

CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2012 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on January 20, 2013

Through funds received from faithful donors and a grant monies from The Riverside Foundation, and through our affiliation with Joni and Friends International Disability Center, we were able to minister in Peru, Serbia (two times), and Ghana during 2012.

MINISTRY TRIPS:

PERU: Alliance Seminary – January 21–27, 2012

Course taught: “Beyond Suffering: A Christian View of Disability Ministry.” Team-taught with James Rene, Director of Cause 4 Life Global Missions and Internships, one of the programs of Joni and Friends. The course met for five days. 60–70 persons took the course, including the president of Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Peru. Some participants traveled 18 hours by bus to be present. Also attending were 14 persons who work for Corazones Unidos, a parachurch organization serving people affected by disabilities. Corazones Unidos is the JAF contact for the Wheels for the World distribution in Peru.

SERBIA 1: HUB Bible School – February 24 through March 12, 2012

Courses taught: “Acts/Missiology” and “A Theology of Christian Education.” Students in the courses were in their second (and final) year of studies at HUB. Other activities: accompanied a group of students (first and second year students) to Belgrade where the students were engaging in street evangelism; traveled with the Director and students to Bosnia-Herzegovina; preached at an evangelical church in Brčko at Church of God in Belgrade.

SERBIA 2: HUB Bible School – April 20 through May 5, 2012

David was asked to returned to Serbia a second time, to teach two additional courses: “Biblical Counseling” and “Spiritual Warfare,” to second year students. Other activities: preached at Church of God and at a relatively new church-plant in Belgrade.

GHANA: Pastors’ Conferences – July 15 through July 30, 2012

1. “Beyond Suffering” training, Abokobi, Ghana (July 16–19). Pastors’ conference planned by Joni and Friends to run concurrently with the Family Retreat. David team taught with Walter Augustine, from BIOLA University. This four-day training was for pastors and church leaders, some from Torch Ministries–Ghana, and a few professors from Ghana Christian University College and Trinity Seminary.
2. Christian Social Ministries Seminar, Accra (July 24). One-day seminar arranged by Dr. Thomas Oruro, President of Good News College and Seminary, with whom we have worked several times since 2000. Teaching was shared with Dr. David Johnson from Calvary Church in Minnesota. Primary focus was of disability and HIV/AIDS.
3. Christian Social Ministries Conference, Cape Coast, (July 25–28). Conference arranged by Millicent Asuamah, a pastor at Emmanuel Methodist Church of Christ in Cape Coast, Ghana. Teaching time was again shared with Dr. David Johnson. The focus was on disability ministry and HIV/AIDS as a model for church involvement in social ministry. It was also designed to encourage Millicent’s new ministry to widows (“God’s Action Ministry”).

VANCOUVER, WA: Meeting with Missionaries from Cameroon – October 3–4, 2012

Quick trip the Vancouver, WA, to meet with Jake and Holly Schilinski and family. The Schilinskis are missionaries in Cameroon with “Win Our Nation” whom we knew from our time in Cameroon (2007-2009). Their ministry includes Helping Hands Children’s Home, which serves orphans, and Faith Bible School to train pastors. The Schilinkis were home on furlough and seeking to increase their support base. We met with them to discuss the possibility of returning to Cameroon to teach at Faith Bible School.

OTHER MINISTRY ACTIVITY

Completed work on *Toward a Theology of Special Education: Integrating Faith and Practice*, which has been published by WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson.

Initiated revision and expansion of *Reaching Out and Bringing In*, which deals with disability ministry and is designed to be used as a workbook accompanying David’s teaching to pastors and church leaders, or to be used for individual study. This will also be published by WestBow Press. Hopefully, this will be available by the beginning of summer, 2013.

Mentoring (via email) Marjia Gorgieva, a student from HUB. “Teaching” a course to help her understand how God has designed and gifted her for ministry. The course (DESIGN) helps her reflect on her **D**esires, **E**xperiences, **S**kills, **I**ndividuality, and **G**ifts in order to determine her **N**iche for service. This mentoring arose out of a conversation with Marjia last May.

PLANS FOR 2013

1. “Beyond Suffering” training in Ghana (with Joni and Friends), February 2–17, 2013. (**Ticketed**)
2. Conference at BIOLA University: “Justice, Spirituality and Education.” March 15–17, 2013. (Tentative, depending on acceptance of proposal)
3. 2012 International Christian Community for Teacher Education (ICCTE) Regional Conference (Pacific Northwest) at George Fox University, Newberg, OR: “Developing Educators: Engaging in a Diverse World.” May 28–30, 2013.
4. Disability ministry teaching in Nairobi, Kenya, July 2013. (Still be set up; may include teacher-training as well).
5. Other possibilities include Serbia (teaching at HUB Bible School); Ukraine (pastors’ conference); something in connection with Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International (United Kingdom).

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