

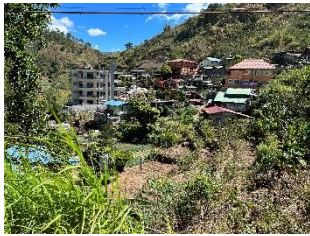


Global Missions Update

June 2023

The Great Commission starts with the word, “GO.” City Life Church carries a heart and passion to go beyond our city into other parts of the world, where we can share the message that there is hope in Jesus! We are privileged to partner together with many great leaders and churches making a difference throughout the world! The following is an update from those whom we support as a church.

John & Til Maarhuis went to the Philippines over 30 years ago, where they began a Children’s Home.



This led to supporting a Bible school and churches in the northern Philippines. Today, we continue to sow into this work, and the fruit is evident: Children have grown up in a place where they can come to know Jesus and, through the Bible school, we have seen another generation raised up to be leaders in churches throughout the Philippines.

John & Til were able to visit the Philippines again this year after 3-1/2 years of not being able to because of covid. This was their recent report:

We were met at the airport by the House Parent of our Children’s Home. The children who have grown up and were part of the home years ago rented and paid for a van to get us from the airport. We were then able to reconnect with many of them who we raised up over the 30 years of the home’s existence, as well as the seven children who are currently in the home. This was very moving for us and was one of the highlights of our trip!



We were able to attend the spring conference of the Philippine Bethel Church where people from churches, ministries, and church plants get together annually for teaching and encouragement. Both of us were able to speak during this conference. We were also able to celebrate the Bible school graduation.

In addition, we visited churches. One beautiful story to report is of a church that began almost a year ago by a Bible School graduate named Carlos. A year ago, a group visited a small village where there was a sick, old man. They prayed for healing and God healed him! He accepted the Lord along with most of his family. As a result, Carlos felt that God wanted him to start a church there. He stepped out in faith and now, a year later, there is a thriving church growing there!

It is so good to know that God’s work is going on all over the northern Philippines and beyond!

Darrell & Shannon Nelson are sharing the hope of Jesus as they have stepped forward to meet the practical needs of people. In 2005, they started Clean Water International which provides effective systems of water filtration to families, schools, and even entire villages. Their impact in the Philippines continues to grow and, as they provide something practical that is desperately needed, they are able to make a spiritual impact in the lives of people.



Here are a few words from them:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your constant love, prayers, and generous support as we joyfully serve the Lord in the Philippines.

Through Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene programs, known as WASH. Church leaders and Christian women trained as WASH Ambassadors have witness first-hand how clean water is critical for their own physical needs and especially their children. As a result of demonstrating the Love of God in Action, communities, households, and schools have become more responsive, and doors for ministry have and will continue to open. We are blessed to hear reports from our WASH Ambassadors how they live the Gospel of Jesus Christ daily, praying with people, conducting household Bible studies as well as church attendance growth. The clean water ministry has proven to bring transformation in individual lives physically, financially, and above all, spiritually. Several of our WASH Ambassadors are engaged as Muslim missionary workers in regions where the gospel is not readily received. The blessing of clean water has reinforced their belief that there is a Heavenly Father who truly cares about their basic needs. The Word of God is being shared and Muslim Filipinos are finding Isa al-Masih (Jesus the Messiah)!



Here are some of the areas in which we have served through our clean water projects:

1. Expanding our network of partner churches, with a particular focus on empowering Christian women as WASH Ambassadors.
2. Providing Village Biosand Water Filters for schools.
3. Supplying Ceramic Water Filters for households.
4. Engaging in disaster relief efforts.
5. Broadening our partnership base, including organizations such as World Vision, UNICEF, and others.

City Life Church, you are a tangible manifestation of God's love and generosity. We sincerely thank you for your unwavering support.



Rick & Deanna Bergen travel extensively throughout a large region where they train and encourage leaders. Churches are being started and families transformed as they come to know Jesus. Their goal is to start church-planting movements, where leaders plant churches and train more leaders to do the same.



They recently sent an update:

First, thank you, City Life Church, for your prayers and support so that we can work at training leaders and planting churches in Northern Brazil. You recently donated significantly to help us purchase a newer

vehicle. That vehicle will help us immensely in the work here.

We are training and encouraging leaders over a growing geographical region that extends two days of driving to the west and nine hours north. One leg of our travels also includes 16 hours each way down the Xingu Tributary and along the Amazon River to the City of Gurupá. The Gurupá Church has planted three churches in the past three years and is currently establishing two more.



Our work now involves training leaders individually and in groups. Our favorite topics are:

- *Immanuel Prayer, where we help people turn their anxiety over to Jesus, including trauma situations. Jesus is present to heal.*
- *Discovery Group Bible Studies, where leaders can position themselves as facilitators so the group can learn*

from the Holy Spirit. This is especially effective with rural evangelism.

- *Centering Prayer, where we teach people how to spend personal time with God and how to let Him take the heavy burdens that pastors and leaders from all phases of life encounter frequently. This helps with leader burnout.*
- *Personal Responsibility and Systems Thinking, where we help people practically take responsibility for their part in family and community challenges. As people learn to live as Jesus instructed in the Sermon on the Mount, they can learn to identify and control their anxious responses that don't work and to bring God's peace to their situations.*



We are working to Train Leaders and Plant Churches to obey Jesus' Great Commission to spread the good news of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 28:18-20). Our goal and dream are to start sustainable church-planting movements, where leaders plant churches and train more leaders in never-ending growth cycles.

Thank you again for your prayers, support, and participation in the work here in the Amazon Basin.

Chuck & Bobbie Hamm were originally missionaries in the Philippines and Vietnam for 20 years. They



are now stationed right here in Chilliwack and are actively involved in training and mentoring missionaries and church leaders working throughout the world. They serve with YWAM and travel to host and teach at seminars and leadership schools, as well as coach missionaries on the field.



This report is from Chuck & Bobbie:

This year marks 35 years since we left home in Chilliwack and moved to the Philippines to work with Youth With a Mission.

Thank you, CLC family, for 35 years of prayer and encouragement and support! Although we moved back to Canada after 20 years in the Philippines & Vietnam, we continue to serve with YWAM in three main areas: mission mobilization, leadership development, and member care.



Our involvement in Mission Mobilization happens in several ways as we help to facilitate the Kairos course in local churches and online, and we teach on missions in YWAM Discipleship Training Schools. Our work in the area of leadership development has taken us all over the globe to help run leadership courses for missionaries serving in many nations.

When the pandemic put our travels on hold, we were amazed at the opportunities and even the expansion of involvement that was made possible. Just this spring we helped with an online leadership course for about 90 full-time missionaries from 37 nations. We've helped with several of those courses online in the past 3 years. Next year the 6-week leadership courses will go ahead in person again, this time in Romania and Thailand. We're grateful that our field experience is put to such good use in helping missionaries get the tools and help they need to thrive in their calling.



Another main area of involvement for us is member care. This could be described as the ongoing preparation, equipping and empowering of missionaries for effective and sustainable life, ministry, and work. In other words, we help our global and local workers thrive, rather than just survive. Recent involvement in member care has involved

things like leading a week-long retreat for a YWAM team serving in the Okanagan; leading a week of debriefing for the staff and students of YWAM Vancouver's Discipleship Training School who had just returned from 2 months' outreach in Thailand; on-going coaching & mentoring of long-term missionaries serving in several nations around the world (thanks to zoom!); and walking alongside several career missionaries who are transitioning to their passport countries after decades of service overseas. The Lord is resourceful! Nothing we've experienced in our 35 years in YWAM has gone to waste - it is all useful as we call more labourers into the harvest and help missionaries along on their journeys.



Bishwa & Gopi Dev Khadka are raising up leaders and planting churches in the mountain regions of that nation – many places that do not have the light of the gospel. Through support of the Bible school and missionary work there, we help to train pastors and leaders and have a part seeing many come to know Christ throughout the nation of Nepal. John & Til Maarhuis were instrumental in establishing this connection and continue to visit Nepal.



Here is a report from Pastor Bishwa and Gopi:

We would like to greet you and the entire leadership and members of City Life Church on behalf of the Himalaya Church Planters Ministry, Bethesda Bible College, and Life Giving Church. We praise God for his mercy, grace, and love from Nepal and beyond. Because of his goodness we have been doing well and continue to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus. We are so thankful to Jesus and City Life Church for your spiritual, emotional, and financial investment in Nepal for advancing his Kingdom. Because of this, we have done awesome ministry together since 2013 for his glory.



This year, we have been able to train up church planters and evangelists, teach 300 women about Christian families, and start five cell churches in the Himalaya. We have reached



400 children with the gospel of Jesus and worked to serve the poor in Nepal. We have seen 50 people saved and baptized and have distributed Bibles to several hundred people!

We are blessed to partner with you in raising disciples and church planters through the Bible college. We have graduated more than 200 students since 2014 and, out of that, 80% are in the ministry! We also heartily thank Mr. John and Til Maarhuis for their great heart and investment in the Bible School. We continue to look for more church planters and support for them in Nepal through the Bible college.



Currently we have 20 students from different parts of Nepal. Please pray for them.



We continue to pray for the entire City Life Church family - uncountable blessings and more resources, vision, and anointing from the throne of God.





Other Mission Fields

Highroad Academy carries a strong vision for missions and, this last spring, we were able to send a team to Guatemala. Once there, we connected with missionaries and other people who are serving



difference in Guatemala!

communities in a tangible way. The team was able to work with children and, in addition, one of the great ways we are able to leave an impact is by funding the construction of a school in an area where there is a need. When this happens, the government funds a teacher to come and teach there! In addition, the local churches are connected and the message of the gospel goes out to people. What a great privilege we had to make a



Rick Bryson continues to travel to India to minister to churches and pastors there. This past winter, he was able to minister in many churches, encouraging pastors and believers in their desire to serve Christ. This is his report:



My ministry trip to India this time was very personally satisfying, exciting and simply amazing. The Churches that I ministered in are going through persecution - the threat of violence to Church members and destruction to churches. In one of the churches that I ministered in, the former pastor was shot and murdered right at the church. Another Pastor was beat up by 150 people. They then ran over him with a car and left him for being dead. There is a high price to pay to be a Christian in India, especially one in a leadership position.

They put together a very busy but wonderful schedule for me. The Churches that I ministered to are all very hungry for the Word of God and revelation. They all revere the Word of God. The Churches are all very mature and their worship is phenomenal. Evangelism and Church planting is tremendous. What they are so hungry for is the power of God. I had the privilege to be used by the Lord to minister the Word of God and pray for thousands, seeing the Lord ministering to His people through healing, deliverance, salvation, the prophetic and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I also was used by the Lord to minister to and befriend many pastors. Many came from great distances just to be in the meetings. I also had the opportunity to recruit students for two Bible schools. What an awesome and humbling blessing it was for me.

Nate & Melanie Loewen and their three children, Zachariah, Annabelle, and Elijah have been serving in Bandung, Indonesia, for 7 years. Here is a quick update from them:



We serve in a school called Bandung Alliance Intercultural School (BAIS). We have a two-fold ministry in Indonesia. There is a need for missionaries to have a way to educate their children with the same or higher, standards that they would receive in their home country. Many missionaries have had to leave the field because of a lack of education for their children. We work in a school that provides an opportunity for these families to be able to get an excellent education for their kids, setting them up for success to enter university in their home country. Because of this school and its ministry, many families have been able to stay on the field for many years.

The second part of our ministry is to bring the gospel to other students in the school. While BAIS is a Christian school, students are not the school. We have many students and atheist. BAIS provides a safe gospel of Jesus and to experience years, the we have seen students Jesus, and it is such a beautiful amazing process.



While BAIS is a required to be Christian to attend who are Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, place for these students to hear the His love through our staff. Over the from non-believing families choose experience to be a part of this

Please pray for our family as we continue to serve in Bandung. Pray for our protection being Christians in a Muslim country, and that our family would continue to find opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those around us.

