What an exciting year 2022 has been already. In March, after 2 years of COVID, we were able to take our first Shepherd’s Bag team to Honduras. In June, we were able to take an Overseas Bible School team to Tanzania and a team to Clayton, Texas to do a Vacation Bible School with Bethel Baptist Church, Clayton Texas. In July, we had another Shepherd’s Bag team in Honduras, while at the same time, we had a medical/dental team in Tanzania. Each one of these trips brought ELM another great opportunity to share the gospel message.

Our Overseas Bible School that you will read about in this Newsletter was a tremendous blessing to all of us. We were able to share the gospel with numerous households. I guess what was rare was the number of men that the team had the opportunity to share the gospel with in our hut-to-hut evangelism time. Several of these men confessed Christ as their Savior. We ministered to well over 500 kids and over 100 adult women. This was a great team whose focus was on the importance and clarity of the gospel. Our Clayton VBS was a real joy. This was our second year to help this church with their VBS. This year there were more than double the children who attended. We were even more blessed to see two of the children place their faith in Christ.

The medical/dental trip was the first for ELM. We had the opportunity and blessing to partner with Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI). BMMI is part of the Missions division of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. This wonderful ministry, led by Dr. Raph Izard and Angela Rice, has been conducting medical clinics around the globe for over 25 years. Our dental team was led by Dr. Greg Payne and Alicia Jackson. Dr. Payne serves on the Board of Directors for ELM and Alicia, who is a dental hygienist, serves as the OBS Director for ELM. This team was blessed to have six physicians, a pharmacist, two nurse practitioners, two RNs, and six wonderful volunteers. We were able to see over 1,100 patients. Every patient that came through the clinic would sit down with one of our Tanzanian evangelists for a presentation of the gospel, and many of these professed Christ as Savior. On Monday of the clinic, we were told that there were 18 professed Muslims who asked Jesus into their heart. Now that will make even a Baptist shout, “Well, Glory!”

To give you an idea of the effectiveness of medical missions, the Sunday after we left the church where we held the clinic, which is also the church where the ELM Tanzania Director, Renatus Kanunu, is the pastor, their attendance went from 200-225 to 350. At the time of invitation, over 100 came to publicly confess their faith in Christ and were desiring to be baptized. Before they are baptized, attending a discipleship class is mandatory. Pastor Renatus thought there would be 30-40 that would show up, but to his dismay 105 showed up for discipleship class! Can I get another, “Well, Glory!”?

We are already planning for 2023 OBS and medical mission trips. Be watching on Facebook and our website for next year’s dates. Also, most of you have probably received my letter telling you about our crusade in Tanzania on October, 7-9. We are excited about the opportunity God has opened up for us to preach to literally thousands of people in three nights. We will be conducting the crusade in the Tabora soccer stadium. This stadium seats over 50,000 people. Please begin to pray for this event. A team of five, possibly six, will be going. Drew Russell, Worship Pastor at FBC Magnolia, AR, will be leading a praise team and I, and possibly my Dad, Rocky Goodwin, will be preaching each night.

Be praying, as well, for Dad and me, as we will be traveling to Ghana, West Africa on September 6th to work with our ELM Ghana Director, Moses Adjekei, in Northern Ghana doing evangelism. This will be our first trip to Ghana since before COVID. We are truly excited to be able to work again with Pastor Moses. Another prayer request is for all the right doors to open for ELM in the Central American country of Nicaragua. We will be taking a trip there in November to meet with a local association of churches to begin preplanning for Shepherd’s Bags and an OBS for 2023.

We have much to do in the coming years and much to plan for. Thank you, friends, churches, and donors, for trusting us and believing in the call that God has placed on ELM. We Love you!

Michael Goodwin
I’m sitting here in my office and I can’t help but think about where I am, where I’ve been, and where I’m going. Looking back, sometimes I know people think that we old folks look back too often, but let me share with you just a few rear-view mirror experiences.

As most of you know, I’ve just celebrated 60 years preaching the Word of God. In those 60 years, it hasn’t always been mountaintop experiences. There have been valleys that we’ve had to go through, but it’s been such a good life. I praise God that He has allowed me to be His servant for these many years. I could probably write a book about the ups and downs of ministry, most especially for the last 24½ years, for you see it has been 24+ years that we have been involved in worldwide evangelism. There’s no way that we could count the many souls that have been won to Christ and the good things that God has allowed EIM to do. There’s a song that I have learned to love and appreciate, and I play it very often. It’s called “The Goodness of God.” Let me share with you the words of the first verse because this is my story. I hope that it will bless you as it has blessed me.

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I’ve been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God
And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

About all that I can say when I listen to this song is “Thank you Lord for You have been so good.” Please continue to pray for Evangelistic International Ministries. The year 2023 is looking really good as far as the doors being opened for us to do what God has called us to do. We are looking at new fields to enter. Please pray that God will give us discernment and that we will be willing to go wherever He leads. Just remember, I love you all. Thank you for your support, your prayers, and most of all your words of encouragement.

God Bless,
Brother Rocky

It has been 3 years since I have been able to travel overseas...I was more than ready to get on a plane (despite the rerouting, weather delays, extra overnight stays and 14 hour layovers) and travel to one of my favorite places in the world, Tanzania! In June we took an OBS team to Tanzania to serve with Pastor Samuel as he is trying to plant a church in a beautiful village. We had an amazing team that prevailed through every trial and unforeseen circumstances! What a joy to travel with people who keep the Gospel as their ultimate focus! Every morning we were able to serve with a group of people from the local village that are working with Pastor Samuel! We split into groups and walked around the village to meet with people in their homes to share the gospel. I’m always so overwhelmed with emotion and humbled as we are welcomed into their homes. The hospitality and love shown is like no other. We would sit down and begin to get to know each other and discuss our similarities and differences. The gospel would then be shared to many hearing of the grace of Jesus for the first time...to see the relief and joy as their faith was put in Jesus is something I will always cherish. A favorite part of my day is when we would meet back together as a group for lunch and share the stories of what we experienced that morning. To see team members and zealous changed forever before my eyes is quite amazing.

In the afternoons we conducted a Bible School at the local school. We learned songs, played games, memory-ized scripture and shared the love of Jesus! Children and women were all able to attend class and hear the gospel! We taught Creation, the Fall, the 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus and closed with the Crucifixion and Resurrection! Every single day there were more and more children! On the last day there were over 500 children and 150 adults in attendance! The last day is always the hardest as we have to say goodbye to children that we were able to get to know personally during those 4 days of bible school! While our earthly relationship with them may have been short, we know their relationship with Jesus is now for eternity! Many heard the gospel and professed faith in Jesus. It is our prayer that many came to know the Lord and will further their walk with him in this newly planted church! Please pray for Pastor Samuel as he leads this village!

Our team returned home changed forever! May we share Jesus with others daily in our hometowns as we did in Tanzania! What a privilege to serve the Lord!

Alicia Jackson

www.eimworldwide.org
In 2019, Mike talked with Alicia and me about the possibility of a dental mission trip to Tanzania. This was exciting and terrifying at the same time. Planning began and then was shut down within months due to the world shutting down. In 2021, talks and plans began in earnest and, in July of this year, the thoughts of three years ago became more than just plans.

What a trip! It was an honor to work with BMMI and watch how they did ministry. I got to use my professional training, and watch others use their training, in a wonderfully large way to serve Christ and others.

I don’t know how many people came through the dental clinic or how many teeth we pulled. We didn’t count. We ministered to everyone that dared to walk in our door, and that wound up being quite a large number. The dental clinic was a busy little place. One lady stands out. She had to wait a good bit while I was working on a few other patients. That’s kind of nerve wracking for these folks as we are in one open room and the chairs are not far apart. So, she’s been watching things people don’t normally like to watch. For some patients, that caused them to cut their appointment short and just get the worst thing out. After one simple extraction, she began to shout and wave her arms. I asked our interpreter, Moses, to ask her what was going on. I was thinking perhaps she had had enough. He made me smile when he said she was praising God that we were taking away the pain and problems she had had for a very long time. She was willing to sit all day if need be. We were done quickly with her and it was quite neat to visit for a few minutes before we continued. She was a local government dignitary. Pictures were definitely in order.

It’s so fun to work with new and old friends on the mission field. And I got to do that. Watching Tiffany and Alicia was so rewarding. They are really good at what they do. I was most proud of my daughter, Riley, for not complaining and doing some really nasty jobs. She was a trooper and a great example for us all. And, the spit buckets and instruments stayed clean. All the folks I worked with tried to keep me in line and keep me in touch with the younger generation. We laughed a lot.

Tanzania is so much fun. Goodness, it’s hard to get to, but it’s one of my favorite places in the world. The work there is good. Continue to pray for the people of Tanzania and the leaders we work with there that God’s word may continue to be spread.

Greg Payne

(As a note to our readers, Greg is a preacher of the gospel, a practicing dentist, and an EIM Board Member.)
Sometimes, when a trip doesn’t come together very easily, if I’m not careful, I’m tempted to think, “Maybe it’s just not meant to be.” From having to move the trip date, after booking tickets a month before departure, to a multitude of last-minute details needing to be changed, if I’m honest, I began to think that way about our July Shepherd’s Bag Mission trip. It was a very difficult trip to get organized but, wow! God showed up and worked to make our paths straight, once we made the determination that we would forge ahead and trust Him to open all the doors. I’m so glad He doesn’t worry like I do!

Brother Rocky and I were blessed to lead a team of young adults from our church to work in the schools in and around Tela, Honduras. Due to having had surgery seven weeks before our trip, our EIM Honduran Director, Manuel Lepe, was not able to go to the schools each day, but his dear wife, Maira, organized all the details, and she did an amazing job. The team took on many extra responsibilities and worked hard to make the daily trip seamless. At each school, they eagerly met the students, loved on them, gave each school a soccer ball and bonded while spending time with them throwing Frisbees, playing soccer and interacting with them. And by the way, there are quite a few children in Honduras who just might be Razorback fans because they now know how to “call the hogs!” We always find that a language barrier isn’t a problem when you show the Father’s love because love is the same in any language. Brother Rocky preached at each school and gave everyone there a chance to respond to the Gospel. The team handed out over 600 Shepherd’s Bags at 12 schools. Only eternity will reveal what the Holy Spirit does with the Seeds of the Gospel being preached in the hearts of people.

Our highlights for the week were seeing our translator, Louis, accepting Christ into his life, and being able to be the hands and feet of Jesus by giving our food away to a family that lived at a school due to being homeless. I’m thankful that we didn’t give up in frustration when the Spirit kept nudging us on to fulfill our mandate at EIM to “go to the unharvested fields and preach the Gospel.” Our van traveled down many long, winding, narrow, dusty roads, far off small highways, to reach children that God said were important enough to hear His message of Salvation. To Him be the glory for allowing us the privilege of carrying His great Name to all the world!

Fonda Norris
EIM Shepherd’s Bag and Mission Team Coordinator

w w w. e i m w o r l d w i d e . o r g
What a great summer this has been! The Lord has opened doors for EIM to share the gospel in so many places, and we were so excited to be able to bring the good news of Jesus here in our country at a little church in Clayton, Texas. Our team was met with smiles and challenges on Monday morning, and they did such an excellent job with their classes throughout the week!

We were interested to see how this year would turn out...we had been in Clayton last year, conducting an in-country Bible school for the first time. As the Lord stretched EIM from our comfort zones, we saw that He stretched Bethel Baptist Church as well! There were more kids who came this year, and the church members outdid themselves with taking care of those kids, as well as the EIM team members. We were so blessed to be able to work with them, as fellow laborers in the field.

The VBS was a 4-day event that taught the kids everything from Creation to the fall of man, to Jesus and His life. Every craft and coloring page also pointed towards the lessons. We even had the chance to do a fun handprint banner where each person got their hand painted and pressed onto a sheet. We ended day four with a lesson based around the death of Jesus. We always find it interesting to watch the kids’ faces as we tell these stories from the Word...some have heard them, some have not. Regardless, the lesson of the gruesome death that Jesus endured on the cross always focuses hearts and minds as it is being read from the Bible. As our theme this year was “One Way: Jesus”, each team member emphasized that Jesus is the ONLY way that we can have life after death. And we prayed that each word would sink into their little hearts!

We were incredibly excited to hear that 2 of the older kids decided to give their lives to Jesus that week! As teachers, we don’t always get the chance to see the harvest after a week of sharing God’s Word. We are thankful that we got to celebrate with these kids and this church over the salvations! We also continue in prayer for this church, and for the 2 kids, that God would continue to grow them in the Lord. Would you pray with us?

The Scripture is powerful. As EIM continues to carry the Word across the world, we also carry it across the street. May we always be faithful to His call.

Sarah Smith