

# NEWS & NEEDS

## *of our Missions*



Fall 2022

A quarterly publication of the **Mission and Outreach Ministry Council**  
*Updates provided to Julie Robie, Missions Coordinator*

### **ECHO International, Florida**

**From Abram Bicksler, Ph.D. ECHO President/CEO:**

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers following Hurricane Ian. We are clearing debris, re-opening pathways, staking up downed trees, repairing damaged buildings, and preparing to re-open the campus safely in the next two weeks. Much of our electricity is back on, but some key buildings are still without power. City water has returned, yet, we are needing to boil water before drinking and cooking. Still, we are grateful for small luxuries. Several roofs are in bad shape and our pavilion (where many of you have eaten lunch during our conferences or volunteer lunches) is pretty beaten up.

Some of you have asked how you can help. We are in need of financial support to get us back up and running and make necessary repairs to our farm and buildings. We can also use physical help through work crews and volunteers. The hurricane and its aftermath have also led us to realize that there are some longer-term resilience measures that we need to put in place to help us weather future storms. The campus has recently had some structural upgrades, but we would benefit from a newer and stronger skid steer loader, propane generator sets for key buildings, and another gasoline-type gator for hauling loads.

We also recognize that we are in much better shape than many of those in our surrounding communities and we are excited to serve this afternoon as an ECHO staff family by helping our neighbors with their cleanup. Today we donated 555 lbs. of produce that will be distributed to needy families in Collier County through our partners Cultivate Abundance and Mision Peniel.



*Hurricane Ian cleanup and outreach*

### **One Great Hour of Sharing *Hurricane Ian and Fiona***

Our hearts go out to the people impacted by recent natural disasters as we see the devastation in their communities. Congregationalists join the country in lifting them in prayer. We are preparing to offer them tangible support.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC), on behalf of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, is gratefully receiving funds to assist with relief efforts.

For information on how to donate:  
<https://www.naccc.org/one-great-hour-of-sharing-hurricane-ian-and-fiona/>

*Thank you!*

## A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP), Colorado

**From Amy Kennedy:** We have a few open positions for our National Office team (Program Assistant, Communications Coordinator, and Seasonal Recruiter) and we are prayerfully reviewing applications as we look for the right fits.



*ACMNP: Would you like to work here?*

We are making plans towards our November fall gathering, which coincides with one of our in-person board meetings, in Shenandoah National Park. We are praying for great attendance, discussions, and plans as we step into another season of ministry. Lastly, our winter team members are mostly assembled at this point and will be heading to the national parks within the next month or two! If an individual, or church, is interested in sponsoring a team member or team, they can reach out to us! We can connect them to either remain in direct prayer support or to even send packages of encouragement (notes, treats, fun games, relational ministry items, etc.) We will have teams in Everglades, Big Bend, Grand Teton, and Zion this year!

## Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational, Argentina

**From Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker:** As the Congregational Mission in the Northeast of Argentina we feel honoured to count you as mission partners in prayers and support! Over the years we have developed different areas of service: Mission Clinic, soup kitchen,

Community gardening, Sponsorships, and Christian Education. Even though the present looks dim with a financial crisis still looming all over, the situation has improved somewhat since the last change of the Minister of Economy. Our main prayer concerns for our country are for a peaceful evolution without social unrest and for recovery of the economy without a major devaluation. As for our mission, our main prayer concern is for God's continuing blessings without which we can do nothing, the same we pray for our mission partners.

We wish to reestablish lost connection because of the pandemic. A number of these connections have been previously managed by regular mail which is slow and at times does not reach the destination. We can be best reached at [harding.stricker@gmail.com](mailto:harding.stricker@gmail.com) or [www.acc-ja.com](http://www.acc-ja.com).

We appreciate every single donation you are willing to make and thank you for it. You are helping us to carry on a witness to the love of God in practical ways. Thank you and God bless!

## Love Worth Sharing, Haiti

**From Rev. Jim Owens:** Haiti is on the verge of collapse. Ezechiel, our Haitian Director, reports there is no gasoline, propane, or water. The country has been on total lockdown for over 10 days, and nothing is moving except by foot. We need your prayers and financial support as inflation in Haiti is now at 27%, pray that we can still purchase food in country.



*Devastation and destruction*

The ministry continues even in these difficult times; the children, teachers and cooks still make their way to the facilities.

## Mission School of Hope, Cameroon

**From Rev. Charles Sagay:** DIGNITY FOR EVERY GIRL was birthed as a response to some of the bitter situations our girls are facing in their communities that strips them off their honor, dignity, positive self-esteem, and the joy of being a female. We hear many girls say "I hate the fact that I was born a girl".

Bijogoh ran away from school because they had seen her nakedness and laughed at her since she had no underwear. There are hundreds of girls like her in poor and desperate communities like our Baka community. Many girls go about without underwear and sometimes they are victims of sexual violence, infections, shame, and embarrassment.

Dignity for every girl is fixing that situation and getting our girls back to school. Marie Teresse is quite excited with her new underwear, and she said she will be going to school in September and when asked why, she giggled and said "I have never owned underwear and I was scared to go to school because I didn't want anyone to shame me. But with these 4 beautiful underwear, I am confident no one will shame me and I will not be ridiculed in front of others."



*Marie Teresse with her first pair of underwear*

We were able to distribute 2 pairs to some girls and 4 pairs to others. For 110 girls, we know 2 pair of underwear per girl is not enough, but it is manageable and there are hundreds of girls we plan to reach out to.

We are grateful to God for all our partners for their determination and amazing support to restore girl's dignity, get them back to school and keep them in school.

## Morgan Scott Project, Tennessee

**From Crystal Tompkins:** The Morgan Scott Project is blessed with wonderful volunteers, donors, and most of all prayer warriors. We have hosted 7 work groups to date and are very thankful to have the opportunity to do so once again. The various mission teams have completed around 10 wheelchair ramps, a community project which was painting at the schools, a blessing box for a local church, some pressuring washing and painting at the office, and filled many backpacks with school supplies. The Friday food line is going strong, and we continue to be blessed with food to serve them. We were able to give out six scholarships to graduating students continuing their education. The thrift store seems to be growing in popularity. We are thankful for all the donations that keep it going. God is Good.



*Building a wheelchair ramp*

## Christ to the Villages, Nigeria

**From Matthew Oladele:** We bring hope and a future to the children by providing good education, godly teaching with Christ's love, and good moral ethics. Often, we are faced with complex daily needs and choices. The needs are great and unending, which could sometimes be overwhelming. However, we are grateful to God for the grace to overcome challenges. We are also grateful to all our friends, supporters, NACCC and MOMC for your encouragements, financial support, and prayers. God bless you all. Thank you.

Please pray for:

- ◆ Divine protection from all danger and political instability
- ◆ God's wisdom for the leadership of this ministry
- ◆ God's blessings on the work of Christ to the villages
- ◆ Provision to meet the needs of the mission
- ◆ Nigeria as we are approaching election
- ◆ Ways you can support Christ to the Villages by weekly, monthly, or quarterly support



*Children lined up for lessons*

## One Great Hour of Sharing

*This year, you have generously donated:*

- ◆ **\$71,649** for Ukraine
- ◆ **\$21,505** for Kentucky Flood Relief

***Thank you!***

## Fishers of Men, Mexico

**From Julie Claassen:** Short-term volunteers play a vital role in the ministry of Fishers of Men, both at Refuge Ranch and with the Evangelistic Medical Mission Crusades! This summer was no different! Whether it be teaching English or baking pizza, playing board games, or doing landscaping and construction work, whatever the task at hand, volunteers at Refuge Ranch make the biggest impact through their relationships with the kids! While the work carried out makes a huge difference for the ministry, the love, laughter and reflecting Christ's character leave an eternal imprint on the young and impressionable hearts of each child. On crusade, volunteers carry out responsibilities from registration to cleaning dental instruments to helping unload, setup, tear down, load and then do it all again as the team moves to a new location. Such "mundane" tasks take on new meaning, depth and purpose when done out of love and with joy so that the Good News of Jesus Christ, as well as the power of His compassionate healing touch, may be experienced by so many of the "least of these". We thank the Lord for the volunteers that He provided for the ministry this summer and look forward to the day that God calls YOU to be His hands, feet, and heart in Mexico through Fishers of Men!



*Choe and Lilly at the pyramids on an outing with some of the kids*

## Happy Life Children's Home, Kenya

**From the Happy Life Directors:** We at Happy Life Mission have continued to experience God's miracles as we celebrate 20 years of rescuing abandoned children in Kenya. One remarkable thing this year is the return of adoptions. Due to occasional changes in government policies in the last three years, plus the COVID 19 situation, adoptions had really gone down or halted altogether. So having nine children adopted in the last three months and with 10 more already in the process has warmed our hearts with excitement and hope.

While we feel sad to see our babies leave us, there is always such a fulfillment to see our vision of 'providing a home and hope for adoption' realized. One other success story is that 10 of our toddlers joined school last week. This is always such an exciting milestone for these children, most of them having been rescued as infants. Some come to us underweight, malnourished or sickly. Our caregivers and all the staff do a lot of work to ensure that these babies grow big and stay healthy. So seeing them in their school uniform is a big win for everyone!

We are ever so grateful to all our partners and friends who support us in prayer and with their donations. You are really part of our success stories!



*Toddlers first day of school*



## Congregational Church of Myanmar

**From Rev. Sa Do:** On 25th August, the Grace Children's Ministry families celebrated the opening ceremony of the new building. Ongoing needs are for child sponsorship which includes costs for education, and basic needs for mission workers. Due to the long political crisis, war has caused greater poverty, homelessness, and diseases, especially in the most remote regions such as Chin, Kachin, and Karen States.

*Grace House Project*

## Contact Us

For more information on NACCC missions, or to make a donation please contact Missions Coordinator Julie Robie at 800.262.1620 or 603.395.6159 or email at [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org).

**National Association of Congregational Christian Churches  
Missions and Outreach Ministry Council  
PO Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154**

**For a complete listing of NACCC Mission Projects or to donate, please visit our website: [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) and click on "Missions & Outreach"**