



LORD'S HARVEST INTERNATIONAL

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LHI Newsletter

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LHI Board Meeting

Members of the LHI Board met in Atlanta September 21 and 22 for their annual meeting. We continue to thank God for his blessing on mission efforts around the world. And we are grateful for the generous financial support that is provided by so many individuals, churches, conferences, mission departments, and other church groups. We also are grateful to the many individuals who give their time to participate in mission trips each year.



Below you will find more information regarding items discussed at the Board meeting and also a summary of the minutes.

An Open Door in Pakistan?



On January 21 of this year, I was contacted by two church groups in Pakistan who hold the same Biblical beliefs as the Church of God General Conference. Four days later, on January 25, a man from Pakistan who lives near Memphis, TN (a former pastor) enrolled in the 29 lesson on-line Systematic Bible Study Course through the Hutchinson, MN Church of God website. As more information has been gathered over the past nine months the Lord's Harvest Mission Board has seen God's hand at work in opening a door for the Gospel in Pakistan that we never would have imagined before.

One of the groups in Pakistan has been using Dr. Alva Huffer's Systematic Theology book and also an Urdu translation of Anthony Buzzard's Doctrine of the Trinity book in their Bible studies. The other group became aware of the Church of God through Sean Finnegan's Kingdom-ready.org website.

One of these groups has 35-40 pastors and hundreds of people in their churches with hundreds more on their contact lists who are likely to be interested in doing Bible studies. The other group has 22 pastors. This group started in 2002 with 10 individuals and it has grown to over 800 now through the efforts of two evangelists!

The contact near Memphis, TN successfully completed the Systematic Bible Study course and has since read Dr. Huffer's book and all of Anthony Buzzard's books. He has become convinced of the truths of Scripture and feels badly that he taught error to his congregations in Pakistan in the past. He feels a burden to return to Pakistan to help guide people into Bible truth. He and his wife are making plans to travel to Pakistan at their own expense early next year for two months to teach and preach these newly discovered truths.

The LHI Board sees a remarkable convergence of these contacts and groups and it appears that the

hand of God is working in a wonderful way in Pakistan and in the Muslim world. In fact a few months ago in “Washington Update” by Joel Rosenberg, he mentioned the following:

“The Prince of Peace is steadily . . . drawing more Muslims to faith in Jesus Christ than at any other time in human history. More than 100,000 Muslims in Saudi Arabia alone have received Christ in recent years. More than 1 million Muslims in Iran have, as well. **There are now more than 2.5 million followers of Jesus in Pakistan.** How is this happening? Why is it happening? And how can we be praying for Christ to draw even more Muslims into His kingdom?”

The questions that Mr. Rosenberg asks, are the same questions that we are asking. Because of our belief in the oneness of God, Muslims seem to be much more open to our teachings than they are to trinitarian teaching. Muslims are strongly Unitarian and many refuse to accept the idea of the trinity.

The LHI Board spent considerable time this week at its annual meeting discussing the work in Pakistan. It is the belief of the LHI Board that we definitely need to pursue this matter. It appears that God is at work in Pakistan. Rather than asking God to bless what we want to do, it is our thinking that we need to join God in what he is already doing and what he is already blessing. We believe that we could help bring these groups and individuals together to cooperate in advancing Christ and the Kingdom in Pakistan. So we propose that we should encourage these believers and invite them to become affiliated with the Church of God General Conference.

It is our understanding that if one of these groups decides to join our association of churches, that they will possibly lose up to \$1,600 per month of support that they have been receiving from others. This money currently is used to provide support for two persons who travel throughout Pakistan, leading Bible studies and helping to start new congregations. It provides rent for an office, printing of literature and to rent meeting rooms for seminars in new areas.

LHI would like your prayerful input on the following items:

1. If you see God’s hand at work in opening this door, do you agree that we should invite these groups to join our association of churches?
2. If yes, will you personally, your Sunday School class, Mission Department, or church help support this work?

We would like to hear from you by **November 1** regarding this matter. If you are willing to help support this work, please indicate **how much** you can give as a **one time gift, a monthly amount, or an annual amount.**

If a majority of respondents say “yes” to the first item, and if we are able to secure financial commitments, we will proceed to invite these groups to join our association of churches. Each church would have to affirm their desire to affiliate and their agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Church of God General Conference. The Church of God General Conference Board of Directors would take action on each individual church request. Pastors who wish to be licensed by the Ministerial Recognition Board would be required to meet requirements established by the MRB.

Please give prayerful consideration to this matter. Attached is a form for you to use to indicate your response to this opportunity. Please cut out the form and mail it to: LHI, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253 or you can send your response by e-mail to: dkrogh@abc-coggc.org

—David Krogh for LHI Board

Pakistan Opportunity

[Yes](#) [No](#) I believe we should invite these churches in Pakistan to join the Church of God General

Conference.

Simply click on one of the links above. If Yes, please put the following info in the body of your e-mail and click send.

(If Yes) I (we) will financially assist this effort. Amount _____

check one: ___ monthly; ___ annually; ___ one time gift

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (if available) _____

Phone number _____

Africa Trip



Praise God for a victorious trip to Africa! We felt His leading and safety the entire trip, and much was accomplished. Upon arrival in Malawi, we looked for a vehicle to buy, but did not find one that was suitable before leaving for Mozambique, so we rented one to start with.

Before starting the services in each country, we met with the boards to discuss what was going on currently, baptisms, funerals, marriages, concerns, and needs. Over 500 baptisms were reported for both countries combined! Unfortunately, death still ravages the country mercilessly.

Heavy storms with winds of hurricane force were reported by both countries, which caused the destruction of several homes and 5-6 churches. We saw several places where trees were blown down also. Only the tin blew off the roof of some churches, but some of that was salvageable and re-used. We hope to help re-build the downed churches.

At their suggestion (which we believe is excellent!) they will now start building their churches with double brick walls so they will be stronger and last longer. Several churches have fallen down in the past for various reasons. Since they make their own bricks with mud, then 'burn' them for strength and durability, the only added expense for us is to supply more cement for mortar. This will add ~ \$200-\$300 to the \$1800 a church has cost in the recent past.

There is a need for land each church is on to be owned by the Church of God Abrahamic Faith in Africa. The chief is the one who usually decides where a church can be built in the village, and can either donate or sell the land for it. There will be several copies of the bill of sale for proof of ownership; one for the chief, for the treasurer and also chairman of the board, and for us. The cost for the land varies from \$50 to ~ \$200.

Several churches have organized taking care of orphans in their villages. They have them come to the church every morning, play with them and teach them basics, like the alphabet, writing & reading, and Bible stories. They feed them lunch, then in the afternoon send them back to homes that keep them for the night. This is a wonderful, but costly service for the churches. We are helping to offset their cost through your generous contributions.

We bought six 100-pound bales of really nice warm hooded sweatshirts and sweaters to give to each church for orphans. The cost was ~\$100 for each bale. We bought plastic bags to separate them into and put ~ 10 items in each bag. They were greatly needed and appreciated!

We also bought towels, wash cloths, nice soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, flip-flops, school exercise books, and took with us crayons, coloring books, color pages, and toys that we were able to give out to orphans at several churches. They were so excited!! Also, at one of the churches that has the most orphans, Erica and Kaitlyn played with the children for a couple of hours. They played dodge ball, Frisbees, and blew huge bubbles. What a hit!! The kids will remember this for the rest of their lives!

Another blessing to the people was to give out ~ 235 Bibles. The leaders decide who can have a Bible, based on if the person can read. Women have typically had no (or little) education, so not many have received Bibles. Sister Linda, who has been freely helping us for several years, has a passion for helping these women. She has been going to the villages and teaching them to read, among other things. As a result, we gave some Bibles specifically for these women. They were ecstatic! And, it encourages other women to learn to read!

Pleasant Hill Church and Troy View Church in Ohio both donated money for eye glasses that we bought and took with us. You can't imagine how much they were appreciated! We were able to give out ~ 250 pairs. Thank you, both churches!!!

Scott Ross sent a couple of boxes of men's suits that arrived when we were there. We gave them to the pastors on the Malawi board. It was like Christmas for them! They loved them! Thank you Jaynes St. Church!!!

When we returned to Malawi from Mozambique, we were blessed to find a truck to buy! Some of the members of the Guthrie Grove Church donated money to buy an African Missions Vehicle. What a blessing!!! We go over long, dusty, bumpy dirt roads, some of the time having to travel off the road to get through. The truck we bought is a 2000 Mitsubishi 5 speed, 4 door, 4WD with a camper shell. It's perfect! Total cost was \$11,482. We could not have traveled to some of the churches without the 4-wheel drive. Thank you G.G.!!!

We preached at 10 different churches in Mozambique, and 11 different churches in Malawi, having a couple of days off every once in a while. We traveled 3,000-5,000 miles on these terrible roads going to churches. I can truly say we've been to the end of the world and back! One church we visited in Mozambique, we drove 4 ½ hours, then parked the truck and walked an hour before having a two-hour service. Then we walked the hour back to the truck and drove the 4 ½ hours back to where we were staying. Most days we were gone 8-10 hours, which was plenty long enough!

About mid-way through the trip we took a couple of days R & R at Lake Malawi (which was gorgeous!) and the Liwonde Game Preserve. It was a much needed rest! We didn't see a lot of animals at the game preserve, but it was still quiet and peaceful to go through. We took a boat ride on the Shire River and saw many hippos and a few crocodiles. Elephants were seen (finally!) in the marshy area on the way out of the preserve.

The services were well attended most places. In Mozambique we went to a church in the Mocuba District, which is the farthest south we've ever been. The people were thrilled to have us come teach them! This is the place we were going to go to in 2005, when the trip was cancelled.

The people in these countries are very poor, but generous with giving what they have...vegetables they grow in their gardens. We were given some of the best rice I've tasted anywhere in the world! Also, some chickens!

At one of the churches in the Thyolo District, the people were so excited and thankful that we had come to teach them...this is a quote from their pastor... "From the creation of the earth until now, no

mzungu (white person) has ever set foot here until you! I think this is a dream I'm having, that you're here!" After the service his mother came up singing LOUDLY, and shook our hands and hugged us.

Joe and I spent several days in South Africa, meeting with Bishop John Alli and his wife, Grace. Their church is 'All Grace Ministries', which is affiliated with Kingdom Covenant Ministries. He is very interested in having Joe come over next year to teach ~ 200 pastors for a week's seminar. They have access to great facility for the meetings. It is a conference center that provides housing and meals, as well as large meeting rooms and a beautiful, grassy campus.

There are so many things that happened, I can't write about them all. This is just a sampling of what happened on our trip. Thank you all for your love and support, and especially your prayers.

-Rebekah Martin July 2009

Mexico Trip Report

A report of the summer Mexico trip will appear in the next newsletter.

Lord's Harvest International Board of Directors Summary of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:30. Present were Board Members Rebekah Martin, Bob See, Warren Sorenson, and David Krogh; also present were Steve and Sam An, and Yeong Beom Kim and Young Hee An to discuss a short term mission trip to South Korea. (Judy's plane was diverted to Huntsville, AL because of storms so she was not present for this meeting with the Koreans.)

Steve explained the desire to send Young Hee An and Jeong Beom Kim on a mission trip to South Korean in late May or early June 2010 to recruit for ABCKE and also to talk to pastors and youth groups about Church of God Bible teachings. In addition to the 2 students, Steve and Young An will go on the trip for two weeks. They request that LHI help with funding for two airfares (about \$1,500 each) and help with renting a mini van for transportation (the cost above the normal cost of a compact car which is paid by the General Conference will be about \$420.) (Bob See offered to cover the extra cost of the mini van rental of \$420).

The meeting was called to order again on Tuesday morning at 9:25 a.m. Judy had arrived Monday evening. Bob led devotions. There was a season of prayer.

Minutes

Rebekah and Warren moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 8 and 9, 2008 meeting and the phone Conference April 1, 2009. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

Warren moved and Rebekah seconded motion to approve financial reports as of August 31, 2009. Motion carried.

Reports of Fields

Africa - Rebekah had previously provided a written report of the summer trip. They bought bales of clothes -100 pounds per bale for \$100 for the orphanages. 235 Bibles were distributed. They bought four bicycles for \$70 each for the work in Mozambique. Before the next trip they will solicit reading glasses, hi-lighters, pens, yarn, and small bottles of Tylenol (no more than 24 per bottle) to take for distribution.

Haiti - we continue to send \$1,500 per month for famine relief. We have enough funds to continue this support for 6 months.

India - we received a written report from Bill and Mardy Lawrence.

Korea - the Board brought Judy up to date on the meeting with the Korean individuals.

Mexico - Judy had sent a report about the trip and expenses.

Pakistan - David shared additional information about the work in Pakistan.

Peru - David shared a contact he had from Victor and Jodi Werhanowicz about the possibility of going to Lima to lead a Victorious Christian Living Seminar.

Russia - a letter was received from Stepan and Tracy about their work.

Tanzania - Jerome Chembe sends periodic reports to Judy about this work. The church building is pretty much completed except for some painting and there is a need for pews or chairs.

Uruguay - David has had e-mail contact with Mauro Gonzalez over past months. Mauro is now married and Bible studies are being held.

Warren moved and Bob seconded a motion to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried.

The gift of \$100,000 from the Sullivan family was briefly discussed. Warren shared information about how this gift came from the estate of his sister and brother-in-law. Another small distribution will be coming when the trust is finalized. Rebekah moved and Bob seconded a motion that the \$100,000 that has been received be invested and only the interest earnings be used to fund projects at the discretion of the LHI Board. The additional funds that come can be used for current projects. Motion carried.

Action Items:

Trip Proposals:

Africa - May 28 to July 5 - Joe will teach 200 pastors at South Africa the first week. Then the team will hold 3 day Conferences - 2 in Mozambique and 2 in Malawi. The team will then spend 1 ½ weeks in Kenya. While in Kenya contacts will be made with Isaya Owak and James Nyangute.

Mexico - July 28 - August 10. Since we ran a deficit this year, we will increase the amount that each person must raise to \$650.

Peru - We are tentatively planning a trip in April 2010.

Uruguay - we will contact Mauro about the possibility of making a visit there in connection with the Peru trip.

Tanzania - We will encourage Herschel Lyda to go for the dedication this fall since he has been the main contact with Jerome Chembe.

Korea - as noted above, two students will go to Korea the end of May and early June. The cost will be about \$3,000 for airline tickets.

Pakistan - A General Conference representative may go to invite churches and pastors to become a part of the Conference and welcome them into our association (contingent upon a favorable response from our pastors, mission chairpersons, and other interested Church of God people).

Warren moved and Rebekah seconded a motion to approve the above trips. Motion carried.

Projects:

Haiti - Warren moved that we will continue to send \$1,500 per month as long as funds are available. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Mexico - Warren moved and Rebekah seconded a motion that repair expenses will be covered by funds raised by team members and that we will continue to provide Sunday School materials for Lupe; and that we will provide financial assistance for medical care for Lupe if help is needed; and we will continue to provide funds for Dean and Rachel to call Lupe once a month. Motion carried.

Peru - David moved and Warren seconded a motion to provide \$700 for legal fees to incorporate and to provide \$200 for a keyboard. \$80 will also be provided for the property taxes on the church building. And we will not provide life insurance nor an annuity for Maria. Motion carried.

Marching for Missions

Warren moved and David seconded to have Bob See prepare a CD/DVD to make available to churches to promote missions. Since there are 4 Sundays in March, we will highlight Korea, Pakistan, Mozambique-Tanzania, and Haiti. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Items

David will write a thank you letter to Daniel Nunn, the person who donated electrical materials for the Mexico work.

We will continue to promote silent auctions at churches that have never had an auction.

We will post a statement on the LHI webpage about how money sent for mission projects is used. Warren moved and Bob seconded this statement: "We want you to know you can contribute to mission ministry with confidence your gifts will directly assist the mission projects you support. 100% of all contributions to specific projects are directly used to assist the project. On a typical mission trip, 90% of the contributions provided to each participant are used to cover their trip costs, and 10% of the contributions are used to cover administrative expenses."

Pakistan - it was decided to send communication about Pakistan with a return coupon to ask people to respond if they are in favor of pursuing a relationship with the churches and pastors in Pakistan and to seek a response on the amount of money that they will commit to this project. We will use our newsletter, the Progress Journal and the on-line Progress Journal, and e-mail to circulate this information.

The next meeting will be held September 13-15, 2010, starting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday and ending by noon on Wednesday. The meeting will be held in Atlanta. Rebekah Martin will lead devotions at the beginning of the meeting.

Warren moved and Rebekah seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
David Krogh, Secretary