

CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2018 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on February 17, 2019

MINISTRY DURING 2018

Serbia — April 6– 21(HUB Bible School)

1. Teaching:

Taught two full courses to second year students: Beyond Suffering (a disability ministry course based on material produced by Joni and Friends) and Spiritual Warfare. I have taught these two courses at HUB "regularly" for the past several years. Since plans to spend time with missionary friends, Greg and Jelena Sivulka, had to be canceled, Sladjan Milenkovic, Director of HUB, requested that I teach an "abbreviated" version of a course I have taught at HUB in that past: A Theology of Christian Education (also to the second year students).

As in past years, those in the courses were competent students, eager to serve the Lord. One young man displayed mild autistic characteristics, and a second student acknowledged having been considered autistic as a young child and expressed an interest in working with younger children with disabilities.

2. Preaching:

Lalic Baptist Church (about two hours north of Opovo, where HUB is located).

Presented a devotional message at a home fellowship meeting at Sladjan's house in Opovo.

Minnesota — June 27–July 2

1. "Friend/Fund Raising" Giving a report to Dr. Vonn Dornbush, Impact Pastor (i.e., missions) at Calvary Church (Roseville, MN) along with several members of the missions committee. Calvary Church commissioned us as career missionaries in 2007 and continues to support Crossing Bridges' activity (Kenyan Family Retreats).
2. Bethel University: David's first book, Toward a Theology of Special Education: Integrating Faith and Practice, has been adopted by Bethel University's graduate special education program as required reading. David was asked to come to Bethel so that two short videos could be made regarding (a) the creation and history of special education at Bethel, and (b) an "interview with the author."

David has also been asked to serve as dissertation advisor for doctoral students whose research focuses on special education.

Kenya — August 10–22

1. King's Ambassadors Church (Nairobi): preaching and disability ministry training (August 12)
2. Acorn Special Tutorials: workshop on understanding and working with gifted and talented students (August 13–14)
4. Acorn Special Tutorials: training of volunteers who would be helping at the family retreat (August 15)
5. Brackenhurst Conference Center: fourth annual family retreat for families dealing with disabilities (August 17–19). Family leaders (moms) and at least one of the children were given an "In-Touch Messenger," a small device containing the Bible in English and Swahili and a few sermons from Charles Stanley. These were provided at no cost by In Touch Ministries.

As a result of Lucy's injury at the retreat (fractured leg), Crossing Bridges provided some funds to cover the medical expenses.

Ukraine — October 30–November 6

1. Kremenchug Evangelical Seminary: as an outcome of David's work in Ukraine in October 2017, David was invited by the Director of KES, Ivan Ovcharenko, to teach the seminary's first course on Christian social ministry (which focused primarily on disability). Students had available for purchase or library loan, copies of David's book, Reaching Out and Bringing In: Ministry to and with Persons with Disabilities, which has been translated and published in Russian by Smyrna Publishers (Cherkassy, Ukraine) under the title: To Reach and Accept: The Value

of Special People [courtesy of READ Ministries¹, Cambridge, MN]. Approximately 20 persons took the course, mostly people with a direct connection to disability (a family member with a disability, working with a disability ministry, working with a community service for people with disabilities).

OTHER MINISTRY-RELATED ACTIVITY:

1. David is now a member of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office Advisory Board for the Christian Learning Center. CLC focuses on helping Christian schools include students with disabilities
 2. David's third book, *Forty Days: Finding Refuge in the Arc from the Storms of Disability*, has been published by WestBow Press. This is a devotional/Bible study primarily for families dealing with disability (though it would be helpful for those who work in special education as well). There is potential for this book to also be translated and published in Russian by Smyrna Publishers.
 3. Authored two articles for *One-to-Another*, the electronic journal of Master's International University of Divinity on "Divine Appointments."
 4. Authored an article titled "The ethic of care in inclusive education," published in the *International Community of Christians in Teach Education Journal*. ICCTE intends to reprint this article in a book tentatively titled "How then shall we care: A Christian educator's guide to caring for self, learners, colleagues, and community."
 5. The *International Community of Christians in Teacher Education Journal* has previously published an article David wrote titled "The teacher as servant leader" (2013). ICCTE plans to republish this article, along with an update titled "The teacher as servant leader—Revisited," a Spring 2019 special issue of the *ICCTE Journal* "as means of sharing the heritage of the journal and honoring past authors' work" (editor's words).
 6. Ongoing association with Master's International University of Divinity as Program Developer and Director for the M.A. Certificate in Disabilities Ministry.
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PLANNED/POTENTIAL MINISTRY ACTIVITY FOR 2019

1. Planned:
 - Kenya: Acorn Special Tutorials [April]
 - Bridge Disability Ministry's conference: "Diversity in Unity—Imagining our Faith Communities Differently" [May]
 - 5th annual Kenyan Family Retreat [August]
2. Potential:
 - Conference at Lexington Christian Academy (Frisco, TX): "Powerful Practices: Implementing Deeper Learning in Christian Schools" [March]
 - Teaching at HUB [April?]
 - Teaching at Kremenchug Evangelical Seminary [April?]
 - Conference at Calvin College: ICCTE interest group related to the potential book on care [May]
 - Acorn Special Tutorials [December]

¹READ: Resources and Evangelism and Discipleship. READ works in Ukraine and several other countries of the former Soviet Union.