

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation



23 May 2022 to 4 June 2022

Travel to ancient sites in Turkey connected with Paul's First, Second and Third Missionary Journeys, and also the seven churches of Revelation. Added to these magnificent biblical sites is a visit to the spectacular region of Cappadocia. Contact this leading biblical scholar for more information.

Dr. Jeff Weima

Professor of New Testament

Calvin Theological Seminary

3233 Burton S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 328-3110

Email: weimje@calvinseminary.edu

Project Updates

Pg 3: Team **Malawi** Update: Supported through Faye Yu

Pg 5: **Nicaraguan** Water Project: El Tamarindo

Faith Practices Project

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tips
Reflection and Discussion Starter
The Practice of Justice and Mercy

<https://www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject>



Isaiah 10:1-2

Ponder or discuss the following questions:

- What examples of unjust laws or oppressive decrees do you see in your community or your country?
- Throughout the Bible, God's voice rings out to support people who are poor and oppressed and to protect them from injustice. In your opinion, does the church's passion for justice and mercy match God's?
- Why or why not?



Isaiah 58:9-10

Ponder or discuss the following questions:

- A yoke is a type of harness used with a team of animals, typically oxen. Usually made of wood and iron, it's heavy and rigid, and it restricts the animals' freedom to move. In the Bible the word "yoke" is used to describe being bound to something or someone, for better or for worse. With this in mind, how would you describe "the yoke of oppression"?
- How might your church, or another group of which you're a part, begin to meet the needs of the oppressed and "do away with the yoke of oppression"?
- What practical steps might you take?

KIDS CORNER



Make the World a Better Place

Check out the new kids' devotion @ kidscorner.net

In **1 Timothy 4:12**, the apostle Paul gives Timothy two pieces of advice:

- 1st: "Don't let anyone make fun of you just because you are young."
- 2nd: "Set an example for other followers by what you say and do."

Listen now and check out all the new content.



FamilyFire

Stoking the Spirit's flame at home

Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook. familyfire.com

Be Quick to Listen - Check out the new kids' devotion at kidscorner.net. Listening is a skill and it takes practice to become a good listener. What makes someone a good listener? Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

No Separation from God - Check out the new kids' devotion at kidscorner.net. The love of God is like a strong magnet. Nothing can separate you from his love, no matter what happens. Remember that God has already shown his love to you and to all the world. He sent his Son Jesus to save us from our sins. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

God Loves Me. The Bible Tells Me So - Check out the new kids' devotion at kidscorner.net. Have you ever wondered why we read the Bible? The Bible points us to God, and as Mark 12:30 says, "You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength." Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: When Life is Meaningless - Do you ever feel like you're spinning your wheels but not getting anywhere? Life can bring its share of discouragement. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Ecclesiastes 1-2 and 5:18-20 to glean wisdom for life from the Teacher and discuss why we can have hope even when life seems meaningless. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Inspire 2022: Early Bird Rate - Join believers from across the continent August 4-6 in the Chicago area for a time of encouragement, renewal, and fellowship. Registration is now open! Register now for early-bird pricing of only \$95 USD/CDN (\$110 after March 31) plus flexibility if your plans change. This year's theme, Inspired to Be One, focuses on celebrating our diversity in the CRCNA as a denomination, as well as the need for us to come together as one church. Inspire will connect people across generations, cultures, and missions, reorienting us in the hope of God's kingdom. Find information and registration at crcna.org/inspire

Stewardship Resources for Your Church - Over the past year and a half, Diaconal Ministries' Stewardship Pilot Project (SPP), in partnership with Christian Stewardship Services and the CRC, has produced new resources for your church and diaconate! The SPP has evolved over this time and is now being restructured as an online course. The self-paced learning modules will help congregations learn about the 4 T's of Stewardship: Talents, Time, Treasure and Trees (Creation Care) and how to grow in generosity for the glory of God's Kingdom! Visit Diaconal Ministries' website to find the new resources that have already been added and stay tuned for more information on toolkits and the online learning modules coming this spring: diaconalministries.com/stewardship/#stewardship-resources

Hiring: Senior Leader for Indigenous Justice & Reconciliation - Calling all Canadians with a passion for justice and a commitment to reconciliation: The CRCNA is seeking a Senior Leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation. This position will focus on supporting and deepening the CRCNA Canada's gospel journey of reconciliation and right relationship with Indigenous communities in prayerful and resolute collaboration with the Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee (CIMC), Indigenous Elders, the Justice and Reconciliation Team, and senior leaders of the CRCNA in Canada. For further information and to apply visit: crcna.org/careers

Annual Interclassis March Online Training Event - Join the Classis Huron Safe Church team and participants from across Canada on March 5, 2022 for our virtual 2-part event. The first event is a virtual tour of the former Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School, presented by the Woodland Cultural Centre (Brantford ON). The second is a presentation by Priya Andrade, the interim Canadian Justice and Reconciliation Mobilizer for Indigenous Ministry in the CRCNA. Priya will focus on CRC engagement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action in Canada by repenting and lamenting its role in the cultural violence committed towards Indigenous Peoples. Registration is required: https://www.wmott.ca/scc/workshops_online.php

SOLOFINA'S STORY OF CHANGE

COUNTRY: MALAWI

AREA OF IMPACT: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



"Since I started the [CCMP] training, I have learned a number of things that have me to transform my household."

- Solofina, farmer

Solofina, 45, a wife and mother of five, lives in Masumba village, Malawi. She grows maize and other crops for food and for sale. She is one of the Church in Community (CnC) facilitators in her community who was trained by World Renew's partner, Eagles Relief and Development. She also started participating in the Church Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) training sessions. She says, "Since I started the [CCMP] training, I have learned a number of things that have helped me to transform my household." Solofina is part of the Kachira Bible study group and has been instrumental in mobilizing her church for integral mission; the church has carried out a number of acts of love in the community. She has also been part of the team that trained the community in fertilizer making.

Solofina says she has found CnC to be transformational. She explains, "Before we started these trainings, I did not have cattle... I did not have an oxcart... I did not have goats... a motorbike and an irrigation pump. Now I have them all. I learned to have a vision for my household." Solofina says the training in fertilizer making has helped her to increase her crop productivity and profitability. She shares, "These days my barn is always full, I always have more than enough food." Solofina has now organized a group of young people to observe and learn as she starts a garden for permaculture in her yard so that they too can start gardens of their own.

January 2022

COUNTRY UPDATES

The planting season in Malawi was already fraught with worry in December, as there were some rains but then nothing for a while. Some people replanted maize after their first crops died. But then, in late January, Storm Ana hit the region and destroyed most of the progress made over the last year. The full extent of the damage is still being determined, but World Renew is already helping hundreds of households with food aid. We will be assessing where else we can respond.

This past year, the price of goods has increased, which has been a struggle for many. Looking at the exchange rate between U.S. dollars and Malawi kwacha, there has been a steady decrease in the kwacha compared to the dollar. Fuel prices increased in December, so the price of goods is increasing as well. People are struggling.

There was a huge increase in the number of COVID-19 cases around the beginning of the year. Even though the cases are still high, the cases have not resulted in hospital stays. This means that the hospitals still can manage and we have not run out of oxygen. Please pray for the health care staff and the hospitals. I know that this has been an exhausting time for them.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the recovery of Malawi from Storm Ana, which is known to have killed at least one person in the country and made thousands homeless.
- Pray for food shortages that will result from this extreme weather event.
- Pray for wisdom as we work with partners. We praise God for these local organizations and ask for his guidance to help them build stronger and more efficient organizations that are able to do the work that God has called them to do.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

We trust and believe, as Christ's church has for centuries, "... that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." - Romans 5:3-5

Our team is so grateful for your faithfulness and continued prayerful support.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HOPE!

the World Renew team in Malawi

World Renew Malawi
malawi@worldrenew.net

Access to Clean Water

THE COMMUNITY OF TAMARINDO, DIRIAMBA CARAZO

El Tamarindo is a rural community in the dry corridor of Nicaragua in which the majority of the population practices subsistence agriculture. San Lucas has been working in partnership with World Renew for over a decade in this area building community capacity to improve food security, access to clean water, and risk management of new and increased threats posed by climate change. San Lucas and World Renew have also partnered to build five community water systems during the past seven years, successfully helping 415 families improve access to clean water. All of these communities' water systems have been successfully managed by the Community Water Committees that were organized and trained by San Lucas and continue to operate.



A mother and child in El Tamarindo

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In response to proposals from the community, an implementation plan has been created to build a new water system. This will roll out in three key activities:

1. Construct a solar-powered potable water system.
2. Provide training on appropriate hygiene and sanitation practices.
3. Empower the Potable Water and Sanitation Committee.

These activities will include components such as workshops to assist families in the community with developing understanding and ownership of the project. Monitoring and follow-up throughout the project are an important part of the plan. And an inauguration celebration will take place once all of these activities have been completed.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

The total estimated budget for this project is \$180,418. The community contributions expected from residents of El Tamarindo themselves is \$30,000. Will your congregation commit to raising a portion of these funds to build on the great work that this community is doing?

We would love to share more about this exciting project with you and answer any questions you may have. Simply reach out by email or call us at 1.888.WRLD.RNW (x4231) ^{ext.4321} so that we can discuss the possibilities of how, by working together, we can do justice and serve Christ in Nicaragua.

JOIN US IN BRINGING HOPE!

Steve Gisel and the team

World Renew Nicaragua
nicaragua@worldrenew.net

1700 28th Street SE • Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407 • 800-552-7972
3475 Mainway • PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1 • Burlington ON L7R 3Y8 • 888-WRLD-RNW

Quick facts

Proposed project start date: January of 2022
Proposed project end date: June of 2023

At least one member of every family will receive training on hygiene, water conservation, and more

Expected number of participants: 110 households
composed of 443 people

worldrenew.ca