

GRACEWAY  
PRAISE & PRAYER  
ReachOut: Partners in Mission  
SUMMER 2020

**GLOBAL:**

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

For 40+ years, Africa Bible Colleges have been educating and empowering Africa's finest Christian leaders in a unique, international environment that includes faculty and volunteers from every corner of the world including Brazil, Japan, Australia, Canada, the UK, South Korea, the United States and six African countries.

**Pray:** In the midst of the Covid-19 epidemic, financial support is needed to -

Update and expand treatment areas at the ABC Mission Hospital in Malawi to triage and process infected patients,

Update the waiting areas at the hospital in order to comply with social distancing requirements,

Provide essential medical supplies, equipment and staff to handle the care of Covid-19 patients,

Develop distance learning programs at the campuses in Malawi, Uganda and Liberia

Provide vital room and board support for students and faculty who are required to shelter in place on all these campuses due to travel restrictions throughout Africa,

Increase public awareness programming ABC's radio and television stations in each country, broadcasting vital Covid-19 updates and guidelines.

In addition to the needs listed above, northeastern Uganda is being invaded by desert locusts that threaten food supplies for the entire Horn of Africa; southwestern Uganda is being inundated with rain that is causing floods and landslides, wiping out homes, hospitals and roads; in central Uganda, Lake Victoria's levels are the highest ever recorded, flooding islands, lake shore properties, stopping ferries and dislodging giant "floating islands" of papyrus weed beds that float to the mouth of the Nile River and clog hydroelectric dams that provide power to the region and nation.

Hopefully, students will be able to return to campus in mid-August.

Pray for Emmanuel Bible Community Church and Villages Presbyterian Church as they distribute food resources to people in the community.

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

Praise God for virtual platforms that enable student engagement. During the winter term the outreach parties attracted a large number of short-term English and business students who got involved in Bridges, one was a career naval officer for the South Korean military. He went faithfully to the Friday activities and sometimes to the midweek ones. He had to return to South Korea, but took advantage of the virtual "parties" after the Covid-19 spread. He gave his life to Christ and is now being discipled. Pray for students who are seeking Christ on Bridges platforms.

**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 became 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 268 orphaned or abandoned children at Project Canaan today. With a growing population, two new dormitories and a dining hall/recreation building are needed. This will provide living quarters, space for playing games, doing homework, choir practice and other activities. Pray for additional funds to complete these projects and for safety during construction.

**Pray:** for health for the children, care givers, farm workers and all who work at Project Canaan during this time of Covid-19. Project Canaan Academy Building will house 3rd and 4th grade classrooms and Fine Arts and Life Skills classrooms; this building should be completed in January 2021. Funds are being collected for Emseni 7 dorm for the older boys; it will be started when the 3rd and 4th grade building is finished.

The Maxwells have begun a new project to help feed starving children seven days a week called Hunger Initiative. Due to Covid-19, schools are closed so children do not get the food they usually do from schools.

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They need to raise funds to build cooking structures which will include a storage room so that churches can store supplies and food which will be distributed every two weeks. Two women will be hired to cook the food and another woman will provide locked storage. Food includes MannaPack from Feed My Starving Children, hard boiled eggs from the Project Canaan chickens and dried vegetable soup from Gleanings for the Hungry in CA.

The annual Diaper Drive is underway in the month of July, Shop Amazon Registry and select Heart for Africa, Inc. as the charitable organization or go to [info@heartforafrica.org](mailto:info@heartforafrica.org) for a link. UPS allows Heart for Africa to fill a 40-foot container each year with diapers and wipes and ship it free to Eswatini.

**Jesus to the Needy**, Missions to Africa, Alternative Missions. Joe and Avery Morris  
Praise God that 23 people in the Stockville and KwaNyuswa Valleys accepted Christ in June.  
Pray for Avery as she recovers from rotator cuff surgery.

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

Dr. Bibliana MacLeod of Medical Ambassadors has joined a task force to prevent human trafficking representing Latin America along with Trinity Western. Professor Mrs. Silvia Brynjolfson from Canada and Lawyer Ms. Llida Souza from Peru. Pray that this cutting edge task force will be effective.

As the Covid-19 pandemic grows worldwide, Community Health Evangelism (CHE) field teams continue to disseminate important information and critical warnings to the communities they serve. This happens across 8 regions overseeing CHE projects in 75 countries, impacting 2,582 communities across the globe. Every CHE person is talking about how to prevent the disease. A CHE committee in the Democratic Republic of Congo decided to use one of their microenterprises to make face masks to help keep people safe. CHE personnel are also helping people identify the symptoms of Covid-19 and providing home-based care to those who are sick.

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

Pray for the men in Larry's men's Bible study group.

Pray for food and water distribution for those in need during the pandemic and for the Bensons as they provide work for a few people who are in desperate need. Praise for God's provision of funds and cutting through red tape for food for the people of Helene.

**New Hope Bulgaria**, Dimitri and Maria Todorov

Dimitri and Maria are reaching 300+ children and their mothers with food and PPE during the Covid-19 crisis. They are also providing resources to Roma churches.

**Pakistan Christian Recording Ministries**, Zahoor Ul 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' 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 PCR. PCR also produces programs for the Far East Broadcasting Association and Trans World Radio. They provide training to other ministries and

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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.

**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 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.

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**LOCAL:**

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

Thousands of meals are needed this summer, each costing \$2.05; the estimated number of meals served by the end of the summer is 130,680. Homelessness and hunger are increasing due to Covid-19.

**City Serve of the Tri-Valley** is a consortium of churches in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton which exist to bring Christ's compassion to our cities by sending church volunteers to 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.

Christine Beitsch-Bahmani is the new CEO of City Serve. She earned her MA in Leadership from William Jessup University in 2017. She is the founding Executive Director of the Compassion Network office which opened at the Fremont City Hall in 2007. For 12 years she built a platform of collaboration between the local churches of Fremont, Newark and Union City and the 27 social service agencies housed inside the Fremont Family Resource Center. She has worked with refugees in Burma, prostitutes in Amsterdam and prisoners in Argentina. She has taught English to monks in Thailand, built 53 homes for the poor in Mexico and cared for orphans in Zimbabwe.

Pray: for wisdom as Christine leads City Serve.

**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 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

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from staff and volunteers. Guests are able to gain a foothold for the future and loving encouragement to take steps toward a new life. Unemployment in San Francisco was 12.6% in June increasing the need for the services of City Impact. They are serving 2,400 community meals each week in addition to providing 833 bags of groceries and food boxes for individuals and families in nearby buildings. With increased funding, they can expand the Summer Kids' Program with daily food, and provide education for a growing number of kids who are disadvantaged. They continue to provide free health, vision and dental screenings through their on-site clinic staffed by volunteer health professionals.

**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.