

MISSIONS UPDATE JANUARY 2024

As in years pass the Mission Team has sent each of our Missionaries a Christmas monetary gift from you, the people of Grace Community Church! We have received many thanks from the missionaries they are so appreciative of any financial help.

Donna Smith – Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea – International School with Wycliffe Bible Translators

Donna and friends were questioning each other pondering why we are still here when others have left due to hard and sad reasons? Thankfully, their surviving and thriving and seeing results in their ministry. As an example, Donna watched as 10 children were baptized by their parents in the river.

Jared and Hannah Baker – N. Africa – Serve Globally

They just spent their 4th Christmas season in Tunisia. Hannah is working as the new Regional Coordinator for MENA. Jared has stepped into his new role as Country Director for NGO in Tunisia.

PRAYERS - They were horrified by what is going on in Israel, Gaza and West Bank. Asking for prayers for MENA team as they have friends and partners in these regions. January they are meeting with Serve Globally partners working against human trafficking throughout the MENA regions. Tunisia continues to have shortages of staple goods ie. Rice, flour, sugar, coffee! This causes so much strain on families.

Ben and Christy McLure – Reach Caucasus – Turkey/Azerbaijan

PRAYERS – Aftermath of Nagorno-Karabakh war; for Armenian refugees and healing/forgiveness on both sides. For R2D2 (as requested?) to be able to leave his military service because he was drafted against his will. Wisdom as new entry bans into Turkey increase. Need for a mature team leader in Baku. The launch of our REACH Evangelism Training program is in February. Regained trust of the mothers at the K-ish school. For our family wisdom in managing time and duties, friends, language learning and health for our children.

Mentoring Tucson's Kids

2023 was challenging as they rebuilt and updated the MTK needs of kids. They are putting into effect mental, emotional and spiritual health and wellness, increased sensitivity to siblings, adding family engagement and activities to serve this vulnerable population. Also, developing partnerships to address some of the needs and adding education for both mentors and parents facing challenges for today's youth.

Francisco and Stephanie Ramos – Ministry through the Arts – Paris, France

They start 2024 after a year in the states. Big change is no longer dealing with the art space and having more time for support and encouraging the artist community. The artist chose "Movement" as the teaching series theme, which is also the theme for the Summer Olympics. In May, they hope to have a spiritual retreat in Avignon at a host church.

Righteous Rides

After a successful year of providing rides for visiting missionaries they ended the year with a successful fund-raiser which resulted in \$140,000!

Marc and Anneliese Madrigals – Turkey

They were very saddened by the news of Anneliese's cousin (Nathan) and his family who were forced to leave Turkey after they received an entrance ban and code deeming them "a threat to national security." They had to leave behind their home, possessions, car and relationships. Their car is with us for safekeeping until we figure out the next steps to take regarding the sale. It was an unexpected event, obviously we too were shocked. Currently they are trying to figure out the next steps to take. Foundation we are a part of has been very active in meeting the needs of the earthquake victims over the last year. Aside from meeting basic needs like clothing, food and other basic necessities through the warehouse in Samandağ (Antioch), our foundation was able to provide for the construction of 265 prefab housing units as well as more than 350 mobile toilet units through generous donations from all over the globe.

Bigimba Ngabo – Goshen Ministries – Uganda and Tucson

Bigimba has been in Uganda and was able to accomplish their main goal of upgrading the reading/computer resource room. Teaching staff for remedial reading program was trained and a workshop was facilitated for the high school students to establish goals and steps to transition from school to independence. Training was given by people that traveled with Bigimba. A huge blessing was that they had funds for scholarships for 34

Cont. Goshen Ministries

elementary students. Without the funds these children wouldn't have gone to school. Prayers that education will draw the whole family to Christ!

Tucson has supported two new families into transitional apartments for refugees. These families do have relatives to help them navigate settling in the USA. With Bigimba and family being gone for the past several weeks efforts have not started to work as co-sponsors with the International Rescue Committee assisting new refugees.