

CBC Missionary Newsletter – April 1, 2022

ASIA

T & J, Je (Bangladesh, NYC)

In Bangladesh:

An exciting door has opened to us in the north in a Muslim village. This village has never been touched with the gospel and the people live in abject poverty both physically and spiritually. The village is so poor that it does not have its own marketplace, no school for the children, and NO local mosque nor imam. This opens a way to bring the good news of Christ into the village without any resistance from the imam.

We have found a man of peace there who welcomed Pastor M into his home to tell him about Jesus and soon Pastor M was studying the Gospel of Luke with five men in the village and now the Gospel of John. Now their wives and two other women want to hear also. The host home for this study has received some harassment from people in the village. We are praying continually that evangelistic fellowship is protected and that Father would draw them to His Son.

N Church in a Hindu community:

A house for Christ was built on B's land and Hindus came to hear how to be liberated from the fearful life of idolatry and to become free in Christ. However, strong persecution came hard against Pastor M and B. In this latest attack, B's son-in-law who returned from abroad and was so incensed that the gods are not being worshiped and have been replaced by Christ that he demanded that the church close or he would divorce B's daughter and they would destroy the church building. Sadly B succumbed to his family's demands. Please pray for B and the Christians in that community and for Pastor M.

In NYC:

Over 500 tracts were given out the past month. We are going to Bengali homes and restaurants to reach out and are serving them in our Center. Here are a few examples of how God is opening doors to us.

- After J's English class one day, one of her students, F, was sitting at the desk talking with J. F noticed the Injil Sharif (New Testament) on the desk and eagerly said to J, "I want to read that." J later went to her house and brought her the Injil and shared with her about the love of Christ and the gospel. It turns out her husband wants to read also. The Spirit is stirring in this family.
- Je asked a student one day "How is your heart?" She said she feels good. Je asked why. She replied, "Because I am here now. I feel good when I come here." T senses a different spirit and is now open to Je ministering to her.
- A young man, 19, came to meet with T. During the pandemic he had a total emotional breakdown and has not recovered. The doctors quickly diagnosed him with schizophrenia. He has been on meds and succumbing to deep depression. The family has despaired over him. But T was able to speak God's hope and love for him. This has opened the door to begin ministering to his heart and to show him that Jesus can heal his soul.

S & V (India) March 29, 2022

V and I, along with our extended family in India, were thrilled to have our daughter, P, and her husband, N, visit us for twelve days. In these twelve days, they visited over twelve cities by flight, train, and road. We don't know about them but we were exhausted.

The Indian government is holding the NGOs hostage by not granting the FCRA permission for five years but extending our current permission only by three months at a time, from March 31st it is now ending on June 30th. And it comes with the rider that we should only transfer money for three months otherwise if our FCRA is canceled, all the unused funds will be seized. We are not alone in this, another 26,000+ organizations are waiting for their approvals!

NIITS' graduation date has been set for April 29, 2022. Eighteen students are expected to graduate but we have to reevaluate each one to make sure they have completed all their work, especially during the two years of online classes and assignments. Asia Theological Association extended the accreditation of our degree programs by two years since a reevaluation visit could not be conducted in February this year due to pandemic restrictions.

I just finished teaching a portion of the course on eschatology and was so blessed to go over the book of Revelation. How refreshing it has been to teach about the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

M & R (Myanmar, USA)

By the grace of God, we were finally able to visit Thailand from January 12 to February 10, 2022. We spent seven days in a designated quarantine hotel.

On January 21st we celebrated our freedom and M's 75th birthday!! It has been two years since our hasty departure from Thailand, but it was absolutely a joyful homecoming. The primary reason for our trip was to spend time with Rev. A and his family. Rev. A produces five programs per week in the Mon language. Each program is thirty minutes in length and the programs are aired twice per day on shortwave radio. They are also available on our monradio.org website and streamed on facebook.

An unexpected bonus was the chance to attend the wedding of one of our former staff, Pastor MC. He is now serving with a prison ministry in Thailand, and has planted a small Mon church in one of the migrant worker communities.

What's next:

M & R will continue to produce two radio programs per week. M is also busy with the checking and editing of the music/dance videos which are in the final stages of post-production.

R has resumed her online English conversation with Mon young people. Rev. A asked us to pray about doing English camps in Mon communities in Thailand since it is still not wise, safe or practical to go back to the homeland. We are very interested in the idea. Please pray with us for the Lord's clear guidance as to how we can best serve and stay connected with our people.

WESTERN ASIA

A & E (Turkey) March 3, 2022

God has given E an incredible, unprecedented opportunity to serve Turkey's community! E has been a member of this community for the past four years and will head up both member relations and training. Over the next two years we are so excited to continue to draw from our network of mission-minded professionals who will not only bless and serve Turkey, but who will prayerfully build significant bridges for the gospel to be proclaimed!

We are generally healthy and doing well as a family. Our kids feel like they are finally adjusted to being back in school in-person after last year's seemingly endless quarantine, "zoom school" year. W (6th grade) has grown a lot this year, working through bullying issues, attention deficit problems, and his growing body—he is now taller than his mom! God has given him a gentle, silly soul, and he is a source of continual joy to our family. M (2nd grade) has also had her own share of issues with friends and school, and is growing well into her very headstrong personality. M is a natural communicator and leader and our family learns something from her every day. Thank you for praying with us for our kids!

This month we are staying quite busy as we visit ministry teams all around the country who are working hard to reach and disciple students, professionals, athletes, and church communities. This is also the season when people apply to join our staff, and we are involved in the entire new staff applicant process. Additionally, we have various roles in upcoming retreats, our all-staff conference, and a 3-day leadership training in May which A is developing for our senior staff.

Thank you, also, for continuing to pray with us for A's Turkish citizenship application. Since he had his interview in May 2021, we have not heard anything. In December we discovered that the Interior Ministry has a huge backlog of applications and that they are slowly working toward his application. We expect to hear back anytime--please keep praying for a favorable result!

We have not traveled internationally for 3 years, but we have two upcoming trips to the USA. We have plans to travel to New England later this month—March 17-30—and will take the kids out of school for that time. Pray for travel mercies, healthy bodies, and especially for W, who will need to make up some exams upon our return. We are also planning an extended home assignment in the USA over the summer, based on the West Coast, when we hope to be able to reconnect with many of you in person.

EASTERN EUROPE

Diana and Bogdan March 1, 2022

Romania has a long border with Ukraine and we are receiving refugees in the country. All churches are opening doors, people are giving food, clothes, towels, toiletries, medicine and many prayers. We have systems in place in order to receive more refugees. In the last two days Romania received over 20,000 refugees and reportedly Romania is ready to receive up to 500,000 refugees. May it not be necessary, may evil not prevail.

We need wisdom in knowing how to continue with our plans for this spring.

- Bogdan has a national Edge stage (part of the championship, over 70% of students are nonbelievers), happening the weekend of April 1-3. We need discernment in how to

continue. The boys need this connection and time together, but finding places to host them might be impossible as all camps and motels are rented out to refugees.

- We were supposed to have the national discipleship training for youth leaders in April and the Balkan cup (with teams from Ukraine, Moldova, Estonia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania) in May - all countries are overwhelmed with the situation, and of course, the borders with Ukraine are closed. So pray for DISCERNMENT. Jesus is the Way!

Please also pray for the conversations we are having with our young people about fear, anxiety and war, their friends. They have confusion and questions, but these are discipleship opportunities. We just had a conversation with them about how to bring the hope of Jesus in the conversations with their friends.

Susan (Romania) March 2, 2022

I have been working with Pastor Ovidiu Rusnac who is a member of the Bucharest council of churches and pastor of Hope Church. I haven't been called upon yet to host Ukrainians but am involved in buying supplies, sorting donations and packing them up to be shipped to the Ukraine. This will be a continuous task as long as the war continues. I am also involved in distributing resumes of refugees wanting to work in Bucharest and will be helping our student/grad movement to build a database of Ukrainian and international college students and young professionals who will be staying indefinitely in Romania, for long-term support.

Pastor Ovidiu told me that they arranged for the Ukrainian refugees to have services in their own language at Hope Church and a few days ago he received a box with Ukrainian bibles. He is working on getting more but they need money.

There is a great need for prayer and funds for this crisis. The Romanians have given what they can and are now looking elsewhere for financial help.

Romanian aids to the Ukrainians:

- Churches are regularly sending truckloads of supplies to Ukrainians who have remained in the country.
- Churches are raising and sending funds to first responders on the Romanian border with Ukraine.
- Churches and families are housing refugees both who are both passing through Romania and who have chosen to stay in Romania, at least for the moment. In Bucharest many refugee centers have been set up in churches and public buildings. Restaurants continue to give free meals, and medical professionals are volunteering their services.

There is a significant human trafficking problem in Romania. Please pray that Romanians wanting to help will be informed of the dangers and techniques of these criminals and that God would protect vulnerable Ukrainian refugees from them.

Thank you for your prayers for the graduate ministry. I have been working on the website, vocational groups, networking, recruiting laborers, doing Life Purpose coaching and visioning with others about future ministry. I appreciate your continued prayers for juggling work responsibilities and serving in the efforts to aid Ukrainians.

MIDDLE EAST

D & K (Bethlehem, Palestine) March 21, 2022

In the East Jerusalem International Church we are studying the passages in Mark 14-16 that lead up to and include the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Each word of Jesus in these passages is so meaningful. As we are walking with Jesus to the cross together, different church members are delivering the message on various weeks.

J & S (Beirut, Lebanon) March 13, 2022

Our clinic is continuously busy thank God. One of my patients (M.O.), the kindest man that I love dearly, is scheduled for cardiac bypass surgery. His wife (S.O), who had three brothers killed, is depressed. She sleeps all day and is up all night walking the unsafe streets. She states when she closes her eyes she sees her brothers. This couple has three children.

This week at our clinic we served a sick baby whose parents had no money for hospital bills, a migrant domestic worker (thrown to the ground in a purse snatching - thank God no serious injury), and a 13 year old boy who is continuously persecuted for his faith, but he stands strong.

Thursday, my 26 year old male patient died of cardiac issues. I couldn't hold back the tears. I don't know why I cried so much. I'd only seen him a few times but I remember his kindness and thinking how young he was to be seeing the cardiologist. J and I attended the in-home "condolence visit". As we looked around the room, countless people had formerly been nonbelievers and now know Jesus Christ. Compassion brought us here. Compassion keeps us going. Compassion is what keeps us here.

Pray for everyone that comes to the clinic.

Imagine your life being under threat and being forced to leave your home country with only the clothes on your back and your passport, in a matter of hours, all the while knowing that you may never be able to return to your home country. This is the reality for most of the Muslim Background Believers (MBB) who flee their country of origin and end up in Lebanon. Their choice to follow Jesus is not one that comes without consequences. On a recent home visit to one such family, they shared their struggles: feeling God is not near them, depression, struggles within the believing community, little financial support, and an unknown future.

It brought me to Jesus' words to his disciples in Matthew, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

They could easily choose to return to their country of origin and renounce their faith, and these challenges would disappear. How great a God we serve who is able to keep us in perfect peace, despite overwhelming circumstances. I went to encourage them but they encouraged me in their unwavering faith. Let their lives and struggles encourage you as well.

Thank you for your faithful giving. With your help, through the church, we have been able to support ten MBB families (8 Egyptian and 2 Syrian) with educational costs (tuition, books, supplies, uniforms, etc).

Our two young children are adjusting day by day. God has sent them a network of good friends and we're happy for that blessing. Despite some challenges due to the crisis here, school remains mostly open.

H (Jordan) March 28, 2022

Ministries to Syrian and Iraqi refugees:

- Seventy-nine Iraqi families immigrated from Jordan to Canada and Australia recently. They hope to start a church and be a blessing to the Arab community there. May God provide Christian fellowship and schools for their children.
- They are praying and planning to open a school among the displaced Syrian refugees who have been in Jordan eleven years with no schools.
- For Ramadan they are providing fruit and vegetables to about 700 Syrian families. May the families be reminded of God's love in Christ and the church has not forgotten them.
- Please remember Yasser, a Syrian man dying of cancer. H has been able to help him with some of his medical needs and has stood with him and his family in prayer for healing. Pray that he and his family will come to know God's mercy.

Medical Ministries:

- A dentist will start working with them two days per month. The dental clinic serves the long list of people needing dental work. They still need a dental assistant.
- Many prenatal patients have been coming to the prenatal clinic. May the Lord give them wisdom to manage the many sensitive issues for their patients in a caring and compassionate way. The clinic will need additional funding to continue and to allow them to help their patients with serious problems that need more testing and treatment they can do in the clinic.
- They have been leading several Jordanian women in a parenting class using biblical principles in partnership with a local center. Pray that the women will see the wisdom of the principles and be drawn to want to know more about where this wisdom comes from.

Ministries to MBBs:

- Twelve MBBs were recently baptized and immediately they are being persecuted by their families and community. Please pray for them to stay strong in their faith and grow in the Lord.
- The Muslim outreaches are bearing much fruit. Pray the Lord will send laborers into His harvest.

New and ongoing ministry:

- Next month H will travel to Latvia to teach and train workers on how to maintain a balance between mercy and truth to serve the refugees.
- May the Lord use Theological Education on Zoom to build his church in the middle of the Islamic world.
- The plan to start a discipleship project for the youth in Jordan so that God will make them leaders who are spiritually qualified to serve other young men and women as described in 2 Timothy 2:2.
- May they have eyes to see the people God is working in and to enable them to disciple them or connect them to others who can.

AFRICA

Dhan & Dolly (Zimbabwe)

This year began with a test of whether we really believe that those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior can find meaning and have hope regardless of the circumstances.

On January 5th, Dolly fell ill with pneumonia but tested negative for Covid. In December I was diagnosed with a pinched nerve in my lower back. Because of Dolly's illness, I had to put my own treatment on hold. In just a few months, I twice witnessed the Lord bring Dolly back. We thank God for His mercies toward us and, by His grace, we believe he is working out His larger purpose for us.

So far this year, sluggishness has characterized the ministry. On one hand, we battled illnesses and the lethargy brought on by the pandemic. On the other hand, the small group who had shown so much promise and into whom we had been pouring much, have been caught between going back to the 'same old, same old'. We will continue to help them grow in their relationship with the Lord.

We are grateful for your prayers. Please continue to intercede for us.

LATIN AMERICA

Abner & Susan (Latin America, USA) March 8, 2022

The first Latin America Leadership Training Institute since COVID restrictions have lessened has been a real step of faith and we've seen God bless in amazing ways. We praise God for so graciously supplying all needed scholarships, the roof on the dorm and upgrading the classroom! Although we were anticipating twenty-two students, we praise God for the twelve that made it - including four from Venezuela! Praise God they've all eagerly accepted the demanding schedule and are absorbing all they can.

Last week they were teamed up and sent to six cities for the whole week, to observe a CEF work in progress while also practicing what they'd learned. Praise God 4,076 children heard the gospel and 1,507 were counseled for salvation, and fourteen teachers received training.

Now the students are back at the camp for the final three weeks of classes, focused mainly on administration. Continue to pray that God will give wisdom to the teachers and understanding to the students. We praise God that this smaller group of twelve students has been easy to manage and provides more time for personal help from the staff. However, a minimum of twenty-two students is needed to cover all expenses. Please pray God will honor this step of faith and keep us focused on HIM to supply every remaining need.

NORTH AMERICA

Nadine (Memphis, TN) March 18, 2022

This week is spring break for the school children. It is nice to have a break from teaching so we can start preparing for summer ministry. One of my projects is writing the preschool missionary story text that will be taught in the 5-Day Clubs. Also we have either been preparing for lessons we will teach at Camp Good News or the sessions we will train the youth at Christian Youth In Action.

Teaching children has its challenges but also has its joys. Before I start my clubs, I ask the children if they have any prayer requests. One girl raised her hand, "Can you pray that masks will be optional?" In about a couple of weeks the Memphis Shelby County schools announced that masks would be optional. She was not the only person happy to hear the announcement. I was too. It is so much easier to teach without a mask. I love seeing the children's smiling faces. Now that the children can see our faces, their comments have been fun. One girl had a huge smile when she said, "Ms. Nadine, I can see your face!" Another girl said, "Ms. Nadine, you have interesting teeth." When a girl saw Donald's beard she said, "Mr. Donald, you look old." We all laughed.

Thank you for praying for Vaught, the boy who gets frustrated because his little brother does not believe in God. After Ms. Emmie taught the Bible lesson, he went to talk with her. After the club had ended, she told me Vaught prayed to receive Jesus!

Please pray for another Good News Club student, Sam. He came to talk to both Christopher and me. A couple weeks after I had given him a tract, I asked him if he had read it and wanted to believe in Jesus. He said, "Yes, ma'am, I've read it. I want to believe, but I am still thinking about it." He seems so close to putting his faith in Jesus. He is such a sweet boy, a great helper and pays special attention in class.

David & Bethanne (CRU in Pennsylvania) March 24, 2022

David is so thankful to God to be serving on the *Northeast Cru Campus People & Culture Team*. The fifteen member leadership team is a Human Resources+Field Mobilization+Field Training entity that serves all the Cru staff that are "boots on the ground" workers on the campuses of the Northeast (Baltimore to Buffalo to Maine is our scope). This springtime our focus is on the hiring and onboarding of new campus missionaries.

On the personal front David's mother, Adela Moles, passed on to Glory on March 22, 2022. She was a godly woman and prayer warrior. She was 91! David and his 3 siblings are all walking with Christ because of her and my Dad (d. 2016). They worshiped with us at Calvary several times during our time as Cru staff in NYC. We miss her already but rejoice to know she is with Jesus. We will have her Memorial in Annapolis, MD on April 30th.

Bethanne is doing okay. She is locked in now (can't communicate at all) but still very much mentally alert. We can tell by virtue of tears at the right moments at sad news or increases in blood pressure at other times that she is aware. We are convinced that God will use her illness to bring glory to His name. Several not-yet-believers marvel at her resilience and endurance which has given us the opportunity to give testimony of the Hope that motivates us despite the toll of her "earthly tent" failing. Please continue to pray for God to work in us both through this trial and especially to give voice to our hope to those we encounter.