

Vol 62 | Issue 3 | 2014

MESSAGE

spread the word

2014

CANDIDATE ISSUE

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INTERNATIONAL



The Beauty of Becoming Unnerved

As I looked at ABWE's newly appointed missionaries during our July recognition service, I saw the excitement, hope, and thankfulness on their faces. Their zeal reminded me of my wife Sterling and myself when we were commissioned to take the gospel to the Philippines nearly 32 years earlier. I smiled thinking about how God will mold them into representatives of His love over the coming years, just like He molded us.

One of the most challenging and powerful times God used to shape us happened when we least expected it. We were planting our third church on the island of Bohol, and our ministry was thriving. We were where God wanted us. And then our oldest daughter, Kelli, got so sick that she stopped breathing. I frantically gave her mouth-to-mouth as we raced to the hospital, praying all the way that God would heal her. I stayed and prayed the entire night. Mercifully, Kelli recovered, but the ordeal left me profoundly unnerved.

That night shook me to the core. But it was through wrestling with the fear of losing our daughter that Sterling and I came to realize that Jesus is not just our Savior: He is our Friend. We learned to find comfort in Jesus in the middle of our uncertainty — a lesson that served us well throughout our ministry and helped us develop profound empathy for those who are suffering.

This issue of Message introduces our 38 new missionaries, some who are fresh out of college, some who are transitioning from short-term service, and others who are leaving successful careers to bring the gospel to the nations. As you read their stories, please take a moment to pray that when they become unnerved — and they will — that they would learn to lean on their Savior and Friend: Jesus.

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WHO IS THE ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM (ABWE)?

ABWE was founded in 1927 as an independent Baptist mission. The objectives of ABWE are to establish indigenous Baptist churches and to train national pastors and leaders. About 1,000 missionaries serve with ABWE to advance God's work in 60 countries around the world by sharing the story of hope, building communities of faith, and serving the world with love.

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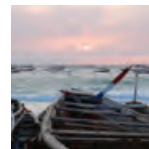
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CONNECTIONS

Ministry Snapshots from Around the World

ECUADOR

RIDING FOR JESUS



Men in leather jackets, AC/DC music, shiny chrome motorcycles, and bandanas littered with skulls and crossbones aren't commonly associated with ministry. But as Jeff and Deanne Davoll discovered, sometimes God challenges us to expand our understanding of missions.



The Davoll family arrived in Cumbayá, Ecuador in 2009 and immediately began making connections wherever they went. Deanne made friends in a local women's Bible study, their kids made friends in the parks, and Jeff got involved with his local church, but he hit a wall trying to connect with the other men in his community.

One missionary group labeled the men in the Davoll's community as the "untouchables," because their homes are behind tall walls topped with electric fences in

gated communities with armed guards. The men leave early in the morning for work and return long after sundown.

"I knew we were going to have to think outside the box if we were going to connect and share the gospel with these men," said Jeff. "So I prayed, watched, and waited for an opening."

Then, during a visit from a supporting pastor who was a motorcycle enthusiast, the answer came. Jeff noticed that every weekend the men would emerge on motorcycles and go for long rides to relax from the grinding workweek and escape the confinement of the city. Jeff purchased a bike, and La Conexión Motorcycle Ministry was born.

He began riding with a young man from his church on a weekly basis, and soon six more riders

from his church helped connect Jeff with a larger motorcycle group. Jeff's motorcycle has been the key to opening many doors for ministering to these men, and he is now a part of this tight-knit community that often turns to him for counsel and prayer.

A group of members from Jeff's local church also got involved to take the ministry to the next level by giving out free cups of water and Gospels of John at an international motorcycle rally. In one day, they gave out more than 500 Gospels, which encouraged them to continue to share the word at other motorcycle events.

"These are people looking for relationship and life answers," said Jeff. "And we know the Scriptures address each of their needs."



"I KNEW WE WERE GOING TO HAVE
TO THINK **OUTSIDE** THE BOX."

EAST ASIA

WORTH THE RISK

As a recent convert to Christianity in a religiously oppressive East Asian country, Sarah wanted to share salvation with her parents, but she knew it was risky. In spite of the danger, Sarah bravely shared her love of Jesus, and her worst fears were confirmed. Sarah's parents condemned her faith and forced her into a two-year enlistment in the army, where she was placed into a mental-recalibration program and tortured in an attempt to make her renounce the gospel.

It was the toughest testing of Sarah's life, but in the middle of her struggle, God blessed her with encouragement from James,* an ABWE worker she met through an English teaching ministry before she was enlisted. He wrote emails and called Sarah to ensure she knew he and his supporters were praying for her. James helped her cope through long months of persecution.

"There were many times I wanted to give up and just give my superiors what they wanted and say I don't believe," Sarah said. "But as I prayed, His peace came upon me and I knew someone was praying for me."

The army tried to break Sarah, but they only succeeded in strengthening her faith. She began sharing the Good News with other soldiers. First, there was her roommate who became interested in the gospel as the two passed secret notes back and forth within their dorm room. Then, there were the fellow soldiers in her unit who

listened as Sarah became bolder about her faith.

Later, with just two months left on her two-year enlistment, Sarah's sergeant called her into his office. She sat down nervously, and he told her he had been watching her. He said he saw the way she acted and spoke. Then, he asked her point blank: "Do you believe in Jesus?"

Terrified about the consequences, but confident in her Savior, Sarah boldly replied, "Yes."

"Tell me all about Him," the sergeant replied. He said he had recently read a book about Christianity and wanted to know more.

Still uncertain, she told her commanding officer about the overwhelming love and care Jesus had shown her over the past two years. When she finished, Sarah felt God nudging her on. She asked her sergeant if he wanted to pray and become a Christian. Much to her surprise, he said yes.

Sarah barely had time to marvel at what God had done when the same sergeant told her several days later that he had already shared his new faith with a fellow officer, and he had also accepted Christ.

"I finally understand the passage, 'All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purposes,'" Sarah said.

In God's hands, Sarah's trials served to transform a shy and timid young woman into a hero of faith. Having recently completed her military service, Sarah now works as a schoolteacher, eagerly directing East Asia's next generation toward Jesus.



CONNECTIONS

Ministry Snapshots from Around the World

TOGO

THE GIFT OF FLIGHT



On the wall of ABWE's hospital in southern Togo hangs a map filled with tiny pins. Every day, missionaries, doctors, nurses, and Togolese chaplains share Jesus' healing love and the gospel with hospital patients, and when someone makes a decision for Christ, they mark that person's hometown on the map with a pin. It is a powerful testament to their work and the impact this hospital has in the country.

The downside is that many of these patients return home with

little working knowledge of the faith, and unless they connect with a local church — which the hospital staff tries to help them do — they have limited opportunities for further discipleship and spiritual growth. Enter Togo Aviation.

The Laird, Stoner, and Buczak families have joined together to bring the power of flight to the Togo mission field. God has blessed their ministry with a hangar and a plane that will help spread the gospel beyond Togo's limited roads and ground transportation. Together, this team dreams of all the ministries that flight will enable, including following up with new believers from the hospital, church planting in remote and unreached areas, leadership training, and mobilizing Togolese believers. Their flight team will also provide fast transport for specialists and patients between the ABWE hospital in the south

and the new hospital being built in northern Togo, reducing the 8–10 hour car journey to a two-hour flight.

“We are excited about the momentum that's already building in Togo, and we want to come alongside and help it grow,” said Dan Stoner, Togo Aviation team member and pilot.

In addition to reaching new people in Togo, a plane will allow the team to reach people in neighboring countries, like Ghana, Benin, and Burkina Faso. The team believes Togo is only the beginning of what God has planned for them, and they look forward to seeing how God will use them and their aviation ministry.



LEARN MORE about Togo Aviation
at togoaviation.com



.....“We are so excited to have pilots coming to Togo.
Together we will conquer this land for Christ.”

—Togolese Pastor Togbé

BRAZIL

WHEN GOD COMES KNOCKING

When the doorbell rang, Mendi Everett, an ABWE missionary to Brazil, was exhausted. She almost ignored it, but God had an appointment for her.

Mendi had just finished heading up their retreat center's annual barn sale — a labor-intensive rummage sale that the community looks forward to every year. Before Mendi and her volunteers opened the door to a line of eager people, they had prayed that this event might open opportunities to share the gospel. But after two hours of greeting people, exchanging cash, folding, and refolding clothing, Mendi was mainly focused on sitting down.

Mendi and her volunteers closed the sale, collected the signs, and went to Mendi's home to rest and eat lunch. They had just sat down at the table when the doorbell rang. Mendi's shoulders sagged from exhaustion, but dutifully, she answered the door.

It was a lady who had heard about the sale and wanted to know if there were any warm clothes that might fit her ill 83-year-old mother who had very little money. Mendi welcomed her in and helped her look for something that would fit her mother. The women found a couple things, but Mendi also wanted to find some clothes that would fit the woman, since she was wearing a hole-ridden t-shirt. While they searched, they exchanged names and Mendi asked her where she lived. Finally, the woman gathered her purchases, thanked Mendi, and went home.

All Mendi wanted to do was rest, but she felt the Lord prompting her to witness to the woman who just left, so while they were packing up the left over clothing, Mendi made a stack of what she could find in the women's sizes. Then, she loaded the clothing into her car and set out to try to find them. The woman's name had slipped from Mendi's mind, but she could remember the area where she said she lived.

She prayed, "Lord, if you want me to give these clothes to this lady and her mom, you'll have to show me where they live."

Mendi drove to the general area and began describing the woman to people and asking if they knew her. Finally, a woman pointed her to a little house and Mendi clapped — a standard Ecuadorian announcement when there is no doorbell. To her amazement, the right woman opened the door. Mendi gave her the clothes and the woman, Senir, invited her in. Senir and Mendi began to talk, and eventually, her mom joined them. The Lord guided the conversation, and Mendi was able to share the good news of salvation.

"These moments of such obvious leading are times I wouldn't trade. I don't know what God has planned for the future development of this divine appointment, but I am so glad to know that God does and that I get to be a part of it," said Mendi.

PERU

CHILDLIKE FAITH

“I’m pregnant,” Pamela* said with tears in her eyes. “What do I do?” ABWE missionary Evelyn Stone had heard the same words from countless women before, but they never ceased to touch her heart.

Pamela was a 27-year-old former prostitute who had been won to Christ by a member of Evelyn and David Stone’s church in Lima, Peru. Pamela began growing in her faith, but after an intense conflict with her mother, she returned to her former way of life and got pregnant by a married man.

Feeling desperate and hopeless, Pamela considered aborting the baby as she had in two previous pregnancies until a church member embraced her and brought her to New Life Prenatal Center.

Evelyn founded the center in 1999 to reach hurting women, like Pamela, in a city where nearly 80 percent of women have had abortions. In addition to Biblical discipleship, the center gives women prenatal checkups, ultrasound exams, medical treatment, birthing classes, pediatric care, and abuse, post-abortion, and marital counseling. The center is the first of its kind in Latin America, and now sees around 1,500 women each year, holds regular mobile clinics in the shanty towns around Lima, and has opened six similar centers in other regions of Peru.

When Evelyn sat down to counsel Pamela on her pregnancy, Evelyn reached into her drawer and handed Pamela a pair of hand-knit booties that they give to every soon-to-be mother. As Pamela held the tiny booties in her hands and felt the soft yarn on her fingers, tears began to roll down her cheeks.

“It’s a baby,” Pamela said. “I can’t abort her.”

Through the New Life Prenatal Center, Pamela recommitted her life to Christ and attended Bible study classes at the center throughout her pregnancy. She gave birth to a healthy baby girl and dedicated her to the Lord. Pamela now runs a small business selling toys at a marketplace and is very involved with her church. She drops by the center regularly, with her smiling daughter on her hip.

“Our center is giving these suffering women hope, not just medication. They’re accustomed to going to a psychiatrist and getting a box of pills that will only make the pain less, but won’t solve their problems,” Evelyn said. “We are offering Biblical solutions to the problems of unplanned and unwanted pregnancies, abuse, and abortion. God can heal their pain.”

**Name changed to protect identity*



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with military members

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LEGACIES

Honoring 35 Years of Ministry



SUE FARLEY

CANDIDATE CLASS: 1974

COUNTRIES SERVED IN: Hong Kong

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

1963
First felt called
to missions



1976
Began teaching Christian education courses and
English at China Baptist Theological College



Graduated from Cedarville College
with a BA in elementary education
1971



Began teacher training workshops in local
churches & teaching Sunday school
1978

“

It seemed very clear to me that God wanted me to go to Hong Kong — even though there was no school for missionary kids, I had never met a Chinese person, and I didn't even like rice.”

AN INTERVIEW WITH MISSIONARY **SUE FARLEY****Q: How did God call you to missions?**

A: I remember being in the fifth grade and reading the story of Isaiah. His experience in this chapter was very compelling and I felt God also wanted me to answer, “Here am I. Send me!”

Q: How did God call you to Hong Kong?

A: I went to candidate school with the intention of going to Peru to teach missionary kids, but then, an ABWE missionary couple presented the opportunity to work in youth centers in the high-rise government housing areas in Hong Kong where churches could be planted. Something about this very much appealed to me, and I walked around the lake at Baptist Bible College focusing on a line in an old hymn, “I’ll go where you want me to go.” It seemed very clear to me that God wanted me to go to Hong Kong — even though there was no school for missionary kids, I had never met a Chinese person, and I didn’t even like rice.”

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time in missions?

A: When I left to return home after candidate seminar, I wondered

how I would ever explain to family and friends that I would not be going to Peru, as I had planned since junior high, and I would not be teaching missionary kids. One of the first people I told was my grandmother. When I explained my complete change in plans, she simply answered, “I know!” She told me she had been praying for me while I was away, and one day, while washing the dishes, she felt God say, “Sue is not going to Peru, and it’s going to be OK.” She did not know the details at that point, but she was quite certain God did. That event gave me further confidence that God was indeed leading me to Hong Kong.

Q: What moment had the biggest impact on your ministry?

A: A few years ago, I had a student who was facing an emotional meltdown. It was a challenging year and I seriously wondered at times what the outcome would be, but I kept reaching out and praying for her. Finally, graduation day came and she miraculously made it. Afterwards, she came up to me with a big hug and whispered in my ear, “You saved my life.” In reality, it was the result of a team effort and our Heavenly Father’s work in her life, but her words gave me great encouragement at



a time when I was wondering if I should continue to work as a guidance counselor.

Q: What advice would you give to new missionaries or those considering missions?

A: Sometimes a teen comes to me with his or her life carefully planned out and scheduled. I am secretly amused because life rarely works out that way — how boring it would be if it did! To new missionaries, I say: be flexible. Look to God for that next step. He often leads us to roles, relationships, lessons, and experiences we would never have imagined. It’s incredible for me to see how God led a little kid from Ottumwa, Iowa, to share in His work half way around the world. Cherish the adventures God has planned for you!

Q: What is the most unusual food you ate on the mission field?

A: Fish lips.

**1979**

Appointed Assistant to the President at China Baptist Theological College

**1992**

Helped found the International Christian School where she taught English as a second language



Speaker, board member & Sunday school teacher at Filipino Fellowship in Hong Kong

1983

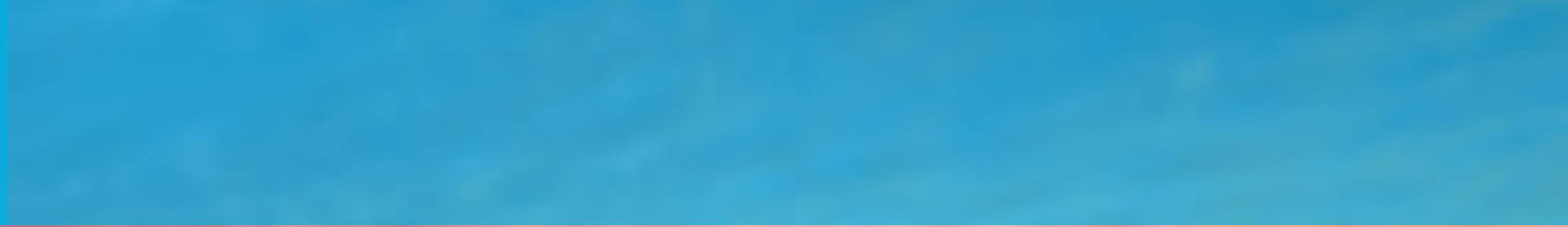
Became University Advisor/Test Coordinator at the International Christian School

1996



2014

CANDIDATE CLASS



EUROPE



ADAM & EMILY BYERLY | **SPAIN** | thebyerlys.com

Sheets Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, North Carolina

Adam was good at science. Emily was good with numbers. It made sense that Adam would become a biology teacher and Emily would become an accountant. But as they watched the field missionaries on a trip to Brazil, they realized they hadn't given missions as an option to the Lord.

"These were not crazy, super Christians," said Adam. "These are just normal Christians just doing

what God called them to do."

Not long after that trip, an ABWE missionary asked if Adam would consider teaching at the Evangelical Christian Academy in Spain. Adam and Emily knew they were being called, but God confirmed it when they learned that the school also needed an accountant.

They spent two years teaching, getting involved in a church plant, and falling in love with the school

and the local people. When their term was over, they knew they had to go back.

"We miss those kids so much," said Emily. "We have a heart and a passion for the MKs there. They struggle just like any other student, but they have a more difficult dynamic of adjusting to a different culture. They need people to help guide them, and we love being those mentors."

JOHN & JOANNA FREY | **ENGLAND** | freyministries.com
Dimond Boulevard Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska

As the son and grandson of pastors, ministry is in John's blood. Church had always been a big part of his life, and when he married Joanna, it became the central part of their family's life, too.

Over the years, they had heard about the great need in Western Europe from several missionaries, but when they got the opportunity to go to England and Germany, it

became real.

"We saw empty church after empty church," said John.

John and Joanna felt moved to help restore these withering churches and to empower and encourage British believers. While they have limited experience with church restoration, they have a lot of experience in discipling and are eager to learn more.

"We chose ABWE because of

the value they put on training and teaching on the field with a team member," said John. "Knowing that when we move to England we'll be working with another ABWE missionary in a British church for at least a year was very important to us."



CRISTIAN & KRISTIE BOINGEANU | **ROMANIA**
Immanuel Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio

Cristian is the son of a Romanian pastor. He was a good kid, but he knew his heart wasn't right with God. He grew up thinking his parents' faith was enough, until he saw his friends living genuine Christian lives. He wanted what they had so Cristian started getting involved at church and volunteering at youth camps. It was at one of these camps where he came to know Christ as his personal Savior and where he was shown the powerful way God could work through him.

"During a teen week at camp, everything that could go wrong, did go wrong — from team issues, to me getting food poisoning, to my grandma going into a coma back home," said Cristian. "But in the middle of all that, God helped me lead a boy to Him."

The boy had grown up in

an Atheist family and went to a Muslim high school. He was skeptical, but Cristian saw God guide his words and actions to reach that boy. At the end of the week, the boy accepted Christ, changing his and Cristian's lives forever.

"The verse 'Your power is made perfect in my weakness' came to light, and it made me want more," said Cristian.

Then, Cristian was given the opportunity to go to a youth camp in Northern Michigan where he saw everything that Christian camping could be. He saw college students who had given up their summers to minister to others and hundreds of people worshipping God together. Immediately, Cristian wanted that for his homeland of Romania.

Meanwhile, Kristie was exploring her call to missions by

using her degree in education to do a short-term missions trip to Germany. She continued to pursue missions, and despite initially hating Romania on a survey trip, she felt God asking her to stretch her faith.

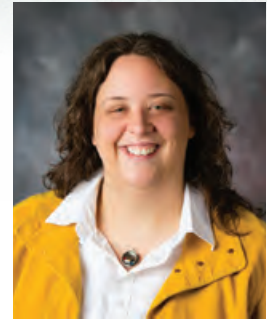
When Kristie finally arrived in Romania, the field teams' need had changed and Kristie was asked to use her heart for youth as part of the Camp Core Team, which organizes and leads camps. She met Cristian there and their friendship slowly grew into love and a common dream to elevate Christian camping in Romania. Now married, Kristie and Cristian are eager to return to Romania and continue what they have started.

"Our hearts are in Romania and we want to get back," said Kristie. "It's our home."



KRISTI WALKER | GERMANY

Heritage Baptist Church, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania



If you're looking for Kristi, you can most likely find her in a coffee shop in Berlin discipling one of her many beloved students. The coffee shop is her office. Berlin is her home. And Germans are her people.

Kristi knew very early that she needed to be in missions, but she wasn't sure where God wanted her. Then, in college, she read the quote, "Germany, at the heart of Europe, is without a heart for God. Ninety-eight percent is unreached and unsaved. The land of the reformation is in need of regeneration."

"I remember praying, 'God, if you could use me to make it 97 percent, I'll go,'" said Kristi.

Kristi has now been working in Germany for more than 10 years and she couldn't be happier.

"From the perfect climate, to a language I love, to a culture that somehow fits my personality, to the food, Germany is perfect for me," said Kristi. "Germany isn't for everybody, and that's why I truly believe God was with me on this journey. This is exactly where I'm meant to be and I love working with youth."



MYRON & AMY DUNCAN | ROMANIA*East Pickens Baptist Church, Pickens, South Carolina*

Amy always knew the Lord had missions in their future, so when their church presented an opportunity for a missions trip to Moldova in 1999, Amy nudged Myron.

“She said, ‘God’s calling and I took the message. He says you really need to go on the trip,’” said Myron. “I said, ‘He’ll call back if He really wants me to go and He’ll talk to me personally.’”

Then, one Sunday morning, God called.

“There was a line in one of the songs that said, ‘I’ll go where you want me to go,’ and I couldn’t

sing it,” said Myron.

Myron knew what he had to do. He signed up for the trip and his world shifted. Myron and Amy went on a missions trip nearly every year that followed as God began to call them to long-term missions. Last year, they moved their family to Bucharest, Romania, where Myron used his 20 years of teaching experience to work at a Christian academy. God confirmed their call, and they are working to return to Romania where Myron hopes to make disciples and Amy hopes to use her degree in counseling to

minister to women affected by human trafficking.

“God is brilliant at layering your life so that the things you learn to do are the things you’re going to need to know how to do,” said Amy. “There are people out there that need your story.”

**JANEL GUSTAFSON | SPAIN***Good Shepherd Community Church, Ferndale, Washington*

From a young age, Janel knew she was called to work with children and evangelize wherever she went. She pursued a degree in English and elementary education, and after graduating, she saw a need for teachers at the Evangelical Christian Academy in Spain. She was drawn to the school’s desire

to find balance between meeting a student’s academic needs and their spiritual needs.

In the fall of 2013, she went to Spain and discovered the school really lives out that balance. Janel taught middle school English and social studies at the school of 95 students, comprised primarily of MKs, along with ex-pat students

and local Spaniards. After her one-year term was completed, Janel felt led to continue pursuing her heart for discipling students.

“Influencing children is influencing the future. And you can help influence the spiritual health of the future,” said Janel.



SOUTH AMERICA



DAVID & TERRI FISHER | **CHILE** | fishers2chile.abwe.org
Jonestown Bible Church, Jonestown, Pennsylvania

David had an early call to missions, but after struggles with a missions organization, he set his call aside. He began focusing intently on advancing his career as a general manager. For years, his job was what mattered most. And then, God took his job away.

David felt lost, but losing his job helped him find his way back to God's plan. God brought the desire for missions back to David and also placed the same burden

on Terri's heart.

"That calling is something that's hard to explain. It's a compulsion. You have to do it," said David.

As they began to pray for a mission field, they kept feeling led to Chile where Terri had grown up as the daughter of ABWE missionaries. The field of Iquique, Chile, will allow them to use their Bible degrees, Terri's extensive teaching experience, and David's experience in

Biblical counseling.

"It's never too late. We've been married for 19 years. We almost feel like Jonah. For a few years, we were pursuing our own things and God had to bring us back and help us understand our call," said Terri. "It's easy to feel like we've wasted time, but with God, nothing is wasted. Anything you can do, you can do on the mission field. He can use all of it."



CALEB & CHARITY GIBBS | **JAMAICA** | gibbsgo.com

Maranatha Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio

Caleb is a shining example of what can happen when youth pastors recognize spiritual gifting and pour into kids. At the young age of 10, two pastors saw Caleb's leadership potential and mentored him as he went on several missions trips. He went on to study missions in college where he met Charity. They quickly discovered that their hearts aligned for missions, God, and each other.

"The Bible is a missional book. God chose a people to spread

and bless the world, and then they didn't do it. And then He chose the church to go out and bless the world," said Caleb. "It's not American or Jewish. It was supposed to be more. God desires the world."

Together, they pursued missions through short trips, and when Caleb finished his Master's of Divinity, they began praying for a lifelong mission field. They wanted to find a place where they could make an impact and a team that they could come alongside.

Their prayers were answered while leading a youth missions

trip to Jamaica. They found a remarkable mission team, a passionate local church, and a nation with a desire to do missions beyond Jamaica.

"We want to build up Jamaican believers and help them go beyond their shores," said Caleb. "Our heart is for starting a missions movement out of Jamaica."



JASON & RACHEL FLETCHER | **COLOMBIA** | prayfortheftetchers.com

North Point Baptist Church, Winston Salem, North Carolina

Jason had always admired missionaries, but his love of technology led him to pursue a computer degree. After finishing all of his prerequisite classes, he finally made it to his first computer class. Jason sat down eagerly, and the professor began his lecture. Before the professor could finish, Jason stood up and walked out. He suddenly knew that computers were not what God had planned for him. Jason drove straight to his church to meet with his pastor. Not long after, Jason heard his call to missions

and transferred to a Bible college where he met Rachel.

Rachel was an MK in Paraguay who never thought she'd follow in her parents' footsteps. Then, during a youth camp when she was 15, there was a discussion about missions and Rachel felt God changing her heart.

"I realized there was nothing else that was worth my time except missions," said Rachel.

On fire for missions, the couple attended ABWE's candidate class in 2008 and were ready to get started, but at the last minute, God

closed that door. Disappointed, they returned home and prayed for guidance. God opened the door for Jason to serve as a youth pastor, but Rachel and Jason never lost sight of their calling.

"Over the last six years, it has been amazing to see the way God has better equipped us," said Jason. "We have matured a lot in our marriage and our ministry. And our fire for missions and Hispanic people never quit burning."

AFRICA



ERIC & BEVERLY DAVIDSON | OPEN/SOUTH AFRICA
First Baptist Church of Glen Este, Batavia, Ohio



Eric and Beverly Davidson seemed to be living the American dream. They owned a beautiful house on six acres of land, held great jobs, had four fantastic kids, and were involved in dynamic ministries at their church. But when each of them suffered the loss of a parent in 2008, they realized they were being called to give it all up for the gospel.

Beverly's father had been a strong Christian role model in her life. Although he lived with cancer for many years and struggled with several disfiguring facial surgeries, his commitment

to sharing the love of Christ was unwavering. When he passed away, Beverly took a hard look at herself and wondered if she was doing everything she could for the gospel.

"I just knew that I didn't want to go to heaven and bring no one with me," she said. "I knew my life had to change."

That same year, Eric lost his mother. The impact of her loss was immense and soon he began to question why his supposedly perfect life left him so unfulfilled. He asked God to shake up his life, and days later he was struck by a life-altering illness. Although

he was terrified, Eric learned to appreciate his faith in new ways, and he felt closer to God than ever before.

With their lives and hearts forever altered by the previous year's events, Eric and Beverly abandoned the American dream. They sold their house and surrendered to the Great Commission.

"What we are doing doesn't make sense to a lot of people, but we are called to ministry," said Eric. "As we draw nearer to the heart of God, the more we want to be involved in missions."



BEN & ELIZABETH DELARME | **SOUTH AFRICA** | delarme.abwe.org
First Baptist Church of DuBois, DuBois, Pennsylvania

Ben grew up in the church, and in high school, he started to be haunted by the question, “Why have I been blessed with this while so many others don’t have this opportunity to know and learn?” It was a pivotal time for Ben, and during an inner-city missions trip with his youth group, he watched one of the older members lead a group of kids to the Lord. Ben thought, “That’s so much more important than anything else I’m doing,” and his priorities shifted. Ben had been blessed with many Godly examples, and he felt called to work with youth who didn’t have those examples in their lives.

After college, Ben looked for opportunities to work with inner-city kids and learned about the need for youth outreach on ABWE’s South Africa team. Ben went to Durban on several short-term trips, but he wanted more. He went through ABWE’s 2013 candidate class so he could go back to South Africa long-term and continue to grow the relationships he had started.

As he was raising support to return, he met his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth and Ben had grown up in the same church a few years apart, but they had never really known each other. She had a similar heart for missions and a strong interest in other cultures,

particularly India. When Elizabeth shared at their church about a recent missions trip, Ben finally noticed her and her immense passion for the Lord. God paired a girl with a heart for India with a man who had a heart to mentor the youth in Durban, South Africa – the city with the world’s largest Indian population outside the country of India.

“We know it’s not about us. Our prayer is that, whether it’s through us or not, the gospel be spread to all of Africa,” said Ben. “We know God can easily do that without us, but we would be honored to be a part of that.”

MARK & TRACY HEWLETT | **TOGO** | hewlettsforhim.com
Faith Baptist Church, Iowa City, Iowa

Tracy didn’t believe her husband when he said that they were going to do something full-time for the Lord when their kids were grown. Mark never had a firm plan, so Tracy simply smiled and brushed the idea aside. But Mark didn’t forget and neither did God.

Two years ago, when all their kids had graduated high school, God started changing their hearts and the course of their lives. On the advice of one of their children, they did a Bible study on the book *Radical*, and soon they took their first overseas missions

trip to Haiti with ABWE. The trip opened their eyes and hearts, and Tracy felt God challenging her to give up the comforts of America and to trust her six children and two grandchildren into His care. Mark told God that they were ready to go anywhere and do anything, but this presented an overwhelming amount of options. They began narrowing their search based on how God had gifted them, and then they remembered their Haiti trip leader mentioning they would be a good fit for helping with maintenance at ABWE’s southern

hospital in Togo.

“People think you have to go to Bible college to be a missionary, but you don’t,” said Mark. “God can still use you.”

Mark, a police officer and former car mechanic, will be using his jack-of-all-trades skills to do maintenance at the hospital through ABWE’s Project Office, and Tracy will be helping with the women and children evangelism ministries.



NORTH AMERICA



MANDI VERMILYEA | CANADA

Harvest Bible Chapel, Traverse City, Michigan



A little over a year ago, Mandi's dad called and asked her to be a part of a survey trip to Montreal, Canada. She agreed, never expecting it to change her life.

Mandi had grown up as an MK in Quebec City where she learned to speak French fluently, and her dad, now a Regional Administrator for ABWE's Canada team, thought her knowledge of the language and the culture would be useful on the trip. The purpose of going to Montreal was to seek opportunities for ABWE to work and minister in the city.

"It was so surprising to me how many opportunities are available in Montreal. It's not Africa, but

there is still so much need."

Mandi had only been to Montreal a handful of times, but she was impressed by the city. She was also impressed by the international language school she visited, even though she had no intentions of becoming a missionary or returning to teaching. She had taught for seven years after college, but for the last five years, she had been using her passion for youth at a Christian camp in northern Michigan. She was happy and settled, but as she sat in the back of the language class, she kept envisioning herself as the teacher.

"My heart was stirred a few times on the trip, but I just tucked

the idea away and went home," said Mandi. "However, the very first Sunday I was home, I felt God was speaking directly to me through the message. At the end of the sermon, the pastor asked if there was anything God had put on our hearts that we hadn't submitted to, and I immediately burst into tears."

Mandi yielded to her call. She will be going to Montreal to teach part-time at the international school and also organize missions trips to the city. All the while, Mandi will be keeping her eyes open for more ways to partner with other organizations as the new Montreal team builds.

SCOTT MCCOY | **NORTH AMERICA** | goanddisciple.org

Gateway Church, Austin, Texas



Scott went on his first missions trip when he was 35 years old. While he was still exploring faith, the idea of a \$300 all-expenses paid trip to Mexico with a group from his church sounded appealing. He hadn't expected to fall in love with missions, but when he saw the impact that his teammates had on the people and how much they loved him even though he wasn't saved, he was hooked. He signed up for a photography missions trip to Romania with ABWE just a few months later, and soon, he came to know Jesus as his personal Savior.

For 22 years, Scott had been focused on climbing the corporate ladder at a chemical company. He traveled throughout North America, Europe, and South America to establish trusting

relationships with national partners whom he trained to market and distribute his company's chemicals.

"I was doing evangelism for chemicals instead of Jesus," said Scott. "I was at the height of my career, but I felt unfulfilled. I wanted to have a bigger impact on the world and on people's lives. I wanted to save lives."

As an enthusiastic new believer, Scott started looking for ways to serve in his local church. He joined the praise band, taught Sunday school classes, and helped lead local outreach ministries. Many more missions trips followed and a burning desire to be a full-time missionary grew. He left his job in 2010 to spend more time with his son and explore God's plan for his life. For the next three

years, he mentored CEOs and facilitated peer learning, while he eagerly anticipated God's open doors. Little did he know, God was training him for his future ministry.

As a missionary, Scott will be helping to lead ABWE's North American church planting initiative, which aims to plant 1,000 churches in 20 years. Scott will be facilitating the equipping and training of church planters through a peer-learning network, similar to the system he implemented through his work with high-powered CEOs.

"So many exciting things are being set in motion," said Scott. "Anyone with an interest to participate in this church planting movement should contact me. We have a lot to talk about."



CHUCK & PAT NEWMAN | **UNITED STATES** | newmansinnewyork.com

Bedrock Community Church, Bedford, Virginia

Chuck and Pat have been in ministry for more than 26 years. Most of that time was spent at traditional churches that were working hard to maintain their membership, but Chuck felt God challenging him to broaden his sights. Chuck didn't want to simply build a mega-church with state-of-the-art facilities and

programs; he wanted to change lives. He wanted to get back to what was important: bringing Jesus to lost people.

"I passionately believe the most effective means of evangelism is church planting," said Chuck. "The closer a church is to its birthdate — on average — the more people come to Christ."

In 2010, Chuck acted on his call to church planting and went

back to school at the age of 50 to get his master's degree in church planting and ministry. Following graduation, Chuck and Pat felt called to church plant in Ithaca, New York, and start a coffee shop ministry to reach the more than 30,000 college students in the area.

"What changes America is not politics. It's bringing people to Christ," said Chuck.



CLARE & DONNA JEWELL | **NORTH AMERICA**
Lakewood Park Baptist Church, Auburn, Indiana

As the first persons saved in their families, God got a hold of Clare and Donna's hearts in a powerful way. They both attended Bible college, and for the last 21 years, Clare has been a senior pastor while Donna has taught in Christian education. Their love for ministry extended into missions, but Clare's annual missions trips stopped being enough.

"Over the last three years, God really convinced me that he wanted me to multiply," said Clare.

Clare and Donna began to explore full-time missions. They considered overseas opportunities until they heard about ABWE's vision to grow the North American church. Using Clare and Donna's connections and intimate knowledge of how to build a healthy church, they will be working to multiply through church planting.

"God really confirmed in our hearts that we can impact a lot of countries from here," said Clare. "It's like I saw at my church, many people think if we can affect the kids, we can impact the parents. But I saw that it works so much better when you start with the parents. I believe it's same with the North American church and missions. If I can affect the parent — North America — we can impact the children — other countries."



MATTHEW & ALICIA LETHBRIDGE | **PROJECT OFFICE** | thelethbridges.com
Daniels Road Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Florida

Matthew grew up in the church as a pastor's kid, and in high school, God gave him the passion and aptitude for construction. For more than 17 years, he worked for a commercial contractor, perfecting his trade and developing a mind for project management. He excelled at his job, but he felt the Lord asking him to put his talent to work for the Kingdom. Matt had gone on several construction missions trips, but when he learned about an opportunity to use his

construction experience to help missionaries through ABWE's Project Office, Matt and Alicia knew God was showing them the way.

"We know it can be overwhelming to know where to begin on a building project. Many missionaries are already working 60 hours a week, doing evangelism, discipling, and planting churches. Trying to construct a building on top of all that can be overwhelming and we want to make it easier," said Alicia.

Based out of Florida, Matt and

Alicia will be working directly with missionaries. Matt will be traveling to the field several times a year to help determine the need, the plan, the necessary funding, and ensuring all building projects are meeting local government regulations.

"We want to help missionaries meet their ministry goals, and we also want to help them be good stewards of their resources by making sure projects are planned to meet their current need and anticipate their future needs," said Matt.

ASIA



TIM & LEANDRA HAWES | PAPUA NEW GUINEA | disciplingpng.com
Temple Bible Church, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

High school tested Leandra's faith. She realized she hadn't made God a priority, and as a result, her faith was faltering. A friend compelled Leandra to come to church, which helped her get her priorities straight. She began to invest in a personal relationship with God and felt her life's purpose take shape.

"I began having personal devotions and the Lord really changed my life," Leandra said. "Because of that, I saw the need for missions. God just really burdened my heart."

Leandra enrolled in Pensacola Christian College, where she

discovered a love for bringing God's word to new languages. She studied Bible translation and took a short-term missions trip to Papua New Guinea where she saw the overwhelming need for translation ministries.

"I was out in a very remote, very tribal location, and I saw people asking the missionaries to go into their village, but they had to turn them away," said Leandra. "They didn't have anyone who spoke their language."

Leandra wasted no time when she returned home. She earned an additional certificate in linguistics, got appointed as a missionary through her church,

and raised the majority of her support. She had already shipped most of her baggage to Papua New Guinea when mutual friends introduced her to Tim Hawes, a new ABWE missionary translator who was also headed to Papua New Guinea. The two began emailing and their feelings for each other needed no translation. Seven short months later they were married, and now, they are eager to get to Papua New Guinea to begin their life and ministry together.

"The Lord is so faithful," said Tim. "As we just obeyed Him one step at a time, He laid everything out for us."

A MISSIONARY'S JOURNEY TO THE FIELD



Total New Missionaries
in 2014:

38

“Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is — where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge.”

- Robert C. Shannon

Total Missionaries
in Pre-field Ministry:

150

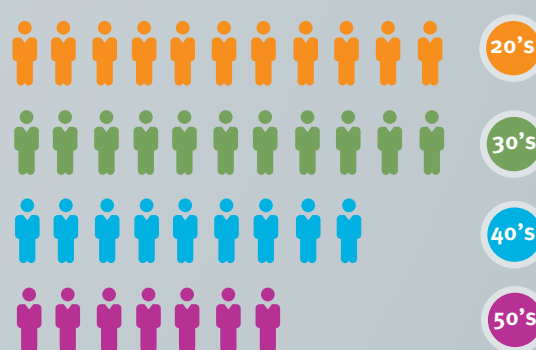
NEW MISSIONARIES BY REGION



NEW MISSIONARIES' MINISTRIES



NEW MISSIONARY AGES






Finding Grace

in the Struggle

By Stephanie Boon | *ABWE Missionary to Tanzania*



It was 4:45 a.m. and I woke up wanting to go home. I mean really wanting to go home. “We aren’t capable of doing what we were sent here to do,” I said to my husband, and he agreed.

Just two short years ago, we were ambitious and eager to get to the mission field. All the time we spent raising support and dreaming of our new life in Tanzania were finally becoming a reality. We were excited to see how God would use us.

I got on the plane thinking I was ready to trade my will for God’s. I thought I was ready to completely trust in Christ. But I

wasn’t. I had enough reliance upon myself to last... well, about two years.

Once on the field, I faced spiritual battles and discouragement like never before. I grappled with things that I never imagined would cause me to struggle. My known sinful tendencies nearly consumed me, and new sins came creeping into my heart. I felt so desperate for friendship

FIELDNOTES

and acceptance that I almost lost who I was. The Tanzanian children, whose pictures made me cry during our mission's presentation, began to frustrate me. I struggled to love them at times. It didn't come naturally anymore.

I saw pain and death. A lot of it. I soothed babies in their last days of life — whispering songs, verses and promises of heaven into their little ears. I held the hands of mothers who had lost their children and comforted a Muslim woman in the final days of her battle with AIDS. I watched in horror as women gathered their children, gasping for air, to share the only oxygen machine in the hospital. It was more than my brain could process.

I didn't have answers anymore. I felt so desperate and angry at poverty and the broken system that entrapped the people I loved. I felt helpless. I questioned everything that I thought I understood about the doctrine of suffering and the sovereignty of God. I didn't understand why I had material wealth while those I loved went hungry. And then, I looked at the lives of my friends on Facebook and quickly found myself wanting more. My extremes confused me, and I missed my family more than I could stand. It broke my heart to see their lives moving on without me and to know that there was so much of my new life that they couldn't understand.

Adding to my emotional and spiritual battles were the physical and daily struggles that my family and I faced. We were robbed. People betrayed us. My children got worms,

lice, malaria, infections, typhoid, and had flies burrow into their skin. They felt like outcasts and struggled with fear and the language. I hated watching them struggle more than anything, but I had to learn to let them. They cried for home and I cried with them.

We faced some tough times these past two years, but they weren't the root of what awoke me that night. They were simply revealers, grace-filled revealers of the real problem. They knocked me down to my knees and God used my brokenness to show me His truths. He was helping me understand that material wealth is worthless in the Kingdom of God and offers no eternal hope. He was teaching me to trust in the power of His love in my life and my children's lives. But most importantly, He was revealing my great sin of disbelief that His power and goodness would sustain me.

This realization that we, in fact, are not capable of doing what we were sent here to do was a gift of God's grace. It was this gift that awoke me that morning. Our Lord was beckoning me to repent of my lack of faith and cast my burdens upon Him. Like King David, I cried out, "Let these bones that He has broken cry out to Him" (Psalm 51).



LEARN MORE about Stephanie & Aaron Boons' ministry at thegracemissiontz.com



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The Journey Ahead: Prefield Ministry

By Brad Winkler

Every year at our candidate classes I hear at least one missionary candidate say, “I want to be a missionary, but I dread having to raise support and endure the time of preparation. Why can’t I just get on a plane and go right now?”

I completely understand their eagerness to arrive in their mission field and be used by God in reaching and transforming lives. This is what God has called them to do. But over the past 25 years of shepherding new missionaries, I have experienced that this time of raising financial and prayer support is not only vital to getting them to the mission field, it is also an important time of preparation and ministry.

Before they begin, I tell new missionaries that it is not a race to see how quickly funds can be raised. While it can often feel like a battle for time in balancing family, work, ministry, and everyday life, we can find peace in the knowledge that God gets every missionary to the field on time — in His perfect time. It is all part of the journey in becoming the kind of person that God can and will use. God uses it to build their faith, humility, patient endurance, and maturity in ministry.

At ABWE, we use the term “prefield ministry” to refer to this time between missionary appointment and leaving for the field because we truly believe that it is just that — a ministry. Prefield work provides amazing and unique

opportunities for missionaries to minister to hundreds of churches and individuals. As they share their hearts for spreading the gospel, they are able to evangelize, inspire, and challenge people to partner with them in God’s Great Commission. I have seen God use this time to raise much more than money. Many have been called to give, others have been called to go as missionaries, and some have been called to salvation.

After one year on prefield ministry, a young family told me, “If God wanted us to do prefield ministry instead of going to Ecuador, we would gladly do it. It is a blessed and rewarding ministry. We love it!” Like many others, they had come to understand that ministry does not begin when they arrive on the mission field — it begins now.



Brad and Robin Winkler served 28 years in pastoral ministry, and for the last eight years, Brad has served as ABWE Director of Prefield Ministries.



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— ABWE fishers of men working in North Africa



.....
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