

DECATUR BIBLE CHAPEL MISSIONS NEWSLETTER



**Sharing the Gospel
“Run with It”**

FEBRUARY 2025

DBC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Vinus Alscott – Rosalee Burnett – Hilma Corrie

Kurt Lee – Hugh Wilkinson

Sam Sixto (Emeritus)

Ambassador's Fellowship, Global



Ashley's Long-term update:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My new pseudonym is Modupe*, and I am currently serving as a full-time missionary intern with AFI, primarily in the finance department. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your fellowship in the Gospel, your generous financial contributions, and your prayers supporting AFI and its vital ministry.

My first exposure to missions began on my first trip with AFI in 2008 when I was just seven years old. During that trip, the Lord planted a seed in my heart. By the time I reached 16 or 17, after several missions to Mexico with my mom, Reverend Amos, the founder of AFI, gave us a list of opportunities to work for the organization. I was inspired to commit to working for AFI upon graduating high school, and I was even looking for colleges in Colorado to attend while I could work for AFI. I didn't know that this idea was from the Lord, and so when I told one of my friends and she

questioned it, I set aside that plan in favor of my own-- going to college in-state, pursuing a regular career, and seeking debt-freedom. I praise the Lord because God was not calling me to do something for Him, but rather God was calling me to Himself, and He continued to work in my life.

In 2022, I had the chance to serve at the AFI youth camp in June. Reluctant at first, I went because of my mom's encouragement (I praise the Lord for persistent praying parents). After that experience, I sensed God leading me back to Mexico that same year in August. During that trip, He reminded me of my earlier commitment to Him. Not long after returning from Mexico, I discovered the AFI missions internship. Although I didn't feel a call to missions, I was encouraged to view the internship as intensive discipleship, which led me to join. After the Lord redirected my steps, strengthened my reliance on Him, guided my focus toward Him, and uplifted my spirits, I began my internship in June 2023, following my college graduation.

The past year has flown by, and I have learned many lessons. I have worked diligently for the Lord while being discipled in prayer for the nations, open communication, Christ-like love, and sharing grace with others. However, despite these lessons, I initially planned to return to my previous ambitions after completing the internship. God had other plans in mind. I was interested in the Nigeria Youth Missions Conference and while researching a missionary who worked with the deaf, I felt that I had received confirmation to attend the Nigerian Youth Missions Conference.

The Benin/Nigeria team on the most recent missions' trip in December. During this past August, as I participated in the youth conference, we prayed fervently for a revival of laborers in the field. By the end of the conference, I believed that the Lord was calling me to serve long-term in Nigeria. This calling challenged my personal desires and plans, and during the next few weeks, I wrestled with the reality of surrendering my ambitions. I hoped that this sense of calling would fade, but it felt like a fire within me—I could no longer ignore it. Once I shared this calling with others, I sensed a deep peace and confirmation that it was indeed from the Lord. I was also able to share it with my leadership and church pastor who also confirmed that it was of the Lord and I needed to obey where He was leading me.

My first act of obedience was joining a recent trip to the northern part of Benin, where I was privileged to witness the fields of harvest ripe for the taking. I worked alongside the Gomez* family, and on our first day of evangelism, we visited several households. One large group decided together to follow the Lord after hearing our message. Another patriarch embraced Christ and eagerly led us to share the Gospel with other families, including one struggling with domestic issues. We witnessed the powerful transformation as the head of that household decided to follow Jesus to bring peace to his home—something he had sought for months His whole family came together, and we prayed for their

blessing, unity, and God's peace. There was a visible hunger for discipleship and a desire to learn more about Jesus in these people.

Feeling called to long-term service, I am excited to share that, by God's grace, I plan to return to Northern Benin this summer for my first 3 year assignment. I will focus on mobilizing, training, evangelizing, and providing discipleship support for the local churches, preparing for a fruitful harvest. Additionally, I will work with teams from Nigeria to further equip myself for wherever the Lord leads me.

I praise the Lord for continually drawing me closer to Him, despite my initial apprehensions and plans. His faithfulness has been evident, and I look forward to experiencing His blessings as I embark on this journey on the mission field. I pray that you would consider how the Lord can use you in the nations as well and that you would also be confident in following Him and His plans over your own. I also ask for your partnership in finances and prayers for the work ahead as part of the body of believers.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ's love,

Modupe*

Answering the Call to Serve: Support Modupe* in West Africa

Dear Partner in the Gospel,

It's with great excitement and faith that we share incredible news from our AFI family. Our finance specialist intern, Modupe* (name changed for security purposes), has answered her call to serve as a missionary with our AFI West Africa team! After a short-term trip to the region last year, Modupe* was inspired by a God-given vision to serve long-term on the field, led by the spirit of Christ.

Now, Modupe* is taking a mighty step of faith. Moving from serving in AFI's home office to being on the frontlines as a missionary in West Africa requires more than courage—it requires the support of a community.



Sister Modupe during bootcamp for her first time visiting West Africa.*

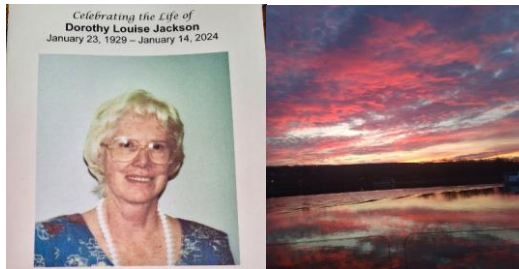


"GRAND-MAMA" DONNA'S

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

A few highlights from last year...

Last year, 2024, was a year of travel. I found myself frequently flying between Peru and Atlanta, earning plenty of DELTA miles in the process, all to continue my cancer treatments and undergo another thyroid surgery. I was also fortunate to be "home" in Atlanta when my mom, Dot, passed on to glory on January 14, 2024. She would have turned 95 the following week. Her memorial service was held on June 22, and I was able to return to the U.S. for a meaningful time of remembering her and being with family. We miss her deeply and are comforted by the knowledge that she now enjoys a clear mind and freedom from her frail earthly body. She always dreamed of painting watercolors in her later years, but as her mind declined, she was no longer able to. I like to imagine her now, helping God with the beautiful sunsets He sends my way.



I was back in Peru when Qori and Joey made a quick visit. They attended a cousin's wedding and then took Joey's parents to see Cuzco and Machupichu.



A significant ministry highlight was the annual women's conference in Chosica at the Runa Simi Center. We were honored to welcome seven women from Gwinnett Community Church, who led inspiring sessions on the story of the Samaritan Woman from the Gospel of John. Seventy-six Quechua women attended, traveling from all over Peru. Many of them found deep connections with the Samaritan woman's story and saw themselves reflected in it.



There were many more ministry highlights. I am so thankful for Pablo and Kusi's willingness to take on all of the administrative responsibilities at the Runa Simi Center. I am also thankful for a great team of women who continue to head up the "Women of the Bible" and "Literacy" programs with many events continuing all over Peru. (To see Runa Simi mission reports and pictures, please check out their Facebook page, social media, or ask Kusi to put you on the Runa Simi update list.) This Christmas was special and different! My daughter Qori and her husband invited me on a Christmas Market river cruise—truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It offered a wonderful mix of rest, exercise, delicious food, and, as you can imagine, plenty of cold weather. Before and after the trip, I had some fun times with them in Colorado, where they live.



I missed being with my grandkids for Christmas, but I'm very thankful to have had the chance to see them fairly often.



Thanks so much for your continued prayers and support!
Donna Sauhe

David & Cathy – Global

This message is going out to everyone who provided financial support for our ministry in 2024! We are deeply grateful that you are our partners in taking the message of life in Christ Jesus to the uttermost parts of the earth. Some of the people groups we serve live in mountains that go up to 22,000 feet. They live on less than \$100 a month, and their primary means of living are farming and shepherding.

Just a few short weeks ago, one of the translators we work with traveled up into those mountains and delivered educational books that will help children and adults alike learn to read their own native minority language. And just a few short weeks from now, another of the translators we work with will print the book of Proverbs in his minority language and then deliver it to the speakers of his language in several villages.

We couldn't do this work without you, and we're so grateful for the chance to be living back in Central Asia again this past year.

Joyfully in Christ,
David & Cathy



African Leadership, South Africa Allan Knowles



African Leadership

URGENT NEED

OUR FRIENDS IN GOMA, DRC NEED US

Goma is in crisis.
Rebel forces have taken the city.
Our African Leadership network of 1,500 families is in urgent need.



Children seeking refuge in Goma, DRC



What they are facing:

- Critical shortages of food and water
- No electricity
- No access to medical care
- Crowded conditions leaving churches and orphanages overrun with displaced people seeking help

How you can help:

Your immediate support can provide:

- Emergency food and water
- Urgent medical care
- Support for displaced families

100% of donations will be sent directly to our team leaders in Goma for them to distribute to the community.



Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf



January News

Starting the Year Strong!

Welcome Back, Students!

We are thankful students were able to take a break from school and celebrate the holidays with their families. They are now back on campus and class is in full swing. Please keep students, teachers, and staff in your prayers as they start a new semester of school this year.



Welcome 2025 Teams!

The first 2025 teams are on island! We are excited to kick off the 2025 team season with several teams traveling to our campuses throughout January. We look forward to more teams coming soon. We hope to see you there!

Sponsor a Student

You can support a student's education, meals, and lodging for \$35/month. As a sponsor you also have the opportunity to send and receive letters from your student.



Sponsor a Student



Support CCCD

Teachers

Learn more about the Hardy Fund and how you can invest in these amazing teachers as they invest in CCCD students.

Support the
Hardy Fund

Bring a L.I.F.E. Team

Interested in bringing a group from your church, college, or community to CCCD? We would love to host you! You can reach out to Pat: pat@ccdjamaica.org to see what weeks we still have available this fall!



David & Kathy North, USA



Dear Praying Friends,

"Savior, like a SHEPHERD lead us, much we need your tender care..." That was part of a song we had sung at our wedding almost 44 years ago and it's still the prayer of our hearts today!

WHAT DOES 2025 HOLD for us? That's the BIG question we've been asking the Lord, and He has been showing us...

Some things that are **certain** at this point are:

January - Mid-March - Lead Winter Webinars online for TEAM workers

- David continue writing his Church Planting blogs
- Prepare to travel to Asia (book flights, lodging, ministry preparations...)
- Get our house ready to put on Airbnb again.
- David do Evangelistic Bible Study with a young man we met recently

March 24-27 -Participate in Coaching training in Penang, Malaysia with Gospel City Network

March 28 - Early April - Visit our churches in Cebu, Philippines, do some CP training in southern Philippines

April 13 or 14- Travel to Japan to equip/encourage TEAM church planters there for 2 weeks

Around May 1 - Return to the US after a quick visit to relatives in Australia.

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY

About a week ago, David received an email from a TEAM co-worker who teaches at IGSL (International Graduate School of Leadership) in Manila, Philippines, asking him to consider coming to teach a semester there on "**Principles of Church Planting**". They need someone who has practical experience in church planting. That would be from August through December, 17 weeks of teaching for 1 ½ hours twice a week. IGSL has students **from countries all over Asia** who are preparing to go back and minister in their respective countries - what an opportunity to have a part in their preparation for a lifetime of pushing back the darkness! This is an exciting thought for both of us, mixed in with many unknowns... David has never taught in a Graduate School before (or any school, in fact), where will we live for the semester, how will we get around, what about visas for that short of a time?

We processed the request for a week or so and decided at the beginning of this week to say YES! All of our big concerns have been addressed through prayer and correspondence with our co-worker there at IGSL and with our direct supervisor in TEAM. The little concerns are still needing to be worked through, but there's a peace and excitement in our hearts that make them seem inconsequential... So we plan to travel to the Philippines mid-July to get ready for the semester that begins in early August. From there we will also be more accessible to our other TEAM Asia members.

One of my personal concerns is my dear 90-year-old Mom who is in assisted living in Michigan. I have committed in my heart to visit her every few months as it's just my brother, Chip, and I left in our family. My mom is on hospice now, but its doing amazingly well!



David has assured me that I will be able to fly back to visit her during the 4-5 months that we'll be in the Philippines for that semester of teaching.

So, we head into 2025, looking forward to what our Good Shepherd has in store for us!

Thank you so much for your friendship, love and prayers,

Kathy (for the Norths)



01/20/2025 Middle East (International Christian Concern) – The harsh reality for many Christian children in the Middle East is that their lives have been marked by suffering and destruction. This is why it is vital to nurture these children and share with them the transformative love of Christ. To support this mission, ICC has partnered with a local organization to provide Bible study classes for persecuted children and young adults in the region. These classes are designed to deepen their relationship with the Lord, foster a sense of community among fellow believers, and guide them

in understanding what it means to transition from childhood to adulthood through a Biblical perspective.

“The Bible study helped us to recognize things that were vague and mysterious in the Bible. For example, God’s union with mankind and how man should be impressed by the image of God’s creation,” one participant said.

The Bible calls us as believers to be united as one body in Christ, sharing in both joys and sufferings. When one part of the body is in pain, the entire body feels it. In places where the church is persecuted, it is our responsibility to respond with support and action. Trainings like this strengthen the suffering church and bring hope to our persecuted brothers and sisters.



1/17/2025 Global (International Christian Concern) — A Bible app is growing in popularity around the world, including in countries where Christians face persecution.

Downloads of the popular YouVersion Bible App hit a record high on Jan. 5, with 798,000 installs in one day. It’s the most single-day downloads the app has experienced since it launched in 2008. This is occurring despite the reality stated in a new [report](#) from Open Doors that “more than 380 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith” worldwide.

Bobby Gruenewald, founder of the app, told the [Christian Post](#) in an interview that “this year’s increase is even higher than this same time last year, and it’s a trend [they’re] seeing globally.”

Help raise \$500,000 to meet the urgent needs of Christians in Syria!

Stand with the persecuted church

The regions with the highest concentration of downloads were in various parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Installations increased by 94% in Egypt, 48% in Pakistan, and 166% overall in the Middle East.

Earlier this month, International Christian Concern released its annual report, the [2024 Global Persecution Index](#) (GPI), detailing Christian persecution worldwide. Egypt and Pakistan were both listed in the report for egregious acts of persecution. In both nations, radical Islamic extremism and blasphemy laws contribute to the gross mistreatment of Christians.

Nahashon Namale, Mombasa, Kenya

Commented [KL1]:



Pray for Halima, she embraced her new faith and requested for a Bible.

Things are not good at home. My school ministry program.

Below – Peter & Beatrice Rumbe work the fields Sando Bay City

