

CONNECT

Winter 2016



REID SAUNDERS
ASSOCIATION

Taking the message of the cross to the ends of the earth... All for Jesus

EVANGELISM

2 Timothy 4:5

Target unreached people groups around the world

Engage the culture without changing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Demonstrate God's care and compassion by providing humanitarian aid for those in need

Invite people into a relationship with Christ

BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:12

Promote unity and cooperation among the local Bible-believing churches

Train and equip teams of believers for the work of evangelism

Partner with local churches to make disciples of new believers

Saturate communities through city-wide festivals



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Villa El Salvador, Peru April - May, 2017
The Gathering Prayer and Worship May 4, 2017



Children with special needs and disabilities received early Christmas presents as part of the outreach dinners that were organized to minister to their families in Moldova.

Europe's Poorest Find Treasure in Heaven

In the poorest country in Europe, where unemployment, alcohol use, and human trafficking are widespread, RSA team members Reid, Brett, and Seth Buechley joined Luis Palau Association to preach the Gospel to the people of Moldova—a country home to many evangelicals persecuted by the orthodox majority.

From October 13-20, the team spent seven days in both Moldova and Ukraine to minister to six cities through 54 events. Every day, the team spoke to church-gathered audiences at luncheons and dinners, simply sharing the Good News of Christ. They served a wide variety of people from varying backgrounds: the disabled, police, armed forces, firemen, prisoners, medical professionals, students, businesses, teenagers, couples, prisoners, single mothers, widows, and women abused or trapped in human trafficking.

During one of the dinner events, 50 to 70% of the attendees were nonbelievers, and between 40 and 50% gave their lives to Christ. Many churches and pas-

tors were encouraged throughout the trip. One pastor approached Reid after a couples event with tears in his eyes. He said, "This is amazing. We've been doing street evangelism for years but we weren't seeing fruit. I was beginning to wonder—is there a better way?" Then he looked over his shoulder at the results of what God had done at the event and said, "Yes! This is the way!"

Later on, Reid preached the Gospel to a deaf community. As he recited the sinner's prayer, inviting them to receive Christ, he happened to open his eyes. He looked and saw many people signing the prayer to surrender to Jesus and was deeply moved.

"I'll never forget that as long as I live," he says. "I was reminded about how Jesus came to seek and save the lost and loves all people."

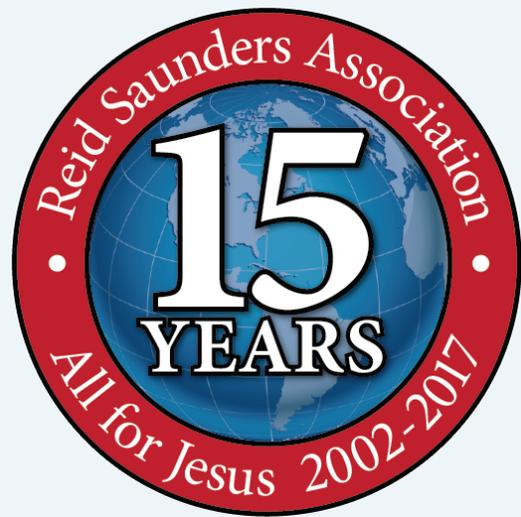
As a result of God's working, hundreds of people chose to follow Jesus over the course of the short, whirlwind trip. Team members, donors, and all those who prayed were instruments in His sovereign purpose to call many to Himself in Moldova and Ukraine.

15 years
3 million people
75 countries
200,000 decisions

ALL FOR JESUS

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21). Wow! What an amazing year, and yes, God did more than all we could have asked or imagined. Praise be to God for the harvest He brought in this year as thousands came to Jesus. As I write this article I'm basking in worship and praise to God for what He has done, for His glory.

This is a very special time for me as 2017 will be the year we celebrate 15 years of ministry at RSA! It's incredible to look back and see what God has done over the past 15 years. It takes a team to accomplish what we do... and it has taken YOU to make this ministry possible. Friends, I am so thankful for your friendship and partnership in the Gospel. Over the past 15 years God has used us to share the Good News of Jesus face-to-face to more than three million people in 75 countries, with over 200,000 decisions for Jesus. Let's reach even more souls for Jesus in the years to come!



Recently some friends of the ministry told me they want to help us finish the year strong by offering a **special matching challenge of \$20,000!** Imagine every dollar you give from today until midnight New Year's Eve will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$20,000). Wow! This could double your gift to the ministry.

Please pray about helping us meet this challenge and in the process doubling your gift. Thank you, dear friends, for your faithful prayer and support as we continue to take the message of the cross to the ends of the earth... wait for it... ALL FOR JESUS!

Reid Saunders



Reid speaking at LifeLight 2016



Mandalay

An invasion of light into spiritual darkness

Many people had never heard the name of Jesus Christ in Mandalay, Myanmar. Yes, that is hard to believe, but true!

It was truly amazing to see the heartwarming response to the Gospel in a region that has been isolated and closed off from the rest of the world for so long. An estimated 17,000 people heard the good news publicly proclaimed over a seven-day period. More than 2,000 people made decisions for Christ. Praise God!

The outreach to this region of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, was truly a pioneering effort in many ways. With the recent changes in government, Myanmar has opened its doors to the outside world and is now welcoming tourism and economic development; and with that, the spread of Christianity. The church in Myanmar is once again beginning to blossom and emerge from 50 years of drought and repression.

Reid Saunders presented the gospel to a capacity crowd on the final night of the International Gospel Music Festival, and a huge number of them responded to the invitation. Evangelists Alan Greene, Josh Brewer, Zach Blickens, and Keith Cook also joined in the effort by training local

pastors during a three-day conference, as well as speaking the first two nights of the festival.

During the week, team members ministered to children in schools, churches and an orphanage. Community outreach meetings at local churches drew hundreds of people from the surrounding streets whenever the BMX riders started performing. It was truly an invasion of light into the spiritual darkness.

More than 2,000 people made decisions for Christ!

Often the team arrived to a small group of very young children seated inside the church waiting for our visit. John Andrus and Dustin Orem cranked it up into high gear and began pedaling through the neighborhood doing BMX tricks. Immediately a curious crowd of young people gathered and followed them, like the Pied Piper, back to the street in front of the church, to see more of their bicycle stunts. After a personal testimony, Josh Brewer delivered the Good News. At one point, Josh asked the crowd to raise their hands if they had ever heard of the name

Jesus Christ. Only a couple people indicated a positive response. Most of the adults in the crowd only smiled inquisitively, or shook their heads in confused disbelief.

Following an invitation, many of the children raised their hands to indicate a decision to follow Christ. Everyone was invited into the church, and a crowd of nearly 100 eager young teenagers and children literally ran into the church. It was such a dramatic turnaround to witness in that short amount of time!

For Alan Hopkins and Serrena Westerfield, two of the drama team members, a highlight of their week was training Burmese students to perform the dramas at the festival. Alan remarked, "The students we trained did a wonderful job. They will not only perform these dramas here in Mandalay, they will take them back to their home provinces and train additional people. Many more people in Myanmar will now have a chance to see the Gospel story performed because we stepped into this new training role."

Nearly one hundred and fifteen pastors and church leaders from around Myanmar attended a three-day conference that covered a wide range of topics selected

for this region. The primary goal was to strengthen and encourage the pastors that have labored under intense persecution from their government and the Buddhist church for many years. Pastors that live further from the large cities experience a constant struggle against the spiritual darkness, isolation, and cultural control of the monks. Brett Butcher, Sunny Abraham, and the other evangelists took turns encouraging their Burmese counterparts with teaching on evangelism techniques, church planting, worship, sermon preparation, study methods, management, youth ministry, and theology.

One local pastor, TuTu, who also coordinated our festival in Mandalay, recalled his personal story of persecution. He told how God has protected him and enabled him to proclaim the Good News openly in a hostile environment. Recently he was convicted and sentenced to a

two-year prison term for connecting a Korean missionary with two North Koreans defectors that were seeking asylum in Myanmar. Unknown to Pastor Tu Tu, the prisoners had been praying for several years for someone to bring the Word of God to them. After realizing that God had put him in prison for this specific purpose, he boldly began preaching. During his first year in prison, 200 inmates were baptized and discipled. Prison authorities let him out one year early. The prison ministry is still dear to his heart to this day.

Other pastors that talked with Reid after the festival were rejoicing over all the new believers. They told him that Mandalay would never be the same and they are so excited to follow up with the new converts and see even more people in their city come to Jesus.

One of Reid's favorite times was to be in the slums of Mandalay, ministering to

the children. The team distributed new clothes made by the amazing sewing team had made to the precious children and told them how Jesus can clothe them in righteousness. "It was truly precious to see so many of these kids in their new clothes give their lives to Jesus! That's the power of the Gospel, Jesus changing lives for eternity as we show and share the love of Christ" Reid recalled. "Thank you, my friends, for partnering with me to take the Gospel of Jesus to the ends of the earth!"

Many people back here at home also responded with sacrificial giving to meet a last-minute request for a generator and buses to transport people to the conference and festivals from rural areas. Because of your partnership, the festival was a huge success, and local pastors were encouraged and emboldened to reach their neighborhoods. Mandalay will be impacted for many years.





God truly moved in a mighty way! Jesus said in Luke 10:2, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."* In Zomba, Malawi an estimated 15,000 people were reached with the Gospel, and over 4,000

I now belong to Him! There is no turning back!"

Phil Strom was pleased to report that the local church he and Reid attended in Zomba was vibrant, unified, and healthy. Reid and Phil's time in Zomba was also part of the larger Love Malawi campaign

never before!

The largest crowd in the history of Malawi's Christian gatherings came August 20-21 to hear the message of hope and unity delivered by Andrew Palau at the fields near Maula Prison in the capital, Lilongwe. This event marked the conclusion of the festival which began in early August with activities in Ntcheu, Mzuzu, Blantyre, Zomba and the Dzaleke Refugee Camp in Dowa in which 20,000 people from Ethiopia, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are housed. Love Malawi Festival was a partnership between the Evangelical Association of Malawi and evangelist Andrew Palau of Luis Palau Association. The Love Malawi campaign also included medical clinics; distribution of 10,000 pairs of reading glasses, 2,200 pairs of shoes, and 400 soccer balls; and humanitarian aid and visits to several prisons. More than 100,000 copies of the Gospel and the New Testament in English and local dialects were distributed throughout the country.



people surrendered to Christ, Reid reported.

The pastors and churches in the city of Zomba were excited to see so many people give their lives to Christ. Many of those same people who came to Jesus at the festival Saturday night were seen in churches Sunday morning for the very first time.

One pastor came up to Reid very excited and told him about a Muslim man who had come to the festival and gave his life to Jesus. This Muslim man told the pastor, after he gave his life to Christ, "My life is now forever changed by Jesus.

being held by Andrew Palau of the Luis Palau Association. In a unified effort, over 700 Malawi churches worked together from August 5 through 24 to hold various evangelistic events in five of the larger cities.

It was such a joy to labor in the harvest fields of Malawi along with some good friends and fellow evangelists Andrew Palau, Alan Greene, and Richard Hamlet, to saturate the country for Jesus! Many thousands heard the Good News of Jesus and thousands gave their lives to Christ. The pastors of Malawi testified that these festivals united the body of Christ like



This year's Third Annual Benefit Golf Tournament was a tremendous success. Numbers were doubled, as 68 golfers competed and over \$9,000 was raised to help in RSA's effort to spread the Gospel to the "ends of the earth!" Over thirty new golfers were able to participate, hear about the ministry, and meet the RSA staff and team members.



"The tournament had three objectives... One was to raise funds, the second was to share the Gospel, and the third was to create relationships between the golfers and the ministry."



Phil Strom, RSA Director of Operations, worked diligently to plan the event and was pleased by the outcome.

"The tournament had three objectives," he says. "One was to raise funds, the second was to share the Gospel, and the third was to create relationships between the golfers and the ministry."



The tournament took place on Friday, September 16, at Mallard Creek Golf Course in Lebanon, Oregon. Each team was provided a cart, dinner, bucket of balls, and a free practice round of 18 holes. Those who won were later announced at an awards dinner following the competition, and prizes were presented.

Looking forward to the next tournament, Strom's new goal is to see 100 golfers participate. He also hopes to provide an event at dinner, welcoming any spouses who would like to join the golfers in the evening. Overall, the event was an incredible success. God was glorified, the Gospel was shared, funds were raised—and everyone had fun doing it, including Strom. "I didn't even get to golf and I had a great time," he says.

RSA would like to thank all participants, donors, and sponsors for their contributions, as well as Mallard Creek Golf Course, for its generosity and accommodation of the event.





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Until all have heard... Mark 16:15

Like Pied Pipers, John and Dustin led neighborhood children and their families to the local churches where they could hear a gospel presentation for the first time in their life. see full story page 4

