



# HIS STORY

*"Sharing God's Story and the Kingdom Movement throughout the world through His people"*

## Faith Evangelical Free Church (FEFC) Missions Update

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**The number of followers you have doesn't make you better than anyone else. Hitler had millions, Jesus had 12.**

### Reaching & Teaching the Indigenous People of Panama



*"By God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, IBAC is expanding in many areas in 2022. We have opened new institutes in Mexico, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Argentina and Peru. We are especially excited to be expanding our training locations in the northern jungle of Panama with an indigenous group called Gnobe. One of our Costa Rican team members, named Michael Vargas, is spearheading this expansion with the Gnobe. Michael has been trained and equipped through IBAC over the last 5 years and now leads this endeavor. It is especially important to provide theological training to this group of Gnobe, since they are relatively close to an area of their reservation (jungle) that has still not been fully reached with the gospel. Therefore the strategy is to equip and mobilize the Gnobe church on the Caribbean side to reach the remainder of their people. Please pray for Michael and this endeavor."*

Jay & Amy Grooters—IBAC Ministry  
 US # 715.222.6430  
 CR cell +506.8471-5815



# josiahventure

Mel & Amy Ellenwood



Over these last months of war in Ukraine, many who were fleeing came to us. Amidst the pain, we offered the healing hope of the Gospel. Our Psalm booklets were given to each person at our church hubs—whether they had a seat on the bus or were there to say good-bye. Inside there are 22 select psalms with short intro devotionals. The gospel message is found on the closing pages. The foreword reads as follows: "God's word offers us hope in the darkest of days. Even when our world turns upside-

down, God promises to be with us. He remains the same, as our ever-present Rock and our Shield." Many conversations were shared around this little booklet. One woman wrote: "Yes, God's Word gives hope on the hardest days. We came to you with tears in our eyes, but we are departing with big sincere smiles. These smiles, good sleep, good food, the compassion of people, a calm in the soul, and faith that God will lead us to victory—this is what you

have given us. You have helped people return to life. You have shown us a new day filled with new opportunities. With great thanks, the people living in room #302." -Olena

This is one of the many stories we heard as thousands of refugees came through our hubs. As a team, God enabled us to collect and deliver 575 tons of food (1.5 million meals) to hard-hit parts of Ukraine through our brave network of drivers. We evacuated 5450 refugees to western Ukraine and to places throughout the EU on 51 rented buses, and vans. Many of the 752 churches in our network across central and Eastern Europe have partnered with us to receive these refugees and provide them with safe, long-term accommodations and community.

It's difficult to know what the long-term impact of the trauma from this war will be for so many. Families came through our hubs that lost everything. But the face of the Church across Europe is changing. She is rising up and she is beautiful. She is bringing hope in the midst of devastation. Pray for the healing and hope of the Gospel to bring light, even revival, to our part of the world.



# SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Last December, our prayer team was standing across the street from the frontline team who was talking with three women working in Berlin's red-light district. As a ministry, we always have a team of at least three people praying during street outreach.

I was leading a prayer team with two other people.

The frontline team's conversation with the women was taking a long time. This is something that we always pray for! The longer the conversation, the more willing the women are to go into deeper, often times spiritual, topics. This encounter was a big deal in general because this area of the street is where a group of women from Eastern Europe stand that are heavily controlled. On this night, however, all of the bars and casinos were closed because of the corona lockdown, so it was a

quiet night with not a lot of people around.

An hour goes by. We are still standing in the doorway of a closed shop. It is 10 pm, 35 degrees, and raining, but our team remains diligent in prayer. After praying for the women's protection and freedom from the bondage of the streets, one of my teammates cries out, "God, I pray that all 3 of these women accept you into their hearts tonight!"

And that is exactly what happened! All three of them prayed to receive Christ.

One of the volunteers on the frontline team described it as: "you could see the joy and hope fill their eyes".

Since December, we have kept in contact with the women. One of them has shown real motivation to leave the streets and has taken significant steps forward. She even returned to her home country and attended



a church.

Since the pandemic restrictions have lifted, however, the heavy surveillance over women has started again. Meeting and talking with the women has become more and more difficult.

We still have hope that the three women who prayed to Jesus continue to grasp onto the hope and joy they experienced that night in December. Our prayer is that they continue to seek the Lord, leave the red-light district, and find new opportunities to support themselves and their families.

Please join us in prayer for these women and all the women we work with here in Berlin.

**Nic & Theresa Heil**

[nicandtheresaheil@gmail.com](mailto:nicandtheresaheil@gmail.com)



What a joy it has been to be serving for 2 years now as a corporate chaplain at Kunes RV and Auto. I usually head for the back door of the maintenance buildings, where it says "employees only." Those tech guys (and gals) really do tell it like it is. I am responsible for 6 stores, and I visit them weekly, hoping to encourage believers (there are a few) and share the gospel with mostly unchurched folks. I have a quarterly devotional I distribute to the nearly 200 workers I am responsible for. What they seem to love the most are the Scripture cards I make and print for them; just a verse, with my name and contact info on the bottom. "Call me anytime" is my usual line, especially if they are super-busy with customers, or under a tight time schedule for a project. Every week, someone wants to take a walk outside and dump; or find an empty office and vent. Because this company is owned by a very passionate follower of Jesus, there are very few obstacles to overcome when I walk in...wondering, "Lord, what will You do today?" Please keep on praying for the harvest!! Thanks!

**Don Buege ~ Blazing Trees ~ [don.buege@blazingtrees.org](mailto:don.buege@blazingtrees.org)**



Mutual Discipleship

In addition to equipping church leaders with biblical trainings and strategic planning on discipleship, Oscar and Karla also intentionally develop an environment for mutual discipleship among pastors so they can deepen a close relationship and find a safe place to talk about those things one can't talk about with everyone. Pastors and church leaders are always busy people. Their congregations have high expectations of them, so they often make the local church their priority. Busyness and other priorities make it difficult for church leaders to make time for their families. Oscar & Karla often meet with church leaders on a personal level to remind that family is the first ministry for a church leader. Oscar & Karla have developed different networks so that church leaders and their wives can meet with other colleagues for the purpose of disciplining each other. One pastor told Oscar,

**"Thank you for walking with us. My wife and I really don't have a close relationship with anyone except you and Karla."**

The need to serve church leaders motivated Oscar & Karla to begin construction of a Retreat & Training Center for Pastors In Guatemala.

**Oscar & Karla Chiquito**  
 Impacting Guatemala Network  
[chsoscar@hotmail.com](mailto:chsoscar@hotmail.com)  
 Cell + 502 4174 8754



Retreat & Training Center Project



In Togo (west Africa), I heard from the students that some confused spiritual leaders (pastors?) function like both a priest and prophet. Like a priest, they will go to a high hill and offer animal sacrifices on behalf of people in their churches. As prophet, they will give predictive words for people.

We had an honest dialogue about how the focus of every OT prophet was calling God's people into covenant faithfulness to the Lord (Isaiah 1, for example). We further discussed the way that Jesus is now the high priest for all believers and every believer has direct access to God through him (Hebrews 4:14-5:10). Since Jesus is our high priest; anyone who seeks to mediate between God and humans is seeking to take Jesus's place.

May the Lord grant these aspiring pastors true knowledge of himself and wisdom for speaking truth into their culture.

**Jim Jordan**

[jim.jordan@trainingleaders.org](mailto:jim.jordan@trainingleaders.org)

**Training Leaders International**



TOGO







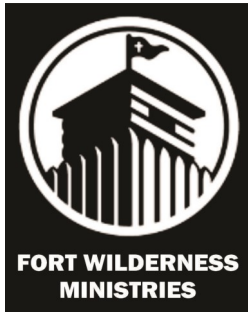
*Is this what you hoped for this summer? Many kids did!*

**Way Overused**

The word pops up all the time in conversation. It brings joy and can flip despair on its head. This word is a favorite of political leaders during an election - making promises and playing on our good side while criticizing the opponent (for lacking it). In the midst of a desperate situation, the word makes one able to try one more time, pray one more prayer. I HOPE you have experienced it recently. I'm HOPEful you will be encouraged by a few words about camp and life.

Psalm 25:5b says, "[and my hope is in you all day long.](#)"

The words and the have been repeating in my mind frequently. With uncertainty, fear and doubt available for the taking at each moment, I am choosing to turn my mind to God more frequently than I have at other



times. Yet I easily fall back at times. Like that song is to my heart, I've noticed over these years that some families - while asking God for help - look at Fort as a place of hope. Yesterday I had a text chat with a partner doing just that.

This friend & financial partner was asking if there was room for one more young man in our Boys' Camp. He has a passion to get kids in need to camp and he's been willing to step up significantly. He sees camp as a safe place for kids to find Jesus - the only true hope. I had to share the bad news that there's already a waiting list. :(

Every camper parent we talk with has high hopes for their kids. The last couple weeks and years have made it easier for hope to shrink and fear to grow. We appreciate your prayers. We've had more kids than usual this summer and are moving ahead with strategic work on camp's future. Pray for camp leadership and the Board in this.

**Craig & Tina Holmquist**  
Fort Wilderness Ministries  
[craighol@fortwilderness.com](mailto:craighol@fortwilderness.com)



**Commission  
TO EVERY NATION**

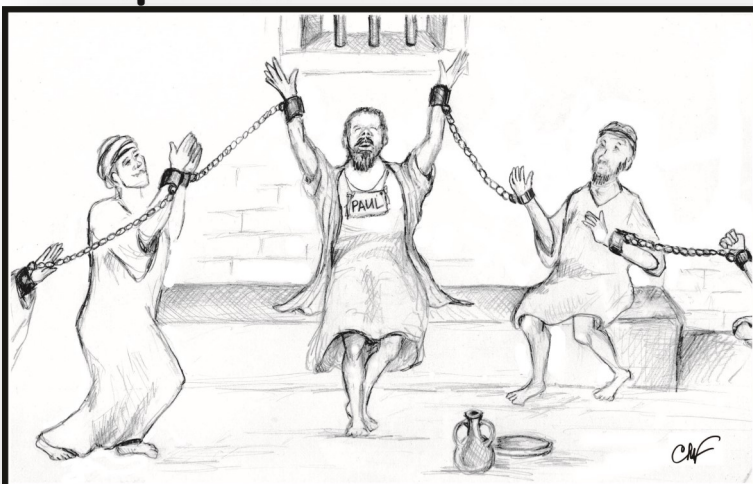
**"I wish someone like Jaci had existed when my kids were growing up on the mission field."** One of my coworkers shared this with tears running down her face to the attendees at our CTEN orientation in mid-June. One of the attendees, who is going on the mission field for the first time with two little kids, shared with me, **"When we saw CTEN had someone to care specifically for the kids, we were so excited and knew CTEN was the right choice for us."** I am not sharing these with



you to gloat or give myself a pat on the back. I share these with you to show how important the behind-the-scenes care and support of missionaries and their children is. When many think of missions they only think of those in remote jungle villages, those planting churches, or those working with orphanages. Those who are going and doing. Many forget about all the support that needs to be there for the missionaries to survive and thrive on the field. I feel honored that God has called and equipped me to be one of those supports and to specifically help families thrive and stay longer on the mission field.

**Jaci Grooters—CTEN**  
[jaci.grooters@gmail.com](mailto:jaci.grooters@gmail.com)

**Spiritual Chain Reaction**



For more information on supporting our missionaries, please contact the FEFC Church office at 715-356-4311 or call Christine Friedrich at 715-356-7850. Please keep all our missionaries in your prayers. Thank you!