

WINDOW



A PUBLICATION OF THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

ON THE WORLD

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Giving to the most needy

Multiplied Resources

-by Randy Sizemore

GIVING CATALOG

SEE PAGE 11!

Get out your Bible and read Mark 6:30-43.
Imagine the scene and listen to the conversation between the disciples and Jesus.

DISCIPLES: *"This is a remote place, and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy themselves some food."*

JESUS: *"You feed them."*

DISCIPLES: *"With what? It would take a small fortune to buy enough food for this crowd!"*

I've had a similar conversation with Jesus; haven't you? It seems the needs of our world grow larger and larger while the resources continue to shrink. Jesus' practical answer to the disciples on that day remains true today, *"you bring to me what you have and I'll multiply it."* As we bring our gifts to Jesus, He is multiplying them to feed the spiritually and physically hungry of our world through the missionaries and ministries of the Evangelical Congregational Church family.

In this issue of *Window on the World*, you will meet the Byerly family who offered their gifts to Jesus through an English camp ministry with EC missionaries Ron and Brenda Anderson in Spain. You will read the exciting report on the Fall Family Mission Rally hosted by Salem EC Church, made possible because so many individuals were willing to give their time, talent and treasure to Jesus to make this weekend a great



success. You will see the updated EC missionary map and Giving Catalog that represent the countless number of individuals and families who are giving their all to Jesus in order to fulfill the Great Commission.

The conclusion of the Mark 6:30-43 passage tells us that every hungry person there that day ate until they were satisfied, and there were plenty of leftovers! The needs of our world are indeed very large and growing, but

God is not asking us to meet the needs of the entire world. He only asks that we bring what we have and allow Jesus to use it for His glory. Together, as we each bring our gifts to Jesus, He is blessing and multiplying them to further the Good News in both word and deed, in and through the global EC Church family. 🌍



Back to the Future

-by Lisa Lakatos

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF in 10 years? That's a question often asked during a job interview and in April 2001, just 10 short years ago, we were taking part in an interview at Ebenezer EC Church in Jim Thorpe, PA, where Nick would begin pastoring in June. There were many questions that evening, and I'm not sure that where we would be in 10 years was one of them. I can honestly say that at that moment, living in Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world, was not on my radar. However, Mexico soon would be.

In August 2001, our daughter Hannah began to pray each night for Mexico. She was almost four years old and when I asked her if she knew what Mexico was she replied something like, "It's a big country with lots of people that need to know Jesus." Then she told me, "God is talking to my heart and telling me I'm going to live there someday when I grow up." And at that moment, Mexico made a blip on the Lakatos family radar screen.

Nick and I had been missionaries for two years with One Mission Society (OMS) in Tokyo, Japan when

we were younger and at this time Nick was on the regional advisory board. During one of the advisory board meetings, it was suggested that he take his family on a mission trip. Later Nick was invited to Mexico City to give marimba concerts and teach a seminary course on worship. So, in 2005 a small group of people from Ebenezer went to Mexico City to work on the final construction phase of the new SEMBIMEX (Biblical Seminary of Mexico) building while Nick gave concerts and worked with worship teams. At this time, Hannah was seven and Samuel four years old. They worked right alongside the adults, and Samuel left proudly proclaiming, "I work like a Mexican!" (High praise to himself, indeed.)

Nick returned to Mexico the next summer to teach an intensive course at the seminary and came back home impassioned by what God was doing. It wasn't long after that we were back in our home area of western Pennsylvania, worshipping in our home church Lakeside EC, and preparing for ministry in Mexico.

Before heading to Mexico, we took part in cross-cultural training and church planting training at One Mission Society headquarters in Greenwood, IN. However, there was one more very important training ahead. We needed to learn Spanish, and the Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica has decades of experience training missionaries. So, in summer of 2010 we were off to Costa Rica for a one-year course of study.

At the airport in San Jose we were met by one of our Mexico team members who was just finishing up his



studies, and by Pastor William Araya, the head of the EC church in Costa Rica. It was a blessing to be a part of the EC family while living outside of our home country for the first time as a family. During the next year the majority of our time was spent in intensive language and cultural study. We were also blessed to see first-hand how the Lord is working in church-planting in the EC church of Costa Rica.

Then on August 13, 2011, almost exactly 10 years from the time when Mexico entered the Lakatos family radar, we arrived in Mexico City to begin our life and ministry here. Our first couple of months have been filled with adjusting, continued study and visiting the ministries that OMS is involved in. Before beginning to teach at the seminary, Nick has been assigned for our first year to work with church planting teams. Besides greatly enjoying being a part of this ministry, it has also been helpful to him as he continues to learn language skills, the Mexican culture and gets to



know pastors and seminary students who are church-planting. Hannah and Samuel are in school with other missionaries' and businessmen's children (over half of which are Korean). Nick and I also audited a seminary course on the history of the church here. And, I am slowly

getting involved in ministry outside the home as everyone becomes better adjusted.

We are so grateful to the church families at Canyon Falls EC in Beatyville, KY (where Nick first pastored while in seminary), Ebenezer EC in Jim Thorpe, PA and Lakeside EC in

Transfer, PA for allowing us to learn from and with them about serving our Lord in ministry. Thank you also to the many, many EC churches who have supported us with your prayers and financial giving. We know that without our EC church family, we could not be here. We truly are grateful. 🙏

GMC Great Lakes Visit -by Randy Sizemore

On September 16, Carla and I packed up the car and headed west for an 18 day road trip to visit, engage and interact with the EC churches in Illinois and Kentucky. I want to especially thank Nancy Wadsworth for helping to organize the logistics of this trip. We were blessed by the folks at the Dixon Bethel EC Church who graciously offered their Ministry House as our home base for a large part of the first leg of our tour. We arrived in Dixon, Illinois on Saturday, September 17 and met with our Illinois Mission Mobilizers that evening. On Sunday we spoke at St. James EC in the morning and had the privilege of speaking with the Afolkey EC youth and adults in the evening. Sunday evening we drove from the church to spend the night and the next day with GMC member Jerry Virtue and his wife Nancy. Their place is located on the family farm, out in the woods fairly close to the Wisconsin border. As we sat on their deck Monday evening watching the sunset, we were serenaded by a chorus of coyotes!

Tuesday evening we met with the Dixon Bethel prayer meeting and spent time praying around the globe for our EC missionaries and international churches. Wednesday we were given a tour of Rock River Bible Camp and saw some of the handiwork accomplished by the recent GMC Great Lakes Work Team. On Thursday we left the country and drove to the



Randy & Carla with Fern Sweigert

north side of Chicago to meet up with Rev. Salvador Cardoso, pastor of the Maranatha EC Church in Highland Park. Pastor Cardoso and his congregation treated us to a day in the city of Chicago complete with a visit to the Moody Bible Institute and the view from the newly named Willis Tower! Friday evening we enjoyed enthusiastic worship and the chance to share the ministry of GMC with our brothers and sisters at Maranatha.

Saturday morning we drove back to Cedarville to lead a day-long GMC training event with the Illinois EC Churches. Pastor Deschoolmeester and the Emmanuel EC church were excellent hosts and Jean Schubert did a fantastic job of organizing, promoting and planning this day of local church mission training. Our last Sunday in Illinois found us back in Chicago at the Kimball Avenue EC Church. I presented the work of the GMC via a power point presentation and then we enjoyed a time of refreshments, fellowship and some Q&A.

Carla and I expressed our appreciation and then drove to Greenwood, Indiana to stay a few days with EC missionaries Dr. David & Celia Dick at the OMS International Headquarters. David arranged meetings for me with the President, Executive Directors, finance people and others at OMS so that we could get a better understanding of each other and strengthen the partnership between GMC and OMS. Our time there was very valuable and encouraging.

From Indiana we drove to Kentucky to speak at the Canyon Falls EC Church mission weekend. Pastor Bill and Gloria opened their home to us and treated us like royalty. We enjoyed spending some time with retired missionary Fern Sweigert and sharing missions with the congregation Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday night. I even got the opportunity to teach the youth Sunday school class and Carla taught the children in junior worship. After traveling 18 days and over 2,600 miles, we were glad to pull into our driveway on Monday evening, October 2. We were encouraged and thankful to have this opportunity to make new connections and renew the many existing connections of so many men, women and young people in the EC Church who are partnering together for the sake of the Great Commission! 🙏

Summer Service in



SPAIN IS A COUNTRY that is rich in Christian heritage, tranquil culture, and exceptional beauty. And for us it was just a place that my family had talked about going to someday, until this past year.

WHY WE WENT

Tasha and I had been looking for a family experience just like the one offered by the Andersons this past spring in the EC Short Stops. Each of the members of our family had participated in various ministry and mission experiences, but never together as a family. This was something that we sensed God placing upon our hearts, and so we expectantly waited for the right opportunity. When Tasha and I saw the short-term mission opportunity to help at an English Language Camp in Spain, we saw our many interests and abilities merge together. Both our teenage daughters were avid students in their Spanish classes at school, we had all participated in working with children and families in previous opportunities, and lastly Spain had been a destination that we had all talked about visiting someday.

OUR ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

We flew from Philadelphia to Madrid in July with another couple from the US, Jack and Nancy O'Rourke, who

Brenda Anderson; Tasha, Jeff, Ashley & Erin Byerly; Nancy & Jack O'Rourke

also responded to the same notice that we had read. We would join a small team of missionaries from the US and the UK along with the local leaders at a nearby church school to develop and run an English Language Camp during the weekend of July 15-17.

Once in Madrid, Ron and Brenda brought us to their office and guest house in Camarma, a small village located 20-25 miles northeast of Madrid. They were great hosts and leaders during our time together. We were invited into their home to eat exciting and tasty Spanish dishes, and spend the evening with neighbors in their communal neighborhood. It was here that we helped Ron and Brenda share some of the excitement about the English Language Camp that would be held that coming weekend.

Ron and Brenda introduced us to the richness of Spanish culture with a few daily excursions to Alcala, Madrid, Segovia, and Avila. Ron was an encyclopedia of information about the various history, customs, and politics of the region. Not only were we enthralled with the beauty of the

European architecture in Alcala, a surviving aqueduct in Segovia, and the fortified walls surrounding Avila, but we were also introduced to rich stories about St. Ignatius' time at the University in Alcala, the history of Segovia, and a mystic named Teresa from Avila. We as a family very much appreciated the time that the Andersons spent helping us understand the lavish culture and beautiful people that were part of their ministry.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMP AND TOWN CELEBRATION

Ron and Brenda had spent much time in preparation for this event. The church school that borders the town shared the vision last year to develop and run an English Language Camp for the residents of the village. They developed a strategy that involved developing relationships between local residents and the mayor's office with the school.

We helped by distributing flyers from home to home and conversing with residents about the camp to be held at the church school. During the event, we participated in workshops

that helped adults, teens, and children specifically develop their English-speaking skills. Ironically, the younger ones had the best grasp of English and were receiving pointers about sentence structures and pronunciation, while adults were learning English vocabulary about sports terms, holiday activities, and food items.

The weekend concluded with a Sunday morning worship experience, (which brought many new families to the church school), and an afternoon American country music celebration with line dancing, fun activities for children, and wordless bracelet distributions in the village square. It was exciting to behold our earlier simple conversations in the neighborhoods move to the intentional events at the camp, and finally come to full celebration in the village square. It was beautiful to see the missionaries and leaders entwined in the midst of the whole village with conversations, laughter and music. On this day, the

village of Camarma experienced a brush with God's kingdom.

THE KINGDOM GROWS

As we departed the village of Camarma, boarded our plane in Madrid, and came home, we were reminded of the power of the gospel and how it is held in community. We will forever remember the late night meals (Spaniards eat later than we do) on the back patio of the Andersons' home. We will treasure the openness of the family-fused neighborhoods, the excitement of the children and adults involved with the camp, and the joyous celebration that lingers in the hearts of many people in Camarma.

In the end, we were impressed not only with the richness of Spain during this week, but by the way the kingdom of God moves relationally among people who were open to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. 🌍

HELP WANTED

To Research And Write a Concise History of The EC Church of Mexico:

The EC Church of Mexico is in the process of writing their proposal to be granted National Conference status. They would love to include a concise history of their beginning and subsequent years of the ministry. The GMC has various reports, articles and documents containing information about the EC Church of Mexico and a variety of people who have a history of working with the Mexican Church, but we are looking for someone to gather this information and write a concise history of the work. This would make a great a great High school graduation project or college paper. If you are interested please contact Randy Sizemore at rsizemore@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584. 🌍

Fall Mission Rally

-by Pat Strain

The Global Ministries Commission hosted its annual Fall Missions Rally for the Delaware/ Susquehanna regions on Saturday, October 15th. Salem EC in Lenhartsville graciously offered to host the rally again this year.

We added a new track to our program this year, that of a youth event. Rev. Nate Kennedy, the youth leader representative on our GMC board, was in charge of that part of the day. There also was a separate program for the Mission Minded Kids age group (5-12) as well as adults.

God blessed us with great attendances. Last year we had about 30 children attend; this year there were almost 80! Over 120 adults and 10 youth attended Saturday's program as well. Our missionary speakers included David and Conce Roof who serve as church planters in Brazil with OMS, Kitty Miller who serves in Thailand under SIL-Wycliffe, Rev. Joe Toy who leads open air ministries, and Juan Porto, chairman of the board of El Retiro Juvenil which is the children's home in Mexico begun many years ago by the late Mae Royer.

A special appreciation luncheon program for pastors was held the previous Friday, October 14th. Those who attended were presented with a gift to thank them for helping to get the word about EC missions into their churches. Although the weather was not cooperative (it poured!) we had almost 50 pastors and wives in attendance.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make both days successful. You can see a video clip of the Rally on our website, www.ecglobal.org. Click on the right hand panel. 🌍



International Church Updates

JAPAN:

On October 27, the Japan Committee “sat down” with Director Nobuo Abe and church planters, Rev. Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe via Skype. The disaster relief in Japan continues to bring local churches together to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the Japanese people in the prefectures hit hard by the tsunami.

Rev. Nobuo reported that the Japan conference held a memorial service marking the one year anniversary of Dr. John Masuda’s death. The congregation at Kyodo Grace continues to grow spiritually under Rev. Sudo’s leadership. Rev. Sudo’s transition from associate to senior pastor has gone well and the congregation has begun to pray about finding a parsonage for the Sudo family closer to the church neighborhood. Rev. Nobuo and Keiko Abe continue to serve the Sagimahara Grace Chapel and are encouraged by the number of women’s lives being impacted by the Bible studies and daycare ministry. Church planters Tomoyuki and Jessica were excited to tell us of a young woman who became a Christian in August and is now joining the Fuchinobe Community Church plant. Others at FCC are being visibly moved toward becoming Christians as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts and minds. Tomoyuki and Jessica will begin offering a marriage course as another way to meet the needs of those God is bringing into their midst. So far three couples have signed up for the seven week course.



Nobuo presents relief funds to local pastor

COSTA RICA:

I recently received the quarterly reports from our pastors in Costa Rica. The following are excerpts from the “praise & prayer” section of the report forms:

- The Lord is restoring marriages and young people that were drug addicts
- We are working with growth/cell groups in different areas of our community
- We have a program called “Operation Rescue” that involves workshops to train our congregation to reach the lost and restore those who have gone astray
- Pray for the Lord to give me (pastor) a fresh vision and anointing



God is working in Costa Rica

- Pray for our Networks (groups); men’s network has 40, women’s network has 60, total youth networks is 350
- **We are praying for our brothers and sisters in the EC Church, USA**

INDIA:

General Director (Bishop) Lalrosiem Songate sends the following update on the ministry of the EC Church of India:

Thank you the opportunity to give an update report on the EC Church of India. With regards to our fund raising program for Liberia, we have suspended it during the months of September and October because of a month-long program called “Home Crusade” that is usually held during September. God willing we will be continuing from November and hopefully we will have some more funds to be sent for Liberia in the January allocation. Please pray that people will respond in a positive way.

Rev. L.B. Angam, our Mission Director, was able to visit Siliguri Mission field in West Bengal. Several of our local churches gathered together at one place where series of meetings were held during which Rev. Angam taught and encouraged the believers there. Some new converts were also baptized during this program. The missionary stationed here is Rev. Seiboi Kipgen, younger brother of Rev. Th. Janga of Nepal. Rev. Seiboi is married to a Nepali lady and is engaged in evangelism in this region. We are happy to see the work progressing and more people coming to the Lord. Rev. Angam

also briefly visited the Foundation English School at Baihata, Assam, where our missionaries are engaged in evangelism and teaching non-Christian children. Running a school like this is a way of building a rapport with the local people who are mostly Hindus and Muslims. This school has been having a good academic record in the High School examinations under the Assam Board. So far all the students that appeared in the Assam Board exams are successful and a few of them even stood in the first division. The missionaries posted here live in rented buildings and they paid their rents from their own meagre salary.

The Bible College, ECT, began with a new academic session from July with several new students admitted. The total number of students as of now is only 110 which is a sharp decrease in enrolment. The reason is because of a decrease in student sponsorship and many of them have gone to other colleges where they can get a better sponsorship for their studies. The ATA, our accreditation agency has gratefully renewed our affiliation which means we will be able to



EC Church in Assam

continue giving accredited degrees to our students. Our greatest setback is the Library. The Principal Rev. Dr. Khaizakham informed me that they have been able to add only 200-300 volumes a year from funds donated by our local donors. He has been travelling around extensively raising funds to keep the College going. **Please pray for more donors to help students and improve the library.**

We were able to visit the EUC group who are in another part of our state. The people mostly belong to Anal tribe and the majority of these people are under a Baptist denomination. But we have this small group who bonded together under the EUC and continue to cling to us till today. They are presently constructing their office building and the church in general is doing well. We will welcome any amount of donation to help in this construction.

The General Conference of ECCI is to be held during April 20-22, 2012 during which GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore and Bishop Bruce Hill will be with us. This will also be a time of electing new leaders and Committee members. I have completed my term limit and so we will have to elect a new General Director. The Principal Rev. Dr. Khaizakham also will complete his term as Principal and we are in need of a new Principal. ***These are matters that will have far reaching impact for our denomination in India in general and we will appreciate your prayers for electing the new leaders and the subsequent transitions.***

NEPAL:

We praise God that your gifts to the ministry in Nepal allowed us to equip Rev. Janga with a projector to show gospel films in the villages. He



Rev. Janga and Mercy

reports that over 1,000 people were ministered to during his first campaign! The Gospel continues to change lives and the churches are growing in spite of the persecution that many Christian women receive from their non-Christian husbands and youth who are kicked out of their home by their parents because they have become Christians. Recently Rev. Janga held a very successful Youth Seminar of over 100 young people complete with Bible quizzing and a song and tribal dance competition. An international field visit to Nepal's annual conference is scheduled for November 28- December 6, 2011. Rev. Nobuo Abe, Director of the EC Church of Japan and Rev. Lalrosiem Songate, General Director of the EC Church of India will join DGM Rev. Randy Sizemore, Carla Sizemore, Rev. Paul Barber and Dr. David Brock from the India/Nepal Committee. Stay tuned for a follow up report.

(continued on page 10)



Missionary Prayer Partners for 2012

-by Pat Strain

The following missionaries will be participating in the Missionary Prayer Partners program (formerly known as Spend-A-Day) for 2012:

- Randy & Chris Amberman
- Chris & Deb Bowers
- Dave & Celia Dick
- Daniel Dixon
- Marcia Hopler
- Jeremy & Kristin Kunkel
- Nick & Lisa Lakatos
- Kitty Miller
- Robert & Bettina Schaeffer
- Ed & Val Schubert
- Ken Sears
- Jim & Janet Stahl
- BJ & Rachel Whitaker
- Dan & MaryLynne Wills
- Jonathan & Kathy Wilson

You can sign up on our website by going to www.ecglobal.org and clicking on the Missionary Prayer Partners tab on the left. Click on the 2012 calendar to see what months are still available for the missionary(ies) you want to partner with in prayer. You can also call the Global Ministries office and ask for Carla Sizemore (1-800-866-7584). Generally Carla is in the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon.

Want to know more about the Missionary Prayer Partners program? You can view a video with testimonials from some of our missionaries on our website at the Missionary Prayer Partners tab. If you would like a free copy of this short DVD with testimonials and instructions on how to participate, just call the Global Ministries office and we will gladly send it to you. Our EC missionaries tell us this program is unique to the EC Church, and they really appreciate it. Sign up as a church, a Sunday School class, a family or even an individual! Sharing in prayer with our missionaries is a great way to establish a connection with them, no matter where they are serving. 🌍

SAVE THE DATE! There will be a spring Mission Minded Kids rally for the Delaware/Susquehanna regions on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012. The rally will be held at Trinity EC Church, Boyertown. There will be missionary speakers, games, crafts, and curios for the children to purchase. Information will be sent out early next year, but mark this date on your calendars and plan on being at one of the most exciting and lively events on the EC calendar! 🌍

Giving to the most needy... **UPDATED GIVING CATALOG** Inside!

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give online at www.ecglobal.org



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