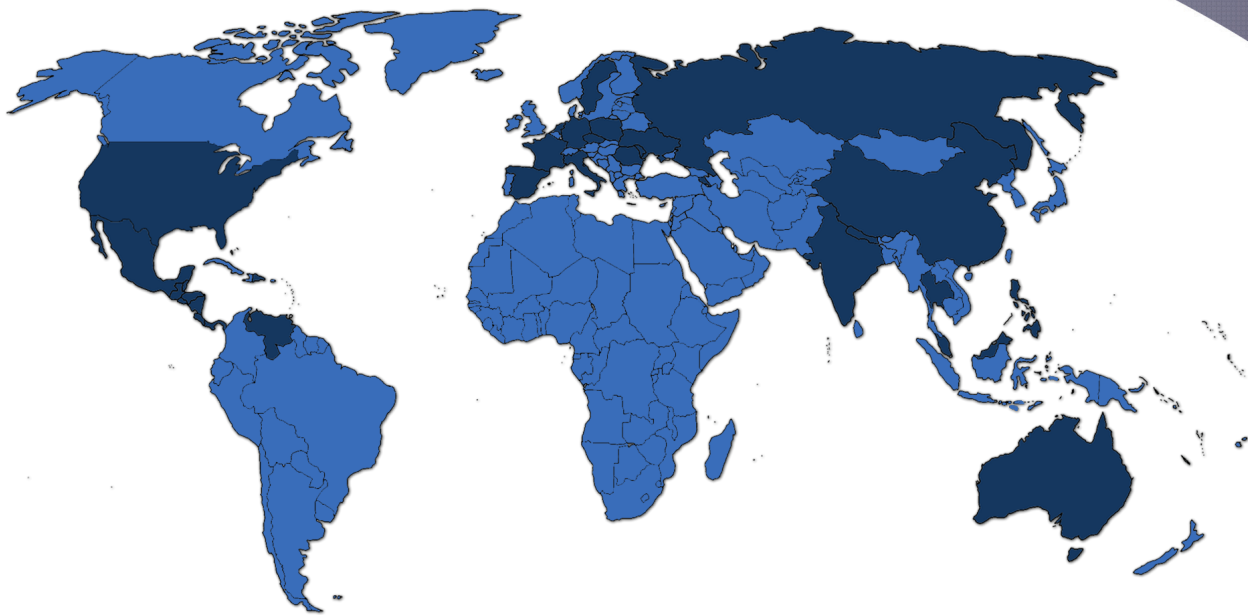
**GREAT  
COMMISSION  
CHURCHES**

*international edition*

# christianity in ACTION

*GCC International Report  
October 2014*

## *International Churches:*



### **ASIA**

China, Hong Kong  
India  
Japan, Tokyo  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Philippines, Bulacan  
Taiwan, Taichung  
Thailand, Bangkok

### **AUSTRALIA**

### **EUROPE**

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

Ukraine, Chigirin  
Ukraine, Dimitrov  
Ukraine, Kiev  
Ukraine, Krasnyarmesk  
Ukraine, Odessa

### ***EUROPE : NEW WORKS***

*Czech Republic, Prague  
France, Grenoble  
Romania, Brasov  
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, Siguatepeque  
Honduras, Tegucigalpa  
Mexico, Monterrey  
Nicaragua, Managua  
Panama, Panama City  
USA, Atlanta, GA  
USA, Dallas, TX  
USA, Miami, FL  
Venezuela, Caracas  
Venezuela, Valencia

# GCE Affiliate Churches & New Works

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

## Armenia

There are five house churches in the area around Yerevan that are focused on the poor. Tigran Z. oversees this work.

## Czech Republic

Timmy Powers made connections with several key mission leaders in Prague open to future partnership. Jack Stockdale is planning a short term mission to Czech Republic in the spring of 2015.

## France

After meeting each other and getting married while in fellowship at the GCE church in Turin, Italy, Julien & Dani Fils moved to Grenoble, France. Julien is a native Frenchman and is looking to cooperate with GCE in planting a church.

## Germany

Rock Berlin is led by John & Stephi Goering and Dieter & Lucy Schade. They have been most effective in reaching the neighborhood where the church meets in northeastern Berlin. The Bridge, in Cologne, recognized a new elder recently: Sarwar Aziz. They have consistently been reaching students at the University of Cologne, and have sent a short-term team to Skövde, Sweden to help the church-plant there.

## Italy

The work at Bicocca University in Milan is growing through the leadership of Frank & Pam Apisa and Stacy & Debbie Ware. They are particularly effective in using English Clubs to reach students. In Turin, Il Rifugio continues the process of transferring responsibility to nationals as they reach students and others at the University of Turin. Anthony Testa is training young people through his Into the Wilderness ministry.

## Moldova

A team of nationals coordinated by Stas B. are multiplying disciples and smaller churches in Chisinau. Anton Olmechinko leads a new house church that is very engaged in the gospel in the republic of Transnistria.

## Netherlands

Amsterdam50 is in the process of developing a leadership team of nationals under the supervision of John & Trudy Shepard. This new team includes Ruben, David and Emily.

## Poland

The Zubenkos minister to Poznan's growing house church, and 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 focusing on students and young families in Braşov. The Rock, Salt Lake City is partnering with existing missions in Şardu for gypsies and the poor in this region. They plan to send a team to join this work full-time this year.

## Russia

Vitaly K. leads two house churches in St. Petersburg that focus on students and young families, and he also coaches house churches spread across other Russian cities.

## Spain

After moving to Barcelona due to a job transfer from Singapore, Adrian & Susan Lim provide the basis for a new work in Spain. Wauner & Ana Ruiz were first reached by the Madrid church but moved back to their hometown of Gijón, and host a small, growing fellowship there. Iglesia Cristiana Biblica is a church on the east side of Madrid which is steadily reaching and training people. Co-pastors Alex Gonzalez and José Enrique Cabal have a real focus on evangelism and are raising up other leaders. In Pamplona, Dom & Damaris Marrone have developed excellent relationships with other evangelical groups and are effectively reaching students on both the public and the private university campus. They worked with GCC's Southeast Region in sponsoring a LINC program last summer.

## Sweden

Riverbend Community Church partnered with two churches in Luleå, Sweden to revive outreach at the Technical University. Now Sarah Bedi has moved there to help coordinate the work in northern Sweden. Rom & Sarah Rwamamara have worked with two short-term teams to reach out to students and others in Skövde, Sweden, where they now live. They are trusting God to raise up a growing house church.

## Ukraine

Spring of Hope is an established, family focused church led by nationals and coordinated by Andre Y., with staff members David & Mindy Henson co-laboring for discipleship. Sasha S. and Kolya S. lead an established church that has an effective leadership training program reaching students, families and internationals. A network of six "simple churches" across Kiev effectively work with orphans, drug addicts, alcoholics and women with unplanned pregnancies. Six house church regions across Ukraine are Odessa, Dimitrov, Krasnayarmesk, Alvchesk, Chigirin and Rivna where ministry focuses on young people and families, with effective outreach to orphans, the poor, drug addicts and alcoholics.

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[www.gceweb.org](http://www.gceweb.org)



## *Pastor Supported by Microloan*

by Mike Bergen - [mikerbergen@gmail.com](mailto:mikerbergen@gmail.com)

Pastor Romy (weighing about 150 lbs) carried me across a 20-foot-wide river then went back and carried a 110 lb bag of hog feed across the same river and continued 400 more yards to the pig pens. This is his primary source of income while he is pastoring low income farmers in the Philippines. He purchased the piglets with a loan from the Philippine Microloan Ministry.

Romy has started three house churches, leads many home Bible studies and is training leaders as part of the Great Commission Churches of the Philippines. All 15 churches are small, with 20-50 members, and most are quite poor. They are very thankful for the Microloan Ministry which was started two years ago and has helped 75 church members begin home businesses (see [kingdommicroloans.com](http://kingdommicroloans.com) for more stories).



## *Come Over to Asia and Help Us*

by Doug Brown - [doug@e3leadershipgroup.net](mailto:doug@e3leadershipgroup.net), [doubrown54.blogspot.com](http://doubrown54.blogspot.com)

For seven years we have engaged Taiwanese college English majors in an evangelistic mission in Taichung, Taiwan, in an American Life Camp. We share Christ with our students through celebrating Christmas and Easter.

At the end of the camp, all of our students were interested in getting to know Jesus. One student, Catherine, shared that she was grateful to learn about Christ and wants Christ in her heart. We gave them Bibles, set up a Facebook group, and connected them to a missionary, Marc, and a Great Commission church for follow up.

With less than 2% evangelical Christianity, over seventeen million people are unreached in Taiwan. There are many open doors for the gospel:

- Study abroad—learn Chinese language and culture
- Gap year English teacher
- 2 Week STM—evangelism
- Infusion: Summer 2015 Leader Training
- Strengthening disciples in the church



## *Reaching the Unreached in South Asia*

by Ken Young

*"My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard..." Romans 15:20*

In Pakistan I was able to preach the gospel to 1200 people in 9 locations where 185 people trusted Christ for salvation, among them 50-60 Muslims. We also trained 310 in discipleship multiplication. Believers in Pakistan are persecuted. We are providing safe houses for Muslims who accept Christ and need support and discipleship to survive and become reproducing disciples.

Last year in Uttar Pradesh (UP), India I trained 15 leaders who work in 20 unreached districts. They supervise 116 trainers representing 1100 house churches.

In Bangladesh, 85 Muslim background believers who attended our training plan to send missionary pairs to 20 unreached districts. We trained 20 leaders to reach Muslims. Pray for courage and faith—despite the fact that their co-worker in the gospel was martyred a month after attending training.



# *Asia and Latin America*

## **Caribbean 2014 and Beyond**

by Herschel Martindale



There are over 7000 islands in the Caribbean, thousands of precious souls for whom Christ died. The second largest island is Dominican Republic with over 10 million people.

God opened a door of opportunity several years ago, and now teams of Americans go regularly with a vision of seeing hundreds, even thousands of these precious lives come to know Jesus Christ as Savior. We visit the huge university in Santo Domingo, the capital, with over 150,000 students, many of whom are willing to talk to us about the living God and His Bible.

A small church has been planted near the university, and students are being trained with a Great Commission vision. We hope to see La Vid church train believers to have a vision for their country, and eventually the whole Caribbean.

We welcome churches to send teams regularly to join us in seeing this happen. God wants to do more than we can even imagine.

## **Migrant Children Humanitarian Emergency**

by Carlos Gomez



Most of us know about the overflow of unaccompanied children crossing into the United States. From Honduras there are 27,000 children who have crossed the border, and add to that figure the children from El Salvador and Guatemala. According to the news, they will be deported.

What is causing this migration? Lack of opportunities, lack of safety, lack of clean water, lack of government and church involvement.

But these children will return to our countries to find themselves in a worse situation. GCLA is prayerfully considering how we can get involved.

We will find relatives and ways to provide opportunities for that family. We will build beds and classrooms, transport kids to their place of origin, feed, clean, provide clothes and shoes for those children. Will you walk with us? Please write to [carlos.gomez@igcla.com](mailto:carlos.gomez@igcla.com) or visit us at [www.gcla.com](http://www.gcla.com).

# International Student Ministry

## 2014 In Review

by Jim Wiebelhaus

In 2014, International Student Ministry (ISM) equipped churches in their outreach and discipleship to international students. One highlight was the Mosaic International Student Ministry/Cross-cultural Ministry Conference, June 6-8 in Omaha, NE. 88 people from 13 churches, 9 states and 9 countries participated. There were a variety of speakers with unique roles mobilizing mission work around the world. Many testified that God spoke to their hearts through this conference. This quote represents the sentiments of many participants:

*"This conference is too hot to miss! The inspiration, the synergy, the networking for world evangelization is worth every sacrifice. Everyone who wants to help reach the world needs to be there."* - Mike Keator, church planter in Asia

Two former international students moved to Asia to help advance the gospel in a gospel starved country. They will learn the language and culture as they support Christians already living and working there to establish church planting movements. We are seeing more Christians doing ISM in Europe and Asia, and current and former international students are playing a greater role in ISMs and short-term mission trips.

*"Therefore, beseech the Lord of the Harvest for more workers for the harvest" Matthew 9:38*



## Meet a Missionary:

**Robbie McAlister**

I have been involved with the Great Commission Church movement for 35 years. I remember the first year of my involvement being gripped with the reality that God loves the whole world, He wants to reach the world in every generation and He wants to use us to do it.

Since then, our family has had the privilege of helping start churches and train leaders in our own country and in Europe. I returned nine years ago and have been helping mobilize our local church and our region of churches to have a heart for the world. I am currently praying about how to be more involved in helping our GCC churches fulfill their Acts 1:8 plans especially as it relates to the cross-cultural piece.

Every person is equally valuable in the sight of God. However, not everyone has equal access to the gospel. This should not be! Therefore, it is my dream to do all I can with the rest of my life to help see men and women develop a heart for their world and the whole world not just in theory but in practice. I pray God will help us build bridges from our churches to the world so that we as a movement of churches can have the greatest possible impact in our generation. We often say we want to make Jesus' last command, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." our first priority. Oh God may it be so!



## Letter from John:

**The Gospel to the Whole World**

by John Hopler, GCC Director

*"We have heard for ourselves and know that the One is indeed the Savior of the world."* John 4:42

In 1970 when the Great Commission church movement was launched, God stirred the hearts of people with this wonderful truth that Jesus is indeed the Savior of the world. Not just the Savior of me or my family....or of the people in my city or country.....but the Savior of people throughout the whole world. This heart to bring the message of eternal life in Christ to people has empowered members in GCC churches to advance the gospel overseas.

This past year I was stunned by what the Lord is doing internationally through GCC churches. I asked churches to report all of the places overseas that they are ministering. You can see how churches responded by visiting [www.gccweb.org/conferences/missions](http://www.gccweb.org/conferences/missions). I was thoroughly amazed by the amount of ministry going on in other countries. Praise God that His gospel is spreading!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. It shows what God can do when local churches dedicate themselves to fulfilling the Great Commission. As you read it, please ask yourself this question: How can you and your church be a part of this noble cause, of bringing the message of Jesus Christ to people overseas?

As you answer this question, remember this wonderful truth: Jesus is indeed the Savior of the world.



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