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GCN

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From Mid-West USA to the other side of the World

Cindy Perry

Tpon reflection, I never pictured myself as a 'missionary' — my sense of calling from the time of fully committing my life to Christ at a university, and following a challenge to "give the best years of your life to God," was simply to be a sincere follower of Jesus — to walk in the way and to the places that He would lead. I certainly never imagined He would lead me to places right around the world that I hadn't even heard of! In fact, I had an aversion to the traditional concept of a missionary, as a bit 'outdated,' 'religious,' 'always serious and no fun.' But the journey of loving God and following Jesus with all my heart, soul, mind and strength has been anything but that!! It's been exhilarating, challenging and stretching, life-giving, but not without struggle, pain and redemptive suffering. My life journey has simply been a process of listening and seeking to obey His direction in my life, whether at home or abroad.

I was born and grew up in an ordinary middleclass family in rural Nebraska, USA. I learned to love the outdoors from my Dad, cultivated a big garden and raised sheep with my older brother, played sports, was active in the Methodist Church, learned to play piano and a love of music from my Mom, but soon diverted into playing drums. My drumming got me a full tuition scholarship, and I was off into the wider world where I completed a BA from Oral Roberts University (ORU) in 1974, and perhaps just as importantly, met a couple who became my spiritual mentors, Dr Charles 'Chuck' & Joann Farah, who discipled me and planted a love for Israel in my heart. I believe that period of personal spiritual formation, along with the heritage from my parents and godly grandparents, was foundational to all that followed.

To Israel

The Farah's heart for Israel was infectious, and when they invited me to accompany their family to Israel during Chuck's sabbatical from ORU in my final year as an undergraduate, I jumped at the



opportunity. In the following few months Israel and its people captured my imagination. I also became acquainted with the work of Project Kibbutz (PK), and the seed was planted in my heart to return. Four years later that seed matured — but by that time I was back in the US and fully involved as staff with my home church, and really enjoying working with the youth and helping pioneer a new missions department of the church. Yet I was somehow restless within, wondering what more the Lord had for me. One day while walking and praying in the garden behind the house my friend and I had just refurbished — I can still picture myself wandering around and around the yard deep in thought and prayer — the Lord spoke a clear word into my hear that He wanted me to return to Israel and work with PK. It was one of those few times in my life that 'I knew that I knew' that the Lord had spoken, and my only thought was "okay, I must go." But when I shared this with my church leaders they didn't share my enthusiasm nor affirm the sense of calling. I was crushed, questioning in my heart and mind "Why?" But I submitted and felt a deeper sense of peace beneath my questions that it was 'okay, just wait.' Several months I pondered and just kept it within my heart, until one day one of my pastors asked if I was still wanting to go to Israel? I said yes, I still felt this was the Lord's calling, but I was willing to wait for their confirmation. To my utter surprise he said they now felt a 'yes' also, and would gladly send me with their blessings. It wasn't long before I

was on my way.

I loved the work and ministry on the kibbutz and helping lead a PK team, and soon became fully immersed in life there. My second year the director, Art Carlson, requested me to leave the kibbutz and join he and his wife Claudia in their home, to work directly alongside them in a supportive role within PK. I loved this even more! — traveling between all the kibbutzim where we had teams, supporting the team leaders, organizing seminars, working closely with Art and Claudia and being a part of their family. I was in my elements, and privileged to be

further mentored by this godly yet so human couple.

Then 'bham'. Totally unexpected the Lord beckoned me on further afield, to a place and among a people I knew nothing about, other than its being the home of Mount Everest. The 'call' came in an unusual way — a simple newsletter from an old friend who had ended up working in Nepal with a local Nepali pastor, and in his letter he shared an appeal for help in buying a vehicle for his ministry. Another one of those times when 'I knew that I knew' that the Lord was speaking to my heart — this time to give the limited resources I had saved for my eventual return ticket home from Israel, to help buy this vehicle. How I struggled with the Lord over that! I had so little; why ask me to give for this when it would be so easy for others to give out of their plenty? And hadn't I already sacrificed home, friends and family, even sold my car and given away most of my meager possessions to make it to Israel? Over a month I struggled with this seemingly simple decision. I couldn't get away from it, so I finally sent the money and sought to wipe my hands of it. I wanted to get on with life in Israel which I was finding increasingly satisfying, a joy to be involved in.

How confused I felt when there was no peace after sending the money, but an even deeper unease. 'Why Lord?!' I cried out once again. Did I make a mistake? Give away the last of my savings for nothing? As I finally got quiet inside and allowed the Lord to speak gently in my heart, such a clear

gentle impression formed — "This time I don't just want your money, I want YOU." I knew the meaning. He wanted me to risk going to Nepal, a total unknown to me or my family or my church. What was I to do? Did He really mean it, or was it another kind of test? Yet as I wrestled with this in my heart, not daring to share with anyone, and a strong part of me not wanting it to be true, a certainty grew within that this indeed was the next step on my life's journey with God.

Confirmations came, while at the same time, there were things to challenge it and pull me in other directions. Within a couple weeks when I happened to attend the Baptist Church in Jerusalem (something I only did every couple months) there 'happened' to be visitors from Nepal, missionaries who had pioneered work in the western part of Nepal, and they encouraged me to investigate going there. Yet I suddenly received a letter from a former boyfriend with whom I'd discussed the possibility of marriage before leaving for Israel, and now he was expressing his desire to come for a visit and re-explore our relationship. Oh the vagaries of my young heart — what should I do? The young man came, and it was soon evident to us both that we were to remain friends. Now confirmations began to pile up pointing towards Nepal. Perhaps most significant was when I went with trembling heart to Art, who had recently asked me to make a longer term commitment to PK ministry, which I so enjoyed and felt so fulfilled in. He surprised me by his response, sharing emotionally how the Lord had given him



a vision years before that he would use PK in fulfillment of a prophecy in Isaiah — gathering His people from many places back to Jerusalem, and then sending them out from there to all points of the earth. He felt my calling to Nepal from Israel was the beginning of the fulfillment of that dream, and he gave me full-hearted though tearful release. At an unforgettable gathering of all the PK teams at the end of the year (1979) I was commissioned out from PK, as their 'missionary' to the 'ends of the earth' (that's certainly what it felt like!). I also received the blessing of my church and family back in the USA. Four months later, after a brief visit back home, dispersal of my few household goods which had been in storage, and two suitcases in hand, I arrived in Kathmandu mid-April 1980 for the next stage in my journey with God.

I didn't know at the time what an excellent preparation my time in PK and the context of Israel had been. From one land to another where you couldn't freely/openly share your faith, but learned to live a life that demonstrated the life and love of Christ (I learned that how I 'live out' my faith often speaks more powerful than words) as opposed to formal Christianity/churchianity. From where Jewish believers in Jesus often felt threatened and had to hide their faith to a land where there was open persecution of those who left their traditional Hindu or Buddhist roots to follow Christ, and some of my best friends or their spouses ended up in jail for their faith. From a land surrounded by hostile neighbors, with armed soldiers on the streets and regular military activity being a norm of life, to a land rife with political difficulties, revolution, strikes and uncertainty, and later a Maoist uprising. From simple kibbutz life to the simple villages of one of the poorest nations in the world. All a far cry from middle-class Midwestern USA.

(To be continued on next issue.)

Dr. Cindy Perry, the South Asia Regional Director of Development Associates International.

Churches in the Post Same-Sex Marriage Era Seminar



First seminar on July 25, 2015

All 50 States have been compelled to observe the law after the ruling of legalizing of same-sex marriage by a vote of 5 to 4 of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2015. The United States of America has thus entered a new era of anti-Bible, anti-tradition and anti-nature law. Most importantly, America has declared her rebellion to God.



Reading the Joint Statement

Under this new law, we could expect churches and Christians will face tremendous pressure and even harassment for our faith and Christian principles. Therefore, GCCI in cooperation with Traditional Family Coalition and America, Return to God Prayer Movement organized a "Churches in the Post-Same-Sex Marriage Era Seminar" for churches. The first one was held at the Lord's Grace Christian Church in Mountain View of northern California on July 25, and the second one was held at the Chinese Evangelical Free Church in Monterey Park of southern California on September 12.

The three organizations drafted a "Joint Statement of Opposing the Legalizing of Same-Sex Marriage" (please see p.9) before the seminars and the statement was read in front of all attendees at the Seminars and invited them to be co-signers of the Statement.

It is the prayer of the three sponsoring organizations that through these meetings, churches in the United States could take up their responsibilities to be light and salt to the world, making positive impacts in the society, helping the younger generation to have confidence in their biological sexual identities.



Panel discussion

Second seminar on Sept. 12, 2015

The Decline and Fall of America!!

Fax: (408) 636-0033 E-Mail: info@gcciusa.org Website: http://www.gcciusa.org

October, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

America is too young to die!

The early pilgrims from Europe landed in America in 1620. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. America helped to win both World Wars. She is the sole super power and has been the largest missionary-sending nation of the world. What then do we mean, "decline and fall?"

Reason: America is now abandoning her Christian roots. It is God who brought America into being, and it is God whom America is now rebelling against! She is repudiating the One who gave her birth, and is biting the hand that feeds her. Abraham Lincoln forewarned 150 years ago: "We have forgotten God!"

Has America today already passed the point of no return?

Listen to God's word: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

Let America humble herself, repent, and come back to God! He has promised that if we repent, He will hear us from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land! We are now spiritually sick and are in desperate need of His healing.

Please pray today by yourself, with your family, and at your church; asking Jesus Christ to forgive our sins, wash us clean with His blood, and give spiritual renewal to our Christian life. May God grant a spirit of personal and national repentance to America and her people.

Do not delay. Pray today for ourselves, our families, our churches and America! May God bless you as you do. Thank you.

Yours with Christian love,

eures Wang

Thomas Wang

President Emeritus

The Courts of America Should REPENT!!

THE U. S. SUPREME COURT
HAS COMMITTED SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST GOD:

- 1. Outlawed prayer in the public schools (1962)
- 2. Outlawed Bible reading in the public schools (1963)
- 3. Outlawed the exhibition of the Ten Commandments (1980)
- 4. Legalized abortion (1973)
- 5. Legalized teaching of Atheism in public schools (1997)
- 6. Legalized same-sex marriage (2015)
- 7. Legislation from the bench

The Supreme Court has become:

A Judicial Tyrant
The Great Dictator
Satan's Advocate
and
The Destroyer of America!!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalms 33:12)

The Nation of America Should REPENT!

America has been the leading nation for peace, justice and missions.

But America's recent downward drift in faith and morality is alarming!

Our leaders and our society are now in a state of mutiny against God.

- 1. Our current president openly supports same-sex marriage and gave a celebration in the White House for LGBT people.
- 2. The U. S. Senate invited the Buddhist leader Dallai Lama to offer prayer and benediction for the Senate opening session.
- 3. Since 1973, an average of 4,000 babies were legally killed in their mothers' womb each day in America. Up to now, we have killed a total of over 61 million lives. (Equals to the population of the nation of France.)
- 4. Americans spend 2.8 billion dollars in internet pornography each year.
- 5. America's divorce rate today is number 1 in the world.
- 6. Americans consume more than half of the world's illegal drugs.
- 7. 40% of America's children are born by unmarried women.

The United States of America has become:

Unborn babies killing field
Incubator of sin
Satan's playground
and
Polluter of the World!!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalms 33:12)

A STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALITY

CREATED AND SIGNED BY THE DELEGATES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE CONSULTATION ON THEOLOGY, AUGUST 6-9, 2003, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20)

Sin is the breaking of God's laws revealed in the Bible. All sexual sins are condemned by God, including heterosexual adultery, homosexual sex, lesbianism, and bestiality. All sex outside of monogamous, heterosexual marriage is immoral.

The Bible claims that no one has a right to call himself a Christian who chooses a lifestyle which includes these sins or any other sins including murder, stealing, perjury etc.

To ordain men to the Christian ministry and place them in leadership in God's Church who deliberately and regularly commit such sins as kidnapping, rape, theft, perjury, or any of the sexual sins mentioned above would be an extreme foolishness that tramples on God's commandments and holds God and His honor in contempt.

The recent elevation of an unrepentant homosexual to the holy office of Bishop is an aberration; it is both dishonoring to God and a betrayal of the historic Faith of Christianity. The ordination of a practicing homosexual to any church office contradicts the clear mandate of the first Jerusalem council (Acts 15) led by the original leaders of the Church, Christ's Apostles. We urge the churches to remove from office, all practicing homosexuals, to call them to repentance and then accompany them on the difficult road of restoration.

The Bible declares that homosexuals must repent of and forsake their homosexual practices and turn to Jesus in order to be saved. The Bible describes the good news of Christ as the gift of His grace. He gives His children the power to turn away from sin. As sinners we know that perfect goodness is found only in Jesus Christ.

We welcome as brothers and sisters all who call on the name of Christ and repent of their sins and homosexual practices. We are compelled by God's love to extend an extra measure of compassion to people wounded by any form of sexual addiction.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals...shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

Also history shows us that every Christian society of the past has condemned the practice of homosexuality. Every state of the United States of America outlawed sodomy until recently. The history of Greece and Rome shows that the acceptance of homosexual practice is one of the last steps before the collapse of civilized societies.

We exhort pastors to read from their pulpits, and heads of families to discuss in their homes, this statement and the relevant Bible passages. We exhort all mature Christians to show compassion toward the sexually broken and actively demonstrate the love and compassion of our Redeemer God.

The Bible, which is the Word of the Living God, speaks clearly regarding homosexuality: Romans 1:24-28; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Jude 7; Exodus 18:20; Leviticus 18:22-25; 20:13; 1 Kings 14:24

(Clingman, Eugene Calvin, 'Homosexuality: Introductory Comments'. <u>Rebuilding Civilization on the Bible</u>. Ventura, California: Nordskog Publishing. 2014. pp160-161. Used with permission from Coalition on Revival)

Joint Statement on Opposing the Legalizing of Same-Sex Marriage in the United States

On June 26, 2015, the US Supreme Court, by a vote of five to four, forced all fifty states to legalize same-sex marriage. In response, we issue this joint statement.

As Christians of Chinese churches in the United States, we are committed to the biblical truth and moral standards. Therefore, we hold firmly the supreme authority of God's Word over individual, family and human society. God's Word cannot be altered by any human organization or legislation, much less judicial activism.

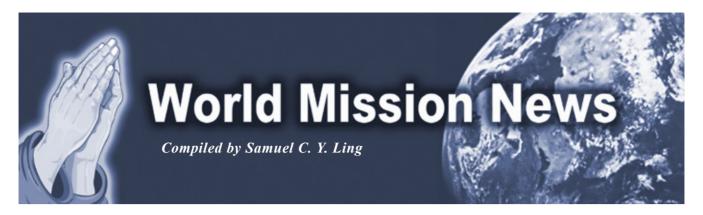
The biblical teachings on marriage are clear, unambiguous and immutable. Therefore, we affirm that only biblical and traditional marriage as the union of one man and one woman in lifetime covenant is the foundation of human societies. Marriage between one man and one woman is instituted by God. What the Bible teaches on marriage is not negotiable. We are ready to stand firm and bear witness to the truth.

While we affirm our love for all people, including those struggling in same sex relationship, we cannot and will not accept homosexual behavior, or any sexual activity outside of marriage ordained by God. We also believe that, in facing this crucial issue, our religious freedom is at stake. Our primary responsibility is to love and obey God, not submitting to the will of man.

For this reason, we do not accept or support any redefinition of marriage by any political or judicial bodies, including the United States Supreme Court. We do not recognize same-sex marriage. Our church will not host same-sex wedding. Our pastors will not perform same-sex marriage ceremony.

We attest that the United States is abandoning God, her Creator. The consequences of rebellion are devastation and suffering. Therefore out of God's love and saving grace of Jesus Christ, we strongly call upon all Americans to repent and return to God. We call upon all pastors, church leaders, and Christians to openly oppose any redefinition of marriage imposed on the people. We unite our prayers, our influence and our resources to support those who bear witness to the truth and uphold traditional marriage in the professional, political, educational, entertainment, media and other social arenas.

Here we stand. May God help us! Amen!



IRAQ: Some Christian monks doggedly determined to stay in their monastery even though the terrorist Islamic State reached within 3 miles of them. They insisted that it is not about courage, it is about faith. That God gives them the strength to exemplify their trust. They are also grateful that they are at the edge of what is controlled by the Kurdish fighters. Including supporting staff, students and 2 refugee families, they have a total of 26 people.

<Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 7/10/15>

IRAN: The nuclear deal with Iran may not endanger Christians here directly. But the regime, that views nearly all Christian activities as illegal and now strengthened by the deal, could be emboldened in their acts of persecution. Yet, despite the hostility, the church is striving. It has been called the fastest growing church in the world. God is working through various means, dreams and visions, radio/TV broadcasts, and the bold witnesses of Christians risking their lives.

< Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 7/17/15>

SE ASIA: A restaurant has been showing the "Jesus Film" resulting in 30 people coming to Christ including some from the dominant religion. Despite the very real threat of radical group in town, the owner said he continues when there is no indication of danger. To date, more than 200 million people have come to Christ after seeing the film in their heart languages. It equates to 1 person each 5.5 seconds. There are estimated 2 billion people yet to be shown the film.

<JESUS Film Project, www.jesusfilm.org, 7/20/15>

MEXICO: The southwestern Oaxaca State is the home to over 100 languages. Most of them have had translation of New Testament. But over a third of the people are illiterate. An agency has worked on the audio Scripture since 2002. It is now averaging about one recording every few months. Over the last couple of years, more than 1,200 people have come to Christ. More than 950 have been baptized, and 24 new churches planted.

<Audio Scripture Ministries of Holland, www.asmtoday.com, 7/17/15>

MISSIONS: An agency has been providing mission trips from one month to a year to many mission fields. They have been working with people who have special skills from English teaching to nursing; and those who are mission-minded or have felt the call from God but not quite sure about the next step. These trips help them to gain an understanding of what it is like to be a missionary. Last year about 33% who took the trips went back for long-term missions.

<Pioneers, www.pioneers.org, 7/15/15

MONGOLIA: 25 years ago, there were only 4 known believers in the nation. Today, it has more than 40,000

Christians, it is the 8th fastest growing church in the world. One major factor is radio broadcasting. Recently, 3 radio ministries joined their effort to build 3 new stations. When finished, 90% of the populations can listen to gospel message. Another agency is planning to distribute 900 solar-powered hand-held radios, fixed-tuned to the local Christian station.

< Reach Beyond (HCJB), www.reachbeyond.org, 7/13/15>

NORTH KOREA: This has been for years the worst nation for persecuting Christians. Yet, the recent opening up of Myanmar that nobody foresaw 3 years ago, stimulated Christians in South Korea. Last month, 1,000 church leaders gathered to learn about the dire needs of children in the north, and to begin prepare for the day when they can go in to help them. Their plan is to have 200 church-partners by 2017. They are now well prepared to act.

< Compassion International, www.compassion.com, 7/14/15>

NEPAL: For 15 years, the church had faced hostility from the community. Stones had been thrown at the church and houses and the pastor arrested. After the big earthquake and the after shocks earlier in the year, the church offered its safe open-space to 70 village families, and shared the food and relief supplies with them. The church is now accepted by their neighbors. This scene is repeated in many towns and villages.

< Evangelical Free Church of America, www.efca.org, 7/15/15>

PAKISTAN: Christians are suffering more persecution. They fear the government is not looking after them, but actually has made it worse. Schools, homes, and churches are routinely attacked. Believers are in prison -- falsely charged under the blasphemy law. Death penalty is re-enacted recently under the guise to deal with terrorists. Over 100,000 Christians have fled to southeastern Asian countries in past several years where they endure rather hard lives in refugee camps.

<Forgotten Missionaries International, forgottenmissionaries.org, 7/21/15>

GLOBAL MISSION: The percentage of global population that are unevangelized dropped from 74.6% in 1800 to 54.3% in 1900, 44.7% in 1970, 29.9% in 2000, and since has leveled out to 29.3% in 2015. It is projected to be 27.3% in 2050 when it may start to increase. The main reason is the unevangelized population growth in high birthrate regions like China and India. Mission agencies are trying to meet the challenge by encouraging more tent-makers, sending workers into urban areas that are fast growing, equipping workers with languages like Mandarin and Arabic, better discipling believers in the mission fields to motivate them to witness for Christ, etc.

<Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, July 2015>

2015 Short-Term Mission Trip to Hungary



Taking off from Budapest train station

GCCI organized a
short-term mission team of 17
to Hungary to minister to the Roma
people (Gypsies) in July 2015. Most
of team members never met Roma
people before, so they went there
with tremble but exciting hearts.
Their team leader was Rev. Sek-Wai
Lo, Interim Mission Promotion Director of
GCCI-Canada.

Most of the members never met before. They were from different countries and with different cultures. Therefore, the first thing they needed to do upon their arrival at Budapest, the capital city of Hungary, was to know each other. They were grateful that they could use Hungary Chinese Christian Church (HCCC) for orientation and team building. At the same time, they learned from Rev. Kai Xing, the pastor of HCCC, on how he caught the vision of serving Roma people in his neighborhood.

After 2 days of close fellowship, they took a train to Nyirtelek and began their journey in the afternoon of July 17. In the following 10 days, by the grace of God and through the arrangement of Rev. Mihaly Gyorfi (Pastor Misi), the senior pastor of Filadelfia Lutheran Church in Nyirtelek, the team was able to visit several Roma villages, conducted children program for one village and also a Family Camp for adult and children in a campsite. They all were touched by Pastor Misi's heart for the Roma people.

Because language barrier, team members could not communicate with the Roma people without interpretation.

However, they all enjoyed the trip and learned the need of

the Roma people. They also learned one common language for every people, that is the language of love.

We have selected 1 testimony from the team members published in the following. Hope you will enjoy reading it.



Group picture with the pastor of Filadelfia Lutheran Church



Home visit



Childen English Camp



Roma Church Choir

Tears of Repentance, Tears of Joy

Loraine Chan

"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2:37)

We met a teenage girl,
Enge, in the family camp that
we conducted for one Roma village. She is a
Christian and active in her community. Because
of the financial help of Rev. Mihaly Gyorfi (Pas-

of the financial help of Rev. Mihaly Gyorfi (Pastor Misi), senior pastor of the Filadelfia Lutheran Church in Nyirtelek, she was able to continue her high school education. She was the first high school student in her village.

As no one in our team spoke Hungarian, we needed interpreter. Vicky, Pastor Misi's daughter who has 4 young children, has volunteered to be one of the interpreters for our entire trip. She is a devoted mother and a pastor's wife. She brought along her 4 children everywhere we went. We were so blessed to have her help.

At the last night of the camp, while our team was in a debriefing session, we heard loud music coming out from another room. As we knew that Roma people love music and dancing, so we thought since it was the last night of the camp they wanted to have some fun. However, the music turned into disco music. And we could see that they were performing disco dancing. Pastor Misi



Family games

also heard the music and he went in the room, all music stopped immediately. He did not scold them but talked with them gently like a caring shepherd. After he finished talking, everyone went back to their rooms.

The next morning, Enge came up to our team and confessed to us through Vicky's interpretation, that she was the one that started the dance party last night. She admitted that she should not do that as there were non-Christians in the camp and what she did could become a stumbling block to them. She repented of her sin and asked for our forgiveness. It was an incredible touching moment as we witnessed how the Holy Spirit convicted her and she submitted to the Spirit. Enge

was in tears of repentance and Vicky was in tears of joy as she was interpreting. Many of us were also moved to tears. What a beautiful scene! We hugged both Enge and Vicky, and rejoiced in God for



Children Program

He has done great things among the Roma people.

The power of the Holy Spirit! To God be the glory!

