

# MISSIONS UPDATE

Fall 2016

*Helping people know and love Jesus*

## CCCC to donate \$9,600 to Pibel Bible Camp

**TO DATE, YOU HAVE GIVEN \$96,868.04** TO Clay Center Christian Church through the Special Offering of Thanksgiving! It is amazing to witness your faith in action through this act of worship.

The Special Offering of Thanksgiving was taken up on Sunday, November 20, during the Worship Service. However, it's never too late to give more toward this special offering if you feel led to do so.

Of the total amount given through the Special Offering of Thanksgiving, 10% will be donated to the Pibel Bible Camp near Erickson, Neb., for a much-needed septic system replacement. To date, this would mean that more than \$9,600 will be going to Pibel Bible Camp!

Pibel Bible Camp is one of CCCC's regional missions partners, bringing youth who have completed grades 2-12 from across the state into a relationship with Christ and helping them grow in their faith. Many children and students from CCCC have participated in Pibel Bible camps over the years since its founding in 1939. Learn more about Pibel Bible Camp at [pibellbiblecamp.org](http://pibellbiblecamp.org).

*SPECIAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...*



### CCCC Missions Partners

Missions support is an integral part of Clay Center Christian Church. We believe that missions work is vital toward the expansion of God's Kingdom. We want to serve the world through missions—giving people from all walks of life, circumstances, and different cultures the opportunity to experience God's saving grace, love and compassion.

A total of 9% of our offerings go directly toward missions. Our Missions Ministry Team allocates funds and develops ongoing partnerships with our missions partners:

#### International

- Hands of Compassion (Asia)
- Kulpahar Kids' Home (India)
- New Beginnings Ministry Center (Webuye, Kenya)
- South Pacific Christian Fellowship (New Zealand, Australia)

#### Regional

- Christian Student Fellowship
- Crossroads International Student Ministries
- Deaf Missions
- Nebraska Christian College
- Pibel Bible Camp

#### Local

- Clay County Food Pantry
- Clay County Giving Tree
- Miriam's Hope
- Sandy Creek Backpack Program
- Wellspring Pregnancy + Health Center

You are invited to join our Missions Ministry Team, or be involved through prayer, by volunteering with any of our local missions partners, or joining us on mission trips. For more information, contact Team Leader Monica Whitmore at 719-568-1697 or [joyfulmj@hotmail.com](mailto:joyfulmj@hotmail.com).

**SPECIAL OFFERING**  
of  
**THANKSGIVING**

The remaining amount of the Special Offering of Thanksgiving will be applied to the CCCC building loan.

### Celebrating Steps in Faith

The annual Special Offering of Thanksgiving began in 2008 as an opportunity to honor God by remembering the monumental undertaking it was to step out in faith and trust in His vision for CCCC.

On this 10th anniversary since the construction of the current building, let's take a moment to reflect on those steps of faith:



**In 1995**, it became apparent that the space of the former church building was not adequate for the growing church family and the Elders agreed to form a building committee to draft a plan for moving forward.

**In 1997**, a building feasibility study concluded that the church family was in agreement with the Building Committee's plan to move forward. The hope was to have a new building underway within 10

years. The project was called "The Next Step for the Next Generation."

**In 2001**, CCCC took a very difficult—yet significant—step of faith by making the decision to enter a Capital Stewardship Campaign. Until 2001, the church family struggled to raise \$47,000 for the building fund. It was a challenge to know how to proceed, and on another step of faith, the Elders hired a stewardship

minister to teach the church family about what God says about money. The faithful tithing and offering that followed added another \$750,000 over the next 6 years for the new building fund, as well as

increasing the general fund to \$188,000—increasing confidence in the church family's ability to meet monthly building loan payments while balancing ministry needs, as well as greatly reducing the amount of the overall building loan needed.

**In 2005**, ground was broke for the new church building.

**By 2006**, the current church building was under construction—and among

## Miriam's Hope nearly ready for first family

Miriam's Hope in Hastings, Neb., is now its own 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and the first apartment will be finished soon.



Learn more at the Miriam's Hope Facebook page.

There are several families interested in moving in and taking part of this ministry, which will require qualifying families—those at risk of losing their children to the foster care system—to move into apartments onsite in order to full participate in a Christ-centered family rehabilitation program. The current building will have 2 apartments downstairs and a kitchen/classroom/chapel, children's room, laundry room, meeting room, and offices upstairs. There is hope for expansion to accommodate more families in the future.

The fundraising BBQ in October raised awareness locally, and Miriam's Hope CEO Luke Kliewer has been talking to many people interested in giving their time to the ministry. Monetary donations are always needed, as well.

Continue praying as we seek God's direction and timing.

SPECIAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

## Hands of Compassion shares requests for changed Muslim hearts

A Pir is an Islamic spiritual guide. They are usually charismatic and have a large following. Many people go to them for healing or to get "spiritual power." A businessman invited S. on a trip recently to tour parts of a Pir's organization, and S. was able to have a discussion about Jesus. Pray for further kingdom entry into this Pir.

Also, pray for A.'s full recovery and that every promise she has had would be fulfilled without delay or hindrance. A's recovery is essential to release S. into more ministry, and A. would like to have a ministry of her own.

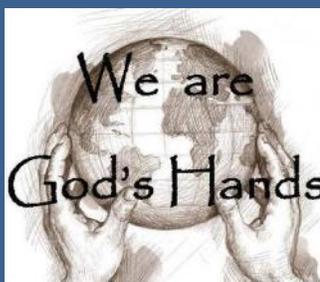
Pray for the team, for each of us to find many opportunities to show ourselves as people of God so that we can identify the people whom God has prepared and are looking for a spiritual answer to life's issues. They are the catalysts that will bring about

what we believe will be large movements of family and social units into the Kingdom of Jesus.

Pray for S.'s recovery of his foot, for the opening to start training for Christians in the capital city, and for his mentoring relationship with G.

Pray for the oppressed minority Muslims in Myanmar, Burma—the Rohingya—who are being systematically exterminated and pushed out of their homeland of 800-plus years by the Buddhist majority. They are said to be the most persecuted people at present in the whole world. J&S are also involved in translating the Scripture into their language.

Pray for Muslims to be stirred up and find Jesus. Pray that the forces of darkness



that hold these people captive in lies and witchcraft would be effectively silenced, and that a pathway for the truth might find its intended target in their hearts.

Pray for a movement of women to find Jesus. We have believed for years that this is

the next goal. Pray for the women of the team to be able to penetrate women's social units. P. has made some inroads in this. She and L. are teamed up again, which seems to be really effectively enhancing both of their giftings. Pray that the one key woman would be discovered in order to start the ball rolling.

So blessed for all who pray for us—this is the real strength of any ministry and has been ours for nearly 40 years.

exciting changes to fulfill the then-church mission of “Glorifying God by Making and Maturing Disciples,” including a new ministry-focus leadership style and growth of ministries.

In 2007, CCCC moved into the current building. In our continued steps of faith, we have not only made its regular monthly payments on the building loan while expanding its ministry reach, but we have also been able to continue to reduce CCCC’s debt – shortening the time until the building mortgage is paid and CCCC is able to free those financial resources for even greater ministry purposes.

In 2008, CCCC began the Special Offering of Thanksgiving, which has made a huge financial impact on paying down the debt.

SPECIAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

## South Pacific news



South Pacific Christian Fellowship in New Zealand and Australia report progress with their latest 2 church plants. The teams in place are working on church names and logos, researching meeting locations, and completing all the paperwork required to be recognized as a church. Please pray for them as they work through these steps. Learn more at [www.crossroadsinternational.net](http://www.crossroadsinternational.net).

Randy and Miki Brooks, who visited CCCC earlier this year, are leaving for New Zealand on January 22. They are in need of financial support to cover more of their relocation expenses. Consider helping.

## Wellspring holds BBQ

Wellspring Pregnancy + Health Center in Hastings, Neb., had a good turnout for its fundraising BBQ in October. It was a financial success for the pro-life ministry.



Learn more at the Wellspring Facebook page or at [www.wellspringhastings.com](http://www.wellspringhastings.com).

## Kulpahar Kids’ Home in India shares praise of attitude and health

Kulpahar Kids’ Home is very grateful for your prayers, your love, and support of God’s Kingdom work here with Christ’s Kids. Learn more at [kulpaharkidshomeschool.org](http://kulpaharkidshomeschool.org)

We are sharing a couple praises with you today:

- ◆ **An Attitude of Acceptance**—We had previously requested prayer for a Judge who was to come here and question us. Word is that he harbors no problem toward Christians at this time! God has answered our prayers. The Judge did come here for a visit and said he was very pleased with the hostels.
- ◆ **Our Health**—Sharon’s last post-op check-up was good regarding her eyes. She’s good to go for another 6 months. Linda’s cardiologist was pleased with her heart tests, and her rheumatologist has provided her with good medications for her arthritis. God is good!



### Prayer Requests

We thank you for your prayers and have these additional requests:

- **Girls’ Safety**—A truck stop has opened up across the road from our girls’ compound gate. Truck stops here often attract a lot of activities that could be dangerous for our hostel girls walking up and down the road to church and school. So far, we have not had any problems, but pray that it continues to be safe.
- **Academic Test Scores**—Our mid-term exams were not good, especially for the 9th and 10th grades. These test results have to be sent to the Central Board of

Education. Please pray that our staff is better able to help each of our 391 students this year.

- **Paying Staff**—The government has approved a 7th Pay Commission for all government employees, and it’s only a matter of time before our affiliation expects us to increase our staff’s pay, too. However, this pay increase is 2.5 times greater than our current 6th Pay Commission, and we are struggling just to pay the 6th Pay Commission now!
- **Government-Mandated Hindu Education Plan**—A new education plan has been proposed by the Central Government that would force us to infuse Hindu teachings into our

curriculum, such as reading Hindu scripture and practicing yoga. Pray that this education plan does not affect minority schools. We joined other minority schools in our district in writing a letter for the Central Government and the National Minority Commission.

- **World Christian Convention**—The World Christian Church/Churches of Christ Convention will be in Damoh, India, in January. The topic will be on unity. India needs this so much with its widely diverse population of Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, and other religions and especially the deeply embedded caste system.

In 2016, our building loan as of October was \$465,847.75. Had we only made our scheduled payments, and not paid down our principal balance through the Special Offering of Thanksgiving, we would still owe approximately \$850,000.

**"FAITH IS TAKING THE FIRST STEP EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T SEE THE WHOLE STAIRCASE."**

- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Kenya. The 2015 recipient was Deaf Missions to help fund a new girls' dorm.

**The Future**

It is with excitement that CCCC anticipates the day when we have \$72,000 a year going toward ministry instead of building payments! We have many projects on hold as we wait for the

finances to be available so we can move ahead, and we are excited to be able to give more toward our missions partners.

In the mean time, we trust God's timing and we praise Him for His blessings. Thank you so much for giving to this year's Special Offering of Thanksgiving!

**Missions Tithes**

In 2014, CCCC began tithing the annual Special Offering of Thanksgiving so that 10% of the total special offering amount is given toward a special project of a CCCC missions partner at the discretion of the Missions Ministry Team.

The 2014 recipient was the New Beginnings church plant in Webuye,

**Crossroads' vision**

Crossroads International Student Ministries thanks everyone for their prayers and gifts. More churches have caught the vision. Pray that new ministries are able to begin around the nation. Learn more at [www.crossroadsinternational.net](http://www.crossroadsinternational.net).



**Nebraska Christian College merger done**

The merger of Nebraska Christian College with Hope International University is now completed. Please pray for a continued smooth transition. It gets more exciting all the time. Learn more at [nechristian.edu](http://nechristian.edu).



**Christian Student Fellowship explains your impact on the world**

What exactly happens when someone gives to Christian Student Fellowship? The world becomes a better place!

It really is about more than that the world of a college student becomes a better place. Students are asking big questions about purpose and meaning. Our staff and student leaders get a chance to share life with them, and along the way we get to share the love, truth, and purpose of Jesus with them. The Kingdom of God expands, and the world of a student is never the same again!

The world of the university campus gets better. Each of the 8 campuses CSF works on are impacted by students who are being challenged each week to live "on mission" in everything they do. In the dorms, the classroom, and even on the team, they are challenged and equipped to share life with others. Students are invited into a place where they can belong, and our hope is that will lead them to believe.

A seed gets planted in the life of an international student from China, India, or Saudi Arabia. Imagine the impact they could



have on the world if they return to their country with the hope of Jesus! The world literally becomes a better place!

Schools, corporations, hospitals, nonprofits, and government offices of the future become better as today's students are challenged to live and work with integrity and see their vocation as their mission field. What could happen when Christian workers in all these fields work with integrity and see their workplace as their mission field!

The Church becomes better as future leaders are being raised up. Tomorrow's youth leaders, small group leaders, elders,

and Church staff members are sitting in the college classroom today. As we help them grow in their faith, each of our local churches become stronger!

That seems like a lot, but I'd like to remind you of one more effect: I believe your world becomes a better place, as you get the opportunity to impact the lives of these future leaders. Something special happens when we pool the resources God has entrusted us with in order to make something great happen! God uses our gifts in a powerful way to impact the world for eternity. Learn more at [csfneb.org](http://csfneb.org).



**31371 Woodland Road, P.O. Box 183, Clay Center, NE 68933**

**(402) 762-3824 | [office@ccchristian.org](mailto:office@ccchristian.org)**

**Office hours: 9 am-3 pm Monday-Thursday, 9 am-12 pm Friday**

Lead Pastor: Kevin Whitmore, 719-568-0154, [kevin@ccchristian.org](mailto:kevin@ccchristian.org)

Family Life Pastor: Nathan Brands, 417-434-7237, [nathan@ccchristian.org](mailto:nathan@ccchristian.org)