

CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on March 1, 2020

MINISTRY DURING 2019

Kenya and Ukraine — April 4–25

1. Kenya
 - A. Teaching:

Acorn Special Tutorials / Riara University (Nairobi) — Acorn has entered a partnership agreement with Riara University to provide special education training for teachers (mostly from private Christian schools). My teaching assignment was autism, learning disabilities, and gifted and talented. There were approximately 50 participants. This was a five-day training.

Pebbles Academy (Thika) — Three days of training on learning difficulties to teachers from Pebbles and from Acorn.
 - B. Reunion with retreat families — Held at Eva’s home on Sunday. Led a short worship service before lunch, followed by a time of activity for the children while I met with the moms so they could share what God has been doing in their lives since our last meeting.
2. Ukraine — taught a “short course” (three days) focusing on Christian ministry to families dealing with disability at Kremenchug Evangelical Seminary.

Kenya — August 8–21

1. Preaching: King’s Ambassadors Church (Nairobi) — preaching at the morning service followed by additional disability ministry teaching in the afternoon.
2. Teaching: Two days of teaching to administrators and teachers from private Christian schools at Riara. Focus was on understanding disability from the perspective of neurodiversity and on inclusion of children with disabilities in regular classes.
3. Family retreat: One day of training for volunteers; three days at the family retreat. Our primary responsibility was meeting with parents for encouragement and “follow up.” The theme for the retreat was from Psalm 96:1, “Sing a new song to the Lord. Let the whole earth sing to the Lord.”

Ukraine and Kenya — November 14–December 2

1. Ukraine
 - A. Conference: “Reliable Access,” drawing from Mark 2 (through the roof). Sponsored by Mission to Ukraine, the conference was held in Zhytomer, Ukraine. My assigned topic for the large group presentation was Reliable Access to Enhanced Vision, focusing on a theology of belonging. For the small group session, the topic was Aspects of Social (Disability) Ministry.

Copies of two of David’s books, published in Russian by Smirna Publishers, Cherkassy, were available at the conference: “To Reach and Accept: The Value of Special Persons,” and “Forty Days: Finding Refuge in the Ark from the Storms of Disability.”
 - B. Preaching: Morning service: Resurrection Church. Afternoon: Nativity Church (Christmas Church).
 2. Kenya
 - A. Preaching: November 24 — King’s Ambassadors Church (AM) followed by teaching on disability ministry (PM). December 1 — at Karen Community Church (both morning services)
 - B. Teaching: Riara / Acorn — five days of teaching on specific disabilities and neurodiversity.
 - C. Reunion with retreat families: at Acorn, following church, to further encourage the families.
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OTHER MINISTRY-RELATED ACTIVITY:

1. David continues to serve on the Pacific Northwest Regional Advisory Board for the Christian Learning Center (now called "All Belong. Center for Inclusive Education").
2. Authored a chapter titled "The ethic of care in inclusive education," included in a book titled "How then shall we care: A Christian educator's guide to caring for self, learners, colleagues, and community." The International Community of Christians in Teach Education has arranged for the book to be published by Wipf & Stock publishers and should be available by spring 2020.

If you would like to know more of the book, go to howshallwethencare.com/

3. Attended a conference at Westminster Chapel, Bellevue, on May 15 — "Disability in Ministry: Imagining our Faith Communities Differently." Speakers at the conference were from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI.
 4. Collaborating with Bill Munson, Spiritual Connections Coordinator, Bridge Disability Ministries, on a project entitled Beacon Church Initiative, funded by Calvin Institute on Worship. This project involves a series of "table talks" at various churches in the area. David presented at the first meeting on the topic "Toward a Theology of Belonging," held at Crossroads Bible Church on October 17.
 5. Continued association with Master's International University of Divinity as Program Developer and Director for the M.A. Certificate in Disabilities Ministry.
 6. Now taking courses from Master's International University of Divinity (Evansville, IN) leading to a Doctor of Practical Theology degree.
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PLANNED/POTENTIAL MINISTRY ACTIVITY FOR 2019

1. Planned:
Kenya: Acorn Special Tutorials [April]
6th annual Kenyan Family Retreat [August]
2. Potential: Teaching at Kremenchug Evangelical Seminary
Kenya: Acorn Special Tutorials [December]