

Multiplying Leaders

Gil and Denise Thomas

November 1, 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you so much for praying for and giving to the ministry in which you partner with us. God has kept us safe, used us during this time, and provided faithfully for our needs. Even during this unusual time, a lot has happened.



Family & Friends

What a blessing it was to have all our kids and grandkids at our house in September! It had been awhile since we had been all together—some of the grandkids had not met each other before. It was fun seeing the grandkids enjoying each other and the siblings catching up. We thank God for his work in their lives. Please continue to pray for them.

We traveled to two funerals—in New Jersey and Michigan—in just under a month. They were both dedicated servants, mothers, and grandmothers; one serving in the Philippines and the USA and one in Portugal. How we miss Marilyn Rust, our colleague of many years in Portugal! Her selfless, quiet spirit was evident to all who knew her. Denise is

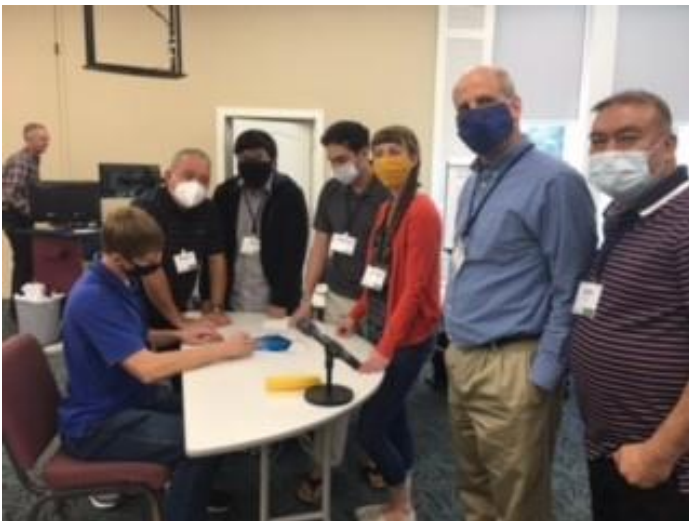


especially thankful for her sweet mentorship through the years, and in helping adjust to a new culture, learning how to shop and navigate the ins and outs of raising a family in Portugal. We are thankful that we were able to visit with them while we were in Michigan in August.

Ministry in churches. Restrictions have lifted somewhat, and we were able to travel to Bethel Baptist Church in Erie, PA, where Gil came to know the Lord and grew up. We had a great time reporting to the church and spending time with long-time friends. (Notice I did not say old friends—that would not be nice to them or us!)

We also traveled to Massachusetts and preached and taught in a missions conference in a church we had never visited before. We were encouraged with their evident desire to reach out within the town and around the world.

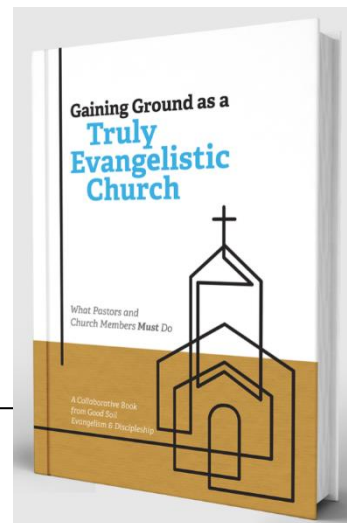
In two weeks, we are headed to First Baptist Church in Corry, PA, where we will report as well. However, even more exciting is the fact that we'll be teaming up with our nephew, Dr. David Steves, and our new colleague, Dave Levy, to teach a Good Soil seminar at the church on November 13-14. Even *more exciting* is that it appears that several churches from the area will be sending people to participate in the seminar. Pray for a good representation of people from the area and that God will use this training to motivate and resource the people to reach out and make disciples in this needy area.



Training Events. A week before the start of the October Good Soil seminar in Harrisburg, it appeared that we would have to cancel it. It appeared that Covid-19 fears were keeping people away. But in just one week, the number of people registered grew from 6 to 33! We were able to take precautions and had a great class. Moving Beyond Lecture also went well with a smaller but eager audience.

Please pray for the Orientation of new missionaries and Field Prep Seminar we will be teaching along with several other trainers this November. God continues to bring His people to ABWE to serve around the world. Pray for good preparation and interaction among the missionaries during these next three weeks.

New Book. My good friends and colleagues Wayne Haston, Randy Southwell, and David Levy and I are working on a new book: *Gaining Ground as a Truly Evangelistic Church*. We're in the final stages. Please pray for wisdom and insight so that the book could be used by God to help people understand what they must know and do to be an evangelistic church.



Prayer & Praises:

- New Missionary Orientation Nov 1-7
- Good Soil Seminar in Corry, PA Nov 13-14
- Field Prep Seminar Nov 12-20
- Jon Rust and the extended Rust family
- Thankful for family time and prayer for:

Sarah & Seth in Glen Burnie, MD with Audrey, Caleb, and Marian
Jonathan & Leah in Oklahoma with Maddison, Alexis, Titus, and Jack
Andrea and Ben in Mechanicsburg, PA

- Praise for good training seminars
- Guidance in developing ***Gaining Ground as a Truly Evangelistic Church***

Your missionaries,

Gil & Denise