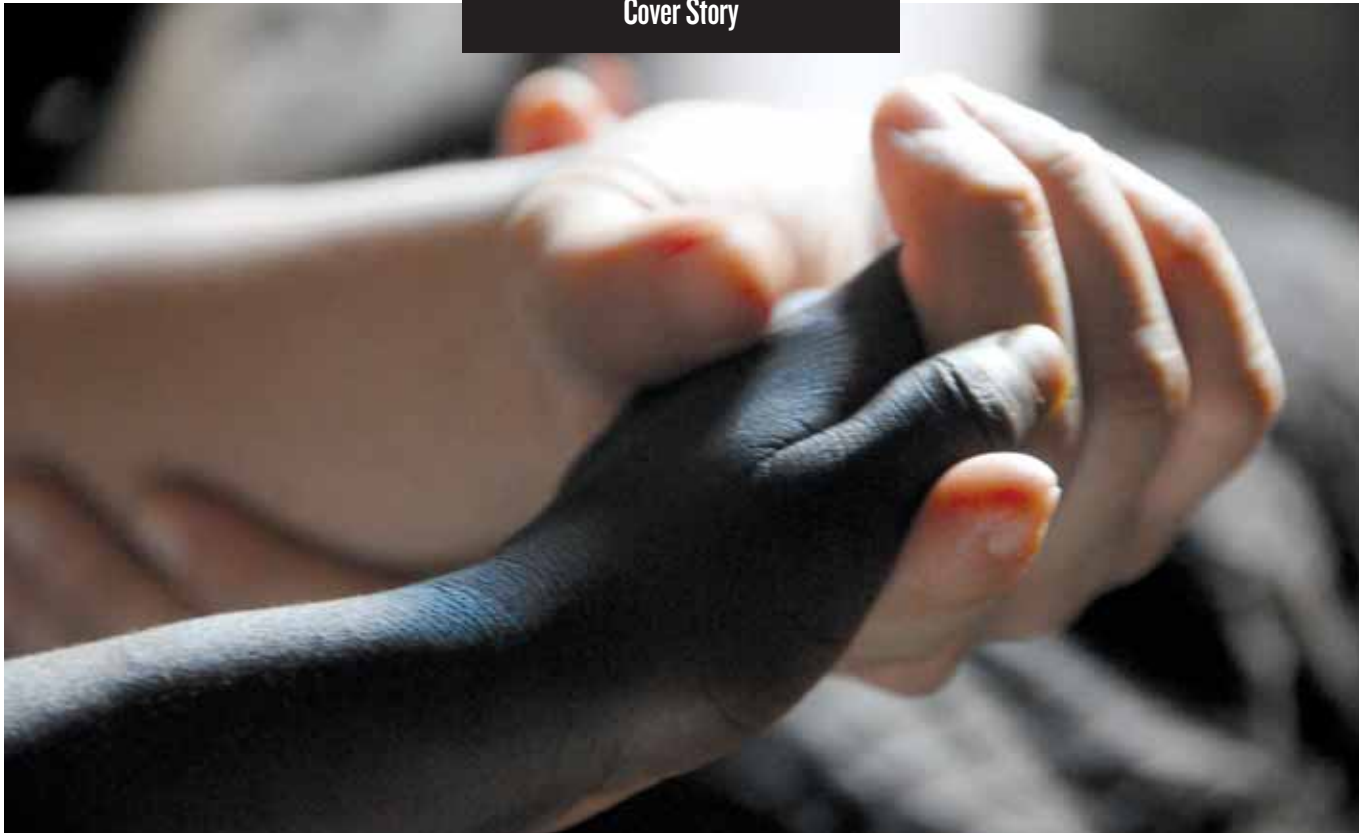


The Climbing Way

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

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Cover Story



Climbing For Christ member Shelly Torres of Chicago, IL, USA, holding hands with an orphaned child during a worship service in Kambona, Malawi during Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011 in March.

Healing us from heaven

"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." – 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

There is a song called "Hear Us From Heaven" that serves as an anthem for our present generation, a plea from our lips to our heavenly Father. The first verse reads: "Lord, hear our cry. Come heal our land. Breathe life into these dry and thirsty souls. Lord, hear our prayer. Forgive our sin, and as we call on Your name, would You make this a place for Your glory to dwell."

That is our cry, our prayer ... and our praise. God heard the prayers of His people in Nepal, Haiti, and Malawi. He made a place for His glory to dwell. Read the stories of healing inside:

NEPAL 5

MALAWI 7

HAITI 11

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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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Elaine and Gary Fallesen in front of Mawenzi at 14,200 feet on Mount Kilimanjaro during March mission trip to Africa. (Photo by Michael Heitland)

Letter from the Editors

Neighbors in a global village

We were in college when we first heard the term “global village,” a communication theory espoused by the late Marshall McLuhan. He was 30 years ahead of his time. A prophet of the coming Internet age.

The Canadian McLuhan knew what visionary American comedian Steven Wright would later sum up so succinctly when he said: “It’s a small world, but I wouldn’t want to have to paint it.”

We have jokingly paraphrased Wright’s masterful line: “It’s a small world, but I wouldn’t want to hike it.”

The world grows smaller every day. Especially our world.

When Carmen Jesilus, the mother of one of the leaders of the *Monte Pou Kris* (Climbing For Christ) church at Thoman, was brought to us on Mission: Haiti in February with a hideous tumor growing out of her mouth, we needed to do something. This required the help of the C4C community.

We sent an E-Alert announcing that a rescue operation was underway. We called it “Rescuing Carmen.” Prayers and funds were needed.

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right.”

– James 2:8 (NIV)

Matt Caswell was one member who responded. He’s from Bristol, England.

“Brought Carmen and C4C to the attention of my Bible Study group last night,” he wrote in an e-mail, which we read at the home office in Rochester, N.Y. USA. “We engaged and prayed for C4C, the work; but especially Carmen.

“Thank you for the updates, this is truly demonstrating the power and

the interest that God has in each of our lives. It’s a powerful story/development that further encourages the Bible Study group — and me personally.”

People prayed for and gave to rescue Carmen. You can read the results in “Rescued Carmen: ‘I was finished’” on page 11.

We are sent to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). You can reach your destination with a couple of days of flying, a couple of days of driving (albeit on roads that aren’t

really roads), and maybe a couple of days of trekking or climbing.

So why don’t more people go? Why don’t more people leave wherever they are to glorify God and to serve those in need — both spiritually and physically?

Part of it’s a fear of that whole Matthew 14:28 thing (getting out of the boat). Part of it’s the lies of the evil one, who keeps us in our comfort zone — serving no one. Part of it’s just not knowing who is in need of our help.

Pastor Kirk Dueker from our home church, Hope Lutheran, shared a story from Jim Wallis’ book, *Faith Works*. In the story, a friend of Wallis — a lawyer with a big salary and a resume of big contract negotiations — is serving as a volunteer at a soup kitchen. There, he puts a face on the label “street person,” and his life is forever changed.

“That’s what happens when you get involved,” Pastor Kirk said. “You learn somebody’s name. And when you learn somebody’s name, you’re never quite the same. Why is it that one name, one face can be so powerful? Because that’s the face of somebody made in the image of God. Because that name is the name of somebody that Jesus died for.

“Because Jesus said, in some way we don’t fully understand, that when you extend a hand to someone, no matter how ragged they may look to you, ‘whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Me’ (Matthew 25:40)”

That person’s name could be Carmen, a mother and grandmother in Haiti.

Or that person’s name could be Sumitra, the girl God used the church at Dapcha, Nepal to reach (see “Healed and freed from suffering” on page 5). Or it could be Gift, the boy God brought a smile to through our Project 1:27 in Malawi, Africa (see “The Gift of a smile” on page 7).

It could be any of our neighbors. The ones next door, whether “next door” means on the street where you live or on the other side of this global village that really is a small world after all. †

— Elaine and Gary Fallesen

Support your local missionary

We might be quick to sponsor a child or to respond to an appeal for a specific need. But oftentimes, the person who serves Climbing For Christ as the Lord's representative is left wanting.

Here's a look at three brothers behind the missions of C4C: Pastor Tej Rokka in Nepal, Duncan Nsomba in Malawi, and Miguel Rubén Guante in Haiti. We support each of these men, paying them US\$500 per month. Would you join us in praying for them and consider helping them be the hands and feet of Jesus?

MEET PASTOR TEJ ROKKA (NEPAL)

I was born and brought up in a Hindu family. In my early childhood, I grew up in the mountains in a remote part of Nepal near Mount Everest. Later we migrated to Terai. My mother passed away due to a demonic attack. Then I was put in an orphanage for my education. That orphanage was run by



Pastor Tej Rokka with his family — wife Bidhya and 9-year-old son Milan — in Kathmandu.

a Christian. One day I was invited to attend Sunday School and I was asked to memorize John 3:16. This verse touched my heart. I later accepted the Lord as my personal Savior. Then I began to grow in the Lord. When I finished my school, I came to Kathmandu for further study. I attended Bible training and then, in 1994, I started getting involved in the ministry. God gave me an opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Theology degree at a college in India. I became a pastor and started a new church in 1997. That little house church now has about 400 members and is one of 25 churches in our SARA (Savior Alone Reaches Asians) ministry. I am also involved in an orphanage and training ministry. I am thankful to God, who called me to serve Him and His people.

MEET DUNCAN NSOMBA (MALAWI)

I am a Malawian by nationality, aged 35. I am married to my wonderful wife Maggie and we have four children. I was saved in 1999 during a crusade held by American evangelist Rev. Ernest Angley in Blantyre and was called to pastoral ministry in 2000. I am pastoring the Climbing For Christ church here in

Malawi. We have four churches: three in Malawi and one in Mozambique. My main gifting is in the area of teaching. I also work as the orphans' caretaker. I love to stay with the orphans.



Duncan Nsomba in front of the Far & Wide Children's Home.

It is a great privilege to work with C4C here in our country through Project 1:27 Malawi and the C4C church affiliation. It is a God-sent ministry that is touching many souls in these last days and is fulfilling the Great Commission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a lost and hurting world. It was a divine connection to know Climbing For Christ a few years ago, and I thank God how He is accomplishing many things here. May the Lord God richly bless the Climbing For Christ ministry.

MEET MIGUEL RUBÉN GUANTE (HAITI)

I think there are many other people who could do this work better than me. But in His love, in His goodness and in His compassion, He preferred to use



Miguel Rubén Guante sharing the Word to the church at Malasi during Mission: Haiti 2011 in February.

me. I think that is my great victory.

God said to Joshua: do not go away from My Word (Joshua 1:5-9). The knowledge of God's Word gave

me strength in a bad time when my business failed. Always I knew we are where God wants us. He puts us in the place that is good for His glory, not for our own satisfaction.

I feel well as God's hands and feet.✝

Please consider supporting these missionaries with a monthly pledge of any amount or through a one-time contribution. You can use the enclosed envelope to send your financial gift to His ministry of Climbing For Christ at P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA. Please note who or what this gift is for. You can also give online at <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1431>.



Healed and freed from suffering

“And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”

– **Mark 5:24-26** (NIV)

To a Hindu family that had tried everything — and lost everything — in an effort to heal a sick daughter, the church of Christ offered hope.

Gopal Pariyar carried his paralyzed daughter to the young church at Dapcha on Christmas Day in 2007. “He was so worried,” Gopal said through a translator, who explained that the father had lost all his property buying medication for the teen and “even visited two witch doctors” trying to find a cure for what had crippled Sumitra.

“He heard that if you go to church that Jesus would heal, so on one Saturday he took her to the church,” our translator said. “When the people prayed, the believers prayed, he realized, ‘I haven’t yet found the real God.’”

He and other members of his family, including Sumitra, met Jesus Christ that day. He was waiting for them in a rented one-room space in a Central

Sumitra Pariyar, left in photo, with C4C member Alyssa Kaelin outside the Pariyar’s home in Dapcha, Nepal.

Nepal village where Hinduism and Buddhism grip the people. More than 80 percent of Nepal is Hindu and another 11 percent is Buddhist.

Now Sumitra can walk to church. Soon she will step into a real church space. God is using Climbing For Christ to build the church in Dapcha: both the physical church — a house of worship — and the growing body of Christian believers.

The importance of a physical church is evident in the story of Sumitra’s family.

Sumitra was 7 when she was “struck by a fever.” It led to paralysis. Nine years later, after much struggle, searching and pain, she was healed by God.

“He was a bit upset in his heart and he thought, ‘What if I had God earlier? My daughter would not be sick like this,’” our translator said as Gopal shared this story.

“I am sorry,” Sumitra told us through our translator. “‘What if I have got Jesus earlier before being paralyzed?’ So she is so sorry for that — that she did not hear about Jesus before her sickness,” our translator said.

This is not Sumitra’s fault, nor the fault of anyone in her family. It is our responsibility to GO and share the Gospel of Christ with the Sumitras of the world. The church in Dapcha, a daughter church of the SARA (Savior Alone Reaches Asians) Church on the Rock in Kathmandu, is doing its part. Church leaders took our

Continued on page 6

NEPAL, from page 5

Mission: Nepal 2011 team out daily to deliver tracks and the Good News of Jesus to the many living in the village.

The church started in 2006, after a local man (Kristshna Lama) accepted Christ in Kathmandu and spent six months in discipleship training with Pastor Tej Rokka's SARA ministry. Kristshna returned to Dapcha and started a house church. Initially, there were six believers.

Climbing For Christ was taken to Dapcha in May 2009. Kyle Austin, a C4C member from Houghton, N.Y., who had served for two years in Nepal and has participated in all three of Climbing For Christ's short-term trips there, met the Pariyar family.

He heard the story of Sumitra's recovery from paralysis. But Sumitra still suffered from seizures and bleeding. Kyle and the Dapcha church leaders, including Sumitra's brother Prajwal, prayed over her. Shortly thereafter, the bleeding stopped and the seizures lessened.

"She definitely had something spiritual going on," Kyle said. "It's incredible to see her now. Keep praying for Sumitra and thank God for the miracle He's already worked in that family."

Having witnessed the power of the local church in this community, God moved this ministry to help build the growing body of believers in Dapcha a real home. Money was raised in the United States in October 2009 to purchase land and additional funds were provided in October 2010 to begin construction.

The Mission: Nepal 2011 team, which also consisted of Alyssa Kaelin of Laramie, Wyo. and C4C president Gary Fallesen of Hilton, N.Y., visited in January. Time was spent on the site and in teaching and prayer with church members.

"I liked spending time with the church leaders and attempting to grasp their lives as Christians in a rural village with a predominately Buddhist stronghold around it," said Alyssa, who also spent five months in Nepal as a volunteer teacher. "It was a blessing to be served by them (the Dapcha leaders) and to see their zealous vigor for the church, especially at such a young age."

Prajwal Pariyar, 16, Gopel Nepali, 18, and Kristshna, 36, are the leaders. A pastor, Ratna Lama, graduated in February from a three-year Bible college in India and answered the call to serve at the church at Dapcha. This church has a bright future as a beacon of hope in this mountainous region.

Mission: Nepal

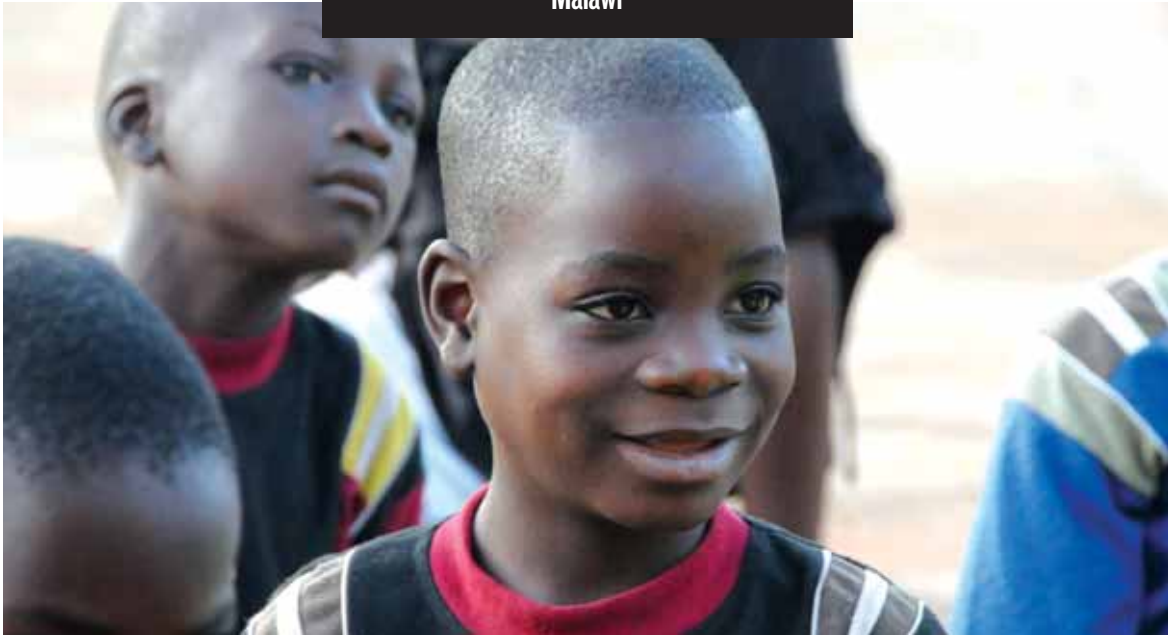


Langtang National Park. (Photo by Alyssa Kaelin)

While on Mission: Nepal 2011, God revealed a plan for our work in this former Hindu kingdom. It includes:

- Funding the completion of the church at Dapcha in the Kavrepalanchok District in Central Nepal. This goal was accomplished in March. Our thanks to God for those individuals who provided more than US\$12,000 and to the many who volunteered to work the C4C food booth at the Hilton (NY, USA) Applefest in October 2009 and 2010, when nearly US\$9,150 was raised.
- Supporting SARA — founded by Nepali pastor and C4C member Tej Rokka — in prayer and financial giving. Such support would aid future pastors in the Central Nepal villages of Dapcha and Pakdol. Each pastor needs US\$100 per month.
- Initiating Project 1:27 Nepal to assist SARA's Kathmandu-based orphanage. Project 1:27 is based on James 1:27 — "look after orphans and widows in distress." There are 26 orphans cared for by SARA and a need of US\$50 per child per month.
- Organizing Mission: Nepal 2012 in January with medical assistance and church-leader training in Dapcha and Pakdol before trekking into Langtang National Park.
- Building a church at Pakdol in the Sindhuli District in Central Nepal at a cost of about US\$3,000.
- Possibly building a church at Korchabang in the Rolpa District in Nepal's Mid-Western Region in partnership with C4C member Megh Gurung's Kathmandu-based church at a cost of about US\$1,000 for land and US\$3,500 for the building.

E-mail info@ClimbingForChrist.org with inquiries. Send donations to Climbing For Christ, c/o Mission: Nepal, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA.



Gift smiles for the first time in his two years at Far & Wide Children's Home in Kambona, Malawi. In photo below, he refuses to introduce himself to visitors.

The Gift of a smile

"Introduction: My name is Junio. I am 10 years old. My favorite color is blue. I want to be a footballer when I grow up."

"Introduction: My name is Dorphy. I am 8 years old. My favorite color is green. I want to be a teacher when I grow up."

Each of the orphans in the Climbing For Christ-sponsored Far & Wide Children's Home in dusty and dry Kambona, Malawi took a turn introducing themselves. Until it came time for Mphatso Chipwere to speak. Then the little boy hid his face.

The rest of the school class giggled. Their teacher, Damson Samson, urged the child he has re-named "Gift" to share with us.

Nothing.

The next day, as the children grew even more comfortable around our visiting mission team, we spied Gift in the back of the room. We asked Damson if he would come forward. Damson called on him and he slowly worked his way through the 60 or so active bodies jammed into the steamy classroom.

Gift stood in front of us, refusing to make eye contact. We introduced ourselves gently and asked, "What is your name?" He did not speak. Damson repeated our question, encouraging him to introduce himself. Again, nothing.

"He has had a very hard life," Damson said, and he proceeded to tell us how Mphatso's mother had died and his father was killed while stealing from someone. How Mphatso went to live with an aunt, who

mistreated him. She would allow her own children to eat and would not feed him. Then, if there were scraps left, he might be given something to eat. Two years ago, when he was 4, Mphatso was sent to Far & Wide Children's Home.

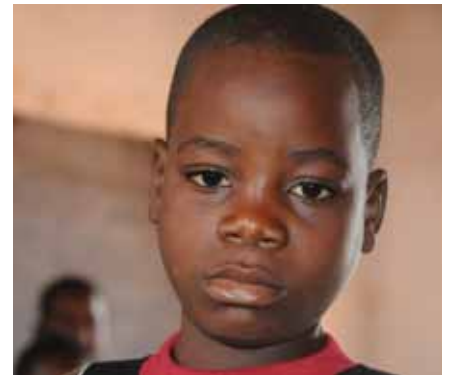
His story is not uncommon among the orphans in our Project 1:27 (a sponsorship program based on the instruction found in James 1:27 to look after orphans in distress).

"They have had to fight for everything," explained Damson, a young man Climbing For Christ is sending to Bible college in the Malawi capital of Lilongwe. Damson is the teacher — the shining light in the lives of these orphans — who has renamed many of the children. He took their tribal names, some of which were inappropriate, he thought, and gave them more fitting Christian names.

"They fight for food, fight for water. They come here, they do the same. That is not the right life. The life here is about sharing."

Suddenly, under the din of schoolchildren behind him, the child renamed Gift spoke. Softly. Barely audible. He whispered his name and his age. He is called Gift. He is 6 years old.

He stopped short of telling us his favorite color and





**“I will not leave you
as orphans; I will
come to you.”
– John 14:18**

Our heavenly Father does not ignore those who have been orphaned. He cares for them. He does so by sending us to shower His love on them.

Climbing For Christ is blessed to be a blessing to the orphans at Searchlight Ministry in Malawi and at SARA (Savior Alone Reaches Asians) Church on the Rock in Nepal. Both of these orphanages are sponsored by Climbing For Christ through Project 1:27 (turn to page 11 to learn more).

A child, above, not yet able to come to the orphanage in Malawi because of a lack of support. Below, Dafter and Charles, two of our Project 1:27 children, enjoying a moment outside school. Right, C4C member Kyle Austin of Houghton, N.Y. USA, distributes candy to children at the orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal in January.



“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

– Matthew 19:14



A child is held by Elaine Fallesen of Hilton, N.Y. USA, during worship in Kambona, Malawi in March. (Photo by Randy McGarvey)



Jacquiline, above, reacts to the gift of a stuffed Snoopy, while Esnart, below, watches younger children play with guests from the States at their orphanage in Kambona, Malawi. Jacquiline and Esnart are both sponsored by Project I:27.

Manisha, an 8-year-old, above, and 5-year-old Chiring, below, are two of the 15 orphans waiting to be sponsored at the SARA orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Project 1:27

You can help by praying for the orphans of Malawi and by sending a financial gift to Project 1:27. You can sponsor a child for as little as US\$30 to \$50 a month. Once the original 15 orphans are sponsored, we will add another orphan with each new sponsor. There are another 25 waiting.

Send your gift to: **CLIMBING FOR CHRIST, c/o Project 1:27 Malawi, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA. Or by giving via PayPal at <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1431>**

what he wants to be when he grows up. Perhaps because he didn't know at that point.

We didn't push it. One step at a time.

The following day, our mission team assembled the sponsored children outside the little brick bunkhouses where they live. We were delivering gifts: nylon backpacks full of goodies — such as socks, a stuffed Snoopy, and toys — along with a fleece blanket and a pair of sandals. They also received a card, which Damson read to them and they, in turn, read back to us in English. The card told them how Jesus loves the little children.

As the gifts were distributed a remarkable thing occurred: Gift smiled.

"That was the first time I've seen him smile," Damson said.

Gift had been at Far & Wide for two years and Damson had never seen him smile. For the next hour, Gift continued to smile. He was beaming. In three days, he had gone from a child who hid his face to a boy who could not hide his happiness.

A lot can happen in three days. Hearts can be broken. And sometimes a heart can be healed.

In the trip evaluations, members of our mission team were asked a series of questions, including the highlights of the trip. Listed among the precious moments on one person's evaluation was the following: "Gift opening up."

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15) †



Korchabang worship. (Photo by Megh Gurung)

The Pariyars' testimony speaks volumes:

"When he was a Hindi he used to have many losses in his animals, in his family," Gopal Pariyar said through our translator. "Since being a Christian he has never experienced such a loss. So he was so blessed to know Jesus and he is quite happy. He has in his heart that whatever comes, 'I will never forsake Jesus in all circumstances.' He has also decided that 'I have to tell others.'"

He and his daughter have a miracle to share. Sumitra, once crippled and mute, smiles with a joy that is not of this world.

Despite living in a land where the name of Jesus is not widely known, our translator relayed: "She had somewhere in her heart believed that 'I would be healed' after she received Jesus."

Her faith made her well. As Jesus told the bleeding woman in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke: "Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." †

To view a video of this Dapcha testimony visit <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2977>



Haiti

Rescued Carmen: 'I was finished'



Carmen outside her house in Maingrette, Haiti.
(Photos by Miguel Rubén Guante)

Carmen Jesilus showed Haitian missionary Miguel Rubén Guante her grave, a crypt built for her in Maingrette.

"Why did they build it?" Miguel asked.



Carmen waiting for surgery at the Hospital Universitario in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

"It was for me," Carmen said.

"(For) when you died?"

"Yes," Carmen answered, laughing. "Because I was finished. I was finished, yes."

Carmen's days seemed numbered. The growth that had been small and inside of her mouth for two years suddenly emerged outside her mouth in November 2010, and it looked bigger every day. It filled her mouth until there was no way for her to eat.

In February, with this hideous thing overwhelming her, Carmen's tongue could barely be seen in the right corner of her mouth. The tumor eclipsed her face like some sort of weird science-fiction alien.

Carmen wanted to die.

"At that time, I called on God Himself to come take me," she recalled. "He didn't want to take His disciple.

"But I was finished. Every day I was calling on God."

God had other plans for Carmen. He sent Climbing For Christ to rescue her.

On Feb. 2, our short-term mission team, which included Dr. Steve Quakenbush of Cañon City, Colo., stopped in Thoman to see Carmen. Her son, Milus, a Thoman church leader and the supervisor of the *Monte Pou Kris* (Climbing

For Christ) school teachers, had brought her down from the mountain village of Maingrette to his home in the more accessible Thoman.

From the Mission: Haiti 2011 Dispatches on our Web site (www.ClimbingForChrist.org):

"Steve said he'd never seen anything like it. We immediately began making plans to get her to a hospital in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) where, prayerfully, it can be removed. Please lift this in prayer to our Great Physician."

Arrangements were finalized on Feb. 16 for Miguel to take Carmen to a hospital in Santo Domingo. Finally, after days in which the border was closed because of violence, Miguel was able to get Carmen into the Dominican Republic and to a hospital in Santo Domingo on Feb. 23.

After days of care, examinations and tests, Carmen underwent surgery on March 7. The tumor, which had grown larger than a grapefruit, was removed.

"Our hope now is waiting to see if God want to change the bad cancer for good as He did with Naaman's leprosy in 2 Kings 5:13-14," Miguel said on March 8. "I hope so and I would like to get everyone to believe that. The power of God is unlimited."



Carmen undergoing surgery in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

God is in the rescue business, and He'd used Climbing For Christ to be His hands and feet for other medical emergencies.

Continued on page 12



HAITI, from page 11

In August 2007, a teenage boy named Gilbert Lindor was found in his home in the remote mountain village of Gentilhomme by Miguel. It had been 27 days since the youngster had fallen and suffered a compound leg fracture. Miguel followed his nose to locate Gilbert. Gangrene had set in; Gilbert's leg smelled of rotting flesh. Gilbert's father had already dug a grave for his son, who was scant days from exiting this world in unimagined agony.

In December 2008, a wife and mother named Donya Jean Riska — the only survivor of a lightning strike that killed five others in September 2008 — was discovered by our short-term mission team in the mountains near Malasi. She'd spent three months with debilitating burns on her left arm, legs and feet. Like Gilbert before her and Carmen after her, Donya was evacuated by Climbing For Christ. A rescue fund was established to pay for medical expenses. The Great Physician interceded and healed another one of his Haitian children.

Gentilhomme, Malasi, Thoman. These are the three villages where God has provided Climbing For Christ with opportunities to serve — building churches, opening schools, teaching and training pastors and church leaders, providing medical assistance, and more.

"Once again, we may say our presence in Haiti is not an accident — it is God's purpose," Miguel said.

We act as the Good Samaritan responded in Luke 10. We love our neighbors, even if they live at the ends of the earth rather than next door to most of our homes. We do as Jesus would have us do. If the Samaritan, who attended to the robbery victim after others passed him by, can have mercy then we can also "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37).



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Cañon City, Colorado 81212

719-275-0681

Sunday Worship: 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Education: 9:45 a.m.

Helping Haiti

"Rescuing Carmen" was an appeal, much like "Saving Gilbert" in 2007 and "Donya Relief" in 2009, which Climbing For Christ members and friends responded to by praying and giving financially. God provided US\$2,400 for Carmen after sending US\$3,000 for Gilbert and more than US\$2,800 for Donya.

The work in the mountains of Haiti is ongoing, however. If you can support Mission: Haiti send your financial gift to Climbing For Christ, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290 USA.

When the tumor in Carmen's mouth grew to epic proportions, she called it "a child."

"It was here that it sat," she said, pointing to her cheek. "A child."

She took the "child" to a hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, "but they couldn't help me," Carmen recalled. She despaired.

Her family agreed with her. She was finished. They built a "vault" —or crypt — for her.

"Why did they build this little house?" Miguel asked.

"It was for the burial," Carmen answered.

The construction was premature. "Where, O death, is your victory?" the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:55. "Where, O death, is your sting?"

Carmen lives — just as Gilbert and Donya did before her — to the glory of God.

She returned to her village in mid-March, not only to go home and be able to eat again, but to tell her neighbors about the miracle that the Lord has done in her life.

Carmen is not yet finished. †



The crypt that was built and ready for Carmen before God snatched her from the clutches of death. Carmen's son, Milus, is standing to the right. (Photo by Miguel Rubén Guante)



Why I support C4C ... and why you should, too

Sponsor a climber, a project, a salvation

By Elaine Fallesen

Elaine Fallesen with some of the orphans at the Climbing For Christ-sponsored Far & Wide Children's Home in Kambona, Malawi.

It was Africa hot out and we were two hours into an eight-hour drive that was transporting us away from a remote orphanage and school in the tiny, mountains-beyond-mountains country of Malawi, back to the airport and our trip home.

As we wound through the surreal landscape that still mesmerized me, my reflections turned from the 15 orphans we'd served and loved on for several days, to faces of other people — 30 in all — half a world away, who had made it possible for me to be here on this 17-day Climbing For Christ journey. Months earlier they'd stepped forward to say yes, they believed that what I

wanted to do was God-pleasing. And so they became my enablers, my Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011 sponsors.

With their support, I'd made my fundraising goal. I joined C4C's team and together we carried the Good News to the ends of the earth, as Act 1:8 commands us. In this case, the ends were Tanzania and Malawi, Africa.

We drove past fields of corn, tea plantations, crowded markets and the never-ending march of Africans who walk, run and pedal produce-laden cycles precariously close to the edge of the road. My mind returned to the orphans we'd spent the past several days with at the Far & Wide Children's Home in the southern reaches of Malawi. I'd first seen their smiles a year earlier, when their photos were posted on the C4C Web site and Project 1:27 was born in response to another heavenly command — to look after orphans. I knew right then that I wanted to meet them someday and love them and share Jesus with them. But this dream would require a mega dose of financial help to come true.

PRAY, GIVE, GO

Our desire is to see each of our nearly 1,400 members actively involved in Climbing For Christ by praying, giving and/or going. You can use the enclosed envelope to send your financial gift to His ministry. You can also give online at <http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1431>. Your contribution will be used to spread the Word to places where other missionaries cannot or will not go. Maybe you'll be one of those sent to deliver this Good News. Pray about it, and for the work He is doing through us. To God alone be the glory!

So I wrote down the desires of my heart and the goals for the mission, and sent out a letter with C4C's "Sponsor a Climber" form included. I squelched my uneasiness about asking for money, and instead focused on why I was inviting others to help me with their prayers and financial support. And when I did that, I became less and God became more. In fact, He filled the whole picture. This mission wasn't about me. It was about obeying God, furthering His Kingdom and giving all glory to Him.

That Truth spurred me on to be bold in asking. I asked family, relatives, friends from college days and former work colleagues, people from my church and people from my childhood. I asked, knowing that if God wanted me to go, He would provide.

And He did, in an amazing outpouring of response from so many people I love. From my vantage point it was both exciting and humbling at once, watching how day by day the donations faithfully came in and the total steadily added up till my cup ran over.

This same miracle of provision has happened over and over for Climbing For Christ teams that have gone to other ends of the earth — China, Haiti, Nepal, Turkey, Nigeria. Read on and be bowled over by the miracle stories of my Africa teammates Shelly Torres and Mike Heitland.

Funny thing is, no matter how long the ride over rocky roads and how high the climb takes our missionaries, there are always people at that end of the earth. And they're just waiting to hear about their Savior for the first time.

That's why my sponsors support Climbing For Christ. I thank and praise the Lord for putting them in my life. I know we'll all celebrate together in heaven one day with all who were saved. And nothing in this world can beat that.

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Shelly Torres playing with children at the orphanage in Kambona, Malawi.



Mike Heitland teaching at evangelism training with guides and porters from the Kilimanjaro Chapter at Pastor Winford Mosh's (right) church in Marangu, Tanzania.

Praying BIG

By Shelly Torres

The incredible thing about when God is in something is that He desires to bring glory to His Name.

When I read what Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011 entailed — being coupled with Project 1:27 in Malawi, Africa — I knew this would be a blessed faith journey. To that end, I prayed for the resources, knowing it was His desire to reach the people on Kilimanjaro and to love on the fatherless (and Fatherless).

Money began to come in for my trip and I began to wonder if I was praying too small. Here God was bringing in money for me, but the orphans in Malawi were the ones in need. That's when I began asking for an overflow of resources for the orphanage.

"We have not because we ask not," the Bible says, and usually we pray small. So I prayed for this absurd amount. Why not? He loves these children more than I could fathom.

It was a week before we were to leave for the trip and I had only then received all my personal support. Nothing yet for the children.

I prayed: "Lord, there's still time. I trust Your perfect will."

I was at a prayer meeting and a lady gave me US\$150 on the spot. Then I got a phone call from a friend in another state saying, "Hey, is it too late to send money — specifically for the orphanage?" NO WAY! I didn't know how much she was sending, but I told her to overnight the check to me. When I opened it up, I about fell over — OVERWHELMED at God's provision.

When I met the Mission: Kilimanjaro team in Africa, I was able to give Climbing For Christ US\$2,500 for Project 1:27. This happened because people kept giving! Hallelujah!

Helping others give

By Michael Heitland

This portion of HIStory began when God opened my eyes to my failure to carry out the global aspect of the Great Commission. Through His leading I joined C4C's Mission: Kilimanjaro to Tanzania and Malawi.

Upon committing to the mission that was just a few short months ahead, I believe God put on my heart to bring more than just myself on this trip. I wanted to participate in the mission's goals, but I also wanted to do more than just pray and go. **I wanted to help others to give.**

In prayer, I asked that God would use me to raise support for C4C's Project 1:27 in Malawi. I set a goal of US\$6,500 and started sharing the story with everyone I met. I prayed, I asked, and God in His providence delivered.

Members of my church stepped forward and gave, then gave some more. People who have yet to know Christ stepped forward and gave.

I struggled, at first, in how to ask for help, but when you are asking for His work to be done, the job is so much easier! In the end, more than US\$5,000 was raised for Project 1:27.

I believe that God is sovereign and that He works all things according to the counsel of His will for His glory. This part of HIStory is no exception. God was faithful in using His children, including me, to carry out His mission for His glory!

I encourage all who read this to Pray, Give and Go. †

Elaine Fallesen, one of the founding members of Climbing For Christ, lives in Hilton, N.Y. USA. Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011 was her third Evangelic Expedition. She was blessed to be joined on this mission trip by C4C members Shelly Torres of Chicago, IL USA, and Michael Heitland of Fargo, N.D. USA.



A man with his polio-stricken daughter outside a C4C health clinic in Malasi, Haiti. The father brought the little girl hoping for a miracle. There was nothing that could be done humanly. We anointed the crippled child and prayed.

Going to Haiti opened my eyes to a physical and spiritual beauty I hadn't previously experienced, such as:

- The majesty of the mountains seemingly going on forever. *Déyé mon gen mon*, they say in a Haitian proverb, which means, "Beyond mountains there are mountains." And this is true.
- The splendor of the stars opening up before us each night.
- The genuineness and sincere faith of many of my brothers and sisters in Christ working hard for their families and for the kingdom of God.

However, along with those great experiences were several grave experiences. I witnessed an ugly side of Haiti, too, such as:

- The deforestation of those beautiful mountains
- Trash littering the landscape.
- A lack of basic sanitation, along with poor health and an almost non-existent health-care system.

I witnessed people whose insides were just as ugly, torn down, littered and unhealthy as their surroundings. Many have been polluted with the demonic and occult practices of voodoo (most statistics agree that between 50 and 75

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

– Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)

percent of Haitians practice voodoo). And many have been deceived into thinking that money can buy them peace and happiness.

Most put on a tough and brave front, but on the inside were hurting, hungry, and lost. Most needed the spiritual filling, healing and salvation of Jesus Christ.

So, overall, my trip was awesome and awful, beautiful yet ugly. I witnessed God's glorious light and saw this world's terrible darkness.

It can be difficult to return home after witnessing such heights of goodness and such depths of foulness. Nevertheless, we can find our hope and peace in God's faithfulness.

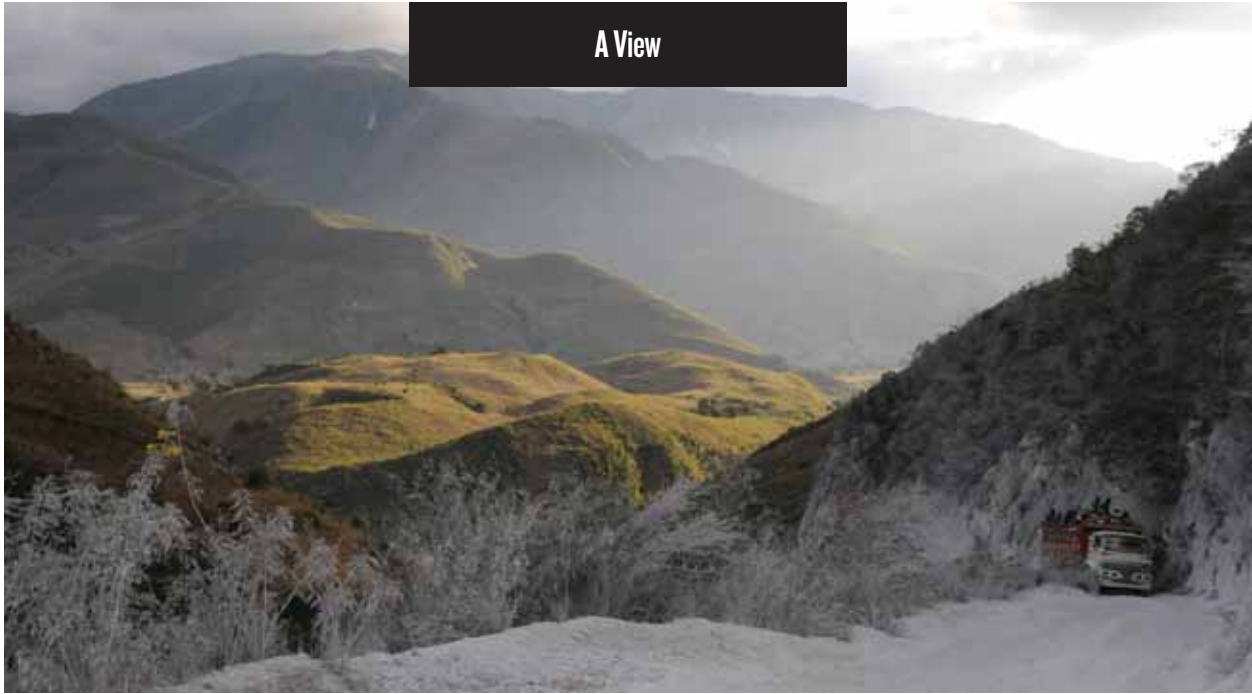
We know that God can take all of this ugliness — whether it be pollution or deforestation, false religions like voodoo in Haiti (or Islam in Turkey, Hinduism in Nepal, Buddhism in China) and the brokenness, pain, and frustration in someone's life — and make it all beautiful. After all, Jesus was sent for that very reason.

Isaiah 61 says that Jesus was sent to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to open the prisons of those who are bound; to comfort all who mourn, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!

And, just as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us into the world. He sends us to minister and serve, not in spite of that ugliness, but because of it; to minister to the broken, bound, and burdened.

I pray that God uses all of the ugliness that we see or hear about to compel us to work even harder for His kingdom and for His glory! †

Jordan Rowley works for Climbing For Christ as our spiritual coordinator. He can be reached at jrowley@ClimbingForChrist.org.



The stark beauty of mountains beyond mountains on the way to Gentilhomme during Mission: Haiti 2011.

How was your trip?

By Jordan Rowley

I was blessed with an opportunity to go to Haiti with Climbing For Christ in February. This was my second mission to Haiti and this time I had the great honor of going as a C4C staff member.

There were many truly wonderful parts of this mission, as there are with most. There were also many not-so-wonderful parts of this mission, as there are with most. Often, the trying situations and painful memories stick out just as much as the positive ones, forever etched into our very souls.

16 Upon my return home, I was asked by many of my dear brothers and sisters, along with family and friends, "How was your trip?"

I had forgotten the awkwardness of this question since my last return home from Haiti.

"How was your trip?" It is such a simple question — yet so difficult to answer.

Each time, I struggled with how to respond. Many times I would simply reply: "It was a blessing, thanks." Or, as if to dodge the question, I would say: "God is good, thanks." I felt that I didn't want to burden anyone.

However, truth be told, it was both awesome and awful.

I have found that a mission trip can be many contradicting and conflicting experiences at the same time.

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