

GOD IS MOVING IN IRAQ

This past February and March, Central took their eighth mission trip to Iraq to work with refugees, government officials, church leaders and the Peshmerga army. They took relief, Bibles and an encouraging message of the hope of Christ, to this troubled nation.

Our missionary, Jamal, his son, Fadi, and Randy went a week before the rest of the team, during which time Randy performed in two outreach concerts with a local Kurdish orchestra. He also had opportunities to share his faith with members of the orchestra. One of the concerts was even carried live on Kurdish TV.

Randy was joined by Central elder, Larry Kindbom, the head football coach at Washington University in St. Louis. Larry led an American football camp for refugee kids for two nights and he was interviewed for local television about the camp and his work in Iraq. Randy and Larry were joined by David Harden, a college friend of Randy's from Washington, DC. It was a great trip and God moved even in the midst of war and turmoil in that area. The team met with members of Parliament and talked about the desire for the Kurds to become an independent state in order to remain free and to continue to work with and help the minority religions (Christianity, Jewish, Yazidi and others.) They preached in a local Kurdish church and met with the heads of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian ministries who are working together against ISIS and to support the minority religious groups.

Here's a testimony from Larry Kindbom about his time in Iraq:

I love my Lord. I love people. I love football. I felt the Lord had called me to Iraq on a mission trip to serve him. I did not know what help I could give, but I knew the Lord had called me for a reason. ... It was fun to see people who had never thrown a spiral or run a pass route, much less seen or touched a football. By the time the session ended, we had the groups clapping hands, breaking down, and pointing to the sky on command, shouting "In Him."

My greatest question before I went was "How does one share his faith in Jesus Christ with a Muslim in the Middle East?" ... But with each group that we met, from the refugees to the members of Parliament to the Army generals, came an affirming statement. "Christians are the ones who have stepped forward and helped us, supported us, and loved us. Even our own people do not share the



same support." We saw smiles and trust forming as we sat down with them and let them share their stories. They felt our love and caring, and almost all of them took an Arabic or Kurdish Bible. ... Those who supported this mission saw God turn their investments to reap rewards a hundredfold.

"We shared our faith more in one week than we might in a year, just with our being there – OUR CHRISTIAN PRESENCE."

– Larry Kindbom
(Central elder and head Football coach at Washington University)

Randy will be leading another team to Iraq later this year, please talk to him if you are interested in joining the team or for more information.

Also in this issue...

Missions Weekend.....	p. 2
Albania Update.....	p. 2
1st Quarter Giving.....	p. 3
Throwback Concert	p. 3
2017 Mission Trips.....	p. 4

MISSIONS WEEKEND: SEPT. 29-OCT. 1, 2017 GOD'S MISSION IN CREATION

This year's Missions Weekend will focus on God's Creation with a special Creative Arts seminar led by Mauricio and Diana Palacio from Mexico. The seminar will be limited to 30 people. Some of you may remember Mauricio's wonderful painting during our worship services at last year's mission weekend. In addition to the Creative Arts seminar, Mauricio will do a special presentation for our Sunday School and also paint a "spirit led" piece of art during the 10:45 worship service.

Our special guest preacher on Missions' Sunday is a long-time friend of Central, Dr. Igor Yaremchuk. Since May 2008, Dr. Yaremchuk has served as President of Irpin Seminary in Kiev, Ukraine. (Our Mission's pastor, Randy Mayfield, has taught courses at Irpin and received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from them in 2014. Randy will be returning for a reunion this May).

Other Central missionaries who are planning to attend include the Luciano Pires family from Brazil, Rene & Lani Quimbo from the Philippines and Michael Miller from Honduras as well as many of our local missionaries.

SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY EVENING/ALL-DAY
SATURDAY | SEPT. 29-30

Creative Arts Seminar
with Mauricio & Diana Palacio
(LIMITED TO 30 PEOPLE)

SUNDAY | OCT. 1

Sunday School

Missionaries visit various classes during the 9 am hour

Worship Services

Dr. Igor Yaremchuk preaching at 9am, 10:45am, and 5 pm

Missions Luncheon

12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

CONTACT THE CAROL MULICK, IN THE MISSIONS OFFICE, TO REGISTER!

MISSION TO ALBANIA APRIL 2017

A team from Central just returned from a fruitful mission to Albania to encourage and work alongside our missionaries, Klodi & Migena Licaj and their children, Natani, Junia & Gideon. It was a very busy week meeting with people in the church, attending prayer meetings, doing prison outreach concerts, as well as leadership and worship seminars, preaching, teaching, and sharing one on one with church members.

The mission team consisted of Randy along with Central elder, Andy Gunn and church members Gene Rhodes and Mary Ann Stark. It was a wonderful time of ministering together and praising the Lord in the beautiful country of Albania.

There are very few believers in Albania and the Licaj family is ministering in the town of Berat where they are one of only a few evangelical churches. Please pray for them and for all of the saints who are laboring for the Lord in this former communist and atheistic country.

Thoughts on the trip from our team members:

Team member, Gene Rhodes said, *"The highlights for me were the times of worship and singing, sharing with the church members and believers and seeing all of the smiling faces. I really enjoyed it all!"*

Andy Gunn shared that, *"I was blessed making connection with the youth of the church, especially two young men, Dario and Rimi who showed us the town of Berat and shared their lives with us. It was also a blessing seeing the powerful worship and having fellowship with the members of this church, who are seeking to glorify God!"*

Mary Ann Stark says, *"If you think you'd like to go on a mission trip to teach and bless others, you'd be in for a*

big surprise. The blessings come back to you in seeing their joy in worship and fellowship, exchanging testimony for testimony, hugs for hugs, prayers for prayers: a new vision of the Body of Christ. I can hardly wait for heaven!"



CHECK OUT THE NEW MISSIONS KIOSK
➔ IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ➔

YOUR MISSIONS GIVING IN ACTION

Central Mission's and Outreach receives a number of "above and beyond" special gifts each year that are used to do many outreach ministries that are not covered in our regular budget. We want to be faithful in reporting these funds to you and how they were spent to bless others and to further God's work and kingdom. Please contact Pastor Randy in the Missions office if you have any questions or comments about our distribution of mission special funds.

Since our last report in November of 2016, we have been able to give joyfully and distribute more than **\$121,000** to the following missions and ministries in the last four months. To God be the Glory!!

VOI (Voices of Ishmael - Jamal) **\$20,000**
Ministry to refugees in Iraq for a new van to transport the refugees to the training center for training in various skills and Bible study.

8th church plant in Manipur, India **\$10,000**
This gift will provide for the actual building of the church facility plus the training and hiring of a pastor for 2 years after which time the new church will be self-supporting.

JEO (Jerusalem Evangelistic Outreach- Rami) **\$10,000**
A ministry to missionary families in the field that provides counseling, education and support.

Urban Young Life (John Holmes) **\$4,800**
Scholarships to send city kids to the YL summer camp where many will hear the Gospel and give their lives to Christ.

NEXT (Eric Larson) **\$3,500**
A ministry to missionary families in the field that provides counseling, education and support.

Airfare for the Pires family **\$3,000**
Allowed Luciano to complete his seminary education here in the U.S. and for furlough and support raising for their new calling to Portugal.

Special gift for ministry in Iraq **\$16,000**
Aid for refugees and ministry to the military.

New Year's gift to Rehab Kenyan Elementary School **\$10,000**

Irpin Seminary Scholarships (Igor Yaremchuk) **\$10,000**

African Vision of Hope (girls dorm & housing) **\$10,000**

Special help for EPC Counseling (Chris Gibson) **\$5,000**

Philemon Project (Robert Hamd) **\$5,000**

Crisis Aid International (New Year's gift) **\$5,000**

Ministry in the Philippines (Becky Martin) **\$4,500**

THRIVE (baby bottle campaign) **\$3,300**

Vehicle purchase (Tony Aldamero) **\$3,200**

Ministry expenses (Austin McCaskill) **\$3,000**

Kansas State Student Ministry (Alex Hrbec) **\$2,000**

College outreach in Poland (Bartek Serkowski) **\$2,000**

Conference registration (Filipino teams) **\$2,000**

Refugio Emergency Aid **\$1,500**

Special gift for Jordan refugee relief **\$1,500**

Disciples of Jesus Church **\$1,000**
Christmas outreach ministry to the poor.



We thank each of you for your gifts that have allowed us to do so much that we could not have done otherwise to spread the Word of God and to reach out to the less fortunate in our community and in our world. We have

CENTRAL MISSIONS

A heart for the nations

seen no increase in the overall Mission's budget over the past 10+ years, but God has been faithful to provide through your generous giving and much fruit is being born. We have seen literally hundreds of new believers coming to Christ in recent months!

ROCKIN' TO THE MUSIC OF THE 50's, 60's, & 70's

On Feb. 17th, Randy Mayfield and his All-Star Band performed to a full house at the beautiful Westminster Christian Academy auditorium. The concert featured some of the greatest hits from the 50's, 60's and 70's including hits by Elvis, Johnny Cash, the Beatles, the Bee Gees, the Eagles and even a few hits by Led Zeppelin! If you missed the event, contact the Mission's office and get a hold of the DVD. Tim Mauldin's rockin' guitar solo is worth the price alone! The All Star Band is Linda Gurney on Piano, Tim Mauldin on Lead Guitar, Mike Brandenstein on Bass guitar, Pete Johnson on drums, Carl Sasse on Guitar, Diane Reeves on vocals and Sandy Weltman on Ukelele & Harmonica. Randy holds his own on the guitar and vocals.

The musical event was the annual benefit concert for Central Mission's and Outreach to support the band's outreach event this coming July in France and Hungary. They will minister alongside our missionaries in Toulouse, France and Budapest, Hungary performing outreach concerts in both public and sacred venues. In past years the concerts have benefitted the Micah Project in Honduras, Jubilee Ministries in St. Louis, Promise Academy and other Central mission endeavors. Thanks for your support! Look for another exciting concert next year.



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COMING SOON

Check the **Missions** page on our website for a new "Missions and Outreach at Central" video.

2017 MISSIONS TRIPS

We have a wide variety of wonderful opportunities throughout the year in local missions with ministries in the St. Louis region and in Missouri.

All Central members and their friends are welcome to join us for any of our Mission & Outreach mission trips in 2017.

Contact Pastor Randy Mayfield or Carol Mulick in the Missions office for details (314-727-2777 ext. 122) or visit centralpres.com/ministries/missions to register for a trip.



May 17 - 27 | Ukraine

Serve alongside our missionaries and see the fruits of 25+ years of ministry in Ukraine. (Limit 10 people)



July 1 - 10 | France & Hungary

Music outreach in Toulouse, France and Budapest, Hungary.



August 10 - 13 | Honduras

Annual family "vision" trip to Micah Project in Honduras with Central missionary, **Michael Miller**. (Limit 12 people)



September 18 - 26 | Cuba

Outreach, music, and "vision" trip to meet with pastors and leaders. (Limited to 8 people)



Nov. 28 - Dec. 8 | Iraq (Kurdistan)

Work with local refugees and minister to the military alongside our regional missionary.



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