

ONWARD

NEWS, STORIES, AND UPDATES FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST FAMILY

The Future of Global Missions

ONWARD

fall 2019

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WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Look down. What are you wearing on your feet right now? A team of psychology professors at the University of Kansas published research in 2012 suggesting that people could guess other's personality traits all on the basis of what shoes they wore. The revealed rate of accuracy in predicting the traits of others while looking at their shoes was noted at a remarkable 90 percent. If indeed true, you can judge a person on their shoes.

The apostle Paul writes directly in Romans 10:13–15, “For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach” unless they are sent? *As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’* (ESV)!

In 1851, German Baptist churches gathered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to lock arms and determine what ministry activities they could conduct together that would encourage the church and spread the Gospel. These churches, knowing that millions of people around the world had never heard the wonderful story of Jesus and His love, resolved that they would partner together to send missionaries from North America to the nations of the world. By the 1870s, the first NAB missionary, Emma Rauschenbusch, had been sent by these churches to Ongole, India. There, among the Madiga tribe, an impoverished group of ostracized people, she had the thrilling opportunity to see the conversion of thousands who gave their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ. What a glorious start to NAB's international missionary endeavors.

As we continue as a conference of churches on a missional/formational movement—one that calls us to be sent people in our communities—we strongly affirm that we are a sent and sending people who desire to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. As one group of evangelical leaders declared:

We believe God's mission, and thus the mission of His people, extends to every people, nation, tribe, and tongue; to persons of every gender, age, education, social standing, and religious persuasion (or lack thereof). Thus a missional church will intentionally embrace diversity locally and will cross social, cultural, and geographic barriers.¹

Today, NAB international missionaries wear a variety of footwear—sandals, dress shoes, construction boots, nursing shoes. Whatever they wear on their feet, because they are bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to various people and locations around the world, they are truly beautiful.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Dan Hamil in blue ink.

Dan Hamil
Executive Director
North American Baptist Conference

¹ <https://www.missionalmanifesto.net>



Partnership in the 21st Century:

HOW NAB INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS AND SEMINARIES ARE DOING IT RIGHT



Larry W. Caldwell

Chief Academic Officer and Dean,
and Professor of Intercultural
Studies and Bible Interpretation
Sioux Falls Seminary

A Rich Heritage

The North American Baptist Conference has a rich heritage of collaboration between international missions and theological seminaries. The first mostly informal collaboration occurred in 1882 when Emma Rauschenbusch (daughter of August and sister to Walter) was appointed as the first overseas missionary of what was much later to become the NAB. After her own informal training—no doubt influenced by the German Department of Rochester Theological Seminary (the forerunner of Sioux Falls Seminary), where her father was academic dean at the time—Emma had significant ministry among the Madiga people in India and witnessed the conversion of thousands. She, along with her husband, John Clough, were instrumental in helping educate both the local people and the indigenous pastors that were raised up from them.

Other more formal collaboration efforts over the years include those NAB missionaries who engaged in theological education at either Taylor Seminary or Sioux Falls Seminary,

as well as several key national church leaders who graduated from these institutions. At the same time, these two North American seminaries collaborated with NAB missionaries over the decades and significantly contributed to the overall direction of NAB-affiliated institutions overseas, such as the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Cameroon Baptist Seminary at Kumba, and the Bicol Center for Christian Leadership in the Philippines, to name but three.

Finding a New Way

The overall historical realities of colonization out of which both evangelical missionary enterprises and theological educational institutions emerged, especially after World War II, affected theological education in many ways. Often, denominations, seminaries, and missionaries assumed that a Western curriculum, complete with libraries and classrooms, was appropriate across all cultures. Unfortunately, you can see the remnants of colonization even today if you look carefully at the curricula, classrooms, and libraries of NAB-



affiliated institutions overseas (as I have). There's still a lot of foreign North American "stuff" that hangs on. Again, this situation is not unique to NAB international missions nor to its training institutions; it's true for almost all North American missions and their overseas training schools over the last seventy years. The good news is that the once worldwide phenomenon of colonization in both international missions and theological education has been changing since the 1970s and continues to change even more today. Taylor, SFS, and the NAB have been at the forefront of developing new ways to work in collaboration with foreign institutions! Over the years, we have worked with local leaders to develop and embrace curricula and teaching/learning styles that are more relevant, or contextualized, to the local situation.

A case in point is the ongoing joint faculty development program set up in partnership between Taylor, SFS, and the Cameroon Baptist

Convention. The central concerns of the African faculty members in this program, which awards a Doctor of Ministry degree, is to develop African answers to African questions. The faculty are seeking to build theological curricula that truly meet the needs of Cameroonian pastors and churches. Preliminary D.Min. project topics include: "Shifting the Focus of Theological Education in the Cameroon Baptist Convention: Competency-Based Theological Education for the Cameroon Context;" "Towards a Culturally Appropriate Hermeneutical Methodology for Effective Discipleship in Cameroon;" and "Developing a Worship Curriculum to Train Students at CBTS to Lead Worship that is Biblically Focused and Culturally Relevant." This shift to more contextually informed projects is indeed a welcome change!

New Partnerships Are Forming

New partnerships continue to develop. The unique Kairos Project is quickly going global, with several NAB international mission connections. For example, Geoff Hartt, NAB missionary and Hispanics for Christ executive director, is working with local leaders in various countries in Latin America to help them shape a journey of theological education that is culturally appropriate and

effective. As he says, "The Kairos Project is ideal for encouraging contextualized, practical theological education in partnership with evangelical leaders in Latin America. We have begun the Spanish version of Kairos with a cohort of students in Colombia (our second Colombian cohort began in September 2019), as well as students in Argentina. We hope to begin in 2020 with interested students and denominational leaders in Mexico, Paraguay, and Bolivia." In all of these Latin American partnerships, the Kairos Project is working with local theological schools to help strengthen the work that these schools are already doing. Collaborative partnerships such as these are truly exciting!

Conclusion

NAB international missions and theological institutions are doing it right in their collaboration efforts in this twenty-first century. Although they are part of a colonial past, today both NAB international missions and NAB theological institutions are on the forefront of helping to deliver theological education in cultural contexts outside of North America that is affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful. From Emma Rauschenbusch to the Kairos Project, healthy collaboration has been a key to making disciples of all the nations. ■



www.sfsseminary.edu



www.facebook.com/SiouxFallsSeminary



www.taylor-edu.ca



www.facebook.com/TaylorUpdates



PHILIPPINES

CURRENT MISSIONARY

› Mayette Ativo-Bueno: Director of the Bicol Center for Christian Leadership and Filipino National Missionary, *19 years of service*

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is partnered with in the Philippines?

Our mission is to bring the training where the ministers are, and to fulfill that we partnered with ministerial fellowships in different areas to set up extension sites. This requires a lot of traveling on my part to administer and host visiting teachers. Age and limited manpower has become a constraint right now. Recognizing that, we started to initiate trainings based in Legazpi, where our facility is located, catering to common needs among churches, and they were well-attended. In some cases, we have to decline some who wanted to attend due to our limited classroom capacity. We can expect more of these trainings in the next years. A dormitory to house students from Bicol provinces outside of Legazpi City will be a necessity.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

The Bicol Center will be celebrating its twentieth anniversary next year, and we are planning a Grand Alumni Homecoming. It will be a good time to reconnect and evaluate the contribution/impact we made in the lives and ministries of our graduates. This could also help us in revisiting our vision so we can re-focus on what is more helpful to the community we serve at this time.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for a bigger classroom to expand the existing 24-seat capacity. Pray for safe travels and health for the regular visiting teachers, most of whom are in their senior years and have health issues. Pray for strength for the staff – the director (Mayette), one full-time office staff (Ginna), one part-time registrar (Eve), and volunteers, all of whom are also actively involved in church ministries.

HISPANICS FOR CHRIST

CURRENT MISSIONARY

› Geoff Hartt: Executive Director, *12 years of service*



Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry between Hispanics for Christ and the NAB?

Most recently we have been involved in a new level of kingdom networking between NAB churches, Sioux Falls Seminary, and Hispanics for Christ. We have helped Sioux Falls Seminary roll out the Kairos Project, an outcome-based theological education, in Spanish in a variety of Hispanic contexts, including among some of our NAB Hispanic pastors, our Field Coordinators in Argentina, and even the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Colombia.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

Hispanics for Christ is hoping to roll out the Sioux Falls Seminary Kairos Project in a variety of new areas. There are currently discussions to facilitate Kairos in Mexico, Bolivia, and Brazil.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for these new endeavors and that doors open up to train more Hispanic church planters both here in Canada and the US and in Central and South America. Pray that God provides the funding necessary to make this happen.



HUNGARY

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

- › Ron and Jeannie Seck: Hungary Field Directors, *19 years of service*
- › Laci and Eszter Daróczi-Csuhai: NAB Hungarian national missionaries, Director of Misszió az Egészséges Közösségekért (MEK) Magyarország
- › Marijana Čizanski: NAB Serbian national missionary, Director of Zdrava Zajednica (ZZ) Serbia

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is doing in central Europe?

This year, God has opened the extremely poor Serbian community of Donji Petrovci for Marijana's ZZ Team. A CHE community center is being built for village events, CHE development meetings, and Bible studies. MEK Hungary is beginning ministry in the town of Apc, at the invitation of community leaders. In Boldog and Zsámbok, community leaders are growing in Christ through discipleship and are taking greater responsibility for projects, both spiritual and physical. Many children and some adults have made professions of faith. Throughout Central Europe and the Balkans, Ron is coordinating CHE EuroNet, a growing network of Christian wholistic development teams all utilizing CHE strategy. We see God opening doors into poor, Roma, and Muslim communities throughout the region.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

Ron and Jeannie will be helping new national CHE teams organize and begin their ministry. Marijana and her ZZ Serbia Team will continue to focus on and expand children's clubs and adult community trainings and events to provide wholistic transformation through Jesus Christ. Laci and Eszter's MEK team will concentrate on developing relationships with the people through visitation, summer day camps for kids, health screening for adults, and evangelistic events. Their biggest endeavor will be to increase the number of volunteers doing home visits and Bible studies.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for the development of CHE model communities of transformed people being led by the Holy Spirit in all areas of their lives. Pray for victories in the spiritual warfare in which our teams are engaged as the Roma often come from a background of superstition, occult practices, and spiritual oppression. Pray that all of our CHE and MEK staff will have their housing issues resolved in the next 12 months and that they find places where their ministry can be effective. Pray for Ron and Jeannie as they carry on their role as CHE EuroNet Coordinator.



GATEWAY GLOBAL

CURRENT MISSIONARY

› Randy Schmor: Gateway Director, 19 years of service

GATEWAY LOCAL

CURRENT MISSIONARY

› Bud Fuchs: Cross-Cultural Equipper, 4 years of service

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in Gateway Global and global sister church partnerships and short-term mission trips?

There are a number of significant sister church partnerships that are in place and growing in Central Europe and South America. The continued excitement and requests that are coming from NAB churches asking for advice and consultation in these partnerships is only matched by the enthusiasm that we're receiving from pastors and leaders overseas who receive the same partnership training as their North American counterparts. Gateway Global is also looking at ways to re-initiate more short-term mission trips for the purpose of exposing more individuals from small- to medium-size NAB churches to global ministry work, with the goal of creating a spark of passion for global missions to engage these churches in sister church partnerships and to put these individuals on a path to consider their own potential career in global missionary service.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

We're looking to take a short-term mission trip with a number of key NAB leaders to further draw the connection and erase the lines between formational/missional growth here in North America and what is happening in the global body of Christ. In this new millennium, it will take a global identity of the body of Christ to accurately reflect and serve the God of mission (*missio Dei*) whose image we've all been created in. Gateway Global is also looking into some new areas of the world where the NAB has yet to be involved, with these new initiatives being led by our local NAB churches all around North America.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for discernment for these new initiatives as we seek to forge new areas of ministry for the NAB. We also ask for prayer for the next new wave of churches and individuals that will partner as sister churches and will also raise up more harvest servers all over the world.

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in Gateway Local and cross-cultural ministries in North America?

When you observe who is reaching out to the newcomers to North America, you see local churches catching a vision for this. It seems to be a great fit that NAB would be on that same track following the rich heritage of other Christians here in North America who loved and cared for the large waves of German immigrants. I'm excited to say there are dozens of NAB churches who have caught this vision to love and care for the immigrants and international students who are coming to our communities each year. Statistics show that the people most open to the Gospel are those who have been uprooted from their homeland and now seek a new life, which includes their religious views.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

We will continue to model an outreach ministry in Utah that others can observe for training. Also, seminars will be held by request in NAB churches to train the local church in seeing the opportunities and effective methods they can use to reach out to international students, immigrants, and refugees.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for churches to catch this vision and not fear the changing population but see it as a divine plan set by the Lord since the beginning. Pray that they would begin to seriously pray for the internationals the Lord has placed in their community. Pray that our associations would rally together for training and encouraging each other in this golden opportunity.



CAMEROON

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

- › Rick and Debbie Bardin: Physician and Nurse, *9 years of service*
- › Calvin and Susanne Hohn: NAB Field Director / CBC Cooperating Missions Director and RFIS Board Chair, *21 years of service*
- › Jeff and Sonya Kilmartin: Seminary Professor and Teacher, *2 years of service*
- › Elsie Lewandowski: Teacher / Trainer, *21 years of service*
- › Dennis and Nancy Palmer: Physician and Seminary Professors / Volunteer Coordinator, *15 years of service*
- › Julie Stone: Physician / Trainer, *27 years of service*
- › Kristi TenClay: Teacher / Director RFIS, *9 years of service*
- › Walter Grob: NAB Field Treasurer/CBC Cooperatin Missions Acct. / *25 years of service*

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is doing in Cameroon?

The NAB's integrated partnership with the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) continues to open opportunities for training and equipping nationals for greater Kingdom impact. Deep mutual trust has resulted from sixty-six years of ministry partnership. The fact that NAB missionaries have remained to serve alongside our national colleagues in the midst of the civil conflict has only strengthened mutual trust and support, resulting in a united effort to minister to those who are suffering and destitute due to the civil conflict.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

We are initiating and encouraging a spiritual formation movement within the CBC, including exploring the idea of a contextual Blue Ocean Cameroon. We are continuing to administer the Cameroon Crisis Relief Fund to support the CBC in alleviating untold suffering that continues as a result of the civil conflict. We are also leading the CBC in developing the first radiation therapy center in the region.

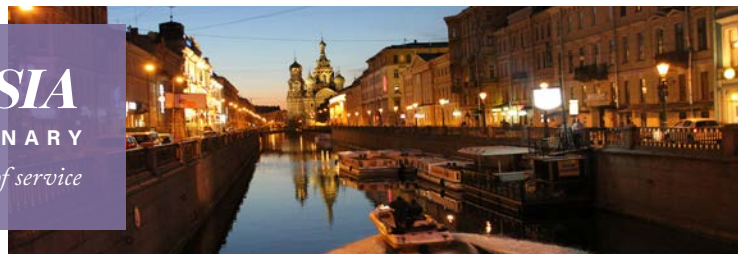
What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for peace to return to the country – that all parties involved would agree to a ceasefire and inclusive dialogue. Pray that Christ-followers and His church would be examples of Christ-like non-violence, love, and hope. Pray as well that our missionaries who have been displaced for over a year would soon be able to return to their homes.

RUSSIA

CURRENT MISSIONARY

- › Gary Clatterbuck: Russia Ministries Coordinator, *6 years of service*



Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is partnered with in Russia?

Almost daily I receive some word about the rising opposition aimed at evangelical Christians and churches hindered while doing evangelism, raising children, or serving the Lord. I am amazed how strongly they continue serving Jesus. They desire our partnership with them as they seek to live out their faith in the real world. Our students have regularly sent words of appreciation for the support of our people. One of our teachers helped students in planning and financing a move to strengthen their Christian camp ministries. Others have commented on how they were challenged by teachers who were willing to share their own journeys and struggles. They appreciate the realities that have been shared with them that have led to freedom in their lives.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

I have seen teachers taking laymen and other pastors to share in teaching in Russia and Ukraine. In this year I want to explore if there are ways we can be involved in pastoral support; the support of seminary teachers will be considered as well.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for the financing of higher education for pastors. Pray as well for the people serving in Russia and Ukraine. Pray especially for the government leadership to allow Christians to live out their faith without intervention.



JAPAN

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

- › Paul and Melissa Ewing: Church Planting / Field Director, *19 years of service*
- › Yuri Nakano: Women and Youth Ministry, *9 years of service*
- › Shan Reed: Evangelism / Discipleship, *18 years of service*

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is doing in Japan?

The Spirit of God has moved in some very significant ways over the past year. In women's ministry, a spark ignited from the work at Komyo Church has spread to other regions of the Japan Baptist Conference, who have caught the fire of helping and training women to care for each other better and reach out to those around them. Attendance at The Gathering in southern California in 2017 helped fan the flames of passion for an already well-developing youth work of the conference, resulting in good training and investment in future leaders. Finally, members of Komyo Church are stepping up and playing a more active role in the church, and we have seen God's miraculous hand in drawing people to Himself through the lives of our church family.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

We are focusing on hosting women's events in two other regions within the Japan Baptist Conference as we seek to raise up national women leaders for these regions. We are also focusing on the organization of Komyo Church, which will hopefully include the calling of a national pastor and hand-off of the work. Additionally, we are directing efforts on developing and implementing a recruitment strategy to invite more people to join us in serving in Japan.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for a continued stable relationship with the Japan Baptist Conference that facilitates the health and growth of God's Kingdom in Japan. Pray for national lay leaders to step forward in women's ministry to be trained and carry the ministry forward into the future. Pray for a Japanese pastor for Komyo Church and for those God is calling to serve in Japan to be able to hear and follow that call. Pray as well for rest and wisdom amidst the constant spiritual battles that happen in this dark and secular place.

BRAZIL

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

- › Lyndell Campbell-Réquia: Coordinator of the Pastoral Formation Program / Seminary Professor, *17 years of service*
- › Brandon and Marci Jones: Seminary Professor and ESL Teacher, *1 year of service*



Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is doing in Brazil?

One of the ways God is moving is calling more and more people into vocational ministry. This semester saw the largest enrollment since starting the Pastoral Formation program in 2015. Another way God is moving is through the continued investment of visiting NAB volunteer professors who contribute to the educational needs of the seminary students. In the only Brazilian state still considered unreached for the Gospel, churches are growing. In the last decade, the number of Baptists has nearly doubled!

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

For next year, one of our most significant endeavors is for Brandon and Marci Jones to complete their language learning. This will allow Brandon to take on more teaching responsibilities at the seminary. Marci will continue to teach English as a Second Language at the Baptist private school, as well as assist in the area of promotion at the seminary. Currently another big endeavor underway is bringing the Kairos Project from Sioux Falls Seminary to the seminary here in Brazil.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Pray for continued adaptation and language for Brandon and Marci Jones and their three children, Daniel, Monica, and Olivia. Prayer is needed for the Jones' visa process. They are currently in the process of renewing their temporary visa for another two years. Prayer is also appreciated for all the details that need to be taken care of to initiate a pilot group for the Kairos Project. Please pray for good time management for Lyndell as she has just started her doctorate degree.



ROMANIA

CURRENT MISSIONARIES

- › Paul and Tanya Gericke: Romania Field Directors and Camp Falcon Rock Co-Developers, *5 Years of service*
- › Vern and Gloria Wagner: Camp Falcon Rock Construction, Maintenance, Operations Staff and Trainers, *3 years of service*
- › Tamas and Tunde Modi: Camp Falcon Rock Director and Administrator and NAB National Missionaries, *5 years of service*

Where do you see the Spirit of God moving in the ministry that the NAB is doing in Romania?

Over the past five years of developing Camp Falcon Rock, it has become a place where the Spirit of God has been able to break through in the lives of hundreds of young people to see them come to know and follow Jesus. This last summer the camp ran two full months of programs, seeing Hungarians, Romanians, and Roma young people experience the love of God and grow as disciples. Churches within the NAB and the Hungarian Baptist Conference of Romania have been forming sister-church partnerships where the Spirit of God has expanded and built up the global body of Christ.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

Camp Falcon Rock has been operating at maximum capacity since our doors officially opened in 2018, so we are looking ahead to the largest construction project to date: the main lodge, which will be a multi-purpose building encompassing dining, a kitchen, meeting spaces, staff offices, and front reception. This next year we will be continuing to develop and facilitate sister-church partnerships in the villages surrounding Camp Falcon Rock as a continuation of its ministry.

What are the areas most in need of prayer and intercession?

Praise God for his faithful work and provision for the mission in Romania through government permits being granted, significant funds being provided, and the Gospel bearing fruit in the lives of many through Camp Falcon Rock. Pray for continued financial provision as the camp crew works toward developing the facility, especially as we begin construction of the main lodge (a \$750,000 USD project). Pray that God would be preparing and equipping more workers, especially local workers, to join us in continuing to develop and serve the camp.

EAST ASIA

CURRENT MISSIONARY

› Nick and Iris: Life Coaches, 10 years of service

Where do you see the most exciting movement in your context?

For generations an ideology of atheism has been instilled in the people of our field. Although the quality of life has improved tremendously in the previous few decades from a material standpoint, the majority of the population are lost, with the new generation in particular eager to seek the Bread of Life who is capable of filling the emptiness of their lives. Through walking with them and giving witness to our faith, we are excited that God has already prepared the hearts of most people longing for the Truth and His salvation. The harvest is ripe, and serving in life-transforming and discipleship-making ministries gives us the privilege to participate in God's plan to expand His Kingdom in a nation with great need to hear the Gospel.

What are the most significant endeavors that are underway for the next year?

Due to the restricted condition in the country, we try our best to grab every opportunity to serve the nation as long as the door to serve is still open. Therefore, the focus and priority of our ministries in the next year has become discipling believers in spiritual maturity to follow Christ in various circumstances and equipping and training national lay leaders for ministries. Leading short-term mission teams of national believers to serve in other countries is one of our priorities for the upcoming year; we experienced much joy in leading our first team of nationals earlier this year on a short-term mission trip. This was a huge blessing to both the short-term mission team participants and the people to whom we ministered.

What are the areas in most need of positive thoughts and support from those of us here?

Due to the unfavorable situation in the city where we are serving, we are discerning a plan to relocate to another province in the coming few months. Please pray for wisdom and protection for relocation, as well as direction concerning new ministries on the field. ■



Learn more about NAB missionaries and fields at nabonmission.org

White Cross at 100!

THIS YEAR, WHITE CROSS CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MINISTRY.

Growing out of the work of the Red Cross during World War I, White Cross has been providing necessary medical supplies and other goods to people and countries in dire need. Over the years, White Cross has connected people in North America to those in West Africa through the work of providing medical supplies and relief goods to hospitals, health centers, and rest houses.

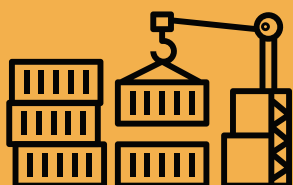
Many within the NAB family have been an integral part in this ministry's one hundred years of history. Maybe it was through prayer. Perhaps it was five minutes spent tearing sheets and rolling them into a bandage that gave someone in West Africa access to health care. It could have been a gift of \$100 that sent a baby layette box to warm the hearts of many mothers in Cameroon. Whatever your gifts were, God has used them in powerful ways. In reflecting on the

personal supplies and items for missionaries, construction supplies, purchased equipment for hospitals, upgraded equipment for guest houses, and various other items. White Cross is a vital ministry that is a lifeline for missionaries in the field, and without White Cross, there is no affordable, reliable shipping source to obtain these necessary goods. A 60-pound box can cost \$1,800 USD to ship, but White Cross can ship a full 40-foot shipping container for \$6,000 USD.

Even from the beginning, White Cross has relied upon volunteers, not only for sewing baby layettes and wrapping bandages but also for preparing the supplies for shipment. In 2018, volunteers in White Cross Canada's shipping center worked for a total of 482 hours assisting with the collection and shipment of items. At White Cross USA, volunteers spend about ten to twenty hours a week processing incoming packages/deliveries.



A full shipping container typically weighs anywhere from **15,000 to 25,000 pounds** (6,800 to 11,340 kg).



In the past 10 years, **41 shipping containers** have been sent to Cameroon: 5 from the Chicago office prior to 2011 and 18 each from the US/Canada.



Each shipment takes about **4 months** to get from its starting point in North America to Cameroon.



Materials are sent to the CBC's **9 hospitals and 32 health centers**.

ongoing need for White Cross even after one hundred years of ministry, Cal Hohn, the director of Cooperating Missions for the Cameroon Baptist Convention and the NAB field director for Cameroon, recently shared, "Our partner, the Cameroon Baptist Convention, has opened five new maternity clinics just in the past eighteen months. In the new clinic that opened right beside us, close to 300 babies have been delivered since it opened in May 2019. White Cross supplies continue to help keep the cost of medical care more affordable. This is a huge blessing in the midst of the civil war that is destroying the national economy and many people's livelihood."

Most people think White Cross is an age-old tradition carried on by women's ministry groups, and they are partly correct. However, about 60 percent of items sent are what we consider non-traditional White Cross items, including

There are two key principles that guide the work of White Cross: partnership and quality. By partnering with local nationals in Cameroon, we ensure the goods we ship meet the needs they identify without undercutting local markets. In addition to the partnership principle, we always have quality in mind. Anything we send must be of high quality. Further, the items we send must be built to last long and be worth the cost of shipping.

Through this work, we are humbled and blessed to be reconciled to God, self, other people, and the rest of creation. God has used the generosity of many to bring about tangible and effective change in the lives of many of Cameroonians as well. This transformation has taken place in and through the ministry. Thank God for sustaining the ministry of White Cross for the past one hundred years! ■



www.nabconference.org/nab-white-cross

www.taylor-edu.ca/about-taylor/whitecross

FUTURE *of* GLOBAL



Kerry Bender

VP of International Missions
North American Baptist Conference

Growing up in rural North Dakota, one of the most exciting times for me as a child was when an NAB missionary would visit my home church, Venturia Baptist Church. I remember listening to stories from Eleanor Weisenburger and Daphne Dunger about the exciting work God was doing in and through NAB missionaries. At Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, these stories were reinforced by other missionaries who challenged us as young people to give of our lives to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people in Japan, the Philippines, Cameroon, Brazil, and elsewhere. These were heroes of the faith to me, like David and Daniel, Peter and Paul, Ruth and Esther, Mary and Priscilla.

A little over a year into my tenure directing international missions for the North American Baptist Conference and I still find it difficult to believe that God has chosen to call me to this work, to work with our missionaries. This is evidence once again that God does not call the equipped, but He will equip those whom He calls. Much of the equipping that has taken place in the last year has been from hearing the experiences and listening to the wisdom of our missionaries on the field. They not only have a deep appreciation for the rich NAB missions heritage that has brought us to where we are today, but they also have a vision and a passion for the future. In May, NAB Executive Director Dan Hamil and I met with the NAB Mission Advisory Team, along with several other missionaries representing fields in South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia; this was the second of a triennial Global Summit for many of our NAB missionaries. We gathered in Argentina to discuss where God has brought us and where He is taking us. We had the opportunity to hear from a leading missiologist from Biola University, Dr. Allen Yeh, about growing trends in international missions and global Christianity. Primarily, however, we focused our time discussing the NAB philosophy and theology of missions.

The Mission Advisory Team recently met again to finalize the renewed NAB philosophy and theology of missions, which only helped to impress upon me three things I've heard repeated from each of our NAB missionaries in the last year, things that have been true of NAB missions from the beginning and that shape the foundation of who we are as a conference that is a missionary-sending organization.



MISSIONS

IDENTITY *"You will be my witnesses" – ACTS 1:8 (ESV)*

From the very beginning of our conference over 175 years ago, we have been a people of witness. The very formation of our conference was that we could do more together to bear witness for the Kingdom of God than we could separately, and this remains true today as well. While larger churches can serve as their own sending organizations, the conference serves as a means for all of our churches regardless of size to be part of the amazing work of God around the world. It gives me such joy when larger churches with vast resources come alongside smaller churches that have fewer resources but equal passion to fulfill the Great Commission together. This is the very DNA of the NAB. It has been our past and it will be our future. We have been and we will continue to be a conference that bears witness to the Good News individually in our churches and corporately through international missions.

WHOLISTIC *"Go and tell John . . . the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them." – LUKE 7:22*

Secondly, wholistic ministry to the whole person will continue to be a hallmark of NAB missions. We believe that medical missions, education, crisis relief, and other social or physical ministries are not simply opportunities to open the door to proclaim the Gospel, but they are the Gospel alongside the preaching and the teaching of the Word. We cannot proclaim the Gospel without bringing it into the lives of those who hear; for if "one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warm and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" (James 2:16).

ONGOING PARTNERSHIP *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." – JOHN 14:18*

Finally, one of the most significant aspects of the NAB philosophy and theology of missions is the commitment to ongoing partnerships for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship. In recent years, other mission organizations and denominations have shifted almost entirely to reaching unreached people groups or focusing on least evangelized groups, pulling missionaries out of fields where they had been for decades. We believe that this focus on unreached people groups is important as well, and in just the last year, we have been exploring work in several geographical areas that would address this significant aspect of international missions. In addition, we have stepped up our ministry along the Cameroon and Nigerian border to the Fulbe (Fulani) people, a nomadic Muslim people; many within this group have never had the opportunity to hear the Good News.

While we believe reaching unreached people groups is essential, at the very heart of who we are as a mission organization is the belief that God has called us to partner in ongoing relationships with His people throughout global Christianity. Jesus did not come, save, and leave, but rather through the power and presence of His Spirit, He continues to work in and through His people. In the same way, we believe that we are not called to go, proclaim, and leave but rather to go into the global fields where God has called us, proclaim the Good News of Jesus, and, through the presence and power of His Spirit in His people, build ongoing relationships with the people God calls into His Kingdom.

This foundational belief shapes who we are. It is the answer to why we are still in the fields that began decades ago, it drives our Gateway ministry for global sister church partnerships for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship, and we believe it best represents the theology and model of missions in the Scriptures and is the best representation of the global nature of the Kingdom of God. As a conference, we do this not only because we believe that it is best for the people and churches in the fields where God has sent us but because we believe it is best for us as well and for the Kingdom as a whole.



I was recently in a conversation about international missions with Dr. David Fitch, a man whose work challenging the North American church I greatly admire. He asked me if I didn't think we should focus on trying to fix our issues in North America before we continue to focus on international missions; my response to him was to question the presumption that we will ever get it right in North America without being in conversation with our brothers and sisters around the world. This conversation within global Christianity is what makes ongoing partnerships, and staying the course, so important for who we are and what we do as a conference in international missions.

In the upcoming years, there is no doubt that much will change in NAB missions as the world changes. Our partnerships with our global partners may evolve, new fields will be explored, and methodologies may shift. What will not change, however, is that God has called us to be His witnesses, that this witness is best borne out in wholistic ministry, and that God has called us into ongoing global partnerships for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship. We did not start this task; God did. How exciting it is to be invited into this ministry by Him who is faithful. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership within this ministry to which He has called us all. ■



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SHIFTS IN GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY:

An Interview with Allen Yeh

Allen Yeh is a professor of Intercultural Studies at Biola University. He specializes in Latin America and China. He has a BA from Yale, an MDiv from Gordon-Conwell, an MTh from Edinburgh, and a DPhil from Oxford. He is the author of *Polycentric Missiology: Twenty-First Century Mission from Everyone to Everywhere* and editor of *Majority World Theologies: Theologizing from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Ends of the Earth*.

In May the newly appointed vice president of International Missions, Kerry Bender, met with leaders from our international mission fields, along with the NAB executive director, Dan Hamil, and the director of administration for International Missions, Caryn Young, to discuss the changes in world Christianity and the philosophy of missions for the NAB. Guest speaker Dr. Allen Yeh focused on the changing world of international missions and global Christianity. The following is a brief interview with Allen that picks up on some of the themes of the Global Summit.

NAB: What are the recent major shifts in Global Christianity?

Yeh: The major shift is the center of the gravity of Christianity going to the Two-Thirds World (Africa, Asia, and Latin America). A century ago, 70 percent of the Christians lived in the West. Today, 65 percent live in the Two-Thirds World. Yet, the proportion of Christians in the world remains the same (33 percent). In addition, the world population has more than tripled, from two billion to seven billion, so it is not simply a shift of percentages, it is a major explosion of Christianity in the Two-Thirds World. One thing that has not changed is that the resources and money remain in the West, but that means that the minority now holds the majority of the money, so that is something to consider and rectify. However, perhaps in some ways this is good, because Christianity in the Bible (first century) was a poor, oppressed, despised minority—so in that sense, Christianity today is starting to look more biblical!

NAB: In light of this shift, I would assume the average Christian doesn't look the same as they did fifty, twenty-five, or even ten years ago. What does the new face of Christianity look like?

Yeh: You're right; with the geographical center of gravity shifting to the Global South, the average Christian today is not a white male in the West but rather female, black or brown, poor, uneducated, morally conservative, and Pentecostal. They speak more than one language and daily interact with at least one other

major world religion (Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, etc.). Philip Jenkins has a famous quote in his book *The Next Christendom*, where he says, "Soon, the phrase 'a White Christian' may sound like a curious oxymoron, as mildly surprising as 'a Swedish Buddhist.' Such people can exist, but a slight eccentricity is implied."

NAB: What are the implications of this for international missions?

Yeh: Evangelism is no longer the primary way that Westerners should engage with the majority world anymore. There are so many Christians, especially in places like sub-Saharan Africa, China, and Brazil, to name but a few of the major hot spots for Christianity. African Christians have described their faith as "a mile wide and an inch deep." Therefore, what they need is partnership, resources (seminaries, books, money), discipleship, and training. But all this has to be done without paternalism. Nationals need to be seen as equals, and their perspectives need to be respected.

NAB: How would you describe the difference between other forms of missions and partnership-based missions?

Yeh: The "four-self" church is what we should be aiming for: indigenous churches should eventually become self-governing, self-propagating, self-sustaining, and self-theologizing. They need to not just be reliant on Western money for sustenance or reliant on Western books. (Ideally, they should be writing their own books and

their own worship songs for their own contexts.) The phrase "give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime" comes to mind. It doesn't mean we Western Christians disengage from Two-Thirds World Christians or call a moratorium on missions. It simply means that we change our tactics. Perhaps we can start by planting churches and donating money and building seminaries (and teaching in them). But eventually we want to "work ourselves out of a job" as we turn the leadership over to the nationals. Or rather, we don't want to leave entirely (because that would mean lack of partnership) but rather submit ourselves under local leadership.

NAB: Tell me more about why partnership missions is such an important model for missions in light of the changes to Global Christianity?

Yeh: As Two-Thirds World Christianity is now the majority, we need to give them a proper voice — not just to be recipients of mission but agents of mission. Reverse mission is becoming increasingly common as Europe (and other parts of the West, like Australia and Canada) become secularized, and we will need their help in reaching the non-Christian world. With the realities of globalization, there is no way we can remain isolated from each other. It behooves us to be thoughtful about how we can engage with our brothers and sisters around the world in a respectful and impactful way. ■

Significant Servants



Randy Tschetter

Director
NAB Heritage Commission

After accepting Jesus's call to "follow me," Philip quickly sought out Nathanael to tell him that he had found the one of whom the Law and the Prophets spoke – Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael's reply revealed his skepticism about how anyone or anything of importance could come from a small and unimportant place: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46 NRSV). Throughout the centuries, there have been many thousands of servants of Christ following in His footsteps who have also hailed from places just as unlikely as Nazareth.

Few people have likely heard of or visited towns in South Dakota like Artas, Bison, Wilmot, Lennox, or Chancellor. They are small places, for sure, but they are the birthplaces and hometowns of Bee Westerman and Meraleen Kern – two significant North American Baptist missionaries and faithful servants of Jesus Christ.



Born with low levels of hemoglobin in her blood, which made her skin look blue, and later suffering diphtheria, Berneice "Bee" Westerman was not expected to live long. Her mother's simple yet profound prayer for her infant daughter was, "Lord, if you need her, take her, but if you have other things in mind for her, I will not stand in the way."

Bee was first and foremost a teacher, beginning her career in a single-room schoolhouse in rural South Dakota. In 1949, she was appointed as a missionary-teacher to Cameroon by the NAB. During the next forty years, Bee supervised mission schools and served as a teacher of the children of missionaries. A high point in her life began in 1961 as she helped establish and was the first principal of Saker Baptist College, an all-girls secondary school. To the girls, even to this day, she was affectionately called Ma Bee.

An early document in her file suggests that in her early years Bee had to overcome shyness and insecurity as she followed God's call to missionary service. Over the years, however, she grew in self-confidence and in her ability to face and deal with new opportunities and challenges. When she left Cameroon, she did not retire, but simply relocated her energies into work at the North American Baptist Heritage Commission, where she served faithfully until age 90. When Bee died in May at the age of 95, she left a legacy as someone who lived as a faithful servant of God. As is often the case, God used the life of an ordinary, small-town girl like Bee to bless the lives of hundreds of people around the world and to make a positive impact for good and for His Kingdom in Cameroon and North America.

Meraleen Kern was born in the very small town of Artas, South Dakota. She moved with her family to Bison, South Dakota (current population of 335), where she attended and was baptized at Bison Baptist Church. During her college years, she met and married Edwin C. Kern from Millet, Alberta. In 1955, they were together commissioned by the NAB as missionaries to Japan. They started out in Kyoto, where they studied Japanese and the culture and prepared to establish their first church. Meraleen and Edwin spent seventeen years in three different cities in Japan before they returned to North America to live in Edmonton, Alberta.



Like Bee, Meraleen did not really retire when she returned to North America. The death of her husband in 2001 and her daughter in 2009 did not deter her from being an active member of Central Baptist Church in Edmonton. She invested

in the lives of immigrants by teaching English as a Second Language classes and was actively involved in the life and support of the Edmonton Japanese Christian Church. In my role as Director of Church and Alumni Relations with Sioux Falls Seminary, I was privileged to visit with Meraleen on several occasions.

She had a generous heart and strategized how Japanese students might benefit from seminary studies. Until her death at the age of 89 in April, Meraleen never stopped being a missionary.

There are certainly many other examples of NAB missionaries who grew up in a Nazareth; individuals like Laura Reddig, Eleanor Weisenburger, Pat Lenz, and Barb Kieper, all of whom I have personally known. Even the newly appointed vice president of International Missions, Kerry Bender, hails from a small church in a small North Dakota village and is being used in significant ways leading NAB's work of worldwide missions. Throughout the centuries, and across continents, countless significant servants of the faith have come from small towns, leading multitudes of new believers to echo Nathanael's words of Jesus, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49). ■



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Capital Campaign Update



When discussions began in 2015 around the dream of linking arms across North American Baptist Conference partnering agencies for one significant project to raise funds for the work we all do together, God's hand of blessing seemed clear. As in the partnering work between churches and leaders in the book of Acts, "it seemed right to them and the Holy Spirit." The REACH campaign was born, and its tagline—"NAB on mission together"—summarized well the heart behind the plans. We had no idea what the response would be, but the goals were lofty. The list of projects quickly grew to include not only cornerstones like the hydroelectric dam at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon and Camp Falcon Rock in Romania but also efforts to plant churches, train pastors, and make significant steps of partnership between our two seminaries.



As REACH ends at the close of 2019, we are pleased to report that \$1,711,325 has been charitably given.

The generosity of businesses, churches, and individuals has been humbling and inspiring. These funds have gone a long way in resourcing the efforts we discern God has called the NAB to fully engage with.

WHILE WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY, THERE IS MUCH MORE TO DO:

- › Additional cabins are needed at Camp Falcon Rock to increase camp capacity, reaching more kids for Christ.
- › We have more churches to plant, knowing the Gospel is potent and powerful in new churches.
- › Lay leaders and pastors alike are benefiting greatly from Blue Ocean and Bonfire in refocusing their ministry efforts around a missional and formational theology.

You can still give to the REACH initiative through December 31, 2019.

Subsequently, gifts can be given to many of the Special Projects supported by the REACH initiative.



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Weaving of the MAT

A deeper look into the Mission Advisory Team

On the heels of moving the NAB International Office from Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, to Roseville, California, some individual strands of thought and ministry in the NAB began to demonstrate a need for an advisory team for international missions. During this time, the conference was leaning hard into what it means to be missional throughout our churches in Canada and the US. Randy Schmor, the director of Gateway, had just launched training for sister church partnerships at the Triennial in Florida and was in conversation with Geoff Hartt, the director of Hispanics for Christ; they were challenging each other on what this missional theology means more broadly for global Christianity and international missions. Soon their conversation included Norm Poehlke, who at the time was overseeing international missions as the vice president of Ministry Outreach.

During this same period, Paul Ewing, the field director in Japan, and Calvin Hohn, the field director in Cameroon, were invited to join the regional ministers and the NAB executive team in strategy discussions on an annual basis. This was done to engage in conversations that reflected the global nature of the NAB conference and align the missional and formational theology at home and abroad. The strands of these conversations between Randy, Geoff, and Norm, along with the strands of thoughts and interactions between Paul, Calvin, and Norm during strategy meetings, began to weave into a concept for a team to advise Norm as he led the conference's international missions initiative. Soon Norm invited Randy, Geoff, Paul, and Calvin to serve on this team, the Mission Advisory Team, which they affectionately called the MAT.

Two new members have been woven into the fabric of the MAT within the last year. Lyndell Campbell-Réquia and Tanya Gericke bring the perspectives of Brazil and Central Europe into the conversation.

They also complement the team by bringing their experience in higher theological education—Lyndell teaches in our partner seminary in Brazil—and camp ministry—Tanya provides leadership for our ministries at Camp Falcon Rock in Romania. ■

Please pray for the Mission Advisory Team as they continue to play an important role in advising our new vice president of International Missions, Kerry Bender. They bring invaluable experience and expertise into the conversation of global Christianity and international missions for the NAB. Pray as they discern God's direction for NAB missions.

GEOFF HARTT

TANYA GERICKE

RANDY SCHMOR

LYNDELL CAMPBELL-RÉQUIA

KERRY BENDER

CALVIN HOHN

PAUL EWING

Building up the Church



Bob Glim
Vice President
Church Investors Fund

Church Investors Fund's primary purpose is to help spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by providing financing for the acquisition, construction, and remodeling of churches and other organizations to enable them to expand their ministries within the United States and Canada. Over the years we have extended hundreds of millions of dollars in loans and financed many, many projects.

It is our desire to assist our churches to plan and evaluate building projects by doing what is in our power to guide them in making the best financial decisions. We aim to provide them with the greatest chance to grow God's Kingdom in the way He has called them to.

The exciting part is that the funds for these projects are made available because churches, camps, retirement homes, and individual investors who attend NAB churches throughout the US and Canada entrust a portion of their savings to us. Our investors include quite a few missionaries whose investments with us not only help build churches but also help them prepare for when they

return from the mission field and integrate back into the western lifestyle. All the dollars from these like-minded investors are then pooled together to work toward one common goal: Helping spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are responsible to our investors morally, financially, spiritually, and ethically.

We truly view our investors as partners in ministry.

But that is not where our ministry ends. We love helping churches grow physically, but we also want to support the work of church plants. Often, church plants struggle to support themselves financially when they are first starting out – when things are most lean. This is where God has called us to support many NAB churches over the years. We do this by giving back a portion of our earnings. God has blessed Church Investors Fund over the years and thus by providing grants we have been able to further support ministries that are having an impact for His Kingdom.



There have been countless stories of how a few thousand dollars came at just the right time to allow a young church to fund a ministry outreach or meet some other need, alleviating the stress of wondering where the needed funding would come from.

We have also been blessed to give toward other initiatives that God has

placed on our heart. The bottom line is that God is truly amazing and deserves all the glory as He continues to provide opportunities for Church Investors Fund to further His Kingdom. We will continue to do our best to honor Him and help further His Kingdom in whatever way He calls us. ■



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Course *Correction*



Dave Decker, Jr.

Youth Ministry Leadership Team
Youth Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church
Sioux Falls, SD

It's often hard to know how a little bit of drift can affect your long-term trajectory, but once you get re-calibrated, it can be difficult to believe how far off-course you may have been! This year's Summit, put on by the NAB Youth Ministry Leadership Team and held in Phoenix, Arizona, was for me an exercise in course correction. For starters, Arizona sunshine when it's cold and dreary back home? Yes, please! I'd forgotten how fantastic the warm sun on my untanned arms had felt and was becoming used to being without it. I'd also become unaware of the pace of my day and how unhealthy living with over-commitment makes one feel. Spiritually, when we live our lives with nowhere in the margins for God to write on the pages of our lives, how can we really expect to hear from Him? Course correction in the form of time with like-minded ministry friends, as well as some breathing room by the pool, made for some holy moments of restful space – space for God to scribble reminders of who we are and how we are to be in His presence. The mission of youth leaders in this world depends greatly on staying in service for the long haul, and that won't happen if we are way off course.

One exciting thing that happened at The Summit was that we talked about one of my favorite missions experiences that we bring our students to be a part of – The Gathering. This will be the NAB's third time partnering with Orange County churches and the local city government. Because of the foundation that has been laid by The Beacon church and the Love Orange organization in Orange and Anaheim, California, we are welcomed to be a part of ministry there.



For The Gathering, NAB churches across North America bring around 500 students and adults to have a blast singing, playing games, hearing some great speakers, and working their backsides off for a week! If The Summit is my course correction, The Gathering helps to set the course for the students at my church and churches all across the NAB. With any youth ministry trip I do, I consider the cost and the benefit.

It is no secret that it takes work and fundraising to get my group to Orange, and it is no small impact that we have walked away with each time. I want to see a spiritual growth component in our students; with daily chapels, worship music, and great speakers, as well as time to process it all in our groups, we see that. I want to see my students have fun and grow their understanding of the family of God; with on-campus recreation options each day, as well as many fun, late-night options and a ton of space to meet new friends and develop healthy

relationships, we see that. I want to see a service component for our students; with a plethora of work sites and a variety of service opportunities, we see that.

Students have worked with the first shelter open to homeless families, which allows them to stay together. They have helped revitalize homes that have become too much for their elderly residents to maintain. They even cleared brush from a horse trail, which was a huge help against wildfires in the area.

My group had the opportunity to serve at a homeless shelter, and one afternoon our kids made some artwork for the walls of the new shelter, as there wasn't anything yet except stark white paint in the newly renovated building. I loved watching students put their hearts into this simple task – sharing their favorite Bible verses and shaping this artwork as they thought of specific people we'd worked with and considered what they would want to read on their walls. Caring and consideration for others is a key element of being able to share Christ's love with them. I am very thankful for the moments we spent doing this in California, and even more so for the moments of ministry back home that our students were prepared for.

I love working alongside our students, seeing God shape their hearts to care for others in a community that has huge needs, a very large homeless population, and a fantastic foundational organization and churches that we have developed ongoing partnerships with. We see their work before us, we see our work while we are there, and we see God work in our students when we get home. Their impact continues after we leave. The Gathering is more than a youth conference and it is more than a fun adventure; it is also a mission opportunity with a long-lasting impact. ■



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Missions & the Future



Jean Ewing
Women's Connection Leadership Team

Recently I ran across an eight-page document commemorating the history of NAB women serving God in North America and around the world.

Dedicated women in 1860 were active in supporting missions—"Bible women" in China and India, our own missionary to the Kachin people in Burma, and orphanages, deaconess homes, and the NAB seminary. In 1882, a union of the 160 societies was formed, and in 1907, the Women's Missionary Union was founded.

This band of women was the inspiration that led others to hold bazaars and dinners to raise funds for missions. Rural women donated crates of eggs, canned products, and chickens to orphanages and homes. As early as 1915, Red Cross handwork was made for the war effort. This effort evolved into our present White Cross work and a national project to provide medical supplies for Cameroon.

Throughout the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, women of the NAB faithfully supported projects through Share Your Blessings boxes that brought focus and responded to needs in Cameroon and church plants in North America. In 1994, \$75,000 was raised for the first Chain of Love home in Brazil. NAB women were united through responding to these needs. Through the generosity of the women of the NAB, scholarships

have been given to women for leadership training in the Philippines, Cameroon, and Mexico. Students in the NAB college and seminary were granted scholarships. In 1998, through the Growing Healthy Women in Ministry program, over 360 women were trained. They returned to their churches to serve the women there.

The year 2000 signaled many changes in the influence of the organized women's work in the NAB. And as we still seek to find our place in the NAB landscape, we have continued sponsoring Share Your Blessing projects to provide encouragement through providing milk and vitamins to Cameroon children, sending bags of blessings to kids in Guatemala, helping support orphan children in Africa through Chicks for Orphans, and purchasing shoes for those in rural Mexico through our Happy Feet connection. Through our Restoring Hope program in Anaheim, California, and First Gift in Vancouver, British Columbia, your contributions have helped provide hope for marginalized women.

The current Women's Connection team has made two trips to Rosarito, Mexico, (near Tijuana) to encourage the Gonzalez family in their efforts planting a church. Our support is still present as we help finance projects Rebeca and Gris do with the women in the community.

Members of our team traveled to Cameroon in 2017 to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Cameroon

Baptist Convention Women's Union. Seeing the Cameroonian women's unbelievable dedication to God and each other encouraged us and caused us to remember and thank God for the influence missionaries have had and are having in the lives of the women of Cameroon.

We have reached out to the wives of youth pastors concerning scholarships to The Summit so that these women may be encouraged in their ministry to youth, as are their husbands, by this time away. And we support women attending Blue Ocean by providing airfare to the three gatherings.

Yes, but this is all history—what about the future?

The Women's Connection Leadership Team is in the process of determining what part God would have us play in the furthering of His Kingdom through NAB women. We do know that we need to expand our vision for ministry to include encouraging and equipping all women in leadership positions in the church.

The team is in the process of connecting with women in leadership in the twelve NAB regions. At these

luncheons, women are sharing with us what would help them grow in their leadership journey. They are asking for resources to help them achieve their goals. They see the need to network as leaders for support and resourcing.



We have enjoyed hosting connecting luncheons with women leaders from the NorCal Association, the British Columbia Baptist Association, the Eastern

Association, and most recently the Alberta Baptist Association. Even more enjoyable is seeing NAB leaders connecting with other women in ministry.

The Women's Connection Leadership Team is asking for your prayers and words of insight and encouragement as we seek the place God has for us in the lives of NAB women of all ages. ■



wm.nabc@gmail.com



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From the beginning years of the NAB, legacy giving through estates, wills, trusts, and memorial gifts have been transformational in establishing new fields, launching new ministries, and planting new churches. Your legacy giving provides the next generation with essential resources for where God will direct them to expand the Gospel's reach in North America and around the world.

If interested in leaving a legacy gift to NAB ministries by committing a portion of your end-of-life assets, contact us at (916) 797-6222.



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The background of the lower half of the poster is a photograph of a wooden pier extending into the ocean at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The pier's wooden structure is silhouetted against the bright sky. A large, semi-transparent circle with a yellow-to-teal gradient is centered over the image, serving as a backdrop for the main title and date information.

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