

THE MATTHEWS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Mission Sevilla

▲ Volcanic views in Guatemala

Greetings and thanks to all of you who pray for us and this ministry. We would like to report that God answered many of your prayers this past winter. He went before us in planned travel to South Carolina, Guatemala and Japan. May we share some of the details with you? I hope this will encourage each of you.



CIU Mission's Week ▲



October in South Carolina. Chris joined Mike Branch at the Columbia International University (CIU) mission's week in South Carolina. It was a special time to talk with students and recruit some of them for short-term mission trips in the future. Chris had the privilege of meeting and doing an interview with Dr. Ed Smither, the Dean of the mission department at the university. It was wonderful to spend time with Mike and Terri Branch who are now representing the mission in Columbia. **Pray for the seven students at Columbia International University who expressed interest in short-term mission trips in the future. Pray also about the possibility of the mission opening a satellite office near Columbia International University.**



November in Guatemala. The Fraternity for the Advancement of Missions (FAM) agencies across Central America met in Guatemala for their triennial meeting. They invited Chris to attend and represent Liebenzell USA along with Rod Fry and Fernando Amezcua of Mexico. During his time there Chris enjoyed fellowship with people from Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Mexico. These Central American brothers promote missionary interests throughout their churches, denominations, and contacts. Chris led devotionals each day from the book of Colossians. Several of the participants commented to him how much the daily time in God's word meant to them.

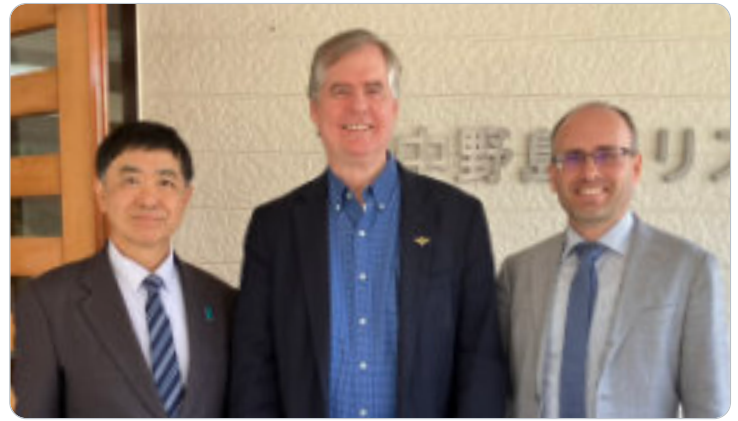


▲ FAM Assembly in Guatemala

During those meetings, three countries showed interest in partnering with Liebenzell USA to promote dual membership. This is an interesting concept in that a Central American missionary can raise prayer and financial support in their home country, and with potential supporters living in the United States, to help complete 100% of their support to go to the mission field. **Pray for FAM Panama and FAM Honduras representatives who are currently meeting with their agencies to finalize an agreement. Give thanks that we now have an agreement with FAM Costa Rica.**



December in Japan. By invitation, Chris traveled and joined with Brad Greenstreet, Liebenzell USA co-director for Asia. They visited with the Liebenzell Germany missionaries in Japan, including field leader Andreas Gross (photo to right), traveled across the island, and met with local Japanese church leaders. They saw a conference center and several local church buildings. They discovered new ministry opportunities in urban and rural settings across the country.



Chris Matthews & Andreas Gross with local Japanese leader ▲

They spent part of their time ministering to the German volunteers (photo below) who come over to serve the missionaries and the local leadership. These trips are so helpful to assess and learn about needs and other lands. Chris could not do this without your steady support and prayers. **Pray as we seek God's will over sending new missionaries to Japan to work with the local people and our German colleagues on the island. Please let us know if you know someone interested in serving God in Japan.**

German volunteers in Japan ▼



Exploring North Africa ▼



January in Spain and North Africa. The staff and professors at the Sevilla Theological Seminary work hard throughout the year and look forward to an annual retreat. Chris was able to join them in the mountains of Sevilla and enjoyed a time of fellowship studying Psalm 37:1-5. He also took several days to explore a country in North Africa, where he was able to teach a class on evangelism on the Internet. **Please pray for open opportunities in North Africa as well as the teaching ministry that Chris and Beth have around the Spanish-speaking world through the Sevilla Theological Seminary.**





February in Caribbean. Two men from North Carolina went with Chris down to the Caribbean for a week of ministry in a town west of the capital. For many years the Sevilla theological seminary ministry has been training close to 200 students across the island for future ministry opportunities as teachers, evangelists, and church planters. Chris and friends were able to visit one of the classes and also evangelize in a town of 3,000 people. They also shared the gospel with 115 different individuals in homes, stores, vehicles, and provided pocket gospels of John. A total of 90 individuals prayed to receive Christ in their hearts as their Savior!



A new member of God's family ▼



We were able to take in generous donations of personal hygiene items including combs, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, antacids, and related items. The Caribbean people were so happy to also receive 46 baseball gloves, enough to outfit four teams for sports evangelism. Finally, through special donations we were able to see the churches acquire additional land to expand and enlarge their sanctuary space after hurricane damage. This is one of the five new countries that our mission would like to open as a new field. Would you please give thanks to God with us for the harvest of new souls? **Pray for the Lord Jesus to encourage these new believers through his Holy Spirit. Let's pray for them to follow Him as they are being discipled by local church members.**

◀ Handing out Pocket Gospels of John



March in New Jersey. A wonderful group of volunteers came from Kentucky and neighboring states to do a remodeling job on our parlor at the mission headquarters. The volunteers raised their own funds for the materials and donated their labor. What a blessing for the ministry! Also this month, Chris was down in Dallas and in Florida interviewing candidates for the position of global ministries director. This is a key role that supervises all of our co directors and missionary staff around the world. **Pray for the Jesus to identify the candidate of his selection to fill this important job of global ministries director. Also please thank God with us for the volunteers who came from Kentucky and all their generosity in helping the facilities look so much nicer for our guests and missionaries.**



▲ Refinished wood floor in parlor at the mission headquarters

We count on your partnership. Beth and I cannot thank you all enough for your prayers, your gifts, and your encouragement in our lives. As faith-based missionaries, we could not do this work without your partnership. **Please pray also for the Prepare the Way campaign on May 22nd to open five new fields, enhance the retreat center in New Jersey, and send 20 more workers into the Lord's harvest.**

*With grateful hearts,
Chris and Beth Matthews*



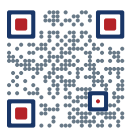
PREPARE THE WAY



**GLOBAL
MINISTRIES**



**RETREAT
MINISTRIES**



Mail-in Support

If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift, please use this slip and the enclosed envelope. Checks should be payable to **Liebenzell Mission of USA**. Questions? Call (908) 852-3044.



I would like to give:

- ☐ \$_____ for Prepare the Way - Liebenzell USA Global Ministries
☐ \$_____ for Prepare the Way - Liebenzell Retreat Ministries
☐ \$_____ for Chris & Beth Matthews personal ministry support

Add a general donation (optional):

- ☐ \$_____ for Liebenzell USA ☐ \$_____ for Global Ministries ☐ \$_____ for Retreat Ministries

My info:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____ Phone: _____

- ☐ YES, I will pray for the Matthews family (please email their prayer bulletins)