



NOVEMBER 2024

ECCLESIOLOGICALLY CHRIST

Praises

- Louisville, Kentucky – MissioNexus Conference: My workshop on international church partnerships went well, and the conference as a whole was a good experience.
- Roseville, California – NAB Executive Team Meetings: Productive days discussing NAB Conference overall topics, vision, and direction.
- Camp Falcon Rock, Romania, and Hatvan, Hungary – NAB Regional Ministers, Executive Team, and spouses Gateway team: This was a very full but also very rewarding time where we met with Hungarian Baptist Conference of Romania leaders and pastors and visited a number of villages; in addition, we spent some time among Roma projects in Hungary with the MEK team and had some beautiful sight-seeing opportunities in Budapest; it was a great time!
- Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Trochu, Alberta – I attended and spoke at the Greater Edmonton Mission (GEM) Conference, preached at Zion Community Baptist Church, facilitated a Gateway Sister-Church Partnership Orientation and Cameroon Vision Trip Training at Park Meadows Baptist Church, as well as spoke at the Central Alberta Mission (CAM) Conference; very full and very good time of connection and conversation.

Prayer

- Banyo, Cameroon – Gateway sister-church partnership vision trip: Please pray for safety, protection, and a fruitful time as I lead this small group from Park Meadows Baptist, as well as pay attention to potential opportunities for other churches on this two-fold purpose vision trip.
- Phoenix, Arizona – NAB Executive Team Meetings: I'll be meeting with this group and with one of our new NAB Regional Ministers for a few days in January.
- Interim Vice President of International Missions role for the NAB – I was asked to serve in this role until a new permanent VP of International Missions can be found; thank you for your prayers for me during these busy and challenging months. And please pray for the search for a permanent NAB VP of International Missions.
- Central Europe Field Director role for Hungary/Serbia – Thanks for your prayers as I continue in this role as well.
- For all of Gateway's ongoing sister-church partnerships in various stages of development and engagement in Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, and Cameroon.
- For more North American churches to engage in sister-church partnerships.

Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

COLOSSIANS 1:18 (NLT)



The Hungary Parliament building in Budapest, Hungary, with the NAB Gateway Romania/Hungary RM Team.

This past month I had the opportunity to lead a unique Gateway team consisting of NAB Regional Ministers from around Canada and the USA, as well as our NAB International Office Executive Team, with a good number of spouses included. Not only did this group of more than twenty people get the chance to experience some of what a Gateway team typically experiences – with pre-field training, on-field mission, and post-field debriefing – they also had the opportunity to go through Gateway sister-church partnership training and to understand sister-church partnerships in the Hungarian/Romanian setting in particular.

In reflecting on this experience and also the good number of recent sister-church partnership inquiries that have come my way of late, I thought this quarter's newsletter was a good time to take a look at some of what continues to inspire NAB Gateway's unique approach for churches to be involved in international mission through sister-church partnerships. Please read on. . . .

Sandwiched in the middle of six dense verses of a poetic stanza in Colossians 1, amid statements about Jesus Christ that paint an amazing comprehensive picture

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about our King, Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Reconciler, is another description about the One we follow as the Head of this Global Body, the Church, that we find ourselves to be a part of: a Church that should not be known to be fractured, divided, or separated by language, culture, or anything else, but a Church that Ephesians 4:4 tells us is *one*.

It is within this *one*-ness that the Global Church can find itself as it seeks to position its footing and find its stability under our one Head, Christ (King) Jesus. And although at times it can feel as if these thoughts are mysterious (according to Paul), we recognize it to be true that there is truly only One Head and One Body. Jesus is in fact 'ecclesiological Christ' as the head of the global body.

This is where NAB Gateway and our model of sister-church partnerships finds its foundation – within the idea that we can partner together as One Body and that our sense of identity, partnership, and mission comes essentially from the same place, the same understanding, an understanding that our sister-church partnerships are formed in a way so churches that are diverse geographically, cross-culturally, and beyond can find a way to do mission together through partnership with one another.

Ultimately, this *is* the goal of sister-church partnerships, to find ways to do *mission* together as a result of the purposeful intentions of integral relationships and mutuality.

Please contact us at NAB Gateway (rschmor@nabconf.org) for more information on sister-church partnerships, as well as training and opportunities for doing short-term mission with excellence, something that Gateway has been about for more than thirty-five years.

For the Kingdom,

