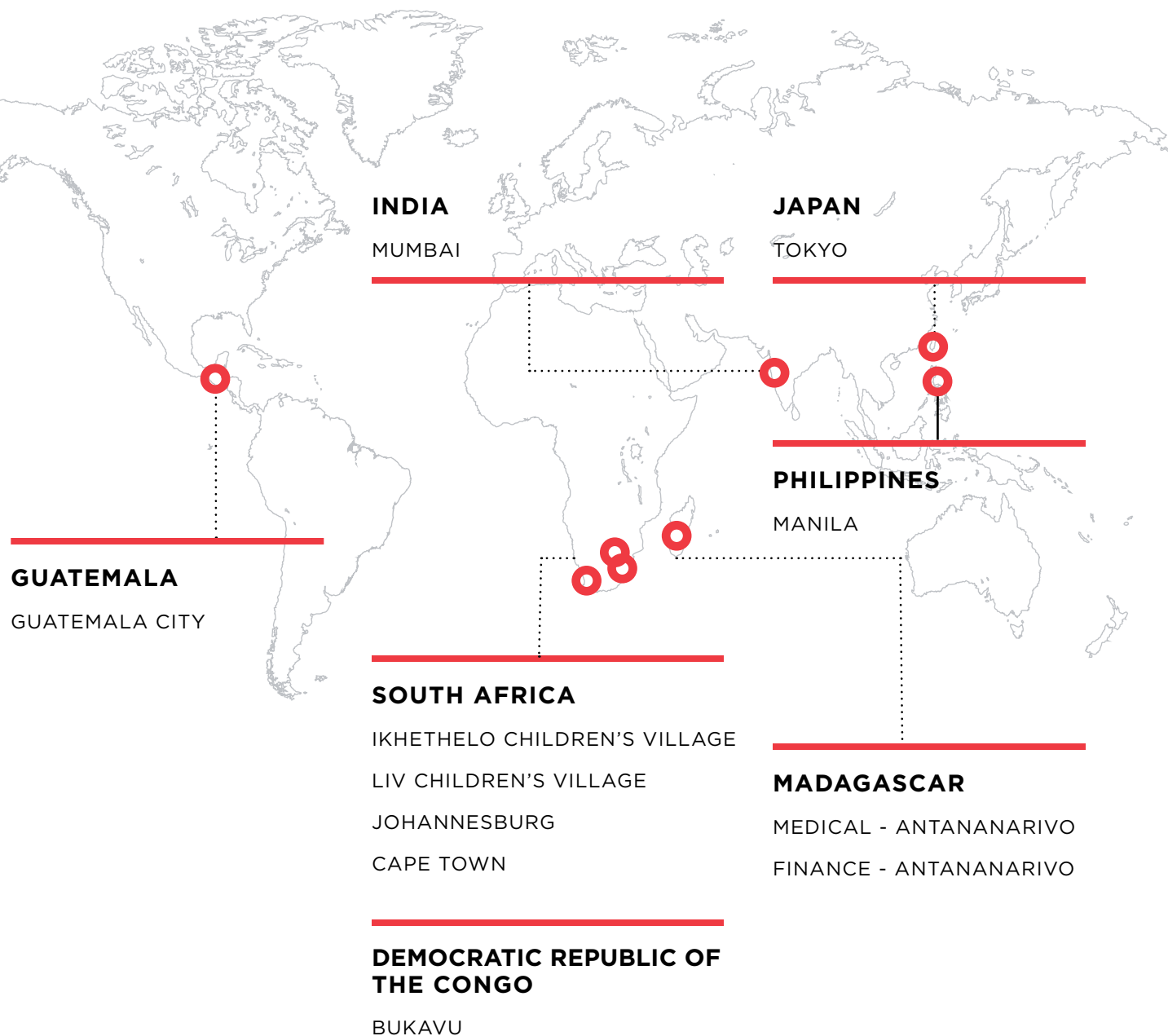


# Short-Term Mission Trips





# THANKS

Thank you for your interest in  
Redeemer City to City Mission trips

In 2016, eleven Short-Term Mission teams helped fulfill the Great Commission by traveling to countries all over the world. Each trip had a specific theme and focus while they accomplished various tasks and projects. Mission trips are special endeavors that can have a major impact, with Redeemer trips uniquely serving the purpose of connecting participants with church planters who have partnered with City to City, Redeemer's church planting arm. This relationship provides for a deeper connection as we seek to serve the needs of international churches while educating Redeemer congregants about their ministries. We appreciate your support, encouragement, and interest in STM endeavors! The following summaries, written by team members, are of our teams' trips to the following locations:

GUATEMALA - GUATEMALA CITY

SOUTH AFRICA - IKHETHELO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

SOUTH AFRICA - LIV CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

SOUTH AFRICA - JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA - CAPE TOWN

MADAGASCAR MEDICAL - ANTANANARIVO

MADAGASCAR FINANCE - ANTANANARIVO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - BUKAVU

JAPAN - TOKYO

INDIA - MUMBAI

PHILIPPINES - MANILA

# GUATEMALA



We had the honor of working with Asociación Buena Vista to do outreach in two nearby Mayan villages, Tecpan and Socorro, which both struggle from extreme poverty. Asociación Buena Vista is a multiuse church facility located in Chimaltenango. It has become a vital part of the community where locals can attend church, enroll in a mission studies program and send their kids to elementary school or a tech high school as an alternative to joining gangs.

In both Tecpan and Socorro, one of the most important and needed services we could offer was health care. We served them with medical, dental and vision care. We also performed acupuncture on the adults. Over 500 residents were treated, given medication and/or vitamins and many were provided with reading glasses. We also provided framed family photos and fed over 600 locals a meal of mixed meat stew, rice and tomatitos.

Alas, our Spanish did not help us in Tecpan. Kaqchikel is their native Mayan language, but it was easy to communicate God's love. They had shut down the only school in town for the day so that we could set up stations to provide medical treatment and haircuts. We also ran an exciting Vacation Bible School for the 200 children of Tecpan, during which we taught them about the Gospel through arts &

crafts, educational games and balloon animals. The team broke a sweat fellowshipping with the kids, playing soccer and basketball, and jumping rope. We were also able to donate clothing and sports equipment and they were beyond thrilled to receive these much-needed items.

In English, Socorro translates to "help us", which speaks to the hopelessness of this coffee plantation community. Located on the slope of a mountain on a 1.5-hour drive from the closest main road, Socorro greeted us with their needs, which were identical to those of Tecpan.

During our time in Buena Vista, we used every moment we had to serve local churches, daycares, schools, job-training centers and families. We socialized with them, prayed with them, and provided meals and necessities, including 12 Ecofiltro water filtration systems. The team was so blessed to be able to be so helpful. Our God-given talents were really put to great use in Guatemala and the townspeople could not have been more thankful and loving.

For the second half of our trip, we served at Casa Aleluya, which is a children's home in San Bartolome that takes in children who have been abandoned,

*This was Redeemer's sophomore trip to Guatemala alongside Infinity Bible Church, a Redeemer affiliate in the Bronx. Flying to the States from Guatemala in 2015, there was a moment where we all looked at each other and thought, "We're coming back." We could feel God already preparing our hearts for a Round 2.*

—MYLO CHENG, MISSIONS TEAMMATE



abused or chronically ill. With roughly 400 kids on campus, it is quite an operation to ensure the children receive three meals a day, an education, medical attention and a chance to be loved by the staff and visiting missionaries. Last year we were able to assess how we could use our unique abilities to meet their needs, and this year we were able to offer something new for Casa Aleluya. We held a series of small health & fitness workshops for the middle and high school students and played an entrepreneurship game that teaches kids about money management. Some favorites of last year's visit were the fútbol (soccer) tournament and the making of tie-dye t-shirts, which we did again this year. We were also able to donate numerous items to Casa Aleluya, including dinnerware sets, shower gel, healthy snacks, clothing, lip balm, shoes, devotionals, jewelry and arts & crafts items!

Casa Aleluya allows young adults to stay on campus if they are enrolled at a local university. To give a break from their studies, we catered a formal three-course meal and taught proper table etiquette to prepare them for their future careers. Our team dressed Casa Aleluya's main dining hall like a high-end restaurant and dressed ourselves in staff attire. Both the team and the students enjoyed this immensely!

We are so honored that the Lord has called us to Guatemala and so thankful to those who have supported and prayed for us during our preparation and time there. We look forward to continuing to build the relationships we've started with Buena Vista and Casa Aleluya and are excited about what God has in store for these partnerships.



# IKHETHELO CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

iKhethelo means “the chosen ones” — the best of the best. That’s what iKhethelo Children’s Village seeks to raise — providing a family, foundation and future for the 48 children they care for, and also to be a forerunner and example to the community around them. This was Redeemer’s fifth year returning to South Africa and to iKhethelo Children’s Village. Now, the children expect to see us year after year. They know us by name, and we’ve developed a relationship over the years, which we can only thank God for.



We landed in KwaZulu-Natal on Good Friday and were able to spend Easter with our iKhethelo family, yet again. What was special about this week was that we got to see some of the children get baptized during Easter and express their commitment to their new identity as children of God. They had taken baptism class and got baptized in Uncle Nic’s pool. It was especially a blessing for us to see those whose faith has grown over the years under the loving care of iKhethelo’s staff and leadership.

The Redeemer team was asked to come during their Easter holiday from school to provide a week of activities, which iKhethelo has now dubbed “Redeemer Week.” Whenever the children are home from school, it is a huge burden on the staff and house moms. Additionally, when children are bored, they can cause trouble. This year’s “Redeemer Week” theme was about one’s identity in Christ as a child of God and we covered relevant topics across

five days of Bible study and throughout the week. We spoke about what it means to be created in God’s image, what it means to be a child of God and no longer slaves, and what it means to be a new creation. We started every day with worship time, and the favorite songs of the week were “No Longer Slaves” and “Good, Good Father.”

Redeemer Week wouldn’t be fun without our activities, which included field day, cupcake and hat decorating.

Field trips are tough without a group of chaperones. We took the children on fun field trips, such as ice skating, bowling, and hiking, which created memorable moments.

And thanks to our generous donors, we were able to leave two gifts with iKhethelo: 1. A portable sound system with two microphones, which got great use during our talent show and worship nights and 2. A brand new staff car for the staff to run errands and take the children to places like church, basketball practice, and social services.

Through it all, we have  
come to realize that we  
need to depend on Jesus  
and not on our own  
talents or strength.

And for the team, this was an amazing experience of faith. We stepped away from the comforts of home, jetlagged after 20+ hours of traveling, into a culture that was so different from ours. Through it all, we have come to realize that we need to depend on Jesus and not on our own talents or strength. Five of us had come for a second or third or fifth time, and every year, we grow in our love for iKhethelo and faith in God, who loves iKhethelo more than we can imagine.

# LIV CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

This July, Redeemer sent a team to first-time host, LIV Village, in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. LIV Village is a foster care children's village with more than 150 children currently residing there. Unfortunately, there are millions of orphaned and vulnerable children in South Africa, mostly due to HIV/AIDS. LIV focuses on a solution to aid this crisis, focusing on family restoration, education, music, community, health and learning about the Gospel. Our nine US-based teammates were joined by five local Durban-based youths with whom Redeemer has had a long-standing relationship. Their spirit and knowledge of the culture gave a special energy to this trip.

The team was tasked with running a week-long Holiday Club (Vacation Bible School-type program) for the LIV children. Organized chaos — with perhaps more of an emphasis on the chaos part! — is an apt description of our time with the children, and we were so blessed to witness their abounding joy, energy and love. The theme of our teachings was Jesus as the light of the world. The team planned fun arts and crafts activities for the younger children, and we were able to engage the teens in deeper conversations on faith and fears and hope.

We closed our time at LIV by attending a LIV church service and joined other volunteers, staff and local community members in worshipping God in both English and Zulu! We saw God at work in the lives of the LIV children and also in our own lives as He revealed himself to us and challenged our hearts to grow more in love with his own. What a unique and life-changing experience!





# JOHANNESBURG



Fourteen teammates, led by David Butsch, served in Johannesburg for the 6th year. Our host is the thriving Christ Church Midrand, whose pastor studied under Dr. Tim Keller at the Westminster Theological Seminary. CCM is closely connected to several outreach programs and the goal of our mission trips is to join in with as many of those programs as possible and be a blessing to these organizations.

This trip had the added energy of older teenagers from Durban as teammates, whom we knew from an orphanage on another mission trip. It was exciting to have eight Americans joined by six locals from South Africa — a very interesting and endearing mix. The team learned immensely from each other, bonded and served incredibly well together.

The focal point of this trip is to serve Nokuphila 1 & 2, a fast growing and expanding Christian school, sponsored by CCM, serving the nearby township of Tembisa. Children here get a top-notch education that they might not have received from other schools available within their community.

We took over 200 children and their teachers to a production of “Peter Pan”, done by a local professional theatrical company. This was the first

live show for most, if not all, of the kids, and they absolutely loved it. They could not stop talking about the show and it was so fun to be able to share the arts with the children and see their deep appreciation and enthusiasm.

We hosted a special ‘Teacher Appreciation Party’ properly decorated with colorful balloons where we enjoyed hot dogs and cake. The teachers were so appreciative of this celebration and the gifts that they received.

A general assembly presentation of the Gospel of Jesus was performed for the children. They seemed captivated and thirsty to learn, not only about Jesus, but also about the team members’ lives and experiences. They were beyond thrilled to receive over 100 books from the States for the Nokuphila school libraries.

Every year we do a facility project that the school administration requests, and this year’s project was making benches for the children to sit on during group assemblies. Without benches, the children would have to sit on the floor. We bought the materials, assembled the benches and painted them. To see them in use was exhilarating for the team!

*“Words cannot begin to describe how much your visit meant to all at Nokuphila. Your friendly assistance in so many areas was a blessing to our kids and to the staff. I hope you enjoyed your stay in South Africa as much as we enjoyed being with you. We so appreciate your kindness. You are an inspiration and I am once again blown away by the generosity of the people I meet in the course of my work. Your service in our school means so much to us.”*

—MARJ LUND, PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



We also served an orphanage affiliated with CCM, called Christ Church Christian Care Center. The centre assists children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS, which remains a critical social issue for the South African community despite an intensified commitment and continued mobilization of resources. We spent some quality time with the 50+ children there and treated them to a fun KFC dinner.

We ended the trip by visiting a non-profit called Kliptown, which is an after-school program serving Soweto. We brought loads of necessities, materials and supplies to assist them in their important work.

During the week, we were busy attending Bible studies and church services, and spent an evening at a benefit supporting an organization called The Love Trust. This vital organization desires to bring hope to vulnerable children in communities of need, focusing on education. We also shared meals and had conversations with church members, toured the city, and went to the Apartheid museum, as well as attended a beautiful concert featuring a local singer. This mission trip was packed with serving organizations, helping their communities and awareness opportunities to expose us to the needs of the area, as well as events in which to appreciate South Africa's rich culture. We look forward to many more years of this impactful mission trip!



# CAPE TOWN



This past August, 10 teammates served for the fifth year in Cape Town. However, we served new hosts this year, so in many ways, it was a first-time trip. The team spent most of its time with Christ Church Strand, headed by Pastor Peter Makaphela in the Somerset West area. We also hosted an event at Hope City Church, a church plant led by Pastor Stephen Murray, who attended Redeemer City to City's Fall NYC training program.

The team was honored to stay with locals in the Somerset West Township, as well as at an orphanage in the area. This close lodging really created great bonding and helped us understand the culture and needs a little better.

Christ Church Strand has been serving the community with a soup kitchen for six years. Our team went door-to-door, inviting elderly residents to the meal in which the team would help prepare and serve. About 70 elderly residents came to enjoy the meal. They were so thankful, not only for the meal, but that we were able to pick them up and bring them to the church for some much needed fellowship. One woman stated that her heart is always sad when she sees people going to church, as she cannot since she struggles to walk. We also had the awesome opportunity to take on various

responsibilities, such as purchasing food and supplies, painting the kitchen and the inside of the church, as well as other structures on the grounds of the church. Additionally, we were able to hire local men to paint with the team and paid them their typical daily wage. The material need is great in the area and the team supplied the church with food for their future soup kitchens, as well as regular WiFi, water and electricity, among other blessings. The team was thrilled they were able to raise the funds to provide all this for the ministry there.

Located on the premises of Christ Church Strand is The Somlandela School, which cares for approximately 100 children. The pre-school was founded in 2012, after seeing so many young children in the township roaming the streets during school hours. Its aim is to provide quality early childhood education for children between three and six years of age. We were able to bless the school with school essentials and educational resources, such as backpacks, soccer cleats, learning supplies, toys, therapy tools, and books.

We also served at the IkhayaIthemba Village Orphanage, where Mama Lumka has been providing care for orphaned and vulnerable children since 2004; many of whom have physical

*“The team was so great! We could clearly see that they come from a gospel-centered, Bible-based and mission-minded church. Those who were preaching and giving Bible teachings were so excellent.”*

—PETER MAKAPHELA, PASTOR AT CHRIST CHURCH STRAND



and intellectual disabilities. Mama Lumka is affectionately known as “The Wheelbarrow Saint”, as she used to walk through the township with a wheelbarrow collecting children who had been abused and neglected. The team was able to assist with playtime and socializing with the kids, reading to them, serving meals and constructing puzzles.

The latter part of our trip was spent in central Cape Town at Hope City Presbyterian Church, where we were able to fellowship with the congregation at our Faith & Work event. We shared testimonies about how we integrate our faith and our work, and held breakout sessions for the attendees to discuss what it means to truly incorporate our Christian faith into our vocational lives. At the end, every

attendee (approximately 75) was given a copy of the book *Every Good Endeavor* that had been brought over in the teammates’ suitcases. Mpho Magolego, an attendee, stated, “The session was absolutely amazing! It completely blew my mind! I’m now stuck in the *Every Good Endeavor* book the team handed out. Wow!”

In Cape Town, we strive to continue to cultivate relationships with our church plants, deeply engage with their congregational life, serve hands-on in their outreach programs, and get a better sense and understanding of the challenges of the impoverished city and region. We look forward to serving this year’s ministries in the future!

# MADAGASCAR MEDICAL

There is a high need for medical care for the Malagasy people. With 69% of the population living below the national poverty line threshold of one dollar per day, Madagascar is in a state of medical emergency. Doctors, hospitals and medical equipment are in extremely short supply and patients are treated inadequately or too late.

The 2016 Madagascar medical team consisted of an optometrist, a physical therapist, an emergency physician, a surgical resident and a French interpreter. In order to serve and equip the much-

children with cerebral palsy in addition to rehab after amputation and vision rehabilitation. The classes were attended by over 150 people and at the course completion these individuals received special certificates given by the Ministry of Health, which the attendees were so thankful to receive.

The team also cared for individuals needing medical attention for two days. We set up a clinic at Tana City Church and most of the patients were from the church's homeless ministry. The optometrist did eye exams, vision testing and gave out pairs of glasses. The physicians did check-ups and medical consultations, as well as physical therapy consultations.

Access to medical care remains beyond the reach of many Malagasy, especially in the rural areas. We conducted home visits for those unable to get to the clinic for various reasons. The optometrist visited a local orphanage to give care and check-ups to the children. We were so honored to be able to donate a defibrillator to a local hospital, as well as anatomical models.

hope still remains...



cherished local healthcare workers, the team planned and taught continuing education classes. Classes were held for two full days at Tana City Church in downtown Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar.

During these classes, we taught updates to the advanced cardiac life support guidelines and discussed the most effective treatment for sepsis and necrotizing soft tissue infections (severe bacterial infections). We also taught rehabilitation classes geared towards physical rehabilitation for

The host of this trip was an organization called Growing the Nations. It's aim is to make therapeutic services, programs, and devices accessible and available to individuals and families in need of intervention. This in turn gives them the gift of restored hope. For Malagasy people, hope still remains due to wonderful organizations combatting poverty such as Growing the Nations.

This was our fourth successful medical trip to Madagascar and we plan to continue to assist Growing the Nations in their endeavors and serve the poor of the Malagasy community.



# MADAGASCAR FINANCE

For most of the developing world, microenterprises are a key source of income and employment. However, these businesses often have difficulty growing. The lack of growth has been attributed to missing the necessary skills to manage a growing business.

The Madagascar Business Finance trip consisted of eight teammates, most of whom were on the trip last year. In an effort to spark entrepreneurship and business leadership among the Malagasy, we partnered with Tana City Church and focused



most of our efforts and time teaching business and finance classes. The church did a great job spreading the word about the classes, as we had 60-80 attendees every day. We covered many of the basic business topics and skills throughout the four days, such as researching Madagascar's economic climate, making a business plan, identifying one's target market, marketing strategies, budgeting and financial planning. In order for our teammates to gain better knowledge about businesses specifically in Antananarivo, we researched local businesses and did case studies on them. Our goal was to equip the attendees with the essential skills to develop self-sustaining enterprises.

Focusing on Jesus as a model to be a servant leader, we also held business leadership classes. We discussed some of the hopes, fears and expectations of being a leader and the biblical description of leadership. These leadership classes were a new component this year and we thought that having a more interactive setting would be more effective than simply conducting lectures. A local successful business leader held a very helpful Q&A for the attendees. We also held a breakfast with different local business people, gaining advice and mentorship and nurturing relationships for next year's classes. The attendees got a plethora of useful information while also fellowshiping with their fellow townspeople.

We also served the Malagasy youth and homeless. Teammates organized a few service projects to serve the less fortunate children. We loaded up the kids in buses and went to a park where the kids could play all day and we arranged some fun activities for them as well. We also shared a meal together and got to interact with the children a lot. The afternoon worship time with the homeless was very special and we were able to host a hot meal before handing out essentials. In hopes to better serve the Malagasy youth and homeless, the team met with local business professionals to receive advice on how to help others and possibly start a mentoring program.

Prior to coming to Madagascar, the teammates were able to raise a large amount for a special project. The money is being used to build a school and church community center. It was such a blessing to be able to see the work in progress.

As we reflect on our time in Madagascar, we pray that we can continue to cultivate relationships with the homeless next year. We also hope to specialize the classes to be more specifically geared towards the needs of Antananarivo, partnering with more local businesses. We are so thankful for Tana City Church and The Rotary Club. They are an incredible blessing and resource to their community, truly doing good works and giving glory to our Father.

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Our inaugural trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo was filled with both eager and nervous anticipation. Our team of five was hosted by Lephare Bukavu Church, lead by Pastor Nicolas Kyalangalilwa. Pastor Kyalangalilwa, who is a Redeemer City to City church planter. He began this growing church in 2012, and it is now a vital part of the community where they have two Sunday services, outreach programs and leader training. An important part of our trip was to pray with, pray for and encourage Pastor Kyalangalilwa. We also focused on identifying the needs of the community and how we could use our business and finance knowledge to equip young leaders to implement actionable change in serving their community.

Bukavu, located in the South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is a bustling capital with a lot of personality despite the various conflicts that have occurred in the region over the last two decades. The rampant corruption has made it difficult for entrepreneurship to thrive. Unemployment is over 60% and the average life expectancy is around 49.6 years of age. With 66% of the population under the age of 25, our priority was giving the future leaders of Bukavu the skills to build

businesses that will not only provide sustainable income, but also create investments that yield huge returns for the entire community.

Our team held business and finance workshops for these young future entrepreneurs as well as established business leaders. We taught the fundamentals of creating a thriving business, including financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills. Holding these workshops and also hosting lunches for the participants were very fruitful in developing relationships and getting to know and understand the particular needs of the community. We aim to continue mentorship and support, which are crucial to helping entrepreneurs succeed.

This business and finance training is seen as a way to end hunger and stabilize societies. As with any start-up, these businesses are more likely to survive if the owners have basic operational skills. In a recent study, villagers in a particularly poverty-stricken area who had received loans and also received business training performed significantly better than peers who had received loans and no financial education.





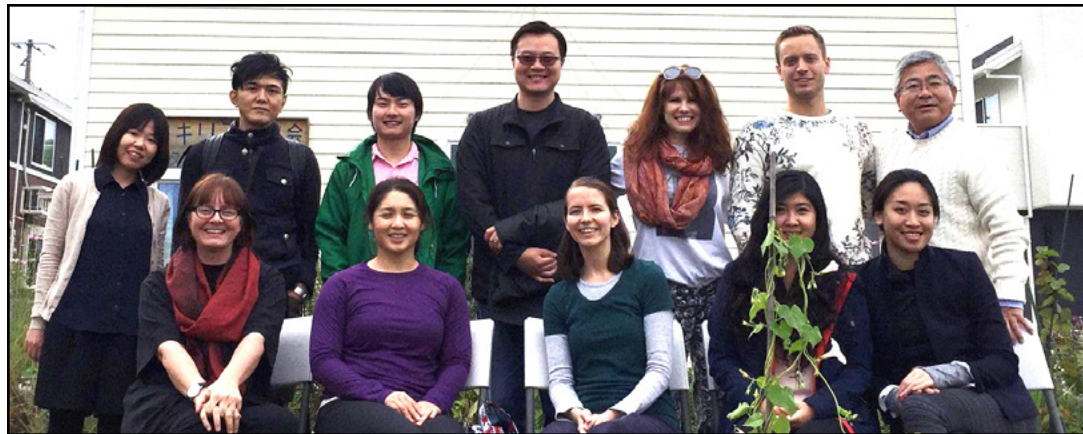
During our time off from teaching, we took trips to various points of cultural interest around Bukavu. We had the great privilege of visiting Panzi Hospital. It was founded by Denis Mukwege, a Congolese gynecologist who is a three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee for his work in the treatment of women who have been victims of sexual violence. Despite the devastating recent civil wars, political instability, lack of infrastructure, deep-rooted corruption, and centuries of both commercial and colonial exploitation, the Congolese people desire to make permanent, positive improvements to their community, country, and continent know no boundaries.



God truly guided our nervous energy into a trip that left all those involved — both teammates and participants — feeling inspired and well-equipped. Additionally, while we came to encourage the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we left feeling inspired by the bravery and resilience of the Congolese people. Being there was such a testament to the global body of Christ — regardless of our environmental and societal differences, we worship the same God and read the same living Word.



# TOKYO



Redeemer City to City is blessed and honored to have relationships with many churches in Tokyo. This was our fourth year building and nurturing our relationship with Grace City Church. Our team of seven spent time in October with this unique and fast-growing church and witnessed how God is working in one of the largest, most expensive and most secular cities in the world.

...God can make beauty  
from ashes and restore  
what has been broken.

Every year, Grace City asks us to assemble a team of a few professional performing artists to be featured in a large annual arts conference. This year the theme of this event was called "Broken". All the performances within the conference were tailored to show how God can make beauty from ashes and restore what has been broken. The singer performed highly relevant and beautiful arias and the actor performed a variety of powerful monologues from plays. We also talked in small groups after the performances, where we spoke about the subject matter of the performances, such as redemption, broken relationships and God's amazing grace. These breakout sessions got

beautifully personal and one team member shared her emotional 9/11 testimony. This is not only a high-level, professionally done event, but also a creative way to engage non-Christians and explore how God's love and grace is undeniable and palpable. We are very happy we can contribute to this special event every year. It is truly a highlight of the Japan mission trip.

The actor and singer's work did not stop there! They also performed at other venues throughout the week, including two church services.

...the gospel is so  
applicable to every  
aspect of our work.

We participated in a Faith & Work talk where we shared personal testimonies of how the gospel affects what work we choose, the way we relate to our colleagues, and how the gospel is so applicable to every aspect of our work.

Another highlight of our trip was hosting lunch and dinner get-togethers throughout the week, where we were able to share the gospel with locals who



brought their non-believing friends with them. These shared meals are a two-way blessing, as the Redeemer team-mates get to make new friends while also understand the culture better through these conversations.

Lastly, we took a trip-within-a-trip by train to Tohoku, the area most ravaged by the 2011 tsunami. There we hosted another performing arts event, spent time with residents of a retirement community and made new friends within the local community through the church who hosted us, Grace Mission Tohoku. We enjoyed cultivating our relationships throughout this special community immensely.

This is a highly relational trip, as relationship building is extremely important within the culture and in bringing people the knowledge of Christ. The team made the most of every opportunity to interact with locals during this trip. We look forward to continuing the relationship building through our annual trip in the future!

*“Thank you very much for your coming to Japan, and supporting and encouraging us in many ways. We truly appreciate it! Your trip made a difference to us. May God bless you richly and enrich our continued friendships.”*

—TOMOKO SACKS, GRACE CITY CHURCH

# MANILA

Our Philippines missions team consisted of six people this year. The focus of this trip was to bring encouragement to the communities still recovering from Typhoon Haiyan. The city of Tacloban was struck by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and it was the strongest storm on record to make landfall. The city was almost completely destroyed and the death toll exceeded 6,000. Three years later, as the city is being rebuilt through the support of NGOs, the people of Tacloban are still rebuilding their lives as the tragedies of loved ones and loss continue to ring



strongly in their hearts. Also, as aid organizations are leaving, many people are left feeling as if they are not prepared to stand on their own two feet and are not ready to face what is ahead.

In order to empower the community, we held a Faith & Work seminar. The seminar included several relevant topics, such as financial planning, budgeting, how to integrate faith and work, serving with a healthy and responsible attitude and even graphic design!

We also ran a children's program for 35 kids of different ages. The theme for the program was 'Being a Good Friend: The Story of David and Jonathan'. We taught this story through coloring, word finds, arts & crafts and crossword puzzles. The children were so engaged and captivated during our time together. At the end, they were very excited to receive gift bags.

We ended our time in Tacloban with a music concert that was held in the parking lot of Heroes Tacloban Church, led by Pastor Fortune. Some teammates played their instruments or sang. It was such a treat. Videos were shown while the music was being played. These videos brought many to tears as they showed the resilience of the community since the typhoon. Teammates shared testimonies, Pastor Zuriel shared a sermon on God's amazing grace and 10 people received Christ as their Savior that night!

We were able to donate loads of clothes, shoes and books to the community. God's work was so evident and it was encouraging for everyone there. Our group has been so blessed through this experience to witness Christ's life-saving power and healing.

We also served at Heroes Church Manila where we held another Faith & Work seminar and children's program. We also had a prayer night at our hotel,

God's work was so evident  
and it was encouraging  
for everyone there.

in which we served the Heroes Church members homemade lasagna. Lastly, we attended a comedy show starring a local comedian.

While we were able to be helpful practically, we also spent a lot of our time in personal conversation and prayer. Filipino people are very relational, so they were encouraged by our time together laughing and joking. We pray that our time together acts as a reminder to these people that they are loved and that the Christian community extends far and wide. Sisters and brothers can be across oceans, but Christ's love binds us together. The stories and accounts told to us about Christ's intervention, protection and healing will forever stay in our hearts. We are truly humbled.



# MUMBAI



This was our fifth year traveling to Mumbai, a city notorious for human and sex trafficking. 13 teammates doubled down on efforts to bring light to the victims of sex trafficking through spiritual, educational, and artistic activities. We were blessed to be able to team up with a few anti-sex trafficking organizations, one of them being the International Justice Mission.

On our first day, we went straight into the world's largest hub for sex trafficking, the Red Light District of Kamathipura. We worshiped at the Red Light District Church alongside many women who still work in brothels. Being so physically close to modern day slavery and such inhumane treatment of women made this worship time so heavy, yet hopeful. Our prayers were more like pleas, knowing only He can make deep, lasting change in Kamathipura.

A goal of ours was to show the hope and love of Jesus to the victims of sex trafficking while also giving them practical skills. Our projects included assisting at a Sunday school, holding women's Bible studies, helping at a medical clinic, executing

a sustainable farming project, teaching financial literacy, mentoring, helping with homework, doing arts and crafts, executing a beauty station, and throwing special biryani dinners and ice cream social dance parties.

Pastor Guy, who is a leader of one of the organizations, ministers regularly to a slum community. He is such an inspiring soul with a heart for the poor. He took us to the slum community and we met with a family who graciously welcomed us into their home. We then prayed together and over each other.

We served about 300 trafficking victims total, most of them quite young. Despite their difficult circumstances, God's light and hope radiated through them as living proof that His grace reigns no matter the situation.

We pray that God may continue to provide for those affected by human slavery. May His love resonate deeply in those precious hearts. We know His work is not done! We are already excited for next year's trip and we trust that if it is God's will, it will happen!

