

The World of FEA MINISTRIES INC VOLUME 31 ISSUE 2

WORLD UPDATE



ADVANCING

FOR THE SAKE OF
THE NATIONS

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WORLD UPDATE

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About FEA Ministries, Inc.

FEA Ministries is a nonprofit organization that exists to Serve the Church and Reach the World. We fulfill the commission of Christ by producing disciple-makers around the world through diverse Christian ministries. The three main branches of FEA Ministries are Hope International Missions, Sea Breeze Community, and Sea Breeze Camp. Our ministry is about making sure people everywhere are ready to spend eternity with God.

You can read this issue of the *World Update* online at feaministries.org/worldupdate.



FROM THE Editor

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

Managing Editor

A little over ten years ago, freshly graduated from Bible college, my wife and I began serving at FEA Ministries. What an incredible journey it has been! Time and time again God has met our needs and has proven faithful.

Ever since I can remember, God has given me a passion for missions. My wife, too, has felt God drawing her to the mission field from an early age, and we have endeavored to instill in our young girls this enthusiasm for cross-cultural ministry. In November of 2022 I was privileged to visit Armenia with Joe Taylor during the World Cup. We were there to distribute gospel literature and to explore possibilities for future ministry. I left burdened for the country and deeply desirous to see God call missionaries to pioneer a work in Armenia with Hope International Missions.

Upon my return to the US, I talked with various individuals and asked them to pray about serving in Armenia. Little did I know that God was going to call my family! On January 18, 2023, after discussing Armenia at length with my wife, I wrote in my journal, "Holy Spirit, is this You talking to us?" We were sensing God's clear guidance toward moving as a family to the mission field. At

the same time my roles here at FEA Ministries have been very fulfilling, and I did not feel a full release from them. We decided to wait and pray throughout the year for God to confirm His leading. As time progressed, we have understood a definite call from God to go...and we are thrilled to obey!

Over these last few months I have pondered the motivation for missionary service. What fuels healthy cross-cultural ministry? I believe there are at least three compelling reasons, grounded in a growing personal love for God.

COMPASSION FOR THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE NATIONS

Billions have never even had an opportunity to hear that Jesus died to free them from their sins. This vast lostness should daily provoke us to intentional action! If we truly love God, we *will* love others compassionately, and we will strive to see them won to Christ!

OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST'S COMMANDS

In John 14:15 Jesus made it clear that true love for God is manifested in our obedience to Him. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (ESV). Christ's last command before ascending to heaven was to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations"

(Matt. 28:19 ESV). As we grow in our love for God, His paramount concern that all nations be saved will naturally become ours. Though our roles in fulfilling the Great Commission will differ, we must obediently contribute toward its accomplishment.

PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY

On October 8, 1732, Johann Leonhard Dober and David Nitschmann, the first Moravian missionaries, set sail for the West Indies. "Gazing back at their well-wishers, [the young men] lifted their hands as if in a sacred pledge and called out to their friends on shore: 'May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering!'"¹

Increasingly I realize that while compassion and obedience are healthy motivations for missionary service, they cannot be the primary incentives. Rather our deep love for God must result in a genuine passion to see His glory spread. The Moravians understood and embodied this passion. In *The Mind of a Missionary*, David Joannes writes:

God's glory is the fountainhead from which our missional efforts flow. Authentic com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ADVANCING— FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATIONS

By HAROLD MARTIN, President of FEA Ministries

For the past ten years Benjamin McDowell has served in the FEA Ministries home office. He was originally hired by former FEA President Sidney Grant to serve as the director of public relations. In May of 2022 Benjamin's role changed when I asked him to serve as the director of missions. He has done well in this role, and the many mission outreaches of Hope International Missions have grown in depth and effectiveness under his leadership.

I am sure you can imagine my surprise when in late 2023 he notified me that he and his wife, Jaylena, were feeling called to serve as missionaries in the country of Armenia. Actually, I was not that surprised! I was perhaps caught off guard, but knowing Benjamin and Jaylena's passion for missions, I was not surprised God was calling them to serve overseas as well.

GOD IS STILL CALLING!

Time and again throughout Scripture we find God calling His followers to go and serve Him cross-culturally, often in less-than-ideal situations: Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, Jonah, Philip, Peter, and Paul to name a few. Though God could accomplish His work without us, He chooses to use us. He has made it our duty to spread His kingdom here on earth. What a privilege! What a responsibility!

And so we advance. During our summer 2024 board meeting, Armenia was opened as a new field of service for Hope International Missions, and the McDowell family was approved as HIM missionaries to pioneer a holiness mission work there.

Our Taiwan field director, Byron Manners, passionately shared about an opportunity to train leaders among a people group located in Burma, Thailand, and China. This people group has already been evangelized, but the need to instruct leaders is of paramount importance.

Hery Santiago, a local HIM Hispanic pastor, shared about the six people who were saved this past season at a nearby racehorse training park. One of these individuals recently passed away from cancer. Thank God his life was changed by the gospel just months before he stepped into eternity!

Director of HIM Latin America Eric Kuhns shared with passion about a recent visit to the South American country of Guyana. Interestingly this country has a large Hindu and Muslim population. English is the primary spoken language, and opportunities abound to share the light of the gospel in this dark place!

WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?

It may not be overseas—it may be across the street. But wherever He calls, let's advance with passion, with purpose, and with urgency. Let's advance—for the Sake of the Nations! •

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

passion for the lost won't magically appear in your life if you don't spend time communing with Jesus. You'll never experience the joy of following Christ's commands if you don't press deeper into His heart. A passion for the glory of God precedes Christian compassion, joyful obedience, and missionary zeal.²

This is my final article as managing editor of the *World Update*. Beginning this November, Wes Peterson will be capably serving as FEA Director of Public Relations and will assume the role of managing editor. As the chapter changes in my family's journey, and as we move to Armenia to see disciples made for Christ, may each of us earnestly pursue an ever-deepening love for God. May a thirst for His glory fire our zeal, and may we be willing to give ourselves entirely to expanding His glory like the Moravians and so many others before us have done. Let us advance for the glory of God and for the sake of the nations! •

1. David Joannes, *The Mind of a Missionary: What Global Kingdom Workers Tell Us about Thriving on Mission Today* (Prescott, AZ: Within Reach Global, Inc., 2024), 87.
2. Joannes, 73.



HIM AFRICA

ONE SOUL AT A TIME

By GLENN GAULT, Director of HIM Africa

While the Touching Lives for Christ team was here, we held an evangelistic tent meeting in a nearby village. One evening team leader Kester Young preached a simple gospel message that emphasized getting right with Jesus now. After the message he asked me to give an invitation. I recapped the message briefly and invited any who wanted to seek the Lord to come to the front of the tent to pray.

Immediately a whole row of teenage boys stood in unison and filed to the front. At first I thought they were joking or showing off for the girls. But as I spoke to them and looked into their eyes, I realized some of them were serious. I led them in a simple sinner's prayer and counseled them more after the service. Michael, who was in that group, was genuinely saved that night, and the difference in his life soon became obvious at the high school he attends.

Several young ladies who had been nominal Christians got clear spiritual help and fully surrendered their lives to the Lord at an evening Bible study around this same time. They attend school with Michael, and together these young

people began witnessing to their classmates. The difference in their lives was so obvious that others began seeking the Lord in response.

Among them was a young man who, though still a teenager, was a feared member of a gang. He expressed a desire to experience real change in his life like he was seeing in the others, but he was certain he could never be free because the gang would kill him. The young people assured him nothing was impossible for Christ and arranged for him to meet Pastor Kali Nthabi at their Bible study. That night he put full trust in Christ for salvation, as well as protection from the gang. His transformed life is bringing even more young people to Christ. Praise God for bringing about eternal change in Lesotho, one soul at a time! •

*Above: Lesotho teenagers who are striving to live for Christ
Below: Kester Young preaching at a tent meeting*





HIM ASIA

A NEW POSSIBILITY IN THAILAND

By BYRON MANNERS, Taiwan Field Director

Back in April my wife and I made a trip to Thailand to investigate a new opportunity in Southeast Asia. We only had two full days in the country, but they were packed with surprises. After landing in northern Thailand, Dr. Lu met us as we exited the terminal and began talking non-stop. The Lus are part of a small people group scattered across the Asian highlands. The vast majority of these people are Christians, converted while missionaries were able to work among them during the first half of the 20th century.

What really surprised me was to discover how God is working in the war-torn country of Myanmar. In recent years around ten percent of the population in this strongly-Buddhist country have become Christians. Many of them have fled to Thailand because of the civil war in their own country. They have church buildings and pastors

but need formal theological training and some financial support.

Dr. Lu has access to 2,000 churches. He shared several areas where they need help. They made a modern translation of the entire Bible into Burmese and now need funds to get them printed. Second, they are involved in humanitarian work because of the civil war and also trying to stop human trafficking among their people. Third, he has men willing to go and plant new churches but lacks funds to support them. Fourth, they need a way to systematically train their pastors.

It is in this last area that HIM is planning to help them using the Shepherds Global Classroom curriculum. Dr. McElwain and I are scheduled to return and begin training a group the first half of next year. Praise God for this new opportunity, and pray with us as we begin working with this group. •

TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS IN HAITI

By JIM HOWARD, Director of HIM Caribbean

The work of missions and the advancement of God's kingdom has always been met with many challenges and sometimes severe persecution. Jesus said it would be this way, but gave us a wonderful promise in John 16:33: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." God's people in the gang-ravaged country of Haiti continue to be threatened with violence and are forced to endure many hardships, but God's kingdom continues to advance in spite of these unbelievable circumstances.

On December 23, 2023, Pastor Dominique, pastor of Grande Riviere and director of the orphanage, was falsely accused, arrested, and put in jail. He endured many hardships and sicknesses during his imprisonment. We, along with the national church, prayed earnestly for seven long months for his release. Even during such extreme adversity, God was working out His amazing purposes. Pastor Dominique started having daily Bible studies in the prison with other prisoners. Djohnsly, one of our orphans from Grande Riviere, was in his final year at the God's Missionary school in Port-au-Prince. He was forced to leave Port-au-Prince because of the violence. He came back to Grande Riviere to provide oversight for the orphanage and take care of maintenance while Pastor Dominique was in prison.

On July 26, 2024, we joyfully received the wonderful news that Pastor Dominique had been released. There was dancing in the streets and a hero's welcome as he made his way back to his lavishly-decorated church and the people who love him, people whom he is committed to serve. Praise be to God!

Field Administrator Daryl Hobbs also reports that our nine churches are doing well in spite of the instability and violence in the country. Pastor Rodrigue keeps in contact with each pastor and has visited many of the churches. He reports

that the pastors and churches are encouraged in the Lord. Two of the churches in the Baptiste region are actually overflowing! They do not have room for everyone to sit in the services. The church in Baptiste recently held forty nights of prayer and praise services. Pastor Rodrigue says the church was packed out every evening with visitors from many other churches, including our own, coming together for this time of focus on prayer. The orphans are doing well and have been able to continue their education.

Yes, there are many challenges, but I firmly believe great days are ahead for the beautiful islands of the Caribbean. We covet your prayers as we continue to work with HIM's ministries across this region. •

Praise service for Pastor Dominique's return



FOUNDER'S TOUR

MAY 21-27,
2024

For several years FEA President Harold Martin has desired to take some of the founding missionaries on a tour back through the Caribbean islands in a small plane. Most of the original missionaries were pilots and flew a variety of small planes back and forth, keeping the mission supplied.

DAY 1

AM: Director of HIM Caribbean James Howard and President Martin departed from Fort Pierce, Florida, flying ninety-two-year-old Phil Newton and Joe and Lois Smith to Grand Bahama.

PM: Participated in a service at Holmes Rock Chapel, the first church planted by HIM in the Islands.

DAY 2

AM: Wonderful day visiting old friends in Freeport and High Rock, Grand Bahama. What a joy to fellowship together after so many years!

PM: Special service at Freeport Holiness Church.

DAY 3

The Founder's Tour departed Grand Bahama for Nassau to visit friends at the Bahamas Holy Bible Mission, a long-term HIM partner ministry. At each stop there were many joyful reunions, and countless people thanked Brother Newton and the Smiths for impacting their lives.

DAY 4

The day started in Nassau, Bahamas, and ended in the settlement of Kew on the island of North Caicos. The Lighthouse Churches of the Turks



President Martin, James Howard, Phil Newton, and Joe and Lois Smith

and Caicos Islands held their 42nd Annual Conference. Many happy reunions continued as the founder of the churches and early missionaries were there to celebrate God's faithfulness.

DAY 5

The highlights included a groundbreaking ceremony for a new mission house in Bottle Creek, North Caicos, and a banquet given in honor of Rev. Phil Newton. Bro. Newton's footprints are all over those islands, and it was rewarding to see him honored all along the way!

DAY 6

A beautiful Lord's Day on the island of North Caicos! Both services were filled with warm fellowship and the presence of God. The conch fritters at lunch were quite a hit.

DAY 7

The group landed in South Florida around 2:30 PM. In total they were able to visit five islands and six churches. We thank God for safety on this trip and for the prayers and interest in the HIM missionary works in the Caribbean. •

**"THESE MANY REUNIONS MAKE ME FEEL
LIKE I'M ON THE EDGE OF HEAVEN!"**

—PHIL NEWTON



IT WILL ALL WORK OUT

A Tribute to Brother Newton

Philip Newton is a fellow with a quick and ready smile,
And his faithful wife named Betty was with him all the while.
Together with four daughters they heard God's call to go
And tell the gospel story to those who didn't know.

From the hills of Carolina to the islands of the sea
They went to spread the news abroad, salvation full and free.
They went with willing hearts and hands, they found an open door
In the settlement of Holmes Rock on Grand Bahama's shore.

Others followed in their footsteps, heard the challenge, saw the need,
Went to help them in their labors, and to sow the gospel seed.
There are names that we remember from those days of long ago,
Folk who labored with the Newtons as the work began to grow.

There was Marilyn, and Eunice, Richard Raines, and his wife, Mary;
Mark and Carol, Fred and Barb'ra, the Browns, and Sister Jerry.
There were many, many others—I can't recite them all;
One by one they took their places in answer to the call.

Phil was our fearless leader; we followed where he led.
We tried to keep up with his pace and do the things he said.
Sometimes when we had problems and were faced with fear and doubt,
He'd tell us with his famous grin that it would all work out.

Now many years have come and gone, and still the work goes on.
It reaches all around the world. Oh, my, how it has grown!
Thousands have been freed from sin, to know the Father's love.
Someday they'll meet around the throne in heaven's courts above.

Yes, many years have slipped away, long gone those early days.
It started with the Newtons; to God be all the praise.
It's been a wondrous journey of faith and hope, no doubt,
And if we keep on trusting God, then it will all work out!

—Joe Smith, August 28, 2024

HERITAGE TOUR

By JOE SMITH

Our recent trip to the Caribbean islands was the highlight of this year for my wife and me. How thankful we were to be included in the Heritage Tour. It was especially good to spend some time with Brother Phil Newton. He is high on our list of heroes. As we went from island to island, the loving reception of the people flooded our hearts with a warmth that lingers with us. Lois and I are still talking about it.

One very special memory took place on Sunday afternoon, May 26. After the morning service we went to visit Sister Roselyn Handfield, who was in declining health. She was one of the charter members of our church at Bottle Creek, North Caicos. What a joyful reunion that was. Little did we know that in just eleven days on June 6, she would go home to be with the Lord. By special request of the family, we had the honor of returning to preach her funeral. Thank you, President Martin and Director of HIM Caribbean Jim Howard, for making it possible for us to revisit our beloved brothers and sisters in the islands. •



HIM EUROPE

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE

By EDWARD DURHAM, Director of HIM Europe

Pushing forward into new territory with the gospel is a real passion for me.

It is exciting to see how God is helping us reach further and touch more people with the message of salvation in Europe.

The consequences of war and natural disasters have presented us with open doors for ministry.

For a couple of years God has been laying a burden on my heart for the country of Germany. This spring I became aware of a few misplaced groups of Hungarian-speaking Ukrainians who had migrated to Germany. Several have found Christ since leaving Ukraine. Along with a Hungarian pastor friend, I made a trip to visit these groups, and we were able to have times of worship and fellowship with them. During that visit, one of the young men came under deep conviction and gave his heart to the Lord.

Tim and Sally Iovan are sharing God's love and the gospel message with refugee groups in Turkey and Romania. These advancements into enemy territory are not without opposition and hardships, but we are thankful for God's help in moving forward one step at a time.

Two literature outreach projects this year have given us the opportunity to advance deeper into the darkness of Europe with the light of the gospel.

This spring we began taking steps to publish the *Paris Olympics* book in Spanish for distribution in Spain during the summer Olympics. Wes and Janna



Cressman and our partners in Spain were able to get the gospel to many people who otherwise may not have been touched in any other way.

Last year God began to formulate in my mind the possibility of reaching deeper into Europe with the *Chains* book that has been used effectively by Gospel Publishing Mission at biker rallies in the USA. I was able to get the book translated into German, and our team recently distributed 3,000 copies at a biker rally in Austria. This was our first outreach event in the country of Austria. Pray that the gospel will find lodging in many hearts from the message of that book.

Ongoing ministries to students and youth in Czech and Slovakia provide our missionaries with ever-increasing opportunities to advance further into the darkness in Europe.

Each semester Valera and Maude Motovilov have new groups of university students who join their conversational English classes. The students come from many nations around the globe, and each one presents an opportunity for the gospel to spread deeper into the countries of Europe and beyond.

The New Horizons Center in Slovakia offers hope and healing through Christ to disadvantaged young women. Every broken individual whom God leads to our facility comes face to face with the power of the gospel. We realize that one by one we are advancing into Satan's territory.

Before their deputation Tim and Sharron Teed began a new outreach in an orphanage in Slovakia. This fall they plan to build on that ministry when they return to Slovakia after their home assignment.

I am so thankful for our missionaries who are doing their part to make advancements in God's kingdom—for the Sake of the Nations of Europe. •

Above: Carter Cressman holding a Spanish copy of the *Paris* book

Left: Joe Taylor and German Pastor Clouse Deis at the European Bike Week in Austria



HIM LATIN AMERICA

SIGHTS ON NEW HORIZONS

By ERIC KUHN, Director of HIM Latin America

Smoke rolled across the tarmac as our plane touched down in Georgetown, Guyana. A large forest fire was causing the sky to look a pale gray. My family, along with Paul and Jeanette Kaufman, got in a van and headed towards our Airbnb. We were here on an exploratory mission. God had prompted us to make this trip and see the possibilities of ministry in this small South American country.

I almost felt like we had landed in the wrong country as we passed Hindu temples and Islamic mosques on nearly every block along the road.

Eric street preaching



The food and culture felt more South Asian than it did South American. But we did not need to learn Bengali or Arabic to communicate with the people of this cultural melting pot. Everyone spoke English! The doors were wide open for ministry. We also had total freedom to evangelize. There were no restrictions.

Our little team hit the streets, handing out Bibles and literature and sharing the gospel. We went to different towns and villages, knocking on doors and talking with people about salvation. We ministered in one of the markets in downtown Georgetown where we prayed with JuneAnn, a lady who had just been diagnosed with cancer and needed God in her life. We handed out literature to the groups of school children walking home from their classes in a rural town. We had a great conversation with a Muslim teen about Jesus and how to be saved. I was able to share the gospel with two men in a little village on the edge of the interior, as they stood under their stilt house. We spoke to Nadira, a Hindu lady, who took one of our Bibles and talked to us about what happens when we die and how we can have peace with God. It was a seed-sowing and eye-opening mission.

God will water the seeds, but who will walk through the door? Help us pray that a person will feel the call of God to pioneer a work in Guyana. Connections have been made, we have gotten the lay of the land, and now we need someone ready to go.

The need is great! It is time to advance the kingdom of God and take territory from the enemy. God is doing something in Guyana. Who is ready to join Him in the work? •



A VISION FOR ARMENIA

President Martin
interviews
Benjamin
McDowell

Q Benjamin, many of our readers would know you from *Missions Day at Sea Breeze Camp* or from an HIM missions service at their church. Introduce us to your family and the events that have led you to dedicate your life to missions.

I was born in San José, Costa Rica, to missionaries Rex and Hannah McDowell. Throughout my growing-up years, both on the mission field and at Penn View Bible Institute, God used my parents and influences to instill a passion for missions in my life. My wife, Jaylena, also felt called to missions at a young age. When God led us to move to Hobe Sound, it was a wonderful step closer to the mission field.

God has blessed us with four precious little girls—Briella, age 9; Cambria, age 7; Emmaline, almost 4; and Sélah, almost 1. We have prayed for God to call them into missionary service if it is His will, and we believe He will use them powerfully as we serve Him together in Armenia.

It has been an incredible privilege and honor to serve with FEA Ministries for the past ten years. Hope International Missions truly has some of the very best missionaries in our movement, and I love working with them from the home office standpoint. Now we are excited to join their ranks as on-field missionaries!

Q Of the nearly 200 countries in the world today, why do you see Armenia as a strategic location for ministry advancement?

Armenia is a country in deep need of the full gospel. While it is technically a “Christian” nation, only perhaps 5 percent of the population is considered evangelical. The Armenian Apostolic Church maintains strict control of the people’s worship, yet it is mostly form and ritual with very little personal fellowship with Christ. The majority of Armenians living in Armenia have not read a Bible and do not know what the gospel means. There is a huge need to form Armenian disciples of Christ.

Another key reason to

minister in Armenia is its strategic geographic location. With Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran to the south, there are tremendous opportunities to reach Muslim nations. And while it is not classified as a “10/40 Window” country, Armenia is technically located within the 10/40 Window. It is an ideal launching point from which to eventually reach into other restricted-access countries. For example the former soviet nations of central Asia are far more accessible from Armenia.

Q *The Armenian Genocide is a tragedy that looms large in the national consciousness. Can you explain how this impacts the average Armenian today?*

Between 1915 and 1923 around 1.5 million Armenians were horrifically killed by the Ottoman Turks in a grand-scale ethnic cleansing. When its borders were redrawn around the same time, the majority of historically Armenian lands ended up part of the new Republic of Turkey. Especially bruising to the Armenian spirit, Mount Ararat, a sacred symbol of Armenia, ended up just across the border in Turkey. Clearly visible from the Armenian capital city of Yerevan, Mount Ararat has become a striking symbol of what was stolen from Armenia.

Unfortunately to this day Turkey denies the genocide. This only heightens the continued cultural sense of anger, mourning, and loss. Tragically, recent conflicts with neighboring Azerbaijan have seen more historic Armenian lands taken and the loss of thousands of lives. Though

Armenians are a proud people, there is a great need to present true hope to them, which is only found in Christ.

Q *What goals do you have for your first term of ministry in Armenia?*

Our primary goal in the first year is to learn the Armenian culture and language and build meaningful relationships with Armenians. Though it will take concerted effort and concentration, our long-term ministry effectiveness is conditioned upon building this strong foundation.



Q *What is your long-term vision for Armenia?*

I envision a thriving national Armenian church which catches a vision to reach the surrounding Muslim nations for Christ. I see the gospel transforming lives in Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Iran, and training centers equipping national leaders to grow the body of Christ in their home contexts. Long-term, I envision Armenia being a strategic hub to spread the gospel into other 10/40 Window countries and ultimately reach unreached people groups for Christ.

Q *Is there room in your vision for other missionary families to join you in Armenia?*

Unquestionably, yes! In fact we are asking God for many more missionaries to join us there, and we are talking to people who are prayerfully considering it. I want to see the Holy Spirit move in a powerful way across Armenia and the restricted-access countries around it and for lives to be transformed by the power of the gospel. The more missionaries we have helping with this vision, the better!

Q *How can we pray effectively for your family?*

Obviously any transition like this brings with it massive changes. Please pray for emotional and spiritual health, especially for our four daughters. By God’s grace we want to see our children thriving in cross-cultural ministry, but we know much wisdom is needed on our part as parents to nurture and guide them well.

I also ask you to pray for spiritual fruitfulness. Jesus made it clear in John 15:8 that the Father is glorified when we bear much fruit, and as we abide in the Vine, my family and I look forward with anticipation to the promise of God producing spiritual fruit through us in Armenia! •



HIM NORTH AMERICA

REACHING THE UNREACHED IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

By BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

When considering missions, North America may not be the first place that comes to our mind for cross-cultural ministry. After all, isn't missionary work primarily "foreign" labors? And yet over the last several decades the international population flooding into our nation has resulted in many opportunities to reach different cultures for Christ.

In his book *The Meeting of the Waters*, Fritz Kling writes, "Migration is the human face of globalization. Physical and spiritual crises proliferate in the globalizing world, and increasing numbers of people are fleeing their home countries in search of better lives. They are part of a massive Global Current, yet each immigrant has distinct personal histories, hopes, and needs. Immigrants are also uniquely open to outreach. Now is the time for the global church to find new ways to be a winsome and life-giving witness to immigrants of God's love for them."¹

Over the last number of years Hope International Missions increased our endeavors to intentionally reach cross-cultural communities here in North America. Missionaries began working among Arab communities in 2019, and today Angel House is a thriving testament to God's intent to reach migrants with the gospel! More than eighteen nationalities are being taught English, while at the same time encountering the

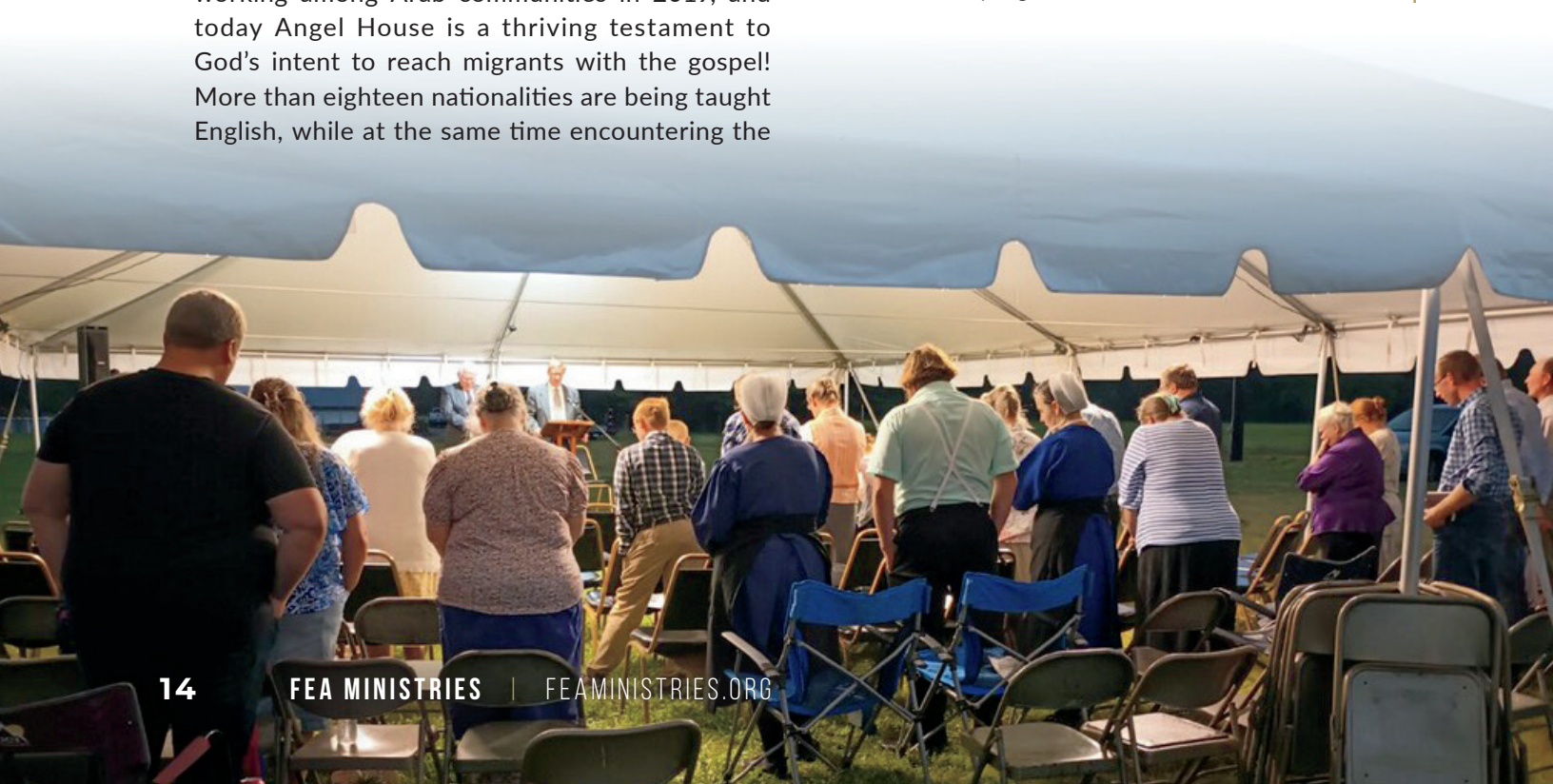


true message of Jesus who wants to transform their lives and enter into personal fellowship with them.

Recently, God blessed the first Amish Tent Meeting in Pennsylvania. Area churches supported the services well, and both Amish and former Amish attended. Beyond spiritual help obtained, people generously met the financial needs, and we believe this year laid an excellent foundation for even more eternal impact from these tent meetings in the years to come.

While we are grateful for the cross-cultural ministries God has opened, we are asking Him for more! Likely, there is some minority population that needs the gospel located close to you or your church. How can you begin to intentionally show the love of Christ to those people? Wherever possible, we want to partner with you to reach the lost who are at a crossroads of openness and change. Together, we can advance here in North America for the Sake of the Nations! •

1. Fritz Kling, *The Meeting of the Waters: 7 Global Currents That Will Propel the Future Church* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010), 94.



HIM US SPANISH MINISTRIES

GENERATIONAL GOSPEL

By SIDNEY GRANT, Director of HIM US Spanish Ministries

My friend and colleague, Rowan Fay, is a generational leader. He epitomizes 2 Timothy 2:2. He is always eager to pour himself into the next generation's leaders. I consider myself to be a recipient of his invested leadership wisdom.

During the month of August, 170 second- and third-generation young people packed the Grace Auditorium in Lake Placid, Florida. The gospel was preached to them by first-generation graduates from the HIM Spanish Bible Institute. The two speakers are both parents and pastors of the youth leaders. Additionally, the daughter of one of these speakers is the office assistant to the director of the HIM US Hispanic churches and the newly-elected president of the combined local churches' youth societies known as AJIESA. This youth fellowship leadership committee is made up of several other second-generation local church youth leaders.

The following quote gives a glimpse of generational gospel: "One of the signs of a healthy church is whether or not it's a multigenerational church. It's a blend of all generations."¹

Generationally, the future is bright when the church becomes involved in gospel-generative ministries. Such ministries exist, not just to create monuments to be contemplated, but movements to be continued—that is, making sure what is done today is preparing leaders for tomorrow.

What is the secret of a generative generational gospel? The acronym ART below gives three insights into the effectuation of the generational gospel.

ASSIMILATION

For the gospel to be generative, people must be assimilated within a church where they agree with the socio-cultural and theological rationale for its existence and its philosophical context. This must be done intentionally, interactively, and instructively. In doing so, we must understand the significance of assimilation. Academically, *assimilation* is defined as, "The process whereby individuals or

groups of differing ethnic heritage are absorbed into the dominant culture of a society."² Missiologically, it is defined as, "To be absorbed into the cultural tradition of a population or group. When unbelievers turn to Christ, they turn away from the world and embrace lifelong citizenship in a heavenly kingdom."³

RELATIONSHIPS

Working in church planting and leadership training, relationship development has been the crux of any lasting ministry success. The apostle Paul refers to his relational success as father-son. Some of the leaders with whom I have invested time refer to me as pastor, director, spiritual father, and mentor. Subsequent generations would refer to me as grandfather. While these relational nomenclatures are honoring, relationships in ministry must always be reproductive and multiplicative.

Every generation is a potential recipient of the generative process of the gospel. As people are assimilated into the church—whatever its contextual setting—a healthy relationship must be cultivated and embraced by newcomers if they are to become absorbed into the culture of the church. This is best done through strategic discipleship. A healthy strategic discipleship includes four Ts: transformation, teaching, training, and time.

TRANSFORMATION

Every attempt and initiative employed by generative leaders is transformative. The apostle Paul alludes to this in Romans 8:28-29; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 4:19; and 2 Timothy 2:1-2. The gospel of Christ is generationally generative. At the end of the tenure of a leader's leadership responsibility, the greatest sign of his/her success as a leader is his/her successor—not just the leadership responsibilities, but the laborers recruited, people who have become part of the team as the result of the leaders' generative initiatives. This makes an organization a movement on mission for God—generating generational leaders. •

1. Dudley Rutherford, You Version Bible Devotional
2. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/assimilation-society>
3. <https://www.churchassimilation.org/library/defining-assimilation-in-the-local-church-from-the-outside-to-all-in>

GOSPEL PUBLISHING MISSION

ADVANCING GOD'S WAY

By JOE TAYLOR, Director of Gospel Publishing Mission

Every literature event is a unique ministry expedition, advancing for the Sake of the Nations! The Paris 2024 Summer Olympic project did not disappoint.

Early on we were busy preparing a beautiful book containing the gospel message for Paris. The Lord tells us to “ask largely.” Our short-term goal is to do a million-book event each year. So we asked largely! God was planning largely but differently than we were thinking.

A couple months before the opening ceremony we heard a rumor—then it was confirmed. France had prohibited distribution of any religious literature in the city of Paris and near any game venue during the Olympics! Two or three weeks before, we had been asked about providing these books in several languages. With this edict it became clear that this was God's plan all along.

We got busy with translation and production in eight languages: French, English, Arabic, Turkish, Farsi, Armenian, European Spanish and Maltese. While the number of books published was less than ever for such an event, the potential of these books is extremely great. Several of these areas are restricted, and great creativity was required for successful placement.

From our first event book for the London Olympics in 2012, we have established a follow-up website that we call *Lifesrace.com*. We use QR codes to make it easy for people to connect with the discipleship material and a counselor/pastor to teach and mentor.

Now we are advancing further to make this connection even easier and more inviting. Upon following the QR code, the first things seen are the familiar graphics, a video welcome (most often in the target language), and an invitation to enter the discipleship website.

Show-and-tell always works well. Here is the link to the French/English evangelism book, *Paris*: gospelpublishingmission.org/paris24/. Or follow the QR code and find the path to eternal life!

In what way does the Lord want you to Advance His Kingdom for the Sake of the Nations? •



2012

The year
**Gospel
Publishing
Mission**
began
distribution
events

30+

Number of
**Distribution
Events** in which
GPM has
participated

100+

Number of **Teams** at
distribution events

4.53

Million Books
Distributed



Olympic Events — 1,083,285
World Cup Events — 1,175,000
Mexico City — 100,000
Biker Events — 318,900
Other Books — 1,854,790

FIELD NOTES

DO THINGS REALLY HAPPEN BY CHANCE?

By JUDY EADS

EDITOR'S NOTE *Judy Eads and others mentioned in the following article were on the Olympics Literature Distribution Team in Armenia in August under the direction of Gospel Publishing Mission.*

Zahra, a young single PHD psychologist from Iran, works in a hospital and clinic, primarily with children. Wanting to come to America for a year of additional studies, Zahra flew from Iran to Istanbul, then to Atlanta, Georgia. From there she traveled by car to meet a friend in Birmingham and then on to Mississippi the next day. She “just happened” to have several delays along her journey. A 24-hour delay in Istanbul made her miss her scheduled shuttle in Atlanta. These setbacks caused her to end up spending a couple of hours with me; my husband, Doug; and Karen Blankenship outside at a bus/shuttle station. Was this by chance or a divine appointment?

Our conversation started by her asking to borrow a cell phone because she hadn't been able to purchase a SIM card yet, and we were too far from the airport WiFi. She had to keep in touch with the lady who would pick her up at the Birmingham stop.

Sitting outside at the shuttle station on a warm muggy night in Atlanta with nothing else to do, we made small talk. We shared about our visit to Armenia, and Zahra got excited. She told us that she crossed the border into Armenia to shop. A coincidence? As we talked about the food and sights we experienced, she became comfortable and began to share her own personal stories. Tearfully she told us about leaving her family, knowing she would not be able to see them for at least a year. Zahra talked about working with refugees that had fled to Iran for safety. She loves helping people, but the stories she has heard are heart-

breaking. She has counseled many people, primarily children, helping them process hurts and giving them hope for better days. We connected so warmly with Zahra, talking, sharing a snack which her mom had made in Iran, laughing, and looking at pictures of her entire family.

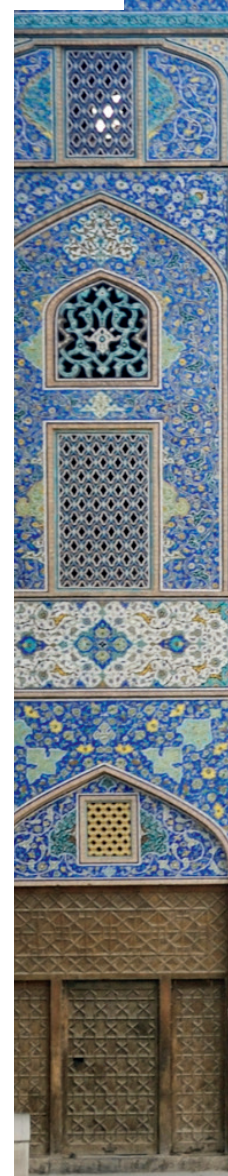
Zahra desperately needed to get on the last shuttle bus of the night but was standby. I told her I would pray that she would somehow be able to get a spot. The van arrived but unfortunately was overbooked, and the next shuttle would not leave until the morning. The van driver broke protocol after we told him we would all squeeze together for the two-hour ride. Surprisingly he allowed Karen to use a suitcase as her seat. We had a couple more hours together to share additional stories. Zahra, Karen, and I wrapped up together in a blanket in the back seat because of the freezing a/c temperatures. When it was time to say our goodbyes, Zahra wanted to get a picture with us. She gave us a very warm hug and thanked us over and over for all we did to help her.

Before getting in our car to go separate ways, we gave Zahra one of the Gospel Publishing Mission Olympic books that we passed out in Armenia. Guess what language it was written in? Farsi, the official language of Iran! This homesick lady had something to read in her own language. She was overjoyed! Was this a coincidence?

The only country that has Farsi as their official language is Iran. We had these books because we spent two afternoons in the area of Armenia where Iranians cross the border to shop, and we just happened to bring a few home for keepsakes. A coincidence?

I do not believe any of this story happened by chance. Would you help us pray for Zahra? I truly believe the hours we spent together were not a coincidence but a divine appointment. •

Above: Doug Eads, Karen Blankenship, Zahra, and Judy Eads in the shuttle





WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS



REV. ROBERT PELTON

Rev. Robert W. Pelton went to heaven on June 27, 2024, surrounded by his family. When Robert was only two years old, his mother passed away. A neighboring farm wife cared for him, praying daily God would make him a holiness preacher. God answered her prayer. During his life, Rev. Pelton pastored eight different congregations. He also taught at Bible colleges and universities.

In August 1973 Robert and his wife, Marsena, opened the Taiwan mission field for Hope International Missions. They taught at Sheng-te Christian College and evangelized students in their home. Each year more than 200 students took a required freshman Bible class taught by Mr. Pelton. Most of the students were from idol-worshiping homes, but dozens gave their hearts to Christ. More than eighty students from Taiwan and China have attended Hobe Sound Bible College. Over half of these have entered some type of Christian service.

Rev. Pelton then pastored Chung-li Bible Holiness Church. Soon an opportunity came to visit mainland China. Along with Willett Vess, Rev. Pelton was the first HIM missionary to minister there. In 1993 he returned to China and taught for a semester at a government university. Later he pastored Kaohsiung Bible Holiness Church and North Kaohsiung Bible Holiness Church in the second-largest city in Taiwan.

His life greatly impacted so many family and friends, not only at home but around the globe. •



REV. LEONARD SANKEY

FEA Ministries honors the life and legacy of Leonard Sankey. Rev. Sankey was a true missionary statesman who embodied and modeled a life of sacrificial service toward the end of seeing the nations come to Christ. Having ministered in seventeen different countries, his passionate love for the lost is an example for us all.

Rev. Sankey served as an FEA Ministries board member, including as chairman for several years. Additionally, he capably helped lead Sea Breeze Camp as platform chairman from 2007-2017. We are grateful for his anointed ministry both here in Hobe Sound and around the world. •



REV. AND MRS. PAUL PIERPOINT

Rev. Paul Pierpoint was triumphantly ushered into his eternal reward on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. His dear wife, Leila Lillian Carol Price Pierpoint entered heaven just fifty-five days prior on June 12, 2024.

Rev. Pierpoint was a Christian statesman as well as a minister and influenced Hobe Sound Ministries in various ways, including his capable leadership of FEA Ministries from 2005 to 2007. Even after retiring from full-time ministry, he would often visit the FEA offices to encourage and uplift the staff.

Rev. Daniel Stetler writes: "Paul Pierpoint's capable leadership helped pave the way to the stability FEA enjoys today." FEA President Harold Martin says: "Hobe Sound and the three ministries on campus and at least three generations of students owe this great man an incredible debt of gratitude!"

Mrs. Pierpoint was gracious, regal, kind, gentle, intellectual, and Christ-like. FEA Ministries is profoundly grateful for the life and witness Sis. Pierpoint showed on campus and in every aspect of her life. The Pierpoints have left an honorable legacy at Hobe Sound. •



WELCOME BACK!

For the past seven years the Peterson family has served with distinction as HIM missionaries to Lesotho! During their six years living in Africa, they have accomplished much, including the development of the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) department; significant progress on the Eternal Foundations Project, with the near completion of two rental homes and a tabernacle on our mission property in the village of Matukeng; the building of local church facilities; assistance in the Matukeng Health Clinic and more. They will be sorely missed in Lesotho by both their fellow missionaries and national staff.

We are happy Wes and Misty are joining the FEA Ministries home office staff in Hobe Sound where Wes will serve as our director of public relations. Misty, with Wes's assistance, will also continue to

develop the OVC ministry of FEA, particularly as it pertains to our OVC ministries in Lesotho and South Africa. Thank you for praying for and supporting the Petersons. We know God will continue to use this family in the building of His kingdom in the days and years to come. •

FEA is delighted to have Rebecca Hoard in the home office. Rebecca is no stranger to Hobe Sound, having lived here previously for many years. She has worked for FEA for the past two-and-a-half years from her home in Illinois. While long-distance service can be a blessing, it is always a joy to have the staff in person. Rebecca serves as public relations assistant, doing a variety of tasks from copy editor for the *World Update* to managing PR banquet preparations. We welcome her here and look forward to when her husband, Steve, will join her in January as director of Sea Breeze Community. •

LOUIE THE MONKEY

Gracelyn Wardlaw found Louie the Monkey in our last *World Update* issue on page 13. Congratulations, Gracelyn!

Louie is hiding again. If you are a friend of Louie's and are age 12 or under, see if you can find him and let us know by having

your parents call 772-546-1113 or email us at engagekids@feaministries.org. We will publish your name in the next issue of the *World Update*. Please make sure to include the page number and location when you contact us. Happy hunting!



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FEA Ministries
HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | SEA BREEZE CAMP | SEA BREEZE COMMUNITY

INTERCEDING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD— TOGETHER

In 1986 Wesley Duewel published his book, *Touch the World Through Prayer*. This classic enlightens believers to the powerful privilege of intentional prayer and encourages Christians to give prayer utmost priority in their daily life. We are grateful for the ways God is helping Hope International Missions advance the gospel across the world. And yet our efforts are but a drop in the bucket when compared to the vast spiritual needs around us. Billions have never heard the true story of Jesus even once. Thousands of people groups remain unreached. Wars caused by selfish ambition and greed seem to be multiplying. And too few individuals are

answering the call to go make disciples of every nation. Could it be that a primary reason for these troubling realities is a lack of concerted, effectual prayer?

What tremendous opportunities exist through the avenue of prayer. Duewel writes, “Through prayer you can accompany any missionary to remote reaches of the world. Through prayer you can walk through crowded bazaars, minister in steaming jungles, feed millions of starving men, women, and children, hungry for bread for their bodies and for the Bread of Life. God has given you a way to make your presence count, a way to be a true partner in His kingdom’s work, if you really want to be.” He continues, “We can reach our world, if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer.”¹

It is a well-known fact that Amy Carmichael, the great mis-

sionary to South India, turned folk away from her door each morning—people whom we might say really needed the help she could have given, people who were hungry and sick and needed spiritual guidance. And yet Amy Carmichael felt that those morning hours spent in prayer before the Lord were worth far more than the feeble efforts she might have made to care for the needs of others when she had not spent time with her Lord.

We invite you to pursue a deeper lifestyle of prayer. Through interceding for the lost, and faithfully bringing the needs of missionaries before the Father, you can make an eternal difference in people’s lives around the world! “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16). •

1. Wesley L. Duewel, *Touch the World Through Prayer* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1986), 11.

PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

God is still calling! However, Satan wants to distract people from their responsibility to reach the lost. **Pray that those who should be going to the mission field will learn to ignore the distractions surrounding them and listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.**

PRAY AGAINST OBSTACLES

Many things can hinder individuals from obeying God’s direction. Sometimes friends or family members discourage people from the call because they are afraid of what will happen to their loved one, or they do not want to sacrifice the time they could

spend together. Materialism and debt can make it difficult to go to the mission field. Fear of the unknown and a reluctance to give up the comforts of home can make obedience to the call seem like an impossible task. **Pray people will realize that true happiness and fulfillment only come through following God’s will for their lives. Ask God to help Christians combat the lies of the enemy.**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE PREPARING

Several individuals are currently preparing to go to the mission field under Hope International Missions. Though this is an exciting time for them as they

anticipate the future, it can also be difficult and discouraging. **Pray for God’s special strength as they prepare and for God to help them be effective in their missionary work.**

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS

Every day endless ministry opportunities present themselves to our missionaries around the world. We are eager to advance! However, as Amy Carmichael understood, true fruitfulness will flow from lives deeply connected to the Vine. **Ask God to empower our missionaries and to help them keep their relationship with Him as their highest priority!** •



FEA Ministries

HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | SEA BREEZE CAMP | SEA BREEZE COMMUNITY

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Did you know?

HIM has made multiple advancements within the last ten years...

1. Four new HIM mission fields—Czechia, Mongolia, Slovakia, and Spain—have been added, with another one—Armenia—being opened in 2025.
2. Thirteen new missionary units are serving or are under appointment: Cressmans (2014), Barr (2016), Thornton (2016), Petersons (2017), Bundy (2018), Walter (2018), Hopkins (2020), Smiths (2020), Susans (2021), Teeds (2021), Santiago (2023), King (2024), and McDowells (2024).
3. Numerous new areas of HIM ministry have opened: Africa 85 ministry initiative; Amish and Arab/Muslim ministries; Orphan Sponsorship Program developed as part of the Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Ministries (OVC); partnership with the RTCA, working with migrant workers at horse-training facilities; and new churches planted in many countries.
4. Several HIM projects have been completed or continue: Eternal Foundations building projects in Lesotho; ministry into Turkey; humanitarian aid into Ukraine; hurricane and earthquake relief; and ongoing GPM literature distribution projects.

*Khor Virap Monastery,
Ararat Plain, Armenia*