

DECATUR BIBLE CHAPEL MISSIONS NEWSLETTER



Sharing the Gospel “Run with It” MARCH 2025

DBC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Vinus Alscott – Rosalee Burnett – Hilma Corrie

Kurt Lee – Hugh Wilkinson

Sam Sixto (**Emeritus**)

Patrick Onyango, Kenya

Dear Decatur Bible Chapel,

Greetings in our savior's Name. It's a wonderful day here. Just a few highlights to pray and thank God for.

1. We continue to enroll new learners in school. The last time I posted, the number was 233. Today, we are at 246. The aim is at least 250 by May from 192 last October.
 2. We are finishing our assessment for mid-term break, which starts from February 26 and resumes on March 3rd.
 3. We have had several swimming practical, cookery, band training, computer lessons and much more.
 4. The quality assurance officers will be coming to assess the school on the 6th of March. They will be assessing our teachers on curriculum implementation and general infrastructure assessment of the school, after which they will make recommendations and give approval for a new registration of both day and boarding school. Please pray about this.
 5. We still have a deficit of \$5550 to clear all debt of the suppliers and other service providers.
 6. As mentioned earlier, the church plans to have some outreach and church planting done. This weekend, Carolyn will accompany me in visiting a small group who have been gathering and will be pioneers of this new fellowship. We plan to do outreach in their community, including gospel crusades, for three days, followed by the launching of a new church.
 7. We are getting ready to host a team of three for lead by Pastor Keith Dewese from MS - USA.
 8. We will be having our annual Easter conference at Muhaka Chapel this year. Other mission activities include 2 leaders training in June and November, women's conferences in August, church plant in August, and VBS in December
 8. The school has planned to have four academic tours between May and August.
 9. The school will finally have a graduation in October for three classes. PP2 class, G6 and G9. Please pray that God will move and that souls will be saved. Leaders will be raised and serve the flock of God. Pray that God will provide the funds to support the work. We still trust God for the girls' dormitory. Continue to pray for Jane Charles. She went PET scan this morning. They need many prayers.
- Finally**, pray for my wife Carolyn. She needs healing from a small accidental injury in the dormitory. An object fell on her leg. Otherwise, many blessings and love to everyone.

Pastor Patrick Onyango

David & Cathy – Global





We unexpectedly have left our location in the Central Asian country where we usually live following a recent crisis involving one of our colleagues. I'm afraid we cannot share any of the details yet due to the sensitive nature of the situation.

Please do not communicate this prayer request in any written form; only share it verbally with people whom you trust to keep it confidential.

We ourselves and the other colleagues who work with our same organization are safe in a different country where we already had planned to travel soon for an upcoming conference. We currently hope to return to our home there after the conference, and we ask that you urgently pray for a resolution to the crisis. Many people are continuing to work on it around the clock, remotely and in-person. Pray for peace, safety, and justice. Pray for our colleagues and their families, their local neighbors, and all organizations and authorities involved.

Romans 15:20-21 My ambition always has been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard rather than where a church already has been established by someone else. I have been following

the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about Him will see, and those who have never heard of Him will understand."



These are ruins of an OUTPOST fortress that is located near our current location.

The LORD Himself is our true fortress who protects us in every situation.

Praise and Prayer

Seeing our family over the Christmas holidays in Illinois and South Carolina was even better than we hoped. Returning to Central Asia after the holidays was a great joy to us. Having to leave again so soon was terribly heartbreaking. We see this as a challenge from the satanic forces, and we have determined that during the next month we will make a serious pushback against the kingdom of darkness. David will be working with Solomon and Absalom to translate more Psalms into the Eastern Luma and Owala languages. Cathy will continue her essential work of translation in numerous other languages. Pray for the darkness to be broken by the Light of the World.

🎉 Hope received her bachelor's degree from Wheaton College! 🎉

Hope also found a great job quickly, which was a special provision from the Lord. She also has received a much better job offer in the exact field that she has always dreamed of working in. She expects to be hired and be able to start that job in May. Thank you for your prayers; we see them as instrumental in how the Lord has provided for her so marvelously. Melody passed all the tests (written, fitness, and polygraph) as a recruit for the Plano (Texas) Police Department. She expects to receive a job offer from them within the next few weeks.

Hope and Melody both have boyfriends, so please join us in praying for the Lord's guidance as each of them get to know these young men. David has tendonitis in his right forearm that started just after Christmas. He will have to be very careful to rest his right arm and hand if he ever wants it to heal, but it's hard not to use your primary hand. Pray for diligence in this and for healing of the tendon.

Please keep praying for a Joppin speaker who can translate Scripture into their language. The children's encyclopedia and "First Thousand Words" book in the Eastern Luma language were distributed successfully in

the high mountainous region where the Eastern Luma people live. Praise the Lord! See the report just below that Solomon wrote about it.

Over the past few years, we have published 25 books and magazines about the language, literature, and history of our mountainous province and its people. Until just recently, the majority of those materials had been stored at our office. Now, all of them, about three thousand volumes, have been transported in two large trucks to the Eastern Luma home regions. They were warmly welcomed by the people. These books are no longer in storage but rather are in the hands of readers. Although transporting the books in the cold winter weather and the difficult roads of the Luma home province was full of problems and trials, the books were delivered and distributed to the places where they most needed to be. Now, the managers of this project have completely overcome the fatigue, dissatisfaction, and distress that they had experienced during the years when the books had not yet reached their home localities, and they feel happy and fortunate. To carry out the next tasks that develop, grow, and strengthen this language, more time is needed, and in our opinion, this is still the beginning of the work. With a world of hope, earnest interest, and without worries, we will sincerely continue to carry out our cultural and scientific activities so that we may achieve more success and honors, if God so wills it.

~ Written by the Eastern Luma translator named Solomon, who organized the trip and accompanied the books as they were transported and distributed. If you want to share this newsletter with someone, please ask us first. This will help protect the dear people we work with.

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You are receiving Millers' OUTPOST because you expressed interest in their Wycliffe ministry.

Brian and Sheran Killins, Colombia

Hi-

Febrera, 2025

Bogotá, Colombia

briancharito@gmail.com

My skin cancer MOHS operation went reasonably well. A “minor surgery” is one that somebody else is experiencing. The procedure on the skin cancer of my lower eyelid is sometimes described as peeling off the layers of an onion until all the cancer is taken away. I confess that I sometimes get discouraged, but by the grace of God, not about our ministry. The political showdown between the U.S. and Colombia is an example that probably even made the news in the U.S... And then the plane crash in Washington D.C. But the fellowship of the body of Christ keeps Sheran and I seeking first God’s kingdom and His righteousness.

Our son, Samuel and wife Alejandra are the proud parents of Jackson Phileo Killins Muñoz (50 centimeters and born in Bogotá). Thank you for praying.



Sheran and I are two of the white-haired people in the picture of our congregation's S.R.O. Christmas celebration. One of the other white-haired people in the picture is 100 years old. Christmas is the most famous missions' story of Jesus, the Word, being made flesh and dwelling amongst us. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death on a cross (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8). May we all be characterized by the "mind of Christ" as we serve Him faithfully during 2025 by His resurrection power for the glory of God the Father.

Looking to Jesus,
Brian and Sheran Killins

Peter & Beatrice Rumbe, Kenya



A very busy day today working whole day in our farm planting maize and sorghum...The long rains have just started and we are making good use of them to grow crops...Pray the rains will be steady and moderate this year and that we'll not have the floods again this season like the terrible floods we went through last year that washed away our crops...We are not losing hope but keep on working hard by faith and rebuilding our farms because our God holds the future....Thank you so much again my dear brother Kurt and DBC family for helping us rebuild our farms.

Persecution of the Church

PERSECUTION^{INTL}
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN



When Pastor Ravi planted a church four years ago in a remote village in India, he did so in faith, trusting that God would provide as he shared the gospel in the village of 300 Hindu families. Soon, the young pastor was leading a church of 50 new believers. While Pastor Ravi's story is incredible, it rings familiar. So many courageous believers who we work with are willing to step out in faith to share the good news in their otherwise unreached communities.

Yet, in pursuing these noble callings, they are often forced to put their own families' needs aside. That's where we have the privilege of stepping in. Through your generosity, we support rural pastors with small business assistance, educational opportunities for their children, transportation, and more. Today, will you prayerfully consider giving to support these brave men and women? By doing so, you will bring the gospel to those who have never before heard the name of Jesus.

With gratitude,
Jeff King, President
International Christian Concern

African Leadership, Africa



Being a part of the advancement and uplifting of other Africans, while being a servant leader, is something that I've always wanted to do.

Born into a Christian family in Raleigh, North Carolina to Nigerian immigrant parents who came to America to attend university, I grew up in a unique household. Even though my immediate family was in America, my parents made sure that our traditions, cultures, and values stayed intact throughout my upbringing. Stories of my parents surviving the Nigerian Civil War (Biafran War) and their perseverance instilled the drive to succeed and the passion to give back to my people in Nigeria and across Africa.

In 1996, my parents moved our family to Nashville, Tennessee for job opportunities. Growing up in Nashville, the African community was small, but as we see today, has grown to one of the biggest in the South. As a kid, I saw many parents working, while going to school, and raising children, still send money home to their countries for family upkeep in development. All these things continue to further my want to better Africa. I knew with the opportunities available to me here in the US, I could eventually somehow help the ones back home.

I completed my secondary education in Nashville Metro Schools and went on to study Business at Middle Tennessee State University. While there I was on the college basketball team, a part of the African Student Association, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, INC.

RUNA SIMI MINISTRIES, PERU



The first few months of this year have been filled with a lot of work with the children in our ministries and preparation of materials for the rest of the year. We would love to share with you some pictures from these activities that we've been involved in, as well as some prayer requests:



Our most urgent prayer request: Nemesio had an accident yesterday while doing some maintenance on our property, falling off the wall. He broke several bones in his leg, ankle, and hand. He will need surgery on his ankle and has casts on his hand and leg. Pablo is with him right now, waiting for the surgery. Please pray for his recovery, and also for the change in his plans, as he was supposed to travel to the jungle this month but will have to postpone due to the accident.



At the end of January, our team traveled to the community of Putinza to work with the local children, as well as those who came from nearby communities.

In January, Pablo, Nemesio, and his team traveled to work with children in the communities of Aucayacu, Aguaytia, Curimana, and Pucallpa in the jungle region.



In February, Nemesio and his team participated in our local Church's VBS in Chosica, where Samuel Saccsara is the pastor and most of the family serves. We had the participation of many children and youth, ranging from ages 2 to 15. Please pray for them, as many new children and their families have started attending our church.

UNITED IN GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP

How Churches Can Effectively Support Mission

Philippians 1:3-7

Introduction

The Church's universal call to mission to the World is a powerful testament to God's eternal plan to redeem all nations and bring them into fellowship with God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. This plan is rooted in the Abrahamic covenant, where God promised Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed (**Genesis 12:1-3**). The ultimate fulfillment of this promise is realized in Christ, the true seed of Abraham, through whom the blessings of redemption are extended to all people. The apostolic commission to the Church, as articulated in **Matthew 28:19-20**, mandates all believers to "go and make disciples of all nations," baptizing and teaching them in the name of the Triune God. It is here that the heart of global mission beats, exhorting the Church to be not only a recipient of the gospel but a faithful vessel of its proclamation to all people.

However, there is a misconception within the body of Christ that the responsibility for global evangelization belongs only to professional missionaries, pastors, or other specially gifted individuals. While these roles are vital, the reality is that all believers are called to participate in God's mission. The Great Commission is not limited to a select few but is a universal call to every member of the body of Christ. As Paul writes in **Romans 10:14-15**, "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"

The urgency of mission cannot be overstated. While the global south—especially Africa, Asia, and Latin America—has experienced significant growth in Christianity, the global north remains largely unreached. Missionary work is needed in these regions, particularly in Europe, North America, and Oceania, where spiritual apathy and secularism dominate. This present need calls for a united effort within the global Church, whereby all believers—church leaders and members alike—join together in partnership to advance the gospel.

The demographic group of young people below 18 years is both a growing opportunity and a mission challenge. With the spread of modern technology, we have an entire generation that hangs in a balance because they have become so exposed to a lot of secular information that mocks God. It is time for the global church to partner to win the 2 billion souls of children and youth who are suffering in poverty and prosperity because they have not received faith in Jesus Christ.

The text of **Philippians 1:3-7** provides a profound biblical framework for understanding the nature of partnership in mission, highlighting three key aspects: unity in the gospel, unity in acts of compassion, and unity in prayer. These three elements form the foundation for an effective and faithful engagement in global mission.

1. The Foundation of Our Unity: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

At the heart of the Christian mission is the gospel—the good news of God’s saving work through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel serves as the central unifying force for the Church’s mission. Unity in mission is not simply a matter of organizational structure, but rather it is grounded in the shared proclamation of the gospel. While humanity is divided by race, culture, nationality, and ideology, the gospel transcends all human divisions, uniting believers in one faith, one hope, and one God. The Church’s mission, therefore, is one of gospel proclamation to all nations, drawing people from every tribe, language, and people into a unified body under Christ.

In Philippians 1:5, Paul speaks of the Philippian church’s partnership with him in the gospel, stating that their fellowship in the gospel was not merely one of sharing resources but also of actively participating in the proclamation of the message of Jesus Christ. This partnership in the gospel was a source of great joy for Paul, and it is a partnership that every believer is called to engage in.

Theologically, the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (**Romans 1:16**). It is the proclamation of Christ crucified, raised, and exalted. It is the good news that through Christ’s atoning work, sinners are reconciled to God, forgiven of their sins, and granted eternal life. In the gospel, the kingdom of God is inaugurated, and through the church’s

mission, this kingdom continues to expand until Christ returns. This is the mission to which we are all called.

Practical ways to partner in the gospel:

A. Sharing Resources: One of the critical needs in global mission is the provision of theological resources to pastors and church leaders in under-resourced regions. For example, many pastors in the Global South do not have access to basic tools like the Bible or sound biblical teaching materials. In partnership, we can provide these resources, enabling faithful preaching and teaching of the gospel.

B. Training Church Leaders: Theological training is essential for the preservation of the purity of the gospel. As Paul instructs Timothy, we must entrust the gospel to faithful men who will teach others (**2 Timothy 2:2**). Many churches, especially in Africa, are struggling with a lack of doctrinally sound leadership. Partnering in training leaders ensures that the gospel is faithfully proclaimed and taught, preventing the spread of false doctrine.

C. Sending Missionaries: Missionary work must be intentional and expansive. While churches in the Global South are often growing at a remarkable pace, churches in the Global North are facing decline. It is vital that we send missionaries to the Global North to address the spiritual void present in these regions. This effort requires a unified global Church, committed to supporting and sending workers into these mission fields.

2. United in Acts of Compassion (*Philippians 1:7*)

Biblical compassion is at the core of God's mission in the world. Compassion in the biblical sense goes beyond pity or sympathy; it is the deep-seated mercy that compels one to take action for the benefit of others. Love remains central to acts of Compassion. In **Philippians 1:7**, Paul reflects on the Philippians' compassion toward him, expressing how their support of his ministry in both good times and adversity demonstrates their genuine partnership in the gospel. This is not mere affection but a partnership in action, extending the mercy of God to the world.

Compassion is the fruit of the gospel—just as God has shown mercy to us, so we are called to show mercy to others. The call to compassion is not limited

to those in our immediate circle but extends to the needy, the marginalized, and the oppressed. This is particularly evident in Jesus' earthly ministry, where He was moved with compassion for the multitudes, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and teaching the lost (Matthew 14:14). For the Church, mission is not just about proclaiming the gospel verbally but also about demonstrating the love of Christ through tangible acts of mercy to meet holistic need of the people.

Theologically, acts of compassion are an expression of the kingdom of God breaking into the world. They reflect the character of God, who is described as "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love" (Exodus 34:6). Our compassion is grounded in God's mercy toward us, which calls us to extend that mercy to a broken world.

Practical ways to partner in acts of compassion:

A. Orphan Ministry: The Bible calls the people of God to care for orphans and widows, as pure and undefiled religion (**James 1:27**). In partnership, we can support orphanages and children's ministries that provide food, education, shelter, and medical care to those in desperate need.

B. Widow Ministry: The Church is called to care for widows and to ensure they are not neglected (**1 Timothy 5:3-16**). Partnering in ministry to widows involves meeting their practical needs, providing emotional and spiritual support, and ensuring they are not marginalized within the community.

C. Health and Educational Outreach: In many parts of the world, access to healthcare and education is a significant challenge. Through partnerships, we can provide medical care, nutrition, education, and vocational training to those who otherwise would have no access. These ministries serve as a witness to the compassionate love of Christ.

3. United in Prayer for Mission

Prayer is the spiritual engine that powers the work of mission. Throughout his letters, Paul frequently mentions the importance of prayer for the work of the gospel. In **Philippians 1:6**, Paul expresses his confidence that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." This confidence is grounded in God's faithfulness and the power of prayer to accomplish God's purposes. Prayer sustains the work of missionaries and is essential for the success of global mission.

Prayer is not only about asking for God's help but also about aligning our hearts with His mission. As the Church, we are called to pray for the success of the gospel, for the protection of missionaries, for the empowerment of church leaders, and for the spiritual growth of believers around the world. Missionaries face spiritual, emotional, and physical challenges, and prayer is the means by which the Church supports them in their work.

Practical ways to partner in prayer:

A. Praying for Missionaries: Missionaries are in constant need of intercession. They need prayers for their spiritual strength, financial provision, and protection. By praying for missionaries, we partner with them in their work, knowing that God will accomplish His purposes through their efforts.

B. Praying for the Unreached: The world is still full of unreached people groups. We must pray that God will open doors for the gospel to be proclaimed and that the hearts of the unreached will be softened to receive the message of salvation.

C. Praying for Global Revival: The global Church needs revival, especially in the spiritually dry areas of the world. Through prayer, we can ask God to revive His Church, renew His servants, and bring about a great harvest of souls.

Conclusion

The call to participate in God's mission is a call to unity in the gospel, in acts of compassion, and in prayer. The mission of the Church is not the work of a few, but the collective calling of all believers to go, make disciples, and spread the love of Christ to the ends of the earth. By partnering in gospel proclamation, compassionate ministry, and prayer, we fulfill our divine mandate and share in the joy of seeing God's kingdom advance. As we partner together, let us be encouraged by the words of the Apostle Paul in **Philippians 1:6**, confident that the work God has begun will be brought to completion in Christ Jesus.

In *Echoes of Mercy Mission*, we are committed to reaching the lost, caring for the vulnerable, and making disciples who will make disciples. As we unite in mission, we do so with full confidence in God's faithfulness to accomplish His work through His people, to the glory of His name. Let us press on in the mission, knowing that we are partners in the gospel, united in Christ for the sake of the world.

Honoring Faithfulness in Ministry

In 1981 Ben and Diane Goldsmith moved from Atlanta to begin the ministry of Cru Inner City Jacksonville, Florida. After **36 years** leading the ministry, they passed the baton in 2017 to Tony and Connie Johnson. Now the baton has passed again, this time to James Burden.

To honor the service of the Goldsmiths and the Johnsons, one of my colleagues on the Expansion Team, Derrick, and I put on a ministry celebration brunch. Ben and Diane and Tony and Connie were each presented crystal awards, with inscriptions detailing their faithful service to Jacksonville. Ben and Tony each spoke and thanked supporters and ministry partners in attendance and shared what the ministry meant to them. They also spoke of James' involvement as a volunteer and the faithfulness he showed to helping bring the gospel to inner city Jacksonville. All that eventually lead him to join Cru Inner City Staff full time.

James was then introduced as the official Cru Inner City representative. He shared a bit of his heart for the ministry and where he sees it going in the future. We then had a ceremony where Ben passed an actual relay baton to Tony and they both passed it to James. After James was prayed over the event concluded.

It was very fitting to honor these faithful men and women. I felt privileged to have been a part.



James and Friends

Here are some prayer requests for our team

Our team has been dealing with several serious issues. We would appreciate prayer for our friends.

New York – In July 2024 our colleague Glen's wife, Carole found out she has pancreatic cancer. She has gone through several rounds of treatment which are difficult but she remains in good spirits.

Tampa – In September 2024 Jackie's husband, Ricky, was bitten by a mosquito and contracted equine encephalitis and sadly, passed away. Our team has had the privilege of walking with Jackie and her family through this huge change in her life. It is very hard but she is holding tight to Jesus and growing through this difficult time.

For me, Jim - I have had dizziness for most of last year related to my Meniere's Syndrome. About five weeks ago the dizziness intensified. It is not vertigo, but it does make me very tired as I expend energy to keep my balance. I would appreciate prayer for it to end. Or that I cope with this "new normal".

Jacksonville – James' wife Tomilko has been diagnosed with a tumor on her kidney. The treatment is yet to be determined.

Wait a minute - Just as I was writing this, I got a call from James. (I am coaching him in support raising and he had a question.) After we discussed his question, he said he had great news. Tomilko had gotten a second opinion, and the doctor ordered another scan of her kidney. What they found was the tumor had shrunk to almost nothing and was no longer a problem! We are so relieved for Tomilko and James and are grateful for the good news.

Jim and Marlene Koslowsky
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Thank you for your prayers that help us fight the
spiritual battle,

Jim