

## **“How have our missionaries been impacted by COVID? How have they had to adapt? How has their ministry thrived even during the pandemic?”**

- “As a result of this global COVID-19 pandemic, most of our plans have changed. It has been a time to stop, reflect, and refocus. As we have waited on God during this season, here are several things we have learned about life and ministry:
  - Invest in a few who can multiply many.
  - Focus on families.
  - Respond to those who are open and in need.
  - Discover and obey the Word of God.
  - Prayerfully follow the Holy Spirit’s leading.
  - Keep everything simple and reproducible.”

**Karl & Jenny Teichert - Johannesburg, South Africa, OC Africa**

### **Russell & Carol Barr – France**

#### **World Team**

The Barrs teaching ministry has been affected in several ways:

- Some students have not returned since the pandemic started. The French have big signup days where everyone registers for their extracurricular classes for the year. Russell and Carol were in the US when enrollment for a limited number of tables occurred so they weren’t able to advertise their (art, pottery making) classes.
- There are some new women for the Soul Care Class, a women’s Bible study class that ministers to those struggling with cancer, loneliness, anxiety, fear, etc. because of COVID.
- The pastor at a church they helped plant has resigned and the church plans to split. Fear and uncertainty are high in France with 70% of the French wanting to return to quarantine! The Barrs feel that fear and different views on how to be a church and deal with ministry during a pandemic are driving this split.
- Because of the fear and anxiety people are feeling, Russell, Carol and their core couples have decided to focus on evangelism and teach from the book of John about how Jesus would cope with all this fear and uncertainty.
- On a recent Sunday Russell and Carol shared their testimonies of peace in Christ by casting their burdens and worries on Him throughout their lives.

### **Border Missions – Hidalgo, TX**

#### **Roland & Megan Gonzalez**

- In August, Jerry & Albertia retired after 10 years as directors of the Mission.
- Roland & Megan Gonzalez assumed leadership of the ministry. Megan is the great granddaughter of Harold & Katherine Morgan, the founders of Border Missions.
- The Mission is still being blessed with an abundance of food and non-perishable items, and continues to give food to the ministries and individuals that come for curbside pickup, but they have not been able to hold weekly church services.
- Food distribution occurs every Thursday. On one Thursday in April, approximately 750 cars came through the drive up line to receive food. Surplus produce bags went out the next morning to ministries that give in other areas.

### **Destiny Community Church – Nairobi, Kenya, Africa**

## **Bishop Richard Murungi**

- They had a food drive in May and again in August to feed the many people who were unable to work because of COVID and near starvation. EHCC participated, along with members of Destiny Community Church and other churches to raise money to help feed the community. In May, \$12,000 was raised, enough to feed 2,000 families in the villages.
- They are going through a multi-year drought. People have to walk five kilometers (3.1 miles) each way to get water from the nearest drinkable water source, and the line at the well is hours long. Add to that carrying the heavy four-gallon (33 lb) containers back! They need to raise \$20,000 to drill another, closer well. With a well they will also be able to plant crops such as tomatoes, bananas, and watermelons. Please pray for funds to drill more wells in a culture that solely depends on rainwater, which is unpredictable.
- Unfortunately, here in Kenya it's winter season (July) when people get colds and the flu. This is causing a lot of confusion between normal colds, the flu, and the pandemic. The challenge is on how to keep social distance in a community where everything is communal and public. Many can't afford sanitizers, facemasks, and food to keep them home.
- The schools were closed for five months, reopening in early October. They experienced a lot of challenges, especially with the adolescent teens. Some of the major challenges include teen girls getting pregnant and teen rebellion due to lack of supervision. The village kids are the most affected by this pandemic. They can't access e-learning because they don't have cell towers. Every parent is acting as a teacher and helping with the homework at home. This poses another challenge; some parents have never gone to school.
- In addition to the pandemic challenges, there was a locust infestation and a flood!
- The widows are still keeping their sewing and goat ministry, which has given them food and a small income. Thanks to the people who donated these goats; they have helped a lot in this trying time.

## **POWER Ministry - Texas-Mexico Border**

(Purposeful Outreach With Eternal Results)

- POWER's missionaries on the Mexican side of the Texas-Mexico border were hit hard. Many have been hospitalized but are recovering.
- There have been job losses and no government stimulus packages on the Mexico side of the border.
- POWER's partners are thankful for food drives and prayers.
- POWER has donated nearly \$10,000 in five different countries since the pandemic struck last April.
- POWER raised a record \$275,000 in net proceeds at their annual golf classic in September!

## **Jim Ringdahl – Monument, CO**

### **Greater Europe Mission (GEM)**

- All face-to-face GEM ministries have stopped but they still hosted a virtual Home Ministry Renewal as well as a virtual candidate school for prospective GEM missionaries.

- Jim asked for prayers for his Colorado Springs office morale. A missionary who returned to the U.S. from the field died of cancer, and this has deeply impacted the team.

## **Talking Bibles International**

### **Worldwide; focus area Africa and India**

- Mark Hoekstra, President, and his brother Paul traveled to India February 19-March 4 (ahead of COVID; how is that for God's timing!) for a national conference of 29 state and some district coordinators and 480 pastors from all over India who have been using Talking Bibles in their ministries.
- In total, 3,500 Talking Bibles were given to the attendees to carry home with them. The Talking Bibles came from China, and were ordered before the money to pay for them was secured. They had to move in faith, trusting God to provide. And God did!
- In July, Talking Bibles made arrangements with the American Bible Society to place 50,000 Talking Bibles in 10 African countries in the next two years. Just last week, 5,000 Talking Bibles arrived in Uganda. These Bibles are heading to the refugee camps in South Sudan.
- Talking Bibles continue to be shipped and distributed during the COVID pandemic. For example, in late October, 4,000 Talking Bibles were sent to India. The pastors in India report that there are now hundreds upon hundreds of small fellowship groups forming around the Talking Bibles. God is raising up a new army of women who are taking the Good News about Jesus to the people in the villages. The people are seeking comfort in their time of sorrow and God's Word is meeting their need.
- In the US, around 300 Talking Bibles per month are purchased through [TB2U.com](http://TB2U.com). Many of these Bibles go to people in retirement homes. People in 195 different countries are listening to the Talking Bible audio listening website. 28,000 people per month come to listen an average of 41 minutes a day.
- God blessed the ministry this fiscal year with nearly \$1.7 million. That is the highest annual income in the past 30 years of ministry. We made and placed more Talking Bibles than any previous year.

## **Emma Tautolo – Tempe, AZ**

### **Cru Ministries / Athletes in Action**

- “Our mission hasn't changed in the face of COVID-19. We still have the same vision and are still reaching the same audience. However, our methods are obviously changing as we figure out virtual ways to make disciples who make disciples.”
- The Ultimate Training camp, held every May/June, usually has 100 college athletes engage in sport, Gospel, and worship through competition. This May we combined four camps into one virtual camp. There ended up being 800 athletes who tuned in! After the camp, over 200 athletes indicated a decision to follow Christ for the first time or to re-commit their lives to following Jesus.
- “Covid has stolen so much from everyone, but one thing it hasn't stolen is the Spirit of God leading laborers into His harvest”
- How are we going to do ministry on empty campuses? Most of our campuses have gone virtual yet we still trust the Lord. Across the country we are innovating and figuring out different ways to engage student-athletes from a distance while abiding by social distancing guidelines so that we would bring the Gospel
  - The Sacramento team is putting social media to work by “sleuthing” as a means to meet the incoming freshman.
  - Our UC Davis staff leader led an athlete to Christ over a zoom call.

- Univ. of Arizona is creating a QR code that links students to a Google form to fill out a survey about spiritual interest that they will be able to follow up.
- UC Irvine did a virtual spa night with the women athletes where leaders invited teammates, and were able to connect over discussion questions while doing facemasks together on a zoom call with some new students.
- San Diego state is asking the head football coach if he can do a zoom team meeting specifically with the freshmen to plug them into virtual weekly chapels, bible studies or discipleship groups.
- East Hills, “you are a gift and a blessing and I am so thankful for you in this hard and uncertain season.”

## **Karl & Jenny Teichert – Johannesburg, South Africa**

### **One Challenge International**

- As most South Africans have lost their jobs during the nine-week national lockdown period (as of July 15), food provision is the greatest need. Through the nearly 20 churches in our area, over 360,000 meals have been distributed through food vouchers or parcels. These are distributed through local Christian leaders/pastors in about 21 poor communities.
- There are so many needs for food right now. People are starving because they have lost their jobs. We identified 20 foreign families from Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique who are unable to receive food from the government and have been delivering food parcels to them. Our hope is to build relationships with these families and bring hope to them.
- The pandemic has created many unexpected ministry opportunities for us here in South Africa. OC Africa was certified as an essential service. This allowed Jenny to continue driving into Finetown to deliver food. She delivers food to Mama Florina (she runs a soup kitchen) and the orphan children once a month from donations sent from the states. Mama Florina is able to feed many of the community children as well. We were also able to help the home-based caregivers with food vouchers.
- Karl has been invited to coordinate the Church Planting Pillar of the LEAN (Local Ecumenical Action Network). This working group assists in providing gospel material with each food parcel and enlisting the contact details of every family. The goal is that each community leader/ pastor can follow up with each family and form small disciple-making groups. Each leader/pastor is being intentionally trained and mentored with the vision to plant at least 30 new churches in the next 12 months in our area. Praise the Lord for how God is building His church through this crisis!

### **Upper Room Ministries – Cuddalore, India**

- Seemon (Rev Rajan’s son-in-law and successor) is continuing his Bible College studies online from home. He plans to complete his studies in 2022.
- Seemon continues to lead church services, village ministries, and house visits.
- People are struggling day-to-day with living and their finances. In May, Seemon passed out \$500 worth of rice and vegetables, and on another occasion, Seemon passed out money for the village people to buy food.
- In July, East Hills received a very informative field report, which included dozens of pictures and videos (to be shared soon with our congregation), as well as names, grades, and ages of the orphan girls. They visited all but four girls (their villages were in quarantine at the time).

- Seemon and/or Ramana (Rev Rajan's wife) also visited 12 former students who at 18 years old aged out of the care of the orphanage. Of these older girls, five were married, several of them had jobs and families, one had an 11-day old baby, and six were going to college. All were still practicing their Christian faith. Praise God!

### **V Family – Southeast Asia**

#### **Global Serve International**

- The family has been unable to get visas to return to the mission field because of COVID, and the country is not allowing any foreigners in.
- The family moved to Wisconsin, where Jeff is working on projects for a supporting church.
- Jeff & Ashley are still on leadership with their sending agency and have some responsibilities for remote meetings and check-ups with different families.

### **East Hills Community Church**

- One-time gifts of \$750 each from the Mission Ministry budget were sent in May for the following ministries and purpose:
  - Border Missions – Hidalgo, TX to feed the TX-Mexico border communities
  - Destiny Community Church – Kenya, Africa to support a food drive
  - Karl & Jenny Teichert – Johannesburg, South Africa to feed Finetown community
  - Upper Room Ministries – Cuddalore, India to feed local community