



# MISSIONS REPORT

AN UPDATE FROM THE WEST HIGHLAND MISSIONS TEAM

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## JAMIE WANG

Hello everyone! I handed in my resignation with P2C just before Christmas of 2022. The year has been a long road of recovery, but I'm happy to share some next steps for myself and Helping International Students (HIS).

Shortly after my resignation, I approached McMaster University and Mohawk College with a pitch for a contract of support, integrate Hamilton HIS programming with the schools' offerings. McMaster offered to give me a full-time contract position to integrate some of HIS' programs and create additional community support solutions for their international student community. They also requested HIS to partner on a mental health grant funded by the Province of Ontario for \$750,000, which was accepted.

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## ATWELL CENTRE

Priyanka came to Atwell with a history of miscarriages. She was pregnant again and cautiously optimistic, looking to Atwell to guide her to local pregnancy resources as Priyanka and her husband were recent immigrants to Hamilton and were wanting to have a child.

One of our nurses was able to provide resources for her pregnancy and to do a model P.O.C.U.S. Both Priyanka and her husband started to weep when they saw the heartbeat of their embryo. This couple declared they were born-again Christians and our nurse asked if she could pray over them and consent was granted. Our

student and nurse gathered around the couple to pray over this situation. The family were overwhelmed with gratitude that they had found a place that offered spiritual help, prayer, and pregnancy care.

### Please continue to pray for:

- Our front-line staff. Please pray for energy!
- Compassionate, informative, and educational conversations with those who walk through our doors.
- 2 New P.O.C.U.S. clients a day.
- S.H.A.R.E presentations happening in schools and churches.



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We are grateful for these changes! The position will give our family financial stability, which has been a significant stressor for me over the last year. It will free me to focus on fundraising for Helping International Students and operation costs for Hamilton HIS. I'm also excited to learn exactly what the landing and settlement process is for international students and use that information to better offer community support from HIS across Canada to post-secondary schools.

Shortly before accepting the offer from McMaster, I resolved to continue my role on the board of HIS. There is a long road ahead for us as an organization, but I'm hopeful. I intend on giving my time to see it reach its potential, facilitating scaled holistic support in 15 of Canada's major university cities. I continue to hope and work toward having the church be a key actor and blessing to the 623,000+ international student community in Canada.

HIS will have a pending charity status for 2023, and if we are approved we will open an account to receive donations. I'll be working on the application, as well as finishing our national website, [www.helpinginternationalstudents.com](http://www.helpinginternationalstudents.com), over the next few weeks/months.

Thank you again for your many years of support!

## NATIONAL MISSIONS

### NATHAN & ELAINE KAPTEYN

It has been an exciting month for Baden Central Church, and we have seen God provide in many different ways. I had the opportunity to visit several different churches to share about the process of church planting and raise support for the Baden Church. I also had the chance to speak twice with a local association of pastors, sharing with them about what we are doing, and asking them to come alongside and partner with us in this ministry.

One of the provisions that we are most excited about is a new home in Baden. Since we started thinking about planting a church in Baden, Elaine and I have been praying that God would provide a home for us right in the community so that we could invest in the life of the town, and have opportunities to get to know our neighbours. God has answered those prayers, and on April 15 we will be moving into a new apartment right in the heart of Baden. Please pray that this new home would be a great tool for ministry, and through it, God would open many doors for sharing the Gospel with our neighbours.

#### Prayer requests:

- Pray for community dinners which started on March 10
- Pray for an evangelism training night
- Pray for the launch of our first Alpha course
- Pray for our planned launch in late 2023
- Pray that the people of Baden would come to know Christ as their Saviour!



**Nathan & Elaine have a strong passion for small town ministry and a special love for the township of Wilmot. Their desire to plant a church in a rural Ontario community is rooted in the unique equipping they have felt God's work in. Their hope is to see the town around Baden Central Church transformed by the Gospel.**

### STEVE JONES



The past few months have included much travel in Canada and internationally. I had the joy to visit and preach at several Fellowship churches along with hosting our Fellowship National Conference in Niagara Falls, ON in November. Our FNC was very well attended - the fellowship was great after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

An important motion was passed by our FNC delegates approving the beginning of a three-year journey to look at our Affirmation of Faith. The process with the local church and constituent involvement will prayerfully consider possible modifications to our Affirmation of Faith (AoF). A fifteen-member AoF Team will navigate this important process - they begin their work in early 2023.

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I visited missionaries, projects, and potential ministry partners in Lebanon, Sudan, Tunisia, and Columbia in October and November. It was wonderful to learn from a group of Syrian refugees of Kurdish descent, that many were coming to Christ. In the past 7-8 years, 2 million refugees have entered Lebanon - a nation of 4 million citizens. Of the 2 million; a half-million are Kurds, and of this half-million, 125,000 to 175,000 (Muslims) have come to Christ in recent years. It's a bona fide movement of God!

Thank you for praying for my family and me. I was recently reminded of a prayer warrior who told me at my seminary graduation she would pray for me every day. Years later I attended her funeral and her husband and I stood by her casket and he said, "You know, Steve, she prayed for you every day." He later wrote me a note (I just found the note) promising to take up where his dear wife left off - he would pray for my family and me every day. I spoke at Dr. Hal MacBain's funeral and told the story of Maime and Hal's commitment to pray every day. I'm humbled by this knowledge, and so I do not take for granted your commitment to regularly pray for my family and me. It strengthens me to know we're receiving daily prayer coverage. Honestly, I count on it. Thank you so much!

## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

### JACK CHEN



**Jack Chen is involved in leadership development through  
The Fellowship in India**

Patel [name has been changed] is a leader who came to the Lord in 2014 and began training with us. His wife and son threatened to kick him out of their home and his son beat him in public with a shoe in front of a large crowd!

On October 1st, 2022 Patel's wife was one of the women among 28 Hindu converts who got baptized! Pray that the entire household, including their son and daughter-in-law, will become followers of Christ soon. In another instance, through one of our trainee leaders, a young Hindu engineer accepted Christ and shared a New Testament Bible with his grandmother. Upon reading the New Testament three times, she accepted Jesus as her Lord! She declared her faith in front of her entire family, "All my life, I had followed these other gods. But now for

the rest of my life, I am following Jesus." Although the young engineer and his grandmother are facing opposition and persecution from their family, we praise God for His salvation on them! Our hopes and prayers are that their whole family will be saved through their witness.

**Please pray for the following much-needed items:**

- Construction of a Prayer Hall for a small, vibrant growing house fellowship in a village that has no church. The approximate cost is \$12,000
- A one-bedroom 350 sq. ft. apartment for a slum dweller to move off the streets. \$17,000
- A motorbike for a village evangelist who travels great distances to villages for ministry. \$3,500

### BEN & KRISTA TAYLOR

February 24th. Honestly, the day came and went. The first anniversary of the invasion of Russia has not been easy. It is not a happy anniversary, and pictures and stories and reminders of that traumatic time, for so many, were emotionally difficult. Combined with the fact that there is no end in sight; the fighting on the front lines continues to be intense and Russian missiles continue to fly. This has now become a war we will not count in weeks or months... but in years.

We are so proud of Ukrainian believers who chose to stay and are serving those in need selflessly. In January, Ben was able to make a trip to visit our ministry partners in Western Ukraine. He came back very encouraged! The believers there are full of faith, hope, and joy. They continue to trust God and are incredibly grateful for the help that they have received in humanitarian aid and Bibles, which allows them to serve others. There are so many displaced people who have had to leave their homes in Eastern Ukraine. The churches can help meet some of their physical

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needs and share the hope of the gospel! One older lady that Ben met had to leave everything behind when the fighting was intense. She was living with some other internally displaced people when another woman stole all of her money. She was devastated. It was all she had left. But she came to a tent the church had set up in the middle of town and received food, a Bible, and an invitation to come to church! She has been coming every week since!

Yesterday we also got some great news! A few months into the war, FAIR provided an evacuation vehicle to a ministry working to help get people out of danger on the front lines. A few weeks after it was transported to Ukraine, we got the news that it had been in a near-fatal accident as the driver was trying to get out from under fire. We knew this is the risk of war. We saw pictures. We figured the vehicle was done. 9 months later – we get pictures that they have repaired it 2 times and it keeps going! They are still using it to evacuate people and take in supplies!!! Praise God.

A few months ago, one of the Ukrainian girls in our Bible study said that things have changed for her. There is something in the human psyche that you just can't continue to live in the trauma of war daily. We are safe, we need to live our lives. We also don't want to ever become numb to the fact that there is a lot of need, pain, and suffering in Ukraine. So we'd like to ask you to pray. Please continue to pray for the war to end. This is a deeply complicated matter, but with God anything is possible. Pray for wisdom on how to continue to give and serve Ukraine as they fight for their freedom. "Just because it's not happening to you, doesn't mean it isn't happening." (from Ant-man & the Wasp)



**Ben and Krista Taylor serve with The Fellowship in Poland. They share the love of Jesus with university students, invest in their lives, teach them God's Word, and organize outreach events for students. Since the war in Ukraine, Ben has been very active in supporting Ukrainians who are fleeing to Poland.**

## MISSIONS UPDATES

Join our Missions email list to receive regular updates from all of our church supported missionaries.

Visit:

[www.westhighland.org/missions](http://www.westhighland.org/missions)



Thank You for your prayers, support, and encouragement for the missionaries of West Highland Baptist Church!

