



October 15, 2021
NACCC NEWS
The Messenger



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"The NACCC is..."

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Executive Director

Because I recently moved to a city where I started a new job, I'm often asked to explain [Congregationalism](#) to neighbors and colleagues. Though I've provided this information oodles of times, my comments change with each telling. Sometimes I compare our tradition to that of the person who is asking. On other occasions, I highlight freedom of religious expression, local church autonomy, Christ as the head of each congregation, or covenantal relationships. I am struck by how variously we describe a way of being church that focuses on the simplicity connecting people to one another and God.

Last month, I invited staff and area clergy to finish the sentence "The NACCC is ..." with no more than three words. No two answers were alike. How would you respond? If you wish, share your answer with me via [email](#).

Christ to the Villages, Nigeria

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

Village Evangelism: Christ to the Villages continues to reach rural areas and village churches with the gospel of love found in Christ Jesus. Over the course of the last quarter, many villages were visited. We were

able to encourage those that were down due to life challenges, and we prayed for many according to their needs. Our presence brings some joy and laughter to them. Mary always gathers the children whenever she can, as this gives opportunity to teach and ask questions. The children sing, pray, and learn Bible stories and memory verses.



Stay Connected to the NACCC

Debby Fulton, Director of Development & Communications

As NACCC members, ministers, and friends we encourage you to stay connected to your National Association. One way to do that is through the [NACCC website](#). There you will find upcoming events, resources, services, financial assistance for ministers and your church, annual meeting updates, workshops to attend, ways to volunteer, *The Congregationalist*, and so much more.

The NACCC is here for you. Knowing more about your Association and the many available resources can be both useful and valuable to you and your congregation.

Why not take a few minutes now to add the [NACCC website](#) or specifically the “[News and Events](#)” page to your list of favorites? Visit us often and familiarize yourself with all your Association has to offer.

"Silver Linings" Grants

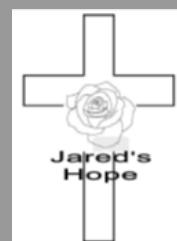
Virtual One-Day Silent Retreat

*Citizens with the Saints:
Discovering Your Sainthood*
November 1, 2021

Effective Transitional Leadership

Workshop for
NACCC Clergy
November 18-19, 2021

What To Do About Worship? Conversation for Church Leaders October 28, 2021



October 24, 2021
Day of Prayer for those impacted
by the disease of drug addiction.
[Click for details.](#)

Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the November issue are due by October 25, 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

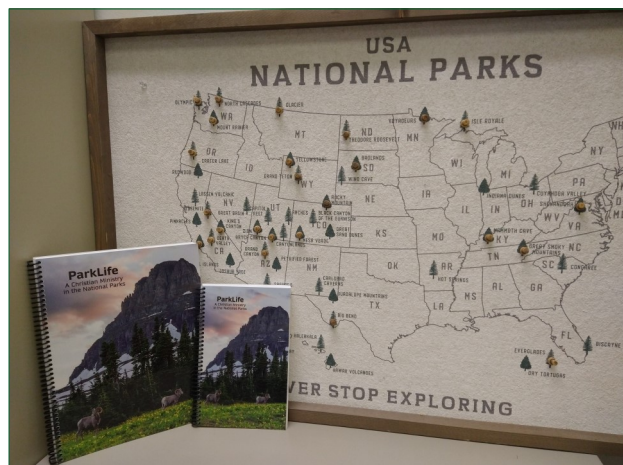
From Anna Silver: We continued our core work of providing food security, health care, youth development and related assistance to individuals and families in need during the period. We also continued normal programs but with modified delivery to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols aimed at keeping 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 9th and again, due to the pandemic, it feels like a roller-coaster with new rules for most of our school's activities. At the end, all worked out and our students are taking online classes since August 30th. 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 20th. 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.

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 20th. You can track our progress with the thermometer on our website and Facebook www.SeafarersFriend.org and 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 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@naccc.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 15th**. 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. 19th.

- ◇ 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 50th 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@naccc.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.naccc.org and click on “Missions & Outreach”



One Great Hour of Sharing

2021 Natural Disasters



We thank you for your past contributions to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) fund. Your generosity has made it possible for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) to react quickly with support to many natural disasters here and around the world.

OGHS funds were most recently sent to *Congregational Church Myanmar* to purchase oxygen concentrators, and to the *Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation* for famine relief in Uganda. We also continue to work alongside *Love Worth Sharing* mission to provide relief for Haiti.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council is gathering information and working with people on the ground to determine how to effectively respond to the wildfires, Ida, and the many storms and flooding.

In order for the NACCC to respond promptly with funding to assist the hundreds of thousands of individuals and their communities, we need donations! Please consider contributing to the OGHS Disaster fund, to provide ongoing support to those who desperately need help.

Donate online at www.naccc.org or by sending a check to the address below with a note indicating that the funds are intended for "2021 Natural Disasters."

Send donations to:
NACCC-OGHS
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154



Citizens with the Saints: Discovering Your Sainthood
Virtual One-Day Silent Retreat
Monday, November 1, 2021

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19-20

Clarify your citizenship among the saints and what that means by setting aside a day of prayer and silence sponsored by the Congregational Retreat Society. The terminology of “sainthood” is, of course, part of the vocabulary used in our early Congregational literature. It is fitting that this year, on All Saints’ Day, Monday, November 1, 2021, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EST) there will be a virtual Silent Retreat, held in a modified Quiet Day format, exploring how to recognize one’s own sainthood in the ordinariness of life.

The Rev. Wendy G. Van Tassell, recently retired after 23 years of co-pastoring the First Congregational Church of Spencer, Iowa, with her husband, Tom, will lead us through a series of four sessions over the course of our time “together.” Wendy’s presentations will lead to individual time for meditation, prayer, journaling, and reflection. Worship sessions will bookend the day. She advises all participants: Nurture yourself! Self-care, essential to a balanced life, requires each of us to “get-away” from time to time, just as our Lord did. Sabbath time can be holy time, but in our hurried lives, we often must be deliberate in our planning of it.

In preparation for your participation in this Silent Retreat, the Retreat Society suggests that you find and reserve now a physical place in which to retreat, Explore the option of going to a near-by retreat center or camp. Ask a friend who has a lovely home and garden, if you can retreat for the day in their place. Arrange with your church to dwell in the sanctuary or another cozy spot that will provide a space for your solitude and reflection. Of course, you can remain in your own home, nestled in a comfortable spot. Make sure your location has access to the internet as all sessions will be provided on-line via Zoom!

TO REGISTER: Email Charles Packer by Wednesday, October 20th.

Email address: drcapacker@gmail.com

Include in your email to Charles: Your Name / Address / telephone Number/ email address

There is no charge for this experience, but if you would like to donate to help with expenses, please send a check, made out and addressed to:

The Congregational Retreat Society
c/o Rev. Dr. Charles Packer
1343 Sherwood Forest Court, Waterford, MI 48327



Greetings,

I want to introduce myself. My name is James Macarille. I am the Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church in Saugerties, NY. Seven years ago we lost our son to the disease of drug addiction. As many who have gone through this, we struggled with what to do to help him. We waffled between tough love, pushing him and his disease away to embracing him, giving him money and trying to get him to rehab. I admit that we were blind to what he was using and how bad it had gotten. Unfortunately, his disease had too great a hold, and he succumbed to an overdose.

In the time since his passing we have talked with many who have gone through the same circumstances in their families. Again, I admit we had no understanding of how widespread this problem is. Many we talked to have said they did not know where to turn. They did not want to call a number in the phone book. Many said they were embarrassed by their loved one's disease and didn't know who to talk with. And many of these same people have said they would have liked to turn to their faith leaders but didn't know how to approach them with this issue.

We know this issue is not limited to any social group or faith group. The disease of addiction affects everyone. As faith leaders I hope and pray we can be a point of hope for those in our congregations and communities that struggle with addiction.

To that end we are asking your church to join us in making the Sunday of October 24, 2021, a day of prayer dedicated to this issue. We ask that you and your church offer prayers for the afflicted to see what is happening and to find the strength to seek help, prayers for the families and friends of the afflicted that they find continued strength and hope to help their loved one find help, and prayers of comfort, uplift and support for those like our family that have been left behind by the loss of a loved one to the tragedy of this disease.

Thank you for your time, your consideration and your prayers. If you have questions, concerns or comments please reach me at jvmac2@aol.com. Please put "Jared's Hope" as the subject.

God bless you,

Pastor James Macarille