

**This report from Journey Christian Church in Fairbanks, Alaska is an inspiration to all congregations of church.** This is a fairly new church and they are serious about discipleship.

Dear Friends of Journey,

Greetings from Fairbanks. We hope 2016 has begun well for all of you. 2015 was a great year for Journey; we saw 16 people baptized into Christ and another 24 officially join the church! Journey continues to make progress in many areas.

One, we are currently working through a 40-day prayer experience. Each morning I meet with a group of about seven who discuss a prayer book for a few minutes and then pray for about a half hour. I personally find this daily group prayer time to be very enriching. I truly believe our commitment to prayer is the engine that drives Journey forward.

Second, our small group program is in full swing. January through the end of April is usually our strongest time for small group participation. Not all of our small groups have started, but here's a glimpse of what is happening or about to start:

**Sunday-** Each afternoon we offer a weekly *"Change Workshop"* led by our recovery director for those who want to make lasting changes.

**Monday-** Lunch group at Denny's restaurant that is going through the Gospel of Matthew. That night there is a video series called *"The American Heritage Series."*

**Tuesday-** *"Thoroughly Equipped"*, a workbook-based curriculum that requires five hours of Bible study each week. In addition, we're starting a young adult small group based on the video series, *"Not a Fan."* Also, we have a small group that meets to discuss the book *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis.

**Wednesday-** We have a breakfast group about to start that will study the book of Revelation verse by verse. On Wednesday nights we are offering a video series by Neil Anderson on *"Overcoming Depression."* In addition there is a small service team that puts on a worship service each Wednesday night at the North Star Halfway House.

**Thursday-** There is a men's accountability group at Noon and a women's group on "boundaries" in the evening. On Thursday evenings our kids and teen youth groups meets and for adults there is a study of the Gospel of John.

**Saturday-** Monthly men's breakfast, a time of fellowship, prayer and a brief devotion.

Our goal is that every person at Journey is involved in ONE weekly small group experience. We work very hard to provide options that fit with any schedule. Small group participation is our primary method of maturing our people.

Third, the reason I do this work is for the LIFE CHANGE

MOMENTS. At a recent youth group gathering at the invitation to surrender everything to the Lord, three of our teens stepped up and said they wanted to follow Christ. We are arranging their baptisms as soon as possible. The fact that one of the teens is Haylee, who is our 13-year-old former foster daughter, makes it even sweeter. Thanks so much for your partnership with us; it's making a real difference in people's lives!

### **FAME has a great program to enlist help for the Medical Mission Field:**

Dear Centerville Christian Church,

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of FAME. Your generosity provides us with the resources we need to perform the medical ministry to which God has called us.

One of the sustainable projects we have at FAME is our scholarship program. This program helps bright, Christian young people who are pursuing a medical education with the funding needed for their schooling. These students must be from developing nations and be recommended by one of our partner missions. I recently received a note from Keila Garcia, a scholarship recipient from Mexico and a recent graduate. Here is a portion of her note to FAME:

"I was working at the ISSSTE (Instituto de seguridad y Servicios sociales a los trabajadores del estado) hospital and at the Dr. Joaquín Canovas Puchades clinic this year. I was practicing Maxillofacial Surgery and general odontology. Also, we went to many handicap and elementary schools to have oral health promotion. I would like to work for the church too, doing my service from first and second prevention levels totally free. I would like to thank God for your lives, and for all the blessings from you and Vida Nueva Ministries. God has been always good and has called us to bless others, as well to share His love in different ways. I would like to thank you so much for all of your support. You will always be in my prayers. Thank you so much." Thank you again for our generous donation to FAME. Donations to FAME make it possible for students like Keila to prepare to serve the Lord through medical evangelism!

Blessings,

Bill Warren  
Executive Director



## **Mission News** **March 2016**

### **David Morris writes of increased persecution he and others are experiencing in India:**

The Second Persecution began with a roar this time last year, with many attacks over the Christmas season lasting into the rains. At the same time, Jesus protected His own and God moved in mighty and powerful ways to deflect the blows.

It is too early to declare the end of the Persecution, but it has been inspiring to see how God answers prayers through thwarting the plans of the Evil One and his minions.

On the ground here, the Mission leadership has worked to keep building without ceasing. We have had to be cautious in movements and public displays while bold in smaller meetings and in sharing the faith day and night. Children still need the learning of the Bible as do their parents. Sharing the New Testament and the words of Jesus are ever more important in times of uncertainty.

Praying together and praying constantly, singing hymns and sharing communion on Sunday, sharing teaching in Sunday services and nightly prayer meetings are the life of the congregations and their members. This is even more so in times of Persecution.

We continue to pray that the work done and the sacrifices made to build Christ's church (*Christu Sabha*) here will be a worthy offering to Jesus, who sacrificed all for our redemption and life in His church. We continue to praise Jesus for His leadership during 2015, as we navigate dangerous and difficult waters trusting in His love and the community of the faithful which He has created here.

And we thank Jesus in our prayers for you, for your prayers that protect us here in south India, for your contribution that is vital to carrying out the work Jesus has given the Mission. Your interest, your generous gift, your prayers are deeply appreciated and immediately useful.

God bless you,

David Morris

Dear friend,

It's difficult, really, to condense an entire year into a short letter. A lot happened at **Mahoning Valley** in 2015. Nineteen retreat groups, 587 summer campers. Over 15,000 volunteer man hours. Eighteen new believers baptized into Christ - including two during retreats. Over \$5,500 given to Pioneer Bible Translators, helping to get the newly translated Bible to a group of people in West Africa.

The numbers tell a big part of the story of 2015, but I personally have a difficult time getting excited about numbers. They are . . . impersonal. For decades (at least), Mahoning Valley's mission has been to introduce people to a lifestyle and life work for the Master. That's a personal, life-changing goal.

I got to serve as the Dean of Campers for one of our weeks for fourth and fifth grade students. We had a group of high school students - all of whom had been campers themselves just a few weeks before - helping with the week. After lunch each day the high schoolers gathered all of the campers together into the shelter near the playground. I could tell that the students were all learning a song, but they were singing it quietly, and they always pretended to be doing something else when I came nearby. Apparently they were preparing a "surprise" for me.

By Wednesday afternoon, the kids were ready to show me what they had learned. Every one of the students was able to recite the books of the Bible in order. Now, that's a small thing in the grand scheme, but it was amazing to me how much difference it made in the campers' attention during class times. When I said, "We're going to look in the book of Acts", not only did the students not look at me as though I were speaking a foreign language, the majority of them actually opened their Bibles and started to turn there.

This is exciting to me for two reasons. First, getting young people into the Bible is essential, and it's a big part of what we do around here. I don't know of anything else where young people spend more time in the Bible than they do while at camp. Second, this is exciting to me because we're seeing young people serving in ministry roles themselves. We see the fullness of the camp's mission statement coming to fruition: the students are not only living for Jesus (lifestyle), but they are serving Him (life work).

These transformations happen all the time at Mahoning Valley. We work to help every one who comes through the gates - camper, retreat guest, volunteer, staff and anyone else - to grow closer to Jesus because of their time here. But this environment is only possible because of the sustaining gifts of churches and individuals. You make Mahoning Valley Christian Service Camp possible, and it's because of your service and your gifts that people are introduced to a lifestyle and

life work for the Master.

As we start 2016, please continue to pray for Mahoning Valley and all of the people involved. Thanks for partnering with us for the Kingdom.

In Christ,  
Josh Miller

### **Here is a look at what Don Tingle accomplished in 2015:**

#### **Kenya and Somalia**

- ✠ Don made three trips to Kenya and one to Somaliland. Faith made one trip to Kenya. Together they visited Boranas, Somalis, Samburu and other Kenyans to encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Several times Faith gave her testimony.
- ✠ Don and Faith - along with Abdi, a Somali co-worker - baptized into Christ 37 from a Muslim background during 2015. These were Boranas, Somalis, and Ethiopians. They also baptized two Kenyans. (Over 60 have been baptized into Christ since late 2014).
- ✠ Faith cooked food for several hundred Samburu children and adults. She and Don discussed with them the possibility of helping them plant a church in the future.
- ✠ Don worked with the Borana church, preaching for them, teaching leadership classes, and meeting with their young ministers to give encouragement. This church is all from a Muslim background. They have grown to about 50 in attendance on Sundays, and they have over 100 that meet in different parts of Nairobi during the week for Bible studies.
- ✠ Don also met with Somali believers, working with them toward establishing a Somali church in Nairobi in the future.
- ✠ He taught a course on the Gospel of Matthew for preachers at KCITI. He also helped the KCITI school plan for improvements for the future. (See goals for 2016).
- ✠ Many Bibles were purchased and distributed in several languages.
- ✠ COMENSERV provided humanitarian assistance with food, medical help, and income generation projects.
- ✠ COMENSERV began to help with monthly food assistance for a safe house for Somali Christian women who have been abandoned by their husbands, threatened or abused.
- ✠ Don met with Maasai church leaders and preached for one of their churches.
- ✠ Don traveled to Somaliland to investigate needs and opportunities for providing humanitarian help. Somaliland is 100% Muslim. The few Christians who meet there do so quietly. We are attempting to raise funds for a water project for a town that has absolutely no clean drinking water. You may go to [www.comenserv.net](http://www.comenserv.net) to see a video about the town and proposed project.

### **Here is a great idea from the church planting ministry New Churches of Christ Evangelism:**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your faithful support for the establishment of new Churches of Christ/Christian Churches in the Great Lakes Region. There are many new developments, but I want to highlight an important gathering we are organizing for March 29th.

We are calling for a consultation, a gathering of all the ministers in the state of Michigan with the Restoration Movement background. We are calling it "Where Think Tank Meets Let's Do This." At this meeting we want to begin an honest conversation about the future of the Restoration Movement in Michigan.

In our role as a catalyst for church planting, we want to pose three questions:

- \*Where are we as a movement of churches?
- \*Where do we want to go?
- \*How are we going to get there?

I don't see this as a conference of fellowship gathering as much as a very honest conversation and plan for how we will move forward. While I can't possibly know the outcome of this event, one of the likely realizations will be that we have a great need to create our own pipeline of church planters. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of people wanting to move to Michigan to plant churches, so we will desperately need to find a way to train our own. This will likely involve traditional routes through Bible Colleges, but it may also be in training up marketplace leaders to plant churches in a bi-vocational approach.

I'm also praying that we will have discussion about the need for church revitalization and discipleship. If we are truly making disciples who make disciples, then growth and multiplication will be inevitable. This is not the case today in most regions of our state, so we need to examine this and come up with a plan to change this flow.

Please be praying for this event, for the right people to attend, and for a positive outcome. In every athletic event there are times when you just need to call a timeout, look each other in the eyes, give an honest assessment of the game, and come up with a new plan to win. This is one of those moments. Our Lord may not tarry much longer, so the time is now to make a move.

We are grateful for your support and covet your ongoing prayers.

Matt Schantz  
Executive Director