

Festival Banner



*Partnering with Churches & Ministries
To reach the Unreached by taking the
GOSPEL beyond the church walls*

HAITI AT A GLANCE

There are many stories coming out of Haiti and most of them do not paint a very good picture. It is true that some 34 gangs have taken over Port au Prince and are doing horrific acts of violence. It is a dismal picture! Yet, you can know that God has not abandoned Haiti like the world has. The people of Haiti are a wonderful people who have never had a government that really cared about them. But God does and is at work in Haiti!

Right now, as this newsletter goes to print, Pastor Marc Cloveus of Jacmel and 35-40 of his church members are headed to a remote mountain village called Baie 'd Orange to do another crusade and hopefully plant another church. They have already prayer walked and done door to door evangelism there. Pray for them as they go! Pastor Marc says that "gangs are going to do what gangs do; we are going to do what we do: Preach Jesus!" What dear partners in the Kingdom! Pray for them!

There is other good news from Jacmel. Just a few days ago, 16 students graduated from the BRCP, Bible Training Centre for Pastors having completed 2 years of training in ministry. "Alelouya !"



On the road to Baie d'Orange



Graduates of BTCP

In the west of Haiti, Pastor Francky Jeune, his church and seven churches under him are busy doing crusades and feeding many people fleeing Port au Prince. Their church attendances are more than doubling as they try to be the hands and feet of Christ. Many of you have helped financially to buy food as well as meet other needs. Please continue to pray for them!

North of Port au Prince, Pastor Servilius Robenson is guiding almost 90 churches doing many of the same things. One of our partner churches, First Baptist of Butler, AL is one of their partners helping them to be and do all they can! Please pray for them!

You have heard John quote Pastor Jay Wolf many times:

"We need Jesus, and we need each other!"

This is still very true today! We must not turn our backs on our neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ! I call out to Sunday School Classes, other Bible studies, churches, and whoever to help however you can! One hundred percent of gifts given for Haiti through our ministry go to Haiti. Across Festivals covers the wire fees. Please join with us in pushing back the darkness in Haiti! Thank you so very much for your prayerful considerations!

PRAYER: The Strategy *"Prayer is not a substitute for action. It is an action for which there is no substitute."*

PRAY FOR:

- Crusade conversations
- Violence to end in Haiti
- Haitian churches feeding the multitudes
- Provision of \$100/monthly salary for Haitian pastors
- John's travels
- Evangelists: Ken Freeman, Chris McDaniel, Adam Field, Randy Shepherd, Frank Shelton, and many more



Medical Clinics, Narok, Kenya



MISSIONS AT HOME



SPECIAL OLYMPICS '24

*Furman University
Greenville, SC
April 3, 2024*

In just a few days Across Festivals will come alongside Chick Fil A, Greer, SC in ministering to thousands who will be participating in the Special Olympics at Furman University.

Please pray as we seek to touch as many people as possible with a chicken sandwich; and that we might have many opportunities to have encouraging conversations!



Special Olympics
South Carolina

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WEST GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

From March 18-20 Across Festivals had the privilege to come alongside the Brushy Creek Baptist Church Student Ministry providing leadership as John and Jeanette worked with many students on mission during their Spring Break. There were informational and instructional meetings led by Missions Pastor Jesse Haack, and Pastor Chuck Mayo of our West Greenville host, Heritage Church.

Teams went out into the community prayer walking and engaging anyone willing in conversations. The students were amazing and adapted to the situations quickly. One team went back to see a man three times taking him Chick Fil A and Pizza on two of those times. It was especially encouraging seeing these young teens loving on this older homeless man. The most touching moment came when one of the girls asked if she could give him a hug and did! Mr. Mike said he had not been hugged in a while. That was a Jesus Moment!!!

The students did several work projects cleaning rooms in the church building and walking the streets to pick up trash. These students have expressed a desire to return to the neighborhood and do a bar-b-que and Block Party in the future. This was a great Mission Trip!

A.F. hopes to come alongside Pastor Chuck and Heritage Church in the future. They are touching people most churches seem to shun. Press on Brushy Creek and Heritage!



From the heart . . .

I am so thankful for our Prayer Partners and Financial Partners who truly invest in Across Festivals. This new year, 2024, has had a wonderful start! I traveled to Alabama for several meetings in January before heading to Kenya for eleven days at the latter part of the month. For a year and a half, I had been planning with a team to go to Narok, Kenya where we could work alongside AIM International and The Smallest Seed Ministry. This medical mission trip had many challenges in its planning. We knew that the Lord must have wanted to do something special because as we planned there were so many obstacles. I can testify that He did!

After a day and a half of traveling, the team arrived in **Nairobi** staying in a hotel to get ready to head to **Narok** the next day. Early the next morning, I received a text from a Ugandan pastor who I was to meet up with later that day in Narok. I had some items for him that were sent from one of our partnering churches, Heritage Baptist in Reynolds, Georgia. He had traveled all night by bus just to meet me. Turns out he was in Nairobi and because he texted me early, we were able to save him at least seven more hours of travel by inviting him to come immediately to our hotel and have breakfast and fellowship with us. **Pastor Moses Ekadu** and his wife, Madame Beatrice, are two amazing servants of the Lord. Across Festivals has helped their ministry in the past but had never met in person. What a great two hours we had hearing of what God is doing through evangelism, work with orphans, and planting churches through Mark of Hope International. They live by faith, and it was good to deliver to him a computer and camera to help them tell God's Story of their ministry. I hope one day to travel to Uganda to work alongside them.

Later the team traveled to the Narok region where we would immediately begin doing medical clinics. We went to meet spiritual needs and physical needs and were not disappointed with what the Lord set before us. Every person we saw was prayed with (more than one time) and the Gospel was shared through preaching and sharing one on one, and many medical needs were taken care of. Since returning home, the team has been able to send help for at least two medical procedures and will assist with at least one more after a child is born. We saw many people come to Christ. We were greatly blessed by the hospitality of the **Maasai People** everywhere we went. We usually traveled 2 or 3 hours a day to reach each village, worked 6-7 hours, and then

returned to the hotel to prepare for the next day. Exhausted, but exhilarated! Across Festivals is so thankful for **Justin and Rachel Harborth** of AIM International and **Dr. Sammy Mutisya** of The Smallest Seed Ministry. Without them, we could not have done this trip. And we are thankful for Kenyan **Dr. Vincent Kantai, and his wife, Cynthia**, who worked side by side with us every day. Madame Cynthia's grandfather worked with African Inland Missions back in the 50's, 60's, and 70's planting churches in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. You can read about him in the book entitled "The Road to Kilimanjaro" which I read years ago while in college/seminary. What a privilege to meet his granddaughter and serve alongside her in ministry.

One final highlight is that I got to go with Dr. Sammy, and Will Gilliland, from Dalraida Baptist Church, to walk the campus of the Maasai Mara University. There we had conversations with many students. Since coming home, four of those students have reached out to me and asked if I could help them grow in Christ. Currently, we are meeting via Zoom and going through the discipleship course, MasterLife together. I am grateful for this privilege to disciple others around the world. A high school junior in Tennessee is also a part of this group. John was the pastor of this young man's dad (when he was a boy) in the 90's. We never know what opportunities the Lord has set before us even years later. Please keep your eyes on Jesus and allow Him to truly be the Author and Finisher of your faith. Don't take the pen out of His hands and try and write your own story! He has a great design for each of our lives! Follow Him!

In Christ Alone,

. . . John



Brian West, Pastor Moses Ekadu, John Bush



Mongolian pastor, Ulzii, with car provided by God



Rice distribution in Haiti



“Not Too Much; Not Too Little!”

From the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament to the Ten Talents of the New Testament, our God has not imposed too much upon us or required too much of us. Little becomes much when it is placed in the Master’s Hands. The number 10 in the Bible is considered to be a symbol of obedience and responsibility towards God’s instructions. It also means completion. I believe that we must be busy about completing the task of taking the Gospel across our towns, counties, states, the United States, and every nation. I believe that I am to ask a thousand people to be a part of this endeavor by inviting them to pray earnestly with us, go with us when possible, and to join in giving \$10 a month so that monies will never hinder us from carrying out this task.

***Will you be “One of a Thousand” and join us?
Praying, Going, and Giving?***

Thank you so much for your prayerful considerations!

John Bush, Director
Across Festivals

PRAISE TESTIMONY: On February 13, John shared the following prayer request on Facebook. - “Looking for a reliable good car for a young family from Mongolia! Dad is a Pastor who has come to Greenville, SC to attend Evangelical Institute for three years so he can be better prepared to plant churches in his country and the neighboring countries. He and his wife have two beautiful children with another one due in July. If you have one you can donate or sell at a reasonable price, please pm me. I love this family and desire to help them. Blessings all!!! “ He said nothing more to anyone but kept this need before the Lord. On March 1, while traveling to Alabama for some meetings, John received a call from a man who had read the post and felt God was leading him to give this pastor a car he was planning to sell as income for his family. March 16th the three families celebrated the gift and there was much testimony of the Lord’s goodness!!

“To obey is better than sacrifice” 1 Samuel 22:15

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would have you support this ministry.***

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