

**CROSSING BRIDGES, INC.
2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT
(Summary)**

Submitted to the Board of Directors, meeting on March 4, 2018

MINISTRY DURING 2017:

Kenya — March 29–April 10

1. Keynote address for Autism Awareness Event: Celebrate Autism — “Neurodiversity: Promise, Challenge, Caution
2. King’s Ambassadors Church (Nairobi): preaching and disability ministry training
3. Acorn Special Tutorials: workshop on neurodiversity and brain-based teaching and learning
4. Helping Hands School (Naivasha): workshop for new teachers on inclusion
5. Karen Community Church: preaching, followed by “reunion” of families from the family retreats

Kenya — August 13–21

1. Training of short-term missionary volunteers who would be serving at the retreat
2. Third annual family retreat for families dealing with disability

Ukraine — October 10–21

1. **Lutsk:** Three-day conference “Beyond Suffering” (Joni and Friends) at Fimiam Baptist Church
2. **Rinve:** Visits and brief presentation at an inclusive Montessori kindergarten; evening meeting with pastors to talk about disability ministry
3. **Zhitomyr:** Visit to Mission to Ukraine headquarters; evening meeting with pastors to talk about disability ministry
4. **Kiev:** Tour of a new bakery which will employ adults with disabilities; visit to a Christian school which serves children with various disabilities; evening meeting with pastors to talk about disability ministry
5. **Kiev:** Attended the biennial meeting of the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association (comprised of faculty and directors of evangelical seminaries from various countries from the former Soviet Union)
6. At each site visited, Russian copies of David’s book dealing with disability ministry were presented to faculty, pastors, etc., a donation made possible by READ Ministries, Cambridge, MN who arranged for the translation and publication of the book

Kenya – November 24–December 4

1. King’s Ambassadors Church: preaching and training on disability ministry
2. Acorn Special Tutorials: workshop on including students with disabilities from various schools and churches
3. Acorn Special Tutorials: closing of term/Christmas celebration coupled with “graduation” of several students from Acorn, whose education will continue in integrated private schools
4. Karen Community Church: preaching at the celebration of World Disabilities Day, followed by a “reunion” with the retreat families

OTHER MINISTRY-RELATED ACTIVITY:

1. At the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association meeting, met with the Director of Kremenchug Evangelical Seminary to discuss developing a program focusing on Christian social ministry (including, but not limited to, disability ministry).
2. Authored a review at the request of Presbyterian & Reformed Publishers for a new book: George C. Hammond's *It has not yet appeared what we shall be: A reconsideration of the Imago Dei in light of those with severe disabilities*
3. Authored several articles for *One-to-Another*, the electronic journal of Master's International University of Divinity of "Being Christlike in a Broken World," "The Inclusiveness of the Gospel," and "Divine Appointments."
4. Authored a devotional book for families that deal with disabilities – presently being considered by New Growth Press. If they choose not to publish it, I will look into self-publishing. It has the endorsement of Joni Eareckson Tada (JAF Ministries) and Dana Croxten (Enable Ministries).
5. Ongoing association with Master's International University of Divinity as Program Developer and Director for the M.A. Certificate in Disabilities Ministry.
6. Bethel University (St Paul, MN) has planned to offer an undergraduate teacher-training major in special education. They plan to adopt my book, *Toward a Theology of Special Education: Integrating Faith and Practice*, for the program. Potentially, this will mean traveling to St Paul at some time so they can videotape an interview with me.

INVITATIONS RECEIVED FOR NEW MINISTRY

1. Met with Dan Hollingsworth and a pastor from Spain with whom he works. Suggested the possibility of doing training with Dan's "people" on disability ministry. The possibility of having my book translated into Spanish and published in Spain was raised.
2. Letters of inquiry had been received from West Bengal, Tanzania, Ghana/Suriname, and Myanmar (though these will not be pursued).