

Report to the Missions Committee at Pine Grove Bible Church

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Dear friends at Pine Grove,

Thank you for your ongoing financial support and your prayers.

My last two months have felt quite administrative. I still have not found a new Director for the WEA Geneva Office. This is of great concern as it is an important office and our current director is leaving at the end of April. It is apparently difficult and expensive to move to Geneva, particularly with a family. We continue to receive qualified applications and my prayer is that God will give us discernment to bring the right person into this role.

I have a number of projects on the go. I am writing an article on hate speech that I hope will be published in Christianity Today. I am proofreading an issue of the International Journal on Religious Freedom that should be published by the end of April. It has interesting articles on India, North Korea and China, all of which have serious challenges with religious persecution. I am also working on a submission to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on hate speech. Finally, I am working on a project jointly with Open Doors on internally displaced Christians in Nigeria. You may know that there has been much inter-religious conflict in Nigeria and many Christians have had their villages and homes destroyed by Fulani herdsmen who want to take their land. This means that thousands are in IDP camps.

I will be travelling to Toronto in early April for the annual Religious Liberty Partnership consultation. I am very happy to be there for the solar eclipse! But it is always a special opportunity to connect with many ministries engaged in on-the-ground ministry to those who are persecuted for their faith. I will be on a panel discussion about religious freedom issues in Canada.

I will be travelling to Nairobi, Kenya in May to participate in the UN Civil Society conference on the Summit of the Future. This is an initiative to encourage positive reforms in the United Nations. I have written two short submissions on the draft document "Pact for the Future" to highlight the importance of including faith actors as important partners in solving global problems like peacebuilding, human trafficking and global development.

I am delighted to report that Julia Buckingham has joined the Global Advocacy team on a voluntary basis helping the WEA Sustainability Center with issues of food security and food sustainability. One of the projects she is working on is writing some materials for World Refugee Sunday (June 16 or 23), which is focused on hunger this year. See <https://iwas.live/>.

I am pleased to attach our most recent quarterly newsletter for more information about what our team has been doing.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

