

**CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2011 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)**

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on February 2, 2012.

As with the 2010 year, we again were dealing with decreased support from individuals and our “sending” church (Calvary Church, Roseville, MN). However, Crossing Bridges received a \$10,000 grant from The Riverside Foundation for ministry in 2011. This, plus contributions from our faithful supporters, enabled us to minister in six countries during 2011.

MINISTRY DURING 2011:

GHANA: Trinity Theological Seminary – March 16 through April 4, 2011

1. Taught a 30-hour course over two weeks to 62 students from the seminary. The course was titled “The Theology of Disability, Suffering, and Church Ministry.”
2. Presented a 6-hour seminar on disability and the church at Good News Theological College and Seminary for 24 students.
3. Spoke with 15 pastors from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as they met for an Association Retreat in Accra.

SERBIA: Second Annual Family Retreat (JAF) – April 22 through May 1, 2011

1. Part of an 8-person team from the U.S. to minister at the second annual Family Retreat (JAF) for families affected by disability. Trained students from HUB Bible School and the U.S. volunteers in basic issues surrounding disability and ministering to people with disabilities.
2. Met with parents of 20 families (21 children with disabilities, plus siblings) to share God’s vision of and for persons who are disabled, and the hope that is found in God. Chip Bell (a former missionary to Serbia now a pastor in Dallas, TX) shared the teaching time.
3. Along with Chip Bell, held a Thursday evening/Friday morning meeting with 20 pastors and church leaders to introduce them to issues related to disability ministry.

CHINA: Harbin Pastors’ Conference (JAF) – May 23 through May 29, 2011

1. David, joined by Brian Funk and Mike King from the *Joni and Friends* Eastern Pennsylvania office, presented a 3-day conference for 60-70 pastors and church leaders to help participants understand how God views persons who have a disability and God’s call to the church to share his love to people and families affected by disability.

HAITI: Pastors’ Conference and Ministry – July 8 through July 20, 2011

1. David was part of a team of 34 from Calvary Church (Roseville, MN) which traveled to Haiti for 13 days of ministry. His primary responsibility was to teach, along with Dr. Richard Schoenert, at a 3-day conference for pastors and church leaders. David presented on “A Biblical Understanding of Suffering.” Attendance varied each day, from 50 to 120 persons.
2. Other days of ministry included:
 - a. Visiting the Sisters of Charity orphanage
 - b. Ministering at an AIDS Hospice
 - c. Participating in Sunday worship at several churches
 - d. Meeting with 25 association pastors at their annual meeting

ROMANIA: Pastors' Conference (JAF) – August 29 through September 7, 2011

1. Spoke to 30 pastors and church leaders about disability ministry at a 2-day conference. The conference ran concurrently with a Family Retreat, enabling the participants to observe and interact with the families and their children with disabilities. Several pastors had received an introduction to disability ministry previously. This conference sought to strengthen their knowledge of God's view of persons with disabilities and encourage pastoral care for the individuals and families.

EL SALVADOR: Evangelical University of El Salvador – October 8 through October 14, 2011

1. This training was for pastors and students at the university (majoring in education/special education, psychology, and medical areas). David's teaching was loosely based on the "*Beyond Suffering*" curriculum from the Christian Institute on Disability (JAF). From 25 to 55 persons were in attendance, depending on the day. The teaching was schedule to run for four days.

PLANNED / ANTICIPATED MINISTRY IN 2012:

1. **Peru:** January 21–28, 2012. Teaching *Beyond Suffering: A Christian View on Disability Ministry* at Alliance Seminary, Lima, Peru. This training is essentially for pastors, though students from the Seminary may also be involved. (TICKETED)
2. **Serbia:** February 24–March 12, 2012. HUB Bible School. Teaching two courses to second-year students: "Acts/Missiology," and "Theology of Christian Education." Also anticipated: preaching in two churches. (TICKETED)
3. **Serbia:** Possibility of working with families at a retreat for families affected by disability and/or with pastors interested in disability ministry. Potential dates: June 25–30, 2012. (TENTATIVE)
4. **Ghana:** July 16–30, 2012. Possibility of Pastors' Conference in conjunction with a retreat for families affected by disability; doing a seminar at Good News Theological College and Seminary; and speaking at a pastors' conference. (TENTATIVE)
5. **Romania:** Possibility of a more formal pastors' conference. (TENTATIVE)

The possibility of going to Uganda to teach at Livingstone International Christian University in the Fall of 2011 did not materialize (because of administrative problems at the University). This remains as one possibility as a site for ministry in the future, as does a possibility of returning to Cameroon to work, primarily, with *Win Our Nations* Ministry, which runs an orphanage and a Bible School.

Submitted by: David W Anderson, Ed.D., President