



Focus Newsletter

Vol IX - Issue VII September 2017



A Season of Change

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”

At the ZEMA Home Office it certainly seems like a season of change. We have a lot of exciting things happening and we are glad to share them with you.

Kathy Richards is leaving our team in September and we are sad to see her go. She has been a huge help to us, doing a tremendous job organizing the office and leading the transition from our old donor management software to a new one that is more efficient.

In her place with we have brought on a new Office Manager, Reidar Fostervold. Reidar is a recent Moody Bible Institute graduate with a background in communications and creative design. We are very excited to have him on the team. Be sure and checkout his bio on the back. Reidar is a part-time employee, but is currently raising his support to become full-time. Visit his ZEMA missionary page at zema.org/reidar to find out more about him.

After much prayer, discussion and consideration, ZEMA has decided to move its main office to downtown Chicago. Why you may ask? There are several reasons, but the best of them is that we are closer to Moody Bible Institute. We feel that building a robust internship program is one key to the continued growth of our ministry. It has been hard to find interns willing to



come all the way to Zion, but with our new office being located only one mile away from Moody, we are already beginning to feel the benefits of a greater partnership with the school. However, Grace Missionary Church has graciously allowed us to keep our space in Zion, so it still will be a center for our board meetings and other local activities.

Earlier this summer we launched an online fundraiser for the ZEMA development fund. So far, we have raised \$13,000 of our \$30,000 goal. We are very excited to announce that we have completed a new ZEMA promotional video which will be released this Fall. We would like to thank all of you who gave to the fund for making this possible. Keep a close eye on our website for more details.

In Christ,
Andrew.





THE SEGHERS

On August 15th, Greg and Carlene stopped by the Zion office and Reidar, who was learning all about the field, managed to catch this interview with them for the Missionary Update.

Reidar: So, how have you seen your ministry grow with the amaZioni in the past year?

Greg: We had our teacher’s conference about three weeks ago and there were about 55 teachers there. Out of that number there were only about 18 missionaries. We estimate that that there are 70 teachers involved in the teaching ministry. So, to have 70 African leaders who are teachers is very significant. The direction that we want to go is [to see the African teachers] reach their own people, start their own schools and multiply our workforce in ways that are not relying only on western missionaries. I think one of the significant changes has been the ability of the teachers and pastors of ZEBS (Zion Evangelical Bible School) that I am involved with to take hold of and carry through the responsibilities that I have without me being there. It has its hiccups, you know, but it

seems to be going well. Soon the four schools which I’m in charge of will be running themselves.

Reidar: So, what do you see happening among the amaZioni that both of you are most excited about?

Carlene: I think that one of the things that



has been exciting is that we’re actually seeing the second generation of amaZioni Christians. Pastors that came when ZEBS first started are now sending their nineteen or twenty something children to also go through this program to become leaders in their churches. So, we are beginning to see a second generation of

Christians in some of the amaZioni churches. That is exciting.

G: And the work never stops. We are always making new contacts, always meeting new people who don’t know who we are. We don’t do much advertising [for ZEBS], other than when I go to all-night services and I pass out tracts and things like that. Really, the way that the schools are growing is by word of mouth. The school at Sunbury is up to 127 to 133 students and it just doesn’t stop.

R: There is a lot of growth happening now, but what would you say is one of the biggest challenges that you are facing?

G: I would say that even though some get the truth, they still hold on to their ancestral worship and practices. I don’t think that it is any different from the cultural bondage or baggage that we carry as Westeners. As they get the truth, God is setting Africans free from the bondages in their culture, and...that is not any different from our Western churches. There are things that if an African would come to the West, they would say “How can they do that and still be Christians?”

That is the prayer that is ongoing, for God to release them of those things and for them to be fully committed to Jesus. When they do finally let go of [their ancestral worship], you do see a real freedom in their lives because they are no longer under that burden of trying to appease the spirits of their dead relatives anymore.

“...one of the things that has been exciting is that we are actually seeing the second generation of amaZioni Christians.”

C: I think that something that we face all the time—that maybe has become old news, but for us still is very much a reality—is that AIDS still is very prevalent in Africa and South Africa. The leaders that we are working alongside face death regularly. Many of them are widowed and taking care of orphaned children because their own children have died. So that is a huge reality of the African people.

R: And that feeds into the fear of ancestors as well?

G: Well... their belief system is that any trouble that occurs is because of some type of witchcraft that was placed upon them and that the ancestors can protect them, or they could bring those problems to you if they have not



been properly fed and worshiped, that is, appeased.

R: So, how long are you staying in the States?

G: We're staying for ten weeks. We'll be heading back October 18th. The emphasis this time is to make connections with the home office and be available to get a great communication line between the field and the office, between Andrew [Sisson] and myself.

Other things that are going on are that we will be available to our supporting churches and particularly CCC at Convocation, which is their mission's week from the 24th to the 1st of October. The other thing that is big on the list is Moody's Missions Week and then the development of the Internship Program along with Moody.

R: Your son Kyle is going to college, right?

C: Yeah, he starts on the 19th of August. He's doing a four-year degree at Berea College in Kentucky.

R: Are all the kids out of the house now?

C: Yep.

R: So, do you need to figure out how to live without any of the kids in the house?

C: You know, I think we've done that alright...

G: Yeah, it is more of how to be involved in their lives and still be ten thousand miles away. So that's the balance, how that's going to look like in the next five to ten years as we move into this new season of our lives.

R: What would be a specific thing that you would like prayer for while you are here in the States?

G: I think for a good connection between the field and the home office. In times of transition there is a risk of breakdown, and I think that we want to maintain a good connection between both. I would also like to see the development of the internship program [between Moody and ZEMA].

C: On the prayer request side, we are figuring out how to be a family on both sides of the ocean. I think that's the prayer, that's the request, that we would figure out how to serve the Lord and be faithful to both [our family and] ministry partners that we've worked with for 23 years.



UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

— ZEMA'S BANQUET!

Please join us if you can for the ZEMA Annual Banquet on Saturday, November 18th, at the Illinois Beach State Resort and Conference Center.



This year we have the privilege to host Stuart and Jill Briscoe as our guest speakers. Along with their son Pete, the Briscoes are the founders of Telling the Truth, an on-air and online media ministry that distributes Bible teaching through many different platforms and formats. You can learn more at tellingthetruth.org

Stuart and Jill have been in ministry for over 30 years and have authored more than 40 books each. Their passion for serving the Lord takes them all over the world teaching Scripture and proclaiming God's grace and love wherever they go.

Please RSVP by November 3
at (847) 872-7363 or at zema@zema.org

— NEW MAILING ADDRESS!

Along with the new changes at the ZEMA home office, including our new logo, office manager, and the move to downtown Chicago, we also have a new mailing address.

Please address all future mail and donations to **PO Box 1153, Chicago, IL 60690.**



The New Guy



Hello! My name is Reidar Fostervold Lopez. I wanted to introduce myself because I'm going to step into Kathy's shoes as the new Office Manager. Just so you know, my first name is actually Norwegian and is pronounced "RADAR." But although my name is Scandinavian, I grew up in Paraguay, South America.

As a Missionary Kid, I grew up in a tribe surrounded by farmland, rivers, and the last remnants of jungle. In

a typical day, I would interact with four cultures in the same day. I'd go to town with Brazilian immigrants farmers to a Paraguayan school and teachers, return and play in the river with my indigenous Aché friends, and then come home when night fell to my American/Paraguayan family.

My parents work with the Aché, a small tribe of about two thousand people. Only forty years ago, eastern Paraguay was an impenetrable jungle and the home of this ethnic group. But starting in the late 1960's, Paraguayan workers from the east and Brazilian-German immigrants from the west began cutting down the forest to make way for soybean fields. Caught in the middle, the Aché faced annihilation. My grandparents Rolf and Irene Fostervold were missionaries that raced against

time to contact the southern Aché before they died of malnutrition or disease as their world disappeared in smoke. They invited the Aché to a safe place where they could live without fear and in 1976 they accepted. My family has been working with them ever since. My parents Bjarne and Rosalba have continued the work and are partnering with the Aché to navigate the globalized world without losing their dignity or language, finding their identity in Christ alone. It is my desire to return to my country in the future and continue this legacy.



After graduating from High School, I wanted to find a place where I could grow in my creative skills while also deepening my faith. Through a few God moments and some divinely opened doors, I wound up at Moody Bible Institute in the fall of 2013. Four years later, I graduated last May with a degree in Communications. My time at Moody has formed me and solidified my identity in Jesus and for that I am so grateful.

Post-college and living near downtown Chicago, I was eager to find a place where I could serve God and grow. I applied to this position and met Andrew Sisson, and it turned out that we had once met at Moody's Missions Week last October. One thing led to the next and now I am serving at ZEMA. As I said earlier, Kathy has left some big shoes to fill and I am so thankful for her patience training me. I hope to glorify God by serving both our supporters and our missionaries to the best of my ability while I am here. I am excited to be a part of this team and looking forward to what the future will bring.

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