

The Climbing Way

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

VOLUME 13 / SPRING 2009



Evangelic Expeditions

Worship at the church at Malasi in Haiti. (Photo by Elaine Fallesen)

“Monté Pou Kris.” Say, what?

By Joshua Carroll

As missionaries, it only takes a few moments upon entering our mission field to meet our first obstacle. More often than not, the primary obstacle we face is one that man's sinful nature created thousands of years ago.

“*Bonswa! Koman ou ye?*” Pastor Vilcuis extends his greeting to Mission: Haiti team members as we step off the rented truck and onto the barren Haitian ground. Many of us passively think to ourselves, “What did he say?” Pastor Vilcuis, along with 8 million other Haitians, speaks Haitian Creole (or Kreyol).

Stepping off the bumper and onto the ground, I'm handed my pack. As I throw it over my shoulder, its' weight reminds me of my confidence that I am armed with 75 pounds of “do good.” I'm sure that I have brought enough resources and supplies to genuinely help

meet these villages' spiritual, emotional, medical and physical needs for the next two weeks.

“*Eske ou ka ede nou, souple?*” Miguel asks our driver. Instantly, my confidence is drained. How in the world are we going to do any good here? We cannot even understand them! How will Dr. Steve know what is hurting? How will Gary meet with the teachers to understand the progress of the students? I hear other team members mention, “Three months of language CDs and I cannot remember a thing!” How will we conquer this linguistic barrier?

Tower of Babel

Before we look for solutions to overcome these obstacles on our own accord, we should probably reflect on the reason that these barriers exist in the first place. God provides the answers for us.

Continued on page 5



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.

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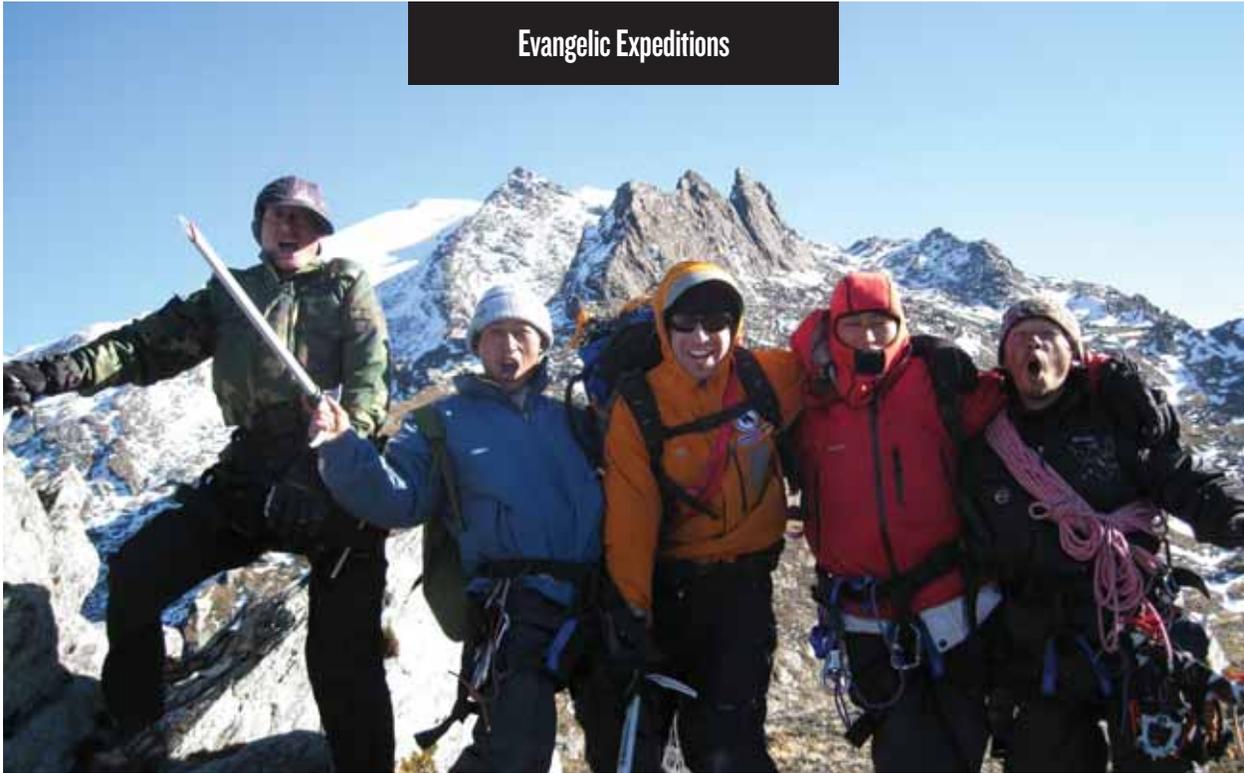


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Local guides with one of our professional guides, center, ham it up on a mountain in China. (Photo by Caleb Payne)

His grace is enough in China

By Caleb Payne

A missionary: Familiar with mountaineering, but inexperienced at teaching it; so busy with a newborn, a new house, college and a demanding job with plenty of overtime (don't worry, he's not complaining) that adequately preparing for the trip felt like paddling upstream with chopsticks.

A professional guide: Not only fluent at mountaineering, but very experienced teaching it; his first trip overseas on mission, but he can't communicate with the locals even though he has to teach full blown mountain climbing skills; because of this fact, the only person he is able to communicate with during most of the trip happens to be the missionary, who doesn't take it personally when the guide says, "Don't take it personal, but it was such a relief to finally talk to someone else who can speak my language," during the first night spent with other American missionaries living in the province.

A Chinese climber: Just started climbing because of the prospect of helping Climbing For Christ on this trip; is excited about not only learning mountaineering skills, but also helping make disciples for Christ; can speak both Chinese and English, and was supposed to help the missionary translate for the professional guide, but can't because his wife decides she doesn't want him going.

A new believer: Excited to see help come to her village and also in recent months became a believer because she was "moved by God"; no matter how much or how long ahead of time she helps plan for the trip and communicate with those in her village, she still can't get them to show up on time.

Five local mountain guides: Been guiding people up the nearby 17,700-foot peak for years, yet don't even know how to self-arrest, tie figure-eights or even put on a harness; most of them young, they are genuinely serious about discussing bodily functions and romance during almost half the trip, yet they are some of the hungriest and best students the professional guide has ever seen.

Looking at these profiles you might be thinking, "What is going on here?" Just throw China into the equation and you have chaos. That's what it would seem to be, yet God works in this type of situation with these types of people, more powerfully than most would think.

It was the apostle Paul who knew this well when he mentioned Christ's words: *"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness"* (2 Colossians 12:9).

Despite the seeming formula for chaos, on this trip everything came together for the good. We came to train these Chinese mountain guides in essential mountain guiding skills and they turned out to be very good students.

On the hike (more like a run) down the steep stair-like trail back to the village, one of the guides turned and began to explain how grateful they all were for the training. "I can't even express how useful the training was," he said. "So many times we felt our clients were on the edge of danger and yet we didn't know what to do. Now we know something useful."



“So many times we felt our clients were on the edge of danger and yet we didn’t know what to do. Now we know something useful.”

17,700-foot mountain in China.

CHINA, from page 3

The new believer had told the guides Climbing For Christ was coming to provide mountain training. “We asked how much it costs and she told us it was free,” the guide said. “All we could say was where in the world can you get this opportunity?”

More than mountain training and donations of climbing gear, we had Someone with us who offered a much greater Gift.

Our actions became a sermon of what we truly believe; and what we truly believe was expressed in words that we pray dug deep down into their hearts. There are many ways in which you can go about doing this, and we spent time praying about it before the training began. We were led to the Biblical example of Peter visiting Cornelius. Peter wasn’t knocking on his door, yet God drew him into Cornelius’ house to share the Gospel (see Acts 10). For the rest of the trip we waited on God to draw us into a situation where we could share His story.

One afternoon we sat around the fire in one of the Base Camp cabins. A very outspoken individual (and also the head guide) began blasting all of us with an apologetics speech about Islam. He knew we were Christians and started comparing Islam with Christianity, saying that Christians have taken Christ to be God, when Christ is really just another (albeit important) prophet. His main point boiled down to good works. Muslims do good works to gain God’s favor. I wanted to argue, but waited for the opportunity, and it came when the other guides wanted to know “What does the cross mean?”

I was able to explain why God had to come in the flesh to redeem us of our sins. That Christ’s sacrifice is an exhibit of God’s grace. In light of the fact that all fall short and break God’s eternal and perfect law no matter

how good they think they are, it is no wonder that we needed God’s Son to die on our behalf. Through Christ we are forgiven all our sins, shortcomings, and even of our so-called “good works.”

All this and more, including bits of both the professional guide’s and the missionary’s testimony, seemed to grab their attention as they listened carefully to all I said. No one made a commitment that day, but just like our new sister, we hope that these seeds will take root and some day blossom.

As the professional guide and the missionary were driving out of the village after the training, we spent time being amazed at what just happened. We were not only blown away by the sheer need for this training and the things I mentioned before, but also by the fact that we’ve been used in an area that might otherwise be completely hostile to us and our God. The Muslims in the village are not just followers, but leaders, and are very evangelistic. The Yi people are hostile toward anything Christian because of a so-called “Christian” cult that swept through the valley preaching a false gospel and causing societal destruction. How was it that we were even accepted? How is it that they want us back?

And they do want us to come back.

What I wonder is, who out there in Climbing For Christ is willing to go? The next trip to this village and mountain in southwestern China will be in early 2010. We need experienced instructors who can teach mountaineering skills, guiding, wilderness first-aid, avalanche detection, and search and rescue. My prayer for you, if you want to go, is that God will not only bless you financially so you can afford the trip, but that He would also show you how important these people are to Him. †

LANGUAGES, from page 1

If we turn to Genesis 11:1-9 we encounter the cause of it all. Up until this point in the Bible, the whole world spoke a single language. Everyone experienced common speech. Fellowship among different groups and tribes could happen with common language, if not-always-common goals.

The people of the earth became skilled in construction and decided to build a city, with a tower that would reach to heaven. By building the tower they would make a name for themselves and attain heaven on their own accomplishments.

God came to see their city and the tower they were building. He understood their intentions, and in His infinite wisdom, He knew this attempt at heaven would only lead the people away from Him.

God says in Genesis 11:6, *"If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."* (NIV)

God detected the powerful force within their unity of purpose. As a result, God confused their language, causing them to speak different languages so they would not understand each other, and by doing this,



Ace Concordia, left with Pat Bonaobra of Climbing For Christ Philippines, delivering Bibles to churches on Mount Pulag.

that God divided the earth into its different continents.

God thwarted their plans to attain heaven without Him.

God then scattered the people of the city all over the face of the earth. Some scholars even believe that this marks the point in history

Bible Availability Worldwide

There are about 6,500 languages in the world. More than 4,000 languages don't have any of the Bible translated—representing about 350 million people. Here is the breakdown by region of the number of languages that have translations either in part (i.e. "portions" and "Testaments") or entirely ("Bibles").

Region	Portions	Testaments	Bibles	Total
Africa	213	279	149	641
Asia	223	228	119	570
Pacific	168	204	33	405
Europe	110	31	62	203
North America	40	26	7	73
Central & South America	127	244	21	392
Constructed Languages	2	0	1	3
Total	883	1,012	392	2,287

Information courtesy of: UBS World Report, March 2002 (www.ibsstl.org)

The body of Christ

One of the earliest efforts in combining unity in the body of Christ and overcoming the language barrier was performed more than a half century ago. John Wycliffe lived almost 200 years before the Reformation, but his beliefs and teachings closely match those of Luther, Calvin, and other reformers. He persevered through political troubles and conflicts with the church (papacy) to complete the translation directly from the Vulgate (an early 5th Century version of the Bible in Latin) into vernacular English in the year 1382.

As a precursor to the Reformation, Wycliffe was determined to make the Scriptures available to everyone. Today, it is estimated that the complete Bible is available in 392 languages, and in portions in nearly 2,300 languages. Climbing For Christ has delivered Bibles to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Philippines, Mexico, Nepal, Tanzania, and to people on U.S. mountains ranging from New York's Adirondacks to Alaska's Denali.

Continued on page 8



Gary Fallesen, right, speaks through Pastor Winford Masha's Swahili translation at the first meeting of the Kilimanjaro Chapter in Marangu, Tanzania. (Photo by Miguel Samper)

We shall overcome

How does Climbing For Christ cope with language barriers? We partner with nationals who speak both their language and English. We also take short-term team members who can speak or are fluent in the language of the people we are trying to reach. We encourage those who can speak a second or third language to use this God-given skill to His glory on a future Evangelic Expedition.

Found In Translation



Tanzania: Kilimanjaro guide Coleman Temba wearing his membership proudly on his head.



China: Guides participating in mission waving Climbing For Christ banner.



Haiti: Arborloo (toilet) built on 2008 mission trip has Climbing For Christ (Monte pou Kris) etched in cement.

Climbing For Christ members are found in: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, and the United States.

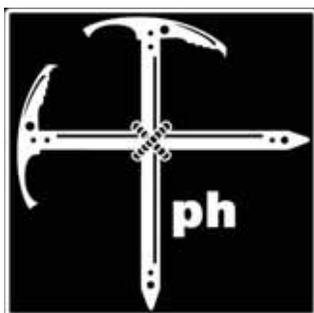


Here's how our members say "Climbing For Christ"

Arabic	تسلق الجبال من أجل المسيح
Bulgarian	Планинарство за Христос
Catalan	Muntanyisme per Crist
Chichewa	Kukwerera Khristu
Chinese	登山基督
Creole	Monte Pou Kris
Czech	Lezení pro Krista
Danish	Klatring for Kristus
English	Climbing for Christ
Filipino	Akyat para sa Kristo
French	Escalade pour le Christ
German	Klettern für Christus
Hebrew	טיפוס של ישו
Hindi	Yeshu ke liye Giryarohan/Parwattarohan
Indonesian	Pendakian untuk Kristus
Italian	Arrampicata per Cristo
Japanese	キリストのために登山
Korean	
Malay	Mendaki Untuk Kristus
Nepali	Khrist Ko Lagi Aarohana
Portugese	Escalada para Cristo
Romanian	Catarare pentru Hristos
Russian	Восхождение на Христа
Spanish	Subiendo para Cristo
Swahili	Kupanda Mlima Kwa Ajili Ya Kristo



Nepal: Mission team members display Climbing For Christ banner on summit of 18,130-foot Kala Pattar (next to Mount Everest).



Philippines: The Climbing For Christ Philippines logo.



Indonesia: Members of JEJAK gather behind banner after being named Climbing For Christ's first international chapter.

Studying God's North Face

Many Climbing For Christ members from Colorado, Minnesota and New York are meeting once, twice or even more times a month to reflect on Ken Gire's excellent book, *The North Face of God*. This is a chapter Bible study that can trace its roots to the Philippines, where coordinator Ace Concordia has gathered members regularly to get into the Word.

"I really enjoy meeting together," said Joe Costello, from the Western New York Chapter. "Our small group has an inherent openness about it. I felt immediately welcome, and my wife did the same when she came. I felt comfortable sharing my opinions, but felt no pressure to talk or share if I didn't want to. It's a fun group and a great book."

To get involved with your local chapter, or help lead or start events like this, contact Gary Fallesen at info@ClimbingForChrist.org.

Prayer warriors on duty

Whatever your occupation is and wherever you live — from a pastor in Malawi to an engineer in Texas, from a mother in New York to a doctor in Romania — the Climbing For Christ PRAYER TEAM is available to you. One of the benefits of membership is the intercession of the saints on your behalf. Our Prayer Team will lift your requests and give thanks for your praises. You can also become a prayer warrior for the thousand members we have in 45 countries.

"Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done." (Philippians 4:6b)

E-mail info@ClimbingForChrist.org to share your needs and your blessings.

Support C4C

We're again asking climbers to think of this ministry when they head for the hills in 2009. Planning a big mountain or a big wall? Or just going hiking on vacation? Turn your fun time into fun-draising time. Click on the CLIMBATHON page on our Web site and print out the pledge form. Then ask family, friends, co-workers, and complete strangers to sponsor your climb or hike. Be creative: ask them to pledge to you by the vertical foot. Climbing 3,000 vertical feet on a Saturday? That's \$30 toward the ministry of Climbing For Christ. Or ask for a round figure before you hit the trail: \$5, \$10, \$20, or whatever people are willing to donate. It's for a good cause — taking the Gospel to mountainous places where others cannot or will not go! If you're heading out this spring, or looking ahead to a summer or fall climb, please remember to take us with you. You can contribute to the powerful work with which the Lord has blessed us.

LANGUAGES, from page 5

Language is an obstacle that we must always overcome in our international fellowship. Just as the farmer will forever sow seeds against the grip of the weeds, Christians and missionaries must work to overcome the "obstacle of Babel" so that we can be blessed to be a blessing.

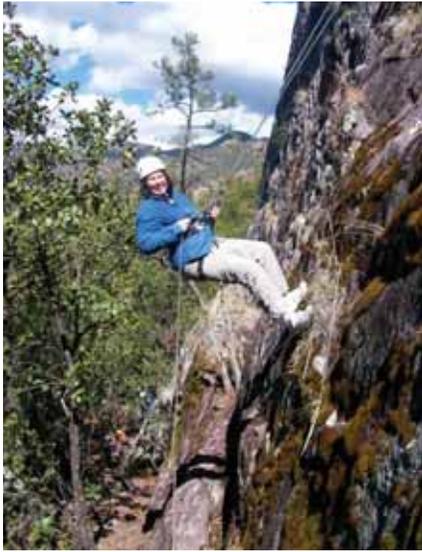
As we set out on missions, with noble purpose in mind, equipped with tools that began to take shape 400 years ago, we are often reminded of this story from long ago. On mission we whisper to ourselves, or maybe we pray to God, asking Him to help us overcome this language difference.

So often we look at the languages of the earth and say, "If only I could understand him" and "What if we could all speak the same language?" As Christians and missionaries we must remember that God intended this confusion for good. We must recall that the enemy, too, has this same obstacle, and that obstacle often thwarts evil plans.

God is faithful, and if we work feverishly, rest in His promises, and seek fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, His noble plans will come to fruition. †



Sarah Brownell, left, translates Pastor Erica Zeiler's message to the church at Malasi in Creole. (Photo by Elaine Fallesen)



Laurie Kimble goes for her first rappel on a Climbing For Christ mission trip to Mexico.

Why we support Climbing For Christ ... and why you should, too

By the Kimble family

Last week alone our mailbox yielded seven requests for donations. They came from charitable organizations, community programs and medical research to cure diseases. Add a telephone solicitation or two on top of that, and before you know it there are a dozen groups seeking your support in just one week! So how do you decide where your charitable giving dollars should go?

For our family this means looking not only at the work an organization is doing, but looking at the organization's philosophy of ministry as well. As a family, we want the money we donate to make a difference in the lives of people. The thing that draws us to Climbing For Christ is that it is an organization that not only shares the Gospel, but lives it as well. Climbing For Christ looks at the people it serves through the eyes of Jesus, seeking to share not only His love, but His work as well.

Take Haiti, for instance. Climbing For Christ (C4C) has sent missionaries to Haiti to share Jesus with the people in the mountainous village of Gentilhomme. But they did not just share the Gospel, check off that village, say our work is done here, and move on to the next. Quite the contrary. C4C has built a church and a school in Gentilhomme, started a seed bank project there so the people can sustain themselves, introduced sanitation to the area, and is in the process of building a system to supply clean water to the people. And the list goes on. C4C has also begun a seminary in the area to train pastors to continue the spread of the Gospel in that region, and is also in the process of training people to meet some of the medical needs there. The village of Gentilhomme not only hears about Jesus through Climbing For Christ, but also sees Jesus at work through the hands of those serving with this ministry.

Another thing we look at when deciding what charitable organizations we want to support is whether or not we will hear back as to how our donation was used. This is another area where Climbing For Christ

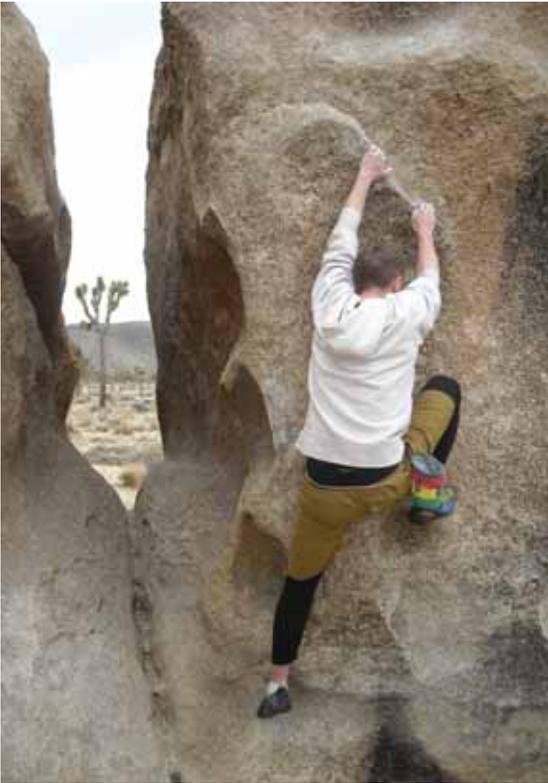
excels. There are E-Newsletters that keep us up-to-date as the missionary trips are happening. This magazine, *The Climbing Way*, details all upcoming trips and gives dates, locations, contact info, specific trip objectives and goals. We have never been to Haiti, but we feel as though we know the people there through the many reports and communications we have received from C4C. They are a part of our lives as we pray for them and keep updated on both their spiritual and physical well-being.

It is a wonderful God-given privilege for our family to be involved with this work through our financial support as well as our prayers. People in mountainous places of the world have many needs, and C4C is working hard to address as many as humanly possible. We see God lifted high and glorified in this ministry. We feel confident that God is using the work, devotion, care, love and witness of Climbing For Christ members to touch people in remote parts of the world and to bring more of His creation to saving grace.

We are truly blessed by our involvement with Climbing For Christ and encourage each one of you to prayerfully consider how God desires to use your time, talents, and treasure to further this ministry.

Thank You, Lord, for letting us be a part of Your miracle! Bless our gifts and multiply them, Father, for the extension of the Gospel. Allow us, Lord, to be part of Your life-saving work. Continue to use Climbing For Christ to bring nourishment, both physical and spiritual, to so many remote peoples of the world, even where most folks would not or cannot go! Thank you Jesus!!! †

The Kimble family — Kevin and Laurie, daughters Katie and Holly, and son-in-law Bryan Mabee — went on Mission: Mexico 2007. The family lives in Rochester, N.Y., regularly attends Western New York Chapter events and supports the ministry in prayer, time, and financial support.



Jesse Fallesen working "Fishbait" (VI) problem on the Manx Boulder in Joshua Tree. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

Sharing JC in JT

My introduction to Joshua Tree was an unnamed, unrated boulder in the Hidden Valley Campground. It was late on the February day we arrived and I wanted to get broken in for the next five days of bouldering. Mission accomplished.

As I traversed a corner, my feet slipped off the tiny nub holds below me and I slid down the abrasive quartz monzonite (a very rough type of granite). Both of my shins were left bloody. I was officially broken in. Welcome to JT.

I went to Joshua Tree with my 19-year-old son Jesse. This was a scheduled Partners In Climb event, but one of our partners backed out and I hadn't heard from any other Climbing For Christ members, so it seemed to be a Family Ministry trip instead. That was fine with me. But then we ran into some others who climb for Christ, and found out that it was a Partners In Climb trip after all. One Climbing For Christ member was with his non-Christian partner, doing that lifestyle evangelism that we all should do as effortlessly as a V0 boulder problem — sharing the love of Jesus.

That's the point of Partners In Climb outings, like the rock-climbing event Isaac Will (isaacwill@gmail.com) is leading in Taylors Falls, Minn. on May 16-17. It should be the point of any trip into the hills and crags that God created.

Joshua Tree is an incredible place — all desert and boulders. It is a climbing oasis. A great place to celebrate and share Jesus. As our brothers in Christ and new friends in climbing observed that week in February, the ratings there are a little "stout," meaning they've sandbagged the place (a 5.11 in JT could easily be a 5.12 somewhere else). But that just makes you stronger. And maybe a little more broken in.

Gary Fallesen

Snowshoeing is for the birds



Diane Sturmer hand feeds a bird while snowshoeing with Climbing For Christ. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

The Western New York Chapter's partnership with Heritage Christian Services grew one step closer in January when we went snowshoeing together. A group of 22 people, including eight Climbing For Christ members and six of our friends with developmental disabilities, snowshoed along the aptly named Bird Song Trail in Mendon Ponds Park in suburban Rochester, N.Y. It was a beautiful, cold January day, and the birds enjoyed our visit as much as we did.

But the birds weren't the only ones who ate. Our group enjoyed hot chocolate, homemade chili, and freshly baked cookies after the walk, when we also had a time for devotion and prayer.

"Many people said that the time out on the trail and sharing afterward drew each of us a little closer to God and each other," Diane said.

Bob Stanchus, a Climbing For Christ member from Greece, N.Y., was moved by the experience:

"Once again God makes me to be still and shows me He is God. The most trusting of God's people standing in snowshoes on a crisp, sunny morning stretched out their arms in hope of providing food for some simple little birds. They looked as if they were in worship with outstretched arms praising our Lord. And it did bring praise to God. Our friends from Heritage, in their actions, words, song, and prayers said, 'Look how simple He wants us to come to Him.'"

Climbing For Christ/Heritage Christian Services have a grassland walk scheduled on April 25 at Mendon Ponds Park. We'll also be hiking in Northampton Park in Ogden, N.Y. on National Trails Day (June 6).



Elaine Fallesen taking blood pressure during one of several health clinics on Mission: Haiti 2008.
(Photo by Gary Fallesen)

Help Haiti

Can you help your brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in Haiti? Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). There are few people enduring greater poverty than those in the mountains of Haiti. The average annual income in Haiti is \$400. That's the income of people living in cities and towns, not the villages in the mountains, where people survive on what they grow and raise.

Please send your gift to Climbing For Christ, earmarked "Mission: Haiti." Mail it to Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, N.Y. 14616-0290.

A VIEW, from page 12

As He did with the last four Mission: Haiti teams, God formed this one with a perfect balance and blend of hearts and skills. He used our hands, feet and minds in the mountain villages of Malasi and Gentilhomme to:

- Encourage and nurture our seminary of pastors and church leaders who are growing in the Word and knowledge of the Lord.
- Provide the materials and instruction to build toilets and begin improving sanitation.
- Design a way to bring clean water up to one village, and filter the water in two villages to provide a clean drinking supply.
- Bring physical healing and treatment for illnesses, burns, injuries, and pain, and prayer to treat depression and illnesses unseen.
- Share the Christmas story, gifts, deworming pills and vitamins with students in two schools.

In return for answering the command to "Go," Jesus rewarded us greatly. For me, three of these blessings are especially treasured:

First, I was given the gift of meeting and hugging and getting to know Gilbert, a boy from Gentilhomme who almost died from an untreated broken leg, but whose life God spared through Climbing For Christ (C4C). His leg was lost, but his life was restored. God has a great plan and purpose for this gentle young man.

Second, an answer to prayer and a miracle for Santane, a little girl in Gentilhomme who has a crippled leg. Santane was introduced to C4C in 2006 when the team was taken to her home to pray over her and ask for healing of the withered leg. Last December, when Dr. Steve Quakenbush examined her leg and pronounced it curable through surgery and rehab, my heart burst with joy and excitement! Plans formed almost immediately to bring Santane and another young boy (Micho) with the same

condition to the U.S. for the medical services they need to be able to walk without hopping or using a stick. Additionally, Gilbert will be brought to the States to receive a prosthetic leg and shed his crutches.

Third, a glimpse at the night of Jesus' birth. When we arrived at Santane's home, the first thing I saw in the yard was a baby lying on a cushiony bed of dry bean shucks, stems and leaves, bundled in rags. I thought, "This baby's wrapped in swaddling clothes!" I was gazing for the first time at a real baby, wearing swaddling clothes and lying contently on a bed of straw. And later that week, I saw the stable in which Jesus was born when we attended an evening praise and worship service in the Gentilhomme church. It was our team's turn to sing. As we softly began *Silent Night*, I looked out on the shadowy figures surrounding us, dimly lit by a single candle, framed by the crossbeams of the church and softened by the light haze from the dirt floor. I was inside the Lord's birthplace, enveloped in the quietness of our voices and the peaceful reply of Haitians singing the same in their language.

As I wrote this story, looking out at the winter snow that buried my yard in sparkly whiteness, I daydreamed of next December. I can't wait to return to Haiti. God has broken my heart in the same way He did my husband's. I long again to be in Malasi and Gentilhomme with our brothers and sisters. I want to again witness the abundance of love and gentleness from these people whose homes are dirt-floored huts of one or two rooms, whose stoves are open fires, whose diets often consist of beans and little else. They are passionate and joyful when they worship the Lord. They love to sing and shout their praises to the heavenly Father. Their love for Jezi Cris shines as bright as the Haitian sun.

May their faith shine so brightly that it burns away the voodoo from this land. †

Elaine Fallesen, a lifelong resident of Rochester, N.Y., is a Climbing For Christ board member.



Sarah Brownell dances with schoolchildren in Malasi during Mission: Haiti 2008. (Photo by Elaine Fallesen)

Another heart for Haiti

By Elaine Fallesen

Each time I placed the earpieces of the stethoscope in my ears, everything changed.

The Creole din of the surrounding Haitian crowd, the babies' cries, the wracking coughs, and the clucks of chickens in the hot sun and blowing dirt all went away.

When I wrapped the blood-pressure cuff around the next patient's arm, put on the stethoscope and pumped to pressurize the cuff, I shut out everything around me in this foreign place. All was silent except for the steady crescendo and fade of the heartbeat of the person seated across from me. A person who lived in poverty like I'd

never seen before. A person worn much older in appearance than they should look for their age. A person who'd never before been seen by a real doctor or treated for a medical condition, but who deserved just as much as me to be cared for.

Until December 2008, I'd only experienced this Haiti through my husband Gary's eyes, listening to his stories of Climbing For Christ's mission trips to the mountain people God had placed on his heart to help. Finally, it was my time to go and meet for myself these new friends who lived a world away in a nation bearing the unfortunate title of poorest in all of the Western hemisphere.

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