

# BVVB

December 2017

Editor Janelle Daum

Volume 15, Issue 8

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER AND BEYOND

### **Birthdays:**

#### **December 2017**

- 8 Wanda McKenzie
- 14 Stan Friesen
- 18 Ben Onnen
- 20 Katelyn Foley
- 21 David James
- 21 Heather Osberg
- 21 Maxine Savage
- 24 Bob Johnson
- 27 Debi Rundus
- 27 Christine Kramer
- 28 Pam Osmanson

### **Anniversaries:**

#### **December 2017**

- 20 Nick & Melanie Sittig
- 28 Paul & Pam Osmanson
- 29 Pastor Randy & Dixie Battey

### **Nursery:**

#### **December 2017**

- 3 Justin & Sara Tiffany
- 10 Aaron Skogen
- 17 Pam Osmanson &  
Hailey Skogen
- 24 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 31 Erica Skogen

## **Children's Worship:**

### **December 2017**

- 3 Doris Conradson &  
Hannah Frost
- 10 Lindy Johnson &  
Maegan Questad
- 17 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 24 Erica Skogen & Kyle Skogen
- 31 Scott/Nora Sittig

### **January 2018**

- 7 Trevor Skogen & Andrea Skogen
- 14 Sara Tiffany & Hailey Skogen
- 21 Matt Murphy & Cade Fox
- 28 Erica Skogen & Kyle Skogen

### **February 2018**

- 4 Judy Preston & Andrea Skogen
- 11 Doris Conradson &  
Maegan Questad
- 18 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 25 Erica Skogen & Kyle Skogen

## **Scripture Reading:**

### **December 2017**

- 3 Pat Lacey
- 10 Kelsey Frost
- 17 Justin Tiffany
- 24 Matthew Questad
- 31 Lindy Johnson

### **January 2018**

- 7 Theresa Friesen
- 14 Kyle Skogen
- 21 Joan Murphy
- 28 Hannah Frost

## **Greeters:**

### **December 2017**

- 3 Lindy Johnson
- 10 Pat Lacey & Scott Sittig
- 17 Ray & Dee Olson
- 24 Paul & Pam Osmanson
- 31 LeeRoy & Ginger Nelson

### **January 2018**

- 7 Doris Conradson
- 14 Aaron & Erica Skogen
- 21 Gene & Judy Preston
- 28 Justin & Sara Tiffany

## **Ushers:**

### **December 2017**

- 3 Gene Preston
- 10 Dave James
- 17 Scott Sittig
- 24 Mike Kresak
- 31 Paul Osmanson

### **January 2018**

- 7 Dave James
- 14 Gene Preston
- 21 Scott Sittig
- 28 Paul Osmanson

## **Events Calendar 2017:**

**Saturday, December 2, 7 a.m., Men's Bible Study at BVBC**

**2 p.m., Help put up and decorate the tree in Sanctuary**

**Sunday, December 3, 9:30 a.m., Worship Service**

**10:30 a.m., Fellowship**

**10:45 a.m., Sunday School for the Whole Family**

**11:30 a.m., Sunday School Social**

**4:30 p.m., Annual Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper meet at the church**

**5:30 p.m., Congregational Prayer Service**

**Wednesday, December 6, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Journey 24/7 - High School Awana**

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m., TREK - Middle School Awana**

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade**

**Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)**

**Sunday, December 10, 9:30 a.m., Worship Service**

**10:30 a.m., Fellowship**

**10:45 a.m., Sunday School for the Whole Family, Christmas Program Practice**

**Wednesday, December 13, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Journey 24/7 - High School Awana**

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m., TREK - Middle School Awana**

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade**

**Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)**

**Sunday, December 17, 9:30 a.m., Worship Service**

**10:30 a.m., Fellowship**

**10:40 a.m., Christmas Program**

**5:30 p.m., Congregational Prayer Service**

**Newsletter Articles are Due**

**Wednesday, December 20, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., Journey 24/7 - High School Awana**

**6:15 p.m. - 8 p.m., TREK - Middle School Awana**

**6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Awana - ages 3 years thru 5th grade**

**Thursday, December 21, Winter Begins**

**7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Women's Evening Bible Study (at various homes to be announced)**

**Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,** Christmas Eve Service

**Monday, December 25,** Christmas Day

**Wednesday, December 27,** No Awana

**Thursday, December 28,** No Women's Evening Bible Study

**Sunday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

## **NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM**

**BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST MISSIONS TEAM AGENDA OCTOBER 23,  
3:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Members: Jolene Benson, Theresa Friesen, Joan Murphy, Dee Olson  
AB (appointed), & Pastor.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.—  
Psalm 96:3 (NIV)

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Hands and Feet for October: sign up with KNWC for Oct 27/28 Rake the Town  
October Love Offering, Baptist World Alliance was \$167.00

Persecuted Church, bulletin information each Sunday, Pastor ok with continuing?

Pastor is OK with continuing the Persecuted Church in the bulletin

**November:**

November 5: Pray for Persecuted Church Sunday. Pastor ok'd video, 6 min., end  
of service so kids can leave. It is about the kidnapping of the man who eventually  
founded VOM.

Billy Graham's annual outreach film My Hope (1/2 hour) is not the usual this  
year. It is being offered as a thank you to those who contribute to the ministry.  
Nora Sittig has ordered it and is willing to share it with us. Pastor Randy prefers  
it to be shown during adult SS. It is around 20 minutes long and the usual format

following different lives. Also in contact with Discipleship team about it.

November 15: Awana has missionaries Rick and Deb Bardin from Cameroon Pastor, combine with Trek and have them speak at 6:15; they will speak to combined K-5 at 7:00 pm.

November 29: Awana has missionary Shan Reed from Japan speaking, same setup. Medical Missionary, Brandon Steger, video and offering October 22 (Matt has reminder)

OCC: make some boxes and put info out (Due back filled mid November) Supplies are here. Show video Oct 29 (use a part about Greatest Journey).

February 25: Stoesz family here (Japan) for mission moment, Jolene will ask him to preach since he was willing; potluck (check with leadership Care team) Darwin Stoesz is planning to preach on Feb. 25.

Dee: I spoke with Aaron Skogen, carpet squares are extremely expensive and difficult to maintain at least at their business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Benson (Finance) has paid all the missionaries except Stoesz, Jon /Jessica Reed and Dr. Steger (Steger offering 10/22 was \$328))

Joan sent E card to Karen Stoesz on behalf of the team for a significant birthday. Our church is in charge of picking up and delivering Feeding SD backpacks. Matt Murphy (office admin) has always done this. It is every Wednesday in November. Pastor Randy and Matt will be doing that.

Received email from Gonderman family, currently serving on Capitol Hill with Marines and congress. Packet. Pastor Randy also has been in contact with SD pastor going overseas, Brandon Jones, he has known him for some time. Brandon also called and talked with Joan because he had called our church as followup to NAB sending out his card and info, he is pastor at Herried SD NAB church currently. They are raising money to be a seminary prof in Brazil. He will visit our church for us to get acquainted and we can take a love offering and then decide if we want to add them to our support. Pastor Randy will work out a date for the visit.

Received form from NAB a list of paid up and pending and next year planned mission giving. Joan showed it to Mike Benson to be sure it is correct for this year and will send it on after we approve next year's budget.

Review next year's budget (left flat for this year). One change, deleted St. Francis (will still have a time when we donate something like ice cream and pop, special treats they never get). Added SF Seminary back into LO (\$150) due to request by Pastor Merv, Spirit Vision and Mike Benson, since we had removed it last year. Pastor Randy has further information about where the seminary is theologically and he will share with the Leadership team so a decision can be made in the future on whether to support it.

Review monthly love offering list. Set date for bandage rolling and potluck.

## **AWANA MISSIONARIES**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

October 2017

### **NORTHLAND NEWS**

Where we have been and what we have been doing.

#### **Training and Traveling**

Those two words best describe our August and September.

We did refresher training for several of our veteran churches. As we shared different topics we were able to encourage the leaders as they realized they are doing many things well. It encouraged us to hear them evaluate and think about how they can improve some things.

This year we have four new churches choosing to use Awana as their outreach and disciple-ship ministry. Some were trained in person.

Others did their own training. We look forward to coming along side of them to help them launch well.

We didn't do all the training. We were trained as well. It was a joy to once again attend the Global Leadership Summit. We also attempted to attend a training session that would strengthen our skills. However, as many of you know, that was cut short by Hurricane Irma. We look forward to continuing what we started. We hope to share with you in the future.

We had 8 Awana Ministry Conferences scheduled in August and September. Some had a good attendance. Several were quite low. If you were not able to attend we missed you.

Arlyn will continue to work with the Field Leadership Team in developing tools

and training to our family of Awana Missionaries. Marcy will be planning club and pastor visits for herself and Arlyn as his schedule allows.

### Our Awana Ministry

We have been missionaries since 1985. We have seen a lot of changes in these 32 years. Many of the changes have affected our churches more than us directly. Our desire has always been to come along side the churches to inform, instruct and support them through these changes.

The biggest change for us has been the number churches and the changes in our territory. Except for a couple of exceptional years, our growth has been steady and very manageable. We generally have a net growth each year. Although it is sad when a church chooses to stop using Awana our desire is that children have the opportunity to hear the gospel and be discipled no matter the ministry they use.

When asked what we do we tell people that our job is to do all we can to help a church start well and come along side so our journey together will be long and fruitful.

To do this we are focusing our efforts mostly on the churches in their first three years. We direct them to the training options and them follow up with club visits, church staff visits and communication with the Ministry Director (aka Commander) and other leaders.

We also want to keep in touch with all of our churches. We still put them on our club visit rotation schedule and visit with pastors. We are also available to come on a Sunday to help deepen vision and passion for Awana or talk about the forgotten influence in children's lives - grandparents.

### PRAISES

- A great training season in August and September
- Time spent with our grand-children
- Safety in travel.
- Good Visits with pastors, Awana Ministry Directors, leaders and clubbers.

### PRAYER

- That leaders would be able to develop great relationships with clubbers.
- That clubbers will learn how to be lifelong disciples
- That leaders would have wisdom and grace.
- Safe travels for us as we visit pastors and clubs.

# AMANDA BENSON

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

November 1, 2017

## EXCITING CHANGES!

Sixty years ago, God brought Faith Academy into existence through the ideas of some missionaries in the Philippines who realized they needed to provide a Christian education for their children. Now, God is still using Faith Academy to educate missionary children in the Philippines and from other parts of Southeast Asia. Our vision is “to see God’s Kingdom and the Great Commission advance through transformative, Christ-centered education.” Along the same lines, our mission is “forming Christlike, lifelong learners through a dynamic, relevant education, especially for the children of missionaries.”

Over these past sixty years, God has done some amazing things in the Philippines. He has grown the church here by leaps and bounds, and now the Philippines is a major sender of missionaries. In fact, eight years ago, SEND established the Philippine Sending Council (PSC) of SEND for that very purpose -- to recruit, train, and send out Filipinos as missionaries. It is amazing to be a part of this work! However, with this shift, there are fewer foreign missionaries being sent to the Philippines. As a result, there are fewer missionary kids (MKs) around the Philippines, and we have seen our numbers of MKs drop in the last ten years at Faith Academy. Because of this, we have spent some time re-evaluating our mission and vision. We came to the conclusion that we want to continue to focus on educating MKs, but that we also need to open up the school to allow more non-MKs into our school.

So, what’s the plan? We’re calling it the 2022 Plan.

The bottom line: We are going to intentionally recruit more Filipinos and business kids to come to Faith Academy, which would allow us to make Faith Academy tuition-free for all MKs by 2022!

This is SO exciting to me! I LOVE the fact that we are still focusing on educating MKs, but we are also increasing our presence with Filipinos.

I am also thrilled about how this will continue to further the gospel around the world. How? Well, it will make the support dollar go farther! Missionaries coming to the area will need to raise less money, as they won’t need to raise money for



education expenses (unless their child is in the dorms, but they still won't pay tuition). This will also help us with our staffing shortages at Faith Academy, as it will be completely free for their children (no fees, either!). This will allow them to get here quicker and hopefully allow them to stay longer! Additionally, we will be sharing the gospel through our teaching to some Filipinos and business kids who may not yet be Christians.

In order for this to happen, we need to increase the number of Filipino students and business kids, as they pay more for tuition and fees than the MKs do.

Please pray with us that:

- God will bring the right families to Faith Academy.
- We would continue to honor Him through the education and activities we offer.
- God will provide the staff that we need here to make these changes possible.
- God will use these changes to spread the gospel around the world.

Maybe you are interested in teaching overseas or know someone who might be! We are in desperate need of elementary teachers for next year. Please put me in contact with them if they are interested! I don't mind just talking and sharing information!

Thank you for your part in these exciting changes! Thank you for sending me here so that I can be a part of spreading the gospel in SE Asia. As a result, you are also a part of the spread of the gospel around the world!

Amanda

Praises

- After being behind on grading since going to Singapore, I finally caught up last weekend! It feels so great to be caught up (and a bit ahead!).
- I had a great visit with my friends who came to visit me from the US at the beginning of the month. It was a blessing to have them here, and they also blessed me with many gifts from many of you! Thank you!
- I have been able to continue to noodle on changes I want to make to my teaching since attending the conference in Singapore. I've tried a couple changes and have had great success so far!

Prayer Requests

- Some of you may remember that last year I was asked to train Filipinos how to teach math. I've been asked to do that again this year, in addition to creating a

math curriculum for them to use for their summer tutoring program. I'm leading my first training this weekend. I know that I won't have the whole curriculum built this year (or probably even next year), but pray for wisdom as I tackle this project but still keeping FA as my priority.

· The next six weeks until Christmas break are going to fly by. Please pray that I would be able to get the visa I need in order to go to visit some missionary friends for Christmas. My visa for the Philippines is still being renewed, so I don't know when I'll be able to actually apply for the visa. My flight leaves Dec 18, so I need it before then. :) Pray that my Philippines visa would finish the renewal process quickly, and that I would be able to get my other visa quickly as well.

· Pray for continued wisdom and guidance as I lead a girls Bible study.

## **DARWIN & KAREN STOESZ**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

November 8, 2017

Home Service Update

October was a busy month, but a good month of traveling. We are thankful for safe traveling, but mostly hanging out with people. There are some strong Christians that have a passion for sharing the gospel all over the world. We met people who prayed for us often and, yet we never knew who they were, until now. What a blessing to share what God is doing in Japan and having people "get it". They know why we are in Japan. This is very encouraging to us.

Sometimes the Stoesz family will discuss over supper things that we have learned that day. Topics will include new words in English that the girls have never heard of, or what they thought about lunch. Anna is convinced that two teachers at her school do not say the word "applicable" correctly. She says the accent is on the wrong syllable.

Anna recently shared a technique she learned at school to keep liquid from making her bread soggy. It was very creative. Clara shared that her teacher sat on her desk, this was a shock to her. We often get reports of who they sat next to during lunch, what they ate, what color their friend's backpacks are, etc.

Anna told us with great excitement about a Twix candy bar that fell on the floor and so her friend wouldn't eat it, but Anna ate it. She said, "It was only on the

floor for a short period of time.” Anna also informed us that even though everyone wears school uniforms she has memorized the color of people’s backpacks and recognizes them, even though she might not talk to them.

This week Clara walked up to the car to go to school and Darwin said, “Hi”, Clara responded with “Salutations”. Darwin laughed and then she said, “What does salutations mean?”

Darwin frequently goes to the YMCA and he has observed many cultural situations including:

- Christians sharing their faith
- People checking their cell phones while exercising, even while in the pool and sauna
- Awkward moment when Darwin came out of the shower and realized he couldn’t open his locker
- People discussing private financial situations in the steam room with others in the room pretending others were not there. Darwin’s summary: “Rich people have more stress not necessarily happiness”
- There appears to be many cultural rules regarding politeness in the opening and closing doors and what is spoken
- There are people that when they exercise they exude loud noises lifting weights that just may be too heavy for them

Some people are interested in Karen’s situation with squirrels and so far, the birds are winning, and the squirrels have moved onto bigger things. Karen can be found watching the birds with great interest.

#### Financial Support Request

We have been blessed by many gifts that exceed our expectations. However, we need additional financial support. We need additional monthly and one-time partners in our ministry. Some of our faithful supporters have passed away, others have had to stop due to financial reasons. Would you pray about joining our financial team by joining our monthly financial team? If you are already on our partnership team we want to say, “thank you”, but would you pray about increasing your amount?

#### Prayer / Travel Schedule

Our tentative schedule so far is as follows. Of course, all dates are subject to change.

November 9-12 Mountain Lake, MN

November 19 Wichita, KS First Evangelical Free Church

February 11 Meade, KS Emmanuel Mennonite Church

February 18 Lincoln, NE Heartland Bible Church

February 25 Brandon, SD Brandon Valley Bible Church

March 4 Mountain Lake, MN Cornerstone Bible Church

March 16-18 Omaha, NE Crosspoint Church

Pray that we would have safety and energy for these important visits and others.

Please pray:

- Pray for continued good health and energy as we adjust to life here in USA.
- Pray that we would be able to meet all the requirements needed for our return to Japan by June 2018
- Pray that the needed financial partners to get to 100% support.
- Pray that our family would find the needed time together among a busy traveling schedule.
- Pray that Tsuneizumi-san and Yuko-san to put their faith in Christ.

Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry.

Darwin & Karen & Anna (14) & Clara (10) Stoesz

Our contact information is:

Darwin & Karen Stoesz

934 S Romney Ter

Wichita, KS 67207-4332

316-252-4778

dkstoesz@send.org

## **THE REEDS IN BELIZE**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

October 2017

“Dear Supporting Pastor and Friends of Jon and Jessica Reed,

I would like to thank you for your financial support of the Reeds. Over the years, Jon and Jessica have endured many trials that for many would have been an opportunity to leave the mission field. The Reeds have remained faithful to God’s calling upon their lives.

As you may remember, Jon contracted Chikungunya disease several years ago in Brazil. We asked the Reeds to return to the States for extensive testing. The doctors here confirmed the diagnosis of Chikungunya and said it would be a chronic condition. They were able to help Jon learn ways to cope with the periodic flare-ups that he experiences. They also gave him the OK to return to the field. So far, Jon has been able to manage his health and recovery times have been greatly reduced.

When the Reeds moved to Belize, Jon began preaching at a small, primarily expat church. It wasn't long before the call of the jungle began to ring through his heart once again. As the Reeds would learn later, the region of Belize where they had settled was close to the geographic end of a tribe of people called the K'ekchi. This people group begins in the northeast jungle section of Guatemala, continues through Southwest Belize and into northern parts of Honduras.

Jon began working with the K'ekchi villages of Belize not realizing the extent of the need for evangelism. Because of the remoteness of the villages in Belize, government officials "estimate" the villages to be in the one hundreds. In Guatemala alone, there are over 1500 known K'ekchi villages with over 1000 villages still unevangelized. There are over 1.3 million K'ekchi people in villages in Guatemala, Belize and Honduras, most of which have no Gospel presence at all.

Two years ago while our Mission Director was visiting with the Reeds, Jon accompanied him to visit one of our supported missionaries, Jimmy and Shelley Dinsmore in Guatemala. The Dinsmores serve in the northern jungle panhandle of Peten. They have established a great training center, the K'ekchi Bible Institute (KBI) that trains men to go to K'ekchi villages to start churches. After much discussion and prayer, the Dinsmores and Reeds have decided to join together to reach the villages throughout Guatemala, Belize and Honduras.

As we look back, we can see how God began to orchestrate this several years ago. Jon had been working in several villages already and had developed a relationship with men desiring to be trained as pastors. We also established a Chapter 250 (similar to a 501 C3) in Belize that allows us to establish churches, schools, and allows non-residents to do ministry in the country. Jimmy Dinsmore was already bringing some of his students to Belize before he even knew the Reeds. Because

of what has already been established in Belize, and the partnership with the work in Guatemala, the future of reaching remote villages is now greater than ever. The Reeds will be moving to Peten, Guatemala in order to be better suited to reach the people group of the K'ekchi in Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras. Enclosed you will find a letter from the Reeds further explaining the role that they will play. We are excited about what God is accomplishing through the Reeds and Dinsmores. We thank you, because it is through your continued support that K'ekchi villages will be reached for Christ."

Sincerely in Christ,

SENT Inc.

Should you have any questions or if you want more information about this ministry expansion of the Reeds Please feel free to contact. Pastor Bob Hutton:

Missions Pastor and Board Member of SENT0 Inc.

330-477-6227

#### REACHING THE K'EKCHI PEOPLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

K'ekchi Bible Institute Pastoral Training God continues to open doors to reach and train men. Each week Jon has been holding classes for 18 pastors and they have eagerly completed the first course in their training. God is expanding the ministry to the K'ekchi people here and we are working on our Spanish to be able to reach many more villages!

We had the opportunity to show the Jesus film in the village of Dolores where 600 people came out to see the story of Jesus in their Kekchi Language. The Gospel was preached and we trust the Lord's words will not return void!

As we expand our ministry to the Kekchi we are excited to partner with Jimmy and Shelley Dinsmore that run KBI (K'ekchi Bible Institute) Guatemala they have a real passion to reach men, train them and send them out to start churches! But with the full time job of teaching and running the school Jimmy does not have the time to go out with the men to start churches and that is where Jon will be helping. Jon will be planting churches with the Graduates of KBI and supporting them so they are successful in their church plants. We are looking forward to working closer with the Dinsmores as we both desire fellowship and partnership.

Please pray for us as God expands our ministry to the unreached K'ekchi villages. There are 1.1 million K'ekchi people in 1,500+ villages. At least 1,000 of those

villages have no gospel preaching church! The need is great! Thank you for being part of our support team so that we can continue the work God has set before us!  
Jon & Jessica Reed

## **SHAN REED JAPAN**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

November 2017

Dear Family and Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving!

It is the time of year we Americans spend time with family and friends thanking God for all He has done in our lives over the past year.

I have many things for which I am thankful, especially each of you as you pray for me and the ministry in Japan.

Thank you!

September Music

September was full of music for me! Anointed Gospel Choir held its 14th annual concert. We had a wonderful day of singing and fellowship. I love these ladies and the way God is at work in their lives. Mr. Yamamoto, our director, does an amazing job of sharing the gospel and Jesus' love not only in our rehearsals, but also at our concerts. Two weeks after our concert, after the last rehearsal I attended, we had a 'see you later, Shan' meal together. Each lady gave me a hug before they left!

At Komyo Christian Church we hosted a Live Gospel Café with Cassandran Peake and one of her choirs as our guests. It was an uplifting and fun evening of music and fellowship. We appreciate Cassandra's ministry not only to us when she comes to Komyo Church, but also around Osaka as she leads gospel choirs and gives voice lessons.

Komyo Christian Church

I have enjoyed being part of Komyo Christian Church since we started this church plant and I look forward to how God is going to continue growing us in the future. It is hard to be away from the church for this time while I am on home assignment but know of God's faithfulness as He continues leading and guiding. Praise God for the way He has grown this congregation in faith and grace!

I wanted to share with you a few more of the faces and connections I am going

to miss while I am on home assignment. Since this page will contain quite a few pictures, you may want to print just the first page of this letter!

Behind our church is a little takeout lunch place. At least once a week I go there to get lunch and when we have seminars or activities on weekdays, we order lunches from them. These are some of the people who put together the lunches and always greet me with a smile. They love to get to deliver lunches to us.

Several mornings a week I run through the local park and then do radio exercises with a group there. Whenever I am going to be gone for more than a day or two, I have to let them know so that they don't worry about me. Having gotten to know them, and other morning walkers, it is unusual for me to go to the grocery store or train station without running into someone I know. I love the small town feel in the midst of millions of people.

The ladies from my baking and English class have become good friends. Before I left we went on an outing to eat something that someone else had made for us. Pancake restaurants have become quite popular recently in Japan, so we went to try the super fluffy pancakes together.

Of course, my Komyo Church family and NAB mission family will be high on the list of those I will miss.

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support. God's richest blessings!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Shan in Japan

PRAISES

- Praise God for Komyo Christian Church and God's faithfulness.
- Praise the Lord for Anointed Gospel Choir, Mr. Yamamoto, and the gift of music.
- Praise God for safe travels to the US and thus far on home assignment.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for Komyo Christian Church and Paul and Melissa Ewing.
- Pray for Yuri Nakano as she ministers at two churches in the Osaka area.
- Pray for me as I travel and visit churches while on home assignment. I look forward to seeing many of you in the upcoming months.
- Please pray for Mr. Yamamoto as he shares the gospel with the 25 choirs he directs around Osaka and the surrounding area.
- Pray for the ladies of AGC, most of whom do not know Jesus as Savior, to learn more about Jesus' love.



# **RON & JEANNIE SECK HUNGARY**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

November 2017

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

Wow! The last few months have been filled with exciting, challenging, faith-growing, and Kingdom-building events. Let us give you some brief highlights: (Remember, CHE stands for Community Health Evangelism a strategy for doing wholistic outreach and development among the poorest of the poor.)

EVENTS September 8 – 10 — Our MEK (CHE) Central Hungary Team and the leaders from the Roma community in Boldog presented their second annual outreach festival. Two nights featured Christian films and one night Ron preached a Gospel message. Music and favorite foods also highlighted each evening. Twenty-five Roma signed up for follow-up visits or courses. Laci and Eszter Daroczi and Feri Olah, MEK Central Team members, are currently holding weekly Alpha Course classes with those who are interested.

September 22 – 24 — The CHE EuroNet Network held its second retreat for CHE Team and Board members. Ron currently serves on the Global CHE Networks Representative Council and as CHE's Central Europe Coordinator. In this position he is responsible for overseeing the expansion of CHE into new nations and regions of Central Europe and the Balkans. He was also tasked with forming the CHE EuroNet Network of all CHE Teams operating in these countries and bringing them together annually for a time of refreshment, inspiration, sharing best practices, team building and training. This year 27 of us gathered from 6 nations at simple retreat facility near a beautiful mountain lake in southwestern Bosnia. These folks are all pioneering new wholistic development ministries with the Roma/Gypsy and greatly appreciated the opportunity to draw encouragement from one another and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

October 6 – 8 — All of our MEK Hungary Teams met for their annual planning retreat at Lake Balaton. The highlight of this weekend was having Randy Schmor, Director of NAB's Gateway Teams, and Steve Liberti, NAB Missionary with Proclaim Ministries, with us to plan a host of short-term Gateway team projects and a one-week Proclaim music camp and concert outreach campaign for 2018. Contact us if you would like to be considered for a summer team project.

October 10 – 14 — We packed our backpacks and flew south to spend four days hanging out with the CHE Albania Team. It was a time of celebration! Two years ago, CHE Albania, our flagship Team, lost their sole financial supporter. Ron and several fellow NAB'ers have been working with them since then to train them in how to find new sustainable partnerships. This year God brought them together with a new major partner, World Poverty Solutions, as well as several others.

October 19 – 23 — We drove south to Stip, Macedonia, with Finnish CHE workers, Dr. Ture and Ingvar Huhtamaki. We have been praying for three years for an open door to establish CHE Teams in Macedonia. Dr. Huhtamaki is providing the contacts to do so. We spent the weekend with Jimmy P.G. Simon, a Nigerian who has planted 19 churches in eastern Macedonia. We visited and spoke in ten of those congregations and identified several communities that would be ready for a CHE project. We are waiting now for Jimmy's decision on what to do next.

October 24 – 25 — On our way back home we spent two days near Novi Sad, Serbia, with NAB national worker, Marijana Čizmanski, surveying Roma communities and meeting potential partners. Our hearts were thrilled as we witnessed two communities opening wide to her and ZZ Serbia.

November 3 – 4 — We flew home to Phoenix on October 30. We dropped our bags and headed to the Ignite Christian Training Center near Show Low, Arizona, to present a CHE Vision Seminar to 36 Native Americans and those who work with them. A week - long CHE training course is now on the drawing board for the end of February.

We will now be in the US until March 4. In late January and early February, we would like to visit supporting churches in the lower MidWest. Please contact us if you are interested in having us come.

Yours for His Kingdom,

Ron and Jeannie Seck

PRAISES

- For doors opening for CHE outreach and development in 2 communities in Serbia for ZZ Serbia.
- For the opportunity to present CHE to Native Americans and workers in Show Low, AZ.
- That CHE Albania is back on solid financial footing.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the insurance settlement on our Hungary automobile.
- For 4 to 5 short term teams needed in 2018.
- For beginning of a new team and project in Macedonia.
- For God to use the Alpha course in Boldog/Zsambok to bring Roma to Christ.
- For the start up of a CHE project in Bangladesh, Serbia, with partner Mile (Mee-lay) Jovanovic.
- For all our CHE Workers in CE and the Balkans.

## MISSION NETWORK NEWS

Light breaking through the darkness in Nicaragua

By Julie Bourdon November 8, 2017

Nicaragua (MNN) – Fifteen years ago, missionary Steve Bakos entered a region of the world shrouded in spiritual darkness. The people group he encountered had very little access to Scripture and among them were those practicing witchcraft.

Steve Bakos has been a missionary for 27 years, starting in Mexico for the first 12 and serving in Nicaragua to the present time. He has been distributing booklets from World Missionary Press for over two decades.

While Nicaragua is mostly a Spanish-speaking nation, there are minority language groups. Bakos says, “Up in the [Northeastern] part of the country, there is an indigenous people group, the Miskito Indians which have their own dialect and the vast majority of them speak no Spanish. So when the Lord led us there 15 years ago—it is a very remote region, a lot of poverty. But having worked in Mexico amongst poverty, what impacted me the most was not the poverty of the people but [a] region void of the Word of God.”

When he encountered the Miskito people, he partnered with World Missionary Press to begin translating their Scripture booklets into the Miskito language. Twenty-four months later, the project was completed.

“For about 96% of the entire population in that region, it was the first time they had ever seen the Word of God in their own written language. And since that time the impact that the Word of God has brought to that region is unbelievable. There’s story after story.”

Local witch turns to freedom in Christ

One of Bakos’ favorite stories, for example, is about a man named General from one of the Miskito villages.

He says, “General was the most feared witch on the entire Río Coco river—over 50 years practicing witchcraft. And it was a very, very, dark, dark region. Very active spiritually in the witchcraft. But as we began to come in there with the Gospel and again leaving the

literature, explaining the literature, it began to transform that region.

“And one particular trip we made, General came up to me and basically said, you know ‘I never knew about this, but will you tell me how I can accept Jesus?’ and that day he received Jesus, burned all of his tools, if you will, of the trade and has never looked back. And he’s been living for the Lord ever since and that was over 12 years ago.”

#### Meeting the Provider

Not only were hearts transformed by the bringing of the Gospel, but those who accepted Jesus began to see their circumstances in a new light. The Miskito people, Bakos says, live a simple life in a remote part of the world. So remote, in fact, that the different villages are most easily accessed along the river in dugout canoes. These people farm for their food. They have no electricity, and everything is done by hand.

For many years, their efforts to produce a strong crop to feed their communities has been thwarted by a number of difficulties.

“Year after year they were cursed with plagues. The rice wouldn’t produce or the river would flood and they would lose their crops and they went years without food. And as the Gospel came in, I’d tell them ... , ‘God is the provider. Look to the Lord, not to man to meet your needs.’”

And as they began to understand more and more about God through his Word, they came to trust in him. And then God provided them with vitamin enriched rice to eat. Now, their children are no longer dying from hunger but are healthy and growing.

“They’re giving God the glory for his provision because, not only does he save and forgive, but they’re understanding that he is the source, that he is the provider of all they need even when the things of this life throw you a curve, so to speak.”

Bakos says through this event, God illustrated his love and care for the Miskito people.

“Just as God has brought his Word here, he has confirmed his Word in that he does provide.”

Today, the Word of God continues to transform thousands of lives among the Miskito people.

#### Remaining challenges

Even so, there are still a variety of challenges the ministry faces on a logistic level. Because there are no roads, transporting people and Scripture booklets and other supplies has been difficult. Mud and rain mean traversing over land is trying, and so much of the transportation has to be done by the river.

“It’s a challenge in a good way ... because one of the other fruits that has happened since the booklets have come there and the Word of God, is now many of the people who have come to the Lord and God has birthed churches –we are sending out native missionaries, born-again, Christian Miskitos to share the Gospel with their fellow Miskito Indians.”

Right now, Bakos and his ministry are sending out 50 native missionaries a month to share the Gospel using Scripture booklets and a study of John from World Missionary Press.