



December 15, 2021  
**NACCC NEWS**  
The Messenger



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## The Promise of Newness

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Executive Director

During this journey through Advent, the promise of newness is more compelling than ever. Since the season began, I have chatted with people encountering life changes: a wedding engagement, the birth of a grandchild, a prospective new home, a career shift, impending retirement. Moments such as these bring about a change in identity. Relationships are redefined. Individuals describe themselves in ways they had not in the past. The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches also is preparing for newness. Staff are developing opportunities for connecting churches to one another. A Planning and Action Committee is considering our strengths and exploring unifying goals. New software will alter the registration forms for an Annual Meeting and Conference shaped by an innovative host committee. As 2022 marches into focus, we are filled with expectation for shifts in our collective identity.



# Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator



From Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker: "All areas of the mission have successfully re-opened over the last three months. Especially remarkable was the interest shown in person meetings like church services or the youth group. It will take a time to heal the many disruptions that occurred in society –including church life- because of the pandemic and the quarantine. The clinic, the church services, the youth group meetings, and the Bible classes are all back and a blessing to be part of. All mission facilities have become a new layer of paint. The main challenge of our mission is to heal broken relation and to again create a deep sense of mutual belonging and fellowship. To sail through what seems to become a severe financial crisis soon after the up-coming elections in November will be our next major challenge, and we will carry on as long as God wants us to do so."

## Over \$97,000 Awarded to Churches Through Silver Linings Grants

Growth and Ministry Council

The NACCC, Growth Ministry Council is thrilled to announce the recipients of the Silver Linings Grants. Twenty-three member churches received up to \$5,000 in funding to help maintain, strengthen, or upgrade programs and projects, which were created during the uncertain and challenging time of the Covid pandemic.

- ~Baleville Congregational Christian Church – Newton, NJ
- ~Citrus Springs Community Congregational Church – Citrus Springs, Florida
- ~Congregational Church – Sun City, Arizona
- ~Dixfield Congregational Church – Dixfield, Maine
- ~Faith Community Church - Franklin, Wisconsin
- ~First Congregational Church – Anchorage, Alaska
- ~First Congregational Church – Beardstown, Illinois
- ~First Congregational Church – Hanson, Massachusetts
- ~First Congregational Church – Mukwonago, Wisconsin
- ~First Congregational Church – Toulon, Illinois
- ~Fox River Congregational Church – Pewaukee, WI
- ~Gahanna Community Congregational Church – Gahanna, OH
- ~LaMoille Congregational Church – Marshalltown, Iowa
- ~Meadowbrook Congregational Church – Novi, Michigan
- ~North Congregational Church – Farmington Hills, Michigan
- ~Northfield-Tilton Congregational Church – Tilton, New Hampshire
- ~Ozaukee Congregational Church – Grafton, Wisconsin
- ~People's Congregational Church – Bayport, Minnesota
- ~Pilgrim Congregational Church – Pomona, California
- ~Pine Hill Congregational Church – West Bloomfield, Michigan
- ~Third Congregational Church – Middletown, Connecticut
- ~University Congregational Church – Wichita, Kansas
- ~Windsor Congregational Church – Windsor, Massachusetts

### Choir Music Available

Berwick Congregational Church is offering to any church choir an extensive selection of sheet music for all seasons of the church year. Some selections have at least 10 copies available and will be sent for the cost of postage only.

To learn more contact [Kay Miller-Todd](#).

### Merry Christmas

from the NACCC!

*Our office will be closed for the Christmas and New Years holidays - December 23, 2021-January 2, 2022*





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## Congregational Investment Trust (CIT) Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 12:00 PM CST

We welcome both our existing churches who are already taking advantage of this service as well as all member churches who are interested in learning more about how their church could benefit from this opportunity. [About the Congregational Investment Trust](#)

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RSVP:**

<https://www.nacc.org/events/congregational-investment-trust-annual-meeting/>

*Send us your news and photos!  
Submissions for the January issue are due by December 20, 2021*

**National Association of Congregational Christian Churches**  
8473 S. Howell Avenue, P.O. Box 288  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
800-262-1620 ext. 1610

# NEWS & NEEDS

## *of our Missions*



Fall 2021

A quarterly publication of the **Mission and Outreach Ministry Council**

*Updates provided to Julie Robie, Missions Administrator*

### **Word Alive Mission** **Ghana and the Ivory Coast**

**From Rev. Charles Nyane (President):** The church at Ekpu has been able to roof their church building. The church started in a small school classroom, then later we bought land, built a structure with sticks and roofed the stick structure with grass. Eventually, we started building the main structure with cement blocks. By the grace of God, the roofing has been done and we at the Mission are grateful for this project. Grateful for the sacrifices of the people and the landmark achieved.



*Word Alive Mission: Building the Ekpu church roof*



*Fishers of Men homeschool classroom*

### **Love Worth Sharing, Haiti**

**From Rev. Jim Owens:** In Maniche, just one week after the earthquake and while aftershocks were still rocking the area every hour, the children came to the Bible Camp and feeding program; the tables and chairs were moved outside, but the school where we meet is still standing. The destruction is far and wide, but with the Lord's help we will be able to minister to our people and the children we serve.

We have been blessed that none of our people have perished in the destruction; we do have a cook whose foot was broken by cement blocks falling on her; her name is Madame Olince.

### **Fishers of Men, Mexico**

**From Julie Claassen:** The work of Fishers of Men has focused mainly on the Ranch, since the COVID-19 pandemic continues to prevent us from carrying out any Evangelistic Medical Mission Crusades. As always, daily life at Refuge Ranch provided the backdrop for intentional, transformational living as we seek to personify Christ's love for the children who call Refuge Ranch and our family home.

While daily living provides structure, special activities, like family hikes and celebrations, like Children's Day on April 30, provide additional ways to enjoy one another. Our activities beyond the Ranch continue to be limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we keep plenty busy loving, learning and growing here!

### Mission School of Hope, Cameroon

**From Rev. Charles Sagay:** We are grateful to God for all he is doing in our community especially changing the mindset and attitude of our community members. We have a beautiful culture and tradition however there are some that need to be revised and one of those is the belief that girl's education is a waste since they need to end up in a man's home early. Child marriage violates children's rights and places them at high risk of violence, exploitation, abuse, diseases and even death. *End Child Marriage* is one of the programs that intends to give a voice to the voiceless girls in our community. We met Salimatu, who comes from a nomadic family, and we were sad to know that she had to be betrothed to a man for marriage. It was heartbreaking, the good news is we talked to her parents especially her father and he cancelled the betrothal, and he is making plans for Salimatu to go and live with her aunt who is a teacher in another town so that she can go to school. We will never forget the smile on her face when she was informed she will be living with her aunt and she will start school. She brought us a bowl of freshy harvested guava to express her gratitude.

Our gratitude goes to all our wonderful partners who are providing free education for both boys and girls in our community, saving Salimatu is your Win!



*Saving Salimatu*

### Maine Seacoast Mission

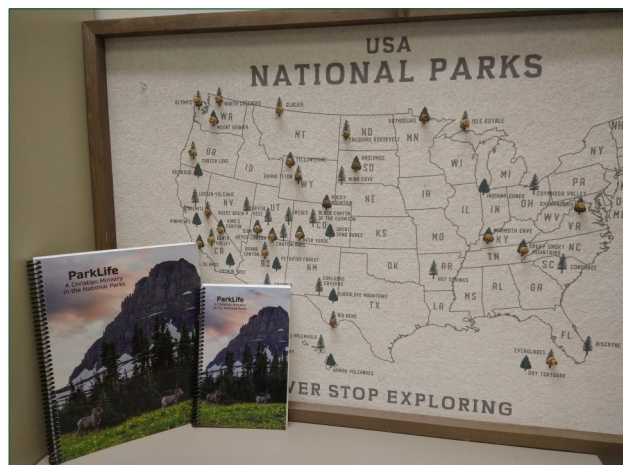
**From Anna Silver:** We continued our core work of providing food security, health care, youth development and related assistance to individuals and families in need during the period. We also continued normal programs but with modified delivery to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols aimed at keeping staff, volunteers, and those we serve safe and healthy during the ongoing pandemic.

Continuing a tradition that started more than 100 years ago, the Mission in June selected 23 new Mission Scholars for 2021. The program awarded \$49,000 in new scholarships and \$109,000 in renewed scholarships for students throughout the Downeast region to attend college.

We also completed a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics that reached several hundred people on seven islands and in mainland Washington County.



*Maine  
Seacoast  
Mission Youth  
Development  
Program  
Participant*



*ACMNP worship booklets*

### **A Christian Ministry in the National Parks**

**From Dave Degler:** 240 Ministry Team Members have been placed this ministry season and a new seminarian internship was secured with the Bar Harbor Community Church in Bar Harbor, ME near the Acadia National Park.

The worship leadership book dedicated in honor and memory of Joshua Kendall Yarrow was completed and approximately 1,500 worship books were sent to worship locations. An additional 750-1,000 books will be sent to parks in the next 10 months.

Staff attended memorial services for Amy's family members and stepped in to allow Amy time to tend to family needs. Some parks still limited the activity of the worship services due to COVID19.

### **Panamerican Institute, Mexico**

**From Juana Santos, Coordinator and CFO:** We started the new school year on August 9<sup>th</sup> and again, due to the pandemic, it feels like a roller-coaster with new rules for most our school's activities. At the end, all worked out and our students are taking online classes since August 30<sup>th</sup>. Their schedule is Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 3:10 with two breaks. We have 22 new first year students plus the students we already have for second- and third-year classes. We have a total of 68 students at PAI plus 5 studying for a bachelor's degree and one more starting her master's degree in Education. Our challenge right now is to get laptops for students who need them.

### **Christ to the Villages, Nigeria**

**From Matthew Oladele:** The work of Christ to the Villages continues to focus on the daily activities of the three mission schools (Alpha Nursery and Primary Schools in Shao and Olooru, Omega College Shao) and village ministration (which includes evangelism, visitation and care for the needy). Both young and old are blessed by the word of God that we take to them each time we visit, plus the little material gifts we share. The schools are doing well.



*Mission school in Nigeria*

## Happy Life Children's Home, Kenya

**From Kenyan Director Peter Ndungu:** We moved to our new High School Facility last weekend. Glory to our God and thanks to all our partners. If you would like to view more information about Happy Life Children's Home, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ypj39mb4>.



*Faith Premier High School*

## Asociacion Civil Cristiano Congregational Argentina

**From Rev. H. Harding Stricker MD:** Our **food supply program** has been up-graded by not only providing hot meals on Saturdays but also food boxes that contain five different edible products. We are in a situation that implies political uncertainty and financial crisis (yearly inflation of 51%, high unemployment).

Our **Health Service** has been refurbished to meet the standards of attention during the pandemic and many people came to know about our existence and are now regular patients, which means that we are seeing more patients than before the pandemic started. Medicines are growing more and more expensive. We have reduced our personnel to just two: the nurse Haidee and the physician. **Our sponsorship program** is still providing medical attention, food supply, school items/fees, and clothing.

## Seafarer's Friend

**From Director Ida MacRae:** Our Fall 2021 **Seafarer Cold Snap** collection has begun and continues until November 20<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to collect 750 Ditty Bags and 750 Knit Hats/Balaclavas & Neck warmers. An updated list of ditty bag instructions and knitting instructions can be found at [www.seafarersfriend.org/get-involved](http://www.seafarersfriend.org/get-involved).

**How to Participate:** Pick a goal for you or your team and let Seafarers' Friend know of your goal. Start your shopping, collecting and/or knitting. Take pictures, selfies, or videos of you and/or your group at various stages of the process (shopping, knitting, putting bags together, etc.). Please send us your pictures by Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. You can track our progress with the thermometer on our website and Facebook [www.SeafarersFriend.org](http://www.SeafarersFriend.org) and [www.facebook.com/SeafarersFriend/](http://www.facebook.com/SeafarersFriend/). Submitted photos or videos may be featured on our website, Facebook page or Twitter page along with your church or individual name next to the thermometer. If you do not want your name being used, please let us know. Please contact us by phone at 617.889.3222 or email us at [OperationsManager@SeafarersFriend.org](mailto:OperationsManager@SeafarersFriend.org) to arrange for pick up or drop off of ditty bags and knitted items. If you have questions, please call us at 617.889.3222 or email us. Thank you.



*Seafarer's Friend: Goal is to collect 750 Ditty Bags*

## ECHO, Florida

### From Alyssa Barrett:

Dr. David Mungure, who runs clinics for impoverished women, men, and children, expressed his appreciation for ECHO's training. "Pregnant women are prone to anemia and children under five are suffering from malnutrition and stunting... In addition to medical interventions, we advise them to eat



*Taste Test*

more vegetables and fruits. ECHO facilitated training on producing and preparing perennial vegetables at our clinic for fathers, mothers, and children. There was also a special training day for doctors and nurses so we can motivate those who attend the clinics to produce vegetables and improve their nutrition. The training went well, and participants were excited about preparing and tasting vegetables like chaya and moringa.

## Hosanna Industries, Pennsylvania

**From Katie DeJournette:** We continued to find ways to engage volunteers while remaining safe and adhering to the CDC guidelines. Due to the sensitive and cautious emotions that COVID created, we faced several volunteer groups that decided to cancel their prearranged weekly mission trip with us this summer. Building material prices continued to increase significantly over the summer months with the expectation that they will continue to increase during the fall and winter seasons. The mission

continues to try to stay in front of these challenges by advanced calendar planning, strategic project scheduling, and stewardship of resources.

## Morgan Scott Project, Tennessee

**From Crystal Thompkins:** We provide Food Boxes monthly, perishable food every Friday, monthly utility support, medical copays, and educational support. We have provided three wheelchair ramps, a bathroom rehab, had an HVAC system fixed, put in a door, and a couple of window air conditioners. We gave out seeds, fertilizer, and plants to around 300 families. Camp in Community used our office to make craft kits that were later given to kids in the area as well as other communities.

We are starting to prepare for Thanksgiving as well as a Christmas give away. We are continuing to focus on getting wheelchair ramps to those in need.



*Hosanna Industries: Training volunteers to roof safely*

## Prayer Requests

**Congregational Church of Myanmar** – “We thank God for the people who have been praying for our Mission! Please pray for Relief, Grace home children, Mission workers and their safety! We are in now the most darkest times!”

**Asociacion Civil Cristiano Congregational, Argentina** - “Please keep the sponsorship program in your prayers. Children are the future of the mission and of the society they are living in. They will have better chances to succeed if they grow up healthy, well-nourished, and receiving education.” *Thank you for all of your prayers and support! God bless you always!*

## Christmas Wish List for Missions 2021

This request is for financial donations so that the missions may purchase the items they need. Please make your check out to NACCC, and send it along with a note as to how it should be used, to: NACCC, PO Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154

If you would like to ship items to a mission, please contact Julie Robie ([jrobie@nacc.org](mailto:jrobie@nacc.org)) or 1.800.262.1620 ext. 1618 for shipping information.

Please keep in mind that the deadline to make your financial donation is **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

### Christ to the Villages, Nigeria

- ◇ Christmas Children outreaches to 7 villages
- ◇ Christmas party for children in our three schools
- ◇ Christmas package for over 100 widows and needy
- ◇ A Christmas care package for staff in our three schools
- ◇ 3 days Shao Open air crusade/outreach
- ◇ Shao Children and Teenagers program
- ◇ Christmas package for Retire and active Pastors
- ◇ A high lumen projector for media shows

### Happy Life Children’s Home, Kenya

- ◇ Shoes and clothes for kids 2-3 years old
- ◇ Christmas decorations
- ◇ Christmas hats
- ◇ Gifts for the caregivers (a purse or a bracelet)
- ◇ Coloring books and crayons
- ◇ Blow dryer
- ◇ Shaving Machine
- ◇ Commercial blender for baby fruits
- ◇ Crib sheets and mosquito nets

### Love Worth Sharing, Haiti

*Items can be shipped to: Love Worth Sharing, 12220 Blue Pacific Dr., Riverview, FL 33579 for shipment on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.*

- ◇ Children’s T-shirts and shorts (any size or color)
- ◇ Crocs or equivalent shoes - Children and adult (any size or color)
- ◇ Underwear and bras (children and teenagers)
- ◇ Baby clothes

### Panamerican Institute, Mexico

- ◇ Medical aid
- ◇ Student laptops
- ◇ Internet service for online learning because gathering in big groups is not safe yet
- ◇ Christmas Dinner and food for a week. This December will be our 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of helping through our “Food Christmas Program”.

## Contact Us

For more information on NACCC missions, or to make a donation please contact Missions Administrator Julie Robie at 800.262.1620 or 603.395.6159 or email at [jrobie@nacc.org](mailto:jrobie@nacc.org).

**National Association of Congregational Christian Churches  
Missions and Outreach Ministry Council  
PO Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154**

For a complete listing of NACCC Mission Projects or to donate, please visit our website: [www.nacc.org](http://www.nacc.org) and click on “Missions & Outreach”