

# Horizons

JANUARY 2013



choose  
compassion

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SEE WHAT HAPPENS



see story  
beginning  
on page 6



Reggie  
Hundley

Editor,  
HORIZONS  
and

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Association

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# editorial

## Do remote controls and heated car seats teach us anything?

Control is a BIG thing for human beings. Throughout history, we have worked to be in control of our lives and surroundings. We created housing to shelter ourselves from the elements. Shelter proved to be so good that we developed ways to control everything from the temperature to the lighting inside and the ability to select from 600 channels of entertainment without moving our legs! Perhaps nothing illustrates our lust for ever greater control of life than having car seats that are both heated AND cooled or the ability to start the engine by remote control. I wonder what will be the next advancement in life to arise from our craving for control!

Conversely, the story of history is one of God repeatedly teaching us that we are never going to be in control. Our greatest moments are when we stop holding on so tightly and trust God to handle things. Consider the situation for Abraham. God had promised Abraham and Sarai a son would be conceived, even in their old age. This couple had seen God fulfill promises in many ways, but THIS time was different because they were NOT in control at all. When they decided it was time for them to TAKE control (Genesis 16), they created a mess. Then in Genesis 22:2 God again put Abraham in a situation he could not control when he told him "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." This time, Abraham trusted God rather than his own desire to control things. I can imagine Abraham's grip on the knife was nearly as weak as his trust in God was strong (this time), but trust God he did.

The Bible record is filled with similar events. In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat trusted the word of God's prophet Jahaziel that the battle should be left in the hands of God rather than take control himself. Chapters 24 through 26 of the book of Acts provide a similar story. Paul found himself in a difficult situation and decided his best course of action was to "take control" by appealing to Caesar due to his Roman citizenship. According to the words of King Agrippa (Acts 26:32), "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

The lesson is clear, when we DECIDE to trust God rather than our own wisdom, when we DECIDE to allow God's power to control the outcome of events, the course of life is much brighter and more joyful. This decision is not easy, because humans want to control everything and some situations seem nearly hopeless. This incredible tension between our continuing hunger to control things and the truth that we will NEVER truly have control is the period of existence we have named "life." You think about that!

# Horizons

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As God brings more and more people from diverse backgrounds to our American shores, He is calling the body of Christ to choose compassion, to move out of our comfort zones. When we are moved by his compassion, we will discover through God's grace ways to express his love to even those who make us uncomfortable.

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# coming events

# 2013

## May 20-21

### **Eubanks Institute for Missions (EIM) Conference**

Johnson University, Knoxville, Tennessee

Focus: Bible Translation

Contact information: Gerald Mattingly

865-251-2349 / gmattingly@johnsonu.edu

## JULY 9-12

### **North American Christian Convention**

Louisville, Kentucky

Theme: "Victorious"

President: Matt Proctor

Contact information: North American Christian Convention

513-772-9970 / [www.gotonacc.org](http://www.gotonacc.org)

## JULY 21-27

### **2013 Lake James School of Missions**

Angola, Indiana

Contact information: Kent Shady, Program Chairman

260-824-2132 / [kdshady@adamswells.com](mailto:kdshady@adamswells.com)

## NOVEMBER 14-17

### **International Conference on Missions**

Kansas City

Contact information: David Empson

317-539-4231 / [david@nmc-windows.org](mailto:david@nmc-windows.org)

## NOVEMBER 15-17

### **Eastern Christian Conference**

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

President: Don Hamilton

Contact information: Eastern Christian Conference

410-836-6102 / [info@easterncc.com](mailto:info@easterncc.com)

[www.easterncc.com](http://www.easterncc.com)



# Choosing Compassion in Savannah

by  
Dennis  
& Lynn  
Free

Missionaries



Serving in  
Indonesia  
nearly  
38 years

**F**or most of the thirty-eight years we have served in Indonesia, we have been greatly blessed by the partnership of Savannah (GA) Christian Church. This church has been supportive, encouraging, and inspiring. We have seen them grow from a church of 200 to the largest church in all of Coastal Georgia, serving more than 7000 people each weekend on five campuses. Much of life at Savannah Christian embodies the challenge of Cam Huxford, Senior Pastor, to make Savannah the hardest place on the planet to go to hell from! This passion for bringing people into a “life changing relationship with Jesus Christ” saturates the pulpit and permeates the culture of Savannah Christian.

Over the past three and a half decades, we have been privileged to periodically visit Savannah Christian and to witness her transformation from mono-chrome; mono-cultural church, with a membership whose attitudes were not notably different than one would find elsewhere in the deep South, into a church that is increasingly diverse, intent upon allowing Christ to do his work of destroying walls of separation. It is a joy to meet many persons of color and with varying accents who are fully integrated into the body. Proximity to two major military installations has helped foster the diversity of the congregation.

# Savannah Christian + Church

## *Missions*

Missions has been integral to Savannah Christian's identity for as long as we have known them. Their annual faith-promise program after forty years is still a major part of each year's calendar. The Global Outreach team, energetically led by Dave Stewart, is always looking for creative ways to keep the needs of the world before the eyes of the congregation. Dave and his team are determined to increase sensitivity to neglected people around the world. They ask God continually to provide through his people all the resources they can effectively mobilize toward the completion of the Great Commission task; they send large numbers of Savannah Christians to far flung places around the globe with the goal of lovingly serving the long term ministry in those places, "by ministering to our partners and the local people in a way that will help remove rocks from the field, facilitating greater planting and harvesting." They rejoice over an increasing number of Savannah Christians who are being sent out for career mission service.

Dave is always on the lookout for anything that will move the church toward deeper commitment and more serious preparation for the task of world evangelization. From other mission leaders he heard of a program designed to prepare serious disciples of Jesus who are not necessarily seminary graduates for strategic ministry among the people groups the church has largely by-passed, especially those in the web of Islam.

This passion for bringing people into a "life changing relationship with Jesus Christ" saturates the pulpit and permeates the culture of Savannah Christian.

Driven by the conviction that every tool promising to enhance global outreach must be made available to our people, the Global Outreach team began to investigate the program and to strategize about how this program could come to Savannah Christian. As they prayed about this, the United States Customs and Immigrations Service made it clear to Dennis that he must spend an extended period of time in the US or risk losing his Green Card. (Note: Dennis had become an Indonesian citizen in order to continue ministry there when foreign workers were being expelled. He subsequently applied for immigrant status to the US for his eventual return to the country of his birth.) Faced with the need to be in the US for a full year, we asked Dave Stewart if there was something we might be able to contribute to Kingdom causes in Savannah. We were invited to be their missionaries-in-residence and to help implement this program which we now call Focus.

## *Focus*

Eleven of Savannah Christian's best have come together with us in a ten month program designed to deepen our passion for Christ, strengthen our life in his Kingdom, and to become passionately committed to biblical strategies that are proving effective even in hard places in these days. The goal is to do more than learn facts, but to actually enroll in a "Curriculum of Christlikeness", helping one another grow in our walk with and service to Jesus.

As a part of the program, Focus participants will pull back from all participation in "big" church for at least six months, they will meet together in a small intimate Jesus Community. Savannah Christian encouraging this program to proceed is sacrificing some of their most eager and capable members from a number of ministry teams. The Focus members agonize over "pulling back and turning over", but they sense this new challenge will better prepare them to work in places where the complexion of ministry will of necessity be different than we know in a very effective mega-church.

Our mission begins now as we endeavor by God's grace to form a reproducing community of faith, available to people who are for

some reason still cut off from the community. It is our desire to especially reach out to the Muslims here. As we pray for and seek out ways to reach them, we will position ourselves strategically in high traffic areas among diverse peoples, praying for opportunities to share some of the Jesus stories we are learning. We believe that as we share these stories broadly with all kinds of people, we will find those people whose hearts God is preparing for the Message and who can help us bridge into their communities.

As I write this we have just concluded a two day retreat. A major goal of the retreat was to identify the focal points from which we will work over coming months. Having in prayer defined our focus points, we know that we will not see any fruit unless and until every effort is totally saturated in prayer for the people and the community in which we feel led to place ourselves.

## *Choose Compassion*

Each year the leadership of Savannah Christian selects a “Big Rock” theme for the year. The purpose is to get that key commitment in place and then to allow everything else to fill in around it. We arrived in Savannah just after Labor Day 2012 and from Day One we were hearing about “Choose Compassion”, the 2013 big rock.

Our Global Outreach team was honored to be able to develop a “Compassion Challenge” for the church

The goal is to do more than learn facts, but to actually enroll in a “Curriculum of Christ-likeness”, helping one another grow in our walk with and service to Jesus.

staff. The goal was that every staff member be involved in two acts of compassion beyond his/her comfort zone. People



were led into homeless camps; local jails; schools in economically deprived areas; alcoholic rehabilitation facilities; homes for unwed mothers; twelve step programs; homes for the aged; etc. We had the privilege of leading several trips to our local mosque and to the Hindu temple located 10 minutes drive from the main campus.

A series of articles would be required to do justice to the hearts that were touched, the visions that were expanded, the new commitments to service that were made. There is no doubt in our minds that the staff of Savannah Christian is prepared to lead the growing congregation to “choose compassion” throughout 2013, anticipating impact into eternity.

Personally we saw people moved to tears over the hopelessness they saw in the empty religious rituals at the temple where the god is put down for a rest every afternoon; and for the isolated, hopeless, lonely ladies at the local mosque.

As God births his compassion in the hearts of more and more Savannah Christians, we are convinced that a Focus-like program will likely multiply in coming years, thrusting many out into the dark places of our planet, and impacting the hard to reach right here at home whether they sleep under a bridge, worship a god that needs an afternoon nap, or are hidden behind a veil that makes most of their American neighbors uncomfortable.

As God brings more and more people from diverse backgrounds to our American shores, He is calling the body of Christ to choose compassion, to move out of our comfort zones. When we are moved by his compassion, we will discover through God’s grace ways to express his love to even those who make us uncomfortable.

Compassion teaches us the diverse folk coming to our shores and moving into our communities are not so much a threat as they are an opportunity. Choose Compassion. See what happens.

# news brief

## ***CRAM Worldwide Inc., serving the peoples of Asia***

New Training Center for Asia. The training center known as the “home” will be used to train young people in the “Word,” equipping them for discipleship.



Already this program is in existence using rented houses. Over and over the rent has been increased or demand to move has come from the property owner. To be good stewards of monies and time CRAM is in process of acquiring permanent property to house this program.

The home has 3 bedrooms, a kitchen and bath facilities. One room is set apart for training. 2012 produced 12 precious souls. What

will God do with these 12? Only He knows – but we do recall what He did with 5 loaves and 2 fish! Our God is the great multiplier!

Training is planned for 3 months out of the year. Training happens more often as students are available, or less often as we feel the “red alert” from those that watch CRAM. When training is not happening – the students are busy faming, harvesting, tending to the cattle and performing other farm duties. These activities in and of themselves teach the principles of God.

If you would like to help provide for this vital ministry, please join us in prayer for this training center.

### **PRAISE**

- **Visas to study at U.S. Bible Colleges have been granted for two men who work with CRAM Worldwide Inc.**
  - Jacob Park is studying at Johnson University
  - Sangho Kim is studying at Point University.

### **PRAYER**

- **Pray for health issues CRAM Founders Dr. C.Y. Kim and his wife Patricia are experiencing.**
- **Please pray for those involved in an underground church, which was recently discovered.**

**CRAM WORLDWIDE, INC • 601 Lincoln Avenue • Bedford IN 47421**

## focus on

# Prayer Needs & Praises

## Africa

- Scott & Annelle Price (Tanzania) request prayer as they establish “Business as Mission” enterprises to reach lives with the good news.
- Give praise with Marc & Tina Gebhard (PBT-Guinea) as they see God’s Word for the Lele people come into being. 2013 will see Luke refined, Acts translated, and people learning to read them.
- Give praise with Paul & Marilyn Douglass as 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the Sudan African Mission.

## Asia

- DiscipleMakers, Inc. request prayer for the following:
  - Recent graduates of the Himalayan Training Center in Kathmandu as they begin ministries in various locations in Nepal.
  - Ryan Warmuth, a Cincinnati Christian University student, serving a 7-month internship in Nepal.

## Europe

- Shannon Haynie (Ukraine) requests prayer for the progress of Bible Translation into the Crimean Tatar language.

## South Pacific

- PBT-PNG request prayer as the NT in the Tay language is scheduled to be completed this year, with the Mborena Kam, Waran, and Apal New Testaments following soon after. Pray that God will protect the people and resources involved in finishing these translations.

## South America

- Paul & Sheri Moreland (Colombia) request prayer for wisdom in building up the body of Christ in Pereira.
- Pray also that suitable housing will be secured for the church in Pereira as well as the Moreland family.

## Global

- Good News Productions asks us to pray as they begin to translate *The Global Gospel Project* into the top 25 languages of the world by the year 2015. This is a series of 88 stories on the life of Christ. (Please go to [www.themissionsnetwork.com](http://www.themissionsnetwork.com) if you are interested in viewing these.)
- Good News Productions is praising God that the goal to fund 100 solar kits in 2012 was reached and surpassed.
- Please pray for US chaplains serving worldwide that they will be encouraged and blessed in their work.
- Thank God for the many missionaries in Pioneer Bible Translators who have now been on the field for 10, 20, 30 years or more. Thank God they have stood the test of time and continue to persevere in obedience to God's call on their lives.

## U.S.

- Phil & Kathy Banta (NMSI-Hispanic) ask for prayers as they train, disciple, and encourage Hispanics in sharing their faith with family and friends.

## Team Expansion

- Join A & J in a sensitive field in praying for fruit from an unexpected event with the Bong Samali family.
- Join B & L in southeast Asia in asking for encouragement and spiritual growth for C's mother and provision for her granddaughter.
- Join J & E in a sensitive field launching a home school co-op this year.
- Pray for M & L as they serve in Asia. Pray that M's assistant will make a decision that is in the best interest of the school in which they are working.
- Praise God with D & K in Asia that their friend "Helen" is now pregnant. Pray that her husband and she will believe.
- Pray for safety, language, relationships, as well as faithful prayer and financial partners for JB as he is in the midst of a Quest apprenticeship in Asia.
- Join M & J as they also serve an apprenticeship in Asia. Pray that much fruit will be harvested.

# Thank You!

and visions. Thank you for your continued generous support! The following are those whose gifts were received as of January 15th, 2013. To date, \$9,260 has been given.

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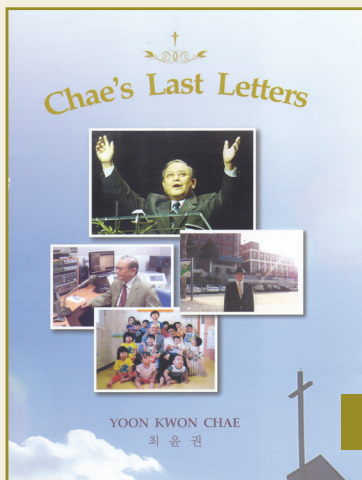
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