

**From:** Ruth Mooney [mailto:ruthemooney@yahoo.com]

**Subject:** GRR

Greetings, GRR,

That is a spectacular gift! I am deeply grateful for this support. Let me share with you what will probably appear in my next newsletter.

I just returned from a graduation at the Universidad Bíblica Latino Americana (Latin American Biblical University, UBL) where I serve. It was organized by a group of very enthusiastic students of our 7-month continuing education course on Pastoral Counseling. They invited their families, the professors, the president, and the registrar to a worship service, graduation, and luncheon, to express their gratitude and excitement about the course. I taught them two classes: Peace Circles (part of the discipline of Conflict Transformation) and Stages of Faith Development. Two years ago, we started a new series of non-degree courses on Saturdays from 9:00 to 1:00. A group of professionals, members of churches but hungry to go deeper, and in some cases frustrated with the church and with many questions, signed up for these courses: Baptists, Pentecostals, Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, etc.

Let me share with you a few of the comments from this group:

"I have been thinking that few things in life show so clearly the hand of God and being in God's will, in my case, as was the decision to study at the UBL. I want to continue here; it will always be in my heart as one of the best things that has happened to me in my life." Marcial

"Entering the UBL was something I never imagined! The knowledge I have received changed all my thinking. I understood that many of my beliefs had been imposed by others, but now I feel free to choose what I want to think and I feel able to defend my new beliefs. The professors modeled how to teach, with simplicity, charisma, tone of voice, empathy and capacity to accept different criteria. I feel blessed, chosen by God. I feel like my graduation was a step toward a new way of living." Meylin

"In my work as a counselor at church for the past 4 years, the experience in this course helped me to reaffirm aspects of my faith. . . . The course gave me tools and professional elements to be more sure of what I do to help others." Rebeca

"This course was for me an experience of Resurrection." Oscar

Ruth

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**From:** Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanetti [<mailto:bonigiova89@gmail.com>]

**Subject:** Re: GRR gift update

The project in San Marcos is almost complete.

Also, between what GRR sent, what ABFMS forwarded, and what the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua gave Jehova Yire Baptist Church (currency exchange and all), they were left with less of what they needed. So they had to prioritize what to do now and what to do later. Some of that will be covered later by another gift from one of the churches in our network that offered to supplement what was lost in the transactions and currency exchanges.

They still received more than what they had; THEY AND WE ARE GRATEFUL, do not hear us wrong. However, it is to explain why they will not have the whole project completed as it was presented to GRR when they so graciously thought of us and our people as possible recipients of these grants.

Hugs and blessings, Mayra for your BGs

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**From:** Reed, Joyce

**Subject:** Re: GRR update

Dear GRR,

When we visited with you a year ago we were just launching our first Cohort in the online Masters of Theological Studies program for Latino/a students. As of today we have taught 65 students in three different countries all because of this new paradigm that is intersecting technology and mission! We teach Spiritual Formation, the first class in this two-year program. To launch the program, Professors visit with the students face to face for one week in country, then everything else is online. Thank you for your generous support that is allowing us to train the next generation of Pastors in Iberoamérica and the Caribbean.

David and Joyce Reed

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**From:** Good, Rev Dr Jon

**Subject:** Re: GRR gift follow up

Great news, we are at 95% of our PSG! We hope to arrive in Hungary before the end of the year. The Hungarians are actively preparing for our arrival. Enrollment in Hungarian Baptist Public schools continues to climb; the window for sharing the gospel remains open! We praise the Lord for so many wonderful partners who are helping us get to Hungary, including the amazing family of the Great Rivers Region! We are so thankful for you.

It will be awesome to see you. We will be at the Great Rivers Region meeting too!

Yours in Christ, Jon (and) Amanda

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**From:** Jeff Dieselberg [mailto:jeffdieselberg@gmail.com]

**Subject:** Re: GRR update

Dear Faithful Friends in the Great Rivers Region,

Your targeted giving to us as missionaries played a key role in getting us closer to the 100% mark of our own support raising. We have been in Thailand for 23 years now and that would not be possible without the faithful support of you all!

We love the work that God has us doing here and see the impact daily. It is a privilege to be here and we are so grateful!

Your targeted giving to NightLight has enabled us to bring more women into our organization, most of whom were in very bad situations, including a 15 year old!

This year we have been able to hire 4 new women and 1 woman returning. The 15 year old had been picked up working illegally in a bar. When the bar was closed for a month, her friends moved to another bar area to continue working. This young girl could not continue having already been doing this since she was 13. One of NightLight's employees brought her to NL. She is receiving special assistance and training and when she turns 16, we will be able to hire her.

In addition, this month we were excited to hire a woman who had been working in the bars for 19 years. She had been a mamasan, or manager of the women for over 10 years. Ten years ago, this woman asked us to help with a woman who was 5 months pregnant. We did and that woman became one of our key worship leaders. Her baby girl created a need for a childcare center and that was begun. The outreach team visited the bar and greeted the mamasan for the past 10 years. She would frequently comment that one day she too would come. A couple weeks ago, the mamasan showed up at NightLight asking for a job. A couple days later, she stood with other employees watching the woman she had brought 10 years before leading worship and praising God for his saving love.

Aside from these 5 women, the funds of GRR have allowed us to continue employ 40 women in holistic alternative work that brings dignity and freedom. The women are employed through the coffee shop, the bakery, the jewelry and apparel production, the childcare center, the outreach center, and in administrative work.

Lives are being impacted and transformed and it is your partnership that allows this to happen.

Thank you so much!

Blessings, Annie and Jeff

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**From:** S Hegarty [mailto:shgartym@yahoo.com]

**Subject:** Re: FW: GRR update

Since I have been in Costa Rica for the past five years, I have been working with groups from the GRR-ABCUSA as they visit the Costa Rican Baptist Federation work. I have met some wonderful people and churches and deepened relationships with them. Some of them have become faithful supporters.

However, I have often struggled with budgetary worries because moving from Cuba to Costa Rica meant having to raise more financial support. Therefore, the GRR-ABCUSA special gift of \$10,000 was a delightful (unexpected) blessing for me. Firstly, I appreciate this huge support from my friends in GRR and Executive Regional Minister Paul Gibson, whom I had the pleasure of meeting in June 2016. Secondly, this has been a great stress reliever for me as my daughter has finally found a school she likes, but which was not included in my budget for the year. We also moved homes to be within walking distance of this new school -- also not in the budget! But it was covered by your gift! Of course, this enables me to concentrate more fully on my ministry in Costa Rica with the Baptist Federation and the Pastoral Care for Women ministry, which is a non-denominational ministry to help women understand their worth in Christ and live in this freedom. The GRR special gift made a big difference in my life and ministry!

Sue Hegarty

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**From:** Nzunga Mabudiga [mailto:nzungamabudiga@hotmail.com]

**Subject:** RE: GRR update

We deeply appreciate the support from the Great Rivers Region.

We use their gifts to place water pumps in communities where water is an issue. A water pump in the community means many things to many people.

Here are a few:

-A water pump in the community means that in that community people will no longer suffer and die from the cholera disease. To put it otherwise, a water pump in the community saves life from deadly water borne diseases.

-A water pump means that families will have clean water to drink, to cook with, to wash clothes or to clean the whole house with.

-A water pump in the community means that women and small girls will no longer wake up early to go fetch water for the use of the entire family.

A water pump in the community means school girls can get up, prepare for classes and not worrying about going to fetch water first before going to school. Now the girls have the same chances as boys when it comes time to getting to schools.

A water pump in the community means some people will create small business to make money to support their families. No more begging around.

A water pump in the community means a clean village/community. No reason to be dirty.

Yours, Nzunga

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**From:** Stanton, Rebecca

**Subject:** GRR update

We greatly appreciate this gift from our home region!

\$5,000 has been given to Pastor Zoltán Nyúl for his kitchen-building project at the Baptist Church of Moravica, Serbia. Larry will go this week and spend 7-10 days helping the work crew. This kitchen will help the church serve this aging and poor community and will help them feed hundreds of children during their multiple summer camps.

\$5,000 will be directed to Larry's work with refugees along the Balkan route. He has worked in camps along the Serbian-Hungarian-Croatian borders, in the Serbian capital of Belgrade, in Greece in the islands and on the mainland at the Greek-Macedonian border. This gift will be designated to Larry's continued work in these camps, giving food, clothes and hygiene necessities to refugees, providing for his travel, and lodging.

Please greet our church families and share our love and appreciation for their generous gift and continued prayer and support. We know you will feel their love and excitement!

Thank you,  
Larry and Becky Stanton

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**From:** Samaresh Nayak [<mailto:revsamaresh@gmail.com>] >

**Subject:** RE: GRR gift update

Dear GRR,

The BCCEI has received the grant for the evangelistic work among the Ho Tribal in Orissa. 9 men and 7 women are now already under our own training program who have completed 2 months of training and will undergo for another four months. They are from different villages. They come for one week every month to our headquarters where they are systematically taught with the scripture and skills for evangelism. When they go back, they are assisting their senior evangelist/pastors in sharing the word. They have been provided with literature for evangelism.

They are also provided with a stipend during this period.

After the completion of their six months training, they will be assigned to different areas of their localities where they will engage themselves further in evangelism and church planting. We will be looking forward to organize a mega evangelistic camp sometime in February 2018 as a result of their training and labor.

We will keep you updated as we proceed further.

With warm regards, Samaresh

Rev. Samaresh Nayak  
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**From:** Nancy James [mailto:jamesinhaiti@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 3:26 PM  
**To:** Dripps, Zofia <zdripps@internationalministries.org>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: GRR update

Dear folks from the Great Rivers Region,

We wanted to take this opportunity to send this note of thanks with Zofia Dripps on her visit to you.

Steve and I want to thank you very much for your gift of support of the targeted amount of \$2,500. Your generous offering allows us to go where God has called us. We have been working in Haiti for many years, and now in the next few years, we are being led to help in other areas as well that have requested our help. Steve will help as a medical consultant as well as leading workshops on Servant Leadership to clinics and hospitals. We hope and pray that this will allow these faith based institutions to run more effectively and smoothly as they serve Him. In just a few weeks IM Global Health Consultant, Kristy Engel will travel to North East India to visit two hospitals that have requested our help and participate in these workshops and will accompany us. We are so thankful to all of you in the GRR that allow us to go and share God's love and care to our brothers and sisters there. Please pray for us as we embark on this long journey.

With truly grateful hearts!  
Dr Steve and Nancy James, RN

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**From:** Katie Longkumer [<mailto:nagaladyrev@gmail.com>]

**Subject:** Re: GRR 2 gift updates

We just returned from teaching in a training program at the border of Bhutan that was funded by the GRR grant for Indo-Bhutan. The funds that were received from the generous gift from the GRR has been used to supplement the travel and ministry expenses of the evangelists working to share the gospel within the closed nation of Bhutan. We had traveled to the border where new converts were to meet us for Discipleship training. At the last moment, though plans changed! Fifteen new believers from one village area were expected to attend, but were prevented by the actions of one of their community. A zealous convert distributed Bibles in the government run hospital. It is illegal to convert from Buddhism in Bhutan so sharing one's faith and distributing Bibles is unlawful. Christians worship in house fellowships and generally conduct their evangelism in low-key manners that are more effective. This brother was imprisoned for only 3 days, but the entire community of believers were brought under greater scrutiny and unable to come for training as the matter continues to progress through the judicial system and implications develop in their social context. Several other believers were unable to depart from Bhutan due to their links with the military, which remains on high alert and on-call with the continuing border standoff with China. Complications! We were able to have the training though we shifted to the Leadership Training program as we incorporated many of the leaders from the Bhutanese and tea garden church plants at the Indo-Bhutan



border along with the believers from Bhutan. The follow-up training programs will continue with another this December. This grant has been a great blessing for the brothers and sisters laboring in this field. It continues to provide much needed resources to extend the work, as well as encouragement to know they are not alone in their labors.

Attached photo of the training.

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**From:** Katie Longkumer [<mailto:nagaladyrev@gmail.com>]

The Assam House Church project continues to grow. The GRR grant has encouraged the workers in this field. Some funds from the grant provide financial assistance to women who are moving out in evangelism among their community. We are excited to see the development of several women leaders.

Each month we receive detailed reports of new believers coming to the Lord, multiple baptisms and new house churches/fellowships being established. The work is now taking place in nine districts (counties) with 2700 baptized believers and over 600 believers awaiting/preparing for baptism worshiping in over 300 house churches. At present there are 156 persons leading those gatherings. In November, we have an ABC pastor coming from Utah to join us in conducting a training for the leaders of this movement.

Please convey our greetings and gratitude for the generous giving of the GRR. We share their example of sacrificial commitment to mission to encourage others in their efforts to extend the Kingdom!

Pray you have a blessed time with those very special people....our 'home-folk' the *GREAT* Great Rivers Region churches!





(photos attached: a women's training program: house fellowships: baptism)

Blessings, Katie

Rev. Katie Longkumer  
Country Co-Coordinator for India  
International Ministries

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**From:** Engel, Kristy  
**Subject:** Re: GRR update

Dear Friends in GRR,

I want to thank you first, for your amazing generosity with the overwhelming gift in 2016 of \$10,000. GRR has been a faithful supporter of my ministry since the beginning when I started in 2000 and I have always felt such a strong connection to the region. Knowing that you, as a region, also continue to share that connection with me is something I carry with me as I travel around the world as the Global Consultant for Health with International Ministries. Some of my strongest connections to churches come from GRR and I am so very thankful for these faithful friends. Please know that I am aware that you have many other ways that you could have chosen to use the funds and I am honored that you chose to use the money to support this ministry.

May God bless your generosity and faithfulness!

Kristy Engel  
Global Consultant for Health  
International Ministries, ABC-USA

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**From:** viket623@gmail.com [mailto:viket623@gmail.com]  
**Subject:** Re: GRR gift update - Pierres

Thanks to God and to GRR's gift, we can now announce to you that we have two new churches planted in La Romana and in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The pastors of the new church planting - Iglesia Bautista Misionera Casa de Dios (Missionary Baptist Church House of God) is a couple named Elías René and Dignorah Yules. Elías and Dignorah are members of Maranatha Baptist Church in La Romana. They have received God's call in their lives many years ago and they have waited patiently for the answer, which came with the opening of this new church. Both of them are taking discipleship classes with us while we are walking and putting in practice what they are learning.

Along with the church, an After School Program in Barrio Villa Verde in La Romana is serving both nationalities, Haitians and Dominicans children. In the morning, the Haitian children that do not have proper legal status in the country and are not going to school, come to us so we can prepare them to enter into the school system of the DR. In the afternoon, the Dominicans and Haitians children that go to school come to the program so that we accompany them to do their homework and reinforce the area in which they are weak. At the same time, every day, we offer a daily devotion so that they learn about the love of God. The services that we offer pave the way for us to share our faith with the parents.

The second church is Iglesia Bautista Misionera Beraca (Beraca Missionary Baptist Church) in Villa Mella, Santo Domingo. Pastor Elza Phanord is the pastor of Beraca Church in La Romana and Pastor Estin is in charge of the church in Villa Mella. This new church is serving the Haitian People in that community.

The money sent from GRR is for a 3-year period as we have asked for in the budget. We have already taken money for six months. It is being used for the stipend for the two pastors and the rent for one church.

We are looking forward, next year, to accompany another couple to plant another church. Is it that beautiful that God provides for those that have been waiting patiently on Him?

Please, give our gratitude to the GRR family and invite them to come and see what God is doing in our midst.

In Christ,  
Vital and Ketly

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