

Missionary Highlight

Craig Wickstrom – Congo

I try to avoid setting expectations for my trips to Congo, but I always go with hope and expectancy.

My trip in March, we picked up former Covenant (CEUM) President Luyada and we were hosted by CEUM loyalists. The next morning, before being introduced to local civil authorities, I met with the leadership of the break-away group from CEUM. Their hard words about the CEUM set the tone for the rest of the journey.



With Wasabi as our base, we met with local government authorities, visited churches and met with people whose joy was being part of God's Kingdom. What challenged them was the lack of Bibles, songbooks, etc, but the number one concern of everyone (including the government) was the division within the CEUM. The break-away group had hard words and some claimed that reconciliation was impossible, but all longed someday to be one in the Lord.

Another change is to encourage the CEUM to look at funding requests from a different perspective. To actively pursue funding for potential projects rather than passively waiting for assistance. In May I returned and after a week of hard work we were able to submit a project.

Prayer Requests:

1. For sensitivity & wisdom for CEUM leadership navigating difficult times.
2. For Craig & Cheryl as they navigate a busy summer.
3. Praise God for spiritual depth of the CEUM and for allowing me to be part of his work in the Congo.

June 2022

	YTD Giving	YTD Expenses
General Fund (Calendar Year)	\$ 119,374	\$ 145,616
Missions Fund (Budget Year)	\$ 25,443	\$ 18,698



July 10, 2022

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Weekly Events & Opportunities

- A Mother's Room (back of the sanctuary) and Nursery (downstairs) are available for **families with young children**.
- **Root Beer Float Opportunity** – We would like to bless our community by providing free root beer floats (6:30-8:30pm) at the Wednesday night Concerts in the Park. Please sign-up today, so we can serve our community this Wednesday.
- **Safe Place for Children Training** – for those volunteering in the nursery will be on Sunday, July 17, following the worship service. If you are interested in attending the training, please contact Stacy Hall at 324.2709.
- **Congregational Meeting** – July 24 following the service; please bring a salad or sweet to share. We will be discussing & correcting the budget.
- **Bluewater Family Camp** – Last chance to sign-up to attend family camp down at Bluewater is today! (July 29-31) You must sign-up & pay the \$25 deposit today if you haven't already. Pastor Paul & Lori Langmade will be there to share God's Word and to enjoy camp life with us.
– Interested in attending the Worship & Baptism service at BCBC on Sunday, July 31? Sign-up in the lobby. Lunch will cost \$8/person.
- **Family Vacation Bible School** – Mark your calendars now for August 1-4 for a Rainforest Quest. Supper will be served from 5:15-5:45; activities from 6-7:30pm.
- **Summer Office Hours** – Monday-Thursday, 8am-12pm.
- **Menard's Rebates** – If you have Menard's 11% Rebate slips that you aren't planning on sending in, you can turn them into the office or giving box. The church will send them in & use the rebates towards future purchases.
- **Smile.Amazon.com purchases** – If you purchase items through Smile.Amazon, you can designate our church to receive a small donation for qualifying purchases. Click on the 'supporting' button and you can choose to support the Evangelical Covenant Church International Falls MN as your charity.

That One Time Jesus Fed 4,000

Mark 8.1-21

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ²“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” ⁵And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. ¹⁰And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. ¹¹The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹²And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” ¹³And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. ¹⁴Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” ²⁰“And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” ²¹And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”