

## Director of Missions Report



As my fifth year as your DOM is coming to a close, we are still working steadfastly toward fulfilling the vision set forth during my first year. Partnering together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout Southeast Missouri to the ends of the earth has led us to Filipino communities in a half a dozen towns in SEMO, including Cape/Jackson, the training of 22 leaders in the churches of El Salvador, as well as to a new work in a small, multi-national church in Belluno Italy. We are seeing God respond to our faithful obedience to His vision by opening doors and providing the resources necessary for us to proceed in the work He has called us to engage.

For this vision to be fully realized however, we must be increasingly focused on developing our strategy to equip and empower our churches to make disciples of all peoples. It is through the local, day to day, week after week activity of making disciples that leaders emerge who are able to extend our efforts even as they facilitate the growth of our own local churches. This strategy is the key to healthy local churches as well as new churches among those who currently do not have a gospel witness. In a world where it is so easy to become distracted, we must not lose our focus. We must continue to evaluate our worship, our preaching, our Bible study groups, our programs, every activity we engage in during the year, and honestly determine which ones are effective in leading people to Christ and growing them to maturity in Him. Sometimes this results in changes, possibly even joining with another church to maximize workers and resources as we saw with two churches in our association this year.

Ultimately our success will be determined by our putting God's vision above our own individual and corporate desires. We are stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. We will give an account one day for how we have used these resources to advance His Kingdom. It is my hope that when he examines our service, He will say "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

With this as our goal, we are seeking to make some changes this coming year in our camp programming while we also expand our missions efforts. We intend to have a Spring Youth Camp which will focus on missions training followed by our summer camps which will provide a strong missions education element through the daily Bible study. We will draw heavily from the WMU RA/GA curriculum for our teaching materials. By utilizing these specific materials we hope to see churches incorporate missions education again in their weekly children and youth ministries. For the Kingdom of God to advance to the ends of the earth, we must instill this vision and mission into the lives of our children as well as our adult members.

Our mission efforts are expanding in terms of new partnerships as well as in providing services to the churches in areas such as assessment, selection of partnerships, setting goals and objectives for mission partnerships, and developing plans to fulfill those goals. We can also provide logistical services as churches plan their mission trips,

including flight ticketing and purchase of travel insurance. If there is any type of assistance that you require in taking the gospel to those beyond your local church, please call and schedule a time for us to discuss this.

It is a great privilege to serve as your Director of Missions. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

For the Glory of God,  
John Vernon  
Director of Missions