

LIFE ON MISSION

*The latest news and updates from
Gary Crawford Leadership Global*

Dear Missions Prayer Partner,

It's June 2019 - that's hard to believe. How did we arrive at this date so quickly! My apology for not communicating more often. These last months have been filled with intense (and productive!) ministry. We are so grateful to the Lord for all He is doing and want to share the latest news of our shared ministry with you below:

AMAZON VISION MINISTRY is having a God-blessed year. Mike Allen is providing strong leadership since stepping into the Director of Operations role earlier this year. We have 10 teams from across the country committed to taking the gospel into the west Amazon basin. In fact, Mike is on the river this week. In light of building great momentum, there have also been severe challenges, like the fire in the engine room. However, we are thankful that God provided safety for everyone and is slowly, but surely, providing funds for the \$30,000 repair. Our Texas team had great success sharing Christ with a remote indigenous village and plan on returning in December to continue their ministries efforts. This people group now have - for the first time ever - a copy of God's Word in their own language. Please pray for the effectiveness of all our teams, for an openness to the gospel among the river people, and for churches to continue to be planted.



The work in the CONGO has taken a major step forward. This is due to the on-site presence of our Congolese partner, Gerald Haller, and the six-week stay of Tom Nesbit earlier this spring. Both of them are providing oversight and the necessary skills for improvement. Your giving has been a primary source of funds for the work among the desperate people and the precious children in the orphanage. Here is a word from Gerald Haller himself: *"We continue to pray and look for a way to drill a well for fresh water for the orphanage and surrounding villages. We found a drilling company but the distance to the village pushes the cost to \$35,000. We are asking God for the finances or to provide a less expensive way to accomplish the critical need."*



We are also at work alongside IMB personnel in KINSHASA. Jeff and Barbara Singerman are continuing to heal physically and emotionally after the tragic accident when two missionary colleagues died that were in the vehicle with them. They hope to return to Africa before the end of the year. We had the privilege of hosting them in our home when they were in Gainesville earlier this year and are encouraged by their faithfulness and courage to keep pushing onward. Here is a word from them:

"After seven surgeries and 15 months of healing and multiple sessions of therapy, Barbara and I anticipate returning to our ministry in sub-Saharan Africa, to reside in Kinshasa, DR Congo, by July 1. After receiving second opinions here in the US, I am now outfitted with a titanium shoulder. I had nerve and tendon surgery, a muscle flap, and a skin graft. I still have limited function with my right hand and arm, but these will improve in strength and movement over the next 18 months to two years. Our role in Africa has expanded to include connecting to and working with over 64 Baptist conventions in 42 countries. We will walk

alongside and partner with our national believers and provide coaching and training as these conventions identify, recruit, train, fund, and support their own national and international missionaries. John and Pat Gordy will be joining us in this task. We also will be working with Baptists around the globe in both sending and receiving national partner missionaries to and from the African continent. Additionally, we will continue discipleship and leadership training employing oral methodologies using the stories of scripture.”

As this newsletter is being distributed, I am attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Alabama, where the Singermans are also in attendance. It's always great to catch up with them in person and to hear how the LORD is working in their lives and ministry. Please continue to pray that God will prepare their hearts and bodies to return to Africa later this year.



We are also in a supportive relationship with African church planter, ABRAHAM MUDIDI. We praise God that one year after their church planting ministry began sowing seeds, they are now seeing fruit of these efforts. Dozens of new churches and bible story-telling clubs have been planted and upwards of 150 people have been baptized. In mid-May, they launched a training center for young men and 65 eager youth

attended the meeting, of which 15 committed their lives to Jesus. Later that month, their ministry focused on teaching Transformational Mentoring that focuses on key discipleship and leadership principles. Please join us in prayer that that God would strengthen and multiply these new churches and that the Holy Spirit would work to make the new converts grow in spirit and reproduce in others. Finally, please pray that God would help increase financial support and open the doors for us to reach all of Africa for the Kingdom of God.



Our HAITI PARTNERSHIP is going strong. Triumph Community Ministries has a summer initiative that included two teams from the US, ministering to children and ministry projects.

Team leader Misty Emerson says: *"We will have 175 students at the first camp with about 20 Haitian leaders and 15 American leaders. We expect at minimum 300 children along with part of their families for the last week with 25 Americans on that team along with about 20 Haitian leaders and our staff."*

Please prayer for Misty and her fellow co-laborers that the Gospel is clear through their efforts and that lives are eternally impacted as the result of these camps.

David Kunzi is the Director for the Bilingual program at WORD OF LIFE ARGENTINA. We are in constant communication with him in a coaching and supportive relationship. The program has grown and now includes instruction in both Spanish and German. In early May, they hosted a national conference for youth and church leaders – and 1,300 leaders attended from different churches! I have been impressed with the quality of students the Lord is sending to study languages as part of their preparation to fulfill God's calling on their life to do ministry worldwide.



We are commissioning a team to UGANDA under the leadership of Steve Grote this Sunday. Using soccer and volleyball as a platform, the team will share the gospel throughout the Muslim refugee camps and gather leaders for a time of training. After that, Steve will be updating curriculum for their Bible School Extension sites. Please be praying for the mission team's safety and spiritual victory and that God gives wisdom to Steve as he develops and implements the new curriculum that students who attend Bible School in the fall will study. May they learn to truth of the Gospel and hide scriptures in their hearts.



Our work with the FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME "One More Child" continues. Most recently, Ingrid and I have worked with the Children's Home and First Baptist Church High Springs to create a support team for foster and adoptive families. We trained 20 persons!

This will also serve as a model to use for helping other churches in our area to form support teams as well. This also resulted in two more couples to foster and perhaps to move into the children's home in Lacrosse!

Please pray that our churches – and our country – step up to respond to the increasing needs of foster care.



As many of you may know, I continue to serve as the TRANSITION PASTOR AT FIRST BAPTIST HIGH SPRINGS. We are seeing God do some phenomenal work among us. We will see 11 teams from the church on the mission field this year. Additionally, God has called two couples and one young adult into vocational ministry since the beginning of this year. We expect to be in leadership here through the end of this year. Please join us in praying for the pastoral search committee and that the Lord continues to bless our ministry, locally and globally to bring about Glory for Christ.

INGRID is pressing hard to finish her last semester LIBERTY UNIVERSITY. She is pursuing a degree in business and global studies (missions). Your prayers for her are most appreciated as she balances the demands of full-time academics and ministry.

I continue to provide leadership coaching services for a local Chick-fil-A franchise and am very excited that we are seeing "flagship" movement in both spiritual development and aggressive progress towards their business goals. I am very grateful for this opportunity to contribute to our local business community and look forward to seeing how this partnership may develop over time. Currently, I am exploring how to share our results more widely with other organizations. Please prayer the God leads this project as only He can do. It's been "my pleasure" to serve this fantastic group of employees as they serve our community.



AROUND THE CORNER:

We are excited to report that it looks like we will be leading a 2nd trip to ISRAEL. The trip is scheduled for March 2020. If you have an interest in joining us, let us know and we will send additional information to you. The trip we led in October 2018 was an amazing ministry and educational opportunity – and we look forward to seeing who God will have join us this time.



With the expertise and help from Michael Justice and Melissa Allen, we are in the process of creating two new websites - one for GARY CRAWFORD LEADERSHIP COACHING and the other for global missions - GLOBAL MISSIONS 365. This is an exciting next step for our ministry! We will be sure to inform you when these websites launch.

As you can see the Lord has entrusted much to us. We are so grateful for your prayer and financial support. Please let us know how we can pray for you. We do so in a general way, but would love to lift your specific requests before our gracious Lord.

May His best blessings rest upon you!

Pastor Gary



*Your prayer and support continue
to make a difference in the lives of many!*

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