

MISSION, NOT MOUNTAINS; PEOPLE,

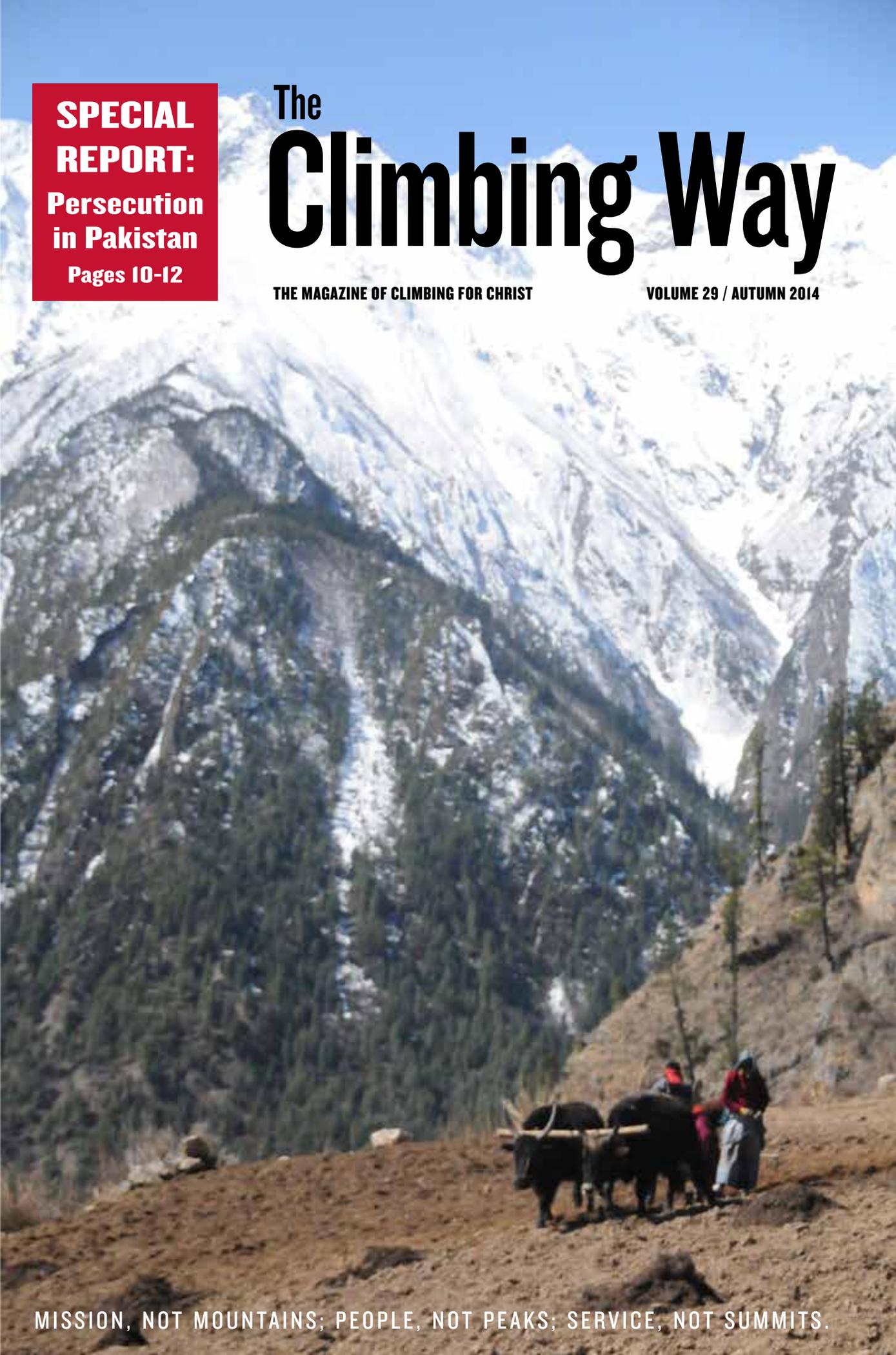
NOT PEAKS; SERVICE, NOT SUMMITS

**SPECIAL
REPORT:
Persecution
in Pakistan**
Pages 10-12

The Climbing Way

THE MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

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MISSION, NOT MOUNTAINS; PEOPLE, NOT PEAKS; SERVICE, NOT SUMMITS.

Seeing and sharing His vision

BY ELAINE AND GARY FALLESEN

The vision for the next 10 years of Climbing For Christ was cast this summer at our Staff Retreat in Chicago, IL and then at our Board of Directors Annual Meeting in Rochester, NY. It marked a refocusing on the mission that God gave us from the start:

The primary purpose of Climbing For Christ is to GO and deliver the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the mountains of the world, where other missionaries cannot or will not go.

“Without vision, good things will hinder you from achieving the best things,” Andy Stanley, a pastor and the son of a pastor (Charles Stanley), wrote in his excellent book, *Visioneering*.

Stanley lists “Don’t get distracted” as No. 15 on his list of 20 “Building Blocks” for seeing vision to fruition. In other words, good things will hinder you from the best things that God has in store for you.

There are needs everywhere in the world; Jesus told us the poor will always be with us (**Matthew 26:11**). We must discern which needs He is directing us to provide for. As it is written in **Ephesians 2:10**: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

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Elaine and Gary Fallesen after descending off Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey in June 2014. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

“The founder has a clear calling and vision,” authors Peter Greer and Chris Horst wrote in *Mission Drift*. “No one is more passionate about the cause. ‘The mission keeps founders awake at night, and it drives them during the day,’ said Marty Caldwell, senior vice president at Young Life.”

We have invited Board members to stay awake at night with us and to experience the driving passion of fulfilling God’s will for His ministry during the day. We invite you to join us as well.

“All God-ordained visions are shared visions,” Stanley wrote. “Nobody goes it alone. But God generally raises up a point person to paint a compelling verbal picture. A picture that captures the hearts and imaginations of those whom God is calling to embrace the task at hand.”

It is our job to paint this picture.

We’ll continue to share more about C4C’s vision – revisiting our purpose and calling as we ask the One Who sends us for more wisdom and greater discernment – in the weeks, months and years ahead. All the while we desire to lead committed Climbing For Christ members on a unique mission to reach the unreached in hard-to-reach places to the end of the earth.

The pages of this magazine show the way.

We have six mission reports from Evangelic Expeditions carried out between March and August 2014: Nepal (page 4), Peru (page 5), Malawi (page 6), the Philippines (page 7), Turkey (page 8), and Tanzania (page 9). We have filed these under the headings of one of several important tenets that guide Climbing For Christ:

- Mission, not mountains
- People, not peaks
- Service, not summits

We also have a special report on persecution in Pakistan. It is our hope that “Behind the enemy’s line” (page 10) will serve as a wake-up to anyone who is unaware of the battle Christians are waging in the dark corners of this fallen world. We also pray that many will be moved to understand our need to support front-line workers like our brothers and sisters in Save Pakistan.

There are reasons there are places where others cannot or will not go. And for those reasons God has prepared good works for us to walk in. It’s time to GO! †

Prayer is the work of missions

BY JORDAN ROWLEY

Do we really believe in the power of prayer? I mean *really* believe?

Do we *really* believe that we, God's sons and daughters, can storm hell's gates, approach heaven's throne and actually make a difference here on earth through prayer?

I'm convinced that many of us either don't *really* believe in the power of prayer or are simply too distracted by the cares and concerns of this world to take the time to pray.

Often, we sing songs about seeking the Father's heart or having His eyes or being God's hands and feet. But what does all that really mean? The Father's heart bleeds for missions and breaks for the lost. His eyes are on the downtrodden and poor of the world and His hands and feet rush toward them. So if we truly want to have God's heart, see with His eyes and make a difference, then we must start by faithfully and fervently praying for our lost world and for those who have raised their hand and said, "Here am I! Send me."

The Apostle Paul often wrote about the spiritual fight that goes on around us all the time. There truly is a war raging and the stakes are higher than any earthly battle. Our enemy, the devil, does not take lightly the work of world missions. He has a *literal* death grip on so many lives, villages, people groups and even nations – and he does not want to let them go.

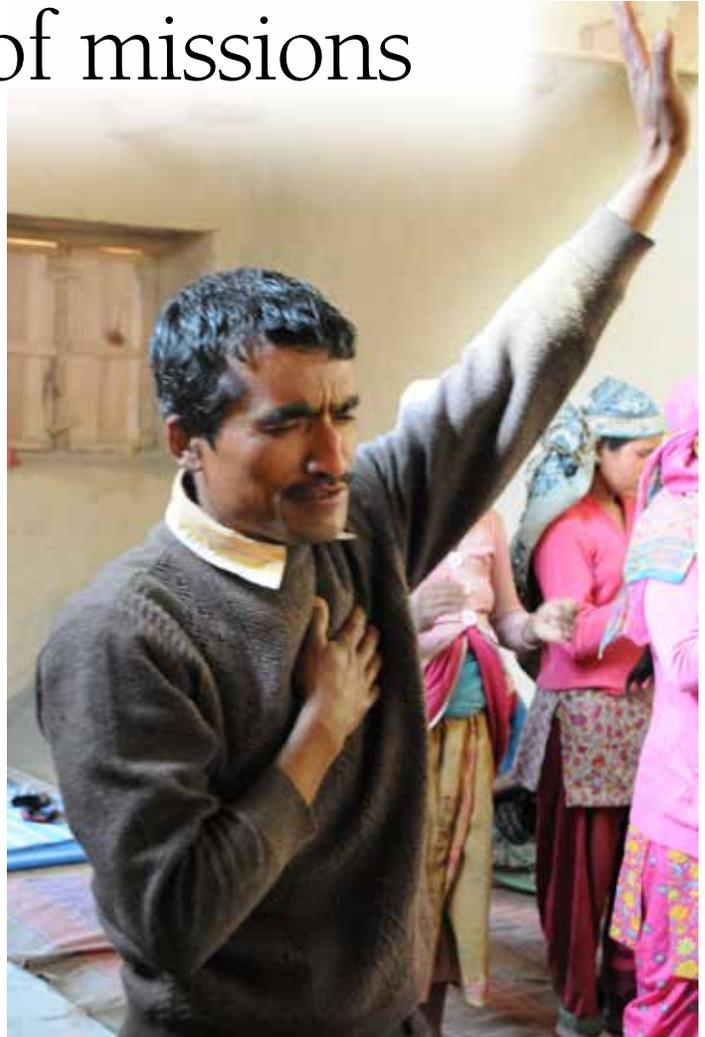
But rest assured: Greater is He who is in us than He who is in the world. And the victory is ours through Him if we will simply ask!

If the salvation and discipleship of the lost is the "target" of missions, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the mouths of Christians is the "arrow" sent through the air, then prayer is the "bow" which draws and shoots it all forward.

Global Missions need to be bathed in prayer. Imagine the difference we would see if more Christians prayed for more laborers, prayed for open doors, prayed for their missionary brethren around the world. Hell trembles, heaven delights, and mountains are moved when even the smallest saint prays to our Mighty God. His ear is ever open to us and His angels stand ever ready if we, God's people, will just pray. †



Jordan Rowley lifts his eyes to the mountains in Peru. Jordan Rowley has been Climbing For Christ's spiritual coordinator since Jan. 18, 2011. In addition to lifting HIS ministry of C4C in prayer, Jordan oversees our Prayer Team. This international group of prayer warriors receives weekly request and praise reports. Email jrowley@ClimbingForChrist.org if you desire to join the team or need prayer.



Church leader Dalsur, the former Maoist who surrendered his life to Christ in 2010, during worship in the church Climbing For Christ helped build in Korchabang, Nepal. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

A PRAYER CHALLENGE

How many minutes a day do you spend praying for global missions? How much time do you spend supporting in prayer those on the front lines laying down their lives and forsaking their comforts? Could you pray more?

I'll answer that one for you: Yes you can!

If you don't have a globe or world map displayed in a prevalent place in your home or office, get one. It's a good reminder to pray and helps keep our "First World problems" in perspective.

Be realistic and start with 10-to-15 minutes a day. If you already pray regularly for missions, perhaps you can add 10-to-15 minutes more each day. Pray generally. Pray specifically. *Just pray!* Pray for Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, followers of folk religions, and others. Pray for your brothers and sisters who have answered the call to reach out to those people. Pray for specific nations and those serving there. Pray for the explicit needs of orphans, trafficked children, sex slaves, widows and so on. Pray for the persecuted. Pray for the persecutors. Pray for the world that God so loved.



A local heading toward his village up the GHT High Route in Nepal's Far West. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

Establishing our steps in the wild West

BY GARY FALLESEN

The decision on day two of the trek to go to Syada was made through His leading. Members of the church from Syada called our Nepali brother Megh Gurung on his cell phone to ask how the team was doing and when they would see us. The seven or so believers we met there in September 2013 were now 35 strong in March 2014.

I knew immediately that God wanted us to go to Syada to encourage them and celebrate what He was doing in that village in Nepal's Far Western district of Humla.

But as I stood in the village of Thehe and looked down at a village in the other direction – the direction that we would have gone if we had not chosen to turn toward Syada – *“I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’”* (Isaiah 6:8a).

Who indeed will GO to villages like Takla and Bamja if not us? We are called to GO where others cannot or will not.

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MISSION: NEPAL 2015

Climbing For Christ will again send a team to Humla in March 2015. It will be our fourth expedition to Nepal's Far West in less than 2½ years. (After our March 2014 trip, we sent a team to the Makalu area in the East – for outreach among the Sherpa people – in September 2014.) Funds are being raised to purchase land in Simikot for construction of the first church building in the district. It would be the fourth church built by C4C in Nepal.

Nepal is more than 82 percent Hindu, about 10 percent Buddhist, and only 0.7 percent Christian. But the church is growing and C4C is blessed to play a role in that expansion. This will be our ninth Evangelic Expedition to Nepal (2008, 2009, 2011, twice in 2012, 2013, and twice in 2014). The 14-to-17-day trip is estimated to cost US\$2,500 plus airfare (international and domestic). Email info@ClimbingForChrist.org for a mission application or to offer financial support for the church build and ongoing mission in Nepal.

The harvest continues

BY JORDAN ROWLEY

Do you remember the Samaritan woman at the well Jesus went out of His way to meet? Remember the parable He told of the lost sheep and of the lost coin? Or Jesus insisting on going to the house of Zacchaeus?

Welcome to Mission: Peru 2014!

On multiple occasions I was personally struck with the Lord's passion for the individual. I was humbled to see how God seemed to send us "out of our way" to reach just one heart or a small number of people.

Throughout the Bible, we read of God's heart for each and every soul. We read of His willingness to make an effort to reach just one person. We read of His patient and passionate care for the individual. Although Jesus preached to the multitudes, we see numerous instances in which He ministered intimately to one heart at a time. Surely we've seen that same personal care in our own lives as well.

Often in our culture, we're trained to view great numbers as great successes. Yet, if we take just a single page from the life, teaching and ministry of Jesus, we can clearly see that this is not always true. Every soul is precious to God! And just as Jesus Himself often did, He sends His servants to reach out to one specific soul.

We were blessed to see God's plan unfold and His passion for the "one lost sheep" displayed on Mission: Peru 2014. Whether it was a shut-in, a stranger on a path, a man on his deathbed, or a woman far up in the remote Peruvian Andes, God sent us to share His love and truth with them personally and intimately.

As opposed to showing the *Jesus* film and preaching to a large crowd, as we've been blessed to do in the past with great success, Mission: Peru 2014 was really defined by personal, heart-to-heart outreach.

Our team, consisting of Gary and Hayley Fallesen, Rachel Horton, Andrey Khabursky, Jaime Servat, Jessica Vose, Michael Wall and I, had wonderful opportunities to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ. It's always a joy to see God put together and use so many different gifts and abilities. Some members brought their youthfulness and playfulness; others brought passion and encouragement, while still others brought wisdom and experience.

From playing to praying to preaching to simply being present, God provided many opportunities for each team member to be used.



Climbing For Christ's missionary to Peru, Jaime Servat, shares Jesus with a woman named Esther in the Cordillera Huayhuash mountains. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

The main focus of the mission, as has been in trips past, was to reach out to the remote Quechua farming communities. We visited the village of Chalhua, located in the Cordillera Blanca range, for our fourth time in as many missions. It was a blessing to reconnect with our beloved little sister, Alison, along with her grandparents and so many others. This village has truly become our family. In addition to building relationships, God is also building His church in Chalhua. The team was thrilled to see the Climbing For Christ-funded structure nearing completion, and we look forward to the believers in Chalhua having a warm and dry place to worship.

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MISSION: PERU 2015

Climbing For Christ will be sending a team to Peru in July 2015. We will visit the church at Chalhua to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and dedicate the church to the Lord, and trek into a new area in the northern end of the Cordillera Blanca to evangelize and encourage the local church. While Peru is nearly 95 percent Christian, there is a problem with syncretism (the merging of folk religion into the Catholicism that first evangelized the country). This means there are many who do not know Jesus as "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). This two-week trip is estimated to cost less than US\$2,000 plus airfare. It will be our fifth Evangelic Expedition to Peru (2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014). Email info@ClimbingForChrist.org for a mission application.



Peak experiences at lower elevations

BY ELAINE FALLESEN

PROJECT 1:27

Project 1:27 Malawi helps Pastor Duncan and Searchlight Ministries (Far & Wide Children's Home) in ministering to children in southern Malawi. One child can be cared for and fed for US\$50 a month. Sixteen are sponsored as of September 2014. More are waiting for a place to call home. Please email info@ClimbingForChrist.org if you are moved to help.

Elaine Fallesen, left, teaches children to sing Michael W. Smith's song "You Won't Let Go" in Migowi, Malawi. (Photos by Gary Fallesen)

Dark faces emerged from the even darker night and peered into the windows as our car pulled up to the gate. Three years had passed since we'd first met, but the smiles were easily recognizable through the shadows as kids jockeyed for position to greet us.

Jacquiline. Dixon. Ephraim. Esnart. Dafter.

We joyfully piled out and into the arms of our Project 1:27 orphans.

Climbing For Christ returned to Malawi, Africa in March, in part, to catch up with this growing brood of 16 children. The orphans are sponsored by C4C members from across North America and cared for by C4C member Pastor Duncan Nyozani and his Searchlight orphan ministry in the village of Migowi. In five years the children have gone from dying to thriving as they are fed spiritually and physically. They have clothes, a roof over their heads, a school to attend and a church where they are growing in faith.

Philadelphia member Michele Annibal joined C4C president Gary Fallesen and me on this reunion mission. For four days we taught our orphans and their 225 classmates in grades 1-7 at Searchlight Ministry's primary school. Through lessons, crafts and

song, we focused on the Trinity: how God the Father protects them, how God the Son saves them, and how God the Holy Spirit grows them in faith and obedience to His Word.

Our reunion journey continued as we returned to listen, learn and share with the Acts 2 women at the Mothers & Babies

Center in the nearby village of Msema – incredible Christian moms and wives who look beyond themselves and used a microloan to jumpstart all sorts of programs in the midst of extreme poverty.

Some of the women are doing outreach to the sick, including HIV/AIDS sufferers. They have helped about 50 people in five remote villages but, as one of the caregivers shared, "many more need help." Their dream is to reach hundreds more, "to give them food and other help and pray with them."

The center also serves as a springboard to small businesses for each of the women, offering small, short-term loans to start ventures such as baking, sewing, and vegetable and fruit stands in the local market. Living on US\$1 a day, these wives and mothers are shining examples of the body of Christ at work, which we learned is often a challenge as they strive to be Godly parents when their husbands are not. We encouraged them to remain in the Word and not give up.

Toward the end of our time in Malawi, we crossed the border into Mozambique to see firsthand the church in Milatu which Climbing For Christ funded and was constructed last year. This is the first church-build that C4C has been blessed to fund in Africa. We were deeply touched by the warm greeting from the loving congregation, who came out singing to welcome us with bursting, grateful hearts. We prayed with our 50 brothers and sisters that this church would shine so brightly in its outreach that it would grow to overflowing and that one day they would need to request help for a new addition. †



A mother and her baby in Msema, Malawi.

PEOPLE,

His story is in our hands

BY ACE CONCORDIA

In six years of climbing in the rugged mountains of Kibungan, I've heard many tales from the locals. It is said, for example, that huge monkeys used to inhabit Kibungan's thick forests, and their loud noises could be heard from afar. Some of these monkeys grew to almost the size of men. But during World War II the monkeys were hunted to extinction. Most of the elder Kankanaey people still believe that some monkeys survived and live in the most remote and isolated areas of the mountains...though a definitive sighting has yet to be made.

On one of my climbs we were able to talk to some old locals who told stories of World War II weapons that can be found in the mountain caves. The old folk we encounter in the remote villages of Dalipey, Tacadang, and Les-eng have no documentation of their births and therefore have no idea how old they really are. They share the same story of parents fleeing the conflict of WWII, escaping to the mountains of Kibungan and eventually making a home there. They say that remnants of the war can still be found in the caves of Kibungan...but evidence of this has yet to be presented.

Much of the culture of the Kankanaey revolves around oral tales of the mountains that have been passed from one generation to another. These legends and myths have shaped the beliefs of the Kankanaey to this day.

In the absence of technology in many of these remote villages, people live their lives on the stories they hear.

We climbed to the villages of Badeo and Mogcao on our most recent Mission: Philippines in June 2014 to tell of another story — the story that changed the life of the climbers who participated in this mission. The story of a man called Jesus.

The team arrived with a portable film projector. Many people came to watch the *Jesus* film. It was the first time a movie was shown in these villages.

At least 200 Kankanaey people packed the small classrooms we used as our theater. Everyone was sweating, but no one seemed to care as all eyes were fixed on the story that was unfolding.

The Kankanaey have heard many stories through the centuries, but most are just legends that remain a mystery. They need to hear the most important story

that will ever reach their ears: that a God in heaven loved them so much He sent His only Son to die for their redemption.

It is a story that, once heard, touches the heart and changes the way people live. It is a story that gives every person who has ever lived the thing they need most — hope.

The greatest story people will ever hear, the one that will change people's lives, the one that will deliver them from fear and uncertainty, the one that will heal them, the one that will bring them the hope they have been looking for, the one that will matter most at the end of it all, is in our hands.

It absolutely overwhelms me to know how great a mission God has given those of us whose lives have been changed by His story.

Climbing For Christ looks forward to returning every year to Kibungan to tell this story. What fuels our feet to climb for hours on end is the dream that one day the Kankanaey will no longer listen to legends about monkeys and munitions. We pray for the day when the Kankanaey gather to talk about the Greatest Story they have ever heard — the story of Jesus Christ. †

Ace Concordia, the coordinator of C4C Philippines, has led all 18 missions to Kibungan from July 2008 to this year, including expeditions in March and June. The next mission is scheduled for December. For information, email info@ClimbingForChrist.org.



Watching the *Jesus* film.

Hearing the Good Shepherd's voice

BY ELAINE FALLESEN

Turkey is virtually an all-Muslim country. Loud speaker-rigged minarets stick out like sharp needles from the mosques that dot the land everywhere you turn. They blare a nerve-grating call to prayer five times every 24 hours. When we landed in Istanbul in June to begin Mission: Ararat 2014 and I took my first plunge into Muslim society, I was initially a bit unnerved. How could I possibly make a difference for Jesus Christ here?

This mission trip was completely different from my previous Climbing For Christ experiences in Haiti, Nepal, Tanzania and Malawi. It revealed to me more than ever before how God can use us as His representatives in amazing ways, any place, anytime. All we have to do is show up. He takes care of the rest.

We were returning to visit the same semi-nomadic Kurdish farmers C4C had sought out in 2013 on the slopes of Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey. God provided us with an incredible opportunity to present the Gospel to these Kurdish families who move their herds of sheep to graze up on Ararat's slopes during the hot summer months.

These gentle people — who have no country to call their own and are scattered across Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran — warmly welcomed us back into their tents. We drank tea (lots of tea), chatted and asked questions, and then God's perfect timing took over and He'd open the door to our sharing of the Good News. We presented the news of salvation by teaching our Kurdish friends how to make Gospel bracelets.



Shearing their herd of sheep on the slopes of Mount Ararat. (Photos by Gary Fallesen)

A Gospel bracelet is the entire Bible in five colored beads:

- **YELLOW** for creation and everything made perfectly in His sight;
- **BLACK** for sin that entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instruction;
- **RED** for the blood Jesus shed when He came to earth to pay the price for all of us;
- **WHITE** (as the snow on Ararat!) for removing our sin and making us spotless once again in God's sight; and
- **GREEN** for restoration of our relationship with God and growth in faith as believers.

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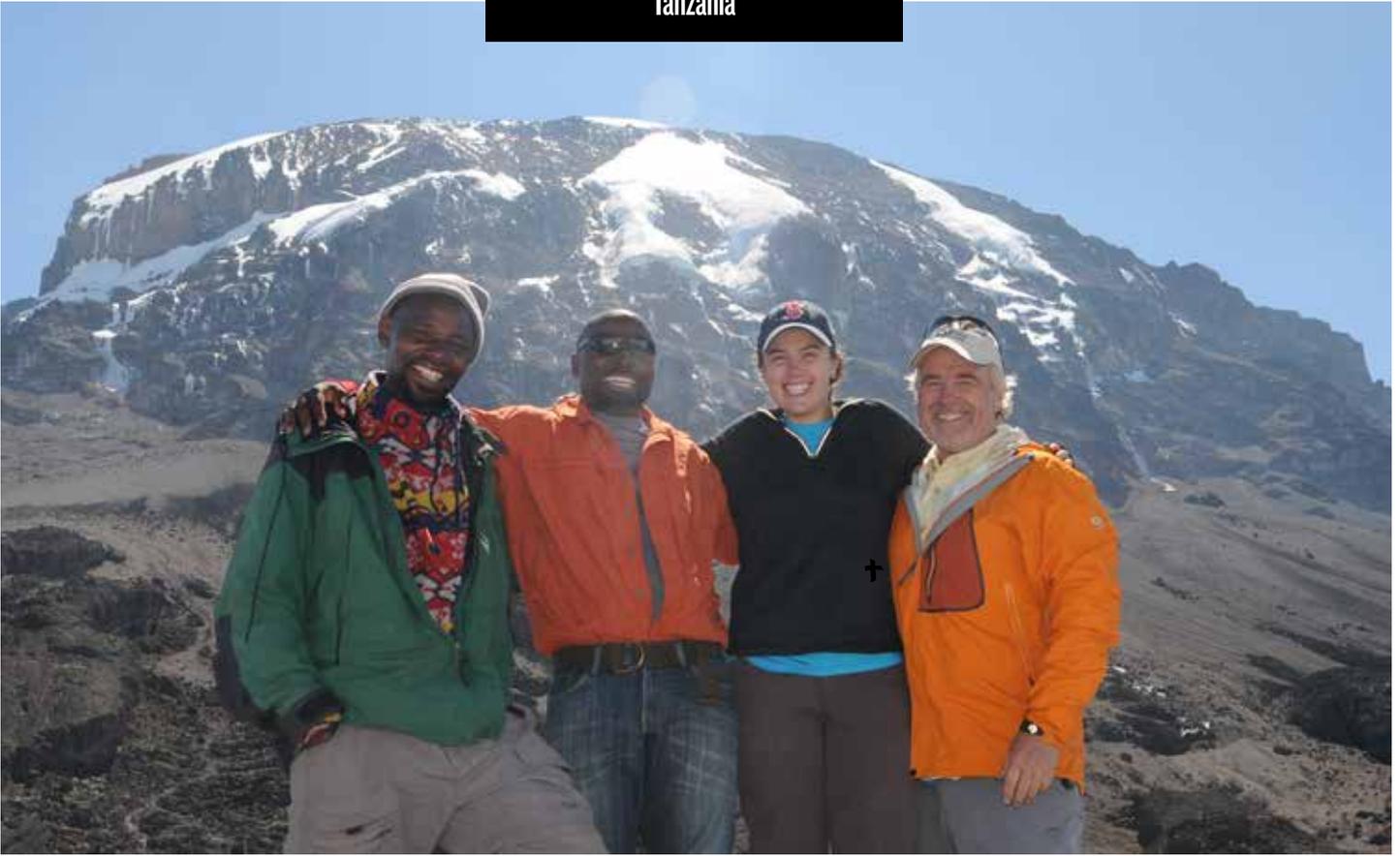
MISSION: ARARAT 2015

Climbing For Christ plans to spend two weeks in June 2015 in eastern Anatolia and on and around 16,854-foot (5,137-meter) Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark came to rest "in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month" (Genesis 8:4). We will continue to build relationships with Kurdish people and share the love of Jesus in an area that is predominantly non-Christian. Turkey is 96.4 percent Muslim (although, it seems, in name only). Only about 400,000 of the nation's 81.6 million people profess to be Christian. This 17-day trip is estimated to cost US\$3,100 plus airfare (international and domestic). It will be our fourth Evangelic Expedition to Ararat (2010, 2013 and 2014). Email info@ClimbingForChrist.org for a mission application.



Elaine Fallesen, right, shows a family on Mount Ararat how to make a Gospel bracelet while teaching about Jesus.

SERVICE,



Guides Saidi, left, and Yusuf with Hayley and Gary Fallesen on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Special delivery on Kilimanjaro

BY GARY FALLESEN

Hayley Hope Fallesen was 3 years old when I first went to Kilimanjaro. In those pre-9/11 days, your family could see you off at the airport gate. It was at the gate that my daughter began to cry. And cry. She was sad and didn't want to see her daddy leave for East Africa.

Sixteen years later, I was moved to tears, too. But for very different reasons. My little girl, now 20, was with me on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Much happened between those two milestones: a little girl grew to womanhood and a father saw God change the direction of his life. Hayley, now a third-year college student, was a part of Climbing For Christ's sixth Mission: Kilimanjaro. The ministry that I was blessed to be used by God to start (planted in my heart in 1998 before that tearful airport send-off) has grown from a side venture while I toiled as a sports writer for a daily newspaper to a full-time calling and passion.

You must understand that the only thing I ever wanted to be was a sports writer. From the age of 7

"For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling..." – Psalm 116:8 (ESV)

on. And I was successful at it: working for weekly newspapers from my freshman year of high school to starting at the daily newspaper in Rochester, NY by my junior year of college to being a sports columnist by age 29. But along the way I'd gotten married, gotten to know Jesus Christ, gotten to be a father, and gotten redirected to a more important career path as my spiritual walk grew.

This brings us to Kilimanjaro.

As I prepared for my first Kilimanjaro climb, God spoke to my heart – telling me to start a Christian climbing organization. I thought, "Why would I do such a thing?" Well, first of all, because God told me to do it. Also, at the time there were no active Christian climbing organizations in the world.

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NOT SUMMITS



Permila before she was abducted. (Photos courtesy Save Pakistan)

Behind the enemy's line BY GARY FALLESEN

The phone call came two days after our sister disappeared on her way to college. The number that came up on the ringing phone was unknown to our family. The caller was unknown. But the source of the message is known to us all: *“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”* (Ephesians 2:2).

“We have done this,” a voice said, referring to the kidnapping. “We want to stop the work you are doing. We are punishing you.”

Our brother said: “Our hearts just broke.”

In that moment, evil celebrated. Darkness rejoiced. A Pakistani family serving Jesus Christ with all their hearts was devastated.

“Now we could never do anything according to the Pakistani law,” another brother explained, “except to forget her.”

Permila, the sweet sister of Haseeb and Najeeb and all the rest of those of us who call Jesus the Savior of this broken world, had been abducted and forced to

marry a Muslim man in an Islamic Republic. Pakistan is 98.9-percent Muslim. Islam is the official religion. There are approximately 1.4 million Christians in a country of nearly 200 million people – less than 1 percent of the population.

“We don’t have rights because we are living in a Muslim country,” explained one brother from this distraught Christian family. “They could do anything. They could kill us. This is why we keep our finger to our lips.”

The family’s silence about this matter does not extend to their shared faith in Christ. They remain bold in their proclamation of Who they believe in and Who they follow. His name is Jesus.

“We are running our ministry work as much as we can,” said the brothers who, along with the rest of their family, serve the Lord through Climbing For Christ partner ministry Save Pakistan.

“We had a big incident, a big tragedy. We are trying to keep working for His glory.”

**SPECIAL
REPORT:
Persecution in Pakistan**

Haseeb joined C4C in 2011 and Najeeb in 2012. “I would like to let you know that here are millions of people in the mountain areas, who are not preached yet,” Haseeb told us in those early days, “because nobody wants to take the risk to reach them, and they are unaware about the Word of God.”

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” – 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

Pakistan has 447 people groups and 435 are unreached (meaning there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize a people group), according to the Joshua Project.

We began to work with Save Pakistan in 2011, sending prayers and some funding. We have been blessed to help Save Pakistan purchase thousands of Bibles in Pakistan’s Urdu language. But Save Pakistan has done the hard work – delivering the Word in a country that ranks among the top 10 nations in the world for persecution against Christians.

These are the front-line workers. These are the souls serving behind the enemy’s line.

In 2008, a pastor who had joined Climbing For Christ and was publicly baptizing new believers disappeared. He was a husband and a father, a 37-year-old man who boldly declared that his occupation was “minister of God.” This brother, who believed – as we do – in the God of the Bible, was our first C4C member in Pakistan.

This was our introduction to Pakistan and to the type of persecution that exists globally.

In Nigeria, China, Indonesia, and countless other nations where Climbing For Christ members live and work for His glory, our brothers and sisters are asked to pay a great price. They do so, willingly.



Evangelist Haseeb leads a prayer walk on Palm Sunday.

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED

Jesus said in Matthew 5:10, “*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*” But at the same time, those brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing the weight of persecution may be living in hell on earth. Please lift them up in prayer. Jesus also instructed us in Matthew 5:44, “*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*” Pray for the persecuted and their persecutors. Sunday, Nov. 2 is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. But we should pray for the persecuted every day.

In January 2014, our brothers and sisters at Save Pakistan came under extreme fire from the enemy. The family informed us that a crowd attacked their house – “throwing bricks and shouting abuses loudly.” The work they had been doing – feeding children from poor families or no families, serving widows through a sewing center, helping underage children laboring inhumane hours in brick kilns, and always introducing people to Jesus, distributing Bibles and baptizing new believers – had made them a target.

There had been incidents in the past: a motorbike “accident” for one brother in 2011 and an assault on their father in 2012. But in 2014 the attacks escalated.

As one brother said: “The people were watching us. And the Lord was protecting us.”

“One day, huge numbers (of people) came to the main gate of our house and threw stones and damaged the main gate of our house,” Najeeb said. “We moved into a large room and locked the door. We were afraid. They were speaking very bad words about Jesus Christ. We stayed there for some hours.”

Afterward, the family moved to a different place. They have moved often in 2014. C4C has helped with funding to relocate the family. But our help seems insignificant in light of what has happened.

We have been humbled to stand with and for these courageous believers. And our hearts broke with theirs in April 2014 when we received the horrific news. It was news from Haseeb that sucked the air from our lungs and brought tears to our eyes.

“I would like to update you with the great sorrow that my younger sister Permila was kidnapped on 6th of April 2014. After two days, we got the phone call from an unknown number and unknown person to inform us that she is forced fully to convert to ‘M’ and they forced her to marry the ‘M’ man.”

Continues on next page



SPECIAL REPORT – CONTINUED FROM PAGE II

“After Permila’s incident we know they are doing this to many,” one brother said. “The Christian community is very poor. People sell themselves. A Christian girl about 12 years old – a pastor’s daughter – was raped by an old man. We have nothing in our hands. We can do no action.”

Save Pakistan estimated that 1,700 Christians were murdered in 2013. Many more were attacked. Open Doors, a ministry that monitors persecution against Christians, reported: “Women and girls from minority groups are particularly vulnerable, and sexual assaults against underage Christian girls by Muslim men continue to be reported.”

In the face of this savage storm, Save Pakistan stands strong – by the grace and power of the God of the Bible. Haseeb and Najeeb and the rest of their family (growing through marriage and childbirth) is bent, perhaps; but not broken.

Save Pakistan remains focused on winning “millions of souls” for Jesus. “We are passionate about this,” Najeeb said.

“One day the Lord will give us opportunity to meet face to face and tell you what the Lord is doing through Save Pakistan ministry,” Haseeb said. “My heart is joyful when I tell you about what the Lord is doing.”

In the hearts and minds of this family – persecuted for Christ – they know they have been saved by Jesus. God has not left them. He is with them. And, along with them we take solace and comfort, in knowing He is with our precious sister Permila. †



Haseeb preaching on Easter 2014.

FRONT LINE AID

Stand with our brothers and sisters who are serving behind the enemy’s lines. Support the work that is being done by Climbing For Christ’s members in East Africa, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan and Peru, and the work that will be done in Indonesia, Turkey, and – Lord willing – many other mountainous places in the future. You can sponsor a missionary! Send your gift in the enclosed envelope to Climbing For Christ, c/o Front Line Missionaries, P.O. Box 16290, Rochester, NY 14616-0290.

PERU – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

After our time in the Cordillera Blanca we made our way to the Cordillera Huayhuash range for the first time. Reaching out to Huanuco Viejo, Queropalca,



The church at Chalhua. (Photo by Jordan Rowley)

Pocpa, Pacillon and all along the trail was a time filled with powerful ministry. All the while, God continued to use the team and show us His heart for

His lost sheep – often one at a time. A few of us prayed with one dying man who was clinging tightly to Jesus. We comforted several who felt alone – one woman was miles from civilization and another lived in the middle of a busy village.

Far up in the mountains, we shared the Gospel message with a woman who had never even heard of Jesus. After we introduced her, she confessed Him as Lord!

Mission: Peru 2014 was an incredibly fruitful expedition, as time and time again the Lord used us to minister to His lost sheep. We look forward to what’s ahead in the Cordillera Blanca, Cordillera Huayhuash and beyond! †

Jordan Rowley, a full-time staff member of Climbing For Christ, has participated in Mission: Peru each year since the inaugural Evangelic Expedition in 2011.

NEPAL – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

This is essential to us on Mission: Nepal. Because, as the great missionary Paul wrote: “How . . . will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15)

I wrestled with all of these thoughts, but I was confident that I made the decision He wanted me to make. Even if we didn’t make it to Syada.

That’s right, we turned to go to Syada, but we never reached Syada.

We know “*the heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps*” (Proverbs 16:9). That verse has long been one that guides C4C during Evangelic Expeditions. We remain open to the Spirit’s leading, do our best to abide in His Spirit, and attempt to discern His will for our path.

On day five of this trek, when we had planned to hike up and out of Simikot and down and up to Syada, a snowstorm struck the area. We could not go.

We asked, “Why?” Hadn’t He changed our direction from Takla and Bamja to deliver us to Syada? Weren’t we intended to go to this growing church to deliver His Word and words of encouragement? “*Why, Father, why?*”

Then God showed us: That day, because we did not go, Thana was able to marry Dipa in the second Christian marriage in Humla. We witnessed it, prayed during it, and celebrated after it.

The following day, on one of the best mission days of my recent memory (a memory that spans 40 expeditions over 9½ years), we prayed for Syada, witnessed the baptism of Lalhira (Nepali for “Red Diamond”), and then met with seven girls (four from Simikot and three from the village of Torpa) and saw something special happening between them as sisters in Christ. That day, the six girls who had called Jesus their Savior at points during the previous 18 months were helped by Climbing For Christ’s Brandy Everts to lead a young lady named Sarita to the Lord. We witnessed it, prayed during it, and celebrated after it.

None of those things would have occurred if we’d been in Syada. We rejoiced at how the Lord had established our steps – leading us back to Simikot, but stopping us short of where we thought we were going.

God stopped us exactly where HE wanted us to be.

Brandy and Matthew Fisher, both of Canada, attended the wedding and all of these activities with Megh and me as part of our Mission: Nepal 2014 team in March. After the wedding feast, I remarked to Brandy how amazing it was that 18 months before we had landed on the small airstrip in Simikot – a team of nine (including Brandy, Megh and me) – thinking there were no Christians in the district.

Then we’d discovered a house church consisting of seven men. The men asked us to pray that some women would come to know Jesus so they could have wives.

We prayed and in 1½ years two of those men had married Christian women.

It is incredible – as God is, of course – to see how much is happening in Humla:

- From those first seven Christians we met to 50 brothers and sisters in Christ in Simikot in 18 months.
- From the lone woman in Thehe following Christ (for whom we had to pray in secret to avoid ostracism from others in the Hindu village in November 2012) to a body of 18 believers with whom we worshiped on a rooftop one evening in March.
- From fewer than 10 Christ followers in Syada in 2013 growing in six months’ time to 35 Christians.
- From the school girl who accepted Jesus in a Buddhist village in 2012 to seven who had come to Christ after our March visit.

We give HIM praise and thanks. We celebrated the addition of nine souls to the kingdom of heaven; five people who were washed clean in the waters of baptism, and the second Christian marriage in Humla – all during our March visit. We celebrated seeing a church of nine in November 2012 expand to 110 by March 2014.

It was a blessing and encouragement to us. Megh says it was also a testament to Climbing For Christ’s work there.

Nepal is made for Climbing For Christ because of the Himalayas and the millions of people who are living in darkness in the shadows of those great mountains. Our feet are sent to deliver Good News. As the psalmist wrote: “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*” (Psalm 119:105).

Gary Fallesen has been blessed to visit Nepal six times since 2011. He calls Nepali momos his favorite mission food in the world.



Dhan Kali, the first (and for many years only) Christian in the village of Thehe and her three children say, “Jaimashi” – a Nepali greeting that means “Victory in the Lord!” (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

TURKEY – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The families were always large, and often the adults joined us and their children in making their own bracelets as God spoke to them simply and clearly through the beads. In each camp, Kurdish hearts were completely open to listening to the words we shared about sin, God's redemption plan, and Jesus Christ being The Way to heaven. Had they been devout Muslims, we would have been kicked out of tents immediately. But that never once happened. We encountered souls starving for hope and purpose in their persecuted world.

We need to return again to water seeds of Truth and faith planted this year on Ararat. These people speak sheep — their livelihood centers on a centuries-old occupation. They herd sheep much the same as when the Apostle Paul walked in this part of the world and started the early church. The time is ripe to help these people get to know the Good Shepherd better.

On our first day on Ararat, as we descended from Base Camp at 10,000 feet toward one of the Kurdish camps we were going to pay a visit, we stopped to talk to a shepherd named Fahrit.

How many sheep did he have?, we asked through our Muslim guide and translator. 280. If he lost one would he know it? Yes. Would he go and look for the lost one?

“Oh, yes!” our guide responded, without hesitation. Sound familiar? Matthew 18:12 tells us, *“If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?”*

On another day we observed a young shepherd boy on a hillside maybe a mile in the distance, talking and singing to his herd. We could hear him loud and clear. He did that, our guide explained, so that his sheep would know his voice. Sound familiar? *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me,”* Jesus says in John 10:27.

There's a big field in eastern Turkey just waiting to be harvested for God's glory.

I began this mission trip a little leery and discouraged by the dark presence of Islam. But the mission was accomplished on a God-high note as the Holy Spirit used us as His vessels to bear witness to the goodness of our gracious God. We praise and thank Him for this time on His holy mountaintop. †

Elaine Fallesen works joyfully as Climbing For Christ's communications director as well as serving women and children in the mission field. She also takes care of her own husband and children at home, and works full-time for a regional not-for-profit health plan.



The shepherd who knows all 280 of his sheep. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)



Witness on high

A funny thing happened on the way to the summit of Mount Ararat...

Joye Cantrell, a C4C member since 2009, went on her first Evangelic Expedition in June 2014. This wife, mother and school teacher from Banning, Calif., USA, climbed to the top of Mount Ararat (16,854 feet/5,137 meters) in eastern Turkey. The rest of our Mission: Ararat team was busy evangelizing among the Kurdish people living high up the slopes of the mountain. Joye acknowledged understanding our mantra “service, not summit.” But, she said, going to the summit gave her a unique opportunity to serve numerous other climbers from around the world:

“As the only professing Christian in the tent (at High Camp), it was an opportunity to witness through prayer at tea, dinner and breakfast. (Our guide) called the group to attention and everyone was OK with me saying thanks for the food, our chance to be in such a beautiful location, and the meeting of such a diverse group of hikers – Italian, Russian, German, Slovakian, Turkish, Kurdish, Iranian, Latvian, and American. I asked for blessing for the safety of hikers, stamina and perseverance and for good weather because rain/snow and winds were predicted.

“Prayer was answered. All of the group made it to the summit (and safely down); weather was perfect; there was a clear view of the surroundings – all were ecstatic.”

There was more. Before moving up to High Camp, Joye had been urged by the Spirit to re-read Genesis 6-10. “I had forgotten that Noah was already 500 years old when he got the call to build the ark and that it took him and his family 100 years to build in a community where they were the only righteous ones. Imagine the persecution,” she said. “Then, to follow such exact specifications. How many of us would say, ‘OK, God, but I’m going to do it my way?’ And then

to be in close quarters with relatives and animals for five months and still keep a Godly attitude. I barely survived one week (with family) on an Alaskan cruise.”

Joye had an opportunity to ask fellow climbers about their beliefs and the discussion turned to Noah. She shared thoughts on “God’s eternal question: ‘Are you willing to follow Me? Despite ridicule, persecution and hardship, are you willing to maintain the course?’

“I was able to discuss God’s ability to create and destroy; to preserve and sustain; to keep promises; and to give us the means to hold the course. This transitioned to the New Testament and Christ asking us if we are willing to follow Him: to bear the burden of the cross; to leave behind family and career if needed; and to share in His promises.

“Seeds were planted,” she said. “Pray that they take root.”

Joye also had time to share with one of our guides, who was “ill-equipped” to go to the summit. He asked if Joye, who had blisters on her feet, wanted to turn back. “I knew that it would be a poor witness for him if we did that, especially after the prayers given. So we soldiered on,” Joye said. “I promised him my boots if we made it back. We made it to the top and he was overjoyed. It was another opportunity to pray and give thanks to God. Once we made it back, (he) was the owner of a new pair of boots.

“When packing for the trip, I sometimes questioned the stuff that was considered important while considering what I thought might be a better fit. Outside of the altitude pills and Motrin, I didn’t use any other medicine, but by the end of the trip all was gone as someone else on our journeys did need it. Those heavy leather boots were never meant for my feet, but were an apparently good fit for (our guide), as was the ice ax. Funny how these things work out!” †

TANZANIA – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

But, in my humanness, I got in the way. I couldn't figure out how to do what God was asking. It took me three years to learn that God didn't want me to do it; He wanted to use me as an instrument to work through to make it happen. Which is exactly what He has done.

In 2007, I returned to Kilimanjaro with our first C4C expedition to Tanzania. A divine appointment was set: Pastor Winford Mosha was introduced to me. He shared, exuberantly, how God put on his heart to work with the guides and porters of Kilimanjaro. Everything that he told me was already on my heart. It was all God's plan.

We began teaching evangelism to the guides and porters during Mission: Kilimanjaro 2008. And again in 2010, 2011 and 2013. Along the way we realized we needed a worker who could serve in East Africa.

Enter Damson Samson.

We met Damson at the Far & Wide Children's Home, an orphanage C4C supports in southern Malawi, on Mission: Kilimanjaro 2010. He was working with the children and was as full of the Holy Spirit as any brother I've been blessed to meet.

Climbing For Christ sent Damson to college from 2010 to 2013. As he completed his studies God led us to ask Damson to serve as C4C's missionary to East Africa. Planning was set in motion during Mission: Malawi 2014 in March and Damson joined us in Tanzania on Mission: Kilimanjaro 2014 in August.

Damson spent 10 days with Pastor Mosha, learning about a culture and people different from his own. Malawi is three-fourths Christian, while Tanzania is about 46 percent Christian and 37 percent Muslim. The climbing community around Kilimanjaro is



Pastor Mosha, left, with Damson Samson in Moshi, Tanzania. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

MISSION: KILIMANJARO 2015

As the December-to-March trekking season winds down, C4C members will have an opportunity to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, which – at 19,341 feet (5,895 meters) – is the tallest mountain in Africa. Then they will participate in the second part of two-part evangelism training with a group of guides and porters being equipped to share Jesus on and around Kilimanjaro. This two-week trip is estimated to cost US\$2,400 plus airfare. It will be our seventh Evangelic Expedition to Kilimanjaro (2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014). Email info@ClimbingForChrist.org for a mission application.

approximately half Christian and half Muslim. There is work to be done.

"I have seen the harvest is more, but the workers are few," Damson said in Tanzania. "I know that is true here."

He is excited about the work God has revealed for us, which we planned to begin with three days of fasting and a prayer walk on Kilimanjaro followed by a three-day evangelism training conference set for November. We intend this training to equip 30-to-40 guides and porters who will then be working on the mountain during the December 2014-to-March 2015 trekking season. At the end of the trekking season, a follow-up evaluation meeting will be held. From these gatherings we will glean how to proceed with future training to a wider audience.

Our goal with Mission: Kilimanjaro remains:

- To train and equip Christ followers working on the mountain to witness to fellow, non-Christian workers and the thousands of trekkers who visit Kilimanjaro each year;
- Disciple new believers through organized Bible study;
- Partner with the local church to grow the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor Mosha, who has waited – along with us – as the Lord prepared the way for this mission, expressed excitement after Damson's visit. This moment seemed to us to be a long time in the making. "Now, it's coming," Pastor Mosha said. "The work is going to be easier now that he is here."

It is our prayer that the next tears we shed around Kilimanjaro are an expression of joy and thanks for all He continues to do through us in Tanzania. We want to see our heavenly Daddy glorified in East Africa. ✚

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

BY MICHELE ANNIBAL

In his *New York Times* bestselling book, *“Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream,”* David Platt writes, “Ultimate satisfaction is not found in making much of ourselves but in making much of God. The purpose of our lives transcends the country and culture in which we live.” The mission of Climbing For Christ – in its belief and execution – has clearly outlined for me ways in which to make God more known and more magnified in places where I wouldn’t otherwise give a second thought.

After any amount of time in a developing nation, or even in some of the poorer parts of our own country, it becomes so painstakingly clear how material-centric and consumer driven is the norm of the American and developed-world cultures. And as a sinner I have again and again fallen into that mindset, too, thinking I want something newer or fancier or deserve to treat myself.

But by pointing constantly to the Gospel that tells us we need nothing more than our relationship with Jesus Christ and the salvation His grace offers, C4C helps dispel the detrimental attitude of consumerism, of clinging greedily to money that we mistakenly think is ours and ours alone. We can all survive and even thrive on a lot less than we often think, and stewarding in a way to bless others is not a suggestion, but a calling.

Platt goes on to encourage readers to give to a specific, tangible need. C4C offers this – through informational E-Newsletters, daily dispatches during mission trips, and the chance to GO on missions. The ability to “connect my giving to my going” has had an immense impact on my prioritization of tithing. To be able to see – in photos at minimum, and firsthand in the best case – the newly erected church walls, the local-language printed Bibles, and the shoes for orphans’ bare feet, makes it practically a no-brainer to sacrifice some selfish spending and instead give to those with so little material capital in this world.

With such minimal overhead, huge efforts to steward responsibly and with integrity, and most importantly, constant prayer for the Lord’s guidance on His will for C4C, the cents and dollars that are given to C4C are

able to make a huge impact on lives that our members have met, on faces that we have seen uplifted toward us in praise, on hands that have folded with ours in prayer. The focus on relationships maintained by all the efforts of C4C assures me there will be real long-term effects, and ripples in the Kingdom, of the work that can happen only with financial support of the organization.

For many of us, there are and always will be days when unexpected expenses or changes in job situations weigh our hearts down with worries about money. I can know in my mind and proclaim with my mouth that our God is a God of providence and extravagant grace, and yet still inwardly struggle with wondering if I have saved enough or should be making more. Giving in these times of concern and worry is just as important as when we have an overflowing cup. It deepens our trust in the Lord and humbles our “I can be in charge and do it myself” attitude.

I crave the ultimate satisfaction of making much of God, of me being smaller and Him being bigger. And that means giving back to Him and His people whom He loves instead of serving myself. Climbing For Christ serves His people on an intimate and yet global level. My prayer for you is that you seek this ultimate satisfaction as well, by giving, praying, and going as much as the Lord enables you to! †



Michele Annibal of Philadelphia, PA, works with Climbing For Christ-sponsored orphans in Malawi. Michele went on her first mission with C4C in March 2014. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

A VIEW – CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

After a lot of prayer, discussions and a very clear sign from the Lord, Jordan was off to Haiti. While he was away I was surprised and blessed by an outpouring of support. People recognized that I was just as involved in this mission as Jordan and showered us with food and fellowship.

Fast forward a year. In January 2011, Jordan became a C4C employee. Two months later, he was off to Haiti again. *This time*, I had a 3-year-old and twin 11-month-old girls to care for.

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

– Joshua 24:15b (ESV)

Jordan got a ride to the airport before the sun came up and I remember sitting at the kitchen table after he left. I prayed through tears, *“Lord please bring him back safely! The works You are doing are amazing, but please keep him safe and bring him home!”* Of course the Lord answered my prayer and another mission trip was completed.

Since then, Jordan has been on many trips to Haiti, Peru and Nepal. Honestly, it’s still not easy, but the biggest difference between that very first trip and his most recent trip has been my personal growth in the Lord.

Leading up to Jordan’s latest trip to Peru, I felt like a veteran missionary wife. I thought to myself, *“This isn’t my first rodeo. I totally have this!”* I felt completely comfortable with him going and felt I could handle the home front, no problem.



The Rowley family.



Michelle’s husband, Jordan, C4C’s spiritual coordinator, on mission in Peru.

The morning he left I was humbled by some insanely energetic girls and a clogged toilet. So I learned that, nope, I didn’t have it. But I knew Who had me and Who will see me through every hard time.

I started off this journey of being the wife of a missionary with an incredibly selfish mindset. I often focused on how things affected me and how hard things might be for me. I would think, *“How am I supposed to take care of the girls and the house?”* While I’m not perfect and never will be, 4½ years after that first trip, I have a better understanding that it is not about me. It never was. It never will be. And it’s not really about my husband, either.

Our family is trying to be about our Heavenly Father’s business. This is about Him! And it’s about the lost, the poor, the dying and God’s call to go into the world in His name.

I stay home in our mansion of a house (compared to the humble homes in the Third World) with our four very healthy girls, clean water, cupboards of food, incredible medical care if needed, and hold down the fort while Jordan and a C4C team share the love and hope of Jesus with people of many different nations. People who are poor, sick or dying; people who are putting their faith in idols or other false religions.

How can I ever think of holding Jordan back from sharing the beautiful love of Jesus?

I am blessed to be a part of the Climbing For Christ family. I am blessed by how the Lord is using my husband. I am blessed to watch how the Lord is growing Climbing For Christ.

I am blessed to support this ministry that goes places people cannot or will not go. God is moving through the ministry in wonderful ways, and I wouldn’t change our role in that for a second! †

**“Publish his glorious deeds
among the nations.**

**Tell everyone about the
amazing things he does.”**

– 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NLT)



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). A baptism in the Himalayan mountains of Nepal. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)



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Climbing For Christ

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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

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Editors: Elaine and Gary Fallesen (USA).

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

A View

The life of a mission wife

BY MICHELLE ROWLEY

Had you asked me 10 years ago where my life would be, I would have never guessed I'd be where I am now: the wife of a missionary and a stay-at-home mom with four beautiful little girls we homeschool – *which makes me a missionary, too!*

My husband, Jordan, has been serving with Climbing For Christ (C4C) for more than three years and gone on 10 short-term mission trips. His first trip was Mission: Haiti 2009. Earlier that year, we discovered we were pregnant – with twins. Jordan mentioned that the Lord had been stirring his heart to go on a mission trip to Haiti with C4C. In my mind, I thought, “*You want to do WHAT? We have a 1½-year-old toddler and I’m growing two babies and you want to go WHERE?!*”

Continued on page 18



The Rowley girls: Michelle with Sarah, Grace, Isabelle and Abby.