Our India Field Director, Samir Singha, and his family recently visited the US sharing in many CGGC churches. One of many things he shared has stuck in my mind. Samir commented about the numerous gods and goddesses that people worship in India. He noted that these images and idols often have mouths but cannot speak, ears but cannot hear, feet but cannot walk, and eyes but cannot see. He went on to explain that our pastors in India serve as witnesses to these people about the one true living God. Our pastors testify of how God is alive in their lives and how He has transformed their lives. They share what God has done through healing, through deliverance from sin, and through the grace and mercy of salvation. These are their personal experiences with God. A God that hears, sees, speaks through His word, and moves through His Spirit in us. This is completely opposite of the idols people worship. These idols are lifeless, leading to a path of hopelessness and death. People in India are trusting in God because of these faithful witnesses.

I think the lesson here is to realize that we don’t need to be Bible scholars to be able to share with people about what God is doing in us and for us. The core of idolatry is “self.” Idols in the US may not be structures and images like so many in India, but the path to despair, hopelessness and death is the same. As followers of Jesus, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to rely on as we share our testimonies of how the living God has changed our lives. We don’t need to fret or be concerned with the outcome of our sharing, we need only to be that witness. In chapter 3 of Peter’s first letter, he instructs us to be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is in us. As we testify, let’s rely on the power of the Spirit to bring new life. Our God is alive!
Ethiopia is a beautiful country with a very rich history. Home to more than 80 ethnic groups, the diversity of Ethiopia is vast. We live in northern Ethiopia in the capital of the Amhara Region, in a city called Bahir Dar. Bahir Dar is situated on the southern point of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile River. Once you get beyond the scenic beauty of this country, you see the reality of spiritual darkness. In our region, most people consider themselves Orthodox Christians. This particular faith is based on salvation through Mary, the mother of Jesus. Though they recognize Jesus as savior, they believe that they are granted salvation through Mary as well, and that is their focus. It is a very cultural religion, in that there are many practices that are done just out of tradition without really understanding why. The Protestant Church is growing, but there is not much peace between the Orthodox and the Protestants.

We have partnered with the local Protestant Church for ministry here in Bahir Dar. The ministry was set up to help girls that have been exploited. Some have been trafficked for slave labor, others have been in prostitution.
We knew that this type of ministry could be very difficult emotionally and spiritually, and it hasn’t disappointed! There have been very difficult times as well as amazing times of rejoicing. Ubah has essentially taken these girls under her wing to love them and mentor them. We are the closest thing to family some of the girls have ever known. Only one girl that we have ministered to has been over 18 years old. The youngest has been 15 years old.

Throughout the last year we have seen a couple of girls come and go through the ministry. Two girls were only in the ministry for a short time before going back to their lives. We have had another two girls transition out of the ministry. When they started the program, one went to beauty school and now has a job at a salon, and the other one went to massage training school and works at a hotel day spa. We currently have four girls still in the ministry. Two are in the normal government school, one finishing 5th grade, the other finishing 8th grade. One girl is in her first year at the government technical college, while the fourth girl was also trained in massage and has a job, but is still in the program.

We have tried to be very careful about keeping the girls’ privacy a priority. We have been reluctant to share pictures and too much personal information. We don’t want them to feel as if we are somehow using them for our gain. We thank you for your understanding in this, as we know that pictures help a lot with sharing about the ministry, but it just has not been appropriate in this circumstance.

Our family is grateful for all the prayers and support. We continue to ask for prayer for us as well as for the girls in our ministry. May God continue to work in us and through us for His glory here in Ethiopia! ☪️)))

![Family photo](image)
I had the privilege of visiting the Voice of the Gospel Ministries (VOGM) in Kenya twice over the first half of 2018. During those two trips I got to know the leadership well and I learned a lot about their ministry. Though it seems as if there are constant financial setbacks due to floods or famines, the leadership has high hopes for the ministry in expanding the Kingdom of God.

Kenya is currently experiencing a growth of the “prosperity gospel” church. Don’t get me wrong, Voice of the Gospel Ministries has nothing to do with this movement. However, the VOGM is finding it difficult to expand their ministry these days due to the draw of the idea that God just wants to bless everyone materially—which the VOGM is not offering. Some of the churches in the ministry are still experiencing growth. We praise God for His work there! Please join us in continued prayer that God would be at work in the churches and their communities, and that the true Gospel would break through.

One exciting thing on the horizon for the ministry there is the opening of a dispensary belonging to the VOGM. A dispensary is essentially a basic medical clinic. There are dispensaries all over Kenya. They serve as a first stop medical care. Once you visit the dispensary, if you need care beyond what they can provide, you are referred to the next step, and so on, up to being admitted into a hospital. The ministry already owns the land and has built the building. After it opens, it will be the only medical care in that area. This will be a great way for the ministry to help support itself financially, and reach out to the surrounding community. Please pray that God would continue to provide the funding needed to finish the required licensing and purchasing of all the required equipment to get the dispensary up and running. Also pray that God would use this dispensary for His glory in the community!

Remember to lift up our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Prayerfully consider partnering with the VOGM financially as well as keeping them in your prayers.  

(Contributions can be given and sent to “CGGC  PO Box 926 – Findlay, OH 45830” with “CC 2831-Kenya” in the memo.) God is at work, and He desires us to all be involved in His mission in some form. Thank you! 🙏)

Worship at the Kitui church
Meet the Missionaries!

Introducing Pastors Adam & Liliana Fowler (and Andrew) from Lima, Peru...

*Please introduce yourselves to us! Let the CGGC know some basics about who you are and how you’ve come to know and follow the Lord.*

**Adam:** I was born into a military family. My dad was in the army and we moved several times during my childhood. My father finally was shipped out to Korea, and our family stayed behind on a military base in the state of Georgia. My parents sadly divorced soon after that. It was not long until my mom remarried, and thus began a series of events that would eventually land our family in the state of Oregon several years later. I had a lot of resentment and anger after my parent’s separation, as well as confusion after mom remarried. I began to have problems in school, getting into fights and making bad decisions. Things at home progressively worsened, and my mom and step-dad finally divorced after several abusive years. One ray of light that stands out during that time... I asked Jesus into my heart in our living room, in the town of Springfield, Oregon when I was 9 years old. My home life really didn’t get any better though, and I only attended church sporadically, ironically at my mom’s insistence (although she didn’t attend with me or my sisters).

I lived with my dad during two occasions during my pre-teen and early teen years. Each time he didn’t know how to raise a child on his own, and his military poise made it hard for us to relate. We both needed to be healed of a lot of hurts. I finished middle school (the 8th grade) then left to once again live with my mom who by this time had remarried. I now had a second step-dad.

Life with mom was unfortunately not the best situation for me or my sisters. Drugs and alcohol were very common in our home. My second step-dad didn’t have any work ethic and was not a good role model. As a youth I had no vision for the future. We lived in poverty, subsisting on welfare and the child support my dad paid monthly. I would hang my head low in shame whenever I had to use food stamps to buy food at the grocery store. I felt trapped, alone, worthless. The end was near... I just didn’t know it at the time.

I was drawn toward the wrong crowd and made the wrong decisions. I started the 9th grade, but I felt so self-conscious and inadequate compared to the other students that I just felt like giving up. Which I finally did. I simply stopped going to school. I dropped out in the 9th grade.

Thankfully, the school district of our town in Oregon made every effort to retain me in the system. It was finally agreed that I would attend “alternative school,” which was a loosely controlled center where youth basically watched TV, ate snacks and “studied” until they turned 16 and were legally eligible to take the GED exam. Somehow out of chaos, the Lord brought change and finally, order.
I felt the Lord calling me to seek him when I was 14 going on 15. I began to read the Bible, listen to gospel messages and read Christian books. Slowly yet surely my life began to change. By the time I was 16, I had stopped hanging out with the wrong crowd and had begun to grow in my relationship with the Lord. He helped me get my GED at the age of 16. That same year I went to live with my aunt and uncle in South Carolina. It was the first time I had ever really been in a stable (non-violent, non-drug) Christian environment. I began to work a part-time job and started studying at the local community college. After my first year, my grades were good enough that I was able to transfer to a four-year university, where I majored in Accounting. During my college years I was involved in a local church and began to participate in Christian campus ministries. It was during my senior year, while at a Christian youth rally that I felt the Lord calling me to the mission field. I graduated college in 1998 with honors at the age of 20, and then took my first mission trip to the country of Venezuela. My life has never been the same since.

Two other mission trips, both to Peru, confirmed the Lord’s call on my life as a missionary. I came to Peru as a full-time (independent) missionary in January of 2003 and met my wife, Liliana, shortly thereafter. We were married in September of that year, and our son was born exactly two years later. During the years that I have been in Peru, I have by the grace of God adapted to the culture, learned the language and have learned to walk and live by faith as we have preached the gospel and made disciples in the mountains, jungles and coastal cities. In 2006 we sensed the Lord directing us to begin a church with the simple vision of healing the broken, making disciples and eventually, starting other churches. Our desire is for the work of the Lord to grow as we network and connect with other ministries and churches that have the same heart to win the lost and plant new churches founded upon solid biblical teaching.

Liliana: A native to Lima, Peru, Liliana grew up Catholic. Her home life was not easy, as her father was abusive and drank heavily. Battling low self esteem and depression since childhood, Liliana finally attempted to commit suicide after an extended illness had left her bedridden at the age of 22. In her desperation and just before committing suicide, she prayed that if God was real, for Him to please help her. Within minutes one of her neighbors knocked on her door and shared the gospel with her. She accepted Christ into her heart and began attending a Christian church the very next day. Within months she was actively involved in her local church, had been baptized and was learning much about the Lord in a beginner’s discipleship course. A couple years later she began to volunteer her time at the church office, where she finally was offered a full-time position as office administrator, a position she held for many years. In addition to her office work at the church, Liliana grew as the worship leader. She continued to work at the church until her son, Andrew, was born, at
which time she left her job to devote herself to her family. Now all of her years of church office experience have come to the forefront as she assists her husband as co-pastor of the church that they started together.

Please tell us about the “Vida y Verdad Iglesia” in Lima, and the mission in Cañete. What does your leadership team look like, and what kinds of ministries are you engaged in?

We launched Life and Truth Church (Vida y Verdad) in Lima in Easter week, 2006 with the simple vision of reaching the lost, making disciples and ultimately, planting new churches in Peru and beyond in accordance to the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:18-20.

The ministries we are currently engaged in as a church: children’s ministry (infants, toddlers, grade school, middle/high school), young adults, women’s ministry, men’s ministry, music (praise and worship), evangelism, missions, hospitality, compassion ministry (in conjunction with missions and evangelism) and finally, a school of discipleship.

Our leadership team for the main campus in Lima at this point consists of lead pastors (Pastor Adam & wife Liliana as co-pastor), an assistant pastor (who aids with teaching from time to time, and other ecclesiastical duties), a pastoral team (consisting of leaders or overseers of the different areas of ministry, who are consulted bi-

monthly for planning purposes or to address urgent spiritual needs within the congregation), two deacons, and lay leaders serving within the various departments.

In Cañete, the lead pastors from Lima are still visible as the “lead” pastors, however we have delegated most responsibilities to a couple whom we are grooming to ultimately assume the lead pastoral responsibility. That couple likewise has a core group of 5 or 6 members with whom they coordinate for planning the weekly activities in Cañete. Currently, each week a small team of 3-4 disciples from the Lima campus travels to Cañete to assist with the children’s ministry, music, as well as teaching. As the Cañete church develops, our ultimate goal is for it to become completely autonomous, with their own Pastoral team and leadership structure similar to the Lima campus. As part of the Peruvian Conference, we will maintain a fraternal relationship with the pastors and leaders of Cañete, while allowing them the freedom to follow the Lord and adjust the mechanisms of the church to best suit the culture of their city.
Below are charts showing the year-to-date percentages of support raised for CCM fields and missionaries, as of June 30, 2018. Each ministry that is at least 50% is “in the black” – that is, meeting the support target year-to-date. Those “in the red” are less than 50% and in need of additional support just to keep up.

It’s important to remember that Peru and Nicaragua are brand-new fields for CCM, which explains the “zeroes.” However, there are significant shortfalls for Venezuela, Mexico, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. Please remember these ministries and respond as the Lord directs.
Missionary accounts are doing better than the mission fields, for the most part. The Fowlers are brand-new candidate missionaries, which explains the “zero” for their support at this point. Please remember the Dewans, Tellers, Molgaards, Hoslers, Aveys and Acostas in your giving. Thank you for your prayers and generosity! ♡

Missions Minutes

• COMING IN 2019: A NEW NAME!! As part of the strategic planning process for the CGGC, Cross-Cultural Ministries will receive a new name that will better describe our vision to reach the world for the glory of God. Keep an eye out for the formal announcement in July 2019!

• Bundles of joy! CCM rejoices at the birth of children to our missionaries and staff. Ubah Carlton gave birth on July 23 to Joy Miriam, who weighed in at a healthy 7 lb. 11 oz. (Laura Miliace is expecting her child in late January 2019. Praise the Lord and pray for these families!

• Share the Blessing 2018. We hope to have the 2018 Share the Blessing catalog available to you by September. We want highlight some of our new fields like Nicaragua and Peru as well as some of the more pressing needs in the various CCM fields. This is also a great opportunity to bless our CGGC missionaries with a year-end gift as a way to help encourage and support them. Please consider using and promoting this catalog throughout your church and small groups over the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. If you know in advance you want extra copies, please email CCM at (ccmassist@cggc.org). ♡

 Zubah Carlton