

**HAITI
MALAWI
PHILIPPINES**

The Climbing Way

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

VOLUME 17 / SPRING 2010



EXTREME MAKEOVER

From mountaineers to missionaries

By Gary Fallesen

Ace Concordia calls it giving his passion a purpose. Climbing For Christ provided the Filipino man with a higher meaning for his mountaineering.

He went from being a peakbagger to being the coordinator of C4C Philippines, and never looked back.

If the legendary Lionel Terray had been moved similarly by the Spirit, his autobiography might not have been entitled *Conquistadors of the Useless*.

Ask a mountaineer why he or she climbs and you'll get many answers. From George Mallory's famous (and flippan) "because it's there" to something more cerebral. My reply to the question was "because I have been blessed with the physical ability to do so ... and I love the views."

That was BC4C (Before Climbing For Christ).

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From missionaries to mountaineers

By Elaine Fallesen

"I'm not a climber, but you go where the Lord puts you," laughs Dr. Steve Quakenbush, a fifty-something Colorado physician who stepped way out of his comfort zone and found his passion on his first climb in the steep mountains of Haiti with Climbing For Christ.

"That would have been the last thing I'd ever have thought — that I'd be climbing for the Lord and going where other people can't go. I'm more of a 'Driving For Christ' kind of person."

But the good doctor's desire to reach out to people in remote villages who'd never before received medical treatment overrode any misgivings he had about how he would get to them.

"I wasn't sure what to expect in Haiti," says Steve, "so I did some climbs to prepare." That included Tanner Peak just outside of his Cañon City home, and hikes in the Fort Collins area.

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Letter from the editors

Dear Readers: Greetings in His name!

Around Climbing For Christ we like to say, "C4C takes mountaineers and makes them missionaries, and takes missionaries and makes them mountaineers." It's something we have shared with the nearly 100 members who have participated in at least one of our 28 trips to 11 countries in the past five years.

We're living proof of this process. Gary was a would-be mountain climber when God directed him to start this ministry. Elaine served the Lord in more traditional ways (Sunday School teacher, youth leader, church board member) before stepping out and up.

That's why we have written what we have in our cover stories for *The Climbing Way* (Volume 17, Spring 2010), under the shared heading: "Extreme makeover."

For some, Climbing **FOR** Christ gives meaning to an otherwise self-absorbed pastime. This is one reason why our friend (and fellow board member) Derek Fullerton was convicted to write, "Why I support C4C ... and why you should, too" on page 11 of this issue.

Others are more like our friend (and Climbing For Christ missionary to Haiti) Miguel Rubén Guante, who said recently: "Before, I never go to the mountains. I only ride my moto (motorbike) to the flat places. But with Climbing For Christ, I **must** go to the mountains. When I go there I find people who need our help. That encourages me to go up the mountain."



Little pink houses of God are being built in Haiti.

Miguel was encouraged to travel back and forth about 30 times from early January until March to complete *Legliz Monte Pou Kris Malasi* (the church of Climbing For Christ at Malasi, photo above) and then to go with us again as a short-term mission team was sent to Malasi and Thoman in March. See "A bicycle built for Haiti" on page 3.

This issue of our quarterly magazine touches on three of the Evangelic Expeditions that are using mountaineers-turned-missionaries and missionaries-turned-mountaineers for His glory. In addition to Haiti, we also visit Malawi (see "In praise of God's creation" — profiles of Mulanje Massif and the orphans of Malawi — on pages 6 and 7) and the Philippines. Our friend (and fellow board member) Ace Concordia has written about Mission: Philippines in "A View" on the back cover (page 12). And that story has been translated into Tagalog for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines, where about one-tenth of C4C's membership lives. See "Ang lakas na kailangan para magpatuloy" on page 9.

As we also say around Climbing For Christ, "To God alone be the glory!"

**In His direction,
Elaine and Gary Fallesen**



Climbing For Christ

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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WARNING! Activities described in this publication and on ClimbingForChrist.org carry a significant risk of personal injury or death. Do not participate in mountaineering, rock climbing, ice climbing, bouldering, and hiking and trekking unless you are an expert, have sought and obtained qualified professional instruction or guidance, are knowledgeable about the risks involved, and are willing to assume personal responsibility for all risks associated with these activities.



GONE GREEN *The Climbing Way* is printed on 100-percent recycled paper. The recycled papers used to make the pages of this magazine contain at least 30 percent post-consumer waste recycled fiber certified by Green Seal and meeting EPA guidelines. This paper is elemental and process chlorine free. God created the earth and everything in it for us. We are called to be good stewards, and so we support responsible use of forest resources.

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A bicycle built for Haiti

By Gary Fallesen



Dr. Steve Quakenbush was treating a 10-year-old boy with a broken arm in Gentilhomme, Haiti. The child was one of more than 200 people Steve saw in a day-and-a-half health clinic as another short-term mission team visited the mountains of southeastern Haiti in early March.

Erica Zeiler, who was assisting Steve (along with Lisa Mehle-Glab and Rosie Joseph), stepped out the backdoor of the mission house with a bucket in her hand. She needed water for Steve to make a cast for the child.

She'd come to the right place.

Josh Carroll, an engineer from Colorado, was completing work on Phase 1 of our water project in Gentilhomme: a state-of-the-art pedal-powered filtration system.

Mathuren, one of the Climbing For Christ-supported teachers in Gentilhomme, pedaled the stationary bike, pulling water from the cistern behind the church. Josh filled the bucket with clean water pumped through the system and handed it to Erica.

"It's filtered water," he said, grinning broadly.

Clean water. It's one of the many things God has used Climbing For Christ to deliver to the people in the Chaîne de la Selle range since He first took us there in the summer of 2005. In less than five years, God has used us to:

- Build four churches. (Two are complete, a third was nearing completion at press time, and another could be done before the end of 2010.)
- Support three schools.
- Introduce sanitation to a place where there were no toilets.
- Help with food and farming needs.
- Hold a monthly seminary for pastors and church leaders from a dozen villages.
- Provide health care.
- Teach Bible school to hundreds of children.
- Begin a water project that aims to make purified water more accessible to people who consume, on average, about one glass a day.
- Make the Living Water of Jesus Christ more real by being His hands and feet. We know that whoever drinks of this Water will never thirst again. Jesus said this is "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14).

While purified water was not really necessary to make a cast for a broken arm, it is essential in helping to improve the health of the people of Gentilhomme and other villages where Climbing For Christ is ministering.

"For the first time the people of Gentilhomme will have clean water for drinking," said Miguel Rubén Guante, Climbing For Christ's missionary to Haiti. "It is good for us to give the people some information about clean water and dirty water. I think it is good to tell the people that many, many (unhealthy) things come from dirty water."

It is our desire to teach about sanitation, nutrition, water, agriculture, and more in the months and years ahead.

Mission: Haiti is a 24/7 operation with our missionary Miguel, a Haitian living in the Dominican border town of Jimani, serving the people on our behalf throughout the year. On March 14, as our latest short-term team prepared to go to the mountains of Haiti, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged donors not to forget the victims of the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck the Port-au-Prince area on Jan. 12. More than 200,000 people died and 1.3 million were displaced. In the aftermath, much was said about "rebuilding" Haiti.

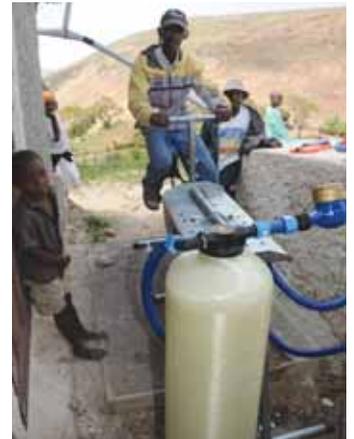
But Haiti was never built in the first place. That has been Climbing For Christ's goal for the past five years. We will continue to serve there for years to come.

Funding from places like Hope Lutheran Church in Rochester, N.Y. and Mortenson Construction in Minneapolis, Minn., which has made the Gentilhomme water project possible, and from First United Methodist Church in Cañon City, Colo., which is supporting the construction of the church at Jimani, has been a blessing. Many Climbing For Christ members as well as friends of the ministry have helped us with the Lord's work in Haiti through prayer and financial giving.

But earthquake relief — as is the case when any disaster occurs — has diverted funds from full-time ministries such as ours to emergency work. While it is important to heed Mr. Ban Ki-moon's plea, it is vital to remember the ongoing efforts taking place in villages such as Gentilhomme.

In Gentilhomme, a stationary bike has been introduced to the people as a way to help improve health. It is a bicycle built for purifying water.

To learn more about "Space technology splashing down in Gentilhomme," visit our Web site. Go to <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2735>



FROM MOUNTAINEERS TO MISSIONARIES, from page 1

Climbing For Christ changes the answer: We climb to reach people who other missionaries cannot or will not with the eternity changing Gospel of Jesus. We serve physical and spiritual needs among people at the ends of the earth. We do so to glorify the Creator, our Heavenly Father.

This gives Reason to an otherwise mad preoccupation with high places.



PEOPLE, NOT PEAKS

Charlotte Crain (left), a member from Gig Harbor, Wash., climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in December 2006. She returned to Tanzania and then went to Malawi as a participant on Mission: Kilimanjaro 2010. It was a very different journey for her.

She was standing on the balcony of a hotel in Moshi, Tanzania as our Evangelic Expedition neared an end, sharing – through choked-back tears – how God had moved her.

“I have traveled extensively,” said Charlotte, whose climbing resume includes a majority of U.S. highpoints west of the Mississippi and in several ranges (from Washington’s Cascade to the Bitterroot in Montana and Idaho) and who has visited five continents. “It’s always been the experience of the mountain, the experience of a new culture.

“This time, when I consciously chose to come on this trip, it was going to be about people and not a mountain. What would that feel like? What would it look like? By allowing myself to do that, I have to say that this dimension of my life, of where God has touched me in an entirely different way, speaks to another part of who I am. It was profound.

“It’s not being selfish; it’s in a servant manner,” Charlotte added. “I believe by being that way with other people, God will reveal what His plan is for your life and where He wants to lead you with that.”

SERVICE, NOT SUMMITS

Andrea “AA” Alorro (right) was sitting on the floor in a circle of friends – brothers and sisters in Christ – during a time of fellowship in Tacadang, Philippines. It was the final night together in a remote village targeted by Mission: Philippines 2010. She spoke and cried tears of joy at the same time.



“A real mission is not about yourself,” said AA, a member from Santa Rose City, Philippines. “In the past, I was proud of myself. I was delivering things. I was part of Climbing For Christ. I was fit.”

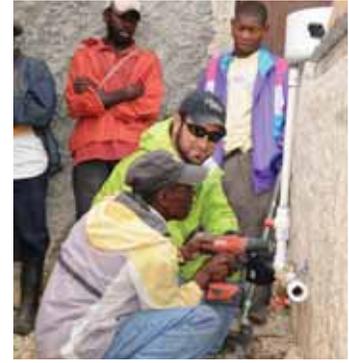
She had climbed over three mountains to reach Tacadang. She’d been here before. But this time she came with a different attitude.

“I have learned to be more thankful,” she explained. “These people are more fortunate than me despite lacking technology and all the things that make our lives comfortable. They sing praise to God with smiles on their faces.

“The real purpose of why I’m in C4C, the bottom line is, it’s not about me. It’s not about the climb. It’s about serving Him. I get to share that with others. What is a blessing if it’s not being shared?”

MISSION, NOT MOUNTAINS

Josh Carroll (right) lives in a Mecca of mountains with scores of 14,000-foot peaks right out his Highlands Ranch, Colo. door. Climbing is never out of season for him.



“Even in my dirtbag-climber days,” he said, “when I did go climbing I was always closer to God. The thing about climbing, and climbing difficult peaks, is that for hours on end you are reduced to a single, moving lung. Without extra breaths to talk and after the iPod batteries die out, you find yourself ‘stuck’ in the solitude of your own thoughts.

“It’s when you’re forced to spend some time with yourself that you find out just how much of a sinner you are, just how weak you are, and just how much of a need you have for a Savior. Formerly, this solitary introspection only went as far as some uncomfortable convictions about my lifestyle. Today, this solitude is embraced as a deliberate time of meditation, repentance, praise, honor and conversation with my Lord and Savior.”

Those conversations led Josh to a new and very different place in his life. He heard God’s still, small voice and followed it to Haiti. First in 2008 and then again in 2009 and then yet again in 2010.

“Haiti can be a very ugly place,” the Mission: Haiti veteran said on the eve of our most recent trip. “A very desolate place, too. The drive up the Soliette (dry river) valley and the trail to Gentilhomme is pretty barren. The white, chalky dust coats everything and it looks as though nothing could grow in this land.

“But as you crest Cemetery Hill and look down into Gentilhomme, there is a glimmer of hope. The shallow valley below you is dotted with trees. Crops and fruit trees speckle the landscape. Above it all, on the hillside, you can see the dominating white walls of the church. It’s truly a light on a hill.

“Although not a difficult climb, the climb up to Gentilhomme is a rewarding one, and fits metaphorically into my climbing experience. The introspection — the climbing — is bleak, desolate and barren. The realization of a Savior and the light on the hill is worth it all.”

Especially when you realize that your Risen Savior has sent you to this place. You are part of the mystery that is God. You have been chosen by the One who made the ends-of-the-earth locations and people we visit. You have been called to serve Him by using your God-given climbing ability to help others and to further the kingdom of heaven.

You are a mountaineer-turned-missionary who glorifies Jesus. You are Climbing For Christ.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these...” – John 14:12 (NIV) †

Gary Fallesen is the president of Climbing For Christ. While preparing to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in 1998, God spoke to his heart and told him to start a Christian climbing organization. Climbing For Christ began in April 2004. Today, it is a ministry of about 1,200 climbers (from mountaineers to missionaries) living in 48 countries. Climbing For Christ is doing mission work in 10 nations.

FROM MISSIONARIES TO MOUNTAINEERS, from page 1

Having grown up, married, and raised his family in the Rocky Mountain state, he'd always loved the mountains, camping, and the outdoors. But he readily admits he's not a mountaineer.



During his training, Steve's two sons-in-law, who enjoy rock climbing, loaded him up with gear, camping equipment, and new hiking shoes. "They realized this wasn't going to be just a one-time deal for me. I think they were more worried about me doing it than I was."

C4C's Mission: Haiti 2008 team included Dr. Steve (above) and two more "newbie" missionaries / climbers, all of whom successfully hiked from the Soliette riverbed up to the village of Gentilhomme to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of people there. It didn't take long for Steve to make the exciting discovery, and for his heart to confirm, that Haiti was where God wanted him to serve.

Steve says: "It's wonderful to be in a place where you know without a doubt that it's where you're supposed to be, and doing exactly what God wants you to do."

RELUCTANT CLIMBERS

Jordan Rowley (right) never considered himself a missionary or a mountaineer. "I enjoy nature and the occasional hike, but never thought I was any kind of climber," he muses. "I've also loved the Lord for about eight years now, but certainly never considered myself a missionary.



"Although I suppose we're all missionaries if we are willing to be sent forth to fulfill the Lord's calling on our lives, even if that's right in our own neighborhood."

The Lord began calling Jordan one day in early 2009. He had finished reading a C4C email alert about Haiti and closed the email. But soon Jordan was staring at his computer screen, both amazed and amused, as the email re-opened seemingly on its own and kept re-opening each time he closed it. This happened over and over again, more than a dozen times.

Jordan suspected God was telling him to go to Haiti.

Less than a year later, he stood on the crest of "Cemetery Hill," gazing at the remote village of Gentilhomme. With a backpacker guitar strung over his shoulder, Jordan ministered through music in the Chain de la Selle mountains.

Jordan says the Lord used Climbing For Christ to turn him into both a climber and a missionary. "I was confident that He

would give steadiness to my steps and strength to my soul. Most of my preparation for going was spiritual."

But he also knew that the mission would be physically demanding, "and that ministering to God's people there was going to be spiritually demanding." His workout regimen consisted of prayer and being in Scripture, plus a few hikes near his Rochester, N.Y. home. Climbing For Christ members are always encouraged to train physically, mentally, and spiritually.

"My confidence was totally in the Lord, rather than my own ability," Jordan explains. "Where He had called me, He would provide for me."

FIRST PERSON VIEW

I'm afraid of heights. Especially when the trail I'm hiking is as narrow as my foot is wide, and it's the only level ground available on a steep mountainside. And I (right) lack good balance and coordination. So my passion for climbing ranks far below my passion for serving others.



But the stories my husband, Gary, brought home from each Climbing For Christ mission eventually overrode my misgivings and fueled a strong desire to obey God's command to "Go!" I had to try; Haiti's mountains seemed within the boundaries of my limited physical skills set.

Not surprisingly, I discovered, God had prepared my way a long time ago. Years of taking our kids on vacations in the outdoors had been good training ground. We graduated from a car-camping family to backcountry campers. A few harrowing outdoor adventures, where I had to block out my own fears to help my kids through theirs, nurtured courage and taught me perseverance.

Years of running together as a family had also been part of His plan. I learned discipline and endurance while getting my body back into a semblance of physical shape. My training runs for Haiti began nine months before the scheduled mission.

About the same time, I began praying daily for the Lord to help me make the climb — the hike up from Soliette to Gentilhomme in the Chaine de la Selle range. Habakkuk 3:19 became my mission verse: "The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights." I prayed in earnest for feet like a deer.

God heard my prayers and those of many warriors praying for the mission. And He blessed me with the opportunity to do it again on a return C4C mission trip to Haiti in 2009.

I'll always be vertically challenged, but I know that God can take the least of us and accomplish His purpose. As we become more diligent in serving the Lord, He fills us with incredible experiences that matter for eternity. †

Elaine Fallesen is the vice president of Climbing For Christ. She has been on two mission trips to Haiti, and hopes to participate on many more Evangelic Expeditions to the ends of the earth.

Mountain profile:

Mulanje Massif

The Mulanje Massif rises dramatically out of the Phalombe Plain, dwarfing villages surrounding it, and luring climbers to its magnificent flanks. Frank Eastwood, who wrote the guidebook to this 245-square-mile block of mountains in southeastern Malawi, accurately described it as giving the “great impression of impregnability.” And some of its infrequently used trails — choked with African bush — don’t exactly lend any sort of welcome to visitors.

But, Eastwood wrote in the *Guide to the Mulanje Massif*, “most paths ... are in good condition and although steep in places, should present few problems to the reasonably fit. Depending on the route, three-to-five hours are average ascent times to reach the plateau level and the Forestry huts.” (There are six huts spread around the mountain.)

“A walking tour of two-to-six days is highly recommended,” Eastwood added. “Two days is a minimum for a visit to only one corner of the mountain, plus an ascent of a peak.”

But if you happen to be in the area and only one day is available, you can still make the most of it with an invigorating day-hike. “For above-average fit hill walkers, climbing peaks on day visits are definitely possible,” Eastwood wrote, recommending Nandalanda (8,504 feet/2,590 meters) and Chambe (8,390 feet/2,538 meters) “for ease of access and impressive views.”

The scenery on Mulanje is magnificent. Among the picturesque flora, fauna and rock formations is the unique Mulanje cedar. It is only found on the mountain, where harvest of the timber is restricted.

Legend maintains that Mchese peak on the massif’s north side was once inhabited by the Batwa (people considered Stone Age hunters and gatherers) and later was a refuge for those fleeing from slave traders in the 19th century.

Today, Mulanje is a playground for those fortunate enough to visit southern Malawi. “Mulanje has a lot to offer,” Eastwood wrote in the foreword to his guide, “easy access, no altitude problems, a pleasant climate, an abundance of interesting climbs and walks...” It is an excellent place to walk humbly with your God. †

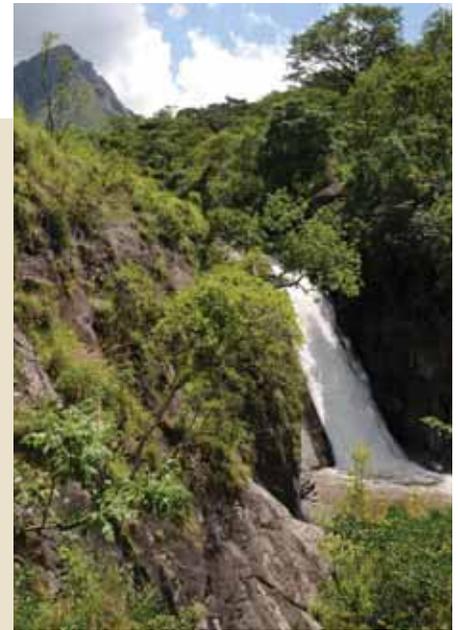


6 Mulanje Massif dominates the horizon from miles away from the village of Phalombe.

In praise of



Mulanje Massif looks impregnable, above, but is actually very inviting. The Likhubula Waterfall, below, provides a beautiful vista.



Mulanje Massif

Location: Southeastern Malawi, near the border with Mozambique.

Height: 9,855 feet/
3,002 meters.

First ascent: Acting Commissioner Captain (later Brig. General) Manning and party, 1894.

Routes: There are numerous routes for rock climbing and hiking on Mulanje, which is a massif with 20 peaks that reach above 7,500 feet/2,500 meters. Sapitwa, which means “Do not go there,” is the highest peak at 9,855 feet/3,002 meters. Rock climbs were developed here in the 1970s with the Chambe West Face Direct route, earning the title of “long rock climb in Africa” after requiring 5,500 feet/1,700 meters of roped climbing. Mountain walking and scrambling are the most inviting ways to the many summits, however. The climbing season is from mid-April through September.

Guidebooks: *Guide to the Mulanje Massif* by Frank Eastwood (Lorton Communications), first published in March 1979 and updated in various editions, is the definitive book for Mulanje.

God's creation

People profile:

Orphans of Malawi



The 15 orphans we support, wearing their Christmas clothing. We would like to feed and clothe these children and 25 more.

One by one, four of the children stood and recited a list of things for which they were thankful, including food and clothing provided by God through Climbing For Christ. Nearby, fresh water flowed from a new well dug for Searchlight Ministries and its small orphanage in Kambona, Malawi.

Our mission team visited southeastern Malawi in January and saw Project 1:27 in action. Project 1:27 is based on the Biblical instruction found in James 1:27, which tells us to “look after orphans and widows in distress.”

The orphans of Far & Wide Children's Home were in distress when Climbing For Christ stepped in to assist in October 2009. A thief had broken into the orphanage and stolen a month's worth of food. Pastor Duncan Nyozeni, a Climbing For Christ member, asked for prayer. He had no money to buy the children food. Prayer led to physical action as Climbing For Christ began to fund the orphanage.

For as little as **US\$30 a month**, an orphan can be cared for in Kambona. Currently, we are providing for 15 orphans, but there are 25 others who need to be taken in by Far & Wide. If only the support can be raised.

Sponsor a child



A “borehole” was dug 70 meters to establish a well for the orphanage and school. It cost us about US\$8,500 to build.

Jesus has a heart for children. “Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these’” (Luke 18:16). We seek to bring the children of Malawi to their heavenly Father. Our desire is to help these orphans physically and spiritually. Will you consider sponsoring one of these children?

Go to <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2860> to meet the orphans of Malawi and learn more about Project 1:27.

To help the children, use the reply envelope in this magazine and send your gift to Climbing For Christ (marked “c/o Project 1:27 Malawi”).

The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 1:17: “Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless...”

We desire to do as Job told us in Job 31:17: Share our bread with the fatherless.



A lunch of rice and beans was the only meal of the day for the children. It costs just US\$15 a month to feed these orphans.

Will you lend a helping hand to one who counts him- or herself among the least of these? To a girl named Dorphy, Idesi or Phiri. Or to a boy named Mphatso, Ephraim or Junio.

Each of those children — and dozens of others — listened as we shared with them “The Best Story of All”, a picture book made by Climbing For Christ member Katie Kimble of Rochester, N.Y. USA and translated into Chichewa. It told the story of God's creation and how He sent His Son to die and to rise again for us. We are showing those children the love of Jesus in a very real way: by feeding and clothing them.

One month after our visit, Duncan wrote: “The children are doing well, enjoying the food. They have memorized the Bible story that you taught them. They are sending their regards.” †

A VIEW, from page 12

We all get tired, even the strongest athlete, even we Christians. There comes a time when we just feel spent, and that there's nothing left in our gas tank. The engine won't start up again, we're dead in the water, and we drop our head and say, "I give up, I can't go on, I just don't have the strength, and I'm staying right here." We look around our lives for some source of strength that we can draw from. Where can we find the strength needed to stand up and take another step forward?

Do you know why we get tired? It is because we rely so much on our natural strength. It says in Jeremiah 17:5:

"This is what the Lord says: 'Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord.'"

There is a curse on anyone who depends on his or her strength. The curse is being separated from God. This is because we were never created to live independently

of God; we were created to be dependent upon Him. Depending on human effort will result in a strength that is temporary, which will eventually run out. This is why we get tired, why our best efforts will always fall short. The reality is that we are mortal, that we are all weak.

But it is different for a person who places his or her dependence upon God. Then we can be just like the shepherd boy David, who went out to face the giant warrior Goliath. If physical strength was the sole basis for victory, David had already lost. What gave him the strength to face the enemy with boldness and without fear? In Psalm 27:1, David writes:

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is **the strength of my life**; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

To David, it did not matter if he was not strong enough. What mattered was that his God was the strongest of all!

You see, to find strength you don't have to be strong, you just have to know and believe that your God is strong!

When we realize that we cannot go on, we should praise God because, "In our weakness He is strong." At the times when my strength fails me, when I find no will to go on, this is when I look to God for the strength that I need. I depend upon Him to get me up and walking again. The lyrics to one of my favorite songs go:

*His strength is perfect when my strength is gone
He'll carry us when we can't carry on
Raised in His power the weak become strong
His strength is perfect, His strength is perfect.*

If I had relied entirely on my own power, I would have given up on life a long time ago. I get up time and again; I walk and climb endless mountain trails, all because of the strength that comes from my God. When I think of all my blessings in the new life He has given me, of His great love in giving His son Jesus so that I could live, I find the strength I need to get up and start walking again.

It is the strength that will sustain me in the many mission trips to come. He provides the strength because of the children who need school supplies, those who are sick who lack medicine, those in need of a simple smile, the people of the mountains who need the love of God. This is also the very reason why the work in the Philippine mountains of Kibungan — and other mountains of the world — will continue.

I encourage you to experience God's strength. Go on a mission climb and let Him take you to the farthest reaches of the world, where no one wants to go. Give to our mission work and be a blessing to someone in need. Or simply pray for Climbing For Christ and help give strength to our endeavors.

God is a never-ending source of strength, and those who place their faith in Him will always keep pressing on toward the goal. And when our will to continue weakens, He will provide the strength to go on. †

Ace Concordia is an at-large member of Climbing For Christ's Board of Directors and the coordinator of Climbing For Christ Philippines. He lives in the Manila suburb of Las Piñas City with his wife, three children, and many loving brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mission: Philippines

A work in progress

An international team of nine Climbing For Christ members delivered medicine, iodized salt, school materials, Bibles, and — most importantly — the love of Jesus to the Kankanaey people on Mission: Philippines 2010. The most significant part of the mission was to establish a relationship with the leaders of the three churches in Tacadang. All agreed to attend a discipleship program scheduled for mid-2010.

It is our prayer that this is the start of growing disciples in the mountains of Kibungan. After four climbs to Tacadang, God's work in these mountains has only just begun. There are also plans this year to do a return climb to Badeo, as a follow-up to our first mission climb there in 2009, and an exploratory climb to a place called Dalipey.

The Lord's work in Kibungan is a work in progress. We pray more hearts will be moved to join us in delivering the hope of God to the people of the mountains. We invite those with the skills and ability to climb to GO and share the love of Jesus to these people. We ask those who can to GIVE so that we can gather resources and much-needed supplies, such as medicine and Bibles, to support what may be lacking both physically and spiritually in the villagers' daily lives. We also need the support of those who can PRAY for Climbing for Christ. The more people praying for us, the more we are able to achieve for the glory of the Lord.

As the year continues, C4C Philippines plans to:

- Conduct Climb 101 programs (our Basic Mountaineering Course) for youth groups and mountaineering enthusiasts. This will also be an avenue for evangelism and the promotion of C4C. We'll be conducting a Climb 101 for Aeta natives — some of whom are pastors — who live in the area surrounding Mount Pinatubo. Our goal is to equip them to become guides and to share with them the concept of adventure ministry.
- Weekly "Base Camp sessions" will continue to grow members in their personal relationship with God.



Tagalog

Ang lakas na kailangan para magpatuloy

By Ace Concordia

Tuyo ang lalamunan, masasakit ang mga hita, tumutulo ang pawis, hirap sa paghinga.

Ito ang pakiramdam ko sa huling akyat namiin sa Tacadang para sa Mission Philippines 2010. Ito na ang pang apat na akyat ko sa bundok na ito, ngunit hindi siya naging madali.

Sa aming paglalakad ang pinaka gusto kong marining na mga salita ay "Take five!" Kapag narinig ko na ito sa sarili kong paraan ay basta na lang akong babagsak sa lupa, at wala na akong pakialam kung ano ang itsura ko o ano man ang inuupuan ko. Ang laki ng pagpapasalamat ko sa kung ano man yung bagay na inuupuan ko na nagbibigay ng pahinga sa aking pagod na katawan – ito may maging kahoy, bato, damo, o kahit lupa pa siya. Maaring mas grabe pa dun ang inuupuan ko, ngunit sa oras na yun ay hindi na mahalaga ano mang bagay yun.

Tapos ay iinom ako ng tubig at sa pag inom ko ay bumabalik sa aking alaala ang mga bagay na aking iniwan sa aking tahanan. Ang aking malambot na kama, air conditioning, malinis na palikuran, chocolate cake, at ang makainom ng malamig na tubig hanggang gusto ko. Sa aking pagkakaupo ay aking hinarap ang katotohanan na ako ay sobrang pagod na, at sa oras na ito ay kuntento na ko sa aking kinalalagyan. Ipinikit ko ang aking mga mata upang makapag sarili, at sa aking isip ay sana hindi ko na kailangang tumayo pang muli at maglakad. Hindi ako malakas na climber, lagi akong naghahanap ng lakas para muling sumulong sa paglalakad.

Lahat tayo ay napapagod, maging ang pinaka malakas na atleta, maging tayong mga Kristyano. Dumarating ang panahon na ang pakiramdam natin ay wala na tayong lakas, parang kotse na naubusan ng gasolina. Ayaw ng umandar ng makina, nakalutang na lamang sa tubig, iyuyuko na lamang natin ang ating ulo at sasabihing "Ayoko na suko na ako, hindi ko na kayang magpatuloy, wala na akong lakas, mananatili na lamang ako dito. Tumitingin tayo sa ating paligid para makahanap nang paghuhugutan ng lakas. Saan kaya makakakuha ng lakas para maipagpatuloy ang lakad?

Alam niyo ba bakit tayo napapagod? Ito ay dahil sa

madalas umaasa tayo sa natural nating lakas. Sabi sa Jeremiah 17:5

Sinasabi ni Yahweh,

"Susumpain ko ang sinumang tumatalikod sa akin,

At nagtitiwala sa kanyang kapwa-tao,

Sa lakas ng nga taong may hangganan ang buhay,

May sumpa kaninuman na umaasa sa sarili niyang lakas. Ang sumpang ito ay ang pagkawalay sa Diyos. Ito ay dahil sa hindi tayo nilikha upang mabuhay ng hindi umaasa sa Diyos; nilikha tayo para iasa sa Diyos ang lahat sa atin maging ating buhay. Ang pagtitiwala sa sariling lakas ay mag reresulta ng lakas na panandalian, ito ay mauubos. Ito ang dahilan bakit tayo napapagod, kung bakit ano man ang gawin natin ito ay laging magiging hindi sapat.. Ang katotohanan ay tayo ay mortal, lahat tayo ay mahina.

Ngunit iba ang taong umaasa sa Diyos. Magiging tulad siya ng pastol na si David, na buong tapang na hinarap ang higanteng sundalong si Goliath. Kung pisikal na lakas lamang ag pagbabasihan talo na agad si David. Ngunit ano ang nagbigay kay David ng lakas upang harapin ang kaaway ng walang takot? Sa Psalmo 27:1 sinulat ni David;

Si Yahweh ang ilaw ko at kaligtasan;

sino pa ba ang aking katatakutan?

Si Yahweh ang muog ng aking buhay,

sino pa ba ang aking kasisindakan?

Kay David hindi mahalaga kung siya man ay hindi malakas. Ang mahalaga higit sa lahat ay ang Diyos niya ang pinaka malakas sa lahat!

Para tayo ay makasumpong nang kalakasan hindi natin kailangang maging malakas, kailangan lamang nating malaman at paniwalaan na ang Diyos natin ay malakas!

Kapag hindi na natin kayang magpatuloy, dapat nating purihin ang Diyos sapagkat "Sa ating kahinaan, Siya ay malakas." Sa mga panahong nauubusan ako ng lakas, kapag wala na akong kagustuhang magpatuloy, ito ang panahon na tumitingin ako sa Diyos para sa kalakasang kailangan ko. Umaasa ako sa kanya para iaahon ako at palakarin muli. Ang isa sa mga paborito kong kanta ay ganito ang lyrics;

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*His strength is perfect when my strength is gone
(Ang kanyang lakas ay perpektosa panahong wala na akong lakas)*

*He'll carry us when we can't carry on
(Siya ang magdadala sa atin pag hindi na natin kayang magpatuloy)*

*Raised in His power the weak become strong
(Dahil sa kanyang kapangyarihan ang mahina ay nagiging malakas)*

*His strength is perfect, His strength is perfect.
(Ang kanyang lakas ay perpekto, Ang kanyang lakas ay perpekto)*

Sa aking buhay kung ako ay umasa sa sarili kong lakas matagal na akong sumuko. Ngunit ako ay bumabangon ng paulit ulit, ako ay patuloy na umaakyat ng bundok, dahil lamang sa lakas ng galing sa Panginoon. Kapag naiisip ko ang kanyang mga pagpapala sa bagong buhay na ibinigay niya sa kin, kapag aking naiisip ang kanyang dakilang pagmamahal sa akin na ibinigay niya ang nag-iisa niyang anak na si Hesus para ako ay maligtas, lagi akong nakakasumpong ng kalakasan na kailangan ko para magpatuloy.

Ito ang lakas na aking gagamitin sa marami pang mission trips na darating. Binibigyan niya kami ng lakas sapagkat may mga batang nangangailangan ng gamit para makapag aral, may mga may sakit na walang gamot, may mga nangangailangan ng simpleng ngiti at galak sa buhay, at may mga nangangailangan ng pag-asa na nanggagaling lamang sa ating Diyos. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit ang mission sa Kibungan — at sa ibang mga bundok sa buong mundo — ay magpapatuloy.

Inaanyayahan kitang maranasan ang lakas na binibigay ng Diyos. Sumama ka sa isang mission climb at hayaan mong dalhin ka niya sa mga malayong lugar sa mundoing ito, mga lugar na walang taong gustong pumunta. Magbigay ka sa aming mission upang maging pagpapala sa mga nangangailangan. Kahit ang simpleng Pananalangin para sa Climbing for Christ ay magdadala ng lakas para sa aming mga adhikain.

Ang Diyos ang pinanggagalingan ng lakas na hindi nauubos, at ang mga nagtitiwala sa kanya ay patuloy na tatahak patungo sa pinagagawa ng Panginoon. At pag dumating ang panahon ng pang-hipina, Ang Diyos ang magbibigay ng lakas para magpatuloy. †

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Giving is spelled with four G's

By Derek Fullerton



The four “G’s” behind why we financially support C4C:

GARY

Shortly after the inaugural Board of Directors for Climbing For Christ (C4C) was formed, founder and president Gary Fallesen laid into us board members and said we

needed to lead by example in consistent financial giving to this ministry. This was true leadership that we needed to hear and follow. Either we were going to play games at the foot of the cross by having an outdoor club, or we were going to rise to the occasion and lay a foundation for a powerful, exciting, eternal Kingdom-building ministry that would glorify God and refresh people far-and-wide. (We certainly did not know how far and wide in the ministry’s infancy. Today, we have members in 48 countries and are doing mission work in 10 nations.)

We knew Gary had wholehearted devotion to the C4C calling/ministry. So much so that he took a huge step of faith by leaving his career position of 27 years as a sports writer for a newspaper to devote his time fully to C4C. He and Elaine have two kids to raise, and yet he was willing to forsake knowing where his paychecks were going to come from and the familiarity with the secure job he had for all those years. We were convinced that God was orchestrating C4C and that He was going to bless His work through Gary by his obedience to the C4C call.

GOD

Gary is passionate, articulate and a “go-getter.” But many people have made messes of their lives and other people’s lives by being zealous without knowing and acting in haste (Proverbs 19:2). So, the next reason we financially support C4C (the most important one, of course) is because God’s hands are all over this ministry. C4C was not birthed out of a zealous man who just wanted a change of scenery in life. Like Abraham, who was told to leave his home address and go to where God was sending him (Genesis 12:1), so likewise God was calling Gary to leave his “comfortable and secure” life and go a new direction — His new direction.

I believe I can speak for all of us from the initial Board of Directors in saying that we knew God was doing something new and exciting with the birth of C4C. There was — and is today — a consensus that God was up to something by using “climbing” as a vehicle to advance His Kingdom. We all sensed the potential of this ministry was huge and we were excited to see where God was

going to take us. Our prayer was (and still is): “Oh Lord, please don’t let us get in the way of what You want to do through us with C4C.”

GOING

So much financial giving, especially in the church in the United States, goes to seminars, events, “self-help” ministries, and entertainment. We give financially to C4C because it is a “going” ministry. After giving to our local church, we only give to ministries that we research well and know and believe to be God’s heart.

God’s heart is for the Gospel to reach every people group on the earth (i.e. “The Great Commission”). C4C is going there! God’s heart is for His Church to be strengthened and equipped, especially our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for His Name’s sake (Hebrews 13:1-3). C4C is going there! God’s heart is for Biblical unity in His Church. C4C is going there and representing a picture of heavenly worship with brothers and sisters in Christ “from every nation, tribe, people and language” (Revelation 7:9 NIV). God’s heart is for serving orphans and widows. C4C is going there!

C4C is also a going ministry in worship and prayer (an expression of “The Greatest Commandment” and our dependence on Him), training pastors, and alleviating some of the suffering in the world by service to our fellow man — to Christians and to those we hope become Christians by God’s grace.

GROWING

Another exciting reason why we give financially to C4C is that it is a young, vibrant, energized and growing ministry! There are no signs of stagnation, status quo, “let’s not rock-the-boat”/“take it easy” mentalities. C4C has a general sense of urgency to get the Gospel to the world. This is serious business. It comes with spiritual opposition, sometimes hardships like leaving family for extended periods of time when traveling to remote and hostile places and, ultimately, we will stand before our Father in Heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ and give an account for our conduct in partnering with Him in His business.

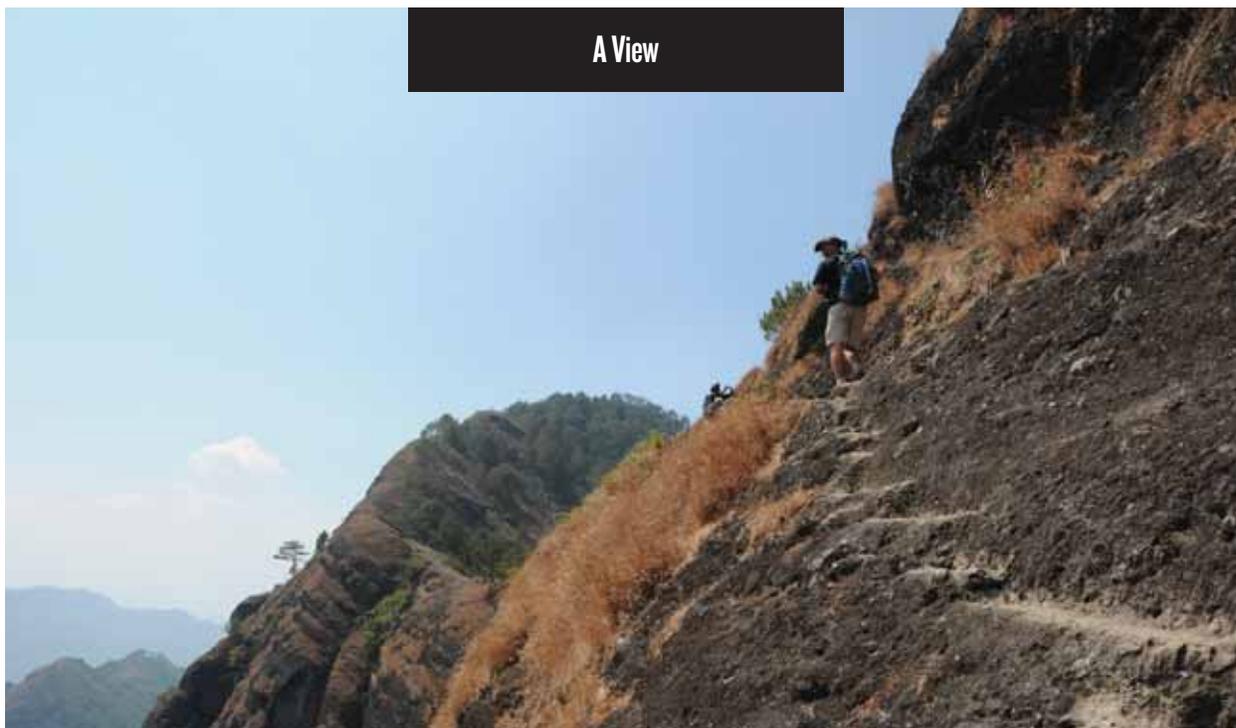
C4C leadership recognizes that this ministry is a sacred trust and that we must be wise stewards of His funding that He provides for His work. All appearances are that C4C will continue to grow, as we humbly, yet boldly, trust in Him to provide for the ministry needs. As we do our part in giving to this ministry, God promises to do His part in bringing glory to His Name. And what a great Name it is: “Climbing for CHRIST!” †

Derek Fullerton, a Colorado Springs, Colo. pastor who is married (wife Karen is also a C4C member) and has one young son, has been an at-large member on the Board of Directors since its formation in 2005. He has participated in C4C missions to Haiti and the Philippines. He is also founder of Prayer Peaks Day, which will be held for the 13th year on July 3. Go to www.prayerpeaks.org for more information.

Pray, go, give

Our desire is to see each of our approximately 1,200 members involved in Climbing For Christ: praying, giving, and/or going. You can use the enclosed envelope to send your gift to His ministry. It 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!





Ace Concordia checks out the exposure during the ascent of the second of three mountains that must be climbed to reach Tacadang, Philippines.

Finding the Strength to go on

By Ace Concordia

Throat dry, legs in pain, head throbbing, sweating profusely, breathing heavily.

This is how I feel during the trek to Tacadang on Mission: Philippines 2010. It is my fourth climb to this mountain, yet it doesn't seem to get easier.

The most comforting words I will ever hear are: "Take five!" Then I find my own unique way to crash to the ground, caring very little for how I look or what I sit on. I'm just so thankful at that moment for whatever gives my racked body a rest — a log, a stone, grass, or even just

dirt. I could be sitting in something even worse, but it wouldn't matter at this instant.

Then I take a sip of water and thoughts of the comforts I left behind flood my mind. My soft bed, air conditioning, a clean bathroom, chocolate cake, and all the cold water I want to drink. As I sit there I come face to face with the reality that I am exhausted, and that I am feeling very content at the moment. As I close my eyes to get into a private moment, I sincerely wish that I wouldn't have to get up again and walk. Not being a really strong climber, I always struggle to find the strength needed to move on.

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