

GRACEWAY
PRAISE & PRAYER
ReachOut: Partners in Mission
FALL 2020

GLOBAL:

Africa Bible Colleges, Paul Chinchon, President. Kurt, Marlene, Zoe, Ana, Nick and Lexi Schimke are missionaries in Kampala, Uganda

PRAISE: In mid-September the remaining first through third year classes completed their online exams and finished the semester (which normally ends in May).

Churches/places of worship can resume in late September, so they are slowly getting back to a new "normal."

Additional support was received to redo kitchen countertops and floors that badly needed repair.

PRAYER: Pray that they will get approval for the submitted online classes for this first semester; they hope to begin mid-October.

Pray that things will be calmed down by February 2021, so that they can go back to full-time in-person learning on campus.

This is a very challenging time for students: many have had to travel to places with internet access to complete this past year's work, many are back in villages doing farming or other occupations to earn a living and support their families. Pray that God will make a way through for each student so that they can complete what they've started at the Bible college.

Food distribution continues, pray that families can once again make a living and have provision for their families.

Alternative Missions, Jesus to the Needy, Missions to Africa, Alternative Missions. Joe and Avery Morris

PRAISE: Twenty five people accepted Christ as Savior in KwaNyuswa Valley in South Africa in August.

PRAYER: Pray as Joe and Avery go weekly to minister to orphaned children with HIV. Several households were added where they take Bibles, blankets and soup mix as well as share about the Lord Jesus.

In Pietermaritzburg they reach needy street people and refugees with food and medicine. They teach about Jesus, pray for the sick and disciple those that have become Christians. Each convert receives a Bible.

Pray for health as they minister under pandemic conditions; pray for safety as crime is escalating.

Bridges International, (Cru). Trey, Tania, Luke and Maddie Harmon at UC Irvine

PRAISE:

Daijiro, from Japan, accepted Christ in February, was discipled by Trey, encouraged and included by a local church, and was baptized in June.

Waleed, from North Africa received Christ this spring. The pandemic created more free time from his graduate studies enabling him to join a Bible study for new believers.

There are new creative opportunities to reach international students during the pandemic. Virtual art lessons, cooking classes outdoor movie nights allow connections with students and opportunities to minister.

PRAYER: Leaks and mold in the Harmon home cause medical problems.

Son Luke has severe mental health issues and is in a treatment center; pray for complete healing.

Heart for Africa, Project Canaan in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Africa. Janine and Ian Maxwell, Directors In Eswatini, King Mswati III has absolute power; a Sexual Offense and Domestic Violence Law was finally passed in 2019; a Child Protection Act was passed in 2012 so child rape become illegal. Women cannot own property. Eswatini has the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the world; there are over 200,000 orphans, and 70% of the population has active or inactive TB.

There are over 268 orphaned or abandoned children at Project Canaan today.

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PRAYER: Since the fire one year ago at Project Canaan, plans are underway to ameliorate disasters: safety plan for fire, purchase of critical firefighting and safety equipment, security manager hired, centralized location for housing and maintaining firefighting equipment being constructed, construction of 30-40 foot watchtower.

Pray for newly married Celeste (teacher) and Anthony (RN) as they serve at Project Canaan. Their lives and ministries are a blessing to all there.

Janine Maxwell has written two books- It's Not Okay with Me and Is It Okay with You? Her third book will have the word hope in the title and will be hopefully be published by Christmas 2020.

Medical Ambassadors International. Dr. Ravi Jayakaran, President/CEO

Community Health Evangelism's mission is making holistic disciples who make holistic disciples. They train local volunteers who lead their own communities. They do this by: developing positive leadership, identifying problems and enacting their own solutions, establishing sanitation, improving nutrition, improving crops, advancing maternal and infant health, restoring relationships, planting churches, starting new businesses, and embracing their God-given value.

MAI's response to Covid-19:

Raising extensive awareness and sharing information prevention of Covid-19 through Community Health Evangelism.

Making cloth face masks and supplying hand sanitizers and soap

Supportive care for those impacted by the lockdown including food aid to the vulnerable

Introduction of backyard vegetable gardens and micro enterprise to supplement income

Covid-19 related radio broadcasts with Q & A sessions to answer questions

Community visits to encourage communities and provide hope.

PRAYER: Pray for safety of staff, partners and field volunteers.

That lockdown and restrictions will be removed soon

That they have the resources needed to support field programs and continue the Covid response

Pray for Zimbabwe. The country's economic collapse has been exacerbated by the global pandemic. There is a shortage of fuel, basic food and water which makes it difficult to practice hygiene and sanitation. MAI has provided some COVID relief funds for food and PPEs to support CHE (Community Health Evangelism).

Mission Encounters International, Helene, Honduras. Larry and Sheila Benson

MEI is looking for teams to participate in short-term mission trips in 2021; the Bensons have been hosting such trips for 16 years. They can offer an almost turn-key process with a comfortable and safe experience- doesn't include air transportation. Team members can participate in outreach events such as:

Home visitations and prayer

Gospel sharing and/or teaching

Bible study participation/leading

Children and youth ministry

Community projects

Partnering with indigenous churches

Assisting with vocational training

Construction or other special project

MEI Short-Term Mission Trips focus around a biblically based approach to alleviate poverty. Learn how to walk with people who struggle with poverty in ways that lead to lasting change. Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions.

New Hope Bulgaria. Dimitri and Maria Todorov

Especially in difficult times, Jesus wants the Church to grow and prosper in the work He has entrusted us to carry out. 3 John 2 . The church is going through a trying season of various kinds of pressure and it's not just

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the pandemic, the feeling of uncertainty and the ominous signs of a possible future with persecution for the church in the Western world.

PRAISE: 2019 New Hope Bulgaria hosted a record number of joint mission teams, local and international, that served alongside their church partners in Bulgaria, Northern Macedonia, Northern Greece near Thessaloniki and Xanthi.

New Hope Bulgaria served as a catalyst to launch a National Sports Outreach which created a dynamic platform for students and teenagers to make disciples by playing and enjoying their favorite sport. Before and after the sport camps, they worked with church volunteers to train leaders to create a national team of volunteers ready to go and multiply sport initiatives in every place there are viable church communities. 50 volunteers were trained to use sport ministry for discipleship among children, youth, and university students. Strategic partners are ECSU (European Christian Sport Union) and Christians in Sport (UK).

Serving as a catalyst in ministry means that New Hope Bulgaria makes a strong effort to bring people together and help and encourage them to work with other partners. They pray and survey the spiritual landscape to identify key areas of need where church leaders and their teams desire to make a difference and bring the light of the Gospel to people in need. Prevention of Human Trafficking is an area of ministry where they brought local church pastors from the most vulnerable communities in Bulgaria together with government and municipal agencies and Christian clinical psychologists. This was a major breakthrough because even the secular specialists had tried for a long time to go to the Roma communities and find reliable partners to help young women who have become victims of human trafficking or who are at risk of becoming victims. Because of their conscious effort and work with various groups, both Christian and non-Christian, their team created a platform that created a partnership between people who really care for women and young girls at risk. They continue to work together in Roma communities to bring much needed encouragement and material resources of food and newly published discipleship materials.

In 2019, they worked on the contextualization of the Bible App for Kids which engages children and parents in studying the Word of God. From Jan. 2019 to Sept. 2020, 100,000 downloads of the Bible App for Kids have been registered.

Since changing strategies due to Covid-19, the Todorov's daughter, Victoria, helped translate and prepare for publishing two books for children and youth discipleship and evangelism- Bible App for Kids Book of Hope and Teen Book of Hope (Victory at Last). The team worked hard for four months and the books will be ready for distribution to local church partners (70,000 copies) in Oct. 2020.

More than 500 families and over 4,000 children from homes hit hard by economic hardships caused by Covid-19 received food and medical assistance through New Hope Bulgaria.

30 people were baptized in August 2020. They came to know Jesus because they witnessed how Christians care for the poor and needy. Pray for them as they grow in Christ.

PRAYER: The spiritual fruit with European Christian Sport Union, reduction in human trafficking, children and families to come to know Christ through the Bible App for Kids.

Pakistan Christian Recording Ministries, Zahoor UI Haq, Director

The Pakistan office has been closed since March 25 due to the pandemic and the lockdown, but the studio staff comes in two to three days per week to meet the schedule for the production of the daily radio programs. They have added two new programs to the regular audio programs for radio and social media: *Fresh Flowers* - 15 minutes a week in the Pashtu language and *Pearls of Wisdom* in the Saraiki language. They completed an audio recording of John Piper's book Corona Virus and Christ which was downloaded to the internet. Piper states, "This is a time when the fragile form of this world is felt. The seemingly solid foundations are shaking. The question we should be asking is, 'Do we have a Rock under feet? A Rock that cannot be shaken - ever?'" The videography project includes making videos of short stories, songs, and discussion programs on different topics. They recently added a discussion program on the topic, *Pandemic (Coronavirus), the Biblical and Medical Points of View*; the program airs on Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp.

Given the low literacy rate in Pakistan (it ranks 160 out of 198 countries), oral learning can be one of the most effective ways to teach the Christian minority as well as to evangelize the Muslim majority. Listeners'

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Regional Rallies, Medical Outreach Camps, Church Enrichment Camps for pastors and church stay, and Distribution Sundays in local congregations are all part of the work of PCRM. PCRM also produces programs for the Far East Broadcasting Association and Trans World Radio. They provide training to other ministries and have provided 28 volumes of worship music. They have a new project to make worship music for congregations available on video. There are challenges to going on air with open biblical values, but they are committed to meeting spiritual needs of the people. Supporting new believers in their faith is an ongoing opportunity and challenge. Medical camps, music and arts camps and fellowship gatherings help to share the Gospel in word and deed, undergirding those new in the faith and introducing them to more mature believers. The Good News of Jesus Christ is being shared in Pakistan through Short Wave, Medium Wave, Web Radio Programs, audio CDs and DVDs using Urdu as well as several regional languages. Biblical teaching, Christian music, and ethical instruction form the core content.

Plant with Purpose, Dave Luebke, Bay Area Regional Representative

"Faith is at the core of all we do. We firmly believe that true transformation comes not only through economic growth or healed environments, but through a relationship with God. Faith is a difficult thing to measure; there are stories of families growing deeper in faith, fewer instances of substance abuse, and increased church attendance.

Plant with Purpose evaluates its programs every three years. Here are some of the results:

- Plant with Purpose participating families cut their poverty level by 2/3 compared with control group families.
- Sustainable agriculture techniques increase farm yields by 44%, allowing families to eat healthier and improve their farms. Families in Sustainable Development Groups have saved enough to cover living expenses for twice as many months as comparison groups.
- While most rural communities see vegetation decreases each year due to deforestation, participant communities see this trend reversed.
- Plant with Purpose communities are 64% more likely to say they have the power to improve their lives.
- Plant with Purpose equips families with tools they need to manage personal finances, save, access credit, build equity, earn dividends, and invest in their future. This approach has paid off. The average Plant with Purpose participating family is 2.3 times more likely to save and has twice the savings reserve compared to the control group. In fact, families have enough emergency savings to make it through 2.1 months.
- Women are twice as likely to have business income as men across areas where Plant with Purpose works.
- Plant with Purpose families are 55% more likely to send their daughters to school.

Seminario Reforado Latinoamericano (SRL), Equipping Nationals to Proclaim the Gospel of Grace

SRL has been able to help extremely poor people who must take turns to eat one meal per day per family in Cuba and Venezuela. In spite of Covid-19, more students have registered throughout Latin America and are studying courses online, virtually meeting with professors for Q & A sessions. By using Facebook and Zoom, some professors have interacted with over 1,000 students. Because of their success, SRL has started a new program called Theological Lectures to Latin America that occur twice a month; distinguished professors are already scheduled for the remainder of the year.

PRAISE: The Reformation Study Bible was translated and made available in Spanish. This is a wonderful assist to all seminary students and pastors.

Ukraine Orphan Care Missionary Oksana Savka

Praise: for permission from the State Department of Education to do Public School Ministry for another year in the Rivne region.

Praise for the 46 new children who joined Bible Correspondence Courses.

Pray: for our orphan ministry. There are 106,000 orphans in Ukraine. However, 92% of the children in orphanages have living biological parents; children are in orphanages because their parents are cruel and abusive. In 2017, the Ukrainian government decided it did not want to spend money on so many children in orphanages- food, housing, medical care, care givers, education, etc. Unless there are changes, these

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children could be on the streets with no place to sleep and nothing to eat. They will not have the chance to be adopted by loving families. Pray that God would change the hearts of government officials and that God would provide for these children.

LOCAL:

Bay Area Rescue Mission, Rev. John Anderson, Executive Director

PRAYER: Pray that the Lord would provide the support for the 202,500 meals needed by Thanksgiving. Each meal costs \$2.05; a night's shelter costs \$5.86. Pray that guests will hear and receive the message of Jesus.

City Serve of the Tri-Valley is a consortium of churches in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton as well as community volunteers that come alongside non-profits serving in our region. It is a subsidiary of the Tri-Valley Pastors Association. City Serve provides volunteers for: Alameda County Parent Association, Children's Emergency Food Bank, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Gideons International, Hope Hospice, Literacy programs, Livermore Homeless Refuge, Open Heart Kitchen, Safe Families for Children, Shepherd's Gate, Valley Pregnancy Center, and Young Life Tri-Valley.

PRAISE: Alexander (Harvard University intern) is crafting an information packet to post on the CityServe website to help people navigate paying medical bills.

30 unsheltered households received shelter under a program called Safer Ground.

20 individuals were connected to services through social services.

Partnership through Discovery Church provided 100 meals and cold water to people in the creek area.

500 N95 masks, water and food were given to unsheltered Tri-Valley residents.

5 pop up service tents were distributed to provide shelter for an average of 50 people per week.

\$215,000 has been used to help people with rent assistance (ERAP) = 310 rent checks.

A homeless man came to CityServe with no income, identification or shelter in March. CityServe has since helped him navigate obstacles to ensure that he has vital documents and can collect his social security and temporary housing. Pray that permanent housing can be found for him.

Volunteers helped: clean storage units, clients move, deliver groceries to home bound families, shop for families moving to new houses.

PRAYER: Pray for AnnAlia Young, new volunteer coordinator who starts in October. The new volunteer platform will be launched in late October.

KCKids, Valley View Elementary, Tina LaDue and GraceWay Church team members

This is an optional, Christ-centered after-school program at Valley View. KC Kids meets every Wednesday for 1 1/2 hours. The program is designed to teach positive life skills through games, music and Bible discussions and is open to all students in the school. Pray for the program as it starts in September, for each person who volunteers and for children who attend that they will come to know Jesus.

Mercy and Grace Ministries. Pastor Chris

Pray that God's favor will be on their mission to bring God's hope, strength, and salvation to prisons and juvenile facilities.

The Community Resource Manager (CRM) for all the 35 California prisons is allowing DVDs from Pastor Chris to be played in all prisons on inmate TVs! Pray for open hearts to hear God's word. Pray for the Spanish speaking ministry that was just launched.

Next Step Michelle Kelly, Executive Director

Michelle Kelly is now directing all of the day to day operations at the center. Since pregnancy and parenting go hand in hand, client services have been expanded. New programs include: Healthy Communication Coaching, Healthy Boundaries, Baby and Mom Support Groups, Miscarriage and Grief Support Groups and Specialized

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Parenting Programs based on client needs. Pray for the staff, clients and the effectiveness of these programs in strengthening the family unit to make healthy and confident life choices.

Open Heart Kitchen serves struggling families with children, unemployed and underemployed, physically disabled and veterans in the Tri-Valley with the simple gift of freshly prepared, nutritious meals. It also provides vegetables, fruit and bakery products. OHK served more than 313,800 meals in 2015. The Regional Food Storage Project, located in Pleasanton, provides expanded refrigeration and dry food storage to optimize OHK capacity to accept food from the community. OHK provides weekend lunches and lunches during the summer to at risk school children in 19 locations.

San Francisco City Impact. Roger Huang, Co-Founder

Every day neighbors from the Tenderloin District walk through doors of San Francisco City Impact and are physically hungry for food and spiritually hungry for hope. A meal costs \$2.50 and guests experience care from staff and volunteers. Guests are able to gain a foothold for the future and loving encouragement to take steps toward a new life.

PRAYER: Many men, women and children are living in severe heat and smoky conditions in the Tenderloin. Pray for funds to provide additional meals- \$50 provides 24 meals.

Shepherd's Gate. Carol Patterson, CEO

Pray for the 30+ children at the Livermore and Brentwood campuses who are out of school during this summer of Covid-19. They are helping each other with homework, recess, art classes, board games, journaling, meals, compute lab and Bible Study. Activities planned for the children include a science camp, summer carnival, vacation Bible school and camping outside. Staff desire to provide good memories for the children during a stressful summer.

Young Life of the Tri-Valley at Amador High School; Bruce Weaver, Leader

Amador High School's program meets at noon on Mondays to introduce students to Jesus Christ. Young Life volunteers go where kids are and build personal relationships with them by providing fun, adventurous life-changing and skill-building experiences. Leaders invite kids to personally respond to the good news of the Gospel and then walk in friendship with them regardless of their response. Young Life helps prepare for kids for a life-long relationship with Jesus and a love for God's word, and helps them discover God's mission for them as believers and for the local church.