

Volume 63 | Issue 4

Message

A quarterly publication of ABWE

Saving Central Asia

IN THIS ISSUE: *The Roots of Faith Produces Fruit* | *Marguerite's Legacy* | *Islam at a Glance*

EDITORIAL



The magazine you're holding in your hands — or reading online — is the result of more than a year of careful planning and preparation. With about 1,000 missionaries in the ABWE family, we found there were simply too many wonderful stories and not enough pages in which to tell them in our smaller format.

Increasing the magazine's size allowed us to add more stories and photos, enabling you to journey with us to the field to see firsthand how God is working around the world. By streamlining our resources, we're also saving the mission money and producing a magazine that's kinder to the environment.

I pray you enjoy the new and improved version of *Message*. You'll notice several new departments, including Visuals — in which we present important research and statistics that impact our work on the mission field — and Fieldnotes, in which you'll read powerful stories written by our missionaries.

I am always looking for feedback from readers as we strive to continue enhancing *Message*. If you have any thoughts on the new magazine, please let me know by sending an email to jenni@abwe.org. *Message* exists to serve you — the readers, the supporters and the prayer warriors — and I hope you love the new look.

Jenni Autry | *Message* Editor



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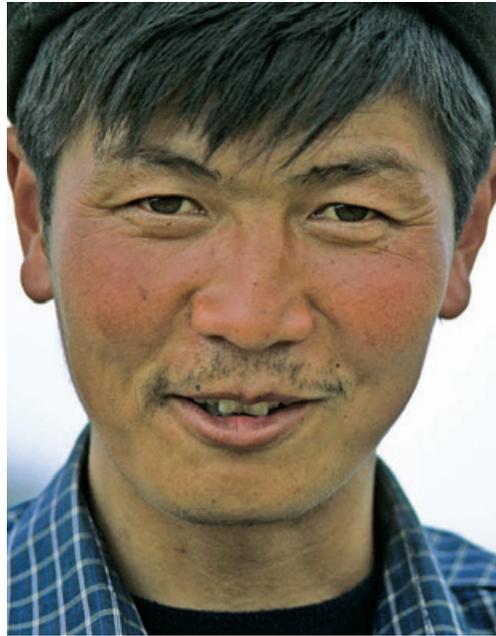
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WHO IS ABWE?

ABWE (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism) 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 to share the story of hope, build communities of faith and serve the world with love. CPC Agreement #1469436.

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CONNECTIONS

Your guidebook to global missions



64%

of Christians are saved
by the age of 18*

ROMANIA

Changing Children's Lives

Jenny O'Kelley, an ABWE missionary to Romania, helped run several camps for children in Bucharest this summer. She was very excited to report that many campers came to know the Lord.

One girl who accepted Christ immediately called home and told her mother, who is not a Christian, that she needed to go buy a Bible so they both could read it. The camp counselors were encouraged by how receptive the children were to the gospel.

"Here in Romania, it's generally believed that kids can't understand the gospel, so it was a huge blessing for our counselors to see firsthand that kids can understand and God does lead them into a relationship with Him," Jenny said. "They saw with their own eyes that God can change the lives of children." ■





“They saw with their own eyes that God can change the lives of children.”



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Rebuilding Haiti

HAITI

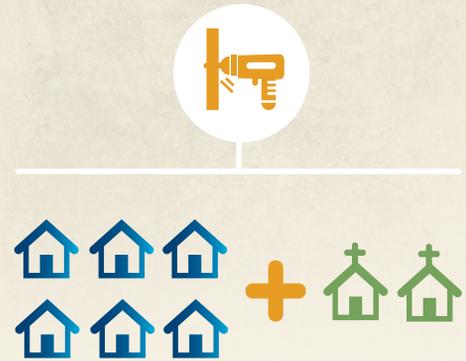
Ministry Rebuilds Churches and Homes

Since the deadly 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, Dave Manore of ABWE's Project Office has mobilized numerous professional engineers to evaluate the structural soundness of many churches, schools and homes. ABWE's Haiti Disaster Relief Ministry then initiated the first phase of rebuilding, starting with two churches and six pastors' homes.

Both churches and five homes have been completed, and two more homes will be ready by the end of the year. Dave hopes to continue the ministry in 2013, so ABWE can help more people like Pastor Salniv, whose home was rebuilt by a team of volunteers from Michigan.

"We gave the family the keys to the house and a couple of Bible verses to hang on the walls," Dave said. "It's a special time and exciting for all of us who have participated in the build, as well as the family receiving the house."

Please pray for the success of the Haiti Disaster Relief Ministry as it seeks to help rebuild a devastated community and move more Haitian pastors out of tents and into homes. ■



For more information on the Haiti Disaster Relief Ministry, visit www.abwe.org/give/project-details/haiti

Faith on the Move

About 3 percent of the world's population — 214 million people — migrated across international borders in recent years. Here's a look at which countries Christians are leaving and which countries they're moving to.

Where are Christian migrants coming from?

1. Mexico
2. Russia
3. Ukraine
4. United Kingdom
5. Philippines
6. Romania
7. Poland
8. Germany
9. Italy
10. India

Where are Christian migrants going?

1. United States
2. Russia
3. Germany
4. Spain
5. Canada
6. Ukraine
7. United Kingdom
8. Australia
9. France
10. Italy

Faith on the Move, The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, March 2012



“Teacher, I am going to go to heaven.”

TOGO

The Joy of Salvation

Andrew and Mary Ward, ABWE prefield missionaries to Togo, know their future ministry is not about how many thousands of children are taught in the Togolese Christian schools each year. While the numbers are impressive, the Wards believe statistics are meaningless without the power of the gospel. Their ministry is about giving students an opportunity to trust Christ and be disciplined in truth.

Gilbert, a Christian elementary school teacher in Togo, recently had a chance to do just that while teaching a language lesson on past tenses.

“Who can use the word ‘went’ in a sentence?” he asked in French. One of the children raised his hand and answered, ‘I went to heaven.’ So Gilbert asked the students, “Are you going to heaven?”

Another boy raised his hand. “Teacher, I will not go to heaven.” “Why?” Gilbert asked. “Because I have sinned,” he said. A girl raised her hand. “Teacher, I will not go to heaven either.”

Then another boy raised his hand. “Teacher, I am going to go to heaven.” “Why?” Gilbert asked. “Because I keep the Ten Commandments,” the boy said. Then Gilbert shared James 2:10 with his students: “Whoever keeps the whole law, yet fails in one point, is guilty of breaking it all.”

Gilbert took the rest of the class period to explain the gospel to his class. The Wards will be joining this effort to provide education on the mission field, bringing children from the hopelessness of sin to the joy of salvation. ■

CAMBODIA

Smiling for Jesus

Angela Atwell, an ABWE missionary to Cambodia, helped lead a summer vacation Bible school program for about 50 children on the life of Joseph. “These lessons teach so many good principles about diligence, being dependable, trusting God, patience and forgiveness,” Angela said. Praise God that after the VBS program many of the children also began attending Sunday school, where they continue to hear the gospel. ■



SOUTH AFRICA

BBC Honors ABWE Missionary

Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, Pa., honored Sue Lodico with an Outstanding Service Award for her Christ-centered thinking and dedication to discipleship. Sue, who graduated from BBC in 1983, is an ABWE missionary serving in church planting in Durban, South Africa. ■



ABWE HOME OFFICE

Train Up a Child

When a member of ABWE's Advancement Team called to thank a new donor for a gift, he was told the donor was only a toddler and therefore unable to talk on the phone. The boy's parents, Forrest and Heather Jones, had begun supporting ABWE missionaries Stephen and Elizabeth Poindexter, pictured at right, in their son Aaron's name last year. They place the receipts in a memory box so that when Aaron grows up they can tell him he has supported God's work since he was a baby. ■



“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” — Proverbs 22:6

UNITED STATES

Surprise Encounters

Lost and trying to find a nearby lake, the Lee family pulled into the driveway of ABWE missionaries Karen Weitzel and Edie Cunningham to ask for directions.

The family, visiting the U.S. from China, had been told there was a kayak rental on the lake. But Karen and Edie knew it had closed, so they offered up their own kayaks for use instead. The children, May, 12, and Andrew, 10, enjoyed kayaking and swimming.

Linda Lee shared that she was a Christian and that she and her husband, Alex, were concerned about how to teach their children the Bible. Edie told them about ABWE's children's edition of *The Story of Hope*, which Karen had adapted. Linda asked Edie and Karen to teach her children some Bible stories using the materials.

Please pray that May and Andrew, along with other children who read *The Story of Hope*, might grow deeper in their relationship with Christ. ■





TOGO

Muddy Feet

Sharon Rahilly, an ABWE medical missionary to Togo, found herself caught in a rainstorm on her way home from church. She abandoned her car after it became stuck in deep mud and walked home. Some might be bothered by this inconvenience, but not Sharon. She took the time to marvel at God's creation and praise Him for muddy feet. ■

She took the time to marvel at God's creation and praise Him for muddy feet.

Growing in our Faith

The Transformational Discipleship project, a LifeWay Research study, examines the status of discipleship and spiritual growth in North America. The study found eight attributes of discipleship that must be evident in Christians' lives for them to grow spiritually:

8 Attributes of Growing Christians

1. Bible engagement
2. Obeying God and denying self
3. Serving God and others
4. Sharing Christ
5. Exercising faith
6. Seeking God
7. Building relationships
8. Unashamed (transparency)

Source: LifeWay Research, 2012

U.S. Religious Affiliations

The percentage of the American population that does not claim any religious affiliation continues to expand at a worrisome rate.



1 in 5 Americans are irreligious



1 in 3 adults under 30 are irreligious

14%

have no religious affiliation

13 million

describe themselves as atheists or agnostics

Source: Pew Research Center, 2012



TOGO

The Stalk-Eyed Fly

Judy Bowen, an ABWE missionary to Togo, set out on her morning walk and prayer time with the desire to see a stalk-eyed fly, a fascinating creature she'd once learned about on a television documentary.

"I told God that if I could get an image like this, I would surely send it out for the glory of His Name," Judy said. "Sure enough, the Lord does appreciate this kind of prayer from a sincere heart, and here is His answer!" ■



ECUADOR

The Story of Hope in Action

Jeff and Deanne Davoll, ABWE missionaries to Ecuador, recently started a Bible study in the town of Guapolo using ABWE's *The Story of Hope*, a study of 40 Bible events from the Old and New testaments. ABWE is thrilled to see the Good Soil evangelism and discipleship materials winning souls for Christ and helping people foster a deeper understanding of His Word. ■



For more information on *The Story of Hope*, visit www.goodsoil.com



JAPAN

Running Toward the Goal

Natalie Beck, an ABWE missionary to Japan, helped run the children's ministry for a deaf camp in Shikoku, Japan, in August. Kiyomi, a teen Natalie has mentored and watched grow in the Lord, helped with the crafts and activities for the children, who ranged in ages from 8 to 17.

"It is hard to find a balance with that wide of a gap, but the older kids did a great job ministering to the little ones," Natalie said. "Our theme was 'Running Toward the Goal in Christ.' I pray they continue to grow wherever they are." ■

wherever they are.

"I pray they continue to grow

POLAND

Using the Gospel Ball

Ed and Leslie Schick, ABWE prefield missionaries to Poland, spent time teaching the gospel to children at a soccer camp during a short-term missions trip to Elblag, Poland, over the summer. Each day during camp the Schicks would share the gospel using a special, colorful ball called a gospel ball.

About 10 children attended the camp during the week, many hearing the gospel for the first time. Five of the campers learned the gospel story and two memorized Scripture verses. Pray that these children might continue to grow in their faith and come to a deeper understanding of Scripture. ■



Leaders or Servants?

A Barna Group study asked Christian women if they considered themselves to be leaders or servants. Women are slightly more likely to identify themselves as servants, with many saying their churches provide them with numerous opportunities to serve. One in three women identify themselves as leaders — the same ratio as among men — with leadership roles taking place on the job, in the home and throughout the community.

36%

How Women Lead

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| At church | 52% |
| On the job | 31% |
| At home | 29% |
| In the community | 28% |
| In a school setting | 18% |
| At a non-profit | 13% |

49%

How Women Serve

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Praying for others | 46% |
| Encouraging others | 24% |
| Helping the needy | 24% |
| Sharing the gospel | 23% |
| Volunteering at church | 21% |
| Donating money | 17% |
| No intentional service | 13% |



73%

of women surveyed feel they can and should be doing more to serve God

Source: Barna Group, 2012



Saving Central Asia

How a college in Moldova trains pastors
to spread the gospel to Muslims

“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

– Genesis 50:20

By Paul Luce | Staff Writer

As a teenager in the 1960s, Andrei* watched as Soviet troops bulldozed his father’s church and dragged him to prison for preaching the gospel. Forcibly recruited into the Red Army, Andrei was given a stark ultimatum: deny Christ or serve in Siberia.

Andrei clung to his Savior. While working under grueling conditions in the frozen tundra, Andrei was struck by a revelation: the USSR’s eradication of Central Asia’s diverse languages could actually facilitate evangelism. What man intended for evil, Andrei could use for God’s glory.

“The Soviets made everybody equal,” Harry G, ABWE strategy advisor and coordinator for Muslim Ministries, said. The USSR tried desperately to eliminate the diversity by destroying cultural architecture and attempting to unify the language. “Most people still speak Russian; they still know Russian. It’s a common language among the diverse people of Central Asia,” Harry said.

A COLLEGE IS BORN

It was this assimilation of language and culture — combined with a regulation designating Moldova as the only country in the former Soviet Union where visas for theological education could be obtained — that led to the founding of the College of Theology and Education (CTE), an ABWE partner ministry. The school was initially formed in 1994 through the partnership of a Russian-language Bible school and the Romanian-language Trinity Theological Institute, founded by Moldovan Baptists. Just as Andrei hoped, the infrastructure from the USSR immensely helped CTE spread the gospel.



*Name changed for security reasons



Locating CTE in Moldova had other advantages as well. “If you take a Gambian and train him (in North America), the vast majority of the time he’s not going back to The Gambia,” says Harry. “That’s the problem we have with bringing people over from any countries that are less economically stable. Students see the lifestyle here and they say, ‘I could live here,’” thereby depleting their home country of another missionary or pastor.

CTE, however, has a much different relationship with its students. “Moldova is just as poor and physically looks like the students’ home countries, so students are more likely to return to their home countries to begin their ministries,” Harry said.

AHMET’S STORY

The only son of Muslim parents, Ahmet accepted Christ while attending university to become a lawyer. Through the Lord’s grace and goodness, Ahmet also saw his parents come to saving faith in Christ. He even married a former Muslim woman and started a family.

But his life seemed to come to a screeching halt when he was denied a law degree because he refused to pay a bribe. In this moment of pain and frustration, Ahmet sensed the Lord calling him elsewhere: He felt called to the pastorate. In a step of faith, Ahmet moved with his wife and young family to Moldova to study at CTE.

Though he left his parents behind and witnessed one of his children die from pneumonia, Ahmet pressed on toward the high calling of Christ. After four years of intense study at CTE, Ahmet returned home to Central Asia, where he began leading an underground Bible college, which ministers to roughly 80 Muslim background believers each year.

Together with four other well-trained pastors and missionaries, Ahmet began to lead an underground church association of

Moldova at a Glance



Name: Republic of Moldova

Capital: Chisinau

Population: 3,656,843

Location: Between Romania & Ukraine, north of the Black Sea

Government: Parliamentary Republic

President: Nicolai Timofti

Currency: Moldova Leu

Independence Day: August 27, 1991

Ethnicities:

Moldovan: 78.2%

Ukrainian: 8.4%

Russian: 5.8%

Gagauz: 4.4%

Bulgarian: 1.9%

Other: 1.3%

Religious Affiliations

Eastern Orthodox: 98%

Jewish: 1.5%

Baptist: 0.5%

History

Bessarabia, the medieval precursor to Moldova, was founded in the 1350s as a strategic defense for the Kingdom of Hungary. In 1812, the region was annexed to the Russian Empire as part of the Treaty of Bucharest, effectively ending one of several wars between the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire.

As the Moldavian Democratic Republic, the region briefly achieved independence in 1918, before uniting with Romania several months later. In 1940 Moldova was annexed by the Soviet Union and became the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, which it would remain until the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. Moldova declared independence on August 27, 1991, as the Republic of Moldova.

more than 1,500 believers. CTE faculty and ABWE continue to regularly visit with and encourage Ahmet and the believers under his care.

FILLING THE VOID

Oleg Turlak, a minister and former CTE dean of theology, remembers that the new religious freedoms and opportunities presented to evangelical Christians living in Central Asia after the fall of the Soviet Union were exhilarating and intimidating. While the USSR's strict rules regarding worship and Bible study were lifted, evangelicals found themselves completely unprepared to share the gospel with nonbelievers while exercising their new liberties.

“State prohibitions established in the 1960s became so ingrained in most congregations that they had to come to (be)





considered as divine commandments,” Turlak said. Holding on to an ingrained persecution mentality, many older believers did not want the church to expand its ministry to the lost.

Andrei and other faculty members have been traveling throughout Central Asia, visiting bodies of believers in an effort to combat this mentality. Currently making 12 trips per year to meet with established and underground churches, Andrei and his companions first confirm that the congregation is theologically sound.

Then, they offer to support the training of select students at CTE. About \$3,000 covers the cost of training for one year. The funds — raised largely by the church and other supporters — cover the cost of tuition; room and board; living expenses; and travel to and from CTE, which itself operates on a \$600,000 annual budget.

With the help of hundreds of graduates, CTE’s network has dramatically expanded since the college first opened its doors 18 years ago. Not only have graduates returned to bless their home congregations and help spread the gospel among their people groups, but CTE is now assisting three other similar training institutions in Central Asia with faculty and support.

HELP FOR THE HURTING

The cultural void left by the downfall of the Soviet Union has created an influx of Islam in many Central Asian countries. But CTE is training a new generation of pastors, missionaries and lay leaders to effectively minister to Muslims.

Nearly 60 percent of CTE’s roughly 200 full-time students are Muslim background believers, making CTE the largest training institution for this segment of Christianity in the world. In addition, 300 of CTE’s graduates are already living and ministering in Central Asia.

CTE currently offers two four-year degree programs in pastoral ministry and missions. In missions, students are trained in Islamics in order to better understand and compassionately and culturally confront the religion. CTE also offers a three-year degree in social work in an effort to bring both physical help and spiritual healing to those deeply hurt by years of repression.

“Holding on to an ingrained persecution mentality, many older believers did not want the church to expand its ministry to the lost.”

“CTE is interested in the holistic part of the church,” Harry said. “They’re saying, ‘We’ve got a lot of hurting lives. What do we do?’ CTE started a social work program to undo some of the pain caused by governmental repression and poverty.”

Ancillary programs such as a business seminar, English courses and counseling are also popular among students.

SEEKING TO EXPAND

CTE is facing pressure to expand to help more students like Ahmet. Internally, CTE is bursting at the seams, exceeding its maximum capacity for students. Often, classes are scheduled with no rooms available, and students are turned away.

Externally, the believers in Central Asia face multiple assaults on their faith. Power structures arising in the vacuum left by the Soviet Union’s collapse are becoming more hostile to Christianity. Already, many governments in Central Asia have been accused of human rights abuses and persecution of Christians. Several CTE faculty and graduates have been blacklisted from entering Central Asian countries. These factors threaten the delicate churches that have sprung up.

It was with these challenges in mind that CTE proposed a dramatic solution: double the student body, program offerings and campus capacity in order to train more pastors, missionaries and lay leaders for Central Asia.





“Now is the time to equip the Central Asian church to multiply and to live as shining lights and agents of transformation in the darkness and oppression of Central Asia.”

© ALL PHOTOS BY HARRY G AND ANDREI

NEW COURSES

Bold new courses are being designed to help the church in Central Asia stand strong in the face of religious oppression. New courses will include biblical counseling, English as missions, business as missions and a master’s degree in Islamics. Not only will this expansion double the number of trained leaders heading back to lead their homelands in the name of Christ, but it will further equip them to fight against the demoralization and repression currently attacking the church.

“If we offer business skills in a kingdom mentality, then holistically, what can the church do for society?” Harry said. “The church needs to impact its society in a positive way with the gospel, but also with good. The social work and business as missions can work hand-in-hand in that sense.”

Likewise, by providing a master’s degree in Islamics, CTE will produce pastors and missionaries who are equipped to research and write about the church of Central Asia, better enabling outreach into this needy area and preparing students to face the advance of Islam in Central Asia.

CTE expansion will require the addition of 15,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. to the campus. The campus additions will

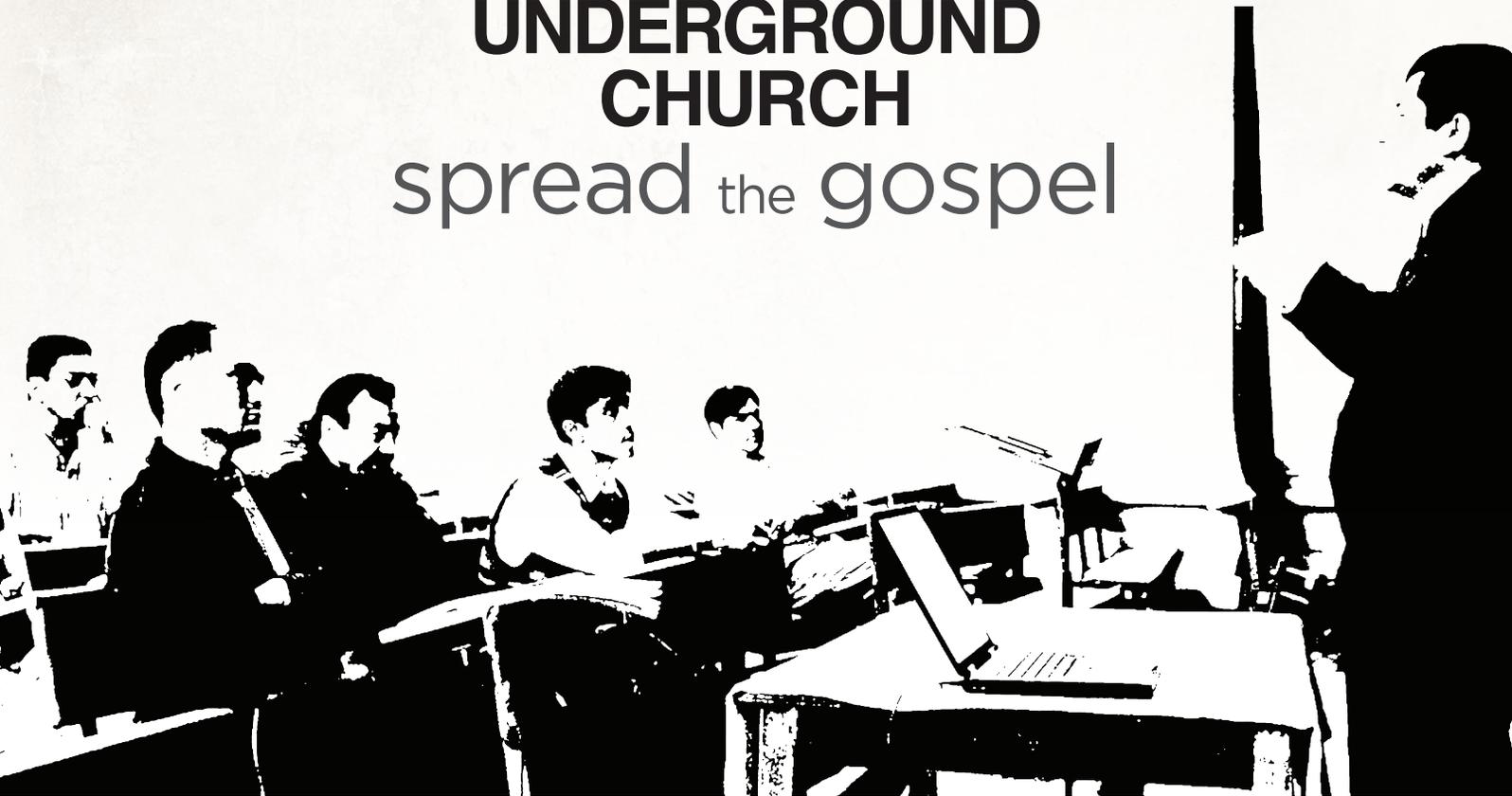
include housing for married students, a dedicated chapel, additional classrooms and a gym. The current library, which also serves as the chapel, will be converted into an expanded library.

“The whole thought is: As these doors in Central Asia threaten to close, what can we do with the window that is open? If outsiders can’t get in, what will happen if there aren’t well-trained national leaders?” Harry said. “Are we going to leave the church in a much better situation to multiply and do what it needs to do to make a much better society? Now is the time to equip the Central Asian church to multiply and to live as shining lights and agents of transformation in the darkness and oppression of Central Asia.” ■



For more information on how you can aid the spread of the gospel in Central Asia, visit www.abwe.org/CentralAsia

help the
**UNDERGROUND
CHURCH**
spread the gospel



ACT NOW to **DOUBLE** your gift for the **College of Theology and Education**

Become part of an extraordinary effort to raise \$115,000 so the CTE can expand the gospel throughout Central Asia. A matching gift will allow your contribution to doubly increase their reach to the unsaved and encourage a vulnerable body of believers!

GIVE
Your gift
will help these young leaders who are desperately trying
to bring the gospel to the their fellow countrymen.

WILL YOU HELP THEM?

For more information or to donate, contact

Debbie Farver | 717.909.2301 | dfarver@abwe.org

ABWE Canada | 519.690.1009 | office@abwecanada.org

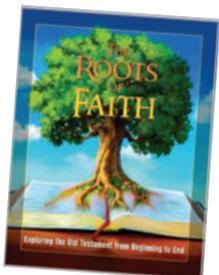


www.abwe.org/CentralAsia



The Roots of Faith Produces Fruit

Curriculum's interactive approach helps Christians study Scripture, deepen faith



The *Roots of Faith* began with a simple idea: develop a resource to help ABWE missionaries teach the Bible's redemptive story. Three years later, this chronological Bible teaching curriculum — featuring 100 events — has evolved into a valuable evangelistic Bible study tool for both Christians and nonbelievers alike.

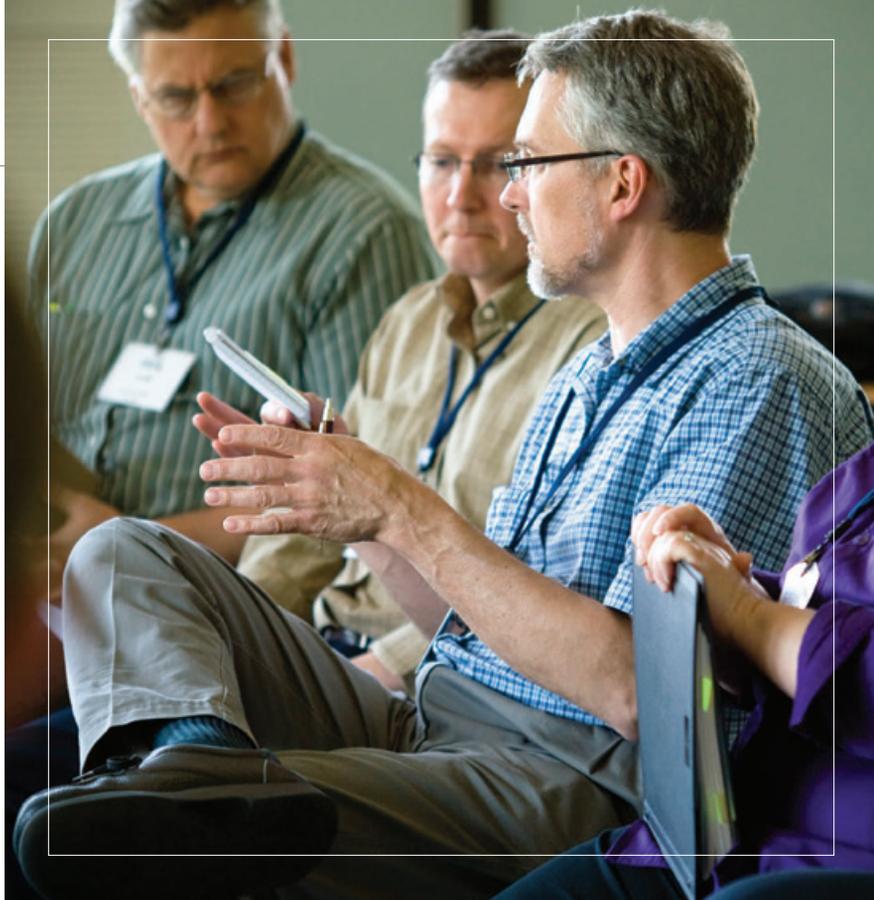
“People often come to faith in Christ with a lot of worldview baggage that does not get identified, addressed or screened out in the conversion process,” Wayne Haston,

By Jenni Autry | *Message Editor*

director of ABWE's Center for Excellence in International Ministries (CEIM), said. “These people come into the Christian faith with false ideas that greatly confuse their understanding of the gospel and impede their spiritual growth.”

The Roots of Faith is designed to combat those doctrinal fallacies through a program comprised of two courses — one on the Old Testament and one on the New Testament — packed into a single curriculum. With

“We wanted to provide a tool that could help Christians and nonbelievers not only learn the Bible, but also the theological concepts needed to understand the gospel.”



© JEFF RAYMOND

100 Bible events, *The Roots of Faith* brings more depth and detail to ABWE’s initial teaching tool, *The Story of Hope*, which covers 40 Bible events.

“We’ve seen people start going through just *The Story of Hope* and say, ‘Wow, I never realized how the whole Bible fit together like that.’ With *The Roots of Faith*, we’re bringing even more depth to teaching the Bible,” Gil Thomas, director of ABWE’s Good Soil Evangelism and Discipleship program, which produces *The Roots of Faith* materials, said.

INTERACTIVE APPROACH

A highly interactive curriculum provides a foundation for success for *The Roots of Faith* courses, which take place over two weeks — one week each for the Old and New testaments — at ABWE’s Training Center outside Harrisburg, Pa. Those taking the course — generally about 30 to 40 individuals in total — work together with other people sitting at their tables, tackling activities that help them learn together.

“There’s little lecture in the curriculum,” Gil said, estimating that about 20 to 25 percent of *The Roots of Faith* courses are spent listening to lectures. “We cover 10 events from the Bible each day, so we spend about 40 minutes on each event. We have two times during each day for what we call Velcro activities — to make it stick — where we review and process the events.”

Other activities range from organizing the different eras of the Bible — like Creation, the Fall and the Flood — into chronological order using flashcards to constructing a model of a battle in the Bible using only objects found in the room. “Not only do we teach, but we’re also watching energy levels in the room and changing things up to keep people engaged,” Wayne said. “We might create an activity on the fly if we see the energy level start to drop.”

THE ROOTS OF FAITH IN ACTION

ABWE has offered *The Roots of Faith* courses for the past two years, fine-tuning the curriculum before the materials are available for sale to the public next year. Already, many success stories have emerged from these courses. A junior high school teacher who attended *The Roots of Faith* is already taking his 90 students through the curriculum as part of the school’s Bible survey class at a Christian school in Arizona.



© JEFF RAYMOND

“One pastor from Washington, D.C. — who attended our very first Old Testament session and came back the next year for New Testament — is now using the program in his church to teach children,” Wayne said. “We had another pastor attend both courses with one of his deacons last year. They are now taking their adults through the entire curriculum in Sunday school.”

Training others to teach the course ultimately became another major goal of *The Roots of Faith* courses. “If you take this class, we’re also training you to teach it; you actually will receive a certification,” Gil said. “We’re teaching it as if the students are the nonbelievers and they don’t know anything about the Bible. Then we’ll stop and ask ‘Why did we teach this that way and how can we help nonbelievers grasp this concept?’ We’re training people to be trainers.”

The Roots of Faith course is open to everyone, from missionaries and churches to pastors and those who may have never had a chance to take a Bible course. ABWE hopes *The Roots of Faith* courses will attract a diverse group of people from many different backgrounds, all of whom possess a desire to gain a more profound understanding of Scripture.

“We wanted to provide a tool that could help Christians and nonbelievers not only learn the Bible, but also the theological concepts needed to understand the gospel,” Wayne said. “This is not just a chronological Bible survey; it’s also a biblical theology course that progressively develops and gets deeper and broader as you go.” ■

THE ROOTS OF FAITH *family*



The Roots of Faith family is rapidly expanding, with a coffee table book, **Reflections from God’s Story of Hope**, planned for release next year. This book will feature each of the striking illustrations from the curriculum, serving as a fantastic conversational and evangelistic piece in the home.



The Roots of Faith ChronoBible Cards will be released in January, with 50 cards being developed for both the Old and New Testaments. Each card will have

the corresponding illustration on the front and a summary of the event on the back. These flashcards will also be used in *The Roots of Faith* courses to help students review what they’ve learned throughout the course.

Workshops providing an overview of the Old and New Testament — called **Hooks for Hanging the Bible’s Storyline** — are also in development. These one-hour sessions will help Christians learn the different eras of the Bible. ABWE also hopes to develop weekend workshops for churches based on *The Roots of Faith* courses.



For more information on The Roots of Faith family, visit www.goodsoil.com/roots or contact Wayne Haston at 717.909.2397 or wayne@abwe.org

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Marguerite's Legacy

*Benefactress's heart for missions
sustained ABWE in early years*



Marguerite Doane, third from left, stands with Lucy Peabody, center.

By Jenni Autry | Message Editor

Women have played a critical role throughout ABWE's 85-year-history. While Lucy Peabody, the mission's first president, is a well-known name in ABWE's story, Marguerite T. Doane — whose involvement as both a board member and major benefactress propelled the mission to success in its early years — deserves equal gratitude.

ABWE began on the porch of Marguerite's home in Watch Hill, R.I., in 1927. There, Marguerite invited a dozen people, including Lucy Peabody, to discuss the recent rift between Dr. Raphael Thomas — a missionary doctor to the Philippines — and the Northern Baptist Convention, which wanted him to solely practice medicine and forgo evangelizing his patients.

What began as a prayer meeting transformed into a call to action. Marguerite, who was distraught at the idea that Dr. Thomas had been asked to cease evangelism, agreed to fully fund his trip back to the mission field to begin a new ministry. Thus, ABWE was born, with Dr. Thomas serving as its first missionary and Marguerite acting as chairman of the Finance Committee, a position she would hold for the rest of her life.



ABWE IS BORN

Founded as the Association of Baptists for Evangelism in the Orient, Marguerite continued to heavily finance ABWE in its early days. Marguerite had wanted to be a missionary herself, but could not go to the field due to being diabetic; supporting missionaries became her ministry and life's work.

Independently wealthy as a result of her father, William Howard Doane, a successful industrialist and hymn composer, Marguerite single-handedly kept the mission afloat when the Great Depression hit two years after its founding. While donations to the mission all but halted, work in the Philippines continued unhindered thanks to Marguerite's generosity.

In 1929, Marguerite donated funds to build Doane Rest in Baguio, Philippines, an ABWE retreat center where missionaries could find rest and spiritual rejuvenation. Doane Rest continues to operate today as a location for churches and missionaries to take vacations, host conferences and hold special events.

Undoubtedly, Marguerite's inspiration to found Doane Rest came from the Society for Foreign Missionary Welfare (SFMW), which she founded in 1926 with a main purpose of establishing a home for missionaries to reside during furlough. Her Houses of Fellowship in Ventnor, N.J., housed some 20,000 furloughing missionaries through 1987.

The SFMW — now called the Overseas Ministry Study Center (OSMC) — relocated to New Haven, Conn., in the late 1980s. The OSMC continues to operate today as an educational epicenter for missionaries, pastors and lay leaders to live during furlough, as well as study cross-cultural Christian ministries.

A HEART FOR MISSIONS

Marguerite also donated funds to help ABWE establish the Doane Evangelistic Institute in Iloilo, Philippines, which later became Doane Baptist Seminary. The recorded minutes from an ABWE Executive Committee meeting on June 1, 1933, show that Marguerite gave the equivalent of \$275,000 in today's dollars to purchase the seminary's first permanent building. Today, the seminary continues to train Filipinos to minister to their fellow countrymen.

In addition to her work with ABWE and SFMW, Marguerite also played a vital role in the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (WABFMS). She served as the financial secretary for the organization during the 1930s, during which her colleagues on the board called her the "Fairy Godmother," due to her generous gifts in times of need.

Marguerite also showed the same giving spirit to ABWE. Minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on Feb. 18, 1933, show that Marguerite arrived with a check in her pocket intended to

cover all of the mission's overhead expenses to date. While Marguerite tended to be very private about her generosity — her contributions have never been highlighted in *Message* until now — these meeting minutes provide valuable insight into her heart for missions.

In 1927, Marguerite wrote a piece for the WABFMS Bulletin that asked, "Why is not the command, 'go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,' backed up at home with (greater financial support)? ... Are you doing your part; am I doing mine?" As we look back over Marguerite's life — one in which she gave so sacrificially to support ABWE and a variety of other ministries — it's clear she more than did her part.

Marguerite continued her generous support of ABWE and its missionaries throughout the rest of her life. When she passed away in 1954, her will revealed that she left \$1.233 million to the mission,

a sum that equates to \$10.6 million in today's dollars. ABWE may never be able to tangibly quantify all of Marguerite's faithful donations to the mission, but we can say confidently that without her aid, the mission would not be where it is today. ■



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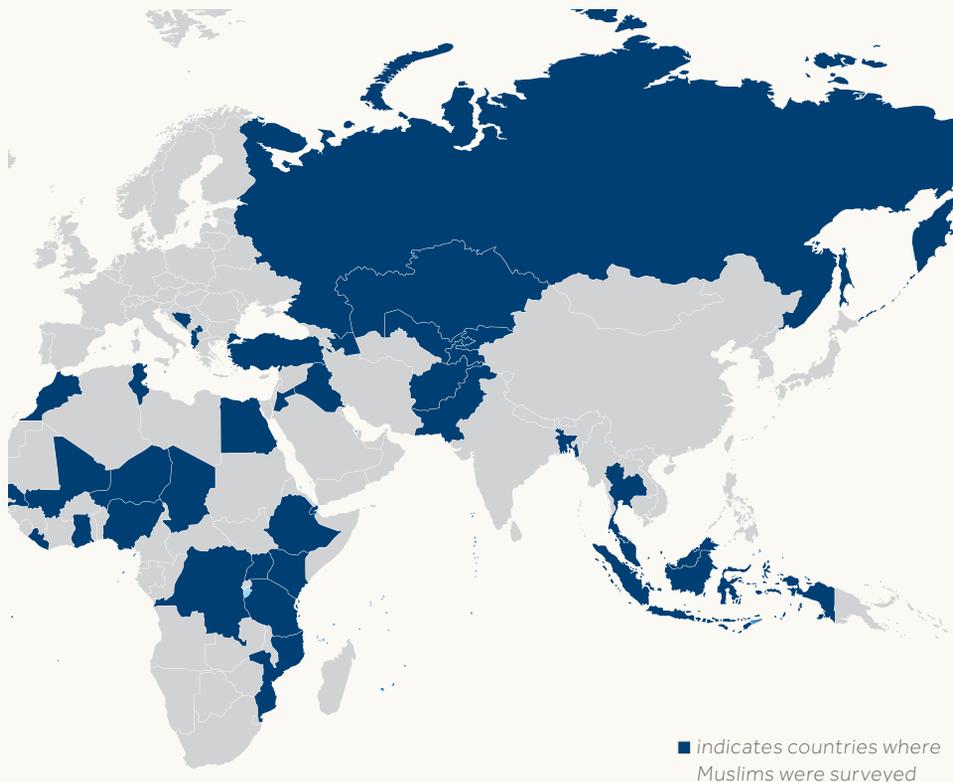
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VISUALS

Islam at a Glance

The Pew Forum recently surveyed more than 38,000 Muslims in 39 countries, which represents 67 percent of the world's Muslim population. Here's a detailed look at Islamic religious practices, tenets of faith, diversity, and beliefs of Sunni and Shia Muslims.



Sunni vs. Shia

Shia Muslims are followers of Muhammad's son-in-law Ali, whom the Shias believe is Muhammad's successor. Sunni Muslims, the main denomination of Islam, follow the tradition of Muhammad and the consensus of the Ummah, or the collective Islamic nations.

Muslims in the Middle East are more sensitive to the differences between these two major Islamic denominations. In these regions, only half of Sunnis accept Shia as fellow Muslims. Iraq and Lebanon — countries with larger Shia populations — are much more accepting of Shias.

Outside of North Africa and the Middle East, Muslims are less concerned about the differences between Sunnis and Shias. About half of both Southern and Eastern Europe and Central Asia identify as "just a Muslim."

Religious Practices

Number of Muslims who practice the five tenets of Islam



97%

profess faith in God (Allah) and Muhammad



93%

fast during daylight hours of Ramadan



77%

practice zakat (donating to charities)



63%

perform salat (prayers five times daily)



9%

travel on a pilgrimage (or hajj) to Mecca



While **72%** of Muslims in Turkey embrace dancing to express their faith, fewer than 40 percent accept this practice in other Muslim countries.



94%

Believe in Heaven

87%

Believe in Hell



Tenets of Faith

Number of Muslims who believe in the traditional, core beliefs of Islam

97%



believe in one God (Allah) and Muhammad

89%



believe in fate

88%



believe in angels

80%



believe the Quran is the word of God

Importance of Religion

Of the Muslims surveyed, the number saying religion is very important in their lives ranged from 98 percent in Senegal to 15 percent in Albania.

Mosque-attendance rates are highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where 50 percent or more said they attend mosque multiple times every week. In other parts of the world, only Afghanistan and Indonesia boast equally high mosque-attendance rates.

From Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, © 2012, Pew Research Center. pewforum.org



Diversity Among Muslims



Number of Muslims who believe reciting poetry in praise of God is an acceptable practice



Number of Muslims who carry talismans to ward off the "evil eye"

88%

Afghanistan

73%

Malaysia

36%

Afghanistan

37%

Turkey

35%

Pakistan

28%

Indonesia

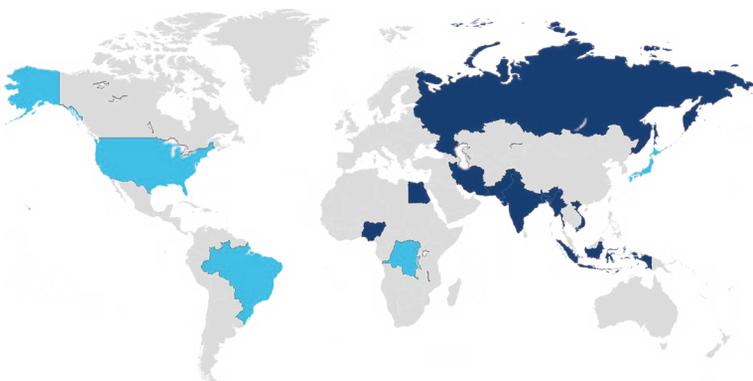
29%

Egypt

35%

Russia

Restrictions on Religion



Of the world's 25 most populated countries, these countries implement:

THE MOST religious restrictions

Egypt, Indonesia, Russia, Burma (Myanmar), Iran, Vietnam, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nigeria

THE LEAST religious restrictions

Japan, Brazil, Italy, the United States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Source: Pew Research Center, 2012.

A photograph of an elderly couple sitting on a wooden bench, seen from behind. They are looking out over a large body of water towards a city skyline. The scene is framed by the dense green leaves of a tree in the foreground. The lighting is soft and warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text 'A story of Love' is centered in the middle of the image.

A story of
Love

"Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase."

FIELDNOTES

By Anne O'Boyle | ABWE Missionary

All summer long we saw them walking together — an older Chinese gentleman and his wife. I say “gentleman” because of the tender way he treated her. And I say walking; but, in reality, it was more of a shuffle.

She walked with a cane, and one arm hung at her side. He followed closely behind, gently supporting her, lest she fall. They walked the street in front of their townhouse, one slow step at a time. She was always dressed impeccably.

We waved at them as we took our morning run, passing on the opposite side of the street. Such a beautiful picture of unconditional love is hard to ignore.

And then we learned that our translator, Tony, had talked with them personally — and they wanted to meet us! So my husband, Greg, and Tony arranged a time to visit them in their home. And Greg heard their story.

She is a brilliant woman, a retired accountant, suffering the effects of a stroke from five years ago. They came from China to spend the summer in Toronto with their daughter. Her husband cares for her gracefully.

“It’s my duty,” he indicated. “After all the years she spent taking care of me — taking care of the house and our children — it’s the least I can do.”

The evening of Greg’s visit, their daughter called to say he had been the topic of conversation over dinner. Her parents wanted to come to church.

Sunday dawned. They came, Guo Shu-shu pushing his wife, Shang Ayi,

almost half a mile in her wheelchair. Tony walked with them and helped her into the house, where we gave her the place of honor in our comfiest seat.

They listened attentively to Greg’s sermon about the Good Samaritan. At the close of the service, Tony read a beautiful letter of appreciation that Shang Ayi had written.

Sunday afternoon, meeting again with Tony, our new friends made a commitment for Christ. Tony was so excited when he called to tell Greg the news.

Soon after, Guo Shu-shu and his wife left to fly back to their home country, but not before Greg visited them once more and met their daughter, Angela, and her husband. They’d like to join us for worship one of these days.

We are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul: “Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase.” What a joy to be God’s gardeners.



Greg and Anne O'Boyle are ABWE Canada missionaries to Toronto, Canada, where they are church planters.

Ministering to Muslims

By Harry G

Our thinking and attitudes concerning Muslims and Islam have taken a seismic shift in the last 20 years. When my family was leaving for service in The Gambia, West Africa, in 1990, we encountered two attitudes concerning Islam: confusion and apathy. Nobody knew much about Muslims and no one seemed to care. Fast forward to 2012, and one of those attitudes is unchanged: confusion. But apathy has been replaced by two others: distrust and fear.

Of course, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, had much to do with the change. In addition, we have seen news images of violence in the Islamic world almost daily since then. Why, we ask, have events turned out so badly? Or, maybe we don't even ask the question; we just feel the confusion and distrust.

Part of the problem is that stereotypes exist on both sides. Are all Muslims the violent and angry people we see on TV? And Muslims see the "Christian West" — with decadent media and immoral lifestyles — as evil, and therefore write off Christianity. They assume that a Christian nation like the U.S. endorses all this behavior. Neither side has the true picture.

What does God think of all of this? I can't pretend to know His mind, but I can read His Word and see how He has treated Arabs, the ancestors of Muhammad and a people group of more than 350 million whom we associate with Islam today. In Acts 2, we find the start of the church, Jesus' bride. Fifteen nations and people groups of Jews and Jewish proselytes representing the known world were present; they understood the mighty works of God in their own languages (verses 9-11).

They were present as the church was formed with thousands of converts. They were entrusted anew with the "oracles of God" — as were the Jews before them in Romans 3:2 — to go home and "turn the world upside down." Surprisingly, Libyans and Arabs were included in

this initial group. In examining where these peoples came from, we see the geographic places of Iraq, Turkey, Libya, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. I believe God meant for the gospel to be taken to those places.

God is working in the Muslim world in our day. In the last 40 years, more Muslims have trusted in Jesus as their Savior than in the previous 1,300 years of Islamic history. There are rapidly expanding groups of churches, called Church Multiplication Networks, taking place in Muslim regions, including North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Millions of Muslim background believers — former Muslims who have converted to Christianity — live in the world today. Muslims can be saved and, as you'll read in the cover story about the College of Theology and Education (CTE) on page 12, resources for reaching more of the Muslim world are spurred by Muslims who have already trusted Christ.

While understanding our propensity for fear, distrust and confusion, we need to allow God to change us to His mindset of love, compassion and offering the gospel to Muslims. ABWE is working and partnering in Muslim ministries in 12 nations in addition to CTE. Would you pray with us that Muslims around the globe would be reached with the life-changing message of the gospel? Would you help us get that message out? Would you consider joining with us and going yourself?

 For more information on how you can aid the spread of the gospel to Muslims, visit www.abwe.org/CentralAsia

Harry G is an ABWE strategy advisor and coordinator for Muslim Ministries.



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The Master Artist

“ I left the house for my morning walk and was strongly impressed that I should go back and get my camera. I don’t take it every morning, but the Lord knew what was going to happen to the sky. He had a ‘concert’ planned, and it lasted for an hour and 15 minutes. May the Master Artist be praised. ”

— Judy Bowen, ABWE missionary to Togo



Judy oversees the Communications Resource Center and Print Shop, which provides affordable literature in French and local languages to the people of Togo and West Africa. Her other ministries include missions photography and assisting with Community Health Evangelism.

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