

The Climbing Way

THE MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

VOLUME 24 / SPRING-SUMMER 2012

Testimonies from
the mission field



Koma woman in northeastern Nigeria.

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We are sent to mountainous areas of the world to deliver the Gospel where other missionaries cannot or will not go.

Mission Statement

Members of Climbing For Christ agree that we are called to:

- Bring praise, honor and glory to God — the Creator of all things, including the mountains we love — and to our Redeemer, His beloved Son.
- Inspire believers to achieve greater spiritual and physical heights in this world.
- Introduce the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, to those living in or visiting mountainous areas who don't know Him personally in a new, exciting and everlasting way.

To join Climbing For Christ, visit www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=146

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Climbing For Christ, Inc.
P.O. Box 16290
Rochester, N.Y. 14616-0290

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THE CLIMBING WAY

Editors, photographers and writers:
Elaine and Gary Fallesen (USA).

Contributors: Ace Concordia (*Philippines*), Brandy Everts (*Canada*), Chris Joseph (*Nigeria*), Duncan Nyozani (*Malawi*), Jordan Rowley (USA), and Dave Stoessel (USA).

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A Letter from the Editors

Higher Education

BY GARY AND ELAINE FALLESEN

Climbing For Christ president and vice president

"How often may I come with thanks for the miracle of my school?" Damson Samson asked in an April email. He was writing from the Africa Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi, where he was beginning his third year of studies.

Damson had prayed about going to college and waited on the Lord for seven years until a Climbing For Christ mission team arrived at the Far & Wide Children's Home, where he was serving, in January 2010.

"I am humbled and have tears of joy," Damson said. "Why did heaven accept and allow you to come to Malawi to meet my situation? I hardly understand the plans of this great God. To Him only be the glory forever and ever."

Climbing For Christ is blessed to provide about US\$2,000 per semester for tuition and support to send Damson to college.

Damson has taken to calling us "mum" and "dad," and signing his emails "your loving son."

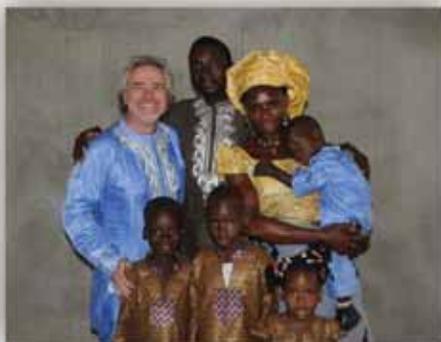
"Dad," Damson wrote in April, "I am humbled. You have been wonderful parents. I do not take this for granted. May His plans be accomplished in you and your family."

We would include Damson in that last prayer — His will being done in our family. Because Damson is part of our family.

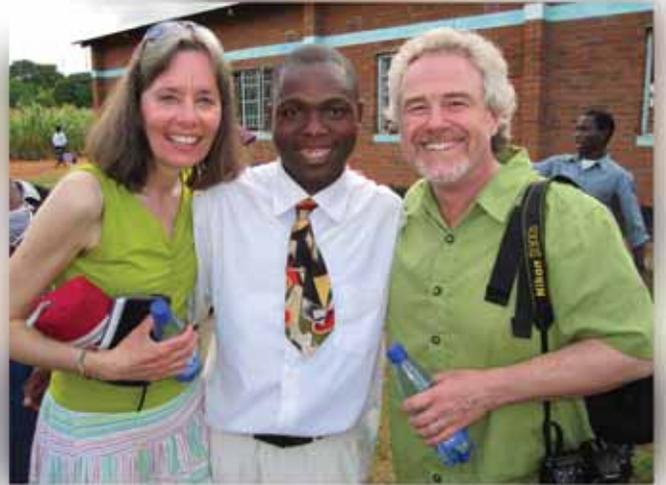
We serve a God who establishes very personal relationships with us and through us. He puts people in our paths whose lives we impact, and who impact our lives.

In Nigeria, during our December 2011 mission trip, Pastor Chris Joseph used the same title time and time again in his introductions. He would speak of "Pa Gary," a term of endearment because he considers himself a spiritual son.

Gilbert Lindor, the young Haitian whom God used us to rescue from the clutches of death in 2006, embraced Gary at the end of Mission: Haiti in March and said with enormous sincerity, "I love you."



Gary, in traditional African clothing, with Pastor Chris' family.



Mum and Dad Fallesen with their son Damson.

Climbing For Christ has been sending mission teams for seven years. Mission: Indonesia in April was our 48th Evangelic Expedition. Mr. Dodo, a Christian man living surrounded by millions of Muslims, sat with us and held Gary's hand. A brother holding on to another brother, clinging to the love of Christ.

**It seems almost impossible,
but Climbing For Christ has conducted:**

10 missions each to Haiti and the Philippines

6 missions to China

4 missions each to Nepal and Tanzania

3 missions each to Indonesia, Mexico and Alaska

1 mission each to Lesotho, Nigeria, Peru, Turkey and Utah

Hearing how individuals have been affected is touching. On April 20 — the eighth anniversary of Climbing For Christ's incorporation as a non-profit organization — Gary sat with about 40 members of C4C Philippines at that country's first national gathering in Metro Manila. Testimonies were given by Climbing For Christ members who have ventured into the mountain province of Kibungan. It was a humbling moment, seeing how much God has done — and is doing — through us in a seemingly short period of time.

In the same way, we decided to use this issue of *The Climbing Way* (Volume 24 already) to share some testimonials about God's work in **Haiti** [pages 12-13], **Indonesia** [pages 14-15], **Nepal** [pages 6-9], **Nigeria** [pages 4-5], and the **Philippines** [pages 10-11]. These were the destinations of our last five Evangelic Expeditions — from December 2011 to April 2012.

In addition to sharing about these missions, we also wanted to provide our readers with some teachings on the religions deceiving the people in each of these places — from folk religions in Haiti, Nigeria and the Philippines to Buddhism and Hinduism in Nepal to Islam in Indonesia and Nigeria. Climbing For Christ's spiritual coordinator, Jordan Rowley, has provided a quick guide to these religions of the world.

May the Light shine brightly in all that is written here, and in all that we do to deliver the Good News to the ends of the earth. †

Nigeria

Letting our 'yes' be yes!

PHOTOS AND STORIES BY GARY FALLESEN Climbing For Christ president

Climbing For Christ delivered on God's promise to provide for the people in the remote Koma Hills village of Wiwp (pronounced "weep") by sending us back with a small gasoline generator that they had requested during our four-person mission team's visit in December 2011.

"By the grace of God, I have delivered the small gasoline generator to the Wiwp community," said Pastor Chris Joseph of Climbing For Christ. "I handed over the generator to the village head. They were so excited on seeing me with the generator. They told me that they considered us to be one of those missionaries that used to visit them, making empty promises. But we have made them to believe that we are genuine and trusted servants of God."

Our Mission: Nigeria 2011 team went to Wiwp in December to share the love of Christ. We attended a funeral, during which the animistic practices of the village were on full display. Afterward we asked the village head if we could speak to villagers. We shared the Gospel with a group of people and seven individuals committed to Christ. After listening to us, the village head spoke against us, cautioning the people that other missionaries had passed through before and never returned. He warned that we would probably do the same.

After that, however, a committee (which included the village head) asked us for a generator for the village, which is far from any electricity. We made that purchase and Pastor Chris delivered it two months later. The total cost was only US\$400.

"I tutored them on how to both use and maintain the gasoline generator," Chris said. "Thereafter, I briefly shared God's Word with them and told them to thank God who provided the generator to them instead of thanking us." †



Koma Hills, Nigeria.

Power in the blood

We met a village shaman in the Koma Hills along the border of Cameroon during Mission: Nigeria. The man, named Kageza, showed us two of his idols, Zarab and Noga, which he claimed had the power to put curses on people. Zarab would cause madness, he said, and Noga would cause a person's belly to swell to three times its normal size. Kageza's eyes danced wildly back and forth between us. It was clear that this man was demonized. He talked about the hundred or so other lost souls in the villages through the hills who believed in the same gods. They will gather and drink wine, slaughter a goat sacrifice, and celebrate the darkness.

After listening to the man, the village chief spoke. The chief, Moses, told us how the idols and the words the shaman said could not hurt him. "This thing will do nothing to me because I am a Christian," Moses said. †

Visit <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3050> to view the Climbing For Christ video: "The Koma people of Nigeria."



Tools of the witch trade.

Word of God speak



Moses, left, and Lazarus as we trekked in the heat of Nigeria's Koma Hills.

We waited for seven hours, shaded by a large tree from the 100-degree heat, until the village chief arrived. "TIA" (This is Africa), where permission is needed from tribal leaders to visit their land. Their approval opens doors to evangelism.

When the chief arrived, he said: "I met you on the road."

We glanced at each other, not recognizing the chief or what he was talking about. Maybe we were still in a jet-lagged fog from four days of travel — two by air, two by road — from North America to this remote location in northeastern Nigeria.

Then we realized he was the man riding by motorbike in the opposite direction as we drove along the dirt road that ended in his village (Tantille). Our driver had knocked him off his bike as we passed on a badly rutted section of road. The driver stopped and, along with Mission: Nigeria team member Chris Joseph, he was helped back on his bike.

Talk about divine meetings.

The chief not only granted us permission to go into the surrounding hills, but he sent his son as our four-person team's guide. The young man, called Moses, and his friend, Lazarus, would turn out to be much more than guides. They would help carry our gear when the heat and the spiritual warfare became too much for us. And, even more importantly, they would translate for us.

First, Moses translated for us in a village meeting in Wiwp (see "Letting our 'yes' be yes!"), where seven people committed their lives to Christ. Then in another village, when we turned to Moses to help us share the Gospel with the village head, he said he couldn't. What? He didn't speak the dialect in that village, even though it was only a few hills away from his own village. That's when Lazarus, who'd barely said a word in three days with us, stepped up and started translating. He'd gone to school with some boys from this village and picked up their dialect. All part of God's plan.

The village head, Wagi of Waneke, understood the message of hope and declared, "I want to live!" He accepted Jesus as his Savior. †

God's to-do list

- ✓ Survey Koma Hills.
- ✓ Expand ministry in Koma Hills and explore possibility of building a church and clinic, as requested by Chief Moses.
- ✓ Continue to support Pastor Chris, his Lives Aglow Global Outreach Centre, and his family.

If you can help with Mission: Nigeria send your gift to Climbing For Christ at Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA.

Guide to Folk Religions

From the most remote to the most modern places, traditional religions and practices are alive and well all over the world today. A large part of many of these religions is animism. Animism is the belief that many things found in nature possess spirits. In other words, a particular mountain or river would be thought to have a spirit or even some form of deity associated with it. In addition, it's typically believed within the majority of folk religions that there are spiritual beings behind every event, and that these beings can either harm or help one in their daily life. These unseen spirits are believed to be involved in everything from farming to weather to hunting to war. Other views common to traditional religions are the belief in divination (interpreting signs from the spirit world), the belief in healers (like shamans and witch doctors), and the belief in witchcraft, magic, curses, and spells (controlling or manipulating the spirit world for malevolent purposes). Other common practices include ancestor worship and various rites of passage. All of these beliefs and practices typically have a huge impact on day-to-day life.

A huge part of this everyday life of people involved in folk religions is fear. There exists a constant fear of the spirit world. One never knows when they are being watched by a spirit, or when they have angered a spirit. This inspires much dread and uncertainty in many. This fear that is in their hearts typically carries over to the tangible world as well. Built into the fabric of most folk religions is a set of rites and rituals meant to appease the spirit world. Quite often, there is also a great fear of other people in addition to the unseen world. It's believed that a man or woman could engage the spirits to bring harm, calamity and misfortune to another because of something that was done to them, or something they thought was done to them. This creates an almost constant state of fear and uncertainty that easily grips the hearts of those involved in folk religions.

As Christians, how are we to respond to folk religions?

When we have opportunity to witness to a follower of a folk religion, we should try to share the peace and power that is in Christ, and that those who place their faith in the Lord can partake of His perfect peace and power. Assure them that God blesses His followers with peace because we don't need to worry or fear anyone. As His children, He promises us His protection. He equips all Christians with armor to withstand attack. He empowers His followers to be victorious against all enemy attacks. Because ultimately, Jesus Christ has disarmed the enemy powers and principalities. So in addition to sharing the love and hope of the Gospel, be sure to share its peace and power as well.

– JORDAN ROWLEY

Climbing For Christ spiritual coordinator

Nepal



Sumitra.

Poster child for world missions

BY BRANDY EVERTS Climbing For Christ Canada coordinator

One of the highlights of Mission: Nepal for me was being in Dapcha, when Climbing For Christ president Gary Fallesen preached on “God’s power affecting a village, a country, and around the world.” He used the story of Sumitra’s healing and how last year she said, “I am sorry that I never knew Jesus before I was sick.” Gary said, “When I heard those words I knew it was not Sumitra’s fault that she didn’t know Jesus. It is my fault. It is the church’s fault.” He quoted Romans 10:14-15.

Sumitra is one person. Her life has been totally changed by the power of God. The village of Dapcha, where Climbing For Christ built a church, has been changed by this story. Different individuals around the world have heard this story and been changed by the power of God. Gary asked, “Will you go?” This hit me like a ton of bricks. Sumitra is one person. How many more people in the world are like Sumitra? WE MUST GO!

Watching little Sumitra walk up to the front of the church in Dapcha and hold Gary’s hands as he knelt in front of her and thanked her for how she has impacted his life, broke my heart. Questions flooded my mind. What are the names and the faces of people everywhere who have the beginning of a story like Sumitra? How will these people hear? Who will give these people Jesus? Will you go? †

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ ”

— Romans 10:14-15

Visit <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2977> to read more about the “Dapcha testimony” and watch a video in which Sumitra was interviewed in 2011.

Guide to Hinduism

Hinduism is a religion with a very diverse base of beliefs. There isn't really any "official" dogma, doctrine, creed, spokesperson, orthodoxy, founder, etc. Hinduism is more like a grouping of ever evolving and gradually developing practices and beliefs. From Brahma to Brahman to Brahmin, to the 330 million gods and goddesses, to *Karma*, *Samsara* and *Moksha*, Hinduism has a wide variety and complexity of beliefs. One of the most essential and influential of Hindu beliefs is *Moksha*. *Moksha* is the term used to describe freedom from the cycle of birth and death known as reincarnation, and release from the bondage of the Law of Karma. *Moksha* is the perfect and complete union with the universe. It is the ultimate goal in the Hindu religious life.

Many Hindus believe that *Moksha* is possible through working off bad *Karma* and storing up good *Karma* over many lifetimes, while other Hindus believe that all people will someday reach *Moksha* (perhaps irrelevant of their work toward good *Karma*). Hindus typically believe in several ways of achieving *Moksha*. These methods are *Karma Marga*, *Gyana Marga*, and *Bhakti Marga*. Each involves commitment and sacrifice. *Karma Marga* could be described as the way of works. It is believed that along this path, if one earns enough good *Karma* over enough lifetimes (while avoiding bad *Karma*), he or she will one day be released from the suffering cycle of *Samsara*. *Gyana Marga* is essentially the way of knowledge. It's believed that through a deeper understanding of the Brahman (the supreme and impersonal reality that is the source of all things) will ultimately lead to a perfect personal unity with Brahman. In other words, the individual's will and mind will cease to exist, but will become one with the universe through a greater understanding of its truths. It is at this time that *Moksha* can be achieved. Finally, *Bhakti Marga* could be defined as the way of devotion. This way is favored by most Hindus. *Bhakti Marga* is a personal attachment and consecration to a particular god or goddess that is expressed through rituals, prayers, attending festivals, pilgrimages, etc. in honor of a particular god or goddess. The focus is on attaining the favor and help of a god through one's devotion to him or her.

As Christians, how are we to respond to Hinduism?

As Christians, we know that there is only one Way. Jesus Himself said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by me." Apart from Him there is no other way, no other truth and no other life! The way of works, the way of knowledge, the way of devotion are all, in the end, empty. To be good is not good enough. The Bible clearly tells us that we could never do enough good works to earn our salvation. This is because even if one had all the wisdom of the world, he or she would still have to deal with their own sinfulness. And to devote one's life to a god or goddess is only good enough if he or she is real. In other words, what truly counts in matters of faith is not the *amount* of our faith, but the *object* of our faith. If someone places their faith in anyone other than the True and Living God, that faith is essentially empty. When witnessing to Hindus, be sure to focus on the peace and rest that Jesus offers. Tell them that Jesus calls all who are weary and heavy laden to Himself. Share with them that He is the way of knowledge because Jesus is Truth, and that it's only through devotion (believing in Him as Lord) that one can be saved.

— JORDAN ROWLEY

Climbing For Christ spiritual coordinator

Here comes the Son



"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

— John 10:9 (KJV)

The village of Thuman in Langtang National Park is a Buddhist stronghold with a population of about 2,200 — none of whom are Christian. Our six-person mission team visited there on the third day of an evangelistic trek. We were greeted by a drumbeat emanating from a large Buddhist gumpa.

Nearly two months later, Brandy Everts of Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada was in worship. "I had such a strong burden to pray for them," she recounted. "After about 20 minutes of intense praying I remembered the son at our hostel in Thuman, who kept going to the door and yelling for the sun to arise. After doing that repeatedly for about 20 minutes, the sun rose and the boy went ballistic! He was so excited.

"As I pictured all of this, I felt Jesus say, 'Just like how the sun came, the SON WILL COME TO THAT VILLAGE!' My heart was so stoked! God is so good. I will continue to pray for this village with intensity. I am excited for Pastor Tej's and the team's visit there!"

God put on the heart of Pastor Tej Rokka, founder of SARA (Savior Alone Reaches Asians) ministry, a desire to return to Thuman with a Nepali team to share the love of Christ and begin developing relationships. †

Guide to Buddhism

The life of “the Buddha” was one of a quest for enlightenment. His life was spent on a journey for spiritual knowledge and an understanding of human suffering. Born a prince, Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) left his family and palace life to find the source of and cure for suffering. On his journey he met other seekers who showed him spiritual practices such as meditation, and how to fast and deprive the body of nourishment as a means of opening the mind. He began to deprive his body more and more, some say feeding on one grain of rice per day, standing on one foot, sleeping on nails, and even drinking his own urine. Finally, after years of deprivation, meditation and seemingly gaining little understanding, he sat beneath a Bodhi tree. He decided not to move from there until he gained enlightenment. That very night under the tree, it’s said that Siddhartha had a vision in which Mara, the god of change, death and evil, battled against him. By morning, Siddhartha had won and awoke in a state of great clarity and understanding. It’s believed at this time Siddhartha became the Buddha (“the enlightened one”).

He now understood that in order to find peace — breaking the cycle of reincarnation, and thus ending human suffering — one must forsake total indulgence (as he experienced at the palace) as well as total deprivation (as he had subjected his body to after leaving the palace). For Buddha’s followers to attain enlightenment, as he did and which is their ultimate goal, they typically find help in what’s often referred to as “The Three Jewels.” The Three Jewels consist of the Buddha (the enlightened one), the *dharma* (the teaching) and the *sangha* (the community). There is a medical analogy that is often used in the West to demonstrate the importance and position of each of the three parts. The Buddha is represented by a doctor. He prescribes the *dharma*, which is symbolized by the medicine. This medicine is then administered by the *sangha*, which is represented by the nurse. In other words, the enlightened one prescribes the teachings that are administered by the community.

As Christians, how are we to respond to Buddhism?

What are some simple things we should keep in mind when witnessing to a Buddhist? One thing to remember is that eastern thinking can be quite different than western thinking. Certain concepts and ways of thinking that a westerner might assume all people hold to, may not in fact be held by someone who was raised in an eastern way of thinking (and vice versa). It’s important that whatever differences of thought and religion are discussed, it doesn’t lead to debate. Paul told Timothy to avoid foolish disputes. However, sharing what you know to be true in a loving and gentle way is a good thing. For example, one common thought among many Buddhists is that all religions are a path to the same destination. In other words, it’s often supposed that all religions are ultimately right. It would certainly be okay to lovingly share with them that this cannot be true. This is because two directly conflicting thoughts cannot both be true. Jesus says that He is the ONLY way. But Buddhism teaches that he is ONE of many ways. Both statements cannot be true because they are in direct contradiction. But don’t get caught up in debate. Ultimately, it will be the power of the Holy Spirit, not the persuasiveness of our argument, that will convert a soul to salvation. It’s just as Paul wrote in

1 Corinthians 1:18, “*The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*”

– JORDAN ROWLEY, Climbing For Christ spiritual coordinator



“Climbing up requires our courage, patience, constant care.”

– Pastor Tej Rokka, Nepali member, on what God taught him as he trekked from village to village in Langtang National Park (photos) to deliver the Good News.





Pastor Tej ascends steps leading to the church at Dapcha. Construction was completed and the church dedicated in September 2011.



God's to-do list

- ✓ Finished church at Dapcha in Central district.
- ✓ Renovate old house church to be home for pastor's family and classrooms for church. Cost: US\$3,500.
- ✓ Sending Dapcha church leader Gopal to Bible college. Cost: US\$700 per year.
- ✓ Expand support of Project 1:27 orphanage. Cost: US\$30-\$50 per month to sponsor an orphan.
- ✓ Continue to support Pastor Tej and SARA (Savior Alone Reaches Asians) ministry. Cost: US\$500 per month.
- ✓ Finish construction on church at Korchabang in Mid-West district of Rolpa.
- ✓ Send a Nepali team back to Thuman in Langtang National Park north of Kathmandu near the China border. Cost: US\$1,000.

If you can help with Mission: Nepal send your gift to Climbing For Christ at Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA.

Philippines



When Ace Concordia joined Climbing For Christ on June 27, 2007, there was only one other member in the Philippines. “In my country,” he said at the time, “it’s very rare I get to climb with fellow Christians. How I wish there was an organization like yours here.”

Climbing For Christ president Gary Fallesen replied: “You said you wished there was an organization like ours in the Philippines. Well, there is. You are a member of Climbing For Christ living there, so you can start to grow this ministry there.”

Ace took this invitation to heart and began recruiting new members. On Oct. 19, 2007, the first meeting of Climbing For Christ Philippines was held. Seven people attended.

By April 2012, there were 213 members in the Philippines — accounting for 13 percent of Climbing For Christ’s worldwide membership. Ace, who is the coordinator of C4C Philippines, has been a member of Climbing For Christ’s Board of Directors since 2009. C4C Philippines has conducted 10 Evangelic Expeditions into the Benguet Province of Luzon. †

Hope in the darkness

BY ACE CONCORDIA Climbing For Christ Philippines coordinator

We were behind schedule and darkness was settling in. It was past 6 p.m. on March 3 and we were on the trail to the village of Dalipey in the mountains of Kibungan. The last members of the Climbing For Christ mission team walked toward the local school building that would shelter them during their stay. By this time, people had gone home for dinner and an early night’s rest. I didn’t expect to meet any of the local villagers until the following day. When night falls on Kibungan, life comes to a standstill. Without electricity there isn’t much to do but to wait, think and sleep. The Kankanaey people have lived their lives this way as far back as they can remember.

Just like the darkness of night that we cannot control when it descends upon us, the Kankanaey assume there is very little that can be done about their lives. They do not see any relief from poverty. Their future is just like the night.

But in the midst of the looming darkness our team saw a local village girl standing on the trail ahead of us. She did not seem to mind that it was getting



Ace Concordia with future Bible college student Caroline.

dark. Her hands were held together in front of her, and she had a smile of anticipation and joy. She had been on the trail since after school, waiting for the arrival of our mission team.

Her name is Caroline Alacdis.

We met Caroline a year ago, and even then she glowed among the young students of Dalipey. She wanted to become a missionary, and unlike many of the young people in this school who stifle their dreams, she believed that one day she would finish Bible School and serve the Lord. This faith comes from many years of being sick as a child, but when she eventually served in a local church she was healed. Caroline believes it was God who restored her health, so she refuses to let go of serving Him. This has produced hope in Caroline’s life; if God healed her, He must have a reason why. He must have a good plan for her life.

I don’t know how long Caroline stood there in the darkness waiting for us. But it didn’t matter how long, or how dark the night was getting. What mattered was that she knew we were coming, and she knew God was going to do something great in her life. She dared to hope in the darkness, because she knew that with God a new day awaits those who trust and believe in Him.

C4C Philippines will sponsor Caroline Alacdis to go to Bible School in June and begin her journey to become a missionary to her native Kibungan. †

No borders

BY ACE CONCORDIA

Climbing For Christ Philippines coordinator

How far would you go to tell someone there's hope? This was a question I asked Climbing For Christ members in the first year of this ministry in the Philippines. Back then, our mission field was a village called Tacadang in the mountain province of Kibungan. After successive mission climbs to Tacadang, many Kankanaey villagers requested that we also visit their villages. Their requests led to:

- A **2009** exploratory climb to the village of Badeo, which opened a new ministry field.
- A **2010** meeting with teachers from the village of Dalipey, who also asked that we take our ministry there.
- A **2011** exploratory climb to the village of Les-eng that required a traverse exiting the province of La Union.

C4C Philippines has been blessed with open doors for ministry in four of the most remote villages in Kibungan: Tacadang, Les-eng, Badeo and Dalipey. These villages are all a day's walk through mountain passes that have no roads, and require patience and endurance to reach. Their locations take C4C mission teams deeper and farther into the Kibungan mountain range every year.

So how far should we go? If one looks at the map of Kibungan, C4C Philippines has gained significant ground in reaching out to the four communities we now serve. We could say that we have done enough and should just focus on these areas; we have reached the border of our ministry field.

But maybe we shouldn't be asking ourselves that question. Maybe we should be asking God, "How far would You have us go?"

Why ask God? Because it's His ministry, and everything is according to His plan.

Oftentimes we forget that ministry is all about doing God's will, not our own. We have come to realize that God has greater plans than we do; that is why He should dictate how far we will go.



Ace Concordia takes in the view of God's creation on the way to Badeo.

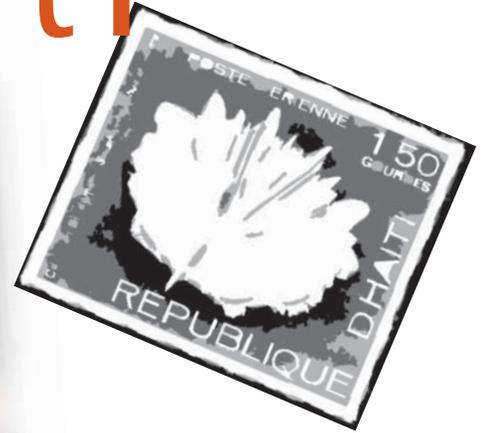
This year on the first mission climb to the village of Dalipey in February, God gave us the answer to the question of where to go next. As we attended Sunday morning service at the local United Church of Christ in the Philippines, the pastor who was there was from the village of Bekes. He was substituting for the pastor from Dalipey. When we spoke with him he did not hesitate to ask that we visit the more remote villages of Bekes and Culiang. This would require us to walk even farther into the Kibungan mountains, near the border of La Union province. I told him C4C would visit Bekes and Culiang this year.

Why go so far? Because God says so.

Climbing For Christ is a ministry that God has made to reach out to those who live in places that are often unreachable to others. Our growth as a ministry does not consider the distance or the difficulty. C4C considers only the fact that there are people out there in those remote places waiting for a hope that can only come from knowing Jesus Christ. C4C's success as a ministry is measured by how far we can take God's message. C4C Philippines will continue to expand and grow His ministry in Kibungan by reaching out to as many of the Kankanaey people as our legs can reach.

There are no borders in the ministry of Climbing for Christ, only doors leading to opportunity. †

Haiti



Joshua Cook of Dallas, TX, USA delivering 50 pounds of rice to school teacher Durisma and some of his children in their one-room house in Malasi, Haiti.

Another heart surrendered

BY GARY FALLESEN

Climbing For Christ president

We first went to Malasi by motorbike in December 2007. It was a painful 28-kilometer ride on a very rough “road” — during which missionary Miguel Rubén Guante’s aging dirt bike broke down twice — followed by a 3-4 mile hike.

We’d been invited by a man named Durisma, a teacher who’d started a school one month earlier and wanted our support. God used Durisma to reach out to Climbing For Christ.

This relationship resulted in the building of the second of four *Monte Pou Kris* (Climbing For Christ in Haitian Creole) churches. It introduced us to the kindness of a loving pastor, Vilcuiss Verite, and a gentle people living in poverty 6,000 feet up in the Chaine de la Selle mountain range.

Durisma still teaches in Malasi; he is one of eight teachers in the four *Monte Pou Kris* schools who receive US\$100 a month in support from Climbing For Christ. Durisma has the heart of a servant, volunteering as a church leader and fulfilling his calling as father of a family with nine children — all of whom live in a tiny, one-room house on the side of a hill.

We first went to his house in 2009, when he had a hole in his roof. This was especially troubling during hurricane season. We were starting to build the church at Malasi and sent two sheets of tin roofing over to stop the leaks.

Elaine Fallesen’s heart was burdened for Durisma and his family. She started sending clothing to help keep the children warm. She wrote about her experience in *The Climbing Way* (Volume 13, Spring 2009) in “Another heart for Haiti.” (Visit <http://www.climbing-forchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2871> to read Elaine’s story.)

This year, the burden Elaine and many others have felt in the mountains of Haiti was felt by Joshua Cook, a Dallas Theological Seminary student who had been moved by the Spirit to buy two 50-pound bags of rice for whomever he encountered on our March mission.

Joshua met Durisma. We delivered one of those bags of rice to the teacher with so many children, and blessed him.

As is often the case in situations like this, we choked back tears after our visit. Said Joshua: “I just buried my heart here.”



Durisma teaching in Malasi.

God continues to use one individual to touch the heart of another. This is the way the Lord works — the way He has always worked. He doesn't need us to do this, but — thankfully, amazingly — He chooses to use us.

In "A View" in *The Climbing Way* (Volume 6, Winter 2006-2007) I wrote words that still represent what His ministry of Climbing For Christ stands for. (Visit <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2295> to read "The power of One.") This story came out of another very personal, very moving encounter with a young boy named Gilbert. God used us to rescue Gilbert from the jaws of death, 27 days after he'd broken his leg in the village of Gentilhomme. His leg was lost, but his life and soul were saved.

I asked the rhetorical "Why?" and "What for?" questions. Why do we go and what is our purpose?

"Primarily to give God pleasure and to honor Him in our service to those we meet who are in great physical and spiritual need," I wrote. "One person can make a difference in another person's life. But only if we heed the Spirit's leading and answer the call. It is not us, after all, who make the difference. This is not about the power of one. This is about the power of the One and Only." †

Gary Fallesen, the founding president of Climbing For Christ, was first sent to the mountains of Haiti in the summer of 2005. Mission: Haiti 2012 in March marked his 10th trip there.

Donations to the Dr. Eric A. Cederstrom Memorial Fund, established in memory of our brother in Christ and friend of C4C, enabled Climbing For Christ to purchase this Mountain Hardware Space Station tent to use for medical clinics in Haiti. It was dubbed the "EMT" for Eric Memorial Tent. Dr. Steve Quakenbush of Cañon City, CO, USA conducted clinics in March for the fifth straight mission to Haiti.



God's to-do list

- ✓ Finish church at Jimani through support from First United Methodist Church of Cañon City, CO, USA.
- ✓ Address possible renovations on original Monte Pou Kris church at Gentilhomme. Cost: US\$1,000.
- ✓ Continue monthly seminary. Cost: US\$300 per month.
- ✓ Continue supporting eight teachers, looking to add additional staff where needed. Cost: US\$100 per teacher per month.
- ✓ Continue supporting missionary Miguel Rubén Guante in salary and expenses. Cost: US\$1,100 per month.
- ✓ Explore options for replacing "the God truck" with a newer, more reliable vehicle.

If you can help with Mission: Haiti send your gift to Climbing For Christ at Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA.



Indonesia

PHOTOS AND STORIES BY GARY FALLESEN Climbing For Christ president

Making straight paths for Him

One of our porters on Mount Rinjani, Indonesia was telling us about his Sasak village on the island of Lombok. When asked what the name of the village meant, he said: “Door fall on you.”

Then, in a display of modern-day texting style, he added, “Just kidding.”

While it was an LOL moment, it also was fitting. Climbing For Christ is a ministry that goes in search of open doors and opportunities to deliver the Good News to people who otherwise might not receive it. After several days in Indonesia in April, it was beginning to feel as if those doors were falling on us.

It wasn't surprising, of course.

“This is the largest Muslim population in the world. This is a stronghold,” said one of the members of our team, which consisted of two Indonesians, a Filipino and an American.

“The enemy is going to protect it like hell.”

Indonesia is a country in which at least 86 percent of its 248 million people follow Islam. It is a nation with more unreached people groups (213 of 784) and some of the least evangelized people on the planet.

The Sasak people, who number more than 2.7 million, count a mere 0.02 percent as Christians in their midst. That means only about 540 Sasak follow Jesus.

Our porter's father is a Christian, but he has moved off of the picturesque island of Lombok.

Ironically, Lombok actually means “the straight path” or way. It is our prayer that the paths of the Sasak would be made straight.

Our small team hired two porters, who also serve as guides on Rinjani, which — at 12,224 feet (3,726 meters) — is the second-tallest volcano in Indonesia. We knew this would be one way to possibly get a foot in the door in this area. They listened to our sharing and welcomed our prayers.

The door isn't open, but there is a crack through which the Light is shining. †

“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for Him.”

– Matthew 3:3



Son rising over Indonesia?

The blessing field



Land purchased for the church.

Not far from the Brotherhood Center is a field full of dragon-fruit and jack-fruit plants. "It is a blessing for Mr. Dodo and Pastor Johan," said Budi, a member of Climbing

For Christ's first

international chapter — Indonesia's JEJAK. Budi and people from his church purchased the 780 square meters of land for a little more than US\$1,550.

It was only the latest development in the work that has slowly progressed in this Sunda village on the island of Java. Climbing For Christ first visited the Sunda people in 2007. The Sunda, who have a population of 32 million (with only about 19,200 professing Christianity), are said to be the toughest Muslims to evangelize.

Our first encounter took us to the home of Mr. Dodo, who was nearly alone in his faith in Jesus Christ in this small village. Since then most members of his family have committed their lives to Jesus. Others living in the village also have heard the Good News. Pastor Johan, whose church was closed by the Sunda many years ago, built the Brotherhood Center as a place where members of the community could meet to discuss any topic or issue, including faith.

Since 2010, JEJAK and Climbing For Christ have assisted in the construction of a path through this village in the hills. The path was paved because the rainy season made it all but impossible to ride a motorbike or even walk along the trail. That path leads past the blessing field to the Brotherhood Center, which — perhaps one day — may be a church for this village. †



A paved path was constructed.

God's to-do list

✓ Continue praying for doors to be opened in Indonesia.

Guide to Islam

The term "Islam" comes from the Arabic word "*salem*," referring to the idea of surrender or submission. A Muslim is one who surrenders or submits to the god and teachings of Islam. Although there are multiple groups (like the most commonly known Sunni and Shi'ite factions), Islam is a religion that, for the most part, has very consistent and precise doctrines about its god, judgment, heaven, hell, and so on. At the very top of the list of essential dogmas among Muslims is the "*shahadah*," which means "testimony" or "witness." This is the *shahadah*: "There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is the prophet of Allah." This foundational Islamic doctrine is frequently whispered into the ears of newborns as the first thing they hear upon entering this world. The *shahadah* is also oftentimes the last words a devout Muslim will speak before death.

Along with Christianity, Islam is one of the world's main religions that teach monotheism (the belief that there is only one god). Also like Christianity, Islam traces some of its earliest roots to the patriarch Abraham. In spite of these and other commonalities, there are a vast number of differences, the most critical of which can be demonstrated with a question that Jesus asked some of His followers while He was here on earth: "But who do you say I am?" As Christians, we know that every soul's answer to this question will resound throughout all of eternity. The Qur'an (the holy book of Islam) teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and was a prophet. However, the Qur'an does not teach that Jesus is the Son of God. In fact, according to the Qur'an, to associate any human characteristic (like that of a father or son) to Allah is a sin known as *shirk*. As Christians, we know that Jesus truly is God, as well as the Son of God. One place we find reference to this truth in Scripture is in John 8:58, where Jesus said "... most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

As Christians, how are we to respond to Islam?

So what is the Christian to do when faced with an opportunity to witness to a Muslim? There are a few things that we should keep in mind. We have to be aware of how serious many Muslims are about *shirk*. To acknowledge God as a Father or a Son is a big danger to them. This is because to commit *shirk* is considered to be an unforgivable sin. As Christians we must never compromise on the essential belief that Jesus is both God and Son of God, but a certain amount of understanding and sensitivity is needed. Also keep in mind that many Muslims throughout the world have numerous misunderstandings about Christian beliefs. For example, many believe that in order for the Christian God to have a Son, He would need to have relations with a woman. This is an offensive thought to them. The error of this idea should be lovingly and patiently corrected. Another common misconception among Muslims is that of the Trinity. They believe that Christians worship three Gods — God the Father, Jesus the Son, and Mary the mother. We need to be prayerfully prepared to explain what the Bible really teaches about this and other essentials of our faith. But avoid getting caught up in other non-essential differences. Instead, keep the focus of your conversation on the love of God, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the world, and the beautiful simplicity of the Gospel message

— JORDAN ROWLEY

Climbing For Christ spiritual coordinator

The Lighter side

Being about our Father's business is a serious undertaking, but we try to not take ourselves too seriously. Here are a few glimpses at some lighter moments experienced during our mission to shine the Light in this mad, mad, mad, *mad* world.



As fans of legendary British sci-fi hero Dr. Who know: Fuzzes are cool. Here (left to right), Dave Stoessel, Gary Fallesen and Megh Gurung – along with two members of our partner SARA (Savior Alone Reaches Asians) ministry – receive gifts of fuzzes and bags from the church at Korchabang in the Mid-West district of Rolpa, Nepal.



Joshua Cook takes a time-out with a Haitian baby outside the Monte Pou Kris (Climbing For Christ in Creole) mission house in Malasi.



Mission teams in the Philippines are always jumping for joy.

“This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.” – 1 John 4:13-14 (NIV)

Why I Support C4C ... and Why You Should, Too

Laughter is another gift from God

Brad Stine, a gifted Christian comic and teacher, graced a climbing-gear-laden stage for our “Put a Climbing Helmet On!” fundraiser on Jan. 6. The event raised awareness of Climbing For Christ and support for the work we are doing throughout the world, particularly in Nepal.

“Laughter is a gift from God,” said Stine, whose resume includes appearances in movies, four DVDs (starting with his breakout 2003 hit *Put a Helmet On!*), a couple of books, and a regular commentary on *Fox & Friends* on Fox News. Stine delivered this message:

“These guys are going to Nepal. I’ve never been there. I’ve been to Des Moines. Never really had any reason to go to Nepal.

“They’re not going to drill for oil or to find some gold or to start a factory. They’re not going to exploit the indigent people (because) those guys (in Nepal) got nothing, baby. They’re going to give them the Truth. (They’re going to tell them) ‘In this beautiful mountain range, you are loved by God and you have meaning and purpose.’ (They’ll also deliver) medical attention, if they need it. Education. Whatever is needed, they’re bringing it to them.

“‘Why should you go do that? Who cares?’ (It doesn’t make sense) unless you believe in God. These people (in Nepal) are never going to pay them; they’re doing it because they want to sacrifice their lives for someone else.

“You know what they want to bring? One thousand Bibles in their (Nepali) language. So they can read it and go, ‘This is why I’m here. This is why things die. This is how it gets better.’ You know what it costs to buy a Bible in Nepal? Five bucks, six bucks. We all got that. Everybody here could probably buy 20 of them right now. You know how much they make a day in Nepal? Three bucks. Four people survive on \$3 a day. They ain’t going to buy Bibles; they probably want to eat. But you can buy them some Bibles. And (Climbing For Christ) will take them to them. And while they eat, they can read the Living Word.

“Six grand is what they are trying to raise tonight. Six thousand dollars and you can be a missionary; you can be participants in making that happen. You don’t have to go to Nepal. You don’t have to put on boots. Don’t have to climb from a rope. Don’t have to leave the security of your home. (You can still) watch TV, text, and eat Pop Tarts. All you got to do is this (motions writing a check). ‘Go!’

“You’re the richest nation on earth. You’re the bank. I want you guys to remember when people put on fundraisers they do it to raise funds.

“You don’t have to give a dime, guys. If you’re not a Christian I don’t expect you to give a dime. If you are a Christian I expect you to give as much as you can. This is our purpose. ‘Oh, you’re just making us feel guilty.’ No. The only reason people feel guilty is because they are. Christians have a word for it; it’s called ‘conviction.’ It’s that voice you hear in a way that you’re not used to (hearing). God says, ‘Will you do this for my kids in Nepal?’ I hope you give.”



Brad Stine.

Continued on page 18

WHY I SUPPORT C4C, from page 17



Gary Fallesen delivering Nepali Bibles in Korchabang, a village in the Mid-West district of Rolpa, where Climbing For Christ is helping to build a church.

After more than one hour of side-splitting humor about self-flushing toilets and limbs that fall asleep, peppered with thought-provoking teachings on God and creation, Stine appealed to an audience of about 400 at Hope Lutheran Church in Greece, NY, USA.

The Holy Spirit impressed upon Brad's audience the need for the delivery of the Word to Nepal. Climbing For Christ was blessed to receive more than US\$5,500 for Bibles at this funny fundraiser. One thousand Bibles were purchased and distribution began during Mission: Nepal in January and February. The work continues.

Stine already has committed to putting on a second climbing helmet in January 2013. He'll be back to share His gift and to again encourage an audience to support Climbing For Christ. "Remember to give to these guys," he said, "so they can change lives." †

PRAY, GIVE, GO

Our desire is to see each of our more than 1,600 members actively involved in Climbing For Christ by praying, giving and/or going. You can use the enclosed envelope to send your financial gift to His ministry. You can also give online at <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1431>. Your contribution will be used to spread the Word to places where other missionaries cannot or will not go. Maybe you'll be one of those sent to deliver this Good News. Pray about it, and for the work He is doing through us. To God alone be the glory!

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Canada



Expanding the kingdom work

BY BRANDY EVERTS Climbing For Christ Canada coordinator

It was an idea I hadn't considered before — Climbing For Christ **Canada**.

But Climbing For Christ founder Gary Fallesen had been prayerfully considering it for a long time. And in May 2011 he asked if I would consider it as well, plus something more: becoming the coordinator of C4C Canada.

I considered it intensely over the next two weeks while leading C4C's Mission: Possible 6, taking the Word to a remote corner of a persecuted land. At night while in my tent I tossed and turned the idea around in my head until I said, "Yes, God, here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

As I was nearing the one-year anniversary of being presented the idea of C4C Canada, I recognized that "the mind of man plans his ways, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

Someone recently said to me, "The key in starting a ministry is to have relationships with people." That's exactly

what we have been doing! It is a great honour, (as we spell it in Canada), and privilege to share in the HIStory of Climbing For Christ throughout Canada.

My first formal opportunity to start this outreach was Feb. 24-26 at Mission Fest Alberta, where C4C was one of 150 booths visited by 20,000 attendees. Since then we've had more opportunities to spread the Climbing For Christ news, recruit new members and speak at several churches.

We have established a Board of Directors, full of passionate individuals who love God and want to see Him glorified through all He has planned for C4C Canada. We are completing paperwork for incorporation and to be registered as a Canadian Registered Charity.

Summer is around the corner and soon we will gather with C4C members on the mountains around the world to continue to shape and grow C4C's HIStory! †

A VIEW, from page 20

continued to rise at alarming rates, Pastor Duncan Nyozeni of Searchlight Ministries contacted us to say that because of skyrocketing costs "every last week of the month we do not have food here." He asked for an additional US\$250 to supplement the US\$500 provided each month by sponsors of the 15 orphans at Far & Wide Children's Home.

"We are stranded," said Duncan, a Climbing For Christ member since February 2009. "We are praying (to) God to do a miracle in this situation."

Climbing For Christ members and supporters responded to an appeal as God answered this food crisis through them. Needs continue to grow — not only in Malawi, but in all of the underdeveloped countries where Climbing For Christ ministers — and we can only pray for His provision through His people. †



1440 Ridge Road East
Rochester, NY 14621

Service Times:
Sunday 10:00 a.m., Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Web site: www.livingwatercf.com
E-mail: info@livingwatercf.com

A View



Rice and beans provided for the Project 1:27 orphans in Malawi.

Feeding God's children

BY GARY FALLESEN
Climbing For Christ president

There was irony reported in the April 5 death of Malawi president Bingu wa Mutharika. "When the 78-year-old collapsed from cardiac arrest — and subsequently died — simple medicines he needed were out of stock because of a foreign currency shortage exacerbated by his policies," Reuters News Service reported.

20 International aid to the impoverished Central African nation had been suspended because of suspected human

rights violations and mishandling of funds by Mutharika's administration. The first three months of 2012 were chaos in Malawi. This had resulted in even more suffering, especially among the poorest of the poor — the orphans.

Climbing For Christ has supported an orphanage in southern Malawi since late 2009. It is dubbed Project 1:27, based on the instruction found in James 1:27 "to look after the orphans." In March 2012, as food prices

Continued on page 19



Climbing For Christ, Inc.
P.O. Box 16290
Rochester, N.Y. 14616-0290