

## INTERNATIONAL REPORT

# COMPASSION: *The Gateway to Ministry*



*“Go therefore... make disciples.. baptizing them...”*

Someone has said, “Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.” Well, this primitive village church sat at the end of a rough and rugged dirt path that provides a seat to ceiling experience for our mission teams in sardine-packed vans. However, many villagers have walked this road and received “the way” to the most beautiful destination ever – Heaven!

During our first visit to this remote village **three years ago**, children were so scared of Mzungu (white man) that they were running away from us. **Two years ago**, the pastor gathered over 300 school children in a field and asked if we would speak to them. Pastor Ben interpreted as Brother Lester Miller and I explained to them God’s love and unique purpose for each one of them. We prayed for them and were preparing to give each of them a sucker when the pastor said, *“Brother Nelson, please, the children have never touched a white man and they are asking if they could touch you.”* Needless to say, my heart was bursting with emotions. I was crying inside, but God gave me the strength to smile, because tears would have generated deep sadness, a sadness they could not comprehend. So here we go... take their little hands and touch my arms; yes hairy arms. That made them smile ☺. **This year** we were mobbed by the children and loved upon by hundreds of villagers. The medical clinic was almost overwhelming. Yes... compassion is still the gateway to ministry.

*Pastor Ben Mugisha emailed us with the following reflections on our ministry there:*

“On behalf of Kabwasa Pentecostal Church, I sincerely express my heartfelt appreciation for the services you and the mission team rendered to our community in Rakai, Uganda region. You have planted a tree of joy and its roots are going deeper and deeper. I am learning a new lesson - joyful hearts genuinely worship and praise God! You have taught us how to love, and God is touching lives.

“God’s love enabled over 600 people to receive medical treatment. Hundreds of Bibles, blankets, and mosquito nets were given, along with toys for over 400 children. Most of all, we were blessed by your humility and obedience to God to serve with us in this primitive and remote village through Spirit-filled preaching and a Bible-based, Christ-centered message. It has restored hope for the hopeless. Many people received Jesus Christ as their personal savior during the medical clinic outreach. We have now baptized 42 people,

and many are still coming to church and accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We have received more than 96 testimonies of those that have been healed physically. Even unbelievers call our church their church. They feel the

“Three years ago, the children ran away from us, two years ago they wanted to touch us, this year they mobbed us.”

*Continued on page 3*



# Community Tent Meeting Reflections

## Linwood Ontario

*O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.* - Psalm 105:1



Praying for each other has strengthened my faith and released me from the spirit of offence. We were blessed as a family through the message, *Generational Blessings & Family Relationships*. It has brought a peace and a love into our home that is only through Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! God is so good!

~Marvin Streicher



We can only stand back in wonderment and praise. The tent revival began as a vision held by a handful of people.... and then prayer meetings by a smattering of the faithful which soon began to grow. Passionate and dedicated men and women from various churches soon became our core group, our committee, our prayer warriors, our visionaries. What a picture of unified kingdom work at its best. As we petitioned and poured out our hearts to God, He answered beyond our wildest expectations. We experienced refreshment during the corporate praise and worship, listening to the singing groups, and seeing people respond at the altar night after night. We saw brokenness, repentance, salvation, joy, rededication, and so much more. Thank you to our Chairperson, Andrew Ropp, and all our committees and prayer warriors. Thank you Jesus for breathing your Spirit of life into this event and beyond. We pray for a continued harvest of souls. In Christ's Love,

~Nelson and June Gerber

**The Gospel is not an old, old story, freshly told. It is a fire in the Spirit, fed by the flame of Immortal Love.**

~ Leonard Ravenhill



Reflecting becomes refreshing after an event like this. Why? Is it not because we sensed the Holy Spirit at work night after night? This resulted in unity of the Spirit among God's people, where the Lord commanded the blessing, a principle from Psalm 133. In a lot of ways, we felt like we were entering other men's laborers. Thank you to our dear Canadian brothers and sisters who prayed, organized, and sacrificed many hours before, during and after the meetings.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Roman's 15:13

Because of Jesus,

~Dave Miller



As a part of the planning committee it was very humbling to know that the Most High God was working through a group of imperfect people to accomplish His will. Each evening was beautiful in its own way. The evening Brother Dave Miller spoke on the family and role of fathers I knew that God was calling me to respond. I fall short as a father, however, this was an opportunity to stand up and say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" The community of Linwood and abroad was touched through the meetings. I sense in my Spirit that there were significant advancements in the Kingdom of God, far beyond what we see in the here and now. Isaiah 59:21 says "As for Me, says the Lord, this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants."

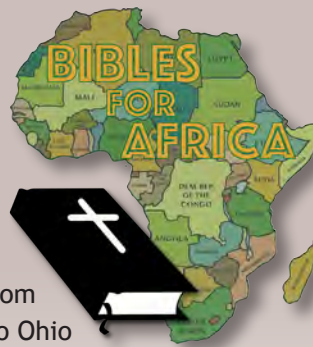
~Andrew Ropp

Crusade Chairperson



I loved the altar. There were times the presence and glory of God was so strong up there, I just wanted to be left alone to soak it up. Thanks to the prayer partners who were discerning and allowed me to worship undisturbed. Also, thank you kind prayer partner for praying with me when I needed it. Most of all, thank you Jesus for healing me! ~Anonymous

# 2020 Read-A-Thon



The hunger for the printed Word is increasing among villagers, prisoners, students, and refugees in Africa and the Middle East. In recent trips to Africa, our hearts were touched to witness the joy of Christians receiving their first and very own Bible. Some were first-generation Christians. Many needed continual help to locate Scriptures. Bibles in Africa are very costly, and most people live on less than \$2.00 a day and can't buy their own.



participated from Pennsylvania to Ohio to North Carolina and points in between, raising over \$40,500.00! This enabled us to buy approximately 7,365 Bibles in their native languages. The need, however, has increased. Now, even predominately Muslim schools are requesting Bibles for their students and numerous pastors are pleading for Bibles for their members.



In 2018, just a little over 100 readers

## READERS & SPONSORS NEEDED!

Select a 30-day reading period between Jan. 1 - Feb. 29, 2020.

We are looking for school/ church groups and individuals up to age 18 to participate in this life-giving opportunity. Contact Cassie at (828) 859-7003 or email prison@gospelexpress.com to receive an introductory packet with a DVD that explains how the Read-A-Thon works. To sign up as an individual reader, group reader, or coordinator, visit our website [www.gospelexpress.com/read-a-thon-2/](http://www.gospelexpress.com/read-a-thon-2/) or contact Cassie.

## COMPASSION *Continued from page 1*

church cares, and this has made it easy for us to witness about Christ.

“We have a huge work of discipleship ahead. There is always more preaching than teaching in our community, and I believe Gospel Express is ordained by God to do the discipleship teaching ministry around the world. It’s very good

to hear that you are planning the *From Bondage to Freedom* seminar at our church in January of 2020. People here are very thirsty and hungry for the Word of God; so thirsty that they can attend a seven-day seminar sitting down from morning to evening. I believe God will set many lives free. Papa, I want to let you know that you have helped our church to expand Jesus’ kingdom in our community.”

Ministry “unto the least of these” often means caring for precious people in difficult and seemingly hopeless conditions. What a privilege to serve and to offer the God of all hope to the nations. Thank you for investing God’s provisions in kingdom work that has eternal dividends.

~ Nelson Coblenz



“The only running water I saw in the village was children carrying water jugs running away from Mzungu (white man).”



Blanket costs us \$3.50; to Nkoota...priceless!!!”

Gospel Express Int’l Ministry cares for the spiritual and physical needs of impoverished people in the countries of Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, and Ghana Africa. We offer basic necessities such as clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, and baby formula. Ministry partners also enable us to sponsor surgical procedures and conduct village medical clinics.

# GOSPEL EXPRESS TEXAS



## Crusade Testimonies...

September 26-29

*To God be the glory!  
Great things He has done!*



*Volunteers from Pack Unit with singing team, Gospel Beacon*

Gospel Express Ministries touches the lives of the incarcerated individuals, in that they show such love and compassion that even the most hardened criminals cannot resist. I see the servant's heart in this ministry. ~Shane (inmate at Pack Unit)

Honestly, coming from Ohio, my trip has been a little expensive. But, I've been really blessed. One evening at the



altar call I prayed for a man, and he told me, "Whatever it cost for you to come, it was well spent." That was really special to me. ~Jay Martin (volunteer)

The very last service we had at the Trusty camp on Sunday afternoon, a middle-aged Hispanic man came up to talk with us. With broken English and through many tears he said that he wasn't planning to come to that service but did for some reason. He had accepted the Lord a few years ago and will be getting out soon. He was thinking about doing harm to those who testified against him and put him in prison, but during the service, God spoke to him that he is not to take revenge. He is now repentant and knows that is not what God wants him to do. What an honor to be an instrument for the Lord to use! ~Cleason & Sheri Martin (singing team)

*Gospel Express is grateful for servants of God who partner/volunteer with us at prison crusades!*

We were blessed with the opportunity to play softball with the inmates at the Wallace Pack Unit in Navasota. The warm weather didn't seem to bother anyone, and the mood stayed positive all day. The games went well and I was reminded of the unique opportunity we have to minister in this way. Our actions on the field gave us a chance to share a message that plants seeds in the hearts of men that might otherwise never step into a church building.

~Timothy Fisher (softball team leader)

## Ministry Update

It was a great blessing for me to hear firsthand in a board meeting about the doors of opportunity that Gospel Express Texas has. Besides Sunday worship services and the annual prison crusade, there are three unique opportunities of ministry behind the fences G.E.T. is involved in.



**1. A Day with Dad:** This program is conducted throughout the year. The goal is to not only give fathers an opportunity to interact with their children for a day but also to strengthen

those relationships and to equip fathers to be the spiritual leaders in their families that God has called them to be.

**2. Marriage Seminars:** A one-day event where a spouse will join their partner in prison for a day of practical teaching on the art of marriage. This is much needed since most couples have no idea what a Biblical marriage looks like and very few marriages survive prison life.

*"Is God calling YOU to be involved?"*

training, to minister not only in the chapel but also in the yard and dorms. It's a great opportunity to reach inmates that would never come to a chapel service. G.E.T. has one person serving in this role. The doors are wide open for more Volunteer Chaplain's Assistants. Could it be that God is calling you to be involved?

These programs provide an opportunity to proclaim the transforming message of the gospel in different ways. Of course, each one requires financial funding and personnel. Currently, the requests from prison chaplains for all of these programs is greater than GET can provide due to lack of funds and personnel. If you sense God calling you to be involved with the ministry in Texas, please contact **Dave Kauffman**, Board Chairman, at **254-709-7712** for more information.

~Mervin Wengard



*Texas Board of Directors with Duane, Mervin & Freida*



# South Carolina Prison Crusade

Based in Abbeville, Columbia, Sumter, & Walterboro

## February 2-6, 2020

Ministry Partners Needed - Both Men and Women!



Activities include

- yard & dorm visitation
- one-on-one discipleship
- dining with inmates
- evangelistic services
- lockup visitation



You can register online by visiting our website or calling our office.

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

(828) 859-7003



# North Florida Prison Crusade

## December 4-8, 2019



**PLEASE PRAY** for the 14 singing teams & evangelists, 7 seminar instructors, and volunteers from all over the US and Canada as they are preparing to minister to inmates in the North Florida prisons through yard and dorm visitation, one-on-one discipleship, sports activities, dining with inmates, evangelistic services, and lockup visitation.

## What is the most popular handout at prison crusades?

In 2008, we printed our first run of Pocket Treasures. We wanted a simple compact booklet that would have high value; something sought after by the general population. We wanted it to also be a witness and a tool to bring awareness of available resources we offer.

Proverbs, chapter 2, refers to seeking wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as "hidden treasure." The calendars and address pages in the booklet create demand, however, the rich truths from God's word in these handouts are the "hidden treasures" that can impact their life eternally. One inmate recently said, "I have used it 2-3 times a day the last 17 months. I wore it out."

### 35 SPONSORS NEEDED

Our goal is to print 35,000 Pocket Treasures in November. This is about a 1-year supply. Would you prayerfully consider a donation of \$275 to purchase 1000? See the enclosed response card, call, or give online.

#### POCKET TREASURES CONTENTS:

- Seminar & Bible Study Course Info
- 4 Years of Calendars
- Address/Contact Pages
- Plan of Salvation
- Keys to Fruitful Living
- Guide for New Believers
- Weekly Bible Memorization Plan



*"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void..."* Isaiah 55:11

As the *Discipleship Materials* Coordinator for Gospel Express, do I make a difference in people's lives? We receive quite a few testimonies of how these courses change lives. These testimonies often bring tears of gratitude and humility that God allows me to give the resources which impact the lives of so many people for Him!!



Jerry Slabaugh

An inmate can get started on a course through their chaplain's office (if available) or by sending a request to our office. Upon completion, they send the test(s) in to be graded and request the next book(s). The tests get sent to a grader or coordinator, after which we return them to the individual, along with a certificate. Upon completion of a course, we offer a choice between two awards.



Touch of His Hand

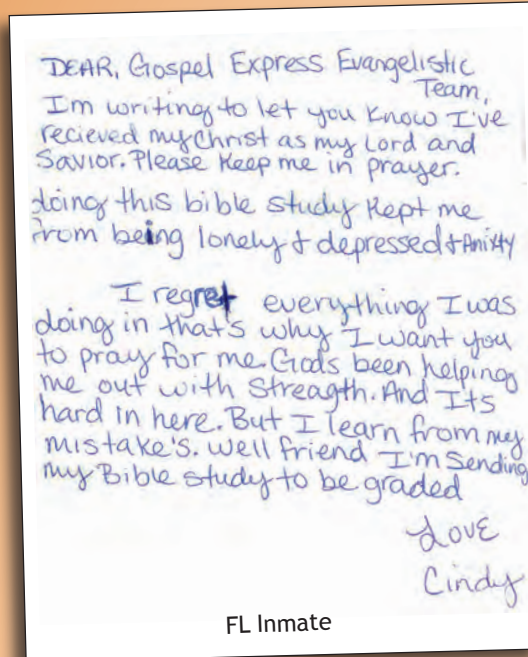
With the Romans course now translated into Spanish, I'm in the process of informing chaplains about all our available resources. With over 7,000 facilities in the USA, this is quite a process. So far, I've sent around 450 letters to chaplains, which has resulted in orders of over 17,000 Bible Study books. May God continue to use these Studies to take His Word "Into all the world"!

~Jerry Slabaugh



Romans Course

## Recent Testimonies



FL Inmate

I am so thankful for your ministry! I can feel the growth and strength I have gained by completing these studies. ~Kim Albrecht (WV) 7/22/19

Studying God's Word is like sifting through the Bible for gold. These are the riches I want.

~Michal (FL) 7/29/19

I 100% loved the Bible Study!! I know without a doubt I'm saved! God has my back!! ~Jennifer (KY) 7/22/19

Doing and questioning myself throughout this study has allowed me to be true and honest with myself and see the areas in my life I need fixed. ~Christopher (NC) 9/16/19

The effectiveness of these series is remarkable. By doing the course the men are able to interact with their mind and their actions - writing answers thereby achieving better results than by simply reading the Bible alone. ~Chaplain Nelson Emeaghara (OH) 7/11/19

By far the most challenging but informational study course I have taken. ~Kristen (OH) 7/11/19

I'm new to faith and religion and these very much helped me learn and grow. It has helped give me a positive outlook and joy in my heart that only Jesus can explain. ~Savannah (KY) 9/25/19



Asking the right questions makes the person doing the lesson dig into God's Word. What was great is that the first 5 books on Romans (were) to get the person ready for the last 3 books (TOHH)! ~Bradley (NV) 8/11/19

My whole life has changed since I took the Romans Bible study course. ~Orlando (AL) 8/27/19

We are facing a funding shortfall in the Bible Course ministry. If you are able to help, see the enclosed response card.

# Stoltzfus Family Report

As another season of traveling and singing approaches us, we are humbled that God sees fit to use us in this way. There is a deep stirring in our hearts to lay down our desires and give more of ourselves as we meet up with so many broken hearts and a hunger for encouragement. Excitement rises as we think of going into prisons again and being a part of the lively church services that go on inside those walls! So we are greatly encouraged as we observe the faith that we see portrayed in the lives of the men and women there. Truly, it is not our circumstances that bring us real joy in Christ!

A highlight for us this summer was our trip to Canada. We loved being involved in the revival meetings there and came home with a burden for that community! We are all anticipating the fall banquets as well. Joshua says, "Bring on all the good chicken and



We extend our gratefulness to all our friends, both known and unknown, who contributed to the purchase of our new motorhome!

mashed potatoes!" Carrie looks forward to meeting her friends, and Emilee's emphatic remark is, "I just want to go traveling!" Barbie Ann and Wilma can't wait to sing together again, and the little boys say, "We get to travel in the new RV." ☺ Mel and I anticipate just being together as a family and sharing in this way in song, especially in churches along the way. We love sharing fun and humor with the other teams as we work together setting up and tearing down, racing to be on time for soundcheck, and all the other details.



Finally, we as a family, want to extend our gratefulness to all our friends, both known and unknown, who contributed to the purchase of our new motorhome, whether by prayer or financial support. We truly feel so unworthy! To all of you at Gospel Express, thank you seems so inadequate as we try to express our gratefulness. We just pray that Christ's name will be exalted as we travel and share!



## PERSONNEL

### WELCOME

We are excited to welcome **Jennifer Yoder** to the ministry. She is from Centreville, Michigan, and is the daughter of Nelson and Audrey Yoder. Jenn will be putting her office experience to good use as she works with Nelson in international ministry, along with filling recording orders, and many other tasks.



### FAREWELL

**Luronda Hege** has moved back to her home community of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. We really appreciate her kingdom-building work and passion to serve these past 14 months. May God bless you in all you do Luronda.



### Ben Yoder

1946-2019

On August 3, Gospel Express lost a dear friend and former board member, Ben Yoder. He and his wife Carol were visiting their daughter and family in Malaysia when he suddenly became sick and passed away. Ben served with numerous configurations of our Executive Board from 2003 - 2017. Ben and Carol have hosted many a Gospel Express traveler in their Blountstown, FL home, especially during the annual prison crusade. Ben is remembered for his kindness, heart of service, and many words of wisdom through the years. His humor was



*Carol & Ben Yoder*

always a welcome addition to liven up any board meeting. Please join us in praying for Carol and the family.

*Ben, you are missed.*



*2009 Executive Board*



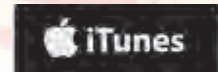
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## Gospel Express Ministries

EVANGELISM • DISCIPLESHIP • COMPASSION



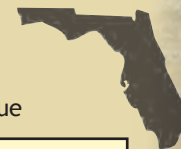
A and B Divisions

### Annual Florida Volleyball Tournament

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2019

Sarasota Fairgrounds (Haiti Auction location) 600 South Pompano Avenue

For more information or to register your team, go to [www.pinecraftvolleyball.org](http://www.pinecraftvolleyball.org)  
You can also download the Pinecraft VB app.



Tournament proceeds will benefit Palm Grove School and Gospel Express Ministries medical, evangelistic, and humanitarian missions in third world countries.

## Team Schedules

### NELSON & SARAH, MILLER FAMILY, STOLTZFUS FAMILY

- Oct 22-23...Fairhaven Fellowship Hall Banquet - Goshen, IN
- Oct 24.....Fairview Mennonite Church Banquet - Kalona, IA
- Oct 25.....Yoder's Kitchen Banquet - Arthur, IL
- Nov 4-5 .....Carlisle Inn Banquets - Walnut Creek, OH
- Nov 6 .....Brookside Farm Banquet - Louisville, OH
- Nov 7 .....Der Dutchman Banquet - Plain City, OH
- Nov 19-20 ..Shady Maple Banquet - East Earl, PA
- Nov 21 .....Franconia Heritage Restaurant Banquet - Telford, PA
- Dec 4-8 .....North FL Prison Crusade - Marianna, FL
- Dec 21 .....Staff Christmas Supper

### NELSON & SARAH

- Dec 27 .....Pinecraft Volleyball Tournament - Sarasota, FL

### MILLER FAMILY

- Nov 24 .....Spring Garden Church (PM) - Kinzers, PA
- Dec 27 .....Pinecraft Volleyball Tournament - Sarasota, FL
- Dec 29 .....Hope Fellowship (AM) - Sarasota, FL

### MEL STOLTZFUS FAMILY

- Oct 27.....Cornerstone Mennonite Assembly - Millersburg, OH

### MULLETT FAMILY

- Oct 30-Nov 12..Light of Our World (Children's Christmas DVD) Filming - Denver, CO
- Nov 17 .....Sommerfeld Mennonite Church - Seminole, TX
- Dec 21 .....Staff Christmas Supper

### MERVIN WENGERD BTF = Bondage to Freedom, CR = Conflict Resolution

- Oct 22-25...BTF Seminar at Flat Ridge Mennonite Church - Kimbolton, OH
- Oct 27.....New Covenant Fellowship - OH
- Oct 28-29...CR Seminar - Belmont CI, OH
- Dec 4-8 .....North FL Prison Crusade - Marianna, FL
- Dec 9-12....BTF Seminars - Marianna, FL
- Dec 21 .....Staff Christmas Supper



Visit our website for updates on scheduling, ministry team news, recordings, and more: [www.gospelexpress.com](http://www.gospelexpress.com)

GOSPEL EXPRESS EVANGELISTIC TEAM INC. PO Box 217, Lynn, NC 28750 • 828-859-7003 • mail@gospelexpress.com