



HIS STORY

"Sharing God's Story and the Kingdom Movement throughout the world through His people"

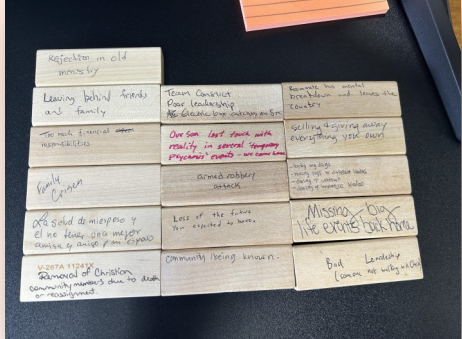
Faith Evangelical Free Church (FEFC) Missionary Updates

Understanding the Effects of the "Jenga-Tower" of Grief



Commission to Every Nation (CTEN) has orientation four times a year for all new missionaries to our agency. I have the privilege of teaching a session during orientation on grief processing. The missionary life is FULL of losses and grief, especially hidden ones. I often think we do not realize the hardships that can come with living overseas. I teach our missionaries that our grief is like a block on a Jenga tower. Every grief inducing event becomes a block that stacks up on the tower higher and higher until something eventually causes it to topple over. We give them tools to help process the blocks on their tower because when they process the block it then removes it from the tower. This then allows that block to no longer stand as a threat of helping toppling the tower over. During my presentation I have our missionaries right down any grief inducing events they have experienced on the field (if they are already serving) or think they will face once they are on the field. I thought I'd share a picture with you of the blocks from this past

orientation, as everyone has already been serving on the field.



I pray this will give you a little glimpse into the realities of some of the hardships missionaries face. Jaci Groeters, CTEN



(christine's chalkboard quotes)

ONLY IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE DOES SURRENDER BRING VICTORY
- UNKNOWN

The Lord Using Our Lives to Fulfill His Mission in the World

"...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8)."

This Great Commission statement of Jesus, given just before His ascension, was pretty clear to the disciples He was speaking to. The means given to them by which they would make disciples, would be through the power of the Holy Spirit. The places they would bring the gospel would be the entire earth! And, it would begin right here at home. **A question for YOU...where is YOUR "Jerusalem?" Where is YOUR "remotest part?"** Interesting to think about...as the Great Commission mandate is yours and mine to obey today. Aren't you grateful that the Lord Jesus uses your life to fulfill His mission in the world?

I recently returned from Portoviejo, Ecuador, to meet with our national partners there. My brother Tim and I spent our time together with them, planning for a larger team that will be there with us this November. We are asking the Lord to send 12 short-term missionaries with us, who will share the gospel all over the city, ministering with some churches that were newly planted in the last year. Please pray for Jose Cevallos, and Noris Mendoza (pictured below), as they prepare the churches we will work with this Fall. They each represent different groups, but have become wonderful ministry partners as well.



Noris Mendoza

In my corporate chaplaincy with Kunes RV, I have the privilege of sharing the gospel and encouraging/praying with employees in 6 Wisconsin RV stores every week. Of the 200+ people, about 50 of them are techs who do maintenance, repairs, etc. on RV's of all types. You can see one of them below, all set to work. I love these men and women, as most are very authentic and genuine...but who also largely do not know Jesus.



The Lord is working on their hearts! Please pray for them as the shops are very hot this time of year, and the demand for their services peaks. Customers want their campers in tip-top shape for the short camping season here in Wisconsin!

Hey...thanks for caring, loving, and praying for us!

Because He Lives! **Don Buege, Blazing Trees**



Mobilizing Kingdom Resources in Mexico

Did you know that in some regions of Mexico less than 1% of the population is Christian? Over 80% of pastors of Christian churches have no formal biblical training. I (Jay) met a pastor in Irapuato, Mexico who told me that he has been pastoring and preaching for 40 years and has never received any training on how to properly interpret scripture.

In 2022 one of IBAC's regional coordinators, Esteban Amaya and his family moved to Mexico to spearhead IBAC's growth in Mexico. Our 1st institute opened in July of 2022 in Irapuato and only 12 months later IBAC will have 2 more started (Queretaro and Tapachula), with 2 more locations to be opened in the next 6 months. We give all the praise to God, for this amazing opportunity and growth in Mexico to Mobilize Kingdom Resources, to Equip Kingdom Leaders.

Jay & Amy Grooters-IBAC Ministry US
#715-222-6430; CR cell +506-8471-5815



Teaching a full house of students in Irapuato, Mexico

IBAC
INSTITUTOS BÍBLICOS de las AMÉRICAS y el CARIBE

Berlin House Church God Story: Caught in the Embrace of Jesus

About two years ago, a woman named Tonya, who had only been a Christian for a year, started coming to our house church. With a fire in her heart, she was eager to share the hope she found in Jesus with others. She invited many people to House Church, one of them being her mother, Mary.

Mary wasn't sure about the church at first. She went to a private catholic school growing up, and the strictness and religiousness of the school left a spiritual wound in her heart. It was hard for her to see God as a loving father. Tonya encouraged her mother to keep coming. She did, reluctantly at first, but over time she started coming more and more regularly. Mary was always curious about the teachings, often asking questions about the Bible passages we studied together.

After a couple of months, Mary accepted Jesus into her heart! She told us that when she reads the Word, it's like Jesus is speaking to her. As she continued to come to House Church, we saw Jesus transforming her life, including reconciling her relationship with her daughter, Tonya.

One day at church, however, Mary collapsed. The ambulance came

and the EMTs said she was fine to go home. But a couple of days later, Mary collapsed again, but this time she was alone in her



apartment. Unable to get to the phone, she said Jesus comforted her until help came. After being treated at the hospital, she was diagnosed with cancer. From then on, Mary was in the hospital. She was often in and out of the ICU.

Multiple times the doctors said that she wasn't going to make it. But again and again, they were proven wrong. In the midst of her physical struggle, Mary said that Jesus freed her from her depression. Despite not being able to get out of a hospital bed, Mary was filled with so much joy, laughter, and hope.

Unfortunately, Mary continued to grow sicker. After 5 months of battling cancer in the Hospital, Mary left to be with the Lord. This

was extremely difficult for Tonya, who remained by her mother's side the entire time, praying with her and hoping for a miracle. For a small and tight church family, it is very difficult to lose someone so close to us. But we are thankful for the time that we did have with Mary, and what a wonderful ray of light she was in our church.

In a lot of ways, Mary was like the prodigal son. Who lost sight of the love of her father, but never forgot where her home truly was. It is beautiful to think of her running back to Jesus and being caught in his embrace. And to know that she is sharing in the magnificent celebratory feast that the Father prepared for her in heaven, welcoming her home.

Nic & Theresa Heil



OUR MISSIONARIES JOIN FORCES

Update Impact of Hyper-Local in Ankara, Turkey

The Ankara, Turkey Hyper-Local Video project has been a tremendous success! As a matter of fact, it has been such a success Jesus Film Pro-

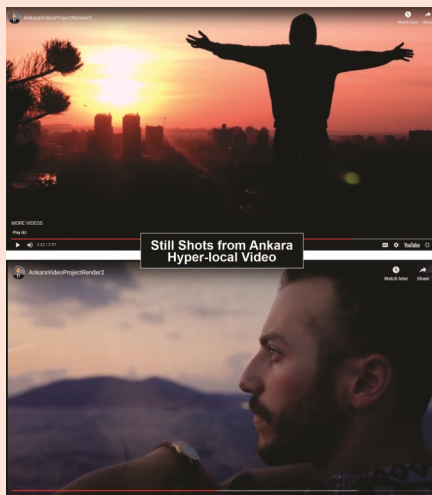
ject, A Cru Ministry, requested the rights from FEFC to duplicate this film for use in other areas of Turkey. Praise God!

A God Story from Ankara via Mark Rygh:

One of the youth in Turkey wrote this recently about the use of the Hyper-Local Video "So there was a man called Bajda at our church. He is 20 and a university student. He told me he had some issues at home. He needed some support. I shared the video with him and his feedback was more than I could imagine. He said the video really touched him and he needed that. I didn't know what he needed. I just shared the gospel and the video with him and God used this video to touch him. Through that I saw his greatness. Bajda was some stranger for me but not a stranger in the eyes of God. I hope I can find other ways to share the video with people."

Jesus Film Project®
A Cru Ministry

Mark & Emily Rygh



Illogical Obedience?...Still God's Plan!

As I was contemplating a story to tell from the field, the Lord brought the new Director of the Greek Bible College to my mind. His name is Theo and he has an interesting story of how God has brought him into the ministry.

Going into university Theo had a very bright mind and was a very capable student. He finished his law degree in Greece and then went on to pursue PhD in law studying in London. As he was there, he encountered God in a very healthy church and was pulled into both a new and deeper relationship with God and into a calling to ministry.

Finishing his doctorate, he obeyed the call to ministry and returned to Greece to be the assistant pastor at a large downtown Athens church. He was

both enjoying the ministry and developing wonderfully in his abilities when we called him to be the leader of our college. This was another difficult and life changing decision. We are so grateful that he said "yes".

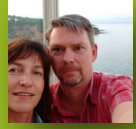
This past year I have been walking him through this transition as the senior member of our Faculty and Administration. We praise God for a smooth transition and for the excellent group that we have ministering at the Bible College. We definitely see God's hand in all of this. Not just this year, but how he has continually moved in each of our lives, through different means, at different times to help expand His kingdom.

I see different challenges for all of us here. For myself to realize that I am a

"senior" member with much to give in wisdom and experience and a duty to pass this on. For Theo the faith to step out into what may have seen like illogical obedience to follow God not just one time, but two. For all of us to see that God is working and moving and wanting to use all of us in his special way. We just need to follow him in faith, humility, and obedience, showing grace to all as we live out this adventure.

Blessings to you all.

Mark & Katerina Doebler



FEFC's 7.5 year Commitment to Training Leaders to Reach/Teach Unreached Ngobe People of Panama



Pura Vida! A 2-month winter get-away to Costa Rica from the brutal Minocqua winter. It all started there. We were in vacation mode visiting our friends, Jay and Amy Grooters in Uvita, Costa Rica.

The Ngobe? We never heard of these people. But we soon learned time spent with the Grooters was no accident. It all started innocently as we "tagged along" with Jay & Amy as they

met with Michael, IBAC institute coordinator, a co-laborer of Jay's with IBAC (Central America Bible Institute). Michael explained to us an Institute he was organizing that would train pastors to reach an unreached people group in Panama – and he needed help. Wow! And during a nice meal after leaving San Isidro, conversation with Jay and Amy Grooters (over our food at a restaurant with a mag-

nificent mountaintop view of the jungle below) it became all too apparent to Christine and myself. God had plans for these peopleand plans for us to help reach them with the Gospel of Christ.

God planted this seed in our hearts. And it spread like fire through our Mission Council and our church leaders.

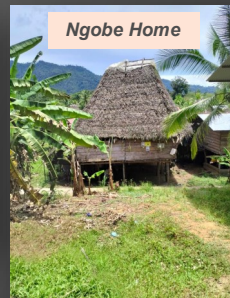
Tim Friedrich, Missions Council



Lunch with Ngobe Children



So...who are the Ngobe?



Ngobe Home

The Ngobe communities extend from the East to West Coast of Panama and part of Costa Rica. To date they only have the New Testament in their native language. IBAC is looking for sponsors:

7 ½ year commitment with Bible training for local pastors and leaders to go

- ◆ (2) Institutes every year
- ◆ Cost \$3900/institute per year per location
- ◆ Church commits to Sponsor entire cost or shared with individuals or other churches
- ◆ Church provides teachers to help with each Institute

FEFC Commitment to Ngobe Institutes:

- ◆ Make every effort to secure 1-2 instructors for each institute (IBAC has back-up instructors, if need be)
- ◆ Must be pastors, elders, scholars, etc. Must have substantial, exhibited biblical knowledge. Gift of teaching desirable.
- ◆ Instructors responsible for own flight/travel to Panama. Once in David, Panama all expenses are covered until return flight (suggest MC helps defray cost)
- ◆ Instructors will teach for 3 days, 3-4 lessons a day
- ◆ **Pastor Rick Goff will be our first trainer to go in September 2023**
How cool is that?!

Guabal IBAC Institute that FEFC is Supporting:

- ◆ Guabal will be on the Caribbean side of Panama
- ◆ 100 pastors/leaders (some evangelists/foreign church-planters)
- ◆ Closer to unreached Ngobe zones – Unreached people are a two-day's walk into jungle

* CRITICAL CONCERN:

No one has ever trained or provided training at this location

Please pray that God will continue to open doors and put in the hearts of our church leaders to become part of the Ngobe teaching cadre for the next 7 years.

Fully Committed in a Sensitive Area in South Asia

"Where did you develop such strong English skills?!" I asked. "We studied hard and then we went to Bangalore for a 6-month internship" Brother G responded. He further added, "people do not speak Hindi in Bangalore so we were forced to use English."

Their commitment to studying English before their seminary training allowed Brother G and his classmates to hold classes without an interpreter! We used the extra time to read portions the course textbook out loud together and work through the interpretation of numerous psalms.

By reading portions of the book *Interpreting the Psalms* in class together, I was able to clarify numerous points of confusion for them. "Thank you for reading the book with us! We understand it so much better!" Brother S told me during a break.

It was a blessing that we also had time to carefully study numerous psalms. "We now know how to preach sermons from the

Psalms; we are so grateful!" Brother P said.

These students have worked amazingly hard before and during seminary so that they will know how to faithfully lead healthy local churches. By the end of the class, these brothers demonstrated a strong grasp of how to interpret and preach the Psalms.

Thank you for helping to make this possible!

Jim (& Sarah) Jordan



Perspectives™

MADE FOR MORE

USE WHAT'S IN YOU TO BLESS THE WORLD AROUND YOU

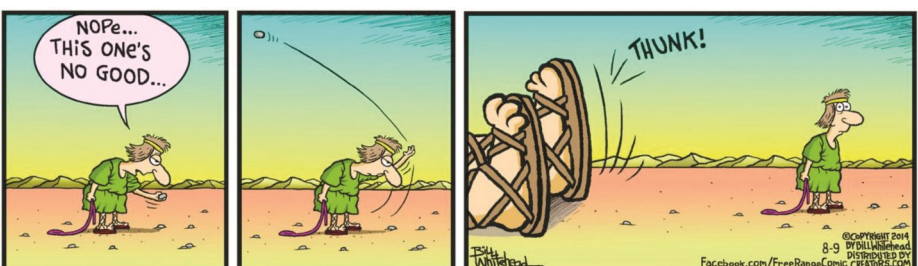
Fall Classes: Mondays, Sept. 11-Dec. 11 5:45-8:45 pm
REGISTER TODAY! at PERSPECTIVES.ORG
at Faith Evangelical Free Church, Woodruff, WI

BIGGER THAN US, BIGGER THAN YOU

The Perspectives Course is a humble offering endeavoring to align with God's purpose. Perspectives enables people to understand His glorious purpose and the unique role He has designed for each Christ-follower in making His Name known. His invitation to join Him in His mission transcends duty and sin avoidance.

"For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen." Romans 11:36

For more information, contact Christine Friedrich at 715-356-7850 or register for the Fall Course at Perspectives.org



For more information on supporting our missionaries, please contact the FEFC Church office at 715-356-4311 or call Christine Friedrich at 715-356-7850. Please keep all our missionaries in your prayers. Thank you!