

**SPECIAL  
REPORT:  
CHINA**

The  
**Climbing Way**

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

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State television broadcasted the same program night after night. It was a “documentary” on evolution. If China were to believe anything, the communist government would prefer it be evolution.

The Living God or even dead gods that many religions worship would threaten those who rule the so-called People’s Republic of China. (A Christian once asked, rhetorically, why China’s currency, which formerly featured pictures of different people groups, now only has one person – Mao Zedong?)

China is officially an atheist nation. It claims to offer religious freedom, but is notorious for persecution of Christians. The government formed the Three Self Patriotic Movement for Protestants and the Catholic

Patriotic Association as a way to control Christianity. The State dictates what is preached in those churches.

Leaders of independent churches often are threatened or jailed. Before the 2008 Olympics, church leaders in Beijing were rounded up and taken into the country so the international press could not interview them and tell a story that might embarrass China’s government — as if their polluted air isn’t humiliating enough. (For the record, 16 of the world’s 20 most-polluted cities are in China, according to a World Bank survey.)

Open Doors, an organization that monitors persecution worldwide, ranked China 13th on...

**FREE  
CHINA**

Continued on page 7

**TURN TO PAGES 7-11 FOR OUR SPECIAL REPORT ON CHINA**

# Go and make disciples



We were praying for Chris Joseph and his family — in particular his pregnant wife, who is appropriately named Blessing — as they awaited the arrival of their fourth child earlier this year. Elijah Joseph was born March 16.

“Both the child and the mother are safe and sound, although the devil’s aim was to

eliminate the child,” Chris e-mailed that day from his homeland of Nigeria. “The (mid)wife who saw to the delivery of my wife exclaimed, ‘Your God is alive because the devil came so late!’ The umbilical cord was coiled around the boy’s neck and it extended to the back where it was tied like a knot. God, who never wanted me to be put to shame, was able to deliver the boy from this satanic ploy.”

We rejoiced at little Elijah’s arrival. And then we were honored when Chris asked us to give Elijah his middle name.

Gary told Chris, “My first thought was Martin after Martin Luther, the father of the protestant movement, because he was famous for fighting the devil. He once threw his ink well at Satan.”

Elaine refers to Elijah Martin as Gary’s “Nigerian godson.” Chris hopes we will one day meet him in person. That is probably part of God’s plan.

Jesus has instructed us, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

The God who created this earth makes the planet smaller for us all the time. He has us working in many remote mountainous places:

- In Africa (see Chris Joseph’s story on Nigeria on page 4 and meet fellow Climbing For Christ member Damson Samson of Malawi on page 5);
- In Asia (see our Special Report on China, which starts on the cover and continues inside on pages 7-11, and our Field Notes on Mission: Indonesia on page 6);
- In North America (see Field Notes on Mission: Haiti on page 12);
- And to the ends of the earth (see A View on the back cover and our 2011 Evangelic Expeditions preview on page 3).

All of this work takes the support of members and friends of Climbing For Christ, who pray for us and give financially to us. Read Dr. Steve Quakenbush’s “Why I support C4C ... and why you should, too” on page 15 and see our annual Financial Report on giving on page 14.

There is much to read and reflect on in this issue. We increased it from 12 to 16 pages to put it all together. We hope you enjoy it, while at the same time being encouraged and inspired to get involved — be it through prayer, giving, and/or going. You’ll find many brothers and sisters eager to greet you in the name of the Lord. You may even become a godparent to a newborn on the other side of this little planet.

— 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](http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=146)

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To contribute to *The Climbing Way* or ClimbingForChrist.org send an inquiry to [info@ClimbingForChrist.org](mailto:info@ClimbingForChrist.org).

**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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**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.

# 2011 Missions: Sneak Peek

One needs to look no further than Google Earth to see that the world grows smaller all the time. Comedian Steven Wright says, "It's a small world. But I wouldn't want to paint it."

However, an estimated 40 percent of the people living on this planet (2.7 of the 6.65 billion) still are unreached. The Joshua Project, a research initiative, claims 6,758 of the world's 16,465 people groups have not been reached with the Gospel.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19).

A missions director in Indonesia was teaching on this subject in May. "Poor people respond to the Good News," she said. "They don't have anything to rely on. They are looking for something they can trust."

We deliver that "something." Or "Someone." His name is Jesus Christ.

Jesus went to the people and He sent His disciples to the people. He may send you to reach heretofore-unreached people. What are you waiting for? In John 4:35, Jesus tells His followers: "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

Jesus has told us, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38 and Luke 10:2).

We are asking the Lord of the harvest to send workers for Climbing For Christ's 2011 Evangelic Expeditions. Here's a sneak peek at where we are going:



## Mission: Nepal

**WHEN:** Early January.

**LENGTH:** 10-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** To visit Dapcha, where Climbing For Christ is partnering with nationals to build a local church. We are going to check on the church build (or site for the church, at left, if construction has not begun).

**OTHER GOALS:** Encourage the local church and trek in central Nepal for outreach and explore how C4C might serve in this region.

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$1,000. This does not include airfare to/from Katmandu.

## Mission: Haiti

**DATES:** Late January-early February. **LENGTH:** 10-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** To take more workers to the harvest in the Chaîne de la Selle mountains and to continue the physical work that has been ongoing since 2005, including church building and dedications, VBS, medical clinics and training, water project, sanitation and nutrition education, and surveying new villages.

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$1,500. This includes airfare from New York City to Hispaniola.

## Mission: Kilimanjaro

**DATES:** February-March. **LENGTH:** 12-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** To continue working with Kilimanjaro Chapter members. Climb Kili and, possibly, Mulanje in neighboring Malawi. Visit Project 1:27 Malawi orphans and minister to children there.

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$1,800. This does not include airfare to/from and around Tanzania and Malawi. It also does not include Kilimanjaro climbing cost (estimated at US\$1,800).

## Mission: Possible 6

**DATES:** May. **LENGTH:** 10-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** To revisit Kham Tibetans and continue outreach in the high valleys (13,000-15,000 feet) until a church is planted.

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$2,250. This does not include airfare to/from the gateway city.

## Mission: Denali

**DATES:** May-June. **LENGTH:** Approximately three weeks.

**PURPOSE:** Climb Denali (20,320 feet/6,194 meters) and do more intentional outreach among climbers on North America's highest peak. Reacquaint C4C with local churches and pastors in Anchorage and Talkeetna.

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$2,000. This does not include airfare to/from Alaska.

## Mission: Philippines

**DATES:** June. **LENGTH:** 10-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** Return trek to Tacadang, where we will worship and fellowship with three local churches, conduct medical and children's ministries, and survey neighboring villages (such as Les-Eng).

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$500. This does not include airfare to/from Manila.

## Mission: Indonesia

**DATES:** Late June-early July. **LENGTH:** 12-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** Continue to work with national members, traveling to a new area to climb a volcano that is more than 12,000-feet (3,650-meters) high and deliver the Good News to an unreached tribe. [See "Field Notes: Building brotherhood in Indonesia" on page 6 for an update on the work here.]

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$750. This does not include airfare to/from Jakarta.

## Mission: Mont Blanc

**WHEN:** Late July-early August.

**LENGTH:** 12-14 days.

**PURPOSE:** Climb Mont Blanc (15,781 feet/4,810 meters) and do outreach in Chamonix, France. Possible trekking in Swiss Alps. Connect with European members to organize chapters/cell groups and encourage future outreach work.

**PRICE:** Estimated at US\$3,500. This does not include airfare to/from Europe.



## More missions

Watch for E-Updates and check [www.ClimbingForChrist.org](http://www.ClimbingForChrist.org) for the latest news on these and other missions in 2011. Among the trips being prayerfully considered at press time: Ethiopia, Morocco, Pakistan, and Peru.

To apply for a mission team, e-mail [info@ClimbingForChrist.org](mailto:info@ClimbingForChrist.org). †



Nigeria

# Combating terror with the cross

By Chris Joseph

Jos, Nigeria used to be a peaceful place. On March 8, 2010, 416 victims of violence received a mass burial in three different graves.

On another occasion, a pastor was abducted from his house by Islamic fanatics and taken to an unknown destination. Later his corpse was discovered.

There are many other cases of violence. I solicit your prayers for an end to this senselessness.

I am from Nigeria, a West African country with a population of about 150 million spread across 250 ethnic groups and two major religions — Islam and Christianity.

Christianity has the largest number of worshippers in the South, while Islam takes the lead in the North. Many Christians in the North face persecution, even death.

From time to time, Muslims in the North invade churches and Christian homes, raze them, and maim and kill many people in cold blood. This makes Christians in this region more ardent in the things of God, as no one knows when he or she will meet his or her untimely death. However, Christians have remained calm and peaceful amid the hostility and brutality, trusting in the Lord.

The introduction of Sharia law in the North in 2000 heightened the level of violence in this region. Several groups sprung up among the Muslims, including Boko Haram (meaning western education is useless), who vent their hostility on Christians. This Islamic sect killed a dozen Christians, including three pastors, and burned 20 churches in riots in July 2009.

In the South, particularly the Niger Delta region, militants rose demanding their rights from the federal government. Heavily armed, the militants demonstrated their anger by abducting expatriates and top management staff working in oil-producing firms. They held them captive for ransom and even killed some. Several innocent souls have lost their lives via stray bullets, especially during shootouts between the Joint Task Force and the militants.

The region has experienced peace since amnesty was offered to “repented militants” by the late president, Umaru Yar’Adua. They have, however, threatened to commence violence if allowances owed them by the federal government are not paid.

## At a glance

**Location:** Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon.

**Area:** 923,768 square kilometers (slightly more than twice the size of California). The country is divided into 36 states with 12 northern states imposing Islamic law in the past nine years.

**Terrain:** Southern lowlands merge into central hills and plateaus, mountains in southeast, plains in north.

**Highest point:** Chappal Waddi (2,419 meters/7,936 feet), located in Taraba State on the border of Cameroon.

**Population:** 152,217,341 (Africa’s most populous country; No. 8 in the world).

**Life expectancy:** 47.24 years.

**Ethnic:** The most populous and politically influential people groups are Hausa and Fulani (29 percent), Yoruba (21 percent), Igbo or Ibo (18 percent), Ijaw (10 percent), Kanuri (4 percent), Ibibio (3.5 percent), and Tiv (2.5 percent).

**Religion:** Fifty percent Muslim, 40 percent Christian, and 10 percent indigenous beliefs. Northern Nigeria ranked 27th among the 50 places facing the worst persecution, according to the 2010 World Watch List compiled by Open Doors.

**Leader:** President Umaru Yar’Adua died on May 5, 2010, at the age of 58. Goodluck Jonathan, 52, who had been serving as vice president, succeeded him the following day. Nigerians were saddened by the death of Yar’Adua, who was considered by many of his people to be “a visionary leader” who was “on his path to move Nigeria to greater heights.”

**Economy:** Nigeria is an oil-rich nation, but 70 percent of the population lives below the nation’s poverty line (less than US\$1 per day). The country ranks 177th out of 227 in the world for average annual income. “Strategic evangelism becomes the fastest means of depopulating hell and thickly populating heaven,” Pastor Chris Joseph said, noting that his ministry will partner with medical personnel to provide free health services to people in rural areas. “This kind of service leaves a lasting impression on peoples’ minds and it also makes them to be more receptive to the Gospel,” Chris said.



#### COMBATING TERROR, from page 4

The challenges we are facing as Christians in Nigeria are predominantly the nonchalant attitude of some Christians in their service to God. We need to pray against plans to Islamify Nigeria through bloody attacks on Christians, especially those in the North. Let's also pray for genuine Gospel ministers to stay true to their calling, trusting that God will never fail them. Let's also pray for a revival fire to sweep across the 36 states of Nigeria.

I am the presiding steward of Lives Aglow Global Outreach Center (aka Wonderland Chapel), the president of Singles and Young Couples International Fellowship, and the director of Lives Aglow Theological Seminary and Graduate School. I am an apostle and missionary from the Northern part of Nigeria, but currently based in the South in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



Pastor Chris handing out Bibles and tracts to children. Above, a typical rural Nigerian home.

Because there is a high level of complacency here our outreach, which is an apostolic reformation movement, is intended to spread revival fire to the nooks and crannies of Nigeria with an emphasis on Muslim-dominated areas. We hope to raise up disciples who will go on crusades in the North, win souls, and hand them over to living churches in those areas. Where there is none, Lives Aglow Global Outreach will establish Wonderland chapels. This will re-ignite a fire among Nigerians for the things of God. †

Chris Joseph, a member of Climbing For Christ since April 2009, is a husband, father of four, and pastor. Climbing For Christ is helping Pastor Joseph establish the church and deliver the Good News among the majority Muslim population.

## What can I do?

**Pray** for comfort for those suffering from persecution. Lift those Christians who have grown complacent. Give thanks that more churches are getting involved in reaching Muslims with the Gospel, and many people are making eternity altering decisions.

**Give** to Climbing For Christ for the work the Lord has given our members to do in Nigeria. This includes the start of a Bible school by Pastor Joseph to train Northerners to be sent back to their part of the country to serve as missionaries.

**Go** when called to reach the lost in Nigeria.

### Member Profile

# Introducing Damson Samson of Malawi, Africa



Whether teaching students at an orphanage in Phalombe, Malawi, or leading worship at an impromptu Climbing For Christ conference for more than 400 pastors and church leaders in his Central Africa homeland, or shouting out songs such as "Up With Jesus" at an energetic gathering of youth, Damson Samson shines the light of Jesus brightly.

He is a faithful young man who waited patiently on the Lord for seven years, asking over and over and over again for provision to attend Bible college. "Trust God for all provisions," he says from experience. In January 2010, God sent Climbing For Christ to Malawi. We were moved to provide support to send Damson to Africa Bible College in the Malawi capital of Lilongwe. He will study there for four years. We look forward to seeing where God will take him, and serving alongside him in the years to come.

Damson's prayer for the orphans Climbing For Christ helps through Project 1:27 could very well be a vision for his own future.

"I hope for these children a very different life from the children of the village," he says. "With their education, I hope it opens doors. Some had a very small foundation; it is short, but we have put something in their minds. They're dreaming farther; they're not dreaming here. They're dreaming in color. This is a start, but God plans it. We never know what God wants to take us to."

### Meet Damson Samson...

**Age:** 27. **Residence:** Phalombe, Malawi. **Personal:** I am single.

**Occupation:** Student. **Church:** Searchlight Ministries.

**How long have you climbed?** For three years.

**Type of climbing you do:** Sport. **Highlight of climbing career:** I climbed Zomba Mountain, which is the second-highest mountain in Malawi, on April 12, 2010.

**How long have you been a Christian?** 11 years.

**Type of ministry you are blessed to serve in:** Preaching and caring for orphans.

**Favorite Scripture verse (and why):** Psalm 119:9. ("How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.") This Scripture highlights for me the only way of which the young man can cleanse his way, and I take note that this is by taking heed according to Thy word.

**Special "God moment" you'd like to share:** This is the time I received Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior because I was not me, but God doing in me for the better of me today. I teared rivers of waters, as I was convicted by the word of God. That was how I entered into this family. I confessed my sins and surrendered to Jesus.

**What does Climbing For Christ mean to you?** This means the offering of one's life to share the Good News to unreached areas. †



# Building brotherhood in Indonesia

The Brotherhood Center.

When Climbing For Christ first entered a mountainous Java village in 2007, the Indonesian pastor working in the area had a dream. “A place to come and share religion.”

Three years later, we returned to the same village and were joyfully surprised to see a “Brotherhood Center.” The dream is a reality.

More than half of the families in the village were using this community center in May 2010 to come together. Most are Muslim in a part of the country where less than 1 in every 1,500 people is a Christian. But our pastor friend and a Christian family living in this area have an opportunity to talk about Jesus.

This is almost unheard of in a place where our arrival in 2007 was preceded by an Internet warning by a fanatical Muslim group. *The Christians are coming, the Christians are coming.*

The brand-new Brotherhood Center was built beginning in September 2009. Climbing For Christ’s Indonesian members visited the village at that time, providing some financial support and a little sweat. They helped cut down trees that were used to build the center.

The Holy Spirit is doing the rest. He is moving in the hearts of the people.

“It’s amazing to see God work,” said Julie Schiffmacher, one of the three Americans on the Mission: Indonesia team, which also included four Indonesian members.

“Seeing the Brotherhood Center finished and knowing that families are using it to interact and connect with members in their community (was a highlight of the trip).”

There were other highlights from this Evangelic Expedition, which included a survey of an unreached people group in another area of the country, a volcano ascent, and time spent in worship and fellowship with Indonesian members. But returning to a place where seeds were planted and starting to see fruit being produced was a welcoming sign.

## What can I do?

**Pray** that if anyone in Indonesia (specifically the mountain villages where we are delivering the Good News) has ears to hear, let them hear.

**Give** to the work that needs to be done – building roads, a water system, and farming – so bridges can be built between Christians and Muslims.

**Go** on Mission: Indonesia 2011.

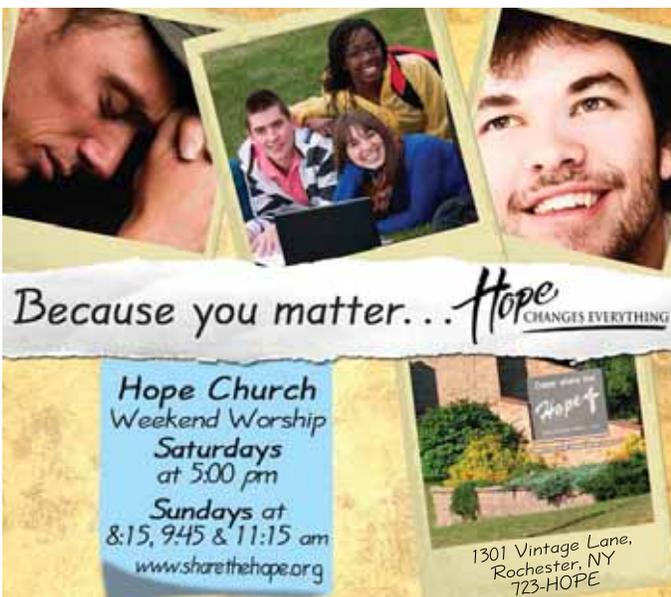
One Muslim man with whom the Gospel was shared three years ago was said to be “close” to accepting Jesus as Savior. “Maybe he accept in his heart,” one of our Indonesian members explained, “but not in his mouth. It’s very difficult to proclaim (in a Muslim community).”

A Christian brother in that village has prayed with this Muslim man, just as we did in 2007. We continue to pray for him and for others to come to the Lord.

To help them on this spiritual journey, Climbing For Christ will work on assisting their physical needs. Our pastor friend has asked for our help to:

- Build a road into the village.
- Install a system that will provide clean water to each house.
- Start an animal husbandry program to improve the village’s economy.

These are all tools to build relationships. Ways to open lines of communication. Opportunities to share Christ’s love with a people who don’t know Him — yet. ✚





Tibetan children watching the arrival of God's hands and feet.

#### FREE CHINA, from page 1

... The World Watch List (50 countries in which persecution is greatest) in 2010.

"After the 2008 Olympics, dialogue opened up between the State and the church – perhaps indicating that the government is becoming more tolerant of Christianity," Open Doors reported in June. "Some church leaders reported less intimidation. But some sections of government fear greater openness will result in a loss of control, and continue to pressure unregistered groups."

In spite of this, house churches continue to grow. Estimates vary, but there is a feeling that there are more than 83 million Christians in a country that boasts a population of 1.34 billion. That's 6.2 percent, an increase from 3-to-4 percent in 2002.

However, as you'll see in this issue of *The Climbing Way*, not all Christians are what they claim. Jesus warned his followers, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves" (Matthew 7:15). In China, they appear as leaders of cults — one who says he is God incarnate, another saying he is the "Second Jesus," even a woman who says she is Jesus.

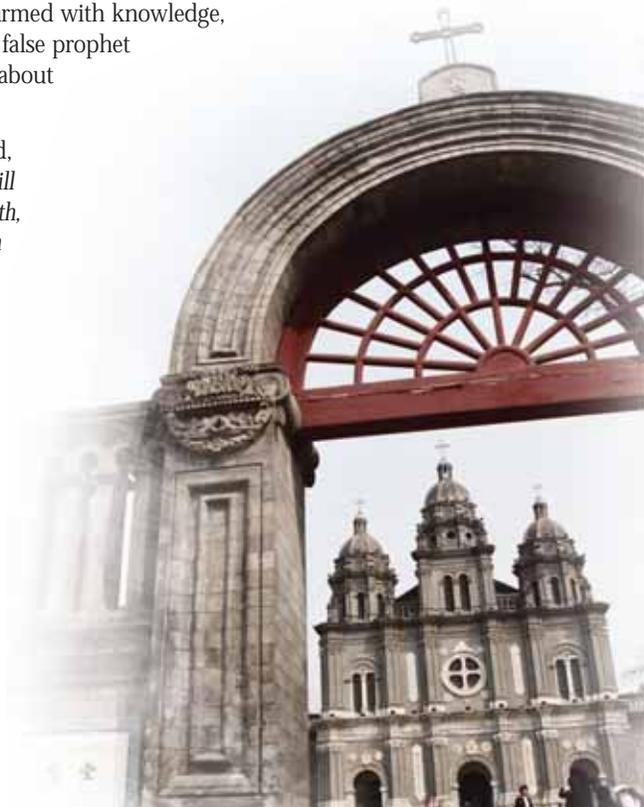
It might seem laughable, but it has made delivering the Truth even more difficult.

While China's government may call itself "atheist," there are people there – **a lot of people** – who will tell you they believe in something. *Operation World* calls less than half of the population "non-religious." More than half boast traditional Chinese beliefs (mostly animistic) or follow Buddhism, Christianity or Islam.

Like the many cults, Buddhism offers its own set of deceptions and lies. "Free Tibet" takes on new meaning when you spend time with Tibetans. These are a people — as are most Chinese — who need to be armed with knowledge, not another false prophet or teaching about evolution.

As Jesus said,  
"Then you will  
know the truth,  
and the truth  
will set you  
free" (John  
8:32). †

St. Joseph's Church,  
a state-sanctioned  
church, in Beijing.





A crippled Buddhist monk, right, and his sister greeting us earlier this year.



# Kham in the storm

## Tibetan Buddhism a way of life, but not The Way

By Gary Fallesen

Faster than you can say the greeting, “*Tah-shi de-leh*,” the Tibetan wants to know if you have met the Dalai Lama.

When you have come from the outside world, where their beloved Dalai Lama lives in exile, you are greeted with questions. Forget the language barrier. Curiosity finds a way to communicate. “Have you seen him?”

“The people would die for the Dalai Lama,” says our Tibetan translator, who is a Christian. “It is very serious to them.”

The Dalai Lama’s photograph adorns the peoples’ necklaces, their nomadic tents and winter homes, and their modes of transportation. In the United States, children stick baseball cards in the spokes of their wheels. In China, Tibetans have card-like photos of the Dalai Lama attached to the handlebars of their motorbikes.

They follow this man, whose real name is Tenzin Gyatso. The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibet, a reincarnation of the peoples’ patron saint. There have been 14 reincarnations of the Dalai Lama. His Holiness, as he is known, is considered an “enlightened” being who has postponed his own nirvana and chose rebirth in order to serve humanity.

From the 17th century to 1959, the Dalai Lama was also the leader of the Tibetan government. But Chinese expansion ended that.

In 1959, the Kham (or Kham Tibetan) people in Lhasa organized a revolt against Chinese rule. “The fighting lasted three days with the Tibetans caught up in a religious fervor, not caring whether they lived or died,” according to *Operation China*. The Dalai Lama fled to India and into exile after Chinese troops crushed this revolt.

Many Tibetans have died for the Dalai Lama in the years since this occupation began.

Tibetan Buddhism is a way of life. It is the culture, not just a religion, for a population of more than 5.4 million people (the 10th largest people group living in China).

The Chinese may have inhabited the land of these people since 1959, but they have not stripped them of their prayer wheels, beads and flags, their chants and meditation, and their sky burials (in which the dead are dismembered and fed to vultures).



## What can I do?

Legendary missionary Hudson Taylor said, “To make converts in Tibet is similar to going into a cave and trying to rob a lioness of her cubs.” Pray for the 99.99 percent of Tibetans who are living in darkness. Give financially to help support the work Climbing For Christ is doing to bring Light to this dark place. *Go in the name of Jesus!*

To learn more about the Kham Tibetan, visit <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2802>. To help make this mission possible, send your donation to Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA.

# SPECIAL REPORT: CHINA



Caleb Payne sharing the Truth with a Pumi man.

## Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever

### But Chinese cults spread lies about Christianity

By Caleb Payne

To the best of our understanding, we shared with the man sitting next to his small fire. We shared about Jesus. He responded in a way that seemed appropriate. It was a start. When asked if he wanted to be baptized, he recoiled. “What will the village think?” It was strange to us that this man already understood that baptism would entail a public identification with Christ.

Later he told us that he had heard of Christianity before — from another set of Chinese missionaries who had visited his village.

He asked us strange questions like, “Do you believe Christians will never die or get sick, but grow wings and fly to heaven?” We tried to explain to him what we really did believe about these issues and I walked away puzzled at these questions, but also disappointed that he would not make the commitment for fear of persecution.

Later my questions were answered, when a missionary friend who works with this man’s particular people group, explained to us that a Chinese Christian cult called the Mentuhui (Society of Disciples) had proselytized in that village and the surrounding area. After winning many to their cult, they were finally shut down by the government when they left a rotting human corpse on a table for a week while the cult’s leaders were saying they had to prove themselves as true disciples by resurrecting it from the dead. This event gave Christians a bad name in this part of the country.

This cult claims to be the true form of Christianity, which will establish a new dynasty. Founded by an uneducated farmer who claims to be “Christ for the Third Salvation,” they donate to struggling house churches while trying to convert them. They claim divine healing for true believers and proclaim an imminent end of the world.

Does this surprise you? I have news: Chinese Christian cults are a dime a dozen.

From 1850-1864, China suffered one of the most brutal civil wars of its history with an estimated 20 million deaths — the Taiping Rebellion. Following a humiliating defeat by the United Kingdom in the First Opium War, China was forced by Britain to sign an agreement that had in it, not only a stipulation for free trade (which included opium), but also for the freedom of Christian missionary work.

To most of China, the northern Manchurian government was seen as ineffective, and the southern Chinese were looking for a hero. Enter Hong Xiuquan — a disappointed scholar who read a Christian tract and decided that he was the brother of Jesus, who was sent from God to establish a new dynasty. He proclaimed himself the Heavenly King and actually established a powerful kingdom in southern China that ended up rebelling against the existing dynasty.

They lost in 1864. Among many of their beliefs was not only their fundamental error concerning our orthodox dogmas on the nature of God, but also a claim that they had new revelations from God, could perform miracles, and that the end of the world was imminent.

Sound familiar? Check out these facts from some more recent cults:

- Wu Yangming becomes a “Christian” and starts the “Established King” cult, proclaiming himself as the Messiah, God incarnate. Wu was bent on overthrowing the communist government, supposedly performed miracles, and preached an imminent end of the world. After gathering numerous young women around him — and raping more than 100 of them — he was arrested and executed.
- Hua Xuehe, a believer in a charismatic Chinese house church movement called the True Jesus Church, breaks away to start the “Lingling” cult. Hua proclaimed himself the “Second Jesus” and his birthday was celebrated on Jan. 17 in place of Christmas. The Lingling claim power in healing and exorcism and also emphasize the imminent end of the world. They teach that because Jesus couldn’t save Himself on the cross, they should now pray in the name of their “New Lord,” Hua Xuehe.



A Tibetan family outside their winter home (with meat drying outdoors).

**They need to be shown the love of Jesus. They need to see His hands and feet embodied in our lives.**

**KHAM IN THE STORM, from page 8**

Tibetan Buddhism has incorporated ancient occult practices as well as worship of mountain gods (the native Bon religion). *Tantrism* (a blending of Buddhism and the occult) is considered the official religion of Tibet and is also practiced in Nepal. The Dalai Lama is central to the worship life of the Tibetan.

“Two things saved them,” our guide says of the Tibetan people. “One is their religion. It is their common bond. Two is the high places, where they live. It is hard to get to them.”

That’s why we were sent there: to visit the high, hard places and to share our faith. We follow the Son of Man, the Risen Savior, not a man (be it Siddhartha Gautama, the father of Buddhism, or the latest Dalai Lama) who will face the inevitability of death.

“These people around here are all mountaineers,” our friend observes about the nomads who welcome us.

They greet us with tea (yak butter tea during the summer) and questions. “Do you get to see the Dalai Lama?”

They enjoy discussing religion — from their Buddhist way of life to our counter-culture faith in the God-made-man who died for our sins. They enjoy our Gospel teachings. But their hearts are mostly hard.

“There are miracles,” says our translator, who is one such example. He is one of the estimated .05 percent of the Kham Tibetans (about 7,500 of 1.5 million people) who follow Christ. “But really their minds are closed.”

They need to be shown the love of Jesus. They need to see His hands and feet embodied in our lives. We are sent to walk alongside them and share what and Who we know.

It is not easy. It will take time.

The best time to reach Tibetans with the Good News is during their high school and college years, when (like most young people) “they think traditions are bad,” our friend says. They are open to something new and very different from anything they’ve heard during these rebellious years. We can give them cause for their rebellion.

Our guide was that age when he heard about Jesus. He was 14. He liked the Bible stories, but he thought it was “a myth.”

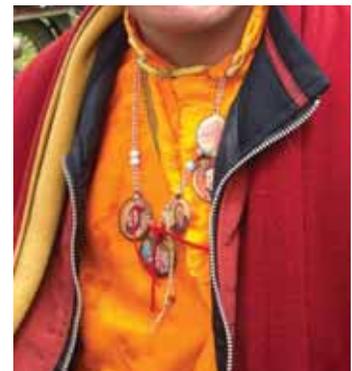
Then he watched the *Jesus* film. That’s when the Spirit invaded.

“I had a dream I was in a fight,” he shares, “and I had a vision of Jesus on the cross from the *Jesus* film.”

He realized that Jesus had come and died for him. It was a personal, eternity-altering moment.

“Be a good friend,” says our friend and advisor, “and show how God is working on you.”

We wear the symbol of the cross He willingly went to on chains around our necks. When a Tibetan shows us the photo of the Dalai Lama on his necklace and asks if we have met him, we show the cross of Christ and tell him, “No, but we have met *Him*.” And we share His love for them. †



A Buddhist monk wearing Dalai Lama necklaces.

## CHINESE CULTS, from page 9

- The “Lightning from the East” cult is one of the most insidious. They claim Jesus is back, and she’s Chinese. Living in hiding, this woman has composed a third testament to the Bible and claims immediate salvation to her followers who will ascend with her to heaven during the coming apocalypse. China is the dragon of revelation and she will overthrow it.

All these cults share much in common, but the most important is their attack on the very reality of God, as we understand Him. Jesus knew this was going to be a problem. He said, *“Take heed that no man lead you astray. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for these things must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet”* (Matthew 24:4-6).

When Jesus commissioned the leadership of His Church, He gave them a very powerful formula: *“All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you”* (Matthew 28:18-20). After this, the Holy Spirit came upon them in power and the Church was, *“built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone”* (Ephesians 2:20).

Cults are no new thing. For centuries, this Church struggled with error concerning the reality of God until finally they were able to consolidate the New Testament canon and define the deposit of Truth in a way that all could understand. From this we got words like *incarnation* and *Trinity* (both words not explicitly found in the Bible), but we also got a very powerful form of discipleship: creeds. Catechumens (a fancy word for new disciples) were taught to memorize these creeds and were encouraged to live in obedience to Jesus’ teachings (Matthew 28:20). Many of us still know them as the

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”  
(Hebrews 13:8)**

Apostle’s Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These were used as a confession of true faith, against those who according to St. Paul preached, *“another Jesus...a different spirit...a different gospel”* (2 Corinthians 11:4).

Today, I feel like we take this for granted. Many of us grew up surrounded by these concepts. They come naturally to us. We don’t see the amount of resources at our disposal, until we see what our brothers and sisters are going through in China. With government restrictions, true discipleship under the direction of doctrinally sound ministers is scarce. Even those who would stay to disciple new believers often run across problems that force them to abandon their work or become separated from the mainstream of Christianity.

Close to a village where we have worked, I remember a woman who claimed to be Christian asking me if I wanted to find someone to sleep with despite the fact that I was married. I told her that was contrary to what Jesus taught in the Bible, and she came back with, “I read my Bible every day.” Led to the Lord by a foreign missionary, she was alone with no one to disciple her.

In our work of evangelism, what do we expect? Sure, the sinner’s prayer is a good start (see Luke 18:13-14), but it’s only part of a larger, more complete process. A tract or parts of Scripture are viable (see



A Climbing For Christ team teaching Chinese guides the art of mountaineering.

Acts 8:26-39), but incomplete without those whom God has sent. As St. Paul proclaimed, *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?”* (Romans 10:14-15).

Discipleship entails a lot more than just solicitation. It’s a unified work of the Church. The creeds once brought us together; let’s allow them to bring us together again. Christ left His Church with the task of discipleship, but the world will not know we are His disciples, until we love one another (John 13:34-35).

There are three things going for Climbing For Christ: Christ is at the center (not climbing), we have members from different Christian backgrounds working together for one purpose, and we go back to the same places — over and over again. Why? Because we care about discipleship. With that in mind, pray for our work in China while we take these words to heart: *“Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ: that, whether I come and see you and be absent, I may hear of your state, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the Gospel”* (Philippians 1:27) because, *“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching”* (St. Francis of Assisi). †

Caleb Payne has been a member of Climbing For Christ since March 2007. He has worked in China since 2000.



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Education: 9:45 a.m.

# Building Haiti for Jesus

During a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting on Haiti in May, a former USAID administrator testified about the challenges of the so-called rebuilding of that earthquake-ravaged country.

"I think the worst thing we can do is be nice about this and live in a Disney World assessment of what we are dealing with," Andrew Natsios said. "We are dealing with one of the worst-governed countries in the world."

Haiti is a money pit. We know first-hand the financial cost of trying to build — not rebuild — in that desperately poor nation. But we have seen improvements despite a dysfunctional government and a spiritually challenged culture.

In August, the third *Monte Pou Kris* (Climbing For Christ) church is scheduled to be dedicated in Thoman, Haiti. A fourth church is under construction in a Haitian community in the Dominican border town of Jimani, where our missionary Miguel Rubén Guante lives. We support schools where there were no schools, and have begun making improvements in water, sanitation, farming, and medical care where all of those things was sorely lacking before the Lord took us to the *Chaine de la Selle* mountains in 2005.

The January earthquake killed more than 200,000 people in the Port-au-Prince area and affected even more than those estimated by government agencies. The Red Cross said three million people were affected — or about one-third of the country's population. But the reality is, people who did not even know about the 7.0-magnitude quake — people living in the mountains less than 30 miles away as the bird flies — were impacted.

After the earthquake, people around the world donated to the relief effort. Disasters bring out the best in people. Millions of dollars were given to help those in need. But many of those who give in a time of disaster are also the people who support ministries like Climbing For Christ. If they give to disaster relief they often do not have anything to give to the ongoing work done by us. Mission: Haiti is a 24/7 operation. Our work did not cease in the aftermath of this tragedy. On the contrary, God has given us more to do. More to do with less.

Enter those who take advantage of bad situations. You see, disasters also bring out the worst in people. Because of the demand for construction to "rebuild" Haiti, the cost of supplies that must be brought in from the Dominican Republic rose dramatically. The churches God used us to build in Malasi and Thoman, estimated to cost US\$10,500 each when work began in 2009, ended up costing about US\$15,000 each.

We are not rebuilding Haiti. We are not living in Disney World. A thing that has never been built in the first place cannot be rebuilt. That's why we say we are BUILDING Haiti. Building it in the name of the Lord, claiming mountain villages for Christ. Rising costs — and unethical and lecherous people — will not deter God's work.

We will continue to build up the church — the body of Christ — in Haiti. More churches, more schools, more improvements to the Haitian's physical and spiritual way of life. All to the glory of God. †

## What can I do?

**Pray** for revival in Haiti. Change can only occur in this country if the people turn from voodoo, the practice of which has imprisoned generations.

**Give** to the work that is being done on a daily basis in Haiti. Donors will receive a "Pray for Haiti" bracelet. Wear it and share how God is moving in the mountains of Haiti.

**Go** on Mission: Haiti 2011.



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Gary Fallesen sharing the love of Christ with a Tibetan friend.

#### A VIEW, from page 16

We will continue to minister in these places and in other unreached locations as God continues to enlarge our territory and reach. Our goal is to one day (soon) have a short-term mission in the field every day of the year.

We have 24/7 missions in Haiti and now China, two countries where we support a national to do the Lord's work among mountainous people. We may soon be adding three other full-time missionaries (one in Asia and two in Africa). These nationals will be supported by short-term teams, by people who will be burdened by the Lord to serve those in physical and spiritual need where other missionaries cannot or will not go.

"I have been affected by the Tibetan people to want to go back again and again and again, because I realized this little nomadic region is filled with people who have never heard or seen this man named Jesus — who offers a free gift of hope, love, healing and salvation," says Brandy Everts, a C4C member from Canada.

"If we don't go in and show the love of Christ and be the hands and feet of Jesus, then these people will never be presented any hope from the lie of ending your life in a Tibetan sky burial and praying that you will be reincarnated into something better than what you were in the previous life."

Everts is one of 31 members who have gone again and again (out of 99 who have been sent so far) on Evangelic Expeditions.

Payne is another who has gone again and again. He has led three of our five trips to China.

"I can say that all the people who've come from C4C on our trips are sincerely concerned about what they did on those trips, whether it had a long-term impact or not," Payne says. "That doesn't mean everyone will be able to come back or stay in that area long-term, but the goal was 'long-term' impact or 'fruit that lasts.'"

"Jesus traveled around constantly and so did the Apostles, but because their work was focused on the 'long-term' impacts, their fruit remained. Not only do we want people to believe and remain believers, but also we want them to grow in character through the work of the Holy Spirit, and bear good fruit themselves. Good fruit is ripe, juicy, sweet, and most importantly, loaded with tons of seeds to bear more FRUIT.

"So even if people who come on the trips are not able to return physically, they can return there constantly in their prayers and support."

It is our hope that all who are sent will continue to send their prayers to the people and places they have visited. The Climbing For Christ Prayer Team — a group that faithfully intercedes on our behalf — is given regular updates that often include specific names of those the Lord has put before us.

"I was especially burdened this past year when having a long anticipated visit with our (Tibetan) friend and his 30-year-old son (a crippled monk)," Everts says. "When (the father) expressed that his grandchildren are so beautiful, but he in his old age is not a pretty face on camera, it hit me like a ton of bricks. He is old and is getting closer to the end of his life. He has grown up in a Tibetan Buddhist home and so his whole life, culture and thoughts revolve around Buddhist ideologies. But Christ is bigger than that and can reveal Himself to (this man) and change his ways, making him a passionate follower of Christ."

That is our prayer.

These are the thoughts that penetrate your heart and mind after a so-called short-term mission. You don't leave the people to whom God has sent you to minister.

"If we don't go and tell them about Christ, then do we truly believe who Christ is and what He offers us?" Brandy asks. "That is why I am convicted and for these reasons I go again and again, not focusing on the risks, discomforts or possible dangers, but for these people to hear about Christ."

The Apostle Paul asks in his letter to the church at Rome: "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 they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15)

It is the feet of Climbing For Christ members whom God uses to reach many who otherwise would not hear.

Payne says some short-term missionaries do make the mistake of "looking for an immediate satisfaction . . . to make their sacrifice 'worth it.' Or they are so bent on their own expectations of how things should go, that they forget to seek God's will or even be thankful for how much He is doing.

"Some people want their reward now, but harvesting a crop before it's ripe could have detrimental consequences as the fruit is not allowed to mature. We must wait on God and seek His glory above all else. If we disciple in impatience, then our disciples will be impatient.

"So with that said: Short-term people have only short-term goals. They look for immediate rewards and they get them despite what it costs those around them. Long-term people have long-term goals, even if they do 'short-term' works. They look for eternal rewards and they pursue them even if it costs them everything."

As Jesus tells us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). We treasure long-term relationships — eternal relationships — that will glorify our God. †

**Gary Fallesen is the founding president of Climbing For Christ. He has led 19 mission trips in nine countries. Rarely does an hour of any day pass (even as he sleeps) without his heart going out to the people God has empowered him to reach.**

# 2009 in review

## Base Camp (\$1-\$1,199)

Adventure Calls Outfitters (N.Y.)  
 Ethel & Paul Agrimson  
 William Alexander  
 Barbara & Thomas Ames  
 Anonymous gifts  
 Kristen & Scott Antonson  
 Applewood Baptist Church (Colo.)  
 Cynthia & Kevin Austin  
 Kathryn & Robert Bailey  
 Sarah Baillie  
 Mark Baker  
 Laurie & Ken Bates  
 Craig Beck  
 Eloise Beckham  
 Jennifer & Richard Beckham  
 J. Pearce Beissinger  
 Georgiana Binder  
 Julie & Bryan Black  
 Lori & Greg Bly  
 Vinay Samuel Bontha  
 Bridget Bordelon  
 Barb & Darrell Borneman  
 Neil Brehse  
 James Brennan  
 Maria & Mike Brouwer  
 Ann & Donald Brown  
 Sarah Brownell  
 Susanne & Keith Burhans  
 James Burns  
 Mildred & Robert Burrows  
 Nancy & Donald Busse  
 Ruby & Robert Busse  
 Jonathan Byrd  
 Carolyn Bishop-Koso & Kyle Koso  
 Joshua Carroll  
 David Cefalu  
 Rita & Ken Chandler  
 Susan Civiletti  
 Marcia & Harry Clow  
 Sandy & Carl Coloney  
 Joshua Cook  
 Katherine Cook  
 Amanda & Thomas Crandall  
 Emily & Randy Cubitt  
 Pam & Rod Davis  
 Carol & Jeffrey Deaner  
 Cynthia & Craig DeMartino  
 Jennifer & Richard Denhof  
 Stacey & Matthew Desrosiers  
 Patrick Dickinson  
 Kimberly & Richard DiMaria  
 Teresa & Jim Doenges  
 Betty & Rev. Arthur Dueker  
 Angela & Jonathan Dunn  
 Robert Egelston  
 Theone & David Eide  
 Mark Eiwien  
 Ann & Allan Engelbert  
 Madeline & Mark Erbeling  
 Brandy Everts  
 Faith To Faith Fellowship (N.Y.)  
 Hayley Fallesen  
 Barb & James Fallesen  
 Barb Finn  
 First Baptist Church of Durango (Colo.)  
 Lillian & David Fischer  
 Carole & Curt Flock  
 Janet & Mike Foltin  
 Melinda & Fred Franzwa  
 Mary Ann Friesenhahn & Kevin Youmans  
 Lara Frisque  
 Kalyn & Daren Froeschle  
 Michael Fucci  
 Valerie & James Fullerton  
 Marilyn Gies  
 Janalee & Ken Gilsrud

Alix Gleave  
 Grace Church (Colo.)  
 Christine & Larry Graham  
 F. Joyce Grasby  
 Milaine & Syl Haberer  
 Frances & Gerard Hahn  
 Judith & Gilman Halbakken  
 Isaac E. Hanks  
 Charlotte Harper  
 Ellie Helfer  
 Erin Heltshe  
 Heritage Christian (N.Y.)  
 Antonia Hernandez  
 Abby & Bill Hock  
 Kathy Holland  
 Gabriel Holliday  
 Hope Women's Life Group (N.Y.)  
 Houghton College (N.Y.)  
 Houghton Wesleyan Church (N.Y.)  
 Mary Jenny Howard  
 Sharon Howey  
 Joanne & Robert Hubbell  
 Susan & David Hurlbutt  
 Carolyn & Douglas Hurlbutt  
 Cara & George Jakab  
 Wendy & Todd Jenner  
 Colby & Kenneth Jolley  
 Denise Jones  
 Joanie & Douglas Jones  
 Diane & Michael Jones  
 Rebecca & Nathaniel Jones  
 Alyssa Kaelin  
 Rod Kaiser  
 Betty & Paul Keene  
 Bethany Kelsey  
 Michelle & Keith Kennedy  
 Gary Kent  
 Sarah & Peter Kent  
 Marie & Joel Kertzer  
 Laurie & Kevin Kimble  
 Jennifer & Christopher Kurth  
 Barb & Mark Lambrecht  
 Janet & Calvin Landrus  
 Lisa & Bruce Larson  
 Helen & Mike Launhardt  
 Deb & Mike Leary  
 Michael Leising  
 Living Water Christian Fellowship (N.Y.)  
 Long Lake Wesleyan Church (N.Y.)  
 Kathleen Madonia  
 Karen Magnuson  
 Michael Mahoney  
 Jill & Timothy Mahoney  
 Tess Manes  
 Beth & Bill Marsaw  
 Ryan Masten  
 Justin Matherson  
 Jane & Robert Mathis  
 Beverly & David McLaughlin  
 Lisa & Tom McNulty  
 Dan McQueen  
 Lisa Mehle-Glab  
 Angela & Thomas Melancon  
 Michelle & Mario Melidona  
 Richard Missell  
 Carol Moran  
 Elizabeth & Robert Morasse  
 Mike Mordenga  
 Susan & Hugh Morris  
 Jeffrey Murray  
 Jennifer & Chuck Myers  
 Lisa & Jack Needy  
 Network For Good  
 JoAnn Nieman  
 Janet Norton  
 Amy & James Paris  
 Katherine & Caleb Payne  
 Heidi & Webster Pearsall  
 Andrew Pendergrast

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*  
 – 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

Climbing For Christ also loves cheerful givers. We thank God for those who are willing to share with us what He has provided them. We thank the following people for blessing us with financial help in 2009.

## High Camp (\$1,200-\$11,999)

Lisa & David Bachman  
 Johanna & Adam Bachman  
 Brenda & Andrew Bailey  
 Colleen & Gary Carroll  
 Lin Cederstrom  
 Charlotte Crain  
 Elaine & Gary Fallesen  
 Karen & Derek Fullerton  
 Gift For Humanity Foundation  
 Marsha & Ron Hogan  
 Jill Johnson  
 Justin Keener  
 Katie Kimble  
 Ruth Lakey  
 Sonme & Craig Lambrecht  
 Mary & Kenneth Lindsay  
 Colette & David Madison  
 Thomas Martin  
 Mortenson Co. (Colo.)  
 James Pavone  
 Allan Persons  
 Steve Quakenbush  
 Search Inc. (Ky.)  
 Cindy & Graham Shaw  
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
 Milly & Daniel Traina

## Summit Club (\$12,000 and up)

AustriAlpin  
 Hope Lutheran Church (N.Y.)

Climbing For Christ, a 501(c)3 non-profit based in Rochester, N.Y. USA received US\$241,386.23 in contributions in 2009. That money was used to fund mission work in China, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Malawi, Nepal, the Philippines, Tanzania, and the United States, and to help grow the ministry to more than 1,100 members in 46 countries by the end of the year.

**No salaries were drawn from Climbing For Christ support. All of the money given was applied to the mission of serving the spiritual and physical needs of those in mountainous areas of the world. It is sending us — and with us, the Good News of Jesus Christ — where others cannot or will not go.**

## What can I do?

Pray for continued provision of needed funding and, if you can, help us financially. You can apply gifts toward sending missionaries to the ends of the earth or support the work being done in remote mountainous areas.

There are five suggested levels of giving:

- Base Camp (a gift of any amount)
- High Camp (\$100 or more per month)
- Summit Club (\$1,000 per month or more than \$12,000 annual gift)

The money you give can go a long way toward furthering the kingdom of heaven. Please send your donation to Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, N.Y. 14616-0290.



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

# Calling God's servants to give

By Steve Quakenbush

Jesus calls us to His service, to be His hands and feet. Not because He needs us to do His bidding, but because He calls us. We are all called.

We are called to serve God locally, reaching out to a neighbor in need or a lonely widow. We might be called to serve in a soup kitchen or through a local pregnancy center. We serve in our church and we reach out to those in need. God puts this need in each of us because He has made us to be in fellowship with Him and to serve Him. He calls us through our gifts to serve others in Christ Jesus.

Some are called to serve globally. Such is the case with Climbing For Christ. Climbing For Christ serves the poorest of the poor in remote regions of the world where others may not or will not go. As members of Climbing For Christ, we are willing to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet heard His name. We know that when Christ returns, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He alone is Lord.

Our Great Savior wishes that all should be saved, even those who others may have forgotten. All are worthy to receive the saving grace of Christ Jesus. Climbing For Christ is involved in areas of the world that often do not welcome or are even hostile to Christian believers. Climbing For Christ members are willing to risk their very lives, if need be, so that even the least of these might hear and be saved.

My journey with Climbing For Christ began several years ago, not by chance or luck, but by providence. I was called to serve, using my medical skills in Haiti. These days, as the media is focused on the accessible places in Haiti, Climbing For Christ continues to serve in remote areas where there isn't any running water, electricity or toilets and where people sleep in the dirt.

We serve where hunger is often a daily way of life, where mud pies are sometimes made to fill empty stomachs. We serve where disease and death are always present or just

around the corner. We serve where few people live to be 50 and the average age is 20. We serve not as members of any specific denomination, but as brothers and sisters of the one true God, through Jesus Christ. When we are in Haiti, we sleep on the ground. We come to be servants and not to be served. We are not Americans or Haitians; we are Christians whose country has no boundaries.

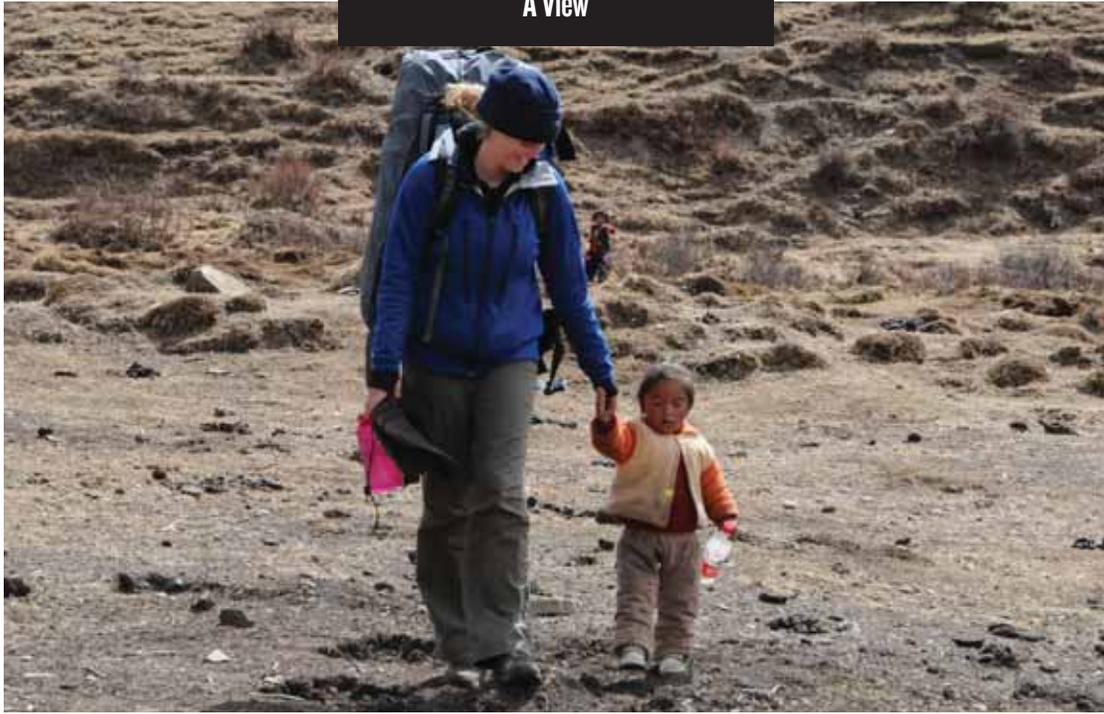
There are many worthy organizations doing the work of our Lord. As Christians, we are called to be honest and generous and walk humbly with our God. There are many organizations that prey on the goodness of heart for their own worth or propagation. My home church, First United Methodist of Cañon City, Colo., has partnered with Climbing For Christ. We are currently supporting the work of building a church/school on the Dominican-Haitian border. We have chosen to serve the poorest of the poor, through Climbing For Christ, because of its absolute integrity. One hundred percent of your gifts go directly to the service of the poor. Gary Fallesen, the president of Climbing For Christ, states it best: "To God alone be the glory."

**Pray, give, go**

**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!**

The recent earthquakes in Haiti caused many to rush into the cities. The people in the mountains have still been left behind. We will continue to focus on those whom others have seemed to forget. Please consider having your church, your family or your organization join us in the struggle. Come join us in being the hands and feet of Jesus as we care for the very least of these throughout the world. Join my local church and others that are partnering with Climbing For Christ to help end suffering in the name of Jesus. To God alone be all the glory. †

**Steve Quakenbush, a physician assistant from Cañon City, Colo., has been a member of Climbing For Christ since December 2008, when he went on the first of his three missions to Haiti. First United Methodist Church is providing support to build the church at Jimani, a Dominican border town with a large Haitian community where our missionary Miguel Rubén Guante lives. This is the fourth church being built by God through Climbing For Christ.**



Brandy Everts walks with a Tibetan child during a visit this year.

# Nothing 'short-term' about mission work

By Gary Fallesen

"Christians can't expect to come once and have the people accept Christ," one of our missionaries was saying. "They must come again and again."

In some circles, the term "short-term missionary" is almost a four-letter word. Full-time (or long-term) missionaries sometimes view the short-term visitor as an interloper, as an intruder, as a nuisance.

A long-termer hosts a short-term team and then breathes a sigh of relief when they leave. "Phew," they exclaim, "I'm glad that's over. Now I can get back to work."

They feel as if it's a bad-babysitting experience.

Climbing For Christ sent members on 30 Evangelic Expeditions between April 2005 and May 2010. These would be considered short-term missions.

But there is **nothing** short-term about our mission work. We are in it for the long haul.

In his story on Chinese cults (on pages 9 and 11), former long-term missionary Caleb Payne writes that one of the things he likes about Climbing For Christ is "we go back to the same places — over and over again."

Haiti. China. Tanzania. The Philippines. Alaska. Nepal. Indonesia. Again and again.

Continued on page 13



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