



Anderson

ADVANCE

October 2021

"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel." (Php 1:12)



Dear Partner in Mission,

"Where are you now?" is a common question we are asked. The short answer: Joyce and I are in Thika, Kenya doing ministry. Read on for the adventure.

In January of 2020 I visited Ethiopia, Uganda and South Africa as part of my survey and oversight work as International Director of of Things to Come Mission. Then I returned to Kenya to teach a one-week Dispensational Survey class at Kenya Grace Bible Institute. Joyce and I left Kenya on a Saturday and flew to Indonesia where we were teaching Mission and Evangelism in the STTAM Bible College in Manado, Indonesia by Monday morning. The following Monday we flew to Manila and rented an apartment for our new base. The Philippines was to be the site of key events of 2020, headlined by our Southeast Asia Grace Conference and Grace Theological Center for Mission training for missionaries.

On March 15, 2020 the Philippines locked down completely and all our ministries were canceled. The world we knew disappeared. We were under strict lock down for six months during which we did not see any family, friends or members. One day I was on the exercise track around our apartment complex—with mask—and the guard told me I couldn't be outside. Going into buildings required mask and face shield. Eventually our "on hold" Taiwan missionary Vincent Quiñones was able to get a special pass and visit us together with nearby pastor Ralph Fermantes.

In September 2020 we decided to take our annual trip to the US where I would make plans with the TCM board and help with moving the TCM office procedures online. Our hope was that the Philippines would open to foreigners by November, allowing us to return. In the US we also visited family, friends and churches and were able to do some writing.

By January 2021, with the Philippines still shut off to foreigners, we elected not to remain in the US, but to minister in Kenya while continuing to wait for the opportunity to continue training missionaries in the Philippines. In April 2021 I ended up in the Nairobi Hospital for five days which the doctor said was 'atypical pneumonia.' I tested negative for several illnesses. Since then I've felt fine and have had no recurrences. A blessing has been that our daughter Tegwen together with her husband Robby and their kids live two doors down from us. After many years of living far from our children we enjoy having the grandkids showing up at the door every morning.

During the past nine months Joyce and I have been able to teach several classes in the Bible school, assist with two church plants, visit several churches, evangelize publicly and personally and speak at weddings, fundraisers and graduations. I have worked with Robby & Tegwen and an immigration agent to get their work permits to remain in Kenya. Praising the Lord that they were granted last week, giving the Heaths freedom to work for two more years.

From September 3 to October 15 I traveled in the US for six weeks in six states for the TCM planning meeting, assisting the mission office and speaking at churches and conferences. Joyce stayed in Kenya to prepare and teach online evangelism lessons. At Nairobi check-in I suddenly had to rush out at night to get a second COVID test before I could board. In Tampa my Southwest flight to Indianapolis was cancelled, but I was able to present through a Zoom call.

Since returning to Kenya, Joyce has been teaching at the Bi-Vocational Training program at KGBI and I have been catching up on some projects and online meetings that were delayed during my trip. This past weekend Robby Heath and I participated in a fund-raising for a new church building at the original Grace Bible Church in Kenya which was established in 1984.

An ongoing project has been to complete Phase 2 of the main building at Kenya Grace Bible Institute before the next class intake in January 2022.

Prayer Requests

- **Health** – Our beloved missionary to Vietnam, Jimmy Escobar, is now with the Lord due to complications from COVID. Two of our former missionaries, Carlo & Elma Paña also died of COVID. All of us need our health if we are to continue the ministry. Let us pray regularly for one another.

- **Kenya Grace Bible Institute** – Phase 1 of the main building of KGBI is complete with two classrooms which are used all day, every day. We have also raised \$23,000 to continue construction of Phase 2—a dormitory, dining hall



JANUARY 2020

Manila, Philippines We rented an apartment for our expected busy year in the Philippines. We have not returned for over a year due to a travel ban. Pray that the Lord will open the door to continue training missionaries.

MISSION

is the the intentional crossing of cultural or geographical barriers from faith to non-faith to proclaim the gospel of grace, to establish worshipping communities of believers and to train leaders for those churches.



JANUARY 2021

Thika, Kenya Joyce and I have made our temporary base in Kenya where there has been considerable freedom to minister and travel. An exciting part of our ministry is teaching at Kenya Grace Bible Institute.



SEPTEMBER 2021

Jimmy Escobar The only adult TCM missionary who has died on the field is Jimmy Escobar, who died of COVID complications in Saigon, Vietnam on September 15. Pray for his widow Joy as she deals with the separation.

and three offices—which has taken us up to the upper floor concrete slab. If you would like to help with this project, our budget is \$14,000 for completing Phase 2, which includes plastering, windows, doors, paint, flooring, electrical and exterior finishing. Principal Titus Kivilu recently gave me some budget details that we need 11 windows at \$160 each, 3 steel doors at \$150 plus 3 interior doors at \$45. The remaining need is \$2000 to complete Phase 2.

• **Car** – After enjoying car-less living for six years in Southeast Asia, we need to have a car for living in Kenya where roads are rougher and public transportation more difficult and time-consuming.

“Where are you?” is the penetrating question which God asked Adam and Eve after their sin in the Garden of Eden. God really does want to know where we are. He desires for us to live in community with him. That is why he sent his Son who willingly died for the sins of all people (1 John 2:1-2).

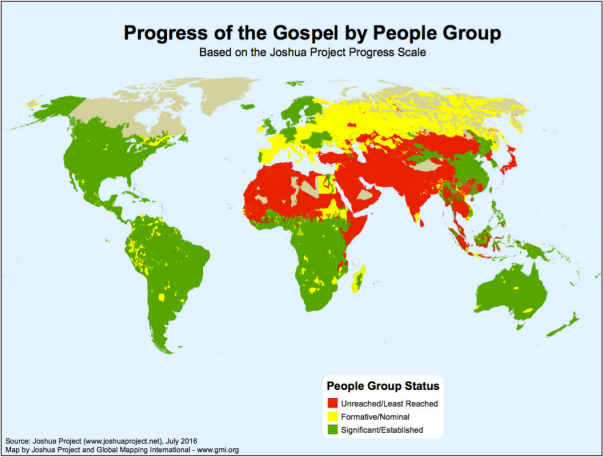
Apostle Paul calls our commission “the ministry of reconciliation.” When God’s grace connects with our faith, we are “reconciled to God.” We are then used by God to bring others into a relationship with him, ever enlarging the Body of Christ.

The question we ask in mission is this, “Do all people have an opportunity to hear the gospel and believe in Jesus Christ?” Look at the map below. The areas marked in red contain over two billion people who have no testimony of Jesus Christ in their community. They are unreached and will die without Christ unless a missionary takes the gospel to them.

Joyce and I count it a privilege to be part of God’s desire in this dispensation of grace that all people will hear and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for partnering with us in this great task.

In Christ,

Ben & Joyce Anderson



so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith
Rom. 16:26b

THINGS
TO COME
MISSION



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OCTOBER 2021

August Bahari Luczkow On October 27 our daughter Frances delivered our 10th grandchild, joining Ezra and Lydia. Bahari is the Swahili word for ocean, from Frances's years as a missionary kid in Kenya on the Indian Ocean.



NOVEMBER 2021

Building a Bible School I have been working to raise funds and complete Phase 2 of the main Bible school building in Thika, which will add a dorm, dining room and three offices to the school facility for the new class intake in 2022.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. They replied, "Believe in the lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves all acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—that whom I am the sinner. There is therefore joy to God in heaven and peace to men in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Lord is perfect, his testimony is true, his judgments are righteous, and he is trustworthy. It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. "But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?"