

Missionary Highlight

Craig Wickstrom – Congo

Many years ago, my father suggested that I focus less on my calling and begin asking where God is working. I should ask, "How can I contribute where God is already at work?"



The same question applies to the CEUM in Congo and to my home church in Ashtabula, Ohio. In my own life, I often find that God's plan finds me rather than the other way around. Allow me to demonstrate from recent months.

In July, I was planning a trip west to spend time with family, I received an invitation to speak at Mt. Miguel Retirement Community in San Diego. So my travels ended in central California and God allowed me to share about Congo and to make new and connect with old friends.

In August, I was forced to fly through Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) to get to Congo. So in Bangui I met with leaders of the Covenant Church in the CAR and on the way home, I worshiped with a small congregation where average age was not more than 30.

The weeks of September 13 & 20, I worked with the CEUM executive committee as I wrote an umbrella project to present its financial needs to the American Covenant. What I had not planned was the depth of the discussion as these leaders struggled to define a comprehensive strategy for the church. I marveled at these discussions.

I thank God for each of you who care about Congo and about my ministry.

Prayer Request:

1. Pray for fortitude for both Cheryl and I as I prepare to return to Congo in January and in March. The demand on my time seems overwhelming at times. It is hard on Cheryl too.

December 18, 2022



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Weekly Events & Opportunities

- A Parent's Room (back of the sanctuary) and Nursery (downstairs) are available for **families with young children**.
- **Christmas Eve in the Barn** – December 24 from 4:30-7pm. Join others at 4157 Hwy 332 (Mann's Farm) for a time of listening to the Christmas story, carols, free sleigh rides, bonfire & hot cocoa. Please note...the first sleigh rides will be for those 60+ while younger families can pet animals & take family photos. If any older people would like a ride to & from your home to the event, please call the church office.
- **Worship on Christmas Day** – There will be a worship service on Sunday, Dec 25, at 10:30am.
- **Changes to online giving** – We are no longer using an app to receive financial gifts. If you prefer to give online, please do it by going to the church website– ifallscovenant.org/give or by texting "give" to 763-762-9845.
- **Adult Sunday School** – Room 200 at 9:30am; no Sunday School on Dec 25 or Jan 1.
- **Community Opportunities**
 - **Christmas Day Dinner** on Sunday, December 25. Free meal is available from 12-2pm at the Elks Lodge. If you would like to volunteer please call Lee Grim at 218.240.5125 or by email at ravenlhg@gmail.com
 - **Salvation Army Bell Ringers** • Call 218.282.5147 or go to registertoring.com to choose a time to ring the bell at a local store.
 - **Christmas Eve in the Barn** – we need individuals to help decorate the barn, assist with parking, & serving hot cocoa. Please sign-up on the clipboard or contact Lynn Peterson at 324.0508.

Receiving the Light

John 1.9-13

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.