



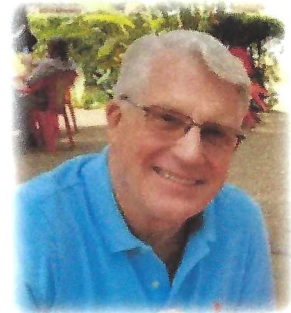
Global Connection International

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

June 2023

Reflections on a Rich Past

Global Connection International has been **“CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH THE WORLD’S GREATEST NEEDS”** for 23 continuous years. With the committed partnership of so many of you, the Lord has provided millions of dollars for humanitarian needs, led us in a creative, human trafficking awareness & prevention campaign both overseas and here at home; and we have provided significant assistance to numerous, local, churches across cultural boundaries in Southeast Asia, Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa. All this networking has been greatly enhanced by way of numerous return trips to provide accountability and to strengthen personal, meaningful relationships that have been formulated over an entire lifetime.



The stories of what the Lord has repeatedly accomplished as we have sought to join Him in what He was already doing are truly astonishing, and we couldn’t have done it without the financial resources and personal participation provided by so many of you! As there is still so much that needs to be done, JoAnn and I have often mused that “retiring” is out of the question, but instead we have “retreaded” and enjoy every opportunity to continue partnering with other likeminded people who are still committed to being a part of things that matter most! We hope you will be encouraged by a couple of updated stories in this quarterly report. **Thank you for your personal encouragement, commitment, and faithfulness in a job well done!**

Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Initiative Continues Here at Home

With significant financial backing, lots of wisdom, and creative input from numerous project partners; GCI was extremely successful in the development of a powerful, human trafficking awareness & prevention campaign over the past 5 years that captured the attention of right at a million, twenty thousand, every-day American young people and their families at numerous organized venues. Accompanied by the use of an attention-grabbing, 65’ mobile exhibit we made compelling presentations at all kinds of large public events, corporate conventions and sporting events, as well as in schools, churches and civic

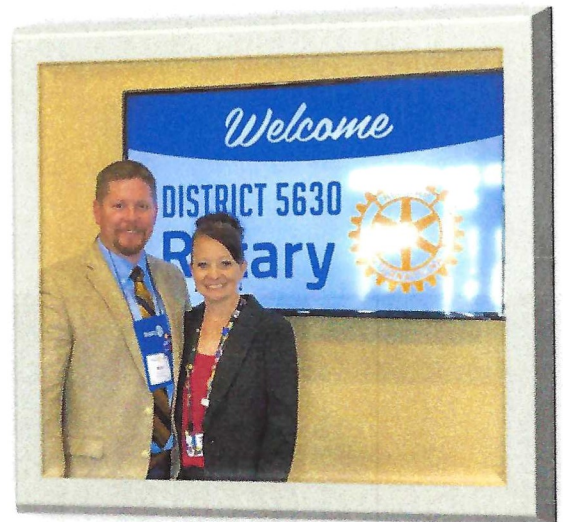
clubs. During the past couple of years, no one has provided more manpower, resources, and influence in their local communities to get this message out than the Rotary Clubs in Texas District 5870 and Nebraska District 5630.

TEXAS - In our last briefing we shared the story of how the **Rotary Club of Georgetown, Texas** had successfully instigated a plan to purchase the beautiful, mobile, educational exhibit from GCI, with dreams of taking this initiative to a whole new level. Their President Elect, Roger Chappell, has provided the passionate leadership and vision for this project, and is so committed that he chose to postpone his up-coming Club Presidency to another time in the future in order to devote his focus, time and energy into

this life-saving campaign for such a time as this! We could not be any prouder of this new friend and colleague, along with the highly motivated Rotary Club in Georgetown, Texas who are well-equipped to take this vital human trafficking awareness & prevention exhibit to tens of thousands of young people and their families throughout the great state of Texas and beyond! We look forward to an ongoing relationship with them as consulting and collaborative opportunities present themselves in the days ahead.



NEBRASKA - We cannot say enough about the unbridled passion that members of numerous Nebraska Rotary Clubs have demonstrated in their desire to warn their local communities about the use of Force, Fraud, and Coercion by an estimated 750,000 predators via social media and the internet, to ensnare the most vulnerable in every community around the globe for personal profit. After the Covid-19 shut-down of all public events and activities for 18 months, it was Rotarian **Angela Swanson of McCook, Nebraska**, (pictured here with her husband Michal), that first contacted Global Connection International to begin opening doors for presentations in local school districts throughout the western part of the state. Her contagious enthusiasm began a wave of interest that has continued to grow and we are currently working together on details for human trafficking awareness & prevention assemblies in half a dozen additional schools in South-Central Nebraska for the coming school year. Involvement in these communities with this great group of people takes on added, personal meaning for JoAnn and me since our recent move to this area now makes us Good Ole' Country Neighbors!



Overseas Partnerships Continue to Flourish

As we continue partnering with our legacy ministry partners overseas, there are also plenty of opportunities to provide encouragement and support to those on the front lines of the fight against human trafficking over there, as well as community development, education and assistance to local churches. Take a look with us at South Korea and Cambodia.

A TRIBUTE TO FAR EAST BROADCASTING - Fifty years ago, a Christian Evangelist by the name of **Billy Graham** arrived in **South Korea** to hold a five-day crusade from May 30th – June 3rd, 1973. It is reported that about 4.4 million people attended those meetings held in different cities in the country, and over 1.1 million attendees showed up at the Yeouido Plaza in Seoul for the final event – setting the attendance record for any Billy Graham crusade any place and at any time in history!

As reported by the Korean Times, “That crusade became a milestone in the history of Korean Christianity. It was an unprecedented success, inspiring and encouraging the



church to strive for further growth in the years to come.” There was another “Billy” who played a significant role in these crusades in South Korea half a century ago as Billy Graham’s interpreter. **Billy Kim’s** uncanny ability to emulate Graham’s mannerisms, gestures, and voice inflections so precisely was unmatched, and ended up providing yet another tool that has led to all kinds of open doors for ministry among world leaders to this very day.

As the Founding President of Far East Broadcasting Company in South Korea, Dr. Billy Kim and FEBC have been instrumental in providing a tremendous amount of encouragement and financial support for GCI throughout the years. We have also had the joy of collaborating in several cutting-edge campaigns and projects in the nation of Cambodia in an effort to rebuild and strengthen local churches in that fragile country following the reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge and their infamous “Killing Fields” that left only about 200 Christian survivors.

It was during our first visits to this small, Southeast Asian country reeling from a horrific genocide inflicted by their own people, that we met the Founder and Director of Far East Broadcasting Cambodia. **Samoeun Intal and her husband Robledo** have consequently become dear friends, confidants, and ministry partners; providing Godly wisdom and cultural insight necessary for productive encouragement and assistance to the Evangelical Cambodian Churches. Samoeun is still recognized by the Cambodian, Christian community as the leader of the FEBC Cambodia ministry – providing ongoing Spiritual council, and leadership training to their staff.



Together, Robledo and Samoeun spend themselves tirelessly, serving five local churches and schools out in the often overlooked and underserved rural villages outside of Phnom Penh. Due to the genocide inflicted by the Khmer Rouge, the nation of Cambodia essentially lost an entire generation who would normally pass down family values, guidance, and tradition to their children. Thus, providing regular family counseling and teaching on the “Foundations of Christian Marriage & Family” are absolutely essential to the well-being of individual families and the nation at large. One of their flagship projects are regular, after-school programs for the children in the villages, run by young teachers they have trained.



Robledo has just gone through a second series of serious, medical procedures to retard the growth of a tumor attached to the base of his brain. With ongoing Proton Therapy administered by medical specialists located in Bangkok, Thailand, he refuses to give in to diminished physical stamina, and is determined to continue serving the overlooked and underserved communities out in the rural areas that they have served so well for so long!

This couple is the epitome of faithful, competent, Spiritual, servant leaders who have earned the trust of the Cambodian Christian community as well as those of us who have served alongside of them cross-culturally for the past 23 years. We are proud to maintain a strong ministry partnership with Robledo and Samoeun as we enter this “Fourth Quarter” of our ministry involvement, and hope you will as well. **We again thank those of you who continue to participate in this ministry partnership that is changing lives for eternity!**

For Things That Matter Most,

Jim Weber
President

THE COST OF DOING THE RIGHT THING

As our nation and the world at large faced the reality of a Covid-19 “Pandemic during 2020 & 2021,” it has now become very evident that extreme isolation policies imposed by the government on our young people, their families, along with every other sector of society; had consequential fall-out that far outweighed the threat of the “pandemic” itself! Those who were already being marginalized by social, emotional, psychological, mental, or physical abuse were threatened and compromised even further by separation from the essential relationships that were the lifeline they depended on for survival. Nowhere was this more evident than in the arenas of influence that GCI has been involved in, so we chose to stay the course – howbeit at a very high cost!

Facing all the issues that other small business experienced during this ordeal, we find ourselves facing the challenge of rebuilding a solid financial base and prayer support for involvement in four specific areas:

1. A continuing partnership with the Intals in Cambodia, whose story you just read about in this issue – serving the overlooked and underserved rural communities with churches, schools and humanitarian aid.
2. A cutting-edge ministry in Tanzania with Alex & Rhema Samwell that we will feature in our next Executive Briefing – including church leadership training, community development, and youth empowerment in marginalized neighborhoods.
3. The opportunity to continue helping get the Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention message out to local schools and churches in partnership with local Rotary Clubs.
4. Providing personal encouragement and counsel to Pastors and their wives, as well as other church leadership who need a compassionate and caring friend to fellowship with during these days of stress and turmoil.

____ Would like to participate with a one-time gift of \$ ____.

____ Would like to join GCI’s regular team of monthly supporters at
\$ ____ per month. (Current additional need = \$6,500/mo.)

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