

# ***Missions in Media Update – Winter 2022***

***Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***

***Thank You for your continued prayers and support of our labor – we seek the fruit that abounds to your account (Phil. 4:17)—Russell D & Family***

**NEIE – In our ninth year of operation!**

- **On Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship service NEIE held its annual graduation ceremony. Sister Angelina Lee and sister Angela Perna graduated from the two-year program.** Angelina is a member at the Overbrook Park congregation in west Philly. Both her and Angela were very inquisitive students. **Angelina said, “NEIE helped me to grow in overall bible knowledge and I also learned how important context is when interpreting Scripture.” Angela commented: “The school helped in teaching me more about evangelism; to dig deeper into the word and to share the big picture.”** Angela has been attending a Tuesday night bible study with several souls who are not members of the Lords church. She’s been asking a lot of questions to draw them into the word and challenge their faith only convictions. Angelina is very involved with the sisters at Overbrook. **Please pray that the Lord will bless both of these sisters with even more opportunities to go and grow!**



***Congratulations Angela & Angelina!***

- **Brother Richard Joploh: Richard traveled to Liberia in late October early November to help brother Edmond Borfay with his labor. They hosted a Song Leaders & Youth**

**Workshop** inviting not only church members but folks from other denominations. They used the event as an outreach effort. Richard has been wanting to return to his homeland to do mission work and for Media (with its current membership) it was a big deal. **We were able to fund most of his trip! Praise God!** The last time an overseas mission work was supported by Media was when I had traveled to Venezuela with brother Owen Olbricht.

**Brother Edmond Borfay** is working to build a team of leaders there and prayerfully Richard will be one of those men who returns to help from time to time. This was **one of the objectives of NEIE, to be able to help train and send workers.** We praise God that He has blessed us with this opportunity. May the Lord continue to bless Richard, as he **goes and grows in service for the King! Pray for his son Andrew as he has expressed interest in attending NEIE.** He, like his father, wants to do more for the homeland.



**Brother Richard Joploh (center in blue)**

- **Brother Mark Eckler:** Ever since Mark returned from his training at the **Texas Normal Singing School** he has done a better job in leading songs. He loved the training so much that he has been inviting others to join him in July of 2023! Their program of study is not only challenging but very encouraging, lifting the spirits of all who attend.

Mark learned of his strengths and weaknesses immediately while leading songs in chapel sessions. Daily he attended music theory classes; learned about leading songs in various tempos, how to keep time and starting songs with the proper pitch. In 2023

we will be sending Mark out to sister congregations at least once a month to help with their song leading; **more than several in our area can use the help**. One of his goals after attending the four-year certification program is to help sister congregations, **sharing all that he learns through the workshops**. **Please continue to keep Mark in your prayers**, since his restoration he has become even more committed than when he attended previously, and his diligence has made a difference personally in my life and my work for the Lord. I am truly grateful for the strong friendship we have developed in Christ. When I'm feeling low and I start questioning why I'm here, Mark helps me to remember that serving the king is precious work; people **can mature in Him! We are grateful for this wonderful brother in the Lord, God has blessed us! Praise be to God!**

- **Back to the Bible Campaign in Sheffield, AL: Brother Javier Perez, sisters Angela Perna & Eileen Beoethy** and I headed south to work with the **Cox Blvd Church of Christ**. They held their **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to the Bible Campaign, July 14-17**. All toll about 73 studies were set; out of studies that held while we were there **5 precious souls were baptized into Christ!** When we left early Sunday morning to visit with another sister congregation, as is usual, there was plenty of follow up work to do. We continued to pray for increase. It was a tremendous experience for Javier and Angela being it was their first Back to the Bible Campaign. Eileen had been on a previous out of state campaign hosted by the Northwest Church of Christ several years ago. **Eileen** loves the campaigns and cherishes every opportunity to serve, except when the mid-summer heat kicks in...LOL, no complaining, while campaigning sister! Please pray for her current work—on Wednesday mornings during her mid-day break from driving school bus she visits Fair Acers (where our dear sister in Christ, **Michelle Manzi** currently lives) to teach bible lessons. She has been studying with Michelle to encourage her and build her up in the faith. A friend will join in from time to time. I am grateful for Eileen's determination to develop her knowledge (an avid reader) and to **go and grow** in teaching others. Also **please keep Michelle in your prayers**; her physical health has been slowly getting worse.



*Angela, Javier, Eileen*



*Great team of soul winners, except for that guy in the red cap!*

- **Brother Javier Perez:** Javier will be entering his second year with NEIE in January. He loves the school and the opportunities that it presents to share the gospel. He told me that he can't wait for the next campaign. **Besides attending the school, when able, he's been visiting Media for worship services.** He and his wife and daughter are members at the Northfield Church of Christ, just northeast of Ocean City, NJ; over an hour away. His most recent visit was December 18<sup>th</sup> when we held our graduation. He walked up to me right before service and passionately stated: **"Brother Russell, I want to share something with you. I am going to do it!"** I asked, **"what?"** He said, **"I am going to preach!"** **"Fantastic, I replied!! We NEED preachers too!"** I went onto share with him briefly how for me preaching the gospel came second to studying the word with the lost. Preaching became an extension of sitting across the table with an open bible. It came naturally, my big mouth would not shut up, LOL. It was always evangelism first, preaching second. It's the same for Javier. He has a great love for the truth and for the lost, always looking for the next opportunity to share the gospel whenever and wherever possible. His concern to get the truth out is naturally leading him to the pulpit. **Being able to help this brother grow spiritually is thrilling! It is another rich blessing from the Lord! Please pray for him and his family. We know the devil does not want another soldier for the king. Please pray for their protection and for Javier not to be tripped up by the tempter.**
- **Media Church of Christ:** Like many congregations, because of the Covid nightmare, we are still on a rebound. We had more people that would visit previous to Covid. Some folks are still afraid to be together in a room with others. Media members are growing spiritually (together), learning about our weaknesses and our strengths. We are learning to love each-other and build one another up in the faith. **Our giving has increased.** We are consistently around 20 in attendance and we have surpassed \$700.00 in our weekly contribution; being able to save some funds we are now able to do evangelistic efforts, one of which I mentioned earlier with sending brother Richard to Liberia. Previously that was not possible. We will be replacing our steam boiler (on its very last legs) in the spring. We are working on a "family room" to have personal studies; devotionals; to have a place for "la familia" to be together to share our future hopes and dreams in the kingdom. **Please pray that I am able (along with all the other work that I have to get done for the school) to finish the projects. I will show some pics in future updates.**
- **October Outreach:** Media spent Sunday afternoons working the doors in our local neighborhood. We designed a couple of religious surveys to set up studies, and we had more than several sign up for online ZOOM studies, unfortunately they did not hold. We are going to be doing more outreach in the coming year using this particular method but focus on setting up face to face studies. **Pray for our efforts in the coming year.**
- **On-Going Studies & Developing Prospects:** **Please keep Walter Hall; Johnathan Gidek; Steven Beoethy; Edlyne Supris in your prayers.**
- **Traveling:** I will be traveling in late January or possibly early February to visit with my overseeing eldership at the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, TX. We will be

discussing the future work of the school and how they can help the Media congregation. I covet your prayers for travel and future planning.

- **Home Mission:** It is still a dream that one day I will be able to share my skills in helping the Home Mission team by working at that labor full time. Funds have to be raised. I started driving school bus in 2015 to put away funds for retirement. From that time until now my work has been divided between the pulpit ministry, church work; NEIE and driving school bus. Both the pulpit and the school suffer for the simple reason there are only so many hours in the day. All work every hour of the day is not the answer...I have been burned out more than several times and only by God's grace have I kept my sanity. Home Mission has helped not only our congregation but the NEIE students and I to stay on track. Please pray that we're able to raise up another preacher here and or have (an older brother) to come and preach at Media in the near future. **Home Mission has had a direct impact upon our congregation! I wrote more about it in one of HM's latest newsletters. Please keep John & Susie Orr and the Home Mission Team in your prayers and (if possible) in your giving. Consider upcoming events too! [www.homemission.org](http://www.homemission.org)**
- **On the Home Front:** Our son Jordan was married to the lovely Lindsay DiGiovanni on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Chadds Ford PA. The newly-weds traveled to St. Lucia for their honeymoon and did not waste any time. First comes love, then comes marriage...you know the rest! We are extremely excited, and prayerful. Please keep **Mr. & Mrs. Jordan DiGiorgio and their little one in your prayers.** Bambino is more than several weeks old.
- **Nicholas:** Please continue to keep Nick in your prayers as we still are working on getting him settled into some type of labor that he will be passionate about.



*Russell & Cheryl, Jordan & Lindsay, Carol & Milt Warrell*

***We are ever grateful for YOUR SUPPORT and PRAYERS! Love You in Him - Russell, Cheryl & Family***