

**CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)**

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on February 7, 2016

MINISTRY TRIPS:

Joni & Friends: Global Access Conference: February 17–20, 2015

Site: Calvary Community Church, Westlake Village, CA. Over 1000 people from more than 50 nations attended. David was able to connect with ministry partners from Serbia, Cameroon, Ghana, and Kenya as well as with several JAF personnel with whom he has worked over the years.

Serbia: April 6–May 4, 2015

David was one of two speakers at Serbia's first Regional Conference on Special Needs. The conference was arranged by Greg and Jelena Sivulka, with whom he has worked in the past. The conference was attended by people from Serbia and Croatia who are involved in ministry to individuals with disabilities. David also taught three courses at HUB Bible School: the Book of Acts, Beyond Suffering, and Spiritual Warfare. David also preached at several evangelical churches in Serbia.

International Christian Community for Teacher Educators (ICTE) Regional Conference: May 25–28, 2015

David and Florence traveled to Langley, British Columbia to attend small "un-conference" attended by Christian teacher-educators from the northwest region. David spoke on special education as a cross-cultural activity.

Kenya 1: July 30–August 24, 2015

David and Florence traveled to Nairobi to work with our long-term partner, Eva Nyoike. David gave the keynote address and a sessional paper at the Pan African Christian (PAC) University conference on disability; met with the Dr. Gitonga, Director of PAC University to discuss their soon-to-be-implemented program in disabilities studies; and led a workshop for Acorn Special Tutorials on how to support students with learning difficulties within an inclusive setting. The primary reason for this trip, however, was for Florence and David to help inaugurate the first retreat in Kenya for families affected by disability. They trained volunteers who would be working with the children at the retreat, and led sessions for parents during the retreat.

Ukraine: October 27–November 9, 2015

David partnered with others from Minnesota to participate in leadership conferences in Buzivka and Cherkasy. He met with people connected with READ Ministries, gave opening devotionals at the Buzivka and Cherkasy training conference for pastors, and spoke on sharing the gospel with the poor and disabled at the main Cherkasy conference for church leaders. Time was also spent with the Director of Social Ministries for the Baptist Union in Cherkasy, visiting families dealing with disabilities and ministry programs with whom the Baptist Union works.

Kenya 2: November 27–December 8, 2015

This trip was to follow-up with the families who had attended the retreat in August, to further encourage the mothers as well as to see how they were doing spiritually. This trip was planned to coincide with the "International Day of People with Disability." On Sunday, December 6th, a disability awareness program was carried out at Karen Community Church, at which the families were all present. Some of the mothers participated in the service, their children helped lead the worship and praise singing, and David preached. This served also to encourage the church leaders to continue reaching out to the families affected by disability. Arrangements were made with Brackenhurst Conference Center for the 2016 family retreat,

OTHER MINISTRY ACTIVITY:

1. *Toward a Theology of Special Education: Integrating Faith and Practice* has been published by Sigma Press, Seoul, Korea. It is to be used by Dr. Okki Kim with students at Korea Nazareth University.
2. *Reaching Out and Bringing In: Ministry to and with Persons with Disabilities* has been translated into Russian and several printed copies have been distributed to various individuals in leadership positions in Ukraine. Help in funding the translating was given by Shepherd's Foundation (a Ukrainian–American partnership), based in Minnesota. READ Ministries (“Resourcing, Evangelism, And Discipleship”), also based in Minnesota, is looking into publishing the Russian translation (probably as in e-book) so that it can be made available to church leaders in Ukraine or other Russian-speaking nations. Crossing Bridges has had a loose affiliation with Shepherd’s and READ through the leadership training conferences in Ukraine.
3. Arrangements are in progress for *Reaching Out and Bringing In: Ministry to and with Persons with Disabilities* to be translated into Korean and published by Christian Literature Center, Korea. This is also at the request of Dr. Okki Kim of Korea Nazareth University.
4. Publications:
 - a. Anderson, D. W. (2015). Beauty and disability. *International Journal of Christianity and Education*, 19(3), 182–196.
 - b. Anderson, D. W. (2015). [Review of the book *Foundations of education: A Christian vision*, by M. Etherington (Ed)]. *International Journal of Christianity and Education*, 1(1), 78–79.
 - c. “Book of Joshua” — introduction, character studies, devotionals, and “connecting points” — to be part of the *Beyond Suffering Bible: Where Disabilities and Possibilities Meet*, a study Bible to be published in 2016 by Joni and Friends and Tyndale House Publishers (NLT version).
5. Presentations:
 - a. Crossroads Bible Church — Main Street Kids, presentation on inclusion (January 25, 2015)
 - b. Pan African Christian (PAC) University, Nairobi, Kenya, conference on disability (August 4–5, 2015)
 - i. Keynote address — “Disabilities. Responsibilities. Possibilities. Working to Complete the Harvest.” [also in consideration for publication in the *Journal of the Christian Institute on Disability*]
 - ii. Session address: “Biblical Perspectives: The Disabled and the Harvest.”

MINISTRY PLANS AND PROSPECTS FOR 2016:

- March–April: Kenya (David). Activities include church leadership training in disability ministry, teacher-training related to inclusion at Ooloolua and Little Helping Hands schools, preaching, and meeting with the families from the 2015 family retreat. [confirmed]
- April/May: Serbia (David). HUB Bible School. [possible]
- August: Kenya (David and Florence). Second family retreat for families dealing with disability. Teacher-training related to inclusion, etc. [confirmed]
- October–November: Ukraine (David). Leadership conferences in several locations and connecting with the Director of Social Ministries for the Baptist Union in Cherkasy. [confirmed]
- Invitations continue to be received from other sites (Myanmar, Liberia, Cameroon, Ghana) but limited funding for Crossing Bridges prohibits adding new ministry sites at this time.

Submitted by: David W Anderson, Ed.D., President