



REACHING ACROSS

Developing Christian leaders globally

JULY 2024

Sobriety, Spas, Snakes & Saved: FLF @ Work in Poland

Kurtis Estes, senior pastor of First Baptist, Salisbury, MO, also serves as liaison to the Golden Apple Institute through Future Leadership

Foundation. Golden Apple, a vital FLF ministry partner, is an evangelical organization in Poland under the leadership of Wojtek Kowalewski and his wife Agnieszka.



In April, Kurtis led 29 people in discipling believers at the Fado Hotel in Swidnica. “The men in this group were a part of New Hope rehab group for men who have been incarcerated and/or suffering from an addiction of some kind,” Kurtis explains. “Nearly all of them were homeless before coming to New Hope. Many of these men were sober for the first time.”

One of the greatest, yet most surprising, joys of the two days, he recalls, was the men’s reaction to the hotel. The men had never stayed at a place as nice where they could simply eat gourmet meals without having to do the dishes. “When I walked in, there were grown men displaying the wonder of little children. My heart was overjoyed.”

In later visiting with a police officer who has worked with the organization, he noted the need for efforts like this, where “these men were transformed and their lives made new in a true relationship with Christ.”

Though nervous to lead on his own, Kurtis also attended a Leadership Forum sponsored by Golden Apple Institute before the retreat, witnessing the work that God is doing through that organization.

This experience allowed him to meet some of the fruit that Golden Apple is producing. Adam, a successful high-rise



developer and a new believer to Christ, practiced his English by sharing his testimony, how God had transformed both his family and his outlook on life. His translator, Basia, and her husband Gareth, the COO of a company from England, are new members of LiGHT Café, a church plant.



On Sunday, Kurtis had the privilege of preaching to about 80 people, several from Ukraine who were not believers. “While I preached, Wojtek translated to Polish and another translated to Russian. It was challenging in many ways, but the Lord was merciful and God was glorified.”

He joked he may now be known as the Snake Man in Poland, because he used a Louis Giglio illustration how the detached head of a snake will still contain venom. Only, Poland does not have any snakes. He showed them pictures of Missouri snakes and one said, “I think America is the wildest place I have ever heard of!”

This month, Kurtis will return with his family and members from First Baptist churches

Poland (continued on pg 4)

Photos, clockwise from above: New Hope group shot; Kurtis (c) with Basia and Gareth; Golden Apple training led by Wojtek; Kurtis (l) with Agnieszka and Wojtek Kowalewski. (Kurtis Estes)

Moldova Ministry Nurtures the Seeds Planted in Poland



On March 14-23, a group traveled to Moldova for leadership training and to explore a possible mission partnership. Invited by President Ion Miron of the Moldova Baptist Union and the Union's Executive Board, the group consisted of Mike and Robbi Haynes, FLF Field Staff for Moldova, and a mission group from South Haven Baptist Church from Springfield, Mo.

Pastor Ryan Palmer was introduced to Ion during last summer's FLF summit in Poland. "He

shared about the work going on there," Ryan said. "I sensed the Lord leading me to get South Haven engaged there. This was essentially an exploratory trip to see how we might strategically partner." The church group included Myra Pessina, Jessi Lowery, Steve Lowery and Valentin Curutiu.

The group was taken on a tour of Chisinau, the nation's capital and largest city, and visited the Children's Home. The Home currently consists of 12 foster family homes and is also housing approximately 100 Ukrainian refugees.

On Sunday, while Mike preached at Ion's church northeast of the capital in Ciorescu, the South Haven group traveled about two hours to the Ungheni region along the Romanian border, where Pastor Ryan Palmer preached in two of three plant sites.

"We did home visits with the church planters at each of these sites and were able to lead a husband and wife to faith in Jesus. We had been told the husband was a very bitter man and to be prepared for the worst. God had other plans!"



Future Leadership Foundation

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The Future Leadership Foundation (FLF) develops Christian leaders globally, collaborating with churches, ministry organizations and religious entities by addressing needs and goals that facilitate reaching people for Christ and equipping them for ministry.

Leadership Team:

Executive Director: Greg Morrow; **Executive Assistant/Director of Office Finance and Secretary to the Board:** Treva Swadley; **Associate Executive Director, International Relations:** Chris Cook; **Associate Executive Director, Field Services:** Heber Mena; **Field Services Staff:** Calvin Brown, John Claydon, Mike and Robbi Haynes, John Jackson, Heber Mena and Mateusz Wichary; **Treasurer:** Gary Collins; **Communications:** Robbi Haynes and Ken Satterfield

2024 Board:

President: Steve Easterwood, Kirksville, Mo.; **Vice President:** Jean Roberson, Pelham, Ala.; **Secretary:** Treva Swadley, Springfield, Mo. (non-board member); **Treasurer:** Gary Collins, Jefferson City, Mo. (non-board member); **Board members:** Julius Anderson, Naples, Fla.; Stephen Bolinger, Houston, Texas; Kathleen Boswell, Sedalia, Mo.; Nigel Coles, Winford, England; Ryan Feeler, Rolla, Mo.; Michael Graves, Peculiar, Mo.; Stephen Hemphill, Liberty, Mo.; Andre Khudyadkov, Kiev, Ukraine; Stephen Mathis, Jefferson City, Mo.; Noland Porter, Rolla, Mo.; Thea Scott, Jefferson City, Mo.; Stan Sullinger, The Woodlands, Texas; Tony Turner, Springfield, Mo.; and Tom Wright, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Advisory Board:

Jon Easterwood, Kirksville, Mo.; Kurt Estes, Salisbury, Mo.; and Daniel Oliynyk, Ukraine.

Moldova (continued on pg 4)

Photos, clockwise from above: Moldova group; the Children's Home in Moldova; a children's choir at Ion Miron's church in Chisinau; Ion and Anna, the couple we led to Christ in Bumbata by Pastor Ryan Palmer and the South Haven group; a map of Moldova. (Mike and Robbi Haynes, and Ryan Palmer.)

FLF Equipping For **Marvelous Things**

During a recent quiet time I was led to Psalm 98:1: *Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things.* I could not help but think of the Future Leadership Foundation as I reflected on that verse.

Notice the verse is in the past tense, to contemplate the “marvelous things” which God has already done. During our Fall board meeting, we celebrated many “marvelous things” in FLF’s first 20 years of missional service.

However, we make a mistake when we take up permanent residence in the past, as the first part of the verse reminds us. Not only HAS GOD DONE “marvelous things”... GOD IS DOING “marvelous things,” and HE WILL DO “marvelous things” in the future.

Consequently, as we begin our 21st year of ministry, we “sing to the Lord a new song,” praising the Lord for what He will do as we faithfully follow Him into the future. The days ahead are quite unknown to us, but quietly known to Him.

Part of that new horizon was shared in our May Board meeting as we addressed our need for leadership development from within.

In November, the board empowered the Executive Director to work with the Executive Committee to begin planning for our future needs. We are confident that this proposal will prepare us for what lies ahead in the days to come.

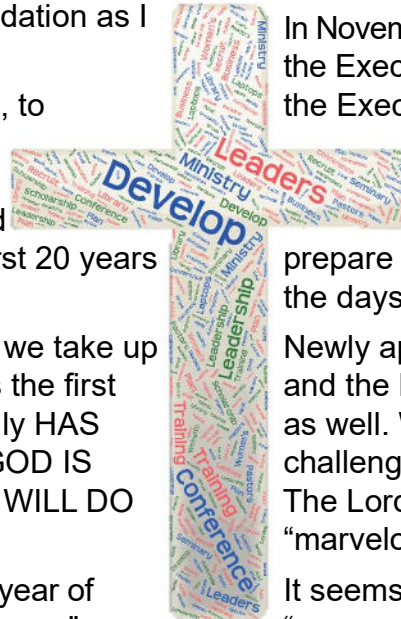


Executive Director
Greg Morrow

Newly approved projects in Belgium, Belarus and the Philippines represent new partners as well. With the opportunities come new challenges to secure financial and personnel. The Lord is always good to resource those “marvelous things” to which He has called us.

It seems the Lord continues to give FLF a... “new song” to sing..., year after year..., from one year to the next. May we continue to hear the melody of “marvelous things” He has done, is doing, and will do. This is my fervent prayer as we develop Christian leaders globally.

Greg



Word cloud of 2024 approved projects

Staffing to **Fulfill** Our Opportunities

From the beginning of FLF’s history, the organization has adapted to meet the needs it faces. Early on, a study group determined that our structure needed to expand to avoid being too reliant on either a single person or small group.

In 2016, there were additional changes, one of which was adding Field Service Directors to better relate regionally with new partners and new needs.

In May, the board approved new changes to “build the bench” that will both support the executive director while enable FLF to look toward the future as our *rapid* growth has been transformed into *exponential* growth. We are currently at work in 16 countries this year with the addition of three new projects in Belgium, Belarus and the Philippines.

The recently approved organization structure is led by a paid, part-time Executive Director assisted by an Associate Executive Director of International Relations; Associate Executive Director of Field

Dr. Greg Morrow Executive Director*		
Provide executive leadership for implementing missional and financial development		
Rev. Chris Cook Associate Executive Director** International Relations	Ms. Treva Swadley Assistant to the Executive Director* Director of Office Finance	Rev. Heber Mena Associate Executive Director** Field Services
Assist the Executive Director in building relations with global partners, representing FLF through international travel and assisting in development	Assist the Executive Director in supporting his work by overseeing responsibilities as assigned; and, supporting FLF with strategic financial assistance through assigned reports	Assist the Executive Director in managing partnership projects, providing FLF with strategic data tracking dates, costs, and reports; and assisting in development
Key Words: • Respond • Represent • Report	Key Words: • Communication • Coordination • Competence	Key Words: • Annual • Awareness • Accuracy
*Paid, part-time **Volunteer, field service travel compensation		
Volunteer Field Service Staff Calvin Brown, John Claydon, Mike and Robbi Haynes, John Jackson, Heber Mena, Mateusz Wichary		

Services and an Assistant to the Executive Director/ Director of Office Finance. A volunteer field service staff continues to be responsible for regional projects.

Together, FLF’s updated organization can lead us into the next 20 years!

Three Ways You Can Financially Support FLF



Give online: www.flfmissions.org



By mail (with the enclosed card):

Future Leadership Foundation
PO Box 1891, Columbia, MO 65205



Whatever works for you!

Give by email at office@flfmissions.org
or call us toll-free 866.652.5150.

FLF By the Numbers

17 PROJECT REQUESTS
APPROVED IN 2023

29 PROJECT
REQUESTS
APPROVED
FOR 2024

\$78,050

PROJECT EXPENDITURES AND
TRAVEL APPROVED FOR 2024



Word cloud
of 2024
approved
projects

Poland (continued)

of Salisbury and Farmington to work with LIGHT Cafe in Wroclaw by putting on a VBS for Ukrainian refugee children. “We are looking to have somewhere around 60-80 kids in attendance and are looking forward to showing Christ’s love to them that week.”

Looking back Kurtis found the trip in April “life giving to me. I would like to thank everyone for the great work you have entrusted me with as I assist in the relationship between FLF and The Golden Apple Institute. The retreat was a success and the work was well worth it. I look forward to being a part of this great work for years to come.”



Moldova (continued)

During the week, Mike and Robbi traveled to the Cahul, Hancesti, Orhei and Ungheni regions, four of the areas of Moldova with organized Baptist Union regions nearest Chisinau.

Mike taught pastors and shared copies of *The Key Is To Be*, a book written by Mike and translated into Romanian, the official language of Moldova. Robbi taught the spouses about Intentional Families. Almost 520 participants total attended the sessions.

The South Haven team went back to the Ungheni region to visit church plant sites during the week. The team did personal evangelism, relationship development, encouraging believers and exploration.

“There is a strong ‘mother’ church, Zion Baptist, that is raising up and sending out church planters to the villages across the region. We participated in an ongoing kids club in one of the sites that is currently without a pastor or planter. We also visited a new community where the pastor of the mother church envisions the next plant.”

Moldova has approximately 1700 towns and villages and about 750 have no evangelical witness. Often new churches are being planted in very poor communities with little resources to support a pastor.

“Since returning, our church has agreed to partner with the Baptist Union to support a couple of the planters. Those who are serving there are dedicated, but are young men with families. They have jobs in the main city, but this keeps them off the field visiting the congregation and community. The support we will give them allows them to be present in the community they are trying to reach.” South Haven hopes to provide future training support and teams to assist in evangelistic outreach events.

The final evening, the group celebrated the week over dinner with the Baptist Union leadership.

“It was a marvelous trip,” Robbi recounted. “We’re praying it will be the foundation for many more to come.”

