

MISSIONS TEAM NEWSLETTER October 2023 - INDEX

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202 Kent Place • Newmarket, NH 03857

August 7, 2023

First Congregational Church Of Pomfret
PO Box 297
Pomfret Ctr, CT, 06259-0297

Dear First Congregational Church Of Pomfret,

Thank you so much for partnering with ChildVoice and helping to make our life-changing work possible. Your gift will have a very sustainable and transformative impact! Through our Girl Empowerment Centers, your generous support is helping us continue to serve young, displaced Nigerian girls in northern Nigerian IDP camps, and South Sudanese girls living in Imvepi Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda. And of course, it will help us to continue to provide Ugandan and South Sudanese girls (and their children) comprehensive social, therapeutic, and vocational training services at the Lukome Center in northern Uganda.

Our work would be impossible without supporters like you who care about the lives of vulnerable, war-traumatized girls. We appreciate you coming alongside us!

Sincerely,

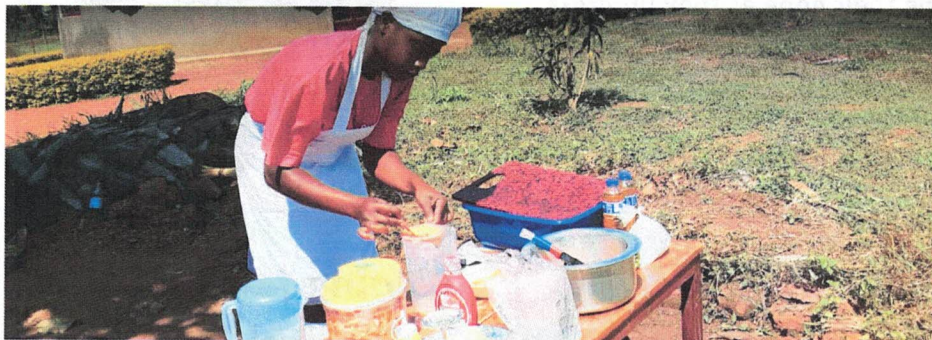


Conrad Mandsager
ChildVoice Founder & President

THANKS FOR THIS GIFT
OF SUPPORT.

Amount: \$500
Date: 8/1/23
Payment Type: Check

ChildVoice))) VOICES RISING



MAKING THE GRADE

Lukome Center Students Maintain a 99% DIT Exam Success Rate

Recently, our Class 15 graduates of the Lukome Center took their Uganda Directorate of Industrial Technology (DIT) certification exams. We are pleased to announce that all of them passed with high scores! This will be a great help to them as they seek to obtain good jobs or establish strong small businesses in their chosen areas of expertise, such as salon (hairdressing), tailoring, and bakery. (See photo above.)

No one could be happier than Richard Kyitarinyeba, ChildVoice's Head of Office in Uganda, who exclaimed: "80 percent of them did really well!"

The Lukome Center was accredited for vocational training by Ugandan government starting with Class 10 several years ago. Since that time, members of all graduating classes have had the opportunity to take the DIT exam. Moreover, ChildVoice has reached out to students from earlier classes of the center as well, making the opportunity available to all who have graduated. To date, 100 out of the 101 Lukome Center graduates who have taken their DIT exams have passed. Of those, 15 are pre-Class 10 graduates who came back for the exam.

[continued on page 2]

For our students who have passed the DIT exam, there are benefits that go well beyond demonstrating proficiency in the chosen vocations in order to improve their ability to obtain good jobs.

SUMMER 2023

THIS ISSUE

Making the Grade

Intern Spotlight: Akira

Community Service

Riding for Power

childvoice.org

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: AKIRA

The COVID-19 pandemic put a two-year pause on our ability to send interns to the Lukome Center in Uganda. With travel restrictions recently lifted, we're happy to announce that our internship program is once again open, providing students and career professionals the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and apply their skills and passion for the benefit of others.

Our most recent intern, Akira Imanari, recently completed his ten-week-long internship program. We sat down with Akira to discuss his hopes, his experiences, what he brought to our students at the center – and what he gained from his experience. To read our interview with Akira, go to: childvoice.org/akira



Making the Grade [cont.]

For our students who have passed the DIT exam, there are benefits that go well beyond demonstrating proficiency in the chosen vocations in order to improve their ability to obtain good jobs. They also enjoy the psychological boost of validation in their own self-worth. It's one more way of restoring their hope as they progress through their journey toward a better future.

We look forward to following these proud students through our aftercare programs as they work to put their well-earned credentials to use!



Strengthening Social Bonds and Building Hope through Community Service

An important aspect of all our therapeutic programs in Uganda and Nigeria is community service. These activities bring our students into closer contact with other people in their communities, helping to strengthen social bonds while raising the awareness of giving back to those in need. They also help serve to give students a sense of duty and purpose, bolstering their self-esteem and sense of self-worth as well as building a strong work ethic.

In preparation for community service in Gulu, Uganda, ChildVoice staff at the Lukome Center identified vulnerable people within the community, such as the elderly and disabled. A total of 28 students, accompanied by 17 staff members, visited 13 local homes, providing services such as fetching water, household cleaning, collecting rubbish, delivering food, providing counseling, and praying with residents.

Meanwhile in Nigeria, our students' community service in both the Malkohi internally displaced persons camp and in Mubi was focused primarily on compound cleaning (sweeping, collecting rubbish) and classroom painting. Boys in Malkohi performed a total of 73 hours of community service. Girls in Malkohi performed 323 hours, while girls in Mubi performed 78 hours.

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Riding for Power: RAGBRAI 2023

Our 2023 RAGBRAI team was recently on the road in Iowa, pedaling mile after mile to reach their destination: the Mississippi River! But more importantly, they are riding to bring solar power to our Youth Empowerment Center in Nigeria.

You can still support our RAGBRAI team! To find out more and donate, visit childvoice.org/ragbrai



From: Julia Budd

Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 6:34 AM

To: Ross & Gladys Anderson

Subject: Summer Summary

joshua venture

Julia Budd in the Czech Republic

Summer 2023



Summer Summary

Hello Ross & Gladys!

I love the change of pace in the summer (camps, trainings, extra travel) but after a full summer, I'm ready to dive back into the school year routine that goes along with youth ministry. So here is what I've been up to this summer internationally, locally, and personally.



What's happening in JV International Ministry

Mission Team Training in Slovakia, Latvia, & Estonia

One of my goals this summer was to learn more from our country teams about how they train their mission teams. So it was well worth the time and effort to travel to Slovakia, Latvia, and Estonia as they prepared their short-term mission

teams to serve at camp. It also meant that I got to spend more time with our interns. It is so good to check in with them and see how they are doing one month after I last saw them at Intern Training.



Slovakia



Latvia

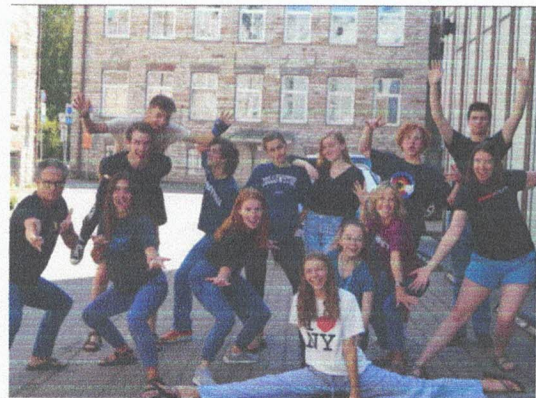


Latvia

As a part of the Latvia Mission Team Trainings, the teams went to the former KGB headquarters preserved as a museum in Riga, Latvia. We had an excellent tour guide and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to learn more about Latvian history and how the Russian occupation impacted their culture.

English Camp in Estonia

As a part of better understanding how teaching English plays a role in some of our camps, I joined a church in Rapla, Estonia for their English camp. Two of JV's summer interns were there as well as a mission team from Woodmen Valley Chapel in Colorado Springs and about 30 student campers.



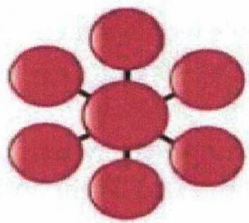
It is our prayer that camp would meet students wherever they are in their discipleship journey and the Holy Spirit was clearly moving in the hearts of students at this camp. Students from the local church were challenged to follow Jesus and invite others to follow Him. Non-believers were invited to see who Jesus is and get a taste of Christian community. By the end of the week, three students made decisions to repent and believe. **Praise God!**



Miriam (in the blue All Good shirt with me) is just 16 but one of the main leaders and translators for the camp. Now as I get to be a part of preparing resources for local churches to use it is really helpful to keep Miriam in mind, who, like many youth leaders in Central and Eastern Europe, leads her peers (and even students older than her).



This is my discussion group! After every morning and evening session, we met to discuss that day's talk and theme. **Ethan** (on the far left) was my American co-leader who by the end of the week was leading the discussion! **Daniel** (in the blue hat) is a Ukrainian boy who was invited by his friend **Rannar** (in the black hat). Daniel didn't speak much English or Estonian so he spoke in Ukrainian which Rannar was able to translate into Estonian, which **Kristin** (my Estonian co-leader next to me) was able to then translate into English. **Linnea** (on the far right) was asking really great questions about what it means to pursue God in all areas of our life. Despite speaking 3 different languages we had some great discussions!



HopeBuilders Ministries

Rapidly Winning Communities for Christ through Indigenous Disciple Makers

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Thank you for your continued and valued support. What an awesome summer season on the Mission Field!!

We are very excited about the number of Disciple-Maker Conferences that were presented, especially those initiated and taught by key Indigenous Leaders – a byproduct of the pandemic when foreigners could not travel. The 5 teams from the US and South Africa presented 21 Conferences and from the great responses of attendees, who were especially “hungry for teaching in the Word” because of the isolation they experienced over the last years. You, as supporting partners with HB Ministries, share in the joy and gratitude that these rural trainees (some traveling up to 80 miles over days) have expressed. Strategically placed Bibles, Bicycles and even 2 Motorcycles have been great motivators for expanding the footprint of the Disciple-Maker Program – overseers/trainers are empowered to get to and expand the areas that they serve with the Word.

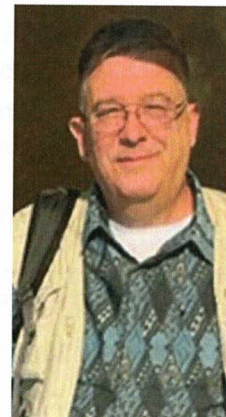
Here are the needs identified during the Conference Trips:

- 800 Indigenous Language Bibles - (\$12 each to buy and deliver to Disciples in classes).
- 22 Leaders need Bicycles in expanding areas (\$300 each to buy and deliver to the rural areas).
- 5 motorcycles are desperately needed (\$2,700 each, includes registration and a helmet, etc).
- The construction work at the Mongu Conference Center is almost complete. We need \$3,000 to do so.


Unique *** Special Approach ***** Direct Witness Reports**

We are dedicating this entire Newsletter to the testimonies of US Partners who went on Summer Conference trips. It always surprises me that when we GO ... God is faithful to work IN us as much as He works THROUGH us!! The 3 brothers who accompanied Johan are Jay, Tobey and Levi. Tobey (Levi's father) will be featured in the next Newsletter.

Brother JAY wrote, “Three days of travel brought our team to Mongu, Zambia for a pastor's conference, followed by a youth conference. Five days of teaching, fellowship, and mutual encouragement with godly men and women, kept a part of our hearts there. Hope Builders has been investing in Zambia for many years, and I was privileged to get a small taste of the fruitfulness of disciples making disciples. The worship we experienced was vibrant. The interaction with ministry leaders was inspiring. The clear and powerful work of the Lord was evident. I have been privileged to visit many ministries in many places. Hope Builders is one that I believe not only has the potential to change a nation, but is already doing so, for God's glory.”



Br Jay



Our beloved sister Janet, wife of Steve (HBM Senior trainer) passed away only 3 weeks after he returned from teaching at a series of Summer Conferences in Zambia. Please pray for Steve as he mourns the passing of his bride of over 50 years. Their children are Emily, Steven & Hannah. For over 20 years Steve and Janet have been precious friends and colleagues in reaching out into the Mission Fields of Africa. “We love and cherish all we co-labored in” - HBM Team.

Hope Builders urgently needs your help in serving the most rural believers.

Please participate in doing so by filling out your response over the page.



Levi remembers: "This trip to Zambia being my first international missions experience, I was amazed and grateful at every turn for what we

had the opportunity to see and do in Mongu. Most of all, I was overwhelmingly thankful for all the people I met. God is truly working in the leaders of His church in the Western Province of Zambia. We met and fellowshiped with so many passionate, faithful pastors of all ages from various towns in Western Province. These leaders were visibly uplifted and encouraged by the conference in Mongu, testifying to what God was showing them. I was moved by the worship of the women and young people, and the joy of the small children. I saw the youth engage with God's word, ask questions, and labor in prayer. The Lord moved each day in such a tangible way that I was in a constant state of awe. I can confidently testify that Christ was glorified in Mongu that week, and by every indication, the impact of the two conferences held there will continue to echo throughout Western Province for quite some time."

Blessed greetings from the HBM Team.



Beverly's words (traveled with Lida): "It was a joy to return to Zambia for 2023 Life Conferences where the theme was "Hear and Obey". We can't obey what we don't hear. God

wove our teachings together seamlessly as only the Holy spirit can do. For some this was their very first conference! To see men and women walk, travel for days, and sacrifice to be there was humbling. It was said, "There are many tribes, tongues, and nations here, but we are one in Christ." Their hunger for the word of God was so refreshing! They listened attentively and would practice things we taught during breaks! Their worship was lively, their faces radiant, and God's Presence felt in a tangible way. My "American Comfort Christianity" was challenged when I heard the following: "God is an international God. No one chooses where to be born." "There are those here who meet under a tree, under a shack, or under threat." "Think about what God has done for you with a grateful heart and let's pray for our sisters crossing the border". We take so much for granted! The thrill of my heart was to see them 'understand' what was being taught, to give Bibles to those who didn't have one, and to present bicycles (6 of them) to those already leading disciple-making groups who have had to literally walk for miles. The joy on their faces is priceless! Thank you for praying and supporting Lida and I. I wish you could see and experience these weeks with us!

Please urgently consider donating to the items below they all lie at the heart of our OUTREACH Ministry — Reaching rural communities with the Gospel rapidly.

PO Box 317, Greenwood, VA 22943 Cell. 434 825 7661

Website: www.hbmin.org

E-mail: johan@hbmin.org



Commitment to
Transparency
Recognized by
Intelligent
Philanthropy



I prefer my gift to Hope Builders Ministries to be used as follows:

\$_____ Transport (Cycles)

\$_____ Where most needed

\$_____ Bibles and Literature

\$_____ "Last Touches" at Mongu Conference Center

\$_____ Congo River Outreach

\$_____ Needs in Asia

Name: _____ Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

*All gifts, including preferences, administered by HBM are tax deductible to the full extent of the law
Experience more of the Ministry by going to www.hbmin.org*

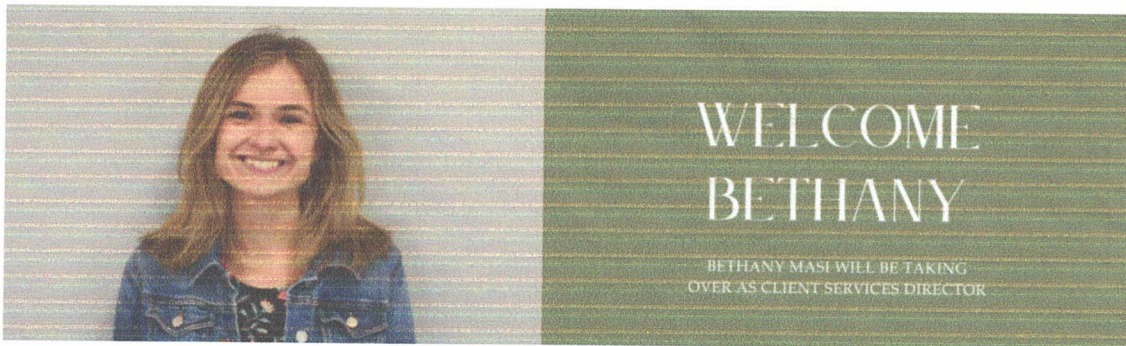
From: Caring Families

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:09 PM

To: Ross Anderson

Subject: 🍎 October Newsletter 🍎

[View this email in your browser](#)

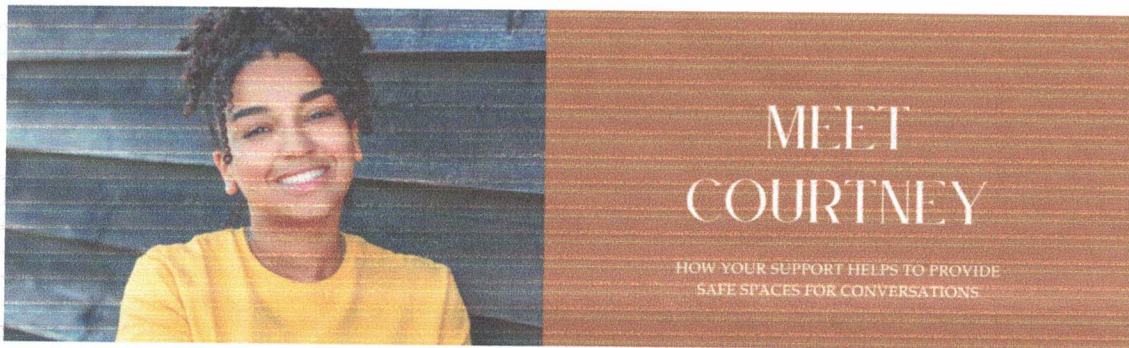


Welcome Bethany Masi: Client Service Director

Bethany Masi will be taking over as Client Service Director at our center. Bethany has been a part of our center for three years now in different capacities (Client Advocate, Client Services Associate, Interim Client Services Director and now Client Services Director). As Client Services Director, Bethany is trained to meet with clients and administer pregnancy tests, talk with them about their pregnancy decision, and lead EWYL classes. She also helps with various projects around the office, such as setting up and helping to maintain the Baby Boutique.

Outside of work, Bethany attends New River church in Manchester and enjoys doing anything crafty such as Crocheting, hand-lettering, watercolors, DIY home projects, interior design and jewelry making. She also enjoys spending time with her family, playing with my nieces and nephews, exploring new places with her husband, and reading (a lot!). Bethany's favorite part of the job is interacting with the other volunteers and staff, and seeing clients get excited for their new baby.

We are blessed to have Bethany serve within our ministry and we look forward to the wonderful light, knowledge and care she will continue to bring in the coming years to the center and with our clients.



Client Story: Courtney

At the Women's Center we recently had the opportunity to sit down with Courtney, an unexpectedly pregnant 15 year old, and talk with her about her options.

Courtney's mom reached out to us looking for an ultrasound to date her daughter's pregnancy, telling us that her daughter was too young to have this baby. When Courtney came into the center, we gave her the space to share her heart as she spoke about how the news of the pregnancy was affecting her. She wept as she shared with us her conviction that the baby growing inside of her was a life that deserved a chance to live, and her very real fears of how raising a baby while still being so young would affect her present life, her future, and her familial relationships.

We talked with Courtney about the realities of abortion, the opportunities available through adoption, and the ways in which we would come alongside her in support if she chose to parent the child. Finally, we offered to support Courtney as she talked to her mother and boyfriend about how she was

really feeling regarding the pregnancy. Later, after this meeting, Courtney reached out to our office via text saying that she really did want to parent this child despite all the hardships that lie ahead. We reminded her that we will be with her every step of the way, supporting her in all the ways that we can.

Our interaction with Courtney serves as a reminder of how critical it is for women facing an unplanned pregnancy to have a non-judgmental space to process their emotions and options, so that they can decide for themselves what they want without outside pressures influencing them. Many of our clients face very real difficulties with their unplanned pregnancies, but having a protected space to explore their feelings and options gives them the opportunity to make their decision with confidence.



Baby Bottle Update

Our Thank you to all of the churches that participated in our Baby Bottle Drive this year. This year we handed out roughly 1200 bottles and had 26 churches participate. All together we raised \$24, 608.78! Your continued support of our ministry allows us to spread hope, light and healing into the lives of women who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy in the state of Connecticut. Our top three churches are listed below:

1. Federated Church of Willington (\$2669.82)
2. Christian Fellowship Church of Scotland (\$2558.20)
3. FaithWay Community Church (\$2515.69)

An email will be sent out to all of the churches that participated this year with their totals within the coming weeks.

Thank you for helping make the DKH
community better. Gratefully, Jonathan

Rev. Jonathan Scott
chaplain

Dear Friends,

Thank you once again for your
continued support of our ministry in
DKH and Hospice. Patients and their
families, and staff and their families, are
supported by prayer and visits. Weddings
and baptisms and funerals are offered and
people are supported in their faith.



Thank you for reaching prisoners and their families with the life-changing love of Jesus!

INSIDE

pg 2

How God used you and Angel Tree to bring hope to a struggling family

pg 3

It all started over 40 years ago . . .

pg 4

Your gift to make Angel Tree possible will be DOUBLED!



PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Jubilee is the flagship newsletter of Prison Fellowship

P.O. Box 1550, Merrifield, VA 22116-1550
prisonfellowship.org • 877.478.0100

YOUR GIFT WILL DOUBLE TO BRING JOY, HOPE, AND JESUS' LOVE

For every man or woman behind bars, there are children and other family members whose lives have also been shattered by crime. That's why it's so important to minister to prisoners and their families.

Thankfully, with your help, we are bringing the hope of the Gospel to as many prisoners and family members as possible.

With Angel Tree, we reach the youngest victims of crime—the boys and girls left behind when their parents go to prison. And through the Prison Fellowship Academy, Hope Events, and other powerful programs, we reach their

incarcerated parents.

When you partner with us, we hope to make a difference in the lives of thousands of prisoners and their families this year by sharing the love of Jesus.

Will you say yes today? You can make a life-changing impact on a prisoner's family like Aimee and her four sons. Please be sure to read her family's story on the next page.

James J. Ackerman

JAMES J. ACKERMAN

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PRISON FELLOWSHIP

HOW GOD USED YOU AND ANGEL TREE

to bring life-changing hope to a struggling mom and her sons



PRISON FELLOWSHIP
ANGEL TREE

16



Aimee knows firsthand the many blessings of Angel Tree. That's why she leads the program for her church at Christmas and why her sons also volunteer with her.

Aimee can't forget a visit to her home at Christmas seven years ago.

Her husband, Thomas, had been sentenced to 17 years in prison the previous month. She was living in a rented trailer with their four sons, ages 6, 4, 2, and 1 at the time. As a dedicated mom, Aimee put on a cheerful face for the sake of her kids, but inside she felt empty, alone, and overwhelmed.

"You're suddenly a single parent," she remembers. "It's very isolating. There are so many needs."

And with Christmas just around the corner...



Aimee says about the impact of Angel Tree, "That's the biggest thing, that you're not forgotten, that you're remembered."

IT WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BEAR

But then, there was a knock at her door.

Standing in the falling snow was a group of people from a nearby church. They held brightly wrapped Christmas gifts with special messages for each of the boys from their dad. Aimee's introduction to Prison Fellowship Angel Tree left her speechless.

"I felt that I wasn't forgotten," she remembers. "It's amazing that this organization does all this, how it can reach people down some dirt road living in a single wide. It's just so incredible."

Aimee says she stays strong as a single parent by "sticking with Jesus," surrounding herself with godly influences, and investing in her church family.

Because of the impact of Angel Tree on her family, Aimee told her new church about the program. And she stepped out of her comfort zone

to lead Angel Tree at her church to make a difference for other families.

SPREADING JOY

Today, Aimee's boys continue to receive gifts from their dad at Christmas—but now, like their mom, they spread that joy to other kids.

This past Christmas, Aimee's 11-year-old went with her to deliver Angel Tree gifts to several families. Like the little group that showed up at her trailer seven years ago, Aimee and her son drove around in the dark, climbed porches, and delivered gifts, with the simple explanation that means more than words can express: "This is from your dad."

Thank you for giving to bring hope and joy to Angel Tree children and their families!

HOW YOU CAN PRAY

Please pray for Aimee and her sons as they continue to volunteer with Angel Tree to impact more children of prisoners and their families for Christ.

Thank you!!!
Dan, K.

17

Daniel Croce, Senior Chaplain

Jose grew up in El Salvador in a bad area and when he was 12 the gangs were forcing kids to join their gangs, or suffer severe consequences. He got an opportunity to leave the country and come to America. He made it to 8th grade, but got in with the wrong crowd. He began doing and dealing drugs and later in 2018, at the age of 25, during a drug deal, he had to defend himself and stabbed a man.

When Jose was arrested and sent here to the PCCF, he asked for a Bible and read it. God's Spirit convicted him of his sins and when he heard the Gospel in Bible Study, he believed and trusted Jesus to save him! Jose speaks fairly good English and has become my new interpreter for the Spanish speaking inmates in the ICE unit! He is growing in the Lord and is teaching the inmates in his unit when I am not there! He is so in love with the Lord and His Word that he committed to studying, evangelizing and teaching the Word daily!

Pastor Alonso Dacouhna is going to start next week as our Spanish/Portuguese Bible study teacher! He was funded by the United Presbytery Church (UPC) and did teach here at PCCF in 2018 until the Covid pandemic stopped all volunteers and contractors from coming into the jail for a couple of years. Alonso lost his funding from the UPC and due to some disagreements over doctrine, has left the UPC and is now with the Evangelical Presbytery Church (EPC). New Hope Correctional Ministry has hired Alonso and this will help us reach the Spanish and Portuguese inmates here at the PCCF!! Alonso is going to be thrilled when he meets Jose and sees what Jose has done in helping us to reach the ICE inmates who speak his language!!

NEW HOPE CORRECTIONAL MINISTRY BANQUETS!

The NHCM Banquets are coming up in October and November! The 1st New Hope Banquet is scheduled for **October 20th, 2023 at the Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, MA.** The 2nd New Hope Banquet is scheduled for **November 3rd, 2023, at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro, MA.**

Please mark your calendar if you can make one of these! **Both of the Banquets will start at 6:50 pm and will be over by 9:00pm! There will be some great food, some testimonies from a few former inmates, and Sheriff Joe McDonald will be there!** We will thank the Lord and praise Him for all of His marvelous works that He is doing at the PCCF! It will be a great evening of fellowship, great food and worship! **Invite some friends and let me know which Banquet you will be attending!** I can be reached at the jail - 508-830-6200 x. 473 or by emailing me either at the office dcroce@pcsdma.org or at home chapdan@juno.com.

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayer for inmates who will soon be released, that they will start attending a good church, find work, transportation and a place to live.
- Praise for Chaplain Alonso answering the Lord's call for him to minister to the Spanish and Portuguese inmates and to come on staff with our Ministry!
- Praise for Chaplain Doug MacLeod who has been helping and serving as my assistant Chaplain! He is a great blessing to both the inmates and staff! Doug is also serving at the Bridgewater State Hospital to the inmates and staff there!
- Praise that the Bible study classes and Chapels have resumed here at the jail. The inmates really need to be set free from the chains of sin.

SPECIAL THANKS!

Thanks to Richard Becker and Ken & Wendy Begin, for providing Bibles & Study Bibles! We really appreciate Roxanne Costa for grading the Bible lessons completed by the PCCF inmates.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP! ☺ ☺

- 1) We need Study Bibles for those who complete all the Bible lessons!!
- 2) Also, if anyone has a vehicle that they would like to donate to NHCM, let Chaplain Danny know! Some inmates after their release need a car to get back to work! You can receive a tax deduction for your donation! ☺

If you would like to make a contribution to our ministry, please make your check out to:

New Hope Correctional Ministry or NHCM and mail to:

New Hope Correctional Ministry

P.O. Box 1694

Plymouth, MA 02362

OR, you can give online at our website!! www.newhopecm.org

Thank you for your prayers and support! ☺


 Chaplain Danny Croce

OUT OF THE ASHES: Volunteers sift through the ruins of a burned home, looking for family treasures, like this wedding ring.

19

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS, COAST TO COAST



DEAR FRIEND,

The wildfire on Maui was the deadliest inferno our nation has seen in more than a century. On the other side of the nation, Hurricane Idalia left a swath of damaged houses from Florida into Georgia. In both cases, survivors and communities need help to recover and rebuild. Samaritan's Purse has responded in Jesus' Name.

Our work in Lahaina—the capital of the 19th-century Hawaiian kingdom—had to wait on the monthlong search for victims, but our crews are helping islanders recover as they prepare to rebuild.

My son Edward led our team on the ground in Maui, where the devastation and despair were overwhelming. “No one really knows where to turn,” he told me. As we work to comfort survivors in Maui, we want them to know they can turn to our Lord and Savior, “*who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*” (1 Peter 1:3).

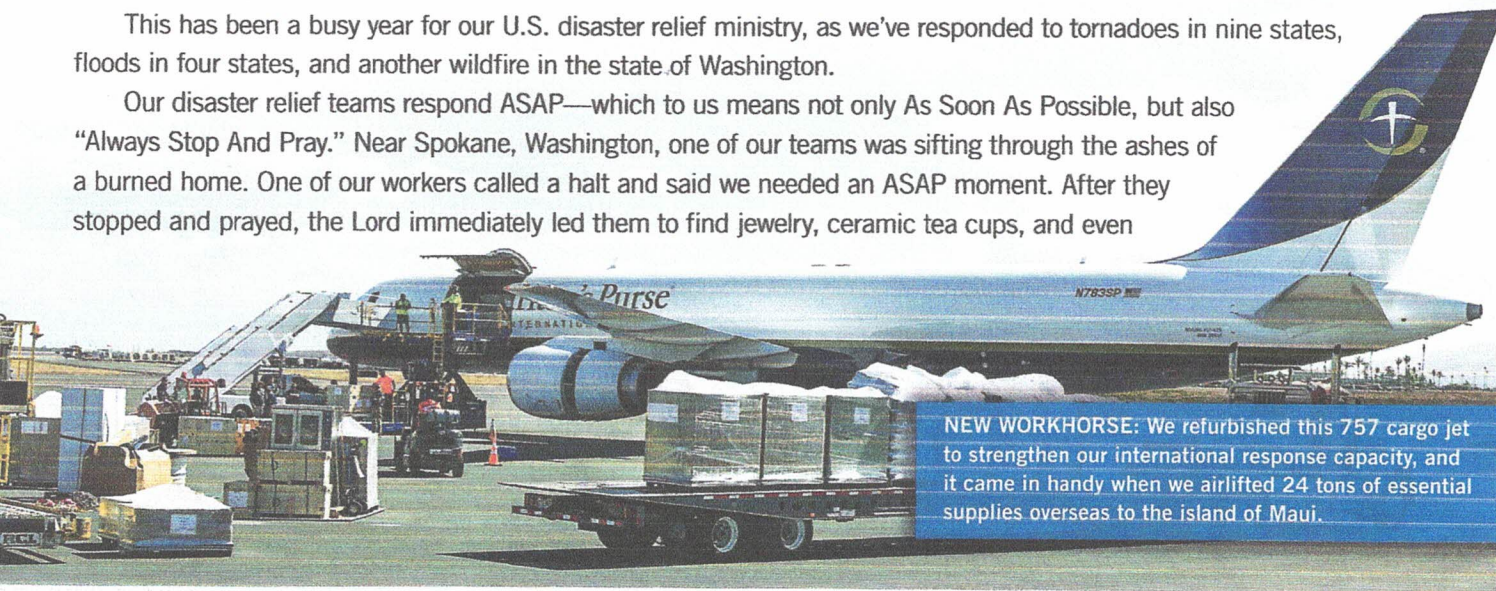
Before Lahaina opened up to relief workers, our teams worked in surrounding communities that had also burned. One resident named Faith was touched by the tireless work of our soot-covered volunteers. “Thank you for digging deep, and for the grace you all have in serving us.”

We were blessed to find strong church partners on Maui, and believers there have been quick to answer the call of the Good Samaritan to help their neighbors. As one of our local volunteers shared the Gospel, Faith rededicated her life to the Lord and her husband, Derrick, prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior.

In the wake of Hurricane Idalia, Samaritan's Purse deployed two of our Disaster Relief Units to Florida's Big Bend region and another to hard-hit Valdosta, Georgia. Our crews went straight to work chain-sawing downed trees, tarping damaged roofs, cleaning out houses flooded by a record storm surge, and sharing the hope of the Gospel wherever the Lord led them.

This has been a busy year for our U.S. disaster relief ministry, as we've responded to tornadoes in nine states, floods in four states, and another wildfire in the state of Washington.

Our disaster relief teams respond ASAP—which to us means not only As Soon As Possible, but also “Always Stop And Pray.” Near Spokane, Washington, one of our teams was sifting through the ashes of a burned home. One of our workers called a halt and said we needed an ASAP moment. After they stopped and prayed, the Lord immediately led them to find jewelry, ceramic tea cups, and even



NEW WORKHORSE: We refurbished this 757 cargo jet to strengthen our international response capacity, and it came in handy when we airlifted 24 tons of essential supplies overseas to the island of Maui.

wedding rings. Not only did these keepsakes help bring comfort and closure to the people who lived there, but they also demonstrated the power of prayer.

Finding the Hope of Christ in Ukraine

"God loves you." That's the message we translated into Ukrainian and printed on the blue-and-yellow bags that we've been using to deliver food and other emergency supplies to millions of Ukrainians who have been living under siege for nearly two years.

In one town near the frontlines, our church partners found an elderly woman hiding in her basement. We'll call her Valentyna. She said she had not had bread in months and felt so forsaken that she was ready to take her own life.

After she received food and other assistance from Samaritan's Purse, Valentyna sat down to eat what might have been her last meal. But as she read the message on the bag, she started asking herself if it was really true that God loved her. The next day, she asked workers who came to check on her, and they shared the Gospel and explained just how much God loves us. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). As Valentyna realized the depth of His love, she prayed to receive Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.



BRINGING HOPE: We've delivered food to millions of Ukrainians in bags that display the national colors and declare: "God Loves You."

Five days later, her town was invaded, and Valentyna tragically lost her life. We know that she is forever in the presence of the One whose love was expressed on that bag and then written eternally on her heart.

We heard this testimony from Vera, a courageous Ukrainian believer who was working in the "red zone" when she had the opportunity to share the Gospel with Valentyna. You can hear Vera being interviewed by my daughter-in-law Kristy Graham on our "On the Ground with Samaritan's Purse" podcast. **Scan the QR code.**

As Ukrainians face another winter under siege, Samaritan's Purse is doing all we can to comfort those living near the frontlines while helping reassure them that God indeed loves them. Our relief projects have reached 14 million people with medical care, 200 million pounds of food, water, wood stoves, roofs, and over a quarter of a million Ukrainian Bibles.

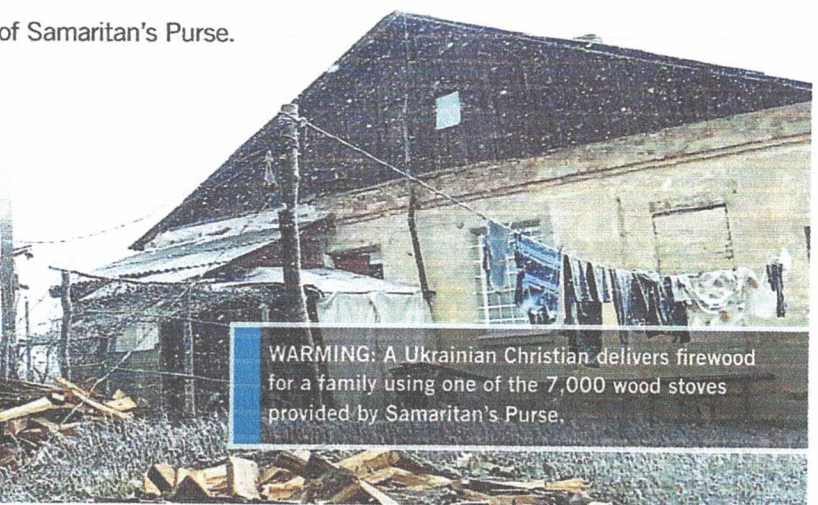
Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine who are living under the constant threat of attack. We are working with our church partners to meet local needs and help people find hope in Jesus Christ.



Thank you for your prayers and support for the work of Samaritan's Purse.
May God bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham



WARMING: A Ukrainian Christian delivers firewood for a family using one of the 7,000 wood stoves provided by Samaritan's Purse.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

PRAY

Pray for the families and individuals who

U.S. DISASTER RELIEF

Volunteers are the

UKRAINE RESPONSE

As the war in

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

National Collection

WHERE MOST NEEDED

Your gift to "Where