

CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2013 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on January 26, 2013

MINISTRY TRIPS:

GHANA: Pastors' Conference – February 2–17, 2013*

Course taught: "Beyond Suffering: A Christian View of Disability Ministry." Team-taught with Ben Rhodes, from Joni and Friends International Disability Center/Christian Institute on Disability. The basic conference was a 4-day program attended by 25–30 pastors and church leaders including two from Togo and one from Liberia. One additional day was spent with faculty members from several universities and seminaries to overview the Beyond Suffering material and discuss its inclusion in their curricula. The second week was "second generation training" attended by 8 of those who had been at the Beyond Suffering conference, who are considered significant national leaders. This resulted in the adoption of a document entitled "Including the Excluded: A Clarion Call to the Church to Reach and Welcome Persons with Disabilities." While in Ghana, a 1 ½ hour presentation on disability ministry was made to students and faculty of Trinity Seminary.

SERBIA: HUB Bible School – May 7–14, 2013

Taught a course on the Book of Acts to first year students at the seminary. Preached at two churches outside of Belgrade. Sunday was spent with the students at an annual event sponsored by Serbia's social ministries—a "celebration of tolerance" designed to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community.

KENYA #1: Karen Community Church/Eva Naputuni Consultants – June 28–July 22, 2013

1. Presented a 3-day seminar for church leaders on disability ministry. Eleven persons from Karen Community Church, and two from Nairobi Baptist Church attended.
2. Presented seminars on aspects of special education and inclusion at a private school in Naivasha, a Presbyterian school in Ooloolua which has begun serving children with disabilities, and teachers from Oshwal School in Nairobi.
3. Preached at Karen Community Church on the diverse nature of the people of God. The intent was to help KCC focus on ministering to persons affected by disability in the neighboring community.

LIBERIA: Military Baptist Church Pastors' Conferences – August 23–September 1, 2013

1. The primary aspect of this ministry trip was to present a conference on disability ministry for pastors and leaders in the Military Baptist Church Association. This was a 3-day conference attended by nearly 100 persons, mostly from the Monrovia area.
2. A second "mini-conference" was held in Gbah, about 1 ½ hours outside of Monrovia. This mini-conference also focused on disability awareness and ministry. About 50–60 people attended, including several who had disabilities.
3. Preached on three evenings at various churches in and around Monrovia during their "revival week." Over 100 persons came to Christ through this ministry.

KENYA #2: Nairobi Baptist Church – November 24–December 2, 2013

In 2009, David had presented at Nairobi Baptist Church's first conference on disability. One of the attendees at the Karen Community Church seminar asked David to return to Kenya in November 2013 to speak at the annual 4-day conference on disability ministry at NBC, using the "Beyond Suffering" material from Joni and Friends. NBC has a close association with Joni and Friends and is the vehicle through which wheelchair outreaches in Kenya are done. The 35 attendees included pastors and church leaders, several persons with disabilities, and a group of six pastors from a church in Tanzania where NBC had distributed 10 wheelchairs one month prior to this conference.

*All dates are inclusive of travel days

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Biola University: March 15–17, 2013

Biola University's 2nd annual Justice, Spirituality, and Education Conference. Presentation entitled "*Justice, the Gospel, and People with Disabilities.*" [Paper to be published electronically in Biola's *Justice, Spirituality and Education Journal*, 2014]

ICCTE–George Fox University: May 28–31, 2013

Regional conference of Christian teacher-educators, with the theme "Developing Educators: Engaging in a Diverse World." Presented at a "roundtable discussion" focusing on education and diversity, specifically on practical theology and special education.

Dordt College: October 31–November 2, 2013

The 2013 Andreas Center Conference: "Responsive To, Reaching Out: The Task and Impact of Christian Education." Presentation entitled "*The task and impact of Christian education in creating an inclusive worldview.*" [Paper requested by *Christian Educator's Journal* for potential publication in 2014]

OTHER MINISTRY ACTIVITY

Completed *Reaching Out and Bringing In: Ministry to and with Persons with Disabilities*, published by WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson. This book, designed to be used as a workbook accompanying teaching of pastors and church leaders or for individual study, was the basis of David's teaching in Kenya (July) and Liberia (August).

PLANS FOR 2014

1. Invited to speak to students and faculty in education at Calvin College, and principals and administrators in Christian schools. Also to meet with leaders of the Christian Learning Center network of Christian schools which seek to run inclusive programs. January 19-22, 2014. Focus on presentation is on interdependence and inclusion in schools.
2. Will be presenting at the ICCTE bi-annual conference at Redeemer University College, Hamilton, Ontario, May 28–June 1, 2014. Presentation: "*Beauty and the Disabled*"
3. Invitation to lead pastors' conference on disability ministry in Kigoma, Tanzania in early July 2014.
4. Invitation to return to Liberia for pastors' conference in early November.
5. Possibility of participation in a retreat for families affected by disability in Kenya in early August.

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