

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2016

Bethel had the joy and privilege to see the Lord lead BCS high schooler, Evan Kennedy, to participate in his second short term mission trip with several other Russian Ukrainian Baptist Church young people, to Kazakhstan. It is exciting to see what God is doing in Evans life and his desire to share the good news around the world. We know that this was an exciting opportunity for Evan to meet and interact with boys and girls in Kazakhstan, and have an eternal impact as well. We are eager to see what God does in Evan's life.

Throughout 2016 we were updated and encouraged by visits from several of our experienced missionaries. Andy and Mara Cook who serve in Portugal visited Bethel at the tail end of their visit to the US. God has since opened the doors for them to return to Portugal and continue their ministry there. It was great to hear from them and we rejoice in what God will continue to do through them in Portugal.

We also had the opportunity to hear from Bill and Becky Petite from ABWE serving in Japan. Bill and Becky were here unexpectedly due to Bill's father passing away. While here at Bethel they were a great encouragement to us and Bill had an incredible message for us from the word of God. We rejoice in what God continues to do through the Petites in Japan.

John and Joy Gribbin had the opportunity to spend some time in the US this summer. They are seeking the Lord's will about their future and have seen God's incredible faithfulness through a trying 2016. We thank the Lord for them and their incredible testimony and their obedience to God over the years.

We had the privilege to hear from Joe and Bonnie Valentin who are working with Bibles International through BMM. We were encouraged to hear their heart to see the word of God translated into more languages so more people can hear the good news.

We also welcomed Dr. Steve Overholt of ABWE who is partnering with Nationals in India and Southeast Asia as well as H.C. Stephen from India. It was very encouraging to hear from them and the very exciting things that God is doing through them.

Another exciting step that we took this year as a committee was to have a featured missionary of the month. Each month we featured a missionary, and shared a bit about them along with prayer requests. This has been an exciting way to encourage more prayer for our missionaries and expose people to what God is doing around the world.

Rob Sterner, Missions Committee Chairman