

This has been a wonderful year of deepening and development in ZCC's outreach and mission. Seeing all that God has done, literally around the world, is amazing! You can find more info on our website, but here are highlights.

## **Local Outreach**

### **Alpha**

Alpha is led by Josh and Linda Tiner, and serves as an 'on-ramp' to the Christian life - a place where those interested in exploring the teachings of the Bible and the claims of Jesus Christ can do so in an open, family-type atmosphere. This year we had about 90 people attending Alpha, and now even have some people who came in from the recent Somerville outreach!

### **Miriam's Heart (Orphan Care)**

Our orphan care ministry through Miriam's Heart serves to cultivate a culture of adoption within ZCC. Their work at the church includes the Blend, a bi-monthly gathering of adoptive & foster families, and many other informative events such as the Adoption & Foster Care 101 class. Also, the "Empowered to Connect" Training with Russ & Allison Highton equipped adopting and foster parents to better understand and respond to the needs of traumatized children.

### **Prison Ministry**

This year, our prison ministry has been active in both men's and women's county jails, and we have begun to go through an Alpha course with the men in the local jail! There is a regular flow of letters from inmates to members of this faithful ministry team! Please pray for Linda Tiner (women) and Jarib Medina (men) as they continue to serve with their teams.

### **Senior Home: Spring Hill**

The team goes once a month after church to the Spring Hill facility where they share the Word, songs and fellowship with elderly people who stay within the Spring Hill facility. This is a beautiful example of the way God touches hearts to reach out to those who are often marginalized by society, reminding them and us that He sees each one.

### **Pantry**

Our pantry serves around 400 families per month, working with multiple external partners and around 60 volunteers. We accept donations to this church ministry each week! The faithful volunteers of the pantry serve under the capable and dedicated leadership of Aixa Katz. Your continued prayers and practical engagement are much needed to make this effort truly an outreach expression of Zarephath Christian Church to needy families in our area!

## **Boutique (a.k.a. Closet)**

Our boutique is a thrift shop led by Gilda Webster and her team of faithful and diligent volunteers (the "Boutique Dream Team"! ). This ministry serves two fundamental purposes: namely providing clothing to families in need and generating some income that helps us fund our ministry efforts at the pantry. We are currently in the midst of our winter drive. Come and check out this wonderful store with a selection of new and gently used, selected clothing items!

## **Garden and Farmer's Market**

Through the efforts of Gail McGuinness and a tight circle of dedicated volunteers, the Garden has generated well over 3000 lbs of vegetables this year for distribution to needy families in our area through the pantry! We continued to partner with "America's Grow-a-Row", as Diane Huntington and her team bring fresh, farm grown vegetables and fruits in bulk to families in need in our community. This year Julie Jasper and her team added Bible-based games for the kids, which went very well!

## **Mission Fest**

This year there were about 300 people coming through Mission Fest, which is a great event to connect with the whole range of outreach ministries - "find your fit" is our theme. The idea is to help people engage as families in an exploration of where they may fit in the many local and international outreaches of the church. About 50 signed up for more information and/or to serve in various areas!

## **Culture Fest**

This year we enjoyed a wonderful Saturday with 35 countries represented at this year's CultureFest! The purpose of this event is to savor the way the One God, YHWH, is celebrated and worshipped in diverse countries around the globe in so many different ways! We enjoyed food, music, art, craftsmanship and music performances. This year, a "Parade of Nations" (with each country carrying their flag and giving a greeting and blessing in their own language) was a wonderful echo of heaven!

## **Partnerships**

Our partners include Zarephath Health Center, Pillar College's Education program, Red Cross, Love True, Family Success Center, Centro Cristiano in Hillsborough, Enactus, Stonecrest Community Church, NJ CityServe, America's Grow-a-Row, and others.

## **International Mission**

### **Haiti**

Moriah Dunn went this year to serve for a few months with the Joy of Living Orphanage, founded by Angel and Sylbie in 2011 to support children affected by HIV and AIDS in Haiti! Recent construction and service teams led by Kevin and Christine Lu have been critical in developing the infrastructure on site, as well as encouraging Angel and Sylbie.

## **Liberia**

Our missionaries, Jen and Steve Butwill, continue to serve faithfully in Po, Liberia. Staff are now trained and capable of running much of the major parts of the daily operation, and the maturing of the ministry in staff, facilities and reputation in the area is a testimony to God's tremendous work through this couple! The construction in the campus has been going very well, with pictures and stories available online at [poriverclinic.com](http://poriverclinic.com).

## **Nepal**

Our team to Nepal in October spent a few days in Kathmandu experiencing some of the Tibetan Buddhist culture of the Boudhanath area before advancing into the Himalayan Mountains! We were happy to follow up on our responses to the village's felt needs expressed last year (soil analysis for farming and a computer equipped with English Language learning software). Our local partners continue to follow up.

## **Nicaragua**

Partnering with Pastor Hunter of City Church, Cincinnati Ohio, this mission initiative is led by Chris Ottenstroer and Rich Patino as ZCC members. Our mission and approach is to resource, train and equip local pastors and missionaries in an effort to spread the gospel and advance the Kingdom of God in Nicaragua. This program intentionally links discipleship with outreach.

# **Highlights and Updates**

## **People and Places**

- David Tarantino and his family have been led to attend another fellowship in the area, and we send them off with our blessings and prayers as David Minn takes the role of liaison here.
- Our Performing Arts team led a community outreach in Billion Legion Park where many of our ZCC local artists were able to express worship and the Gospel message through dance, drama and song (some original pieces!).
- Affinity in Mission Groups: We have begun a pilot 'branch' within ZCC's outreach with affinity groups. These are not ministries of the church, but rather groups of people within ZCC who share a certain affinity and want to use that in outreach. Our current groups include Abundant Home (Barbara Shearn), Performing Arts (Annalyn Jiminez), and Tutoring (Gina Petrowski). Find out more at [zarephath.org/outreach/aim](http://zarephath.org/outreach/aim)