

World Outreach Church Plant Success Celebrated By EPC Leadership Team in Almaty, Kazakhstan May 8th-9th



A delegation of EPC church leaders helped celebrate the successful turnover of six churches to the Kazaks of Almaty, Kazakhstan. From left...Central South Missions Committee Chairman, Rev Dennis Flach; Former World Outreach Director Dick Oestreicher; World Outreach Director, Rev George Carey; GA Moderator, Rob Liddon; Stated Clerk, Rev Dr Jeff Jeremiah; and former World Outreach Director, Rev Jeff Chadwick. See related pictures and story on page 2.

English Language Institute China (ELIC) Needs Teachers To China

Pictured on Tiananmen Square from a recent vision tour of China is Rev Don Elliot (right) member of the EPC's World Outreach Committee and pastor of First Presbyterian in Corinth, MS, along with David Raisor, Director of Partnerships for English Language Institute China (ELIC) See related story and pictures on page 8.



EPC Church Member Honors Missions on 100th Birthday



Halie Forstner: 100 years old and counting said, "Send birthday gifts to EPC World Outreach" See article on page 5.

Elsewhere in this issue:

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- From Siberia...an Engage 2025 research trip report
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Almaty, Kazakhstan: Site of EPC World Outreach Church Planting Success Story

A Kazakhstan celebration event in Amaty, Kazakhstan on May 8 and 9, attracted about 300 members and guests of the six churches that have been organized into the Association of Reformed Churches of Kazakhstan (ARCK-counterpart of our presbytery concept). At the center of the celebratory event were three of the missionaries that led the ministry over the past 18 years, Dan Burns (last one to leave this June), along with Bill Hampton and Scott Winslow. Another missionary, Allen White was at the last minute unable to attend due to a passport issue. A delegation of EPC leaders (see picture on page 1) celebrated along with the missionaries and church members.

The event was marked by two days of worship and testimonies recapping the journey. A moment of time will be given at this year's general assembly meeting to observe the success of this endeavor and to recognize representatives from ARCK and



Former World Outreach Director, Dick Oestreicher and interpreter relating how the beginning of the Kazakhstan ministry began with a well organized vision given to Dick from Missionary Dan Burns. Dick told the audience that the missionaries represented the scaffolding to the building of the church body but the scaffolding must be removed to get on with things as they should be.

commend Dan and Catherine Burns and family for their 18 years of ministry in Kazakhstan before Dan assumes the position of Missions Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN. Also commended will be Bill and Janie Hampton as Bill assumes a missions

pastorate in Fort Worth, TX. along with Allen & Pat White of Houston, TX.

The stated clerk of ARCK along with his wife will be introduced at the General Assembly and time will be held for prayer for the ongoing ministry of the work in Kazakhstan.



A trio of missionaries instrumental in the success of the Kazakhstan ministry joined their hearts in song for the celebration. From left...Rev Dan Burns; Scott Winslow; and Rev Bill Hampton singing and playing for the audience.



Two former and current World Outreach Director-George Carey, Dick Oestreicher, Jeff Chadwick all participants in the Kazakhstan church plant celebration.



“Standards of Spiritual Leadership”

by Jeff Jeremiah

One of the great post-World War II evangelical leaders in America and the world was Richard C. Halverson. He was a colleague of men such as Billy Graham, Bill Bright, Carl Henry and Bob Pierce. In the first year of my ministry (1980-1981), I had the privilege of being mentored by Dr. Halverson. I am amazed, more than 30 years later how much what he told me still stays with me. I want to sprinkle his wisdom across the comments I’d like to make to you today.

As leaders, we are distinguished by the standards we commit to. Great leaders know *what* to commit to and *give the extra effort required* to meet the standard of those commitments. What’s critical is that they put that extra effort into the *right* commitments. The phrase “make every effort” occurs six times in the New Testament. In those six statements you find six commitments to standards that are essential to effective and outstanding spiritual leadership. This morning I want to share the two commitments I think will be most helpful to you as you pursue the mission of Jesus Christ in your “Tomorrow.” Let me add that I think raising up strong, effective and outstanding spiritual leadership will be critical for us in the EPC as it will be for you in the Association of Reformed Churches of Kazakhstan.

Soft heart...tough skin

Dr. Halverson said, “As a Christian leader you have to have a soft heart and tough skin, the ‘hide of an elephant.’ The problem is that too many leaders over time develop soft skin and a tough heart.” I’ve been Stated Clerk of the EPC for four and a half years. I consider the pastors of the EPC my “congregation.” I can tell you that one of the saddest situations I face is retired ministers who are



Stated Clerk Rev Dr Jeff Jeremiah (back row on left) joined in with one church group that traveled on a train over 20 hours to get to the recent denominational Celebration event in Kazakhstan. (See page 2) Dr Jeremiah spoke to the group on the subject reprinted here.

frustrated and angry. Why? They’ve been hurt and disappointed; and they’re bitter. Bitterness can cripple your passion for God, it can crush your love for people, it can destroy your leadership.

Forgiveness

The first commitment of effective spiritual leadership is the commitment to forgive. As a leader, you commit to forgive those who hurt you. Hebrews 12.14-15 says, “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and to defile many.” A fact of leadership: you will be hurt. You will be hurt intentionally, you will be hurt unintentionally. Why do people hurt leaders? Sometimes they do it out of jealousy – they want to be a leader, they’re not, and so they lash out at the leader. Have you ever been attacked by someone and it seemed that all they were doing was trying to draw attention to themselves? Others have a problem with authority. Some are just “contrary” people. If you as the leader say, “A,” they say “Not A.” Many years

ago I realized that more often than not, if someone is attacking me for something, it’s not about me or what I did. Something wrong is going on in their home or family or job and I’m just an available and easy target. As a leader, you must be willing to absorb blows and forgive, for your own good. Forgive, even if the person who hurts you doesn’t ask for forgiveness. Forgive remembering how much you’ve been forgiven, remembering that the alternative is anger and bitterness. You don’t want that.

Keep learning!

Second, my mentor said, “Once you stop learning you stop growing. Once you stop growing you stop living. Once you stop living you start dying.” Lifelong learning is the lifestyle of leadership. II Peter 1:5-8 says, “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control; perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you

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“Standards of Spiritual Leadership”

by Jeff Jeremiah

Continued from Page 3

possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” How do you keep learning? Seek out new ideas, ask questions, get feedback. The most valuable counsel Dr. Halverson gave me was, “Get 3-5 wise men around you who love you, want God’s best for you, but will also be brutally honest with you.”

Those men gave me excellent feedback that helped me learn and grow as a leader. When I think of my personal

knowledge of Jesus Christ I remember Romans 8.30, where we’re told that we are “predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son.” What’s God’s purpose, His goal for your life? That you become just like His Son, Jesus. In the Reformed part of Christianity, growing in Jesus too often is equated to simply gaining more and more knowledge about Jesus. But this is not true! There are people who know a lot about Jesus but aren’t growing in Jesus. I’ve been a Christian for 43 years. I’ve been a pastor for more than 30 years. With a bachelor’s degree, an

MDiv and a PhD, I know a lot about Jesus. I have so much more to learn in becoming just like Jesus – God’s goal for me (and I suspect you do too). My daily devotional life focuses on one characteristic of Christ – His love, kindness, faith, goodness, patience or vision. I commit my day to seeing how my life and Christ’s life can become one. As a Christian leader, God is concerned about what you do. But He is more concerned about who you are, and who you are becoming as you lead His people in His church.

An Engage 2025 Initiative in Siberia

by Nan McCallum



Reaching the nations with the gospel is a mandate found throughout scripture. There are about 4000 unreached/unengaged people groups left waiting to hear. But what people groups is God specifically calling the EPC to engage? What strategies will work to reach a particular culture? These are the questions my group of churches in the Midwest Presbytery is wrestling with. Our story is unfolding.

We began checking out the Tatars, cultural Muslims, in southwestern Siberia due to WO connections in the area. Having read as much as we could and having worked our contacts, Marti Smith, a seasoned ethnographer, and I took off for onsite research.

Arriving in a beautiful large city, our first tasks were to learn the city layout, bus system, and set up interviews. We spent twelve days with notepads asking questions, listening to stories, recording answers, typing field notes all the while praying that God would give us the needed contacts. We met with church leaders, academic professors, museum guides, believers, university students, strangers in the park, missionaries, and ESL students. We heard stories of God’s salvation, concern for the peace of the city, strategies, Russian history, and answered questions about us and why

we care about the Tatars. We tested out whether we could find English speakers in the city. One day we sat in a smoky café frequented by university types playing cards and having a snack to see if anyone would pick up on our English and talk to us. We queried about visas, legalities of sharing your faith, urban/rural differences, employment, and housing options. We learned some of the values of Russians and those of Tatar ethnicity. With a spirit of adventure we rode the buses, walked around the city, sometimes praying aloud, trying not to look like Americans by linking arms and strolling, and tested the difficulty adjusting to life there.

Never having done this type of research, I naively thought that getting home, we’d immediately have a report ready to present at the Presbytery meeting. As Americans we excel in future planning and sometimes we forget that God’s ways are higher than those on earth. While we can’t become complacent about those who haven’t heard the gospel, we need to be sensitive to His strategic plans and timeline. To my surprise God has called us to be still before Him, to read and re-read our notes praying for clarity and direction, and to talk with still more people. Questions we are wrestling



Marti Smith and Nan McCallum posing in Siberia with an unnamed “doctor.”

with include: What is the best way to reach Tatars, the second largest people group in Russia? How do we partner with existing churches, encouraging believers there to share their faith story? What is the role of the Western church? We are waiting expectantly to hear how the LORD wants to accomplish His purpose for Russians (Tatar Muslims, Slavic Orthodox, atheists, and Jews) to have the opportunity to burst into song before Him. (1s 55:8-13) Stay tuned for updates as the story unfolds!

Editor’s note-Engage 2025 is an initiative of the EPC’s World Outreach to challenge networks of churches in each presbytery to plant churches in ten unengaged Muslim people groups by the year 2025. Midwest Presbytery churches represent the second effort of our denomination following another such network of churches in Presbytery of The West. See the Engage 2025 web site at www.engage2025.org.

The Oil Will Not Run Dry

(What one EPC congregation did to reach the world.)

By Rev Ken Van Kampen, Pastor Atoka Presbyterian Church; Stated Clerk of Central South Presbytery

Kings 17:7-16 relates the interaction between the widow of Zarephath and the prophet Elijah. In the midst of a famine, the widow informs Elijah that her supplies are at rock bottom. With only enough oil and flour for a last meal for the widow and her son, the prophet makes an outrageous statement and request: "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: 'the jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land'" (v. 13-14). How hard it must have been for the widow to obey the prophet. Think of the actions that were required of her: "Don't be afraid . . . first make a small cake of bread for me." Every ounce of reason told her this did not make sense. She knew exactly the amount of flour and oil she had. It was barely enough to provide a last meal for herself and her son. Yet she was called to trust in the provision the LORD promised. In the end we know that God was faithful to His promise, giving enough for Elijah, the widow, and her son for each day of the famine.

Life in the small church definitely relates to the situation the widow faced. I was called to Atoka Presbyterian Church in Atoka, Tennessee in 2000. During an initial conversation the treasurer informed me the church had enough money in the

bank to pay my salary for two years, if the weekly offering remained about the same. After two years, there would be no more money left. The oil would run dry. As a church, every ounce of reason told us that we needed to conserve our present financial resources for our future survival. Consequently, we discussed this topic at one of our first Session meetings. The result of that meeting changed the course of our congregation for the next 10 years. In the fall of 2000 we made the commitment that if there was still the same amount of money left in the bank one year later, we would trustingly step out and begin financial support of a missionary. In 2001, exactly one year later, we found the same amount of oil still in the jar. We skeptically began supporting one missionary.

Fear the oil would run out continued to prevail. That next year, in 2002, we discovered that the amount of oil was not the same. Amazingly, it was just a little more! As a result, we began support of a 2nd missionary. Our new goal was to give at least 10% of our budget to mission support. Presently, in 2011, we support the work of five foreign missionaries and two home missionaries. Our mission committee maintains monthly contact with our missionaries via letters, email, and phone calls. They also encourage them with birthday and Christmas gifts. We have enjoyed the privilege of having every one of our foreign missionaries visit with us face to face. We eagerly look forward to visits this summer with at least three of our missionary families. Annually, support for missions has grown to 13% of our budget.

Atoka Presbyterian Church constantly



Rev Ken Van Kampen

benefits from these partnerships in many ways, including:

1. Being a part of the world wide mission of God to expand His Kingdom and call His people to Himself.
2. Growing in our realization that as much as we participate in the mission of God throughout the world, we must also be missional in Atoka, Tennessee.
3. Seeing our congregation catch a vision for hands on mission work through participation in two short term mission trips.
4. Being amazed at the power of prayer on behalf of our missionaries, both in seeing the fruit of their work and the blessing of God in their family lives.
5. Being humbled, in spite of our perpetual fear that the oil will run dry, by the continued faithful provision of the Lord.

Our encouragement to small churches like ours, where there is little oil and it seems as if it could run dry anytime, is to trust in God's provision. Take the little you have and make a loaf of bread for someone else. It's been eleven years. The oil still flows. In fact, there's 20% more in the jar than when we began. Our Lord is faithful!

100 Year old Lady Has Seen It All (See her picture on front cover)

by Rev. Grady Davidson, Pastor at Lookout Valley Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN

“Over her one hundred years, Mrs. Halie Forstner has seen it all: from horse-drawn carriages and out-houses to the space program, cell phones and the world wide web.

Halie possesses a fantastic memory of the history she has experienced-- two world wars and countless other armed conflicts, the influenza epidemic, the Great Depression, and every U.S. president from

William Howard Taft to Barack Hussein Obama.

Her spiritual pilgrimage includes being baptized in the Episcopal Church, sitting spellbound with other young people under the preaching of the great Billy Sunday, receiving early Christian instruction in the Methodist Church, and along the way belonging to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Southern Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA),

the Presbyterian Church in America, and (saving the best for last) being ordained as a Ruling Elder in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. All along the way, Mrs. Forstner has documented her stories through keeping detailed journals, and by reflecting on her experiences through writing poetry.

A committed advocate of the mission of the Church, Mrs. Forstner requested that in lieu of personal gifts on the occasion of her hundredth birthday, that donations be made to EPC World Outreach in her honor.”

The TAG Ministry in Dearborn, MI: A Strategic Training Ground

by Phil Linton, Missions Pastor Ward Presbyterian Church Northville, MI



Neatly-kept houses shaded by mature elms and oaks; mothers pushing strollers on the sidewalk and calling out greetings to neighbors on porches; kids on swings and seesaws in the park; dads pulling shiny cars into driveways after work. It could almost be a scene from a film documenting the 1950's Ideal American Community. But there are some clues to the truth: the women are wearing head scarves, most of the homes have satellite dish antennas, and many of the porches have water pipes next to the chairs.

It's a Tuesday night in Dearborn, Michigan, and as 6:00 approaches, a steady stream of people climb the steps and enter a handsome two-story home in this predominantly Muslim neighborhood. The people are young and old, married and single, university students, tradesmen, professionals. And there are kids! As families arrive, the kids squeal and run into the arms of "uncles" and "aunties". It's Halftime, the once-a-week gathering of interns in Ward EPC's TAG program – a year-long program to train people to start Jesus Communities in parts of the world where they don't yet exist.

Apprenticeships

Modeled after a program begun in Phoenix over ten years ago, TAG stands for Training Apprentices to Go, and

it recreates as closely as possible the conditions that Christian workers in the Muslim world face. TAG is an after-hours internship, meaning that all interns are working or studying full-time, and must fit in the TAG assignments around their schedules (as tentmaker missionaries on the field must do). Although the interns work as carpenters, teachers, engineers, nurses, etc. all over metro-Detroit, they try to live within walking distance of each other in Dearborn to learn to share life and ministry.

For five months of TAG, the interns take a leave of absence from their home churches, and become a house-church, to experience the form of church they are likely to see in the future.

Yum Yum

Inside the house delicious aromas fill the kitchen where the interns and grad assistants have gathered. One of the interns has prepared dinner for the crowd, getting experience in preparing meals for big groups and always making sure there is plenty extra for unexpected guests. By 6:30 the dishes are cleared away, the kids are sitting on the grad assistant's laps reading stories, and debriefing begins. The interns rehearse and discuss the past week's outreach assignment. Two female interns share their experience retelling the parable of the prodigal son to a Muslim woman while walking together on the high school track. The group asks

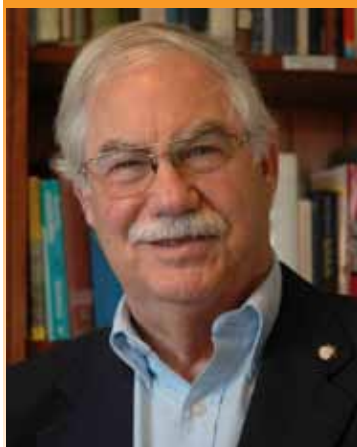
questions and discusses other ways to connect the parable to the lives of their Muslim friends. Another group of interns explains how their Muslim friend accepted a dinner invitation but didn't show up. The group asks questions, shares experiences, and comes to a tentative conclusion about how to know when "Yes" in response to an invitation really means Yes in the Dearborn cultural context. After breaking up into accountability groups and praying for each other, everyone has a dessert snack and re-gathers for discussion of the past week's assigned reading on house churches.

Demands

TAG is an intensely demanding year-long experience. Interns spend 12-15 hours per week on TAG assignments in addition to their full-time jobs. But the rewards are even more intense. As one intern (now working in the Persian Gulf) said, "TAG was the best investment of time in my whole life; my colleagues here all wish that they had gone through something like TAG".

For information about the next TAG course (starting August 23) contact phil.linton@wardchurch.org.

Editor's note...another such program is in the works for the EPC in Denver. More as it develops.



Rev Dr Greg Livingstone receives missions' highest honor.

Congratulations Greg Livingstone For The Lifetime of Service Award!

Rev Dr Greg Livingstone has been named to receive the Lifetime of Service Award presented by the two most influential mission organizations in the world. Cross Global Link and Mission Exchange will honor Greg at their September meeting in Scottsdale, AZ as the fifth recipient of this prestigious award given annually to an outstanding leader in global missions. Greg follows in the footsteps of previous winners that include Wesley Duewel, Ralph Winter, George Verwer, and Robertson McQuilkin.

Greg is the founder of Frontiers and was instrumental in the founding of Operation Mobilization having also served as the director of Arab World Ministries-North America. He now serves the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's World Outreach Ministry as Senior Associate for Missions Advancement and Interim Coordinator of Engage 2025. Greg's partnership in ministry with these agencies has led to the placement and coaching of over 1000 long term missionaries in 40 Muslim countries.



Rev Doug Thompson-New World Outreach Committee Chair

29 years ago, my wife, Linda and I were commissioned as the first World Outreach missionaries at the 2nd General Assembly of the EPC held at Faith Church in Aurora, CO. The following year, immediately after the GA held at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, we headed for la Belle France to do church planting under the direction of the French Free Church.

Time in France

During the ten years we were there, under the Lord's direction and by His grace alone, we helped start a couple of congregations and help revitalize a couple of others. Prior to that time, and even before my time at Fuller Seminary, I had the opportunity to try out mission work under the auspices of the Mennonite Central Committee's Teacher's Abroad Program in Sierra Leone, West Africa. For three years, I taught Bible, French, and Algebra in the country's only co-educational high school located in the bush.

Today I am chairman of the World Outreach Committee and honored to serve our Lord and our church family. The Lord has also led me back to Ward Church, where I started my pastoral ministry in 1977 under the direction of Dr. Bartlett L. Hess.

I am excited to be a part of the EPC and in awe of what God is doing in and

through His church. Who would ever have thought that World Outreach Committee (WOC) meetings would be so inspiring, thoughtful, challenging, and enjoyable?

WOC Focus

Across the years, I have seen WOC's focus transform from none, to Latin America and the Pacific Rim, to Muslim nations, to the Muslim world and to unengaged/unreached people groups. A few of our missionary family are solely associated with World Outreach. The majority of them are co-opted with various mission agencies. The new E2025 is an exciting new venture that is managed by WO with coops assisting us! We have had a number of wonderful WO directors, all with their particular stamp and style, which have helped move forward our efforts.

I have to assure you that our staff at the GA office is phenomenal and so gracious and helpful to each one who enters the premises. One feels like he/she is with family there. George Carey, present Director of WO, and Patti Moore, his more-than-able administrative assistant, and the new finance assistant, Amy Rose (herself with missionary experience) provide gentle wisdom and precision when we grapple with the wealth of issues we need to consider. I'm also very aware of the tremendous influence and direction of our Stated Clerk, Dr. Jeff Jeremiah .



Rev. Doug Thompson

Breath of God

It is exciting to witness the passion and hear the prayers of the committee. Our meetings are brushed with the breath of God, as we hear amazing stories from missionaries, consider potential candidates, and prayerfully discern the movement of God's Spirit. Our meetings are begun with devotionals and prayers that sometimes have led me to tears. It is such an honor to be here at this place and in this time.

Please continue to pray for our WO team around the world. They are seeking to make Christ known in word and deed in a variety of ways that move those far from Christ, closer to the cross. The kingdom is expanding. To God be the glory!

The New World Outreach Staff Member



EPC World Outreach Office staff: (L-R) Amy Rose, George Carey, Patti Moore

Located at the denominational headquarters in Livonia, the World Outreach staff welcomed Amy Rose to the position of financial assistant in January of 2011.

Amy joins George Carey, Director and Patti Moore, Administrative Assistant. Patti comes from a business background and serves the other staff members, our missionaries, and their supporters and the committee in the day to day details of administering the EPC World Outreach ministry. Patti also serves when called upon in other areas of the office of the General Assembly.

Amy and her husband, Rev Dan Rose served as missionaries for several years with Campus Crusade for Christ where Amy worked in the finance side of the ministry. Dan is associate pastor at Grace Chapel EPC in Farmington Hills, MI.

The Globe issue is available online at <http://epc.org/ministries/world-outreach/publications/> or email wo@epc.org for more copies.

“English Language Institute / China”

By David Raisor, Director of Partnerships

English Language Institute China (ELIC) sponsored a vision tour May 14-21 and took as guests EPC pastors, Rev Don Elliot and Rev George Carey on the tour of their work in universities in Beijing and Xian. Don is a member of the EPC World Outreach Missions Committee and George is Director of World Outreach. The tour included worship services in two official Chinese churches and the opportunity to hear from two participants in unregistered churches. Some estimates reflect as many as 138 million Chinese Christians. Below are pictures from the tour.

Since 1982, English Language Institute/China has been sending called, qualified, and committed Christian men and women to teach English and impact lives of university students across China and East Asia. Since our early days, ELIC teachers have engaged over a million students in our classrooms on their way to positions of influence in business, education and government. Our commitment is to send the most dedicated, passionate, committed teachers to China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Mongolia. This commitment to send the very best has not gone unnoticed by our host governments who frequently plead with us to “send as many teachers as you can.” Opportunities abound outside of class to interact with students who seek out our teachers to practice English, learn culture, and talk about matters of the heart. These students can become life-long friends.

We love Asia and we are excited about how our Father is using us

in classrooms and in lives. We serve in dynamic environments; the China our first teachers experienced almost 30 years ago would be completely unrecognizable to most of our present staff. China is growing at an incredible rate and her smaller neighbors are eager to follow her example. Modernization, urbanization, and development are sweeping the nation. In Beijing alone, roughly 2,000 cars are added to the road each day! We live daily in dazzling contrasts as an ancient and largely homogenous people group meets the globalized 21st century and looks to reestablish its place as a worldwide leader. Those that will steer Asia into the future are being formed now; what a privilege it is to be here, influencing, nurturing, and teaching with excellence to glorify the Father.

There is nothing like immersing yourself in the urban and academic culture of our students; it is a life-changing experience. If you are interested, join us on a Vision Trip to Asia; see and experience one of these beautiful and ancient countries firsthand. We

can facilitate a trip for you to visit classrooms and personally connect with students, teachers and staff. This is an incredible opportunity for ministry leaders to experience the field and see firsthand how ELIC servants are impacting students in Asia. Many have gone with us and “caught the vision” for our work. As a result, we now have churches throughout the country partnering with ELIC, sending adults short-term and long-term as English teachers in Asia. Because ELIC believes it is important for leaders to personally see our work in Asia, the cost is VERY affordable. If you are interested in learning more about this incredible opportunity contact David Raisor (david.raisor@elic.org) at 970-691-3251. David will be attending our General Assembly this year in Memphis and will be conducting a workshop for those interested in hearing more.

If this opportunity resonates with your heart, and if you have a yearning to help “change the world,” we want to talk with you.



A local pastor in China pictured from the recent ELIC vision tour with Rev Don Elliot of the EPC World Outreach Committee and Rev George Carey World Outreach Director.



ELIC's David Raisor mixing with Hui Muslims (making them smile) on the recent vision tour of the ELIC ministry in a place called Muslim Alley in Beijing.



Return to Africa

by Rev. Don Kearby EPC World Outreach Western Associate (AMA) and pastor at Cornerstone Community Church (EPC) in Aurora, CO

Covenant Presbyterian Church in Omaha has been taking medical teams into Southern Sudan for the past several years. Dr. Joseph Sokiri Dumba is a member of Covenant and he comes from the Kajo Keji region of Southern Sudan. He has encouraged the church to get involved with short-term missions trips to his region.

In March of this year a team of 25 traveled to Kajo Keji for a medical mission trip. Rev. Jeremy Grant and Dr. Dumba led the team of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, children's workers and two pastors in order to set up temporary clinics for the care of people in four different rural areas around Kajo Keji. Significant supplies of medicine had been donated by a local hospital in Omaha. As I was to discover, the group from Covenant along with those coming from partner churches was as concerned about the spiritual needs of those who visited our clinics as they were about their physical needs.

Out of Africa

I was invited to join Jeremy, Joseph and the team from Covenant and was blessed to return to Africa. It was a privilege to represent EPC World Outreach and Cornerstone Community

Church (Aurora, Colorado) in a partnership with the Covenant team. My family and I had lived in Kenya for 13 years and I was involved with a two-year training program with Sudanese pastors living in refugee camps in northern Uganda from 2001 to 2002.

The weekend before we started the clinics, I met three of the students who I had trained years earlier in the refugee camps. All three are home in Sudan working with churches and one of them named Israel is now a key assistant to the Bishop of the area. On Sunday, Israel took Pastor Jeremy, Dr. Dale Miller and me to visit each of the schools where we were to hold the clinics during the week. It was fun to catch up with Israel and to hear how God is using him and some of the others who I had taught in Uganda.

The rest of our time in Sudan was a blur as the nurses and doctors accessed and treated between 700 and 1500 patients each day from Monday to Friday. We set up a prayer room between the doctor's room and the pharmacy and so streams of people came with their families for counsel, prayer and encouragement. Many of our translators were pastors and they were fantastic at helping us understand the real heart needs of those coming to the prayer room.

Gospel proclamation

At lunch time each day, Pastor Jeremy or I used the mobile

speaker system sent by supporters from Covenant, to share a gospel message with the people waiting in line for the clinic. The response to the gospel, both in the prayer room and during our lunch hour messages, was overwhelming! The team of translators did a great job of recording the names and locations of those making a first-time commitment or recommitting their lives to the Lord. The response cards were then to be given to the local churches in each area, so that they could follow up with these new believers. It was thrilling!

Southern Sudan will officially receive independence from Northern Sudan on July 9th of this year. Please pray for the leadership of Southern Sudan, both in the church and in the government, to establish new infrastructure and systems that will work for the new nation. Pray also for Covenant Presbyterian Church as they consider their ongoing role in the future of Southern Sudan.

My special thanks to Dr. Kevin MacDonald, Rev. Jeremy Grant and Dr. Joseph Sokiri Dumba from Covenant Presbyterian Church for including me in this journey.

Editor's note-Donations to help set up three "clinics in a can" in Sudan costing a total of about \$70,000, can be sent by contacting Covenant Presbyterian Church at office@cpcomaha.org



EPC pastors on a plane-Flying High from Uganda to Sudan-Rev Don Kearby and Rev Jeremy Grant



Rev Don Kearby and his translator in Sudan.

In Praise of Long-Term Missionaries

Dr Jim Plueddemann will be the featured speaker at this year's EPC World Outreach missionary banquet on Tuesday evening. Dr Plueddemann has served as president of SIM Mission Agency and now heads the department of Missions and Evangelism at Trinity Seminary in Illinois. His wife, Carol, an EPC Ruling Elder, helped in the writing of the following article.

In the last few years, we have made repeated visits to 56 different countries. Our minds often reflect on the heroes we've met – highly effective long-term missionaries. We stand in awe of these enduring servants of the Lord who not only survive but thrive in the most challenging circumstances.

Appreciation

We appreciate their effectiveness, singles and families who have taken years to become fluent in a language, have learned to enjoy cultural differences, and have taken time to build the trust that takes decades to grow. Because of their long endurance they have been richly used of the Lord to make a powerful impact on the Kingdom through evangelism, healing the sick and planting vibrant churches.

We appreciate their long-term sacrifice. They have given up well-paying jobs to live in countries where they will never quite feel at home. Some live where they are targets of terrorists and armed robbery. Others live in the most polluted cities of the world, where malaria and AIDS are rampant. Part of the sacrifice is not being home for Christmas, birthdays and family reunions.

Yes, we understand the importance of short-term missions. Both of us had positive and influential experiences as short-term missionaries. Jim spent three months with Wycliffe in Peru, which confirmed his desire to serve long-term in missions and Carol grew up as a missionary kid in Ecuador and then spent a summer while in college with her parents, working with them with HCJB radio and church planting. Our two children have also had life-changing short-term encounters working with SIM. Our daughter Shari taught English to Somali

refugees in the Chicago area, and Danny spent six months living with a Bolivian family. We thank the Lord for our excellent short-term experiences.

Long termers needed

While short-term experiences provide valuable insights for the missionaries, and often provide important services on the field, the majority of the most critical tasks are best done by missionaries who take the time to learn the culture, learn the language and build lasting friendships. Bible translation demands years of study, friendship-building, teaching as well as translating. Cross-cultural seminary teaching requires not only academic qualifications, but a deep understanding of the needs and challenges of pastors. Mentoring local leaders is best done by people who have earned respect of lasting friendships. There is a critical need for many more long-term missionaries.

While we appreciate short-term missionaries, we wonder if the ratio is balanced? It's estimated that each year about a million short-term missionaries travel from the United States to serve cross-culturally. Compare this to about fifty thousand long term missionaries sent out from churches in the United States. We wonder if U.S. churches should be sending 95% of their missionaries as short-termers while sending only 5% as long-termers. Many long-term candidates become discouraged and drop out because of the difficulties of raising support. Yes, we see the value of short-term missionaries but why are we sending so few who are willing and qualified to serve long-term?

Some suggestions

- 1) Those who have had short-term experiences – Ask the Lord to show you if your experiences should be a stimulus for long-term service.
- 2) When you return from a short-term trip, work hard to communicate your



Jim and Carol Plueddemann

experiences to the church. We realize that many of you have had life-changing experiences and few in your church seem to care.

- 3) If, after a short-term missions experience, the Lord definitely leads you to stay home, pray fervently for missionaries, and be an example of someone who is willing to sacrifice financially to support long-term missionaries.
- 4) If you are considering a short-term missions trip ask the Lord to touch your heart with the opportunities of long-term service.
- 5) Church mission committees, we encourage you to make the support of long-term missionaries the backbone of your missions program. We realize that short-term missions might seem more “glitzy” but your first obligation is not to provide interesting experiences for members of the church, but ask yourself “how can our church make the most difference in the worldwide Kingdom of God?”
- 6) Long-term missionaries, hang in there. Yes, you are sacrificing much but your effectiveness for the Kingdom can grow every year you are on the field. No reward in the whole world can begin to match the commendation from Jesus “well done, good and faithful servant.”



A view from the East by Rev Phil Thrash, World Outreach Eastern Associate

I was recently attending the Presbytery of the East (POTE) at Memorial Park Presbyterian in Pittsburgh, PA representing World Outreach (WO), networking with pastors and elders and recruiting for the EPC WO Missionary Prayer Network (MPN). They are excited about the probability of splitting into two presbyteries soon with the proposed new one being Presbytery of the Alleghenies. I am very excited to see the growth of our denomination and the potential we have together to reach places in the world that have yet to hear a presentation of the Gospel, those places that have no church.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) has grown from 185 in 2007 to 303 in 2011. Jeff Jeremiah, our Stated Clerk said in the last Globe, "I'm convinced that we

are in the midst of an historic 'moment' in American Christianity. As God continues to gather into our little denomination churches who are passionate about Jesus Christ and the Gospel, I'm convinced our Lord is preparing the EPC to be a major player in a dramatic expansion of the Gospel and of the Kingdom of God in the United States and the World...."

How is that going to play out and what is our part? Certainly the EPC-wide initiative, Engage 2025 which calls for 10 new church planting teams to be sent by 2025 to unengaged Muslim areas where there is no church, will play a role. Just as Presbyterian missions had an impact on Korea in the late 19th Century and on into the 20th, so we could see a wonderful Reformed mission movement for God's kingdom in various unengaged/unreached Muslim countries of the world.

Prayer power

Another important aspect of effective missions is prayer. As you may have read in the spring edition of the Globe, I am facilitating the organization of

the Missionary Prayer Network (MPN) to provide a prayer cover for our EPC missionaries and the work of your World Outreach. We are seeking intercessors from each EPC church to commit to pray for our missionaries for one hour per week alone or in a group using a secure website for which they will have a code to register. The website will have current prayer requests from the missionaries, including us, for which the intercessors may pray. James 5:16b says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (NIV)

The EPC missionaries and ministry of World Outreach needs your prayers. Please consider giving of yourself in this way to the Lord for the furtherance of His kingdom. You won't regret it. If you or someone you know would like to sign up, please contact me with your name, church affiliation, e-mail address and phone number at: phil.thrash@epc.org or 757-401-5626. May the Lord bless you in your service to Him.

Associates For Missions Advancement (AMA) Positions Now Complete

By George Carey

(See Picture on back page)

Over the course of the past two years, God set in motion a dynamic series of events and situations that led to the establishment of new missionary staff positions in The EPC's World Outreach Ministry. These positions, called Associates For Missions Advancement (AMA) are designed to promote the ministry of World Outreach across the growing number of churches and presbyteries across the denomination. They are also charged with mobilizing support for the Engage 2025 Initiative to plant ten new EPC churches in ten unengaged Muslim people groups by the year 2025. (see related article by Nan McCallum on page 4)

Rev Dr Greg Livingstone is the Senior Associate, who along with Director George Carey, oversees and encourages

the other AMA's in their service to the Lord and the church. Greg lives in High Wycombe, England.

The most recent additions to the AMA staff are Rev Dr Austin and Beverly McCaskill who have served previously in Albania and will now divide their time between Albania and the U.S. as they minister stateside from Little Rock, AR and in Tirana, Albania as the Central Associates. They will serve the presbyteries of Central South, Mid America, Midwest, and Rivers and Lakes.

The Eastern Associate is Rev Phil Thrash who previously served in East Berlin, Germany and now ministers also as the Missionary Prayer Network Coordinator from Virginia Beach, VA. Phil will serve full time the presbyteries of Florida, Southeast, East, Mid Atlantic, and Allegheny (when formed).

The Western Associate is Rev Don Kearby who served 13 years in Nairobi, Kenya in church planting. Don, in addition serves part time as pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in Aurora, CO. Don will serve the presbyteries of West and Pacific.

The director and associates are all available to speak at presbytery and church mission committee meetings and to meet with potential World Outreach missionaries across the denomination. They await your contact about mission needs in your church or presbytery at the following email addresses:

george.carey@epc.org
greg.livingstone@epc.org
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beverley.mccaskill@epc.org
phil.thrash@epc.org
don.kearby@epc.org



EPC World Outreach Public Relations/ Mobilization Department *(See Story on Page 11)*

“
**Now Complete
 with the
 addition of
 Austin & Beverly
 McCaskill**
 ”

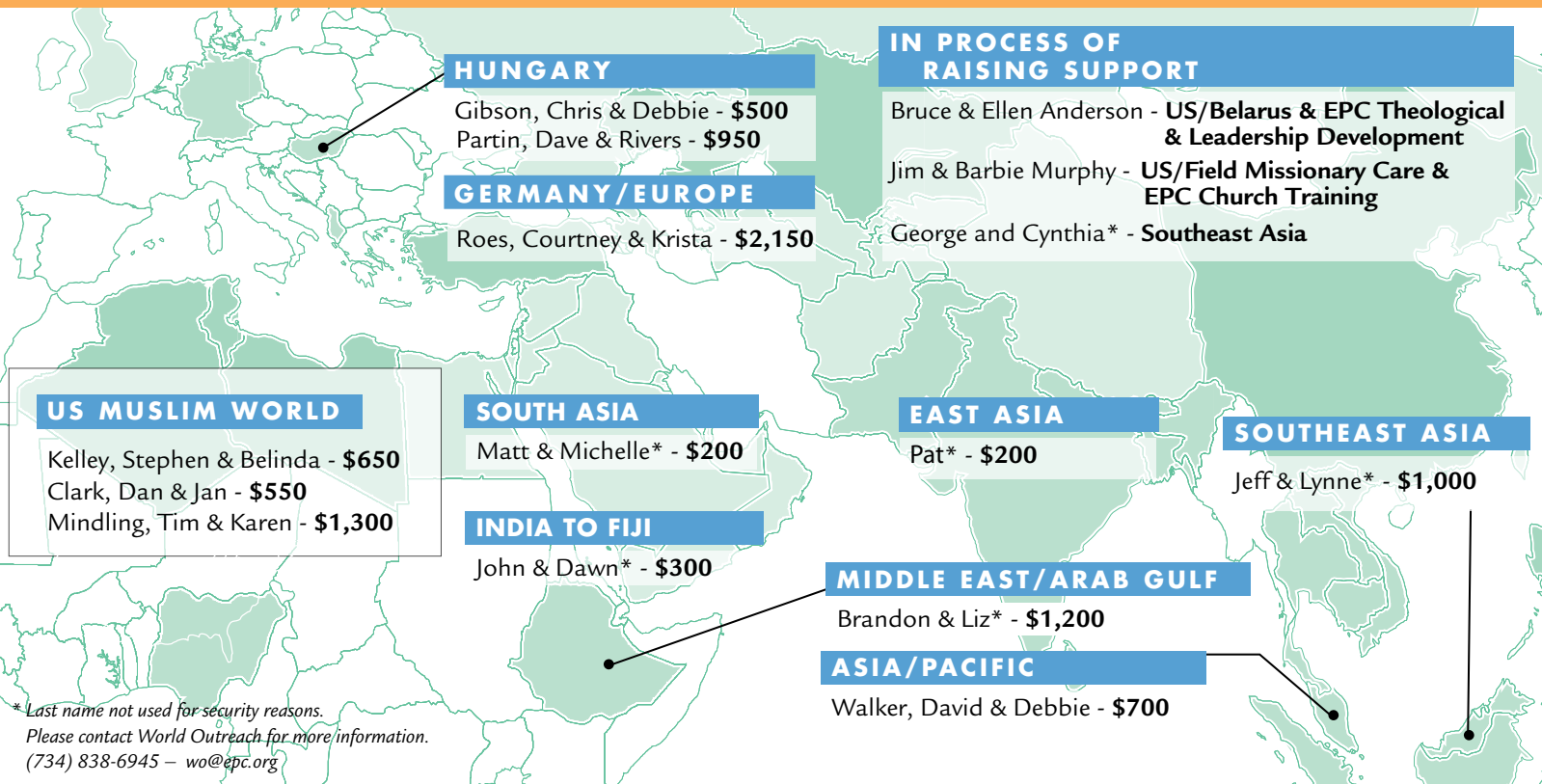


These ordained pastors/field-experienced missionaries are spreading the news about The EPC World Outreach Ministry across the EPC. (L to R) Greg Livingstone; George Carey; Phil Thrash; Austin McCaskill, Don Kearby; Beverly McCaskill

We Need Your Support

Monthly Shortages

Many of our WO missionaries continue to need additional monthly support. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of the support team for our missionaries listed below. Contact the World Outreach office at 734.838.6945 or wo@epc.org to learn more about becoming a donor.



*Last name not used for security reasons.
 Please contact World Outreach for more information.
 (734) 838-6945 – wo@epc.org