

Update

Summer 2023



DEAF CAN! COFFEE

Ministry Growth Over the Years

Almost ten years ago, the boys Bible Study group at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCCD) went on a field trip. They piled into a van and drove up to the mountains of Jamaica to meet Clarke, a Deaf man who had a business growing and roasting coffee. What may sound ordinary was in fact extraordinary for many of these young boys to see: a Deaf person, content and

Over time, a leadership team emerged, three Deaf & two hearing, for a total of five leaders, each having specific responsibilities within the business and working through business discussions as a group. In the last year, they've added two more Deaf managers and one of the hearing missionaries stepped back so the leadership team is almost fully Deaf. All the baristas and bakers in the business are Deaf and all team communication is in Jamaican Sign Language. These changes are a big step in advancing Deaf Can! Coffee's mission and building a fully inclusive environment.

Having a majority Deaf leadership team increases credibility and buy-in within the Deaf community and leads to the development of strong relationships.

continued on back ►

happy in his identity, a leader in his church and community. This was a sight contradictory to how society generally views and treats Deaf people: as "less than", "broken", and in need of being "fixed". This message is deeply ingrained in many Deaf children and young adults, leading to low self-esteem, feelings of inadequacy, negative outlooks on life, and general hopelessness.

The field trip prompted excitement, and then inspiration. If the seventy-year-old Clarke could have a coffee business, why couldn't they? Making and serving coffee would be the means of sharing a new message with society: we are all, hearing and Deaf, made in God's image. God does not make mistakes; He makes each of us who we are on purpose and gives each of us talents to use in His service. Our brokenness is not physical; it's spiritual, and we can only be healed by Jesus. Thus, Deaf Can! Coffee was born.

Now a ministry several years old, Deaf Can! Coffee is working through several changes to its structure to better embody the Deaf-first and Deaf-affirming mission of the organization. The coffee business began with hearing missionaries organizing and training the team.



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EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT: EXCEPT THE LORD KEEP THE CITY, THE WATCHMAN WAKETH BUT IN VAIN ▲ PSALM 127:1

Evangelism and Discipleship

ACROSS CULTURES AND IN OUR BACK YARD

Have you ever noticed contrasting ways of sharing the Gospel which the Apostles used where they traveled? The Corinthians, for example, were known for their pottery, and Paul used a pottery analogy to teach the people about their role and the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:7). Was this the power of the Holy Spirit to "hit the mark" with Jews and Gentiles, or had he observed and learned from the culture? Most likely, both! As the Church Establishment Committee (CEC) desires to cultivate evangelism and discipleship to gather believers into local churches, we found it helpful to foster trusting the Holy Spirit AND learning about the community which allows newly planted churches to scripturally build on a firm foundation.

Three members of the CEC, living in different cultures, share their experiences. Each reflects one perspective of one community. As you read, take note of different approaches used to form relationships, proclaim the gospel, and nurture believers.

Group Consciousness in Japanese Culture

Many factors influence behaviors and responses of individual people within cultures. For example, it has been stated that, in Japan, the concept of "group consciousness" is vitally important to everyday life. Every interaction is closely tied to what the group thinks and does, unlike individual focus in many Western societies. It is difficult for the individual to oppose the group, creating a barrier for those who are presenting the Gospel. It becomes a challenge to repent and become a believer in Christ in a population where less than one percent are born-again believers.

Recently, we met a 94-year-old Japanese man who became terminally ill. We desired to share the Gospel with him and realized "group consciousness" may be a barrier to him. The process of sharing the good news was slow with this gentleman, but his interest sparked when he repeatedly heard Jesus was inviting him into a large family group that included people all over

the world, including Japanese people. Instead of initially presenting we're all sinners, we indicated that entrance into a large family, as brothers and sisters to Jesus, can be gained by repenting of our sins, believing in Jesus' shed blood, and following Him. He listened. We waited. We remembered "group consciousness" is a critical element for most Japanese people, and eternal destiny of this soul was at stake. Our hearts were comforted as the man's face was peaceful, but we really had to leave the ultimate outcome to the Lord. At our last visit, he responded to us. He nodded his head with a slight nod when asked if he could believe in Jesus.

Cultural Diversity in Metro USA

My experience living in a US metro area has involved encountering those with a mixture of seemingly every culture and belief that exists rather than a group of unreached individuals with common culture. One reality seen more often than not is a very limited knowledge of what the Bible says and a distorted understanding of Christianity, largely based on the news. For example, a middle-aged man, seeing love within our church family, wanted to know how to be part of that. I spent many evenings trying to explain the scriptures with him hoping he would understand the gospel message that created this joy and love he sees. One night, he surprised me in asking, "When will I finally meet this Holy Spirit you talk about such that he can tell me my sin?" I missed his starting point of having a little knowledge of Catholicism and the idea of the pope. He

understood my comments around the Holy Spirit revealing sin as referring to a person in the church that would come to

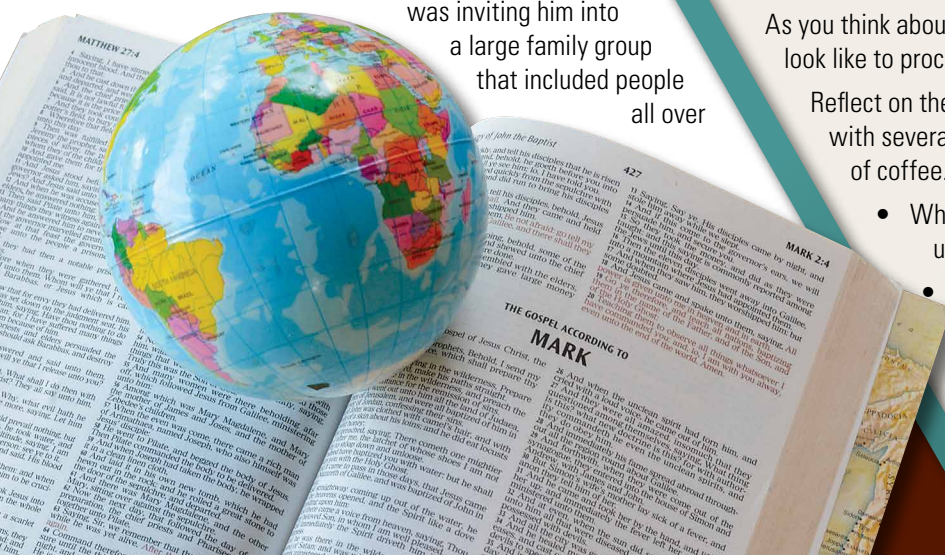
Sharing the Gospel in Your Community

As you read the experiences, did you notice how the different authors shared their examples? The Japanese story, for example, is written in "we"; the American, using "I"; and the Mexican response describes the effect of the American culture.

As you think about your own community, what does the approach look like to proclaim the gospel and nurture believers?

Reflect on these three questions and share a short response with several in your local church, maybe at potluck or over a cup of coffee. What do you glean from people around you?

- What are beliefs and culture in your community of those unreached by the gospel?
- How does this knowledge inform your efforts to establish relationships and proclaim the gospel?
- For those that respond, what discipleship approaches could be effective to make connections in the body of Christ and encourage service to it?





Speak directly with him. I had not met him where he was. With this awareness, I have learned that in this culture of mixed beliefs, it is most important to start by listening and understanding what their current thoughts are regarding God or gods. What has been their experience with "religion"? What are their perceptions of what it means to be Christian? How have their beliefs "worked" in providing a sense of purpose and answering questions around the meaning of life? Often from there, sharing my own journey of faith and encouraging them to ask others in a small group effectively creates open conversation. This provides a more informed approach to teaching and posture towards shared learning instead of teacher and student. Additionally, this approach enables discussion around specific topics that build a solid foundation on "what does the Word say?"

Discipleship Approaches in Mexico

After living as a missionary in Mexico for many years, distrust seems to be the default mode partly due to their view of honesty. Mexicans tend to trust Americans more than they trust each other. Culturally, it's more important to be polite and tell others what they want to hear rather than to be truthful. Financial needs are real for many people which can create difficulty in knowing what someone is seeking in a relationship, especially if it begins by getting a job or receiving financial help. There are expectations that, in relationships, those who care about you should help you. When the job ends or help is gone, relationships often get broken.

As we think about discipleship approaches in Mexico, we need to find ways to make it safe for others to be honest with us and promote a church model that is volunteer-based rather than job-based. Fostering group accountability and collaborative decision-making goes a long way in building trust between members of the culture.

By The Church Establishment Committee

**BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS,
THAT THE EXCELLENCY OF THE POWER MAY BE OF
GOD, AND NOT OF US ▲ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7**

**FOR I WAS HUNGERED, AND YE GAVE ME MEAT: I WAS THIRSTY, AND
AND YE TOOK ME IN: NAKED, AND YE CLOTHED ME: I WAS SICK AND**



"...God is Great. His Goodness End **THROUGH HAITI LIFELINE**

A fifteen-mile drive from Port-au-Prince (PAP) to the village of Dumay is where you will find Lifeline. Lifeline is a ministry that works in conjunction with the Bethel Church of God in Haiti, a church of nearly 100 congregations throughout Haiti. Pastor Nathan Dioudenne oversees the church, and despite difficult conditions, souls still attend, are active in church, and God faithfully continues to work in the hearts of men. Recently five new converts were baptized.

Life in Haiti was difficult prior to COVID-19 and the general unrest, but now it has become even more extreme. Dumay's proximity to PAP has led to increased danger in the village as people from the cities continue to move out into the countryside. With these current problems in Haiti, teams have been unable to travel to Dumay. Prior to 2020 the Dumay campus was the center of activity for 5-7 teams each winter from Harvestcall. On



YE GAVE ME DRINK: I WAS A STRANGER,
YE VISITED ME... ▲ MATTHEW 25: 35, 36

What God is doing through HarvestCall at home & abroad



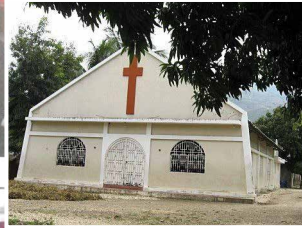
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*Lifeline works closely
with the Bethel
Church of God
providing clean
water, food,
shelter,
school, and
medical
needs.*



◀ Bethel Church
in Dumay, Haiti ▼



This was originally for the children, but now young and

old alike come to get sustenance as food is more scarce now than in recent years.

For years, there was no consistent doctor on staff at the clinic. We are thankful for God's provision as we now have a Haitian doctor at the clinic to help the villagers with their medical needs. In recent years, medical work teams have spent time at the clinic assisting as well.

A small farm managed by Esnald produces chickens and produce. This produce is used on campus and sold at the local market. We continue to see God's blessing on this effort.

Despite HarvestCall teams not being able to be physically present these past three years, Lifeline continues to support the Dumay campus and Bethel church both financially and in prayer. Pastor Nathan, a lifelong resident of Dumay, came to the United States in August 2022 to visit his family, but has been unable to return due to the unrest in Haiti.

As we see the difficulties among our friends and brethren in Haiti, we recognize that

God is sovereign. He knows the suffering and pain these souls are enduring. The future looks bleak at this time, but as Pastor Nathan recently stated, "God is great, God is good. His goodness endures forever! He is just wonderful and mighty. His grace and mercy has brought us

through many situations and trials throughout the years, and He never ceases to hear and answer our prayers. He promised never to leave or forsake us, and he is faithful to do that for us in every given situation. The enemy is still fighting hard, and we have no doubt that he will continue to fight on, but the harder he fights the more we can count on the strength of the almighty God to carry us through!"

By Darren Fehr

ures Forever!"

campus, a guesthouse would accommodate teams who spent a week working on various projects and fellowshiping with the Haitian brethren. Work team projects consisted of new home construction as well as church construction and remodeling.

In this small village of Dumay, a church, school, clinic, farm, and guesthouse are supported by Lifeline. The on-site church holds weekly services with approximately 400 in attendance. A high priority of Lifeline is to continue to provide spiritual support for the congregations of the Bethel Church. Annually the Bethel church of Dumay hosts a convention where several hundred attend. Apostolic Christian elders and ministering brothers participate in this event. The word of God continues to be proclaimed throughout these congregations.

Lifeline is also actively supporting the school in Dumay. Approximately 300 students attend regularly. Along with the school, Lifeline supports a feeding program in the village that provides a hot meal of rice and beans daily.



Crops growing ▲
at the Lifeline Farm

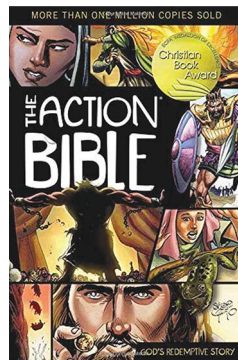
◀ Lifeline Farm
Buildings near
Dumay, Haiti

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION UPDATE 2023

Making God's Word Available

Am I prepared to share the gospel when God provides me an opportunity? Jesus shared a lesson in Luke 14:28-30 about the process of building a tower. He recounted how the builder would prepare to ensure they had sufficient funds to build the tower before commencing construction. If properly prepared, the construction process can proceed unimpeded. Like the wise builder, the Bible Distribution committee has prepared to ensure unimpeded ability to fulfil the mission of equipping and mobilizing our brethren to preach the gospel through the sharing of God's written word. The committee is eager for new and additional ways they can help provide the right materials to support the evangelical efforts of our brotherhood. Please contact the distribution center or your local

The Action Bible was recently added as another resource for sharing the story of God's redemptive plan ▼



INVENTORY AND DISPLAY AT GOODFIELD DISTRIBUTION CENTER



bible distribution rep if you have any ideas for materials that would be beneficial to stock in the warehouse.

Several brothers have begun actively looking for unique ways to provide people with God's word. One brother strikes up conversations with others pumping gas at the gas station with the goal of leaving them with a bible. Another tries to ensure that any delivery man that visits his farm leaves with a Bible or Bible story book. One brother even went looking for people who had broken down on the side of the road. After helping them with their vehicle, he then provided them a Bible. These are just a few examples of utilizing Bible Distribution to spread the Gospel.

Jesus told us that the fields are white for the harvest in John 4:35. We have invested the effort to prepare the materials to support the laborers, and our prayer now is that of Matthew 9:38 – 'Pray ye therefore

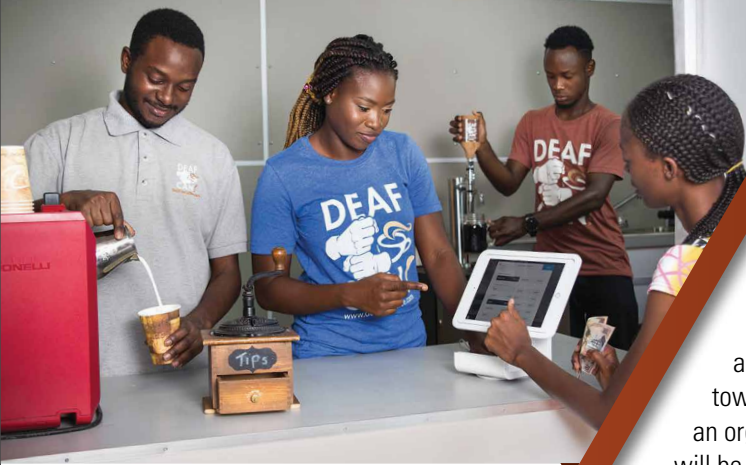
the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest'. We pray for many more laborers, confident that God's word "shall not return unto me void" (Isaiah 55:11).

We invite you to join us in evangelizing and preaching the gospel to the lost through the distribution of Bibles.

By Brett Hodel

◀ *Our Lester, IA church has added this local inventory to support its efforts to share the Gospel in their community*
Bible distribution display & inventory at Latty, OH ▼





◀ Deaf barista teams serve customers at multiple locations ▼

Deaf Can Ministry

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Ministry tends to be more effective when it is intracultural; it's easy for a hearing person to say, "you are fearfully and wonderfully made" to a Deaf student, but they have never walked in those shoes. The same message is communicated much more effectively when it comes from someone who has similar life experiences. Having positive Christian role models in the business for Deaf youth to look up to is essential for modeling healthy spiritual and personal development.

A fully Deaf team is also a positive step towards building an organization that will be owned, led, and operated by Deaf individuals. For young Deaf students a decade ago, it was astonishing to see a Deaf adult roasting coffee on his own. We envision a future where Deaf children see these examples everywhere – entrepreneurs, builders, makers, and leaders – and believe they also have been perfectly created by God and given valuable skills to share with the world.

by Seth Kaeb



7th Annual Haiti Dairy Benefit Dinner

EVERYONE, INCLUDING FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

TIME: REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11 AM CENTRAL, 12 NOON MEAL

PROGRAM AND FARM TOURS

LOCATION: FAIRBURY APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL, 21225 E 670 NORTH RD, FAIRBURY, IL 61739

Program to follow the meal with a choice of two farm tours after program: Kilgus Farmstead Dairy or Zehr Acres.

There is no charge for this event but a free will offering will be requested.

Registration required: www.HarvestCall.org/awareness-events

Questions/Overnight Accommodations: call/text LuAnn Troxel 219-508-3433



STAY CONNECTED

Prayer support is needed in every part of HarvestCall work. Here are two ways to learn about projects, how to be involved and how to pray specifically.

Updates | Get occasional emails with news and info by going to the HarvestCall website (www.harvestcall.org) and selecting "Join our email list" on the home page.

Social Media | Engage with us on Facebook or Instagram for the most current information.



Facebook.com/harvestcall

Instagram@acharvestcall

HELP FINANCIALLY

Choosing "Where Needed Most" allows us flexibility to direct resources to ministries most in want. However, if you feel moved to support a specific project, just indicate that on the remittance envelope. If specified donations are greater than the need for any designated project, they will be rolled over to the General Fund.

An envelope is provided with appropriate boxes to check. Checks can either be given to your local HarvestCall Representative or mailed to:

**Apostolic Christian HarvestCall
PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996**

Or if you wish to donate online, visit the HarvestCall website at:
www.harvestcall.org/donate

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