



Issue #6
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GEMS

GLOBAL EVANGELISM MINISTRY SERVICES



**Inside:
Ignite Missions Team
Testimonies**



Michael Williams Family



Preparation for Faith Missions

By Michael Williams,
Director of GEMS

Luke 10:4 *"Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way."*

We were unable to travel to Europe with our GEMS Ignite Missions team, as we had originally hoped in September 2020, so together we sought God's face as to what He would have us do. God led us to take a week and go to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to minister there at the Northstar Baptist Church of McMillan, MI (the birthplace of GEMS), and then take one week

and go to Ellsinore, MO for a week of missions training, missions work, and evangelistic outreach with Beyond Borders run by Bro. Matt Stahlman; God led us to take two separate trips with two different groups of young adults.

As I began to plan the first trip to Michigan, God laid Luke 10:1-12 on my heart and told me to not give the group a dollar amount needed for the trip, but instead trust in God to provide for us. When we met the first time, I told them we needed to pray for God to provide transportation (a 15-passenger van) and money for the trip. I instructed the group to bring with them what money they had and God would take care of the rest. God did exceedingly and abundantly above all that we asked! Let me say in short, that God provided a 15 passenger van for the trip, gas for the van, money for a hotel room both going and coming, and all the food while there; in fact, I have wondered if we hadn't taken any money would God have provided food along the way too? No doubt He could and would if we needed it!!!

While there, we were able help the church with their annual Wood Bee (for heating their building), and help clean a house the church wants to use for training young people. Were also able to teach, preach, sing, and help with Junior church. We enjoyed spending time praising God together with their youth along the shore of Lake Superior; what an awesome experience!

A week later, as we headed to Missouri with a different group and a somewhat different plan, God once again provided fuel for the trip and even gave our group some money along the way. We were able to help, not only physically but also financially, with a town-wide outreach at the Black River Bible Baptist Church of Williamsville, MO.

The Missions training with Beyond Borders was outstanding as always. They helped us accomplish three objectives: missionary training, helping with some construction at the training facilities, and evangelist outreach. Absolutely inspiring!



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Ignite Missions Team

TESTIMONIES

From September 17-23, 2020, we took a trip up to McMillan, Michigan, to help with the work they had there, and to sing in the church. When we got there, we were greeted by Bro. Mike's parents, Bro. Paul and Mrs. Bev Williams. The people up there are some of the nicest people that you could ever meet. On Saturday we all met at the church to work. The men were chopping wood, and the ladies were cleaning. After the cleaning, we ladies went to visit Paula VanderMey. She is such a very creative lady, and it was a pleasure to get to know her.

Sunday was very busy! We sang a lot and by Sunday afternoon, a few of us were physically and emotionally exhausted. But we all got together and had some prayer time, asking the Lord to be with us, to give us strength, and to use our singing to help prepare hearts for Bro. Mike's sermon. On Monday, we went to Lake Superior and looked for Yooper rocks, then just sang songs and praised God for what He has done in our lives. When we had to leave on Tuesday, I felt uplifted knowing the fact that there are more people out there than just us who love and serve the Lord.

~Joy Yarn

When we went to Michigan, I was awed by the beauty of His creation. I enjoyed so much going by myself and talking to God while viewing His creation. The more one comes to know God, the more one can appreciate His creation and His power. It makes one wonder what the new heaven and earth will be like without the curse of sin!

~Brett Williams



Joy, Rachel, Hanna, Belle, and Jacqueline at Tahquemenon Falls.



Ministering to Northstar Baptist Church

I was privileged to go to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan this fall. It was amazing to see the beautiful scenery, but even more amazing was the likemindedness and kindness of the people we met and fellowshiped with. They were so giving and open that I felt right at home, and I can't wait until God allows me to go back.

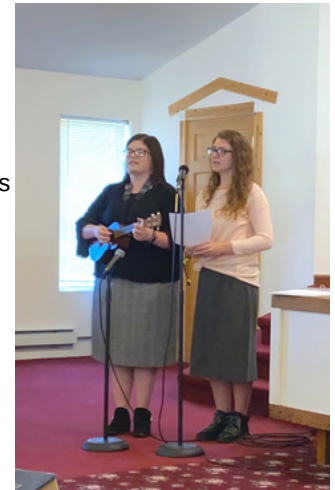
~Rachel Rodgers

The greatest blessing of the trip to Michigan was how much I heard and saw God. Being in the nature of the U.P. allowed me to see God more clearly through His beautiful creation and hear Him in the hushed countryside.

~Belle Robertson

The trip was one of the best. It was amazing to be able to be a blessing to the people of Northstar, but they were a huge blessing to me, too.

~Jacqueline Robertson



When our Germany trip was canceled, my heart was broken. When the idea of this trip came up, I fought against God; in my mind nothing could replace the Germany trip. I told God I wasn't going and gave several reasons why I couldn't. Within a week, God took the reasons I gave Him and opened the door for me to go. I knew God was going to work; I just didn't know how. Once we got there, I started seeing God move in my life in a way I had not seen Him move in a long time. This trip showed me that God's plans are higher than mine. I might not understand sometimes, but I can trust God through it all.

~Hanna Conlee



Ignite Missions Team TESTIMONIES



God taught me patience on this trip. Patience in myself and with others. He taught me that I can't rely on myself or my strength. One of the most important things He taught me was to be thankful. Thankful for the things we have in America, but also thankful for the missionaries we have who willingly give up everything for the sake of the Gospel.

~Hanna Conlee



When asked to write about this trip, I immediately began wondering what the focal point should be. Training? Ministry? I really didn't know. Then I realized the focus was not on the temporal, but the eternal.

The most important part of the trip, to me, was not the training, good though it was, but watching God move, guide, and use finite human beings to be a blessing. To see the Stahlman family's heart for kids, the willingness to spend time and money to train and teach, and to know and feel their heart for the lost was a blessing to me. To watch the different "trainees" absorb and understand the training, to put their hearts into it, and to get to know them better in a ministry-oriented environment was wonderful. And to be able to help, both with work and ministry, and watch God move was a privilege.

The training was enjoyable, understandable, and relative to real life scenarios. Fire starting, water purification, medical, and security were just a few of the skills taught. My personal favorite has always been tourniquets, although fire starting is a

close second. Medical is a must for anyone planning on missions. I strongly recommend the Stahlman's boot camp; the skills, mindset, and their heart for people make it well worth the effort.

~Grant Williams



When we went to Missouri, I found just how easy it is to get sidetracked and not spend enough time with God. When you are busy learning about medical, survival, and enjoying being around your friends, it's so easy to not put time aside for God. I enjoyed the trip a lot, but I didn't spend nearly enough time with God. I have found that when I set apart time for God, it makes experiences enjoyable beyond anything this world can give you. Don't ever think that you can waste time following God.

~Brett Williams



There is so much I can say about the trips to Michigan and Missouri, the memories made, or the lessons learned, but the thing that stuck out the most was the people there. We got to meet so many other people our age who love God and wanted His will. Be it in an activity, or just praying together, the encouragement I got from those two trips has changed the way I see God, and how my relationship with Him is an actual friendship. God taught me so many things on these trips, and I am so glad I went on them.

~Jordan Yarn

Chris Rodgers, Mike and Brooke Williams, Jerahmy and Jordan Yarn, Grant and Brett Williams, Hanna Conlee, and Joy Yarn built this shelter as part of their survival training.

I'm glad I was able to go on the Missouri trip. It was really out of my comfort zone, but the Lord helped me get through it. It is primarily a missions training camp, but we were taught a lot of the things we can use even while we are at home, too. But one thing that I really liked about it was that they kept the emphasis on God first. We can do everything we can to prepare, but if we aren't keeping our focus on God and keeping our faith in God first, then all we do in our own power is for nothing. Bro. Matt and his family are real, genuine people who love the Lord and work really hard to allow people to prepare for ministry work at home and abroad.





Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” (Mat 6:34) In these uncertain times, we rejoice in the fact, that our Father’s promises are sure: “the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself”. An old song conveys the same truth with different words “I know who holds my hands”.

The Lord has been holding our hands, as he opened doors for meetings in Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, and Georgia. He gave us many opportunities to share His word and the work to which He has called us. We trust that many have been helped and encouraged by the Spirit of God. Four churches have taken us on for support since the last update.

The Lord held our hands in Illinois, where we were scheduled to present our ministry. The pastor was out-of-town and an evangelist was set to preach that Wednesday night. We began the service with singing and I presented our ministry, as planned, for five minutes. After more singing, the evangelist still had not shown up, and the church could neither reach him nor the pastor. I was then asked to bring the message to the people of God. It wonderfully seemed to all of us, that the Lord had carefully planned this. We shall rejoice in His works!

Almost two years ago, the Spirit of God began to open to me the great need of putting Bibles in the hands of Germans. From that initial flicker, a great flame has started in my heart to massively distribute the Scriptures among the German people. I knew it needed to be done, but now I know that it is God’s time. I plan to share in the next letter, how the Lord has been unfolding this matter before us, and the efforts we are taking to bring this to pass.

We praise the Lord for the recent profession of faith of Gabriel and Zachary. We met these two teenagers in Georgia. After hearing the gospel, they both called on the Lord Jesus to save them. Alleluia!

Please pray that the Lord may soon open the doors of Germany and the travel restrictions may be lifted. Prayer for conversions and laborers as we minister in the churches. Thank you for your faithful financial support in the work of the Lord.

Patrick Jobway



Above: Bro. Patrick and Mrs. Christelle Ndjaboue with Pastor and Mrs. Branson at a missions conference in Georgia.

Below: Bro. Patrick shares the Gospel while out Soulwinning.



GEMS (Global Evangelism Ministry Services) is a ministry out of Calvary Baptist Church, 3812 Kirby Parkway, Memphis, TN 38115-5288. These ministry updates are published at least four times a year and may be requested at no cost by mailing to the above address or by going to our website at <http://www.gems4christ.com>



Roy and Lois Thompson

The virus pandemic restrictions were relaxed in June and we returned to services on Sundays. Daily cases rose sharply in July and are now at all-time highs. Insulin resistance is a key risk factor and diet-related co-morbidities continue to contribute to over 94% of all COVID-19 related fatalities worldwide. So then, we remain calm knowing that a proper diet and regular vigorous exercise coupled with a peaceful home environment are the best flu and virus protections.



We are sorry that the mission team was not able to come in September. Even so, we were able to accomplish the planned house demolition and firewood recycling by working as a family over a period of two weeks in early September.

Lois' father died suddenly on August 6. Caring for Ion Ghita brought much joy and laughter to our home as we learned many things about serving the elderly suffering from dementia. It was truly a joy to learn how to best meet his needs. After 5 months of 24/7 care in our home, in May we began caring for him during the week and asked the family to care for him on weekends. Sadly, neither his wife nor any of his 5 children in Bucharest were of the same mind and heart and his being home in his apartment on weekends with his wife was met with increasing opposition. Then unexpectedly in late July without informing us, Lois' mother with the help of her sons put him back into the same geriatric facility from which we rescued him in January.

Again, he was chemically restrained to a bed. We were barred from any visitation and this time there was no means for an immediate rescue. He died 10 days later. We now mourn the loss of someone we loved dearly and who died under greatly adverse circumstances.

I consider it a great honor to have served as interim pastor at the Ploiesti Independent Baptist church these past two years. In January, Bro. Aaron Hiltibidal, who has visited and preached at the church this past summer, will move his family from Cluj and serve as their permanent pastor. He and his family are currently in the U.S. on furlough.

Thanksgiving

1. Previously serving as missionaries to Zambia, Charles (American) and Maria (Romanian) Rouch continue to plan to serve in Romania. Maria continues to translate Bible study materials into Romanian. They need both patience and wisdom as they wait upon God's timing for them to transition back here to Romania.
2. Continued thanksgiving for God's provision of mercy, grace, and peace and health, strength, and safety.
3. Bro. Aaron Hiltibidal is the answer to our prayers that the Lord send someone to serve in full-time pastoral care and leadership for the Ploiesti church.



Prayer needs

1. Continuing wisdom in training our children, our most important ministry.
2. Wisdom as we grieve the untimely loss of Lois' father. We want to respond biblically without anger and bitterness as we deal with the shock and sadness of his tragic and unexpected death.
3. Vision and guidance regarding our future service and ministry here in Romania as Bro. Hiltibidal assumes the pastoral position in Ploiesti early next year.



"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1: 5-9

It would not be possible to give an update of the work in Ghana without discussing the passage above. Over the past few months, the Lord would regularly refresh the truth of the above passage in my heart which has also been a focus in our churches.

The only light in this world originates from Him because He is the Light. We know from John 3:19 – 20 that men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil and would not come to the light because the light would reveal the true nature of his deeds. Today we are seeing an outpouring of extreme hatred towards God, His character, and His people. This is because the further a person gets from God, the darker their heart and deeds become (Romans 1:21-32).

The question comes to those of us who are Christians, do you have fellowship with Him? Perhaps a better way to ask would be, are you walking in light? If we find that we have been in darkness the natural tendency is to lie. It is easier to lie and continue in our darkness (sin) than to come to the light and be reproved like Isaiah was in Isaiah chapter 6. Isaiah had a vision of the holiness of God and in His light recognized himself to be undone and confessed his faults and was cleansed. My prayer is that we Christians would have fellowship with him, allow Him to reveal our sins so that we will confess them and receive cleansing. It is only through fellowship with the Light that we will stand against the darkness of this world.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Rejoice with them that do rejoice...

On September 27th we had a "thanksgiving service" in the village of Dompaa. A thanksgiving service is much like our baby dedication service: it is a time when a family will bring a baby to church and offer thanks to God. The church will pray for the family and child and will also challenge them to raise the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

These services are always a wonderful time when the body of Christ will rejoice together and this one was a special blessing to me. I had the privilege of leading both parents, Nkrumah and Victoria to Christ. Victoria was the second person I witnessed to on my first visit to Ghana! I also had the honor and privilege of baptizing and marrying them. Please pray for this young couple and their baby, David Nkrumah Amankwa.



Weep with them that weep...

The year 2020 has a reputation for being a year with many difficulties. There has not been an exception for the churches here. This year four of our church members passed on to be with the Lord. The latest was a dear sweet lady named Akosua Badu. We had the burial service for Akosua on October 15. Though saying goodbye to those you love is always difficult, I have seen that God has caused His people to be a light even in times of mourning.





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Funerals in Ghana are quite different than those in America. Mourners traditionally wear red and black to signify sorrow and mourning. Funerals often include drunkenness, loud and immoral music, dancing, and idolatry. Our churches have been a light by not participating in these vain displays. Instead of wearing the traditional black and red colors which signify sorrow and mourning, the church members have adopted wearing black and white (the colors of thanksgiving) and sing hymns in place of worldly music. This is because they are showing that they are thankful that they are saved and will see their loved ones again because death has already been defeated. Through these four funerals, close to a thousand people have heard the Gospel, and many have responded.



Apewu Building Update

We are nearing the end of the rainy season and will soon begin construction on the new church facilities. Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward in this endeavor.

Thank you all for your prayers and support!

The Browns

Architectural Drawing

