



MISSION NEWS

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

SUMMER
2019

A VISION FOR HONDURAS

BY ROMONDO DAVIS

Have you ever been curious as to what a mission trip experience is like? Want to know how effective a missionary's work is before you provide financial support? Missions and Outreach at Central conducts vision trips which allow participants an opportunity to observe a ministry in action.

In late March, I had the privilege of going on a vision trip to Honduras. I've been there twice before, so I was familiar with this ministry dedicated to taking young homeless boys off the streets of Tegucigalpa and through faith, education, and training, equip them to make a difference in their communities.

Freya Blackman, the youngest member of the group at 10 years old, has dreamed of visiting The Micah Project. For several years she has been encouraging the Micah boys through letters, fund raisers, and prayer. She was particularly touched by the dramatic change in the lives of the formerly hopeless street kids who now have a home, a loving family, faith in God, and hope for their futures.

Other team members were surprised at the reality of the living environment the boys came from, and now return to in ministry as they bring hope and caring to others who have yet to find the freedom they have experienced.

Team member Neal Nielsen shared "We were able to visit with some of the original Micah boys, who are now Micah men. We met with Pedro, his wife, his young son, and his one-month-old little daughter, living in his new house. He's now a civil engineer, working for the city of Tegucigalpa for the mayor. It just literally



Vision trip members pose with the Micah boys, Michael Miller, and staff

brought me to tears."

A vision trip might be the best way to experience how God is using his people in Kingdom changing work. A trip like this provides a chance to learn more about the best ways to encourage and assist missionaries and their communities.

As Michael Miller said "When you step out of your comfort zone and come to a country like Honduras, and you see the kids on the streets, you smell the glue that the kids are inhaling, and then you see all that's going on at the Micah Project, and how God is restoring lives, it gives you such a broad vision of what God is doing in another part of the world, and how God is still alive and active and moving His Kingdom purposes forward."

THE GOSPEL IN ACTION

BY JEFF BROWN

Having recently returned from my first visit to Honduras, friends and family have all asked the same question: "What was it like?" It's impossible to give a short answer to this question. Honduras is a paradox. The country is breathtakingly beautiful, yet by our standards, trash is everywhere. The people are kind and generous and warm, yet the threat of violence and endemic, pervasive poverty are harsh realities. Even the traffic is paradoxical. Traffic laws serve as mere suggestions, yet no one seems to get particularly upset or stressed by what happens.

It is here that Central's own Michael Miller and his team at the Micah Project live out the gospel by offering hope and an alternative to life on the streets to young men. Jared Bullock, Zach Hall, and I went to help build a house for Marlon and Nohemi Castellanos, two Micah Projects staffers. But a week focused on construction was really all about the gospel.

This was never more apparent than the afternoon we helped

do street ministry in Tegucigalpa. As we were giving out food, one young man approached that the Micah team knew well. His name is Gustavo, and in fact had been a resident at the Micah Project before leaving to return to the streets. How desperately I wanted to hold him and ask why he was intentionally choosing to turn away from the love and care being offered?

Then I realized, Gustavo and I are more alike than I would care to admit. How often does my pride cause me to turn from God's love? I have been blessed to never experience even a fraction of what Gustavo has, but we both have rebellious hearts.

But, just as God continues to pursue and love me, Michael and his team will return to downtown Tegucigalpa in pursuit of Gustavo and other young men to share with them the love of Christ. You can support the Micah Project through your prayers and financial contributions. To learn more, please visit www.micahprojecthonduras.org.

MISSION TRIP TO KENYA

By Romondo Davis

A diverse team of 11 returned on June 6th from a two-week mission trip to Kenya. As with all mission trips led by Pastor Randy Mayfield, the goal was to encourage our missionaries and the communities they serve.

Our first stop in Kenya was the capital city of Nairobi, home of Central missionaries Joe and Elfi Muutuki. On our first day of ministry on this trip, Randy's band performed and Clay preached in the morning worship service at New City Fellowship of Nairobi where Joe is the pastor. Following the service, we enjoyed lunch and fellowship with church members and guests. In the afternoon, Randy and the band presented a concert that included gospel, country, classical, and pop.



Clay preaches in Nairobi

Two days later, we departed Nairobi for Kitale, in northern Kenya. Our hosts for this portion of the trip were Central missionaries David and Jane Kendagor, whom our church has supported for nearly 20 years.

Over the next five days, our band performed seven times including concerts at five area schools with an estimated combined attendance of two thousand. In addition to the music, team members shared testimonies and words of encouragement.

Pastor David, who leads the church, a school, and a Bible college in Kapenguria, shared that in the eyes of the people of his community, our visit served to build "unity between Kenya and America, a community of Christ all over the world, and the feeling that we are partnering one with another." He also shared that our performances in the schools gave the children "encouragement, hope and the idea that there is life outside the life they are living."



St. Cecilia Girls Secondary School Chepareria

Another aspect of our trip was an outreach event organized by Jane Kendagor attended by roughly 50 women of the community. At the five-hour session, team members Ginny Eades and Eula Batteast led discussion of, as Jane said, "some of the issues we face as women that pastors may not be able to address directly because they are men and cannot know the details."

Ginny presented to the, "women of all ages, widows, single, divorced, some had husbands with several wives." She said the most frequent questions asked were about how to deal with teenagers going through difficult times, drug use, and promiscuity. Ginny added, "I had the realization that just our presence alone, touching, holding hands smiling, just being available was enough. They were just so happy to see us."



Ginny & Eula at A.I.C Kapsait Primary School

We also participated in a memorial service for David's parents, George and Elizabeth Kendagor, who passed away over the past year. During the three-hour outdoor service, the band performed and Clay preached about serving others. David later shared with us that Clay's message rang true in the minds of many of his people who told him that the sermon truly described the focus of his father's ministry and life.

Our final day of ministry in Kenya began with the Sunday service at Faith Bible Church. Clay again preached a powerful message. Following the service, we were invited back to our hosts' home for our final time for fellowship and a delicious meal.

Randy summarized the trip saying, "with this mission team, most of whom have never been to Kenya, I can live vicariously through them and see how God impacts them, and that really brings me joy. I love seeing the team respond and react." He added that he "loves hearing our missionaries say, with tears in their eyes, what a blessing it was for us to come."

Mission Team Members included: Randy Mayfield, Clay Smith, Isaiah Smith, Matt Mazzoni, Ginny Eades, Eula Batteast, Pete Johnson, Anna Johnson, Steve Ehrhardt, Marc Cacciarelli and Romondo Davis



David & Jane Kendagor & family

ENCOURAGING OUR MISSIONARIES

By Randy Mayfield



Above: Martin & Sharon in Stockholm



Right: Malia & Sharon in Toulouse

This past April, Randy and Sharon Mayfield visited our new Central missionaries Martin and Ulrika Helggeson and their family in Stockholm, Sweden. Martin is the pastor of a city church and works with an apologetic and outreach ministry called, "Apologia." The Mayfields spent some time with the Helggeson family and also met with the staff of Apologia to hear about their ministry of sharing and explaining the gospel to students and others in Stockholm.

Following the few days in Stockholm, they traveled to Toulouse, France where they met with Central missionary Malia Bridwell, and Randy preached at the Evangelical Protestant Church (EPET) on Easter morning. Malia is doing well and she will be back in US this summer to raise support and to visit family.

Thanks for your support and prayers for all of our missionaries. It means so much to them to know that their Central family cares!

GOSPEL REFORMATION

By Rosemary Oliver

Central's own Ted Winters has been invited to become the new Chaplain at St. Louis County Jail in Clayton. He begins his new position in June. Ted, who has been involved in jail and prison ministry for 31 years, leads numerous Central volunteers dedicated to reaching the incarcerated and recently-released for Christ.

Ned Durham and his "team of 8" goes to the St. Louis County jail on Thursdays and Sundays to teach God's Word to the men. That's the MOST important thing volunteers can give the inmates.

On Mondays and Thursdays, a group of Central women visit the jail to lead Bible studies for the female inmates. They also lead a variety of fun activities: arts and crafts, and even a Zumba class where everyone exercises to Christian music.

This past Christmas, Randy Mayfield and the All-Star Band again were allowed to hold two concerts at the Potosi Correctional Center. Many inmates came forward for prayers and some also responded to the Gospel invitation to accept Christ!

Central supports two other ministries to incarcerated people. Mission Gate helps ex-offenders who need a Christ-centered place to live, a job, and a new direction for life. Set Free Prison Ministries in Missouri and Illinois mails more than 35,000 Bible studies each year to prisoners. More than 70% are returned for grading, along with a request for a new study!

Want to get involved? Contact: Ted Winters ttfwmizz@gmail.com or Rosemary Oliver rosemaryoliverusa@yahoo.com.

SUPPORTING SUNSHINE MINISTRIES

By Shari Wynn & Christine Karlake

James Karlake and his group of missions-minded volunteers delivered 400 Easter baskets to Sunshine Ministries. This is the third year for the project, and this year, in addition to the baskets for children and adults, baskets were also made for youth.

These baskets had a dry erase board and marker, plus the usual goodies and a chocolate bunny. There were other new items, too.

Dave Fondren, Central member and Gideon, donated 400 Bibles, the perfect addition to this year's baskets. Martha Blackman and her granddaughter, Freya, gave 400 bookmarks with John 3:16 printed on them. When the bookmarks were placed in the Bibles, a picture of the sun shining was visible. Carol Clarkson, director of Sunshine Ministries loved this sweet touch. It is so good to get God's word into people's hands. In addition to the Easter baskets, your donations made it possible to also give hams for Easter dinners this year!

The Wednesday night youth, led by Becky Hall, helped assemble the baskets. James' mom said "one of the best additions this year was Lynn Stephens leading the pre-assembly organizing. It was such a blessing to have her help."

Starting with generous donations from the Central community and ending with delivery of 400 Easter baskets to Sunshine Ministries, many people participated in this wonderful project.

James commented, "I just want to help people so they can have a happy Easter like I do. We share God's word and His love for us. "Because who doesn't love a chocolate bunny?"



MISSIONS GIVING

More than \$58,000 in one-time special gifts were given to local and world missions over the past 6 months.

LOCAL / NATIONAL

ThriVe (Pregnancy Resource) Matching gift - \$5K
Carver Project (Wash. Univ.) Ministry to Faculty & Students - \$5K
Resurrection Church in NYC – Church Plant - \$4K
Support for Central member on Mission to Japan - \$2K
YWAM (Central Student) - \$2K
Refugio – St. Louis: Ministry to Hispanics in city - \$1K
Promise Academy “Night to Shine” - \$500

WORLD

Ukraine – Refugees and students at Kiev Seminary - \$10K
Kenya outreach events - \$5K
Philippines - Rebuilding of ministry center (Quimbo’s) - \$10K
Jerusalem outreach/ministry in Jerusalem (Rami Fellemon) - \$5K
African Vision of Hope – Matching grant for girls dorm - \$5K
Albania - Christmas boxes for needy (Klodi & Migena Licaj) - \$4K

ISLAND EVANGELISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Andy Gunn

For over 10 years Central has supported a mission organization in the southern Philippines called Creative Prime Movers for Transformation (CPMT). This organization sends out small teams of missionaries to “unreached” people groups largely located on remote islands in the southeastern Philippines.

Before CPMT began sending missionaries, there were few to no believers. The islands are largely made up of Islamic and animistic believing peoples. Now, there are believers on many of these islands and some of the new believers are making disciples.

Central supports 13 Filipino missionaries in four of these mission teams. Life is not easy for them since many live in potentially dangerous conditions and are without modern conveniences such as electricity, running water, and good health care. They also don't have the blessing of worshiping with a body of believers that we often take for granted.

Each year there is a conference where all of the missionaries meet with the western supporting churches. This year the conference took place from April 29- May 3. Mary Ann Stark and I attended the conference. It was the fourth time for both of us. Going on the trip causes one to fall in love with the people of the Philippines and to have ones heart changed!

Some missionaries have said that the renewal from the conference and the fellowship with other believers and western sponsors helps keep them going. In addition to fellowship the conference includes, teaching, training, small group bible studies, lots of prayer, fun activities, missionary commissioning and communion.



CENTRAL MISSIONS

A heart for the nations

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Save the date!

**Missions
Sunday**

Sunday, Sept. 29

www.centralpres.com