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The Missionary Signal

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Overcoming Indifference & Apathy

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.”

—Romans 12:11 (ESV).

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be “fervent in spirit” and “serve the Lord.” How do we get the passion and zeal that the Lord wants us to have as we live in a world where we are surrounded by culture counter to many of our Christian beliefs? So much of our culture teaches us to be individualistic, do what’s best for ourselves, and build up our nest egg so we can have a secure and comfortable retirement. Jesus was all about counting the cost and serving others.

My personal battle within the current culture lends itself to feeling indifferent to the weary and scattered around me and in the world. It can even lead to an attitude of apathy. As I travel to other parts of the world I am so often reminded of the plight of many others. I am especially burdened by the masses of hopeless, deceived people in Asia that have no clue who Jesus is and of the hope that comes from knowing the One true God. My mind goes to what Jesus said to the scribe in Matthew 8:20 when he told Jesus he would follow Him wherever he goes. “Jesus replied, Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.” If that is good enough for Jesus, why isn’t it enough for me? I don’t think Jesus is asking us to be homeless but I do think he is asking us to not make this world our home and the cares of this world our passions.

I find that I am unable on my own to live with the zeal and passion to serve the Lord as he requires because of my sin nature. I need to prayerfully repent and recognize my need to depend on God and His word to make me more like Jesus.

The passions of our heart come out in where we spend our time and resources. They are not necessarily defined by our outward display of emotions, words, or intentions. What are the passions of your heart? Continually seek Him boldly in faith, He will give you His desires to share hope with the lost.

Travis Helm

CCM/GR Assistant Director

Front Cover: 2019 Brazil Conference

Back Cover: Brazilian Pastors at 2019 Conference

The Missionary Signal

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Celebration in Brazil!



Our brothers and sisters in the Good News Bible Church of Brazil (as the CGGC is known there) celebrated their **20th Anniversary** as a Conference this past March 14-16 at the Jambeiro Park Church in Campinas, Brazil. All seven churches and their pastors were present, along with several official guests are interested in pursuing a connection. Global Reach Director **Ben Tobias** and Global Reach Commission member **Jeff Burns** had the privilege of attending as representatives of the CGGC-USA, and were graciously hosted by founding missionary Pastor **Gordon Avey**.

The theme was from Luke 24:6, where the angel at the empty tomb proclaimed: "He is not here; he has risen!" Throughout the three days of the conference, each evening service featured different speakers, exuberant praise, and an evening meal that created a family reunion atmosphere. The pastors met Saturday morning for official "business," and Pastor **Ernesto Nunes** (from Palmas, Brazil) officiated as President.

The pastors' meeting





Host Pastor Mauro Freitas leading worship

He challenged the pastors to reach their communities through a network of small groups meeting in homes, and also to get involved in supporting Global Reach. Ben Tobias was more than happy to share specific ideas for how that can happen!

Sunday morning featured a presentation about the CGGC around the world (led by Ben and translated by Gordon), followed by a joyful observance of feet-washing. Our Brazilian family has embraced this idea wholeheartedly, and sees it as an opportunity for

showing love and restored fellowship. Husbands and wives washed each other's feet; parents and children; young people and old; and new pastors and seniors.

One visiting pastor (who happens to be Baptist) stood up afterward, and, with tears in his eyes, said, "Just think, I might have died without experiencing this. I'm taking this home to my church!" How many of our churches wash feet like this??



A teen washing her pastor's feet



A guest pastor shares his testimony

We praise God for the blessing of the fellowship we felt at the Brazil Conference, and we look forward to seeing what God continues to do in the future.

***We Praise God for His Faithful Servants:
Pastor Gordon & Annie Avey***

Twenty-five years ago, God led **Pastor Gordon & Annie Avey** to the CGGC to become the first CGGC missionaries to Brazil. They were veteran missionaries who had taken time in the USA to receive further training (Gordon graduated from Winebrenner Theological Seminary that year), and the door opened for them to return to Brazil.

So much has happened since then! Because of their connections with former students in Bible College, new ministries were launched in Campinas (near Sao Paulo), and then in Palmas (north of Brasilia) and Santo Antonio de Jesus (on the northeastern coast). There are seven churches in the



Good News Bible Church conference, and they are led by effective pastors who want to continue the mission God has established.

Gordon & Annie raised their sons Brian and Roberto (who have settled in the USA with their Brazilian wives), and are now looking forward to seeing them and their grandchildren when they retire **this coming July!** We want to celebrate this wonderful milestone, and we pray for Gordon & Annie as they prepare for the next step in their walk with the Lord. We encourage all the CGGC to give generously to the Aveys' support account (**GR 2731**) as a gift of love and gratitude for what God has accomplished through them. ☩)))



Top 25 Churches in CGGC Designated Giving

We are so grateful for the generous support of CGGC churches and individuals in 2018! A total of \$1,284,666 was given by 201 churches and many individuals. We want to acknowledge these "top 25" churches who led the way in missions giving:

Bare Memorial (ERC)
Carlisle (ERC)
Casey White Oak (MRC)
College 1st (GLC)
Columbia City (MRC)
Doubling Gap (ERC)
Enola (ERC)
Fairview Bethel (ERC)
Germantown (ERC)
Grand Point (ERC)
Greenvillage (ERC)
Hanover 1st (ERC)
Zanesville (MRC)

High View (ERC)
Hopewell (GLC)
Indian Head (ARC)
Lancaster 1st (ERC)
Leadwood (WRC)
Mt. Carmel (GLC)
Mt. Pleasant (ARC)
Newburg (ERC)
Shippensburg (ERC)
Trier Ridge (MRC)
West Newton (ARC)
Wooster (GLC)

Counted in the numbers are contributions from the church, its organizations (Sunday School classes, women's group, etc.) and individual donors who identify a connection with a specific church. Not included in our totals are gifts through a district or regional entities which are processed and received locally. ☩)))





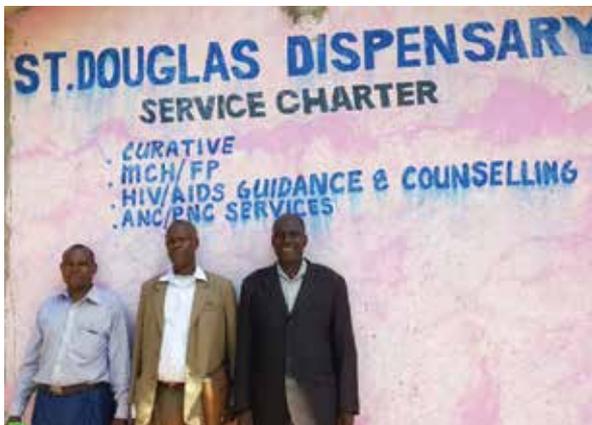
2018 Year in Review

It is a great privilege and blessing to see what God is doing through the CGGC on a global level. We are excited to share a few highlight statistics from 2018 year end.

AFRICA

Kenya

- 10 churches; 590 in worship; 33 professions of faith
- The Benta Grammar School continues to be developed, 3 teachers and students from ages 3-7.
- Medical Dispensary ministry needs government inspection and registry.



AMERICAS

Brazil

- 7 churches in 3 states: 425 members; 32 professions of faith; 28 baptisms
- Pastor Gordon & Annie Avey serve as missionary advisors
- 19th Annual Conference held in Bahia

Dominican Republic

- 2 churches; 150 members
- Fremio & Evelin Jimenez serve as Field Directors

Haiti

- 37 churches in the Artibonite Valley, La Gonave and near Port-au-Prince; 5748 in worship; 432 conversions
- 5094 students in 27 church-run schools
- Pastor Denis Droicin serves as President of Haiti Conference
- Mike & Dawn VanDervort service as Director of Project Help
- Steve & Amy Hosler serve as CFO and Sister Church coordinator, respectively. Rod & Mila Ayers serve as mission team coordinators.



Mexico

- 5 churches; 137 members
- Pastors Emigdio and Israel lead the work in Mexico within city and mountain regions.

Venezuela

- 8 churches; 2 affiliated fellowships; 606 members
- Pastors Liarxi & Mara Alcala serve as Field Directors
- Minister to hospitals with evangelism and outreach

Nicaragua

- 2 churches (gather in homes); 42 members
- Pastor German Baquedano oversees the work in CGGC Nicaragua

Peru

- Pastors Adam and Liliana Fowler serve as Field Directors
- 2 churches; 145 in worship; 11 leaders in training; more than 200 professions of faith at 2 VBS's
- Distribution of food and hygiene items to over 500 Peruvian families

USA – Asian Pacific

- Pastor Dave & Kenda Kapaku serve at the Kahana Door of Faith church in Maui, Hawaii

USA – Latino

- Pastors Caleb & Christina Acosta serve as Latino Ministries Directors
- Ongoing support for ministries in Venezuela, DR, Nicaragua, Peru, and Mexico

USA – Haitian

- Bethesda Evangelical Church in Orlando, FL pastored by Acheton Anger

USA – Navajo

- Pastor John & Toni Thumma, and Devin & Tabitha Dillinger minister at Gamerco and Hooghan Nizhoni
- Pastor Everett & Mary Teller minister at Tsaile
- 3 churches (Gamerco, Hooghan Nizhoni, Tsaile): 85 total attendance; 1 professions of faith; 2 in leadership training



ASIA

Bangladesh

- 192 churches
- 127 baptisms; 144 professions of faith
- Total membership of 8010
- 1164 students in 22 schools and hostel
- 105,537 patients treated at Bogra Christian Hospital and Khanjanpur Medical Health Services
- 1 new church and 1 Community center building constructed
- 542 total staff led by Pastor Uttam & Liza Dewan and Dr. John Costa (Deputy Field Director)



India

- 40 churches/worship centers in 4 states.
- 110 professions of faith; 50 leaders in training; 150 children in 4 Child development Centers; 434 children in 2 primary schools and 1 girls secondary school
- Pastor Samir & Charusheela Singha lead our India Mission.

EUROPE

Sweden

- Pastor Doug and Anna-Karin Molgaard partner with a Rescue Mission and Initiative of Change (GiG) to reach out to unchurched Swedes



Other Highlights for 2018

- Two new fields were added: Nicaragua and Peru while Ethiopia was dropped.
- Lisa Helm begins to work as Administrative Assistant in September.
- The India Mission expands work into 3 additional states. ☩)))

MISSIONS MINUTES

- Plans are underway for the 3rd Missionary Retreat this coming July 25-26 in Findlay, OH (immediately following General Conference sessions). We hope that all Global Reach missionaries will be involved and available to share at churches on the weekends before and/or after the meetings. Contact the Global Reach office at 419-424-1961 if your church would like to host a missionary or national field representative.
- Are you receiving the "Global Reach Monthly Update"? We send this important source of news (as well as missionary newsletters) out on a monthly basis to hundreds of e-mail subscribers, but we're concerned that some people might not receive it due to lack of e-mail or connection. So PLEASE contact GR Assistant Lisa Helm at 419-424-1961 if you would like to sign up for printed copies of the Update.
- We are so very grateful for the generous gifts made to assist in the evacuation of missionaries and guests from Haiti during the political crisis in February! Over \$4000 was given in a very short period of time, and we praise the Lord that all personnel (evacuees as well as Haitian staff who stayed behind) were safe throughout the ordeal. Continue praying for Haiti's ongoing stability throughout the current tensions. ☩)))

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