

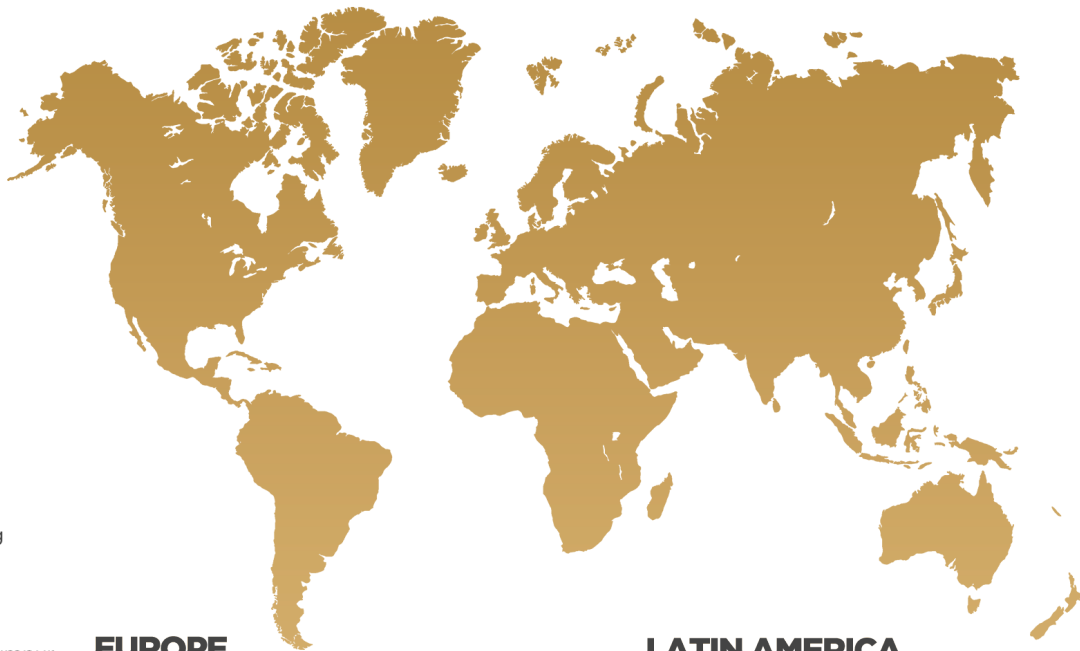


CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

GCC INTERNATIONAL REPORT
FALL 2019

PARTNER CHURCHES & MINISTRIES



ASIA

China, Hong Kong
India, Bihar
India, Jaunpur
India, Siapur U.P.
Japan, Tokyo
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
Myanmar, Yangon
Nepal, Bardiya
Nepal, Biratnagar
Nepal, Bhaktapur
Nepal, Dhangadhi
Nepal, Jhapa
Nepal, Jorpati
Nepal, Jumla
Nepal, Kathmandu
Nepal, Kohalpur
Nepal, Mahendranagar
Nepal, Nepalgunj
Nepal, Pokhara
Nepal, Ranjha
Nepal, Surkhet
Pakistan
Philippines, Bulacan
Taiwan, Taichung
Thailand, Bangkok

EUROPE

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

Ukraine, Dimitrov
Ukraine, Juravka
Ukraine, Kiev
Ukraine, Krasnyarmesk
Ukraine, Nikolaev
Ukraine, Novarodovka
Ukraine, Ocheretino
Ukraine, Odessa
Ukraine, Rivna

EUROPE : NEW WORKS

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
Czech Republic
Romania, Garцени
Romania, Sardu
Serbia
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 Lorenzo
Honduras, San Pedro Sula
Honduras, Santa Rosa de Copan
Honduras, Tegucigalpa
Honduras, Tela
Honduras, Valle de Angeles
Mexico, Monterrey

Nicaragua, Managua
Panama, Panama City
USA, Atlanta, GA
USA, Dallas, TX
USA, Miami, FL
USA, Ocala, FL
Venezuela, Caracas
Venezuela, Los Guayos
Venezuela, Valencia

LATIN AMERICA : NEW WORKS

Columbia, Bogota
Costa Rica, Heredia
El Salvador, San Miguel
Honduras, Cofrida
Honduras, Siguatepeque
Mexico, Queretaro
USA, Jonesboro, GA

NEWS FROM GREAT COMMISSION EUROPE

GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES PARTNERS WITH GCE IN THESE COUNTRIES

ARMENIA

Tigran Z. oversees five house churches in the area around Yerevan that focus on the poor and church planting efforts of other mission groups.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A church plant team from Michigan is partnering with GCE and Pioneers to strengthen a work in Sarajevo and serve as a training location for expanded Balkan ministry.

CZECH REPUBLIC

This summer for the third year in a row a team from Raleigh, NC helped to lead an English Camp in Ostrava. A lot of close relationships have been developed and a number of salvations have resulted from the camps.

GATEWAY CITIES

Robbie McAlister and Joe Dunn are forming partnerships in 'gateway cities' to adopt the unreached, unengaged peoples who have migrated to Europe. New laborers are in Amsterdam, Koln, Sarajevo, and Stockholm and cities that are being targeted for new refugee ministry efforts are Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, London, Marseille, Paris, and Rome.

GERMANY

The Dortmund church continues to focus outreach on children to reach families. Under the leadership of Martin & Heike Bonnet, The Bridge in Cologne is reaching university students and refugees. A small house church in Berlin is reaching the neighborhood where the church meets and sharing the gospel with refugees through German conversation and nationals with English conversation.

ITALY

Torino is continuing its vision of training people to "know God and make Him known," as leadership responsibilities are being turned over to European nationals by Paul and Janice Meiburger. In Milano, the work at the University of Milano-Bicocca campus is growing through the leadership of the Apisas who are looking forward to co-laboring with three new missionaries who are preparing to move there next year. The Testas are continuing to coach home churches and are preparing to move to London to work with Italians and establish the "Into the Wilderness" ministry. The Ogles are serving in Florence with an International church ministering to English speaking students.

MOLDOVA

A team of nationals coordinated by Stas B., is multiplying disciples and churches in a number of locations. River Ridge Church from West Virginia actively engages with Stas and the group of churches there.

NETHERLANDS

Currently a team is focused on working directly with the refugee community to reach fellow immigrants with the gospel in hopes of beginning a network of house churches. Five refugees have come to faith in Christ. Several others are studying the Bible and discussing the gospel with those reaching out to them.

POLAND

Sasha and Anya Zubenko, missionaries from Ukraine, serving in Poznan are encouraged by how their house church has multiplied to new spheres of influence in the past year. Their team of laborers is seeing new opportunities in the workplace and in their neighborhoods.

ROMANIA

David and Amy Cato continue to see a house church network develop in Braşov, focusing on students, university faculty, and young families. The past two years they have seen the Lord at work in the nearby community of Garcini. They have an active after-school program, which impacts the children and also the college students who are helping with tutoring. The church that was planted in the village two years continues to grow.

RUSSIA

Though he has moved to Ukraine, Vitaly K. continues to coach house churches in St. Petersburg focusing on students and young families and he coaches house churches in other Russian cities as well.

SERBIA

Fellowship Church (College Station, TX) has formed a church planting team that will be in Sarajevo temporarily in preparation to re-locate and reach an unengaged, unreached Bosniak people group in southern Serbia.

SPAIN

In Madrid, Alex & Mayra Gonzalez focus on evangelism and are raising up other leaders. Dom & Damaris Marrone in Pamplona have seen the Lord establish La Roca Pamplona, a community and campus church, focused on making disciples, building strong families, and reaching young people (18-40). From January 2-5, 2020, the Spanish churches will host the GCE Awaken Conference in Toledo, Spain which will serve churches across Europe.

SWEDEN

Two long-term teams in Stockholm are being formed with nationals starting mission initiatives in different neighborhoods. One team focuses with university students and young professionals while the other focuses on refugee and immigrant communities.

UKRAINE

Spring of Hope Church in Kyiv focuses on youth and families, with an ongoing emphasis on humanitarian aid due to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Networks of "simple churches" are in ten cities focusing on young people and families as well as orphans, addicts, alcoholics, and women with unplanned pregnancies. Over the past two years, there has been significant fruit in Western Ukraine among the displaced people and the families of soldiers and several new house churches have been planted in Eastern Ukraine.

OTHER GCE NEWS

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Over the past six years, God has allowed unprecedented numbers of refugees to migrate into Europe. These asylum seekers are coming from the hardest to reach countries in the world. This provides GCE with a unique opportunity to bring the gospel to people who otherwise would not hear. GCE is praying that God will provide more laborers and effectively equip existing churches to reach these people.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN WESTERN EUROPE

There is significant opportunity for university students to combine missions with education. Tuition-free education is available in several European countries and in many cases the programs are English-only. Contact GCE (info@gceweb.org) for more details.

Please send inquiries to:
info@gceweb.org

For more information, please visit:
www.gceweb.org

EXPANSION CONTINUES

By Mike Bergen

In my hometown of Kansas City, church planting is a slow process, so it's exciting to have friends who are experiencing just the opposite. Jemimah and her parents, German and Joy, live in Cabanatuan, Philippines. One of Jemimah's friends was in a motorcycle accident and she raised money to help pay the medical bill. The friend was thankful and agreed to study the Bible with Jemimah's family. The first week, 10 people came to the study. Before this study, most of them did not clearly understand the gospel. They brought more friends the following week and German brought Danny, a pastor friend. This resulted in many receiving Christ. At that point, people asked if they could sing together so on the third week, 30 people crowded into their living room for their first worship time. They began praying for a larger meeting place. On the fourth week, 54 people came, which meant many stood outside.

German has been a pastor more than 25 years and has recently focused on multiplying simple churches. Yet German says this is the quickest he has ever seen a church start. It's especially exciting when the church growth is from salvations and not transfers from other churches!



ASIA UPDATE

By Doug Brown

We are partnering with Asian churches and Non-Government Organizations to advance the Gospel in Asia and reach the neglected people groups through Asian "Timothys" and planting Asian churches.



THE TREASURE | Jesus taught "the Kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field" (Mark 13:45). We have a treasure visiting our shores. Over a million students come to study in the U.S. every year. Many of these students are graduate students called visiting scholars. They are usually here for one to two years and then go back home as influential professionals. We have a short time to influence them with the life-changing Gospel.

LOVING THE STRANGER | We still have thousands of refugees and immigrants coming to our cities. God is bringing the nations to our doorstep, a treasure in our field. How are you investing in this treasure? Our team has made it a prayer focus to ask God to raise up men and women who would like to commit to a one- or two-year staff position to reach international students or refugees and immigrants. If interested in learning more and being equipped for this Kingdom work, please contact me at doug@e3leadershipgroup.net.

RUN GLOBAL

By Mike Keator

Our church planting teams are accelerating the start-up of new churches across Nepal and India. The staff at our training center in Nepalgunj is equipping team after team. Currently a team from New Delhi is being prepared to open a branch in India's capital city. Next a team will be trained to start churches in Jajarkot, Nepal. Trainers will soon travel to Lalbandi, Nepal to ready a team. Coaching church planters is a very vital function. Some of our best trainers are moving into coaching roles to ensure the success of new teams. We hope to have 5 new training centers up and running by Christmas.



Our longer-term vision is to send highly skilled Nepalese trainers into other least reached nations to start church planting movements. If we can get 20 training centers churning out church planters by the end of 2020, we'll be ready to send teams of them into nations such as Bhutan, Laos, and Pakistan.

We always ask for your fervent prayers for fruitfulness and protection. The least reached nations are the most dangerous and difficult physically and spiritually. Persecution is intense. Demonic strongholds require much prayer to break through. Your partnership is crucial. You are a tremendous help to us by your prayers and generous support. Thank you so much!

You can contact me at mike@runglobal.org

ASIA & LATIN AMERICA

ENGLISH CLUBS DOMINICAN STYLE

By Thomas Lemus



This year, our team in Dominican Republic taught Bible-based English classes on campus. Dozens come to the classes. We told participants there were three goals for these classes. 1. To get to know and experience God, 2. Develop meaningful relationships, and 3. Learn or improve their English skills. Our desire was to share God's word and help them with a life-improving skill. Helping them with English is like teaching them to fish. Rather than providing temporary assistance, we are equipping them to provide for themselves.

Some that were reached last spring will help with the fall classes and the outreach to other students. Please pray for more salvations, baptisms, and leaders. Also, please join us! We have a Bible-based curriculum that is easy to use. Advanced students just want to practice their English, which gives opportunities to share the gospel and your own experiences. This is a generation of Dominicans that need English skills to succeed and, of course, they need the hope of Jesus.

For more information about participating or giving financially, contact Thomas Lemus at lemusthomas@gmail.com.

GCLA UPDATE

by Carlos Garcia

Immigration is a very hot topic. GCLA leaders are prayerfully considering what can we do to be an agent of change. Our churches are training members to be aware of the local mission. Most of our churches operate programs where underprivileged children are taken care of, jobs are created, and small businesses are launched.



What else can we do to help those in dire need? GCLA believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the best platform to establish individuals followed by being part of a community. Once church members are established spiritually and in family life, it is not likely for them to make a dangerous journey to the U.S. and enter illegally.

We know the pain of a person who can't support their family. Therefore, GCLA will continue with the programs of feeding and educating the very poor. We work with the most vulnerable kids from the streets. The schools throughout our churches provide over 200 jobs. Our health clinics serve more than 20,000 patients.

Will you join us in prayer as we find more ways to help our neighbors in need? We are confident that as the Gospel spreads and God's love is seen through our service, people will find true meaning and will stay to make a difference in their own land. Please visit www.igcla.com to learn more.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY

BRIDGEBUILDERS ISM IN THE U.S. AND OVERSEAS

by Jim Wiebelhaus

A Chinese man shared his testimony last May at a BridgeBuilders Conference. Three events in his story caused a wide range of emotions for the attendees. First, a high school classmate shared with him about God and the Bible. This caused an excited reaction in the audience. "Awesome! How cool!" The second thing that stood out was his mother's response when he asked her, "What is a Bible?" His mother responded, "An evil book. Stay away from it!" Everyone felt a sad shock at that statement. Yet God took him all the way to Nebraska where two Christians shared the gospel with him. The third point that impacted us was about his new faith in Christ. His countenance of joy was obvious and we felt a thankful praise for God's mercy and sovereignty in this young man's life.

With 1.1 million international students and scholars studying in the U.S., and 50 million first-generation immigrants, the opportunity exists for so many to make a Christian friend and perhaps hear the gospel for the very first time. Let that sink in—some may hear about Jesus for the first time as a student from a new friend. Will you be that Christian friend?

Articles about ISM: (If interested, email me at jim@candlewoodchurch.org)

- Making Disciples of International Students as an Empty Nester
- Up to 40 Heads of State in the World were once exchange students
- Seeing Immigrants Through God's Eyes



A GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

By Robbie McAlister

In Acts 17:26-27, Paul shares that God is the one who determines the migration and settlement of peoples on the earth. In recent years, millions of people have been displaced, which has led them to come to western nations. Some feel receiving migrants threatens their culture. Others see it as an unprecedented opportunity to share Christ with citizens of hard to reach countries.

The Bible is clear that God loves the whole world and desires people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to come to Him. Regardless of how we view migration politically, as followers of Jesus we are called to share the love of Christ with our neighbors including those who have migrated into our communities. Could it be that a person in our community may come from an unreached, unengaged people group? Could it be that if we share Christ with them that we may hasten the day when every ethnic group has the witness of Christ among them? Could it be that serving refugees and immigrants is one of the greatest gospel opportunities of our time? These are serious questions that are before us today.

Lostness is everywhere and all people are equally valuable in God's sight, but not all people have equal opportunity to hear the gospel. As Christians who are serious about the Great Commission, I hope we see the potential harvest through this migration crisis. Christ will build His church with or without us but He has allowed us the privilege of being a part if we so choose. I hope we all choose wisely!



LETTER FROM JOHN: GOD'S STORYTELLERS

by John Hopler, GCC Director

Many years ago, I met a great missions leader, Avery Willis. Avery taught how the message of Jesus Christ is spreading internationally through storytelling. And what is that story? It is this.

God created Adam who then sinned, bringing death into the world. God then gave man the Law to show us right from wrong. Through His Prophets He also told of a future Savior. Jesus Christ is that Savior. Through His death and resurrection Jesus, the last Adam, conquered sin and death to restore what the first Adam lost. For the last 2000 years, people have responded in faith and obedience to Him, looking to a day when all things will be renewed in the presence of Christ, when God will be all in all.

This is the story we have told as a movement of churches for nearly 50 years. This newsletter tells of people throughout the world who have not only heard this story but are telling this story to others. What an honor to be united with this international network of God's storytellers!

May God bless you and your family as we join with Christians everywhere to bring God's story to every man, woman and child throughout the world.

