

# 2015 MISSIONS

## CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

### **Asia Pacific International (Indonesia)**

API's mission is to plant churches and bless communities in Indonesia, Asia and the Pacific. This work is touching the lives of many people in Indonesia, which is the largest Muslim country in the world and is often in the midst of political unrest. API's local village clinic treats over 10,000 patients annually, providing free consultation and medication. The mission has been involved in relief work after tsunamis and earthquakes and its members are attempting to share Christ's life in culturally relevant ways.

Supported since: 1968

### **Good News Productions, International**

(Joplin, Missouri and sites around the world)

GNPI works with Christians around the world by designing culturally relevant tools in order to effectively deliver the Gospel of Christ. The organization produces Biblically-based content in digital, video, and print format to accelerate global evangelism. Their work includes outreach tools, teaching series, and inspirational aids targeted to specific people groups. Besides regular support, First Christian has contributed to the purchase of solar kits that can be used to project the Jesus Film or other productions by GNPI in rural areas without the need for electricity. Completed GNPI projects are in use in at least 107 countries and 111 languages.

Supported since: 1976

### **David & Barbara Kalb (Ghana, Africa - Training Tomorrow's Leaders)**

The Kalbs have been serving on the mission field for over 30 years. In early 2011, David suffered a stroke that led doctors to proclaim he and Barbara are not able to return to Ghana to live. The Kalbs began a new work through 11+ evangelists. The new ministry serves Christ in Northern Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso by planting churches and making disciples. They are attempting to reach illiterate unreached people groups with a system called "Simply the Story." Other goals include educating the people regarding health issues and starting projects in areas such as soap-making and fabric dying in order to help churches become self-sustainable.

Supported since: 2003

### **Niños de México (Mexico City, Mexico)**

With the operation of four homes, Niños rescues at-risk children from a life on the streets or from abusive situations. The mission is to train up the children to become disciples of Jesus who can evangelize in Mexico and beyond. When children come to Niños, they will be educated in a bilingual Christian school until they graduate from high school. For those who complete Bible College training, Niños assists with finances to help them become established in ministry. First Christian members Steve and Janet Ross (with their girls) served as house parents of Niños before Steve became a staff member of First Christian. In 2012, he joined Niños' staff in accepting the role of executive director. Since June 2012, 29 children have been added to the Niños homes. This summer, First Christian will be sending two groups (teens for one week and then adults for another week) to serve at Niños.

Supported since: 1966

### **(Anti-trafficking organization)**

In October 2013, they started working to rescue young girls from trafficking and sexual exploitation and to help them begin a new life in Christ through counseling, education, and vocational training. One volunteer is

a graduate of St. Louis Christian College and the other has begun work toward a graduate degree in crisis and trauma counseling. Their organization states that its calling is to: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." (Proverbs 31:8, 9 - NLT.) First Christian previously partnered with them in their work to provide relief to people impacted by the January 2010 earthquake.

Supported since: 2013

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We can find much to praise God for in the reports of these mission organizations. And it is exciting to think about the response of our congregation in supporting our missions. In financial support, over the last seven years First Christian has given \$1,151,995 to missions. Let's give thanks to God for all He is doing around the world and the opportunities we have to serve Him in this work of His Kingdom.