

CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on February 15, 2015

MINISTRY TRIPS:

Notes:

1. Fewer ministry trips were completed in 2014 than in past years do to reduction in contributions to Crossing Bridges. Thank you to those board members who have helped financially support the ministry.
2. Planned ministry in Tanzania was canceled by the host church in Kigoma due to situation changes. The church's desire to hold a disability awareness and ministry conference in the future remains strong. This will be arranged as our support allows, although ministries with which we have a "history" are given a higher priority.
3. Planned ministry in Liberia was canceled due to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. This will be rescheduled when the crisis has ended and funds allow.

SERBIA: May 7–14, 2014

David returned to HUB Bible School to teach a course on the Book of Acts to the first year students.

KENYA: July 5–13, 2014

Through our long-term partnership with Eva Naputuni Consultancy, arrangements were made for David to: (1) revisit a private Christian school in Naivasha (where he had taught on special education previously) to observe classes for children with special needs and give encouragement to the teachers; (2) present seminars on inclusive education for the Kensington Headmistress Association and for Logos Christian School in Nairobi; (3) do a mini conference on disability ministry to the pastoral staff at Karen Community Church.

UKRAINE: October 23–November 3, 2014

David was part of a team from the U.S., which presented a two-day church leadership conference in Cherkassy. His topic was "Living Our Theology," and focused on several of Jesus' parables. David also preached at a small house-church near Zolotonosha, visited the Christian Youth Center, and met with leaders of the Baptist Union in Cherkassy. While in Cherkassy, David visited several programs for people with disabilities, HIV, recovering addicts, or refugees with which the Baptist Union works. He also met with pastors and leaders of a village church which has a significant ministry to people with special needs (disability, widows, etc.), visited several families directly affected by disability, and preached in Calvary Church in Cherkassy, which has a strong, intentional ministry to families dealing with disability.

PRESENTATIONS:

CALVIN COLLEGE CONFERENCE/TEACHING: January 19–22, 2014

David was invited to be a guest speaker for an interim course (DisAbility: Beyond Suffering) at Calvin College and at a seminar on disability issues for faculty and students from various programs at Calvin and representatives from the Christian Learning Center. Topics presented were "Interdependence and Inclusion" and "Ministry to and with Persons with Disabilities Outside the U.S." While there, David toured Grand Rapids Christian Elementary and Middle Schools to observe their successful inclusion programs. As a result of meeting with persons from the Christian Learning Center, which promotes and supports inclusive education, David was asked to contribute (three times) to the CLC blog, "Making us Whole."

ICCTE CONFERENCE: Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Ontario – May 27-June 1, 2014

The biennial conference on the International Christian Community for Teacher Education had as its theme "Teaching in Context: Faithful Presence and Practice." David presented two papers: "*Beauty and Disability*," and "*Special Education as Practical Theology*."

OTHER MINISTRY ACTIVITY:

1. A contract was signed with Sigma Press, in Seoul, Korea, for *Toward a Theology of Special Education: Integrating Faith and Practice* to be translated into Korean and published for use at Korean Nazareth University.
2. *Reaching Out and Bringing In: Ministry to and with Persons with Disabilities* is being translated into Russian for use in Ukraine and Serbia. This may be published as an e-book to keep the costs down. A few print copies will be given to those in Ukraine most directly involved in disability ministry and to HUB Bible School.
3. One paper presented at the ICCTE Conference in May, "Special Education as Practical Theology," has been published in the most recent issue of *Journal of the Christian Institute on Disability*. The second paper, "Beauty and Disability," will appear in the premiere issue of *International Journal on Christianity and Education*, due out later in 2015.
4. The paper presented in 2013 at the Andreas Center, Dordt College Conference, "The task and impact of Christian education in creating an inclusive worldview," was published in *Christian Educators Journal*.
5. George Fox University (OR) invited David to meet with Education Department faculty and representatives of Chongqing University of Education. The two universities have signed a "Memorandum of Cooperation." There is the possibility that David will travel to Chongqing as a representative of George Fox University to teach on special education in the future.

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