

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Rev. Mark Stahl, FCCI President



As I sit on the deck in Cape town, South Africa, overlooking the beautiful beach as the sun starts rising behind the clouds in a pinkish-orange tint, I find myself in a state of worship and thanksgiving reflecting on the faithfulness of God in our travels so far. It is at this moment that I grab my computer ensuring my thoughts are fresh in my mind to write this month's President's Corner and share with you how the greatness of God has been revealed on this mission.

As I pondered and sought God on my disappointment of not being able to go to Nigeria so I could meet FCCI's Nigeria ministers and see the Kingdom work that is being accomplishing there. My thoughts flood to the lost funds due to the requirements of having to purchase round trip plane tickets before applying for our visas, along with all of the extra time and energy in doing everything we knew to do, "to make it happen", but still without success. This hiccup in "our planned" 2024 Africa Mission Tour left a void of 10 days that now we had to figure out what to do on this side of the world as we waited to continue our journey to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, and then onward to Qatar.

As Rachel, our 3rd of 6 girls currently serving in South Africa with Take The Nations International on a 3-year term, we knew exactly where we would go, so we set off for 10 days of visiting with our Princess. Bo and I still held the disappointment of not going to Nigeria and meeting up with several ministers to include Bishop Felix Omobude but now the disappointments turned to excitement to see our girl for an unexpected extended time in South Africa. Sometimes, no matter what we do, things just do not work out as we felt they should or how we desired them to be and we just do not understand why. In our disappointment it is easy to ask God, why it happen when you KNOW you have done everything just as you should, but it didn't work out. This is where Bo and I found ourselves in finally

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UPDATES FROM THE AFRICA TOUR



The Africa tour is underway! Pastors Mark and Bo completed their visit to Congo where they were greatly honored by the Mitego King and visited refugee camps. They held pastors conferences in four different regions of Uganda before moving on to Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. God has been so good, and many lives are being transformed by the power of His Word. Please keep them in your prayers!



It is not too late to donate to fund the trip! Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at <https://www.fccichurches.com/donate>.

Be sure to add a note in the PayPal window to indicate your donation is for the Africa trip.

Walking in the Spirit Conference



In June, Bishop Kingsley Ohangbon's Elect of God Ministries held a three-day conference in Madrid, Spain.

PRAYER REQUEST



Please keep Dr. Anne Torre Brown, one of our FCCI elders, in your prayers. She has had serious health challenges and although she has been released from the hospital, she is still quite ill. Pray for her healing and the ongoing work of *Life Solutions in Abundance*.

CELEBRATING GOD'S WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

Pastors Joey and Elizabeth Lacap celebrate the ongoing vibrancy of two of the churches they started in Bataan, Philippines.



Christ Harvest Tabernacle Ministries was the first church, started May 5, 1985, in Camacho, Balanga Bataan. The church continues to grow!



The Lacaps began reaching out to the Indigenous Aetas after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in Zambales. They were displaced and brought into the mountains of Bataan where Christ Harvest Tabernacle Tribal Ministry was started in 1991.

It is because of people like you who believe in what we are doing that we can continue the work and expand what the Lord has commissioned us to do. Please use the enclosed envelope for your prayer requests and donations. Alternately, you can visit our website at <https://www.fccichurches.com/donate>.

THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDER

Carl Conley

The Apostle Peter instructs us in his first letter, chapter three, verse 15: "But sanctify the Lord in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." While it is urgent, "Be Ready" implies we spend time in preparation. Soldiers go through Basic Training to give them the basics in how to defend themselves and attack the enemy.

We likewise grow when we go through the seemingly rough places in our experience. We struggle without seeing the fruit of our labor. We must develop to the point that we trust our Commander to lead us into battle. We gain experience and trust as we go through battles. We develop confidence as we grow. So, it is important that we *give ourselves time to learn and grow*. It takes time. But the Be Ready command is there to both inspire us and help us understand the urgency of the command! The world is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God (Romans 8:19).

BUILDING A TRAINING CENTER IN VANUATU

Pastor George Temar with Christian Mission Centre travelled to a very remote southern island in Vanuatu and built a Discipleship Training shelter in Lonamlo village, Northeast Tanna. This island had no roads or transportation, so all materials and tools had to be hand carried to the site. With the support of the chiefs of Lonamlo, church leaders and community, the center was completed and dedicated in time for its first training.



BAPTISM IN RURAL ZIMBABWE

FCCI Elder Esther Mapfumo reports on evangelistic trips to rural Zimbabwe where many were baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



President's Corner, Continued

getting to the point that Nigeria just wasn't going to happen on this trip. This brought back a story that Bo had recounted in a sermon she had ministered about a few days before at one of the Minister's Conferences.

It was 1995 and we were attending Rhema Bible College in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We were doing everything we knew to do but one day as school was dismissed and we were ready to depart, our 1976 car would not start, and we had no way to make it home. We had been working every job available to us but still barely making it in paying our rent, buying food or even paying our Bible School tuition. Every month when we were finally able to pay the rent and school tuition, we had a great praise celebration. But now here we were - a broken-down car, unable to call a mechanic or even a tow truck and on top of that, we couldn't even call a taxi to get us home. We did the only thing we knew to do at the time, we walked the 4 miles home. During what could have been a very hard time for us, we walked as we talked to each other and to God. During the 4-mile walk, God gave us a business plan that we wasted no time in walking out in making it happened. In the next few years, we were able to purchase 4 houses and we able to assist several other students in paying their tuitions. In this "hard time", we were exactly where God wanted us to be, looking and listening to Him, getting His plan for this time of our life.

You see, our trip to Nigeria was kind of like that hard time so many years ago, we had done everything we knew to do but the door just wouldn't budge open. But just like scripture tells us in (Proverbs 16:9), many are the plans of a man, but the Lord directs his steps. Our steps were ordered of God and when we are faithful in what we know to do and the plan still doesn't work as you thought it should, if you will rest in HIM, you can stand back and watch HIM do what only He can, and it will ALWAYS be more than you can ask or imagine. I cannot tell you at this time exactly what HIS goodness bought for us from our "NOT" getting to go to Nigeria this trip but let me testify to you today....It was exceeding abundantly above all we could have asked or imagined.

So today, be encouraged, do not allow Satan to come in and bring discouragement or despair to the dream that you have. Habakkuk 2:2 and 3 "And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Take God at HIS Word and watch him work in and for you. Expect HIS greatness to be shown on your behalf for He watches over His Word to perform it in you. The joy of the Lord is your strength and when you have stood firm on his promises and your strength starts to become weak, encourage yourself, pray in the Spirit and keep standing and watch God do, what only He can do!

Keep me updated to how HIS Greatness is being shown in you!

All for HIS Glory,

Your Pastor,

Mark