

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



CROSSROADS CHURCH, WAUSEON, CREATES PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNTRIES

Crossroads Evangelical Church in Wauseon, Ohio, has planted 4 churches and hosted numerous interns, but for Pastor Matt Boyers, their reach goes beyond the tri-state area of Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. When team from Crossroads and Archbold Evangelical fly to Mozambique next month, they will walk 6 miles of dirt road to a rural village and meet the newest church plants that Crossroads has partnered to establish.

Three years ago, Crossroads explored micro-investment partnerships in Zimbabwe through Partners Worldwide. The organization works in over 30 countries to fight poverty through business by creating flourishing economic environments. Then, a year ago, a Zimbabwean man, John Mutandua, involved in the investment group contacted Pastor Matt Boyers for advice. That conversation led to more conversations about planting churches in southern Africa. Since spring of 2019, John has taken on the direction of what is now called the Southern Africa Church Planting Initiative (SACPI). Already the initiative has spread from Zimbabwe into Mozambique. The

hope is to plant 4-6 congregations each year in the 6-country area of southern Africa which includes Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and South Africa.

Even though the gospel has spread in the urban areas of southern African countries, the rural areas still need churches that preach the true gospel and serve the people. Many people in these areas speak English, so relationships with Westerners can develop quickly and without translators. Church planting in rural areas will be coupled with training entrepreneurs through Partners Worldwide to create economic development and sustainability.

The dream is that U.S. pastors would ultimately connect directly with the regional church planting directors in southern Africa for coaching, encouragement, and resources. In southern Africa, the church planters that SACPI has encountered are grateful to have support and are motivated to take the gospel into the rural areas of their countries. That is an investment worth traveling halfway around the world and walking miles on foot to establish.



LifeChange Camp Hosts African Children's Choir

When LifeChange Camp in Clinton, Missouri, hosted the African Children's Choir in August, they provided more than just a choir performance from the world-famous group. Their visit also provided a rest for the choir members at the FEC facility and a reunion for camp staff member Kristine Detweiler.

The choir began 30 years ago in war-torn Uganda, a civil war that had left many children orphaned and homeless. Since then, members have traveled in North America and the United Kingdom, entertaining and raising support for their educational program. This year, the choir is comprised of 16 children, ages 7-11, and accompanied by adult leaders and chaperones. While in the United States, the choir was able to rest from touring and enjoy LifeChange Camp for a week.

During their time at the camp, the choir leaders reunited with their former teacher and part-time tour coordinator Kristine Detweiler, who works full-time at LifeChange Camp. In 2004, Kristine accompanied the choir on their tour as their teacher. Then, she moved to Uganda for 5 years, teaching in the training center's primary school. She still works from her base in Clinton as their volunteer coordinator and educational overseer. During their visit, Kristine, who loves to cook, made several favorite Ugandan dishes for the choir.

On August 28, the choir performed for a Clinton, Missouri, crowd, introducing new fans to their energetic performance and sponsorship opportunities.

Fort Wayne Churches Join to Serve on Engage Sunday

Engage Sunday." For the past 6 years, their combined vision for Engage Sunday has been "to serve and celebrate together." This year, almost 1200 people accomplished 27 projects throughout the city. Afterward, they gathered for a celebration event.

The five participating churches were Brookside Church, Crossview Church, Highland Gospel Community, Mission Church, and Pine Hills Church. Together, they chose projects and organizations around the Fort Wayne community to serve. Dave Walters, part of the Engage Sunday leadership team, said, "We look for projects that need a critical mass so that people from multiple churches can work together to accomplish them." Generosity Feeds, Abbett Elementary School, Camp Red Cedar, Mission Church, and Vincent Village benefited from their combined manpower. Several teams served by painting fire hydrants around the city.

Pastor Neal Friesen, Crossview Church, Grabill, believes that Engage Sunday impacts both the community and his church. "God has used this event in a powerful way, inside and outside the walls of our church. Engage Sunday has been a momentum builder for our church body. It's always amazing to see the vision of service and generosity carried on throughout the rest of the year."

In the afternoon, participants gathered at Riverside Gardens, Leo, for lunch and a celebration event.

