

**SPECIAL  
10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION**

# The Climbing Way

THE MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

VOLUME 28 / SPRING 2014



## HIStory In the beginning

BY GARY FALLESEN

Mount Kilimanjaro. (Photo by Michael Heitland)

In January 1998, while training for my climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, I was struck with the idea of Climbing For Christ. I was running. It was winter in Rochester, NY, USA; cold and snowy. I wasn't thinking any deep thoughts or even dreaming of the summit. Just running. That's when the Spirit touched me with this notion. Where else would the idea of a Christian climbers' organization come from than the very throne of God? He spoke, I listened. But truth be told, I had no idea how to make it happen – or for what purpose. I knew no other Christian climbers or of any such group (indications of the need, to be sure).

As my spiritual walk continued to mature and I climbed in His direction, I realized it wasn't up to me. He is the Guide; I am only His assistant, permitted by His grace to share a rope with the One doing all the work. I surrendered this to Him, and C4C started to grow.

You, brothers and sisters, are (or can be) members of Christ's climbing party. What started in my family and then over coffee with the first Christian climber I'd met in 2001, spread slowly in our first public meeting (attended by seven people during a blizzard in February 2002) and then online when the Web site was launched in March 2003, until Climbing For Christ was truly born as a U.S.-based non-profit in April 2004, and mission work began the following April with Mission: Mexico 2005.

God has grown – and continues to grow – us beyond anything we could imagine with our little finite, pea brains. The One who created the cosmos knows and has a much bigger picture for C4C. He invites you to clip in to the rope for the climb of your life! We ask you to **PRAY, GIVE and GO** – all for His glory. ✚

January 1998

While running on the road in the snow and cold, training for a February climb of Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, Gary Fallesen of Rochester, N.Y., is struck by the idea of forming a Christian climbing organization. "Climbing For Christ" is placed on his heart by the Lord.



Stu Milligan on Trappens Peak, North Cascades, Washington.



## 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.

## Board Members

### Officers:

- Gary Fallesen, Hilton, NY – president since 2004
- Elaine Fallesen, Hilton, NY – vice president since 2004
- Mary Lindsay, Greece, NY – secretary since 2004
- Stan Phillips, Spencerport, NY – treasurer since 2010
- David Smith, Greece, NY – officer beginning 2014

### Members:

- Ace Concordia, Las Piñas City, Philippines – at-large member since 2009
- Pastor Derek Fullerton, Colorado Springs, CO – at-large member since 2004
- Kevin Kimble, Spencerport, NY – at-large member since 2010
- Dr. Steve Quakenbush, Cañon City, CO – at-large member beginning 2014

### Past members:

- Cheryl Esper, Long Lake, NY (2004-2007)
- Stu Milligan, Rochester, NY (2004-2005)
- Todd Jenner, Cameron, NY (2004-2008)
- Lisa Rothrock, Caledonia, NY (2006)
- Joel Slesak, Greece, NY (2006-2009)
- Stephen Clark, Webster, NY (2008-2009)
- Isaac Will, Chanhassen, MN (2007-2012)

**Feb. 8, 2001**

Gary Fallesen meets with Stu Milligan, a fellow Rochesterian, at the Starbucks in Greece, N.Y., to share “a seed planted in me before I went to Kilimanjaro” in 1998. Together, they draft the Climbing For Christ Mission Statement.

The first public meeting of Climbing For Christ, held in Gary Fallesen's drama ministry office at Hope Lutheran Church in Greece, NY. Seven people attend: Gary Fallesen, Stu Milligan, Ken Trezise of Rochester, NY, and four students from Houghton College in Houghton, NY (Jason Bewick, Barry King, Joshua Lees and Kevin MacDonald).

**Feb. 1, 2002**



# The joy ride of our lives

BY ELAINE FALLESEN

Being obedient to God isn't always easy, but it sure can lead to the ride of your life.

Never in my wildest Mefloquine\*-induced dreams could I have imagined in 2004 where my husband Gary's "hobby" would take us. As more and more of his time began pouring into shaping and growing this unique climbing ministry, I realized I had a life-changing decision of my own to make: would I follow Gary's lead through the enormous changes it would mean for our lives?

I was listening to our pastor's message one Advent Sunday in 2006. He was describing Abraham's immense faith that enabled him to unquestioningly obey God's command to slaughter his only son, Isaac – the miracle baby from whom God had promised would come generations and generations. An angel stopped Abraham at the last second, and he was richly rewarded for his full-on trust in the Lord.

At that moment everything became crystal clear. If Abraham could trust God *that* much, why couldn't I trust the Creator of the universe to take care of me and my family? I made my decision. I took the biggest leap of faith of my life, and committed everything to obeying God's call and supporting Gary as he embraced his new career.

Has it been easy since my husband transformed from sports writer to missionary? No. Easy is never part of the deal. But God's provision is. He has proved to me over and over again that He is caring for us as we trust full-on and head in His direction.

Climbing For Christ is a unique blessing and calling that the Lord has placed in my life, my marriage, my family and my future. I am privileged and humbled to be asked to help fulfill His command to "GO" with the Good News into the highest, most remote places of the world. ✝

*Elaine Fallesen has served as vice president of Climbing For Christ since its inception. She believes it is God's desire for her life that she "retire" into full-time ministry through C4C in the years ahead. \* Note: Mefloquine is an anti-malaria medicine, not an illegal hallucinogen, which is known for sometimes producing intense – if not disturbing – dreams.*



March 17, 2003

ClimbingForChrist.org goes online.  
There are 24 members at the time.

April 20, 2004

Climbing For Christ is incorporated in New York State. This is considered C4C's birthday! There are 87 members at the time. The board of directors consists of Gary Fallesen, Hilton, NY, president; Elaine Fallesen, Hilton, NY, vice president; Stu Milligan, Rochester, NY, treasurer; Mary Lindsay, Greece, NY, secretary; Cheryl Esper, Long Lake, NY, at-large member; Pastor Derek Fullerton, Colorado Springs, Colo., at-large member; Todd Jenner, Cameron, NY, at-large member.

# Don't Waste Your Life

BY GARY FALLESEN

All I ever thought I wanted to be was a sports writer. I knew my career calling at the age of 7. I started writing for weekly newspapers as a high school freshman and joined the daily paper in Rochester, NY as a junior at St. John Fisher College. Then on a climbing trip with a friend into the Alaska Range in May 2004 (one month after Climbing For Christ's incorporation), God told me I was going to finish my life differently. He spoke to me through John Piper's book, *Don't Waste Your Life*, while we were tent-bound in a storm for four days.

Eighteen months later, I was led to resign my position as the outdoor writer at the *Democrat and Chronicle*, effective Dec. 31, 2006, after more than 27 years at the paper. "Pastor John Piper calls people who

finish one career and are ready to pursue a second in Christian ministry 'a finisher,'" I shared with C4C members and supporters. "For some time, I have known it is the Lord's will that I go into ministry full-time." On Jan. 1, 2007, when this finishing chapter of my life began, Climbing For Christ had 357 members in 22 countries. At press time (as we approached our 10th anniversary), there were 1,967 member in 56 countries.

I tell you this to encourage you to listen to God's low whisper (1 Kings 19:11-12). I heard it under the howling of an Alaska snowstorm. God has dreams for your life, and they are likely beyond your wildest imaginings. †



Gary Fallesen on Mount Dickey, Alaska.

**June 2004**

Our original "Mission Vision" is authored. Prayer and research lead us to identify 18 areas of the world where Climbing For Christ may be sent. In the first 10 years, we answered this call to one-third of those nations.

**July 6, 2004**

The 100th C4C member joins.

**Nov. 6, 2004**

The first annual Board of Directors meeting is held in Saranac Lake, NY, USA.



# From acrophobia to hallelujah

BY KYLE AUSTIN

When I was first confronted with the idea of Climbing For Christ in early 2005, I was drawn to it – even though I was terrified of heights and had yet to develop any kind of love for mountaintops.

I was undoubtedly impressed by the idea of mission and inspired to join and climb.

I believe what makes Climbing for Christ stand out and draw people like me is the opportunity – or the challenge – to struggle physically to accomplish the greatest and most lasting goal any person has ever been given. The mission is to introduce our Creator and Savior to people who not only have a spiritual barrier keeping the Truth from taking root in their hearts, but also have massive physical obstacles to keep the bearers of that Truth from ever reaching them.

This challenge, this opportunity to fight with my body to accomplish something this significant, is hard to find in the field of Christian service. As a result, I was so ready to join up and throw my body into the struggle. †

*Kyle Austin was a high school senior when he went on our inaugural Evangelic Expedition, Mission: Mexico 2005. Kyle went on to serve as a missionary in Nepal for two years with another ministry. He then went to Houghton College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Intercultural Studies with a concentration in Linguistics. He also majored in Philosophy and ran cross country. He returned to Nepal with Climbing For Christ on three expeditions (2008, 2010 and 2011).*



Our inaugural Evangelic Expedition, Mission: Mexico, is held with 12 Climbing For Christ team members partnering with an organization called EduVenture Mexico (directed by Climbing For Christ member Tim Trezise) in remote northern Mexico. The team consists of: Kyle Austin, Long Lake, NY; Jason Bewick, Wheaton, IL; Cheryl, Chip, Brecken, Josiah, Galen and Hansel Esper, Long Lake, NY; Gary and Jesse Fallesen, Hilton, NY; Todd Paris (photo), Pottersville, NY, and Joseph Rooks, Wheaton, IL.

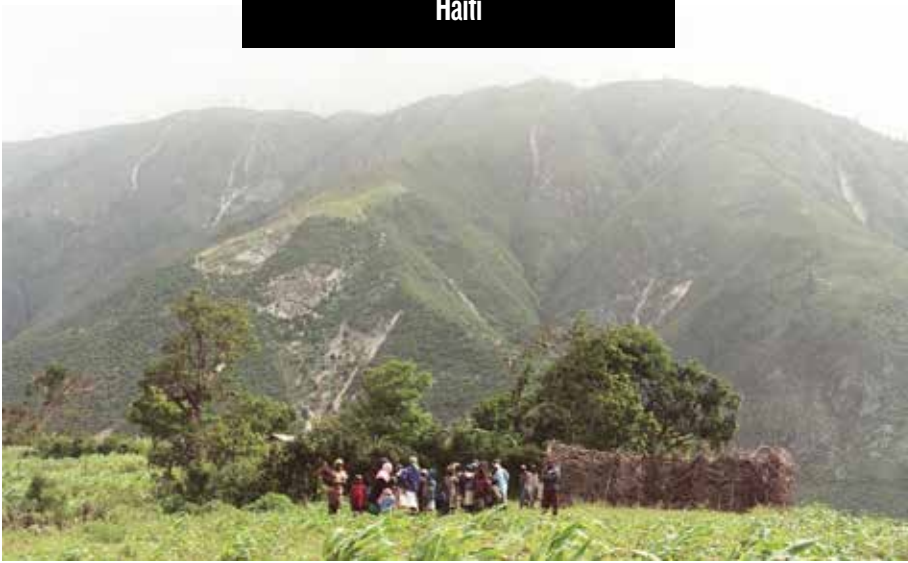
**April 15-26, 2005**



"Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does." – 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NLT)

**May 23, 2005**

Volume 1 of *The Climbing Life* (Spring edition) is published. This, "The magazine of Climbing For Christ," will be called *The Climbing Way* when Volume 2 publishes in Winter 2005-2006. The special edition you're reading, Volume 28, is designed by Stephanie Snow and printed by Nam Ngo.



# Answered prayers for Haiti

BY GARY FALLESEN

In my mind, in my memory, I hear Pastor Meristhene Fresin speaking to me in English. But he does not speak English. He is a Haitian pastor who speaks Creole. I do not speak Creole. Yet I can hear clearly the words that passed from his lips to my heart.

*"I have prayed for two years for God to send help."*



Pastor Meristhene Fresin

I got Godbumps, knowing Climbing For Christ was the help the Lord chose to send. It was Sunday, June 26, 2005 in the mountain village of Gentilhomme, Haiti. What Pastor Fresin said he needed was a church; a structure better than the roofless, three thatch walls, and dirt floor where we were standing.

In my journal after that hot summer day, I wrote: "This is what Climbing For Christ is about: a village unreachable by missionaries in a mountainous area. These are Haitian hill people, tending to cattle on steep slopes. I pledge to help the pastor and his flock. We have a new mission: send a team to build a church."

Help was on its way. God answered the prayer of a dirt-poor pastor in the Western Hemisphere's (and one of the world's) most-impoverished nation.

We'd called that Evangelic Expedition "Mission: Dominican Republic." It was Climbing For Christ's third-ever mission. The plan (man's plan) was to climb the highpoints of the Dominican Republic (10,164-foot/3,098-meter Pico Duarte) and Haiti (8,793-foot/2,680-meter Pic la Selle). That's it. Climb, answer divine appointments (we carried Dominican Bibles and Creole Bibles), and get out. Check Haiti off the list. Yup, been there. We had no idea what God had in store for us.

Haiti was uninviting. In 2005, only 16 months after a coup ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the country was in political turmoil with the United Nations trying to keep the peace. The Peace Corps pulled out and the U.S. State Department called home all non-essential personnel as Climbing For Christ was GO-ing in. Our team consisted of a 21-year-old college graduate, my 15-year-old son Jesse, and me. Young and inexperienced.

I'd been sent with the prayer of my pastor, Larry Stojkovic, that God would break my heart for Haiti and give me His eyes to see the Haitian people. That prayer also was answered.

Our team went into Haiti on three motorbikes, wearing backpacks as we bounced along rocky "roads" and dry riverbeds. We were with a translator – a Haitian native living in the DR, Miguel Rubén Guante, who would become our missionary – but none of us knew where we were going. There are no guidebooks to the mountains of Haiti. Climbers didn't (and don't)



Jesse Fallesen on way into Haiti. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

June 26, 2005

During Mission: Dominican Republic – C4C's third Evangelic Expedition – a small team consisting of Gary and Jesse Fallesen of Hilton, NY; Jonathan Esper of Long Lake, NY, and Miguel Rubén Guante of Jimani, Dominican Republic is led to the mountain village of Gentilhomme, Haiti, where a pledge is made to build a church for Pastor Tresin and his flock of 100 Christians.



### Continued from previous page

go there. No one goes there – except humanitarian workers and missionaries. We were pointed by locals toward Pic la Selle and we began to ascend. After about 2,000 vertical feet we came over the crest of a hill into a village. Welcome to Gentilhomme.

A man who would become my friend – and later accepted Christ before being struck and killed by lightning – crossed our path. Miguel asked Chalisma if he could help us. He said he would. But first, he said, we needed to meet the pastor. He took us to Pastor Fresin, who was called “Tresin,” to answer a truly divine appointment.

Our climb of Pic la Selle was over; our work in Haiti was beginning.

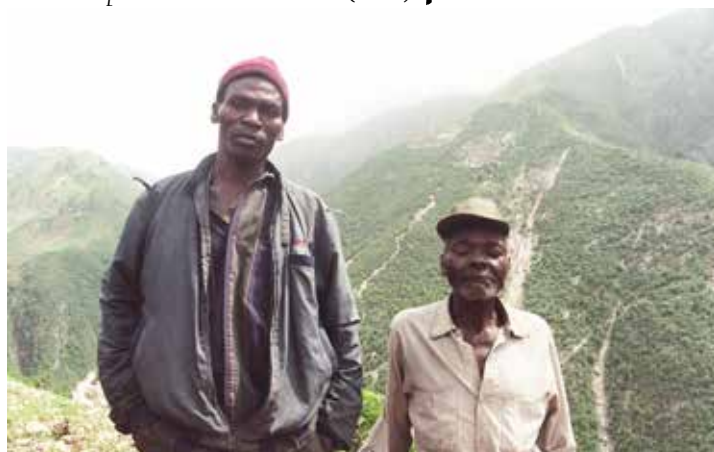
We pledged to return to build a church in Gentilhomme, which we did in April 2006. We began supporting and providing supplies for a school, where there had been no school. In the years since, we have delivered medicine, food, sanitation, and clean water. We have helped with farming. All in the name of Jesus and to the glory of God.

In all, there have been 12 short-term trips to Haiti. Twenty-five Climbing For Christ members have gone to Haiti with us. We have supported Miguel in a mission that is a 24/7 operation. It has resulted in five church

builds (Gentilhomme, Malasi, Thoman and Mare Pitre, Haiti, and Jimani, Dominican Republic) as well as the support of schools and teachers in those villages. Lives have been saved – both physically and spiritually. A monthly seminary has worked to equip pastors and church leaders in more than a dozen villages.

God’s answered prayers have exceeded anything man could have asked for in Haiti.

*“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.” – Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) †*



Chalisma (left) and Jean Baptiste in Gentilhomme. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

## The least of the least

BY STEVE QUAKENBUSH



We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a world in need. Climbing For Christ serves the poorest of the poor in regions of the world where others are often not able or willing to go.

Climbing For Christ has allowed me to grow in my personal walk with the Savior in service to the people of Haiti for several years.

Short-term missions are great, but the person serving often has a “great experience” and then returns home, leaving the people who have been served behind. Soon those people become a distant memory in a photo album tucked inside of a closet somewhere.

With Climbing For Christ, the mission – HIS mission – continues every day after we have physically said good-bye to those we have come to know and love. The mission continues with the giving of our financial resources to an organization with complete integrity. It continues with prayer specifically for brothers and sisters in the Lord. It continues with frequent updates about specific needs, people and the ongoing work. It continues with now getting my home church and others involved in specific projects and prayer.

*Steve Quakenbush, a pediatric physician assistant from Cañon City, CO, USA, has served on six medical missions to Haiti since 2008, when he joined Climbing For Christ. In April 2014, he began a three-year term as a board member of C4C. †*

Sept. 24, 2005

Nashville-based Christian singer/song writer Randall Goodgame (Caedmon’s Call “Share the Well”) performs at our “Share the Wealth” Haiti fundraiser. About \$7,000 of the estimated \$10,000 needed to build the church in Gentilhomme is raised at the Goodgame concert.

Jan. 24, 2006

Climbing For Christ contributes to a Pakistan/Kashmir earthquake relief effort by QuakeHelp.net to air ship 2.5 tons of winter survival gear (384 sleeping bags, 207 blankets, 35 tents, and 55 boxes of clothing).

1



# Building His church

BY GARY FALLESEN

Bill Hybels was closing the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit in suburban Chicago in August 2012, talking – as he often does – about how the local church is the hope of the world.

He quoted Matthew 16:18. Jesus is building His church and Jesus is protecting His church.

As Hybels spoke I felt God speaking to my heart. He said: “Build the church and build churches.” That is what Climbing For Christ is about – building (enlarging) the body of Christ and constructing structures in which this body of believers will worship and glorify our Great God! †

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**“...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” – Matthew 16:18 (ESV)**

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2



3





God has used Climbing For Christ to build the church at...

1. Gentilhomme, Haiti in 2006
2. Malasi, Haiti in 2010
3. Thoman, Haiti in 2010
4. Dapcha, Nepal in 2011
5. Korchabang, Nepal in 2012
6. Milatu, Mozambique in 2013
7. Chalhua, Peru in 2013
8. Mare Pitre, Haiti (temporary structure) in 2013
9. Kathmandu, Nepal in 2014
10. Jimani, Dominican Republic (under construction) in 2014
11. Where next, LORD?



May 14, 2006

The church in the mountain village of Gentilhomme, Haiti is dedicated and *Monte Pou Kris* (Climbing For Christ in Haitian Creole) is born. The church is finished 10 ½ months after God led a C4C team to Gentilhomme. A second team returned to assist with the construction April 17-28 during Mission: Haiti 2006.

# Sharing God's love for peaks and people

BY JIM DOENGES

God has a thing for mountains. Consider these events that occurred on mountains: Moses received the law, the Apostle John received a vision of the new Jerusalem, and the disciples received the Great Commission.

God has a thing for people, too. We are to share the Gospel to all the nations, to the ends of the earth.

God created mountains throughout the world and put various people groups among them. Unlike any other organization, Climbing For Christ focuses on these people – people who in many cases would be completely unreachable if it were not for the work of C4C.

For me, C4C has meant backpacking leg-buckling loads up mountainsides in Haiti, sweating up the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, trekking over high-altitude passes in Nepal, and collapsing into the snow in complete exhaustion on the Kahiltna Glacier of Denali (Mount McKinley) after an Evangelic Expedition up the West Buttress Route.

There has been heat, cold, dust, rain, unsanitary conditions, spiritual warfare made manifest, foregone vacations, and separations from loved ones. But because of the support of those who send C4C teams, I have been blessed beyond measure to witness hundreds hearing the story of Jesus for the first time, see miraculous healings, test water quality and bring school supplies to a mountain village, correct misconceptions and falsehoods among Muslims, bring Light into dark Hindu strongholds, pray with Tibetan Buddhists, hand out Bibles to Sherpas written in their own language, and sit on an ammo box with a Nepali soldier sipping yak butter tea while sharing the Gospel.

We who are C4C have truly been blessed to be a blessing.

Of course, prayer is the work of missions. I love reading about what God is doing through C4C in this magazine and on the C4C Web site and Facebook page. The Spirit leads me to pray for the wonderful people who are tilling hard soil, planting seeds, watering, harvesting, discipling, and caring for the flock in places where Christians are often brutally persecuted. With C4C, I'm never at a loss for things to thank and praise God for, and people I can lift up and intercede for with the Father.

By donating money to C4C I know God uses me even when I'm not going somewhere. C4C has little overhead, so virtually all monetary contributions go directly to the good work C4C does around the world. Giving to C4C provides great Kingdom bang for Kingdom bucks. When we give in any amount we become part of the cumulative effect of the Body at work: Bibles get distributed, churches get built, leaders are disciplined, and spiritual and physical needs are met.

C4C has been one of the best parts of my life. It can be the same for you. Pray, give, go. Join with other C4C members around the world in being catalysts for Christ, to the glory of God. I thank God for C4C. Climb on! †

*Jim Doenges, our 28th member (joining on May 7, 2003), served as a volunteer coordinator of the Colorado Front Range Chapter before joining Climbing For Christ's staff full-time for more than two years (2006-2008). He led and participated in Evangelic Expeditions to Alaska, Haiti, Nepal and Tanzania. Today, he is an associate professor and the Director of Outdoor Leadership Programs at Colorado Christian University.*

**October 2006**

Ninety-two students begin attending the first school in Gentilhomme, Haiti, being held in the church built earlier in the year. By November the number grows to more than 140.

**Nov. 28, 2006**

Gary Fallesen, 47, resigns his position as the outdoor writer at the Rochester, N.Y. *Democrat and Chronicle*, effective Dec. 31, after more than 27 years at the newspaper.



# East Africa design by God

BY GARY FALLESEN

The road has been like a parade route. For us, on the ground and in the midst of it, the journey seems circuitous and sometimes confusing. We have needed a GPS – a God Positioning System.

From our Father's vantage point, where He can see both the beginning and the end, our travels have been clear and far less crowded than a Macy's Thanksgiving Day.

Many stories have appeared about Mission: Kilimanjaro on the pages of *The Climbing Way* through the years. We have told and retold how God seemed to be directing and redirecting us to minister in Tanzania. Go back to Feb. 19, 2007, the first time I returned to East Africa – nine years removed from that fateful day when the LORD called me to start Climbing For Christ as I prepared to ascend Mount Kilimanjaro – and the time when we met Pastor Winford Mosha. It was, of course, divinely orchestrated: a secular worker from the Kilimanjaro Porters Project (for which we had delivered many duffels of gear) asked if we wanted to meet a Lutheran pastor in Marangu. Of course we did.

From the daily Dispatches of Mission: Kilimanjaro 2007:

*Pastor Mosha, who shepherds a church of 3,700, has a desire to put someone at the Marangu Gate – one of the busiest entrances to Kilimanjaro National Park and the tourist route up the mountain. This person would pray with the porters before and after their climbs. They would also talk about HIV with the hundreds of porters and guides who pass this way each day. "Abide with God," Pastor Mosha said, unknowingly mentioning one of the themes of our team's morning meeting. "That was our plan." I believe that is God's plan! Because He has put on our hearts the desire to plant a missionary around Kilimanjaro to work with the guides and porters – to serve their physical and spiritual needs. God is at work to make this happen, possibly with a partnership between Climbing For Christ and the Lyasongoro Lutheran Church.*

The following year we started C4C's Kilimanjaro Chapter. Seventy-four guides and porters joined our ranks. We began to teach them about evangelism, knowing that they could have a greater impact on their fellow workers and on the tens of thousands of trekkers who visit the area each year than we could as visitors.

This continued in 2010 and 2011.



Cross cairn built by Mission: Kilimanjaro 2007 members at Karanga Valley camp. (Photo by Shawn Dowd)

Eventually, though, we again saw the need to send someone to Tanzania. In 2013, we thought this would be someone from North America. But now, it seems, it was meant to be an African.

Damson Samson, a 31-year-old whom we put through college from 2010-2013, has been appointed C4C's missionary to East and Southern Africa. Damson comes from a country, Malawi, that calls itself "The warm heart of Africa." Damson's heart is for the LORD. "I want to preach the Gospel," he said, simply but with a passion that unveils a missionary's conviction.

Beginning in the summer of 2014 that is what Damson will do. In Tanzania, Uganda, his home country of Malawi, and in neighboring Mozambique. He will come alongside our other partners in ministry and make new partnerships as he preaches, teaches, and reaches out in the name of Jesus.

We believe we are, finally, seeing God's big picture for our work – His work – in the heart of Africa.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

– Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV) †



Damson Samson.

# Closed countries, persecuted people

BY GARY FALLESEN

Climbing For Christ began working in “hostile” and “restricted” countries in 2007. To date, we are ministering in four hostile areas and have ministered in three restricted nations. By definition, a “restricted” nation is a country closed to Christianity by the government and other religions. “Hostile” areas are places where Christians are the victims of violence because of their faith.

In 2007, I was blessed with an opportunity to teach about outreach into the Muslim community in a restricted nation where, by constitutional decree, the ethnic population is born and will die following that religion. Converting to Christianity is against the law.

In 2008, the Lord led us to another restricted nation where government-endorsed atheism has nearly six times the number of proponents as Christianity. But the underground church was – and is – on the move.

During both of those years we began entering hostile areas such as Indonesia and Nepal, and then we were sent to Turkey (2010) and Nigeria (2011). Other dark places are to follow. In many places, we are simply sent to be with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to encourage them in their faith, and to help them in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others. †



A police truck waits to question our trekking team as we emerge from a high-elevation valley in a closed Asian nation in 2009.

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**“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” – Matthew 5:44 (ESV)**

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## Serving in Indonesia

BY BUDI YUWONO



Since the first visit by Climbing For Christ, we are burning with desire to serve the souls who have not known God's love, especially those who are in the hills, valleys and mountains. We are so blessed with three visits by C4C teams, which is

very important. They give their hearts to win souls, even at a great price. We prayed together at West Java, serving communities in West Java, and opening a new ministry at Mount Rinjani on Lombok.

On the occasion of the third trip, Ace Concordia (Philippines) and Gary Fallesen (USA) came to Indonesia and were doing ministry together with us on Mount Rinjani. It was increasingly clear that the vision given to us through Climbing For Christ is to give our hearts to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Indonesia is the world's biggest Muslim country and most of the tribes have not been reached for Jesus. We are part of C4C and going for souls who have not been reached. **Congratulations on 10 years, C4C. To God alone be the glory! †**

*Budi Yuwono has been an active member of Climbing For Christ since 2007.*

June 17, 2007

While on Mission: Indonesia, C4C speaks at an outdoor worship of Jakarta's Abbalove East Church. The service is held in Pasir Mukti, West Java. During this time of worship JEJAK (an Indonesian acronym for following in the footsteps of Jesus) is welcomed as Climbing For Christ's first chapter outside of the United States. Walter Casper IV and Gary Fallesen present members of JEJAK with a C4C ministry banner. More than 30 people from Jakarta become members of Climbing For Christ.

Gilbert Lindor, a 14-year-old boy, is found near death in his home in Gentilhomme, Haiti by missionary Miguel Rubén Guante. An emergency evacuation is immediately begun. The Gilbert story becomes an early highlight of Climbing For Christ's work to serve physical and spiritual needs. Story page 15.

Aug. 20, 2007



## Philippines

Ace Concordia joined Climbing For Christ in June 2007. He was our second Filipino member. “In the Philippines, it’s very rare I get to climb with fellow Christians,” Ace wrote in an introductory e-mail. “How I wish there was an organization like yours here.”

C4C president Gary Fallesen told Ace we were in the Philippines – because Ace was a member of the ministry. He represented us.

Ace took this to heart and began recruiting more members. On Oct. 19, 2007, the first meeting of Climbing For Christ Philippines was held in Metro Manila. One year later, the first Mission: Philippines occurred. To date, there have been 17 Evangelic Expeditions in the Philippines. There are more than 300 members in the Philippines, making it the largest body of C4C members outside the United States.

Ace also became the first international member of Climbing For Christ’s Board of Directors in 2009. †



Delivering the Good News in Kankanaey language. (Photo by Celso Callo)

## Word war BY ACE CONCORDIA



Seven people met in a coffee shop in the Philippines in 2007 to start a new mission in the northern mountains of Kibungan, Benguet province. From the seven people who first joined C4C Philippines came a flood of volunteers who joined, a great move that only God can do.

In 2008, a two-man team (brother Jhun Hachang and I) journeyed to the remote village of Tacadang, which was to become our first mission field. In the succeeding years C4C Philippines opened new mission fields in the villages of Dalipey, Badeo, Les-eng, Bekes and Culiang. The mission teams brought medicines, school supplies, and Bibles in the Ilocano language.

By 2010 our mission teams became aware of the scarcity of the Kankanaey Bible, a Bible translated in the native language of the people of Kibungan. The Lord provided a divine appointment for us to meet SIL Philippines, an organization responsible for the translation of the Bible into Kankanaey. SIL Philippines’ project started in the 1950s and remains unfinished today. Only the New Testament and some parts of the Old Testament have been translated to Kankanaey, and there is no current translation team assembled to continue this unfinished work.

We believe that C4C’s mission is more than just bringing medicines and goods because these are all temporal things. Our mission is to be a catalyst for the finishing of the Kankanaey Bible and to redistribute it so all Kankanaey people can have one of their own. John 1:1 says everything started with God’s Word; this is also true for Kibungan. Without the Kankanaey Bible, the churches and their members remain thirsty and weak because they lack the spiritual nourishment that only God’s Word can provide.

The Kankanaey culture is filled with animistic practices inherited from past generations. They worship much of nature, but they are also aware of the one true God and of Jesus. But the Word says you cannot put new wine into old wine skins. In a culture where the old ways are at war with the new, the Kankanaey need a new way to worship, new songs to sing, a new hope for the future.

As 2014 began, the mission of C4C Philippines remained to bring the Kankanaey Bible back to Kibungan. The war between ancestral tradition and the new life that God offers continues, and C4C missionaries persevere because it’s a fight for the spiritual freedom of the Kankanaey people. This is a war worthy of our best efforts. It’s a war for God’s Word!

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

– Galatians 6:9 (NIV) †

The 500th member joins.

**Aug. 29, 2007**

During Mission: Haiti 2007, Gary Fallesen visits Malasi and accepts the church there into Climbing For Christ affiliation, meaning the ministry will work in two villages (and counting) in the Chaine de la Selle mountains.

C4C also starts a monthly seminary for pastors and church leaders from multiple villages.

**December 2007**

**Oct. 19, 2007** The first meeting of Climbing For Christ Philippines was held at the Starbucks in Filinvest Festival Mall in Alabang Muntinlupa City. Seven people attended, including C4C Philippines coordinator Ace Concordia. A second meeting was held six days later — again with seven people attending.

# He is the vine, we are the branches

BY DEREK FULLERTON

For more than a decade now I have been blessed to enjoy the ride of watching Climbing For Christ develop from brother Gary Fallesen's initial vision to the reality of Jesus' Kingdom work being done in 15 countries with members in 56 countries.

The call to "pray, give and go" is foundational to the ministry. Climbing For Christ is nothing without Jesus' servants tied in to Him (John 15:5), giving of their time, treasures and talents, and embarking on the plethora of mission trips each year.

Writing support checks regularly to the ministry is an act of worship. I know personally that the money going to Climbing For Christ goes to the Great Commission, which is clearly our Father's heart. "Taking the Gospel to mountainous areas of the world where other missionaries cannot or will not go" is undoubtedly a lofty mission statement, but true to the ministry's core value and calling.

I enjoy writing checks to the ministry in the knowledge that there is not a large overhead to support and, therefore, a high percentage of the money goes directly to where the true needs are in unreached areas.

As for "going": For a decade I have gone to the Annual Meeting of C4C's Board of Directors. Overall, there has been a marvelous sense of unity from the ministry's leadership. The unity has stemmed from having the mind of Christ. Underlying the leadership is the sense that we are treading on Holy Ground and desire to walk with Jesus as He leads and directs us.

I have also gone to Haiti with my newlywed wife to experience first-hand how the ministry is playing out in the remote mountains of that nation. C4C has been called to the neglected peoples of the mountains of Haiti to see Jesus' Kingdom grow through the preaching of the Gospel and meeting some of their physical needs. What a joy to see such impoverished people finding hope and encouragement through the Gospel and ministry of Climbing For Christ!

Also, I have been blessed to see first-hand brother Ace Concordia's calling and leadership in the Philippines chapter of Climbing For Christ. Ace led a C4C team I was on as we backpacked into the remote mountains



Derek Fullerton, right, with Gary Fallesen and Ace Concordia in the village of Tacadang on Mission: Philippines 2008. (Photo by Jade Concordia)

of the northern Philippines. The needs were overwhelming, where these subsistence farmers and their families live in a region by-and-large forgotten by their country. The Gospel had taken root prior to our arrival there. We were able to love and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ and that remote village has been a springboard to advance Christ's Gospel into deeper areas of the country.

I had an opportunity to preach in a local church high in those mountains. As is typical in environments like that, not only are the locals blessed, but we (and I!) were blessed by our brothers' and sisters' love and commitment to our Savior and Lord. They do not have the physical resources we do, but their spiritual resources in Christ inspire me to draw nearer to Him. They truly know what it is to press into the Father's heart and to depend on Him for their daily bread.

Another highlight of that Philippines mission trip was preaching the Gospel message outdoors with a sizable audience. What a joy to preach the powerful message of Christ to them and to people from all over that region who came to see what Climbing For Christ was about.

We sensed Heaven touching earth that day as our team not only brought the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it was accompanied with boxes and boxes of clothes, school supplies and medical equipment as a gift to the community from C4C.

Praise God for His faithfulness in allowing us to be a small, but significant part of His work with Climbing For Christ. To Him be all praise, glory and honor! Amen. †

*Derek Fullerton, a pastor and original board member, joined C4C on Feb. 1, 2002. He was our 12th member.*

We ask members and supporters for \$400 to provide two days of food for 24 families in Gentilhomme, Haiti and 24 families in Malasi, Haiti. One Climbing For Christ member e-mails to ask: "How much do you need to feed the whole village?" The member then provides a \$25,000 donation. Within days, a plan is in place for a Food Bank (emergency food to keep the hungry alive) and a Seedling Bank (planting assistance to ease the need for a Food Bank). In the next few months, more than 5,000 banana plants and seeds for coffee, oranges and avocados are delivered to farmers in the two mountain villages. **May 19, 2008**

**April 4, 2008** Mission: Possible begins work in a "restricted nation." During our first trip we are introduced to a project that will provide radios and allow us to deliver the Gospel via MP3 players. This work begins in 2009.

**April 18, 2008**  
Mission: Nepal begins.



# The miracle of Gilbert

BY ELAINE FALLESEN

Gilbert Lindor is a walking miracle.

In 2007, at age 13, Gilbert broke his leg while playing. He fell into a ravine in the remote mountain village of Gentilhomme, Haiti. In utter poverty and with no medical care for miles, his family wrapped his badly broken leg, set him in his room, and prepared for the worst.

Twenty-seven days later, when Climbing For Christ's missionary Miguel Rubén Guante made his monthly visit to Gentilhomme, he learned that the school's best student was ill. He went to see Gilbert. To find him, Miguel needed only to follow his nose.

Death was on the doorstep of Gilbert's home, where he had lain since he fell. Gangrene had spread through his left leg. The odor was as gruesome as the sight of it.

Miguel hurriedly made the 18-mile hike down the mountain and drove back to his border home in the Dominican village of Jimani two hours away. He sent an e-mail to Climbing For Christ president Gary Fallesen asking for help.

Gary instructed Miguel to begin Gilbert's rescue. An appeal went out to C4C members to raise the \$4,450 that would be needed for transportation and hospital care.



"The doctor said, 'Let's pray for Gilbert first thing,' and then they would try to cut lower on the leg," Miguel recalled.

With 75 percent of his leg destroyed, it needed to be amputated far above the knee. But enough was saved below the hip that a prosthetic could be fashioned for him to use after recovery. After two operations and 45 days in the hospital, Gilbert was released into Miguel's care. Gilbert's physical life had been saved.

Gilbert came to live with Miguel to heal and to grow in his spiritual life "because I understand God want some special thing with Gilbert," Miguel explained.

*Continues on next page*



Four days later, Gilbert was carried down the mountain from Gentilhomme to a waiting rented truck and transported across the border. Then came another six hours of driving to a hospital in Santo Domingo. At nearly midnight, a doctor examined Gilbert at the Public Hospital Facility. Her response gave Miguel a sense of peace.

About two weeks after celebrating its first anniversary, C4C Philippines begins Mission: Philippines. Nine Filipino and two American members of Climbing For Christ trek to Tacadang to deliver medicine, school supplies, clothing, and the Good News. Pastor Derek Fullerton delivers the message of salvation and asks any who want to accept Jesus to come forward. Thirty people do so. "This was the summit of our mission trip, to be able to preach Christ, and to see people respond to the message of hope through Jesus," said

**Oct. 28-Nov. 7, 2008**

Ace Concordia, the C4C Philippines coordinator.

Climbing For Christ welcomes its 1,000th member.

**April 29, 2009**

Haitian children Gilbert Lindor, Sainte-Anne Paul and Miche Fleurisme, accompanied by Climbing For Christ missionary Miguel Rubén Guante, are brought to Colorado for medical procedures. Gilbert, who was rescued from death but lost his leg in the summer of 2007, receives a \$20,000 prosthetic from fellow amputee Joe Johnson at Quorum Orthopedics in Windsor, Colo. This Mission: Haiti medical trip is dubbed the "Haitian vacation."

**July 31-Aug. 20, 2009**

**Feb. 1, 2009**

Ace Concordia joins the Board of Directors in an at-large position. His addition gives Climbing For Christ its first international Board, which is fitting because the ministry is an international one with 941 members in 44 countries.

Continued from previous page

Gary and Miguel began investigating how a prosthetic might be obtained. With the help of two Coloradoans – Dr. Steve Quakenbush, a veteran of C4C medical missions to Haiti, and Craig DeMartino, an amputee and champion competitive climber who is a member of Climbing For Christ – plans got underway to bring Gilbert to the U.S.

August of 2009 was dubbed C4C's "Haitian Vacation" as not only Gilbert, but two other children from Gentilhomme with deformed legs – Sainte-Anne Paul, 7, and Miche Fleurisme, 6 – flew with Miguel to Denver, CO for medical help. Gilbert's airfare was covered by two more Colorado angels, Marsha and Ron Hogan, his "sponsor parents."

During a whirlwind two weeks of medical evaluations, Gilbert was introduced to Craig's "leg maker," Joe Johnson of Quorum Orthopedics. Amidst the showering of blessings that summer was Joe's promise that, "If you can get Gilbert here, I'll make the leg for free."

Gilbert's injury was complicated because he had no femur left in his leg. Normally, in this situation, a prosthetic would take a month to make. Joe and his team did it in two days.

Following a crash course in walking with a new robotic-looking leg, Gilbert returned home with Miguel. His dream had been to walk into school on two legs. With no crutches. On Sept. 1, 2009 he realized that dream. Wearing dress pants and the school's new uniform shirt, he went to school.

### FAST FORWARD

Gilbert has returned to using crutches. The rough, rocky streets and terrain of Jimani, DR quickly took their toll and made maneuvering with a prosthetic almost impossible. C4C will wait until Gilbert is ready to try a prosthetic again.

Now age 20 and in high school, Gilbert is maturing as a young adult. He was baptized in 2010 on July 24 – the same date as Gary's birthday and also the baptismal birthday of Gary's daughter Hayley Hope. God weaves our lives together in marvelous ways.

God continues to perform a miracle on Gilbert Lindor. We can only wait to see what is to come in the restored life of this young Haitian upon whom God has shown great favor. ✝

### MEDICAL CLINICS ON MISSION: HAITI

have made it possible for Climbing For Christ to rescue many from the jaws of death. A few examples:



**Donya**, top, was struck by lightning nearly three months before our Mission: Haiti team found her in 2008 near Malasi. **Carmen**, middle, from near Thoman, had a tumor the size of a grapefruit grow out of her mouth in February 2011, making eating impossible. **Saintela**, bottom, had a tumor similar to Carmen's. She was evacuated in March 2013 from near Malasi. All three have had God's healing hand upon them.

Sept. 29, 2009

A month-long worship series called "Hunger and Thirst" yields more than \$10,000 in giving at Hope Lutheran Church. These funds are earmarked for a water project in Gentilhomme, Haiti.

Sept. 30, 2009

C4C Philippines, in the wake of successive typhoons and major flooding, begins Project Good Samaritan. It is Climbing For Christ's best relief effort to date.





Michele Annibal, a C4C member from Philadelphia, PA, USA, playing with orphans and schoolchildren on Mission: Malawi 2014. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

# Climbing For Christ means so much

BY PASTOR LARRY STOJKOVIC



I have been praying for and supporting the ministry of Climbing For Christ for the past 10 years. Praise God that Gary Fallesen heard the call of the Lord years ago, to lead a ministry where people would climb for Christ, so that thousands could hear about the Lord at their own altitude.

Then I was asked to write an article focusing on what C4C means to me now. It means a lot to me. Far more important, however, is what it means to thousands of people around the world who live in mountainous regions. It means that somebody cares about them. It means that they matter to Jesus. To the orphans who receive the ministry of C4C, it means that they are not forgotten and truly loved by the Lord. I have to believe this ministry means the world to them.

To people living in the mountains, C4C means that a church building will be constructed where they can gather for worship. It means that men and women will be trained to bear the Gospel. It means that communities will receive fresh water and the means to grow their own crops. It means that Bibles will be placed in their hands to show them the way home. When missionaries step into their community, Jesus has arrived. Then everything begins to change, for when Jesus arrives the Light dawns and Hope has come.

What Climbing For Christ means to all these beautiful people is what it means to me. †

*Larry Stojkovic is the senior pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Rochester, NY, USA, where C4C was born. Pastor Larry and Hope have supported the ministry of Climbing For Christ since the beginning.*

US\$500 is wired to member Pastor Duncan Nyozani in Malawi to buy one month's food for 15 orphans after a thief steals all of the supplies from Duncan's small orphanage. The incident proves to be God's way of opening a door to Climbing For Christ in the impoverished Southern African country.

**Oct. 26, 2009**

US\$4,100 is wired to member Pastor Tej B. Rokka in Nepal for the purchase of land in the mountain village of Dapcha, where a church will be constructed in 2010 as part of Mission: Nepal. This money was raised at the annual Hilton Apple Fest, a fundraiser in which C4C has participated since 2007, making fruit smoothies, chicken chili, pulled-pork sandwiches, and "Walking Tacos."

We visit Far & Wide Children's Home in Kambona, Malawi, starting a ministry relationship that will include supporting the orphanage and Pastor Duncan Nyozani of Searchlight Ministries, and sending Damson Samson to college.

**Jan. 26, 2010**

# Go and tell!

BY KEVIN KIMBLE

What Climbing For Christ means to me:



- C4C is the DOING part of ministry!! Many people, churches and nations pray, plan, promote a concept or idea or program. C4C is “in the field” DOING what many others are planning!
- C4C is helping!! So many ministers are called worldwide by our Loving God. And

these men need all the help they can get. They often operate in a total vacuum on a totally stretched shoestring, and we are called as believers to BUILD CHRIST’S CHURCH. I find that activity ABOUNDS in C4C.

- C4C is tending to the orphan!! We are called by God to look after HIS sheep. And even more so, those who are orphaned and homeless. This is a daily activity in our ministry that God has blessed us with. HE has led us to a number of special and desperate situations, where even the small amount of resources we can offer accomplish great things in HIS Name.
- C4C is distributing God’s Word!! We are blessed to read, proclaim, teach and instruct God’s Word. In the case of some people and cultures, we are even used by God to revive a long-outdated manuscript of HIS Word and find a way to get it printed again! This presents a resource to a nation of people who had been all but totally lost in time. Now they can once again read – in their own language – about the God who made them and loves them and has a plan for them, culminating in life forever with HIM for all who trust and believe.
- C4C is always going!! How can the people of the world know unless somebody goes and tells them? This is totally critical. Someone needs to GO, someone needs to tell. Blessed are those feet that bring the Good News!
- C4C is climbing and trekking!! This ministry is extremely active where others do not tread.

Sometimes others can’t. Sometimes others won’t. We are in many forgotten corners of the globe. We can often be found in a small village, guests of a native family, sitting and sharing. “God has led me here to tell you of HIS love...” Sometimes this sharing will lead to an invitation by the leader of the community to again share this message with him, sometimes no. We pray for every opportunity! And we trust God for the doors to be open. We ask HIM for guidance and discernment. Where obstacles may be present, we pray for open hearts on our next visit.

- C4C is used by GOD to build relationships!! This ministry is so often traveling to previously established (lonely) strongholds for Christ. Our ministry reaches out to a given community of people a number of times, looking to establish trust and relationship. As this comes into play, we can be found on location many times as years unfold. We are NOT a present-the-Gospel-and-you’re-on-your-own-after-that kind of ministry. Some ministries are called by God to operate in that fashion, some are called for a more involved or lasting relationship. That would be C4C!
- C4C is used by GOD to conduct seminary teaching to native pastors!! Sometimes this has even been an opportunity to send a gifted young man to college. This is a wonderful way to provide the message of Christ to a foreign nation – through the education of a national who will be used by GOD in numbers of ways to teach and preach.

This is a snapshot of what C4C is to ME. It is the way that I respond, which I KNOW God has instructed me to do to minister to HIS people. We are all called to GO and tell! We all need to be tending to this work every day. C4C is one of those UNDENIABLE activities, where I SEE God’s work in progress and I NEED to be a part of it. Thank You, Jesus, because of Your blessing, I am!

Your brother in service to THE KING,

KJK ✝

*Kevin Kimble is an at-large member of Climbing For Christ’s Board of Directors. He has served with C4C since 2010.*

**Feb. 27, 2009**

C4C Dominican Republic is legalized in an effort to make easier the work we are doing on Hispaniola, the Caribbean island shared by the DR and Haiti.

**March 21, 2010**

The church at Malasi is dedicated during Mission: Haiti. This is the second Monte Pou Kris church.

**April 9, 2010**

During Mission: Possible 5 (of seven expeditions into a particular closed nation), God brings us an indigenous worker who will serve with us until mid-January 2012, when he disappeared. We believe “Frank” (not his real name) was martyred. He was one of perhaps 200 Christians among his people group. The people to whom we were ministering had been off limits and out of reach of the Gospel until 1999, and C4C may be the first to visit the specific area we are working in.



# GO-ing means never having to say you're sorry

BY GARY FALLESEN

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**“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” – Galatians 6:9 (ESV)**

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Compassion fatigue is a very real challenge when you find yourself in the trenches day in and day out, always trying to find a way to give more, do more, be more. The Apostle Paul encouraged the church at Galatia to always do good, and never give up.

In Nepal, if ever I have a moment when I am weary, I need only think of Sumitra. She is the poster child for our mission there.

On CHRISTmas day 2007, Gopal Pariyar carried his crippled daughter into the small house church that was meeting in the village of Dapcha east of Kathmandu in Nepal's Central Region. Sumitra's Hindi family had heard that Jesus could heal people and Gopal had tried everything – from praying to the 330 million Hindu gods to paying witch doctors to buying medicine. Nothing had worked and Gopal felt he had nowhere left to turn.

“He heard that if you go to church that Jesus would heal,” a Nepali brother in Christ said, translating Gopal and Sumitra's story.

The church prayed for Sumitra. They asked for healing in the name of Jesus.

Soon after, Sumitra took her first steps. She received Christ and then she began to walk for the first time in nine years.

“She is sorry,” Sumitra told us through a translator in 2011. “What if I got Jesus earlier before being paralyzed?”

“She is sorry for that – that she did not hear about Jesus before her sickness.”

When I heard these words my heart broke. A young woman, my sister in Christ was apologizing for not knowing Jesus earlier.

This was not Sumitra's fault, nor the fault of her family. It was my fault. It was our fault – the fault of the church. Why had we not delivered the Good News of Jesus Christ? What is holding us back today?

Nepal is a former Hindu kingdom, where sharing Jesus was illegal until 1953. More than 60 years later, Nepal is among the top five most unreached countries in the world with 99.5 percent of the 31-million people still unreached.

Climbing For Christ has ministered in Nepal since 2008. We have ventured through the Central Region, the Mid-West and the Far West. We have several Nepali members who are on the ground working every day. We support a pastor, an evangelist, an orphanage, the distribution of Bibles, and the building of churches (three to date – Dapcha; Korchabang in the Mid-West district of Rolpa, and Kathmandu).

Mission: Nepal 2014 in March-April was our seventh Evangelic Expedition to this Himalayan country. Another is scheduled for September.

There is much work to be done there, much good to do. We cannot tire. We have been inspired to be like Sumitra's family. As her father told us: “I have to tell others in my surroundings this Good News.” He knows our need to GO. †

*Nepalis say if you stay more than two weeks in their country you are Nepali. Gary Fallesen is honored to be a Nepali after taking five mission trips there between January 2011 and April 2014.*

**Sept. 26, 2010**

The church at Thoman, Haiti is dedicated. This is the third church build completed by C4C.

**July 9, 2010**

Mission: Ararat begins.

**Jan. 8, 2011**

While on Mission: Nepal 2011 in Dapcha, we are introduced to Sumitra and hear her miraculous story of coming to Christ and experiencing His healing hand.

# The Lord's will *will* be done

BY JORDAN ROWLEY

Looking back, I laugh at how the Lord took me straight from the sideline to the frontline of mission work – in just a short time.

Prior to my involvement with Climbing For Christ, I knew about global missions and the physical and spiritual needs of millions of people around the world, but I only knew about those things in my head. The needs hadn't really grabbed my heart, nor had the Great Commission been a personal call to me. That is, until the Lord sent me to Haiti.

I became a member of C4C in late 2008. Over the course of the following year as I received E-Newsletters and *The Climbing Way*, God began stirring my heart to GO, specifically on a C4C Mission: Haiti trip. I began to pray.

Then one day, the Lord showed me His will – quite clearly. I sat at my computer looking at the Mission: Haiti page of the C4C Web site. Once again I thought (half to myself and half in a prayer to the Lord), *"Is this something, I should be a part of?"* Then I simply said, *"It's my will if it's Yours, Lord."*

I closed out of the tab to have a quiet moment. However, to my surprise my Web browser immediately opened right back up to the Mission: Haiti page. I closed that tab, but another opened right up. Again and again this happened until I couldn't keep up with them.

Finally, I logged off the Internet and thought (again, half to myself and half in prayer), *"Wow, could this be the Lord!?"* Looking back, I guess I had kind of a Gideon moment when I prayed, *"If I log back onto the*

*Internet and that C4C Haiti page pops up again, I'll know this is You, Lord."* Sure enough, it happened again!

That was enough for me. So in 2009 I set off with zero mission experience and very little outdoor or climbing experience.

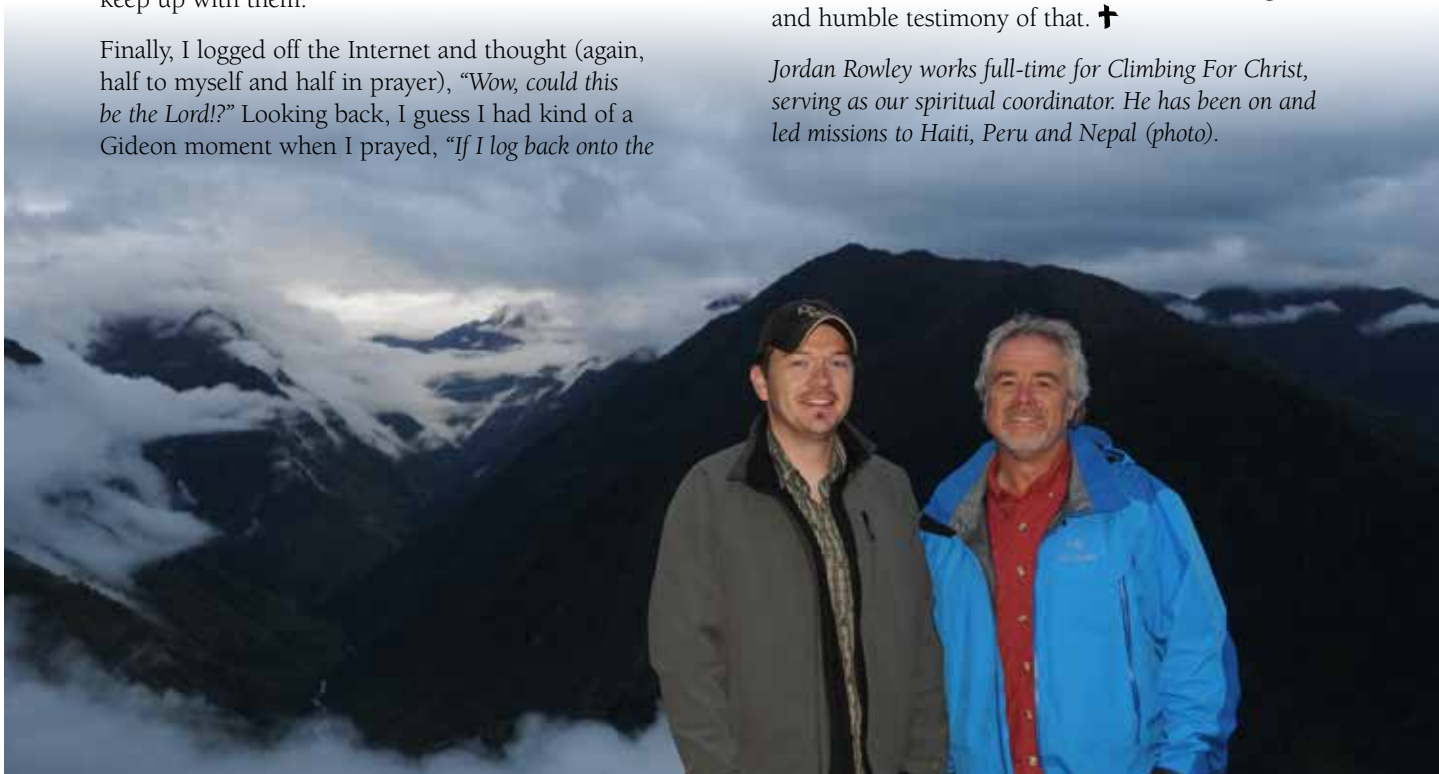
We say that God uses C4C to turn missionaries into mountaineers, and mountaineers into missionaries. I like to add that C4C also takes completely average people and turns them into mountaineering missionaries, too. I'm living proof of this.

Looking back, I can see that my first mission to Haiti in 2009 was a turning point in my life, changing me forever. God used those experiences to open my eyes to a world in need.

On Mission: Haiti 2009, I met face to face with the poor, I made friends with the destitute, and I had my heart torn for the disadvantaged. Since then, God has set me on a course to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ with the nations, through HIS ministry of Climbing For Christ!

I've been privileged to play a small part in what the Lord is doing in this world through C4C. God has used this ministry, not only to bring the Good News to hard-to-reach mountainous places around the globe, but to dramatically change those whom He sends out into His harvest as well. I stand as a grateful and humble testimony of that. †

*Jordan Rowley works full-time for Climbing For Christ, serving as our spiritual coordinator. He has been on and led missions to Haiti, Peru and Nepal (photo).*





# A man on a mission

BY GARY FALLESEN



Jaime Servat praying with a young girl after teaching her about Jesus. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

Jaime Servat of Huaraz, Peru, a Climbing For Christ member since November 2006, frequently shared reports about how God was using him. Then one day in August 2010 he made a prayer request: he needed just a little more than US\$200 for a bus ticket to Quito, Ecuador.

God was leading him to GO to Ecuador to deliver the Good News. God directed us to provide for Jaime's need.

This was the beginning of the sending of Jaime Servat.

On that particular trip, Jaime used \$204.82 to lead six people to Christ, help restore the faith of three others, and serve the physical needs of another three people through medical assistance. It was money well spent.

The trip also gave Jaime an opportunity to share Climbing For Christ with many brothers and sisters in Christ in Ecuador, resulting in C4C's first 10 members from that country.

A month later, Jaime Servat was in Colombia, doing many of the same things. This has been Jaime's lifestyle for many years — going, GOing and GOING some more in the name of the Lord.

Ask Jaime his occupation and he will tell you, "Missionary to South America." Not just Huaraz, the town where he lives; not just Peru, his homeland, but to an entire continent.

When we asked Jaime to suggest where Climbing For Christ might go on an Evangelic Expedition in 2011, he had a long list of answers. He said Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru – to name a few. "I pray to the Lord so He can put on my heart, under His guidance, how, when and where I would go first."

So, divinely inspired, Mission: Peru 2011 began taking shape. In May 2011, during this Evangelic Expedition to the Cordillera Blanca range of the Andes Mountains, Jaime was appointed Climbing For Christ's missionary to Peru. It's a starting point.

From 2011 to today, brother Jaime has been a man on a mission, setting out for remote villages, evangelizing and ministering along the way. He has partnered with our sponsored climbing guide, Edwin Milla, also of Huaraz, and many other C4C Peru members. Short-term teams also have worked shoulder to shoulder with Jaime in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Mission: Peru 2014 is scheduled May 10-25.

Some photographed highlights of the work in Peru:



Chalhua church under construction in 2013. (Photo by Jordan Rowley)



Distributing Bibles: Justin Rowley shares the Word with a villager on Mission: Peru 2011, left. Family ties: Allison was 8-years-old when our 2011 team first met her. We helped reunite her family. (Photos by Gary Fallesen and Jaime Servat)

The church at Dapcha in Nepal's Central Region is dedicated. Pastor Tej Rokka from Climbing For Christ's partner ministry Savior Alone Reaches Asians (SARA) called it "a day of gratitude and thanksgiving. There were 150 people and my family and other leaders from Kathmandu went there. Together, we worshiped in the new church after dedicating it to the Lord. People sang and danced and expressed their thanks."

Sept. 15, 2011

May 18, 2011

Jaime Servat is named missionary to Peru as our initial short-term mission to that South American country winds down. Jaime and climbing guide Edwin Milla are appointed co-leaders of C4C Peru.

# Project Living Word

BY JORDAN ROWLEY

Millions of Christians around the globe cannot read of God's timeless truths or His precious and powerful promises simply because they do not have a Bible of their own. It's these believers living in the majority of the world who are *most in need* of the comfort and hope found in God's Word.

Yet we in the First World, who have far fewer true hardships, seem to have more Bibles than we know what to do with. They come in all shapes and sizes. There are pocket Bibles and ultra-thin Bibles. Bibles of every color, texture and material one could possibly desire. Want one with a zipper, snap or clasp? No problem. There are hundreds of different study Bible options, too, along with a sea of different translations to choose from.

I say all of this not to condemn, but simply as a reality check and as a call to action.

It's incredibly easy to take the Bible for granted (when you have one or two – *or 10*). But there are so many followers of Jesus in this world who have none.

It is a wonderful fact that the Bible is the world's bestselling book of all time. And don't get me wrong, it's a true blessing that those in the First World have such an abundance of the Scriptures. But what about those who can't afford to buy one of these bestselling books of their own? This is not for lack of want,

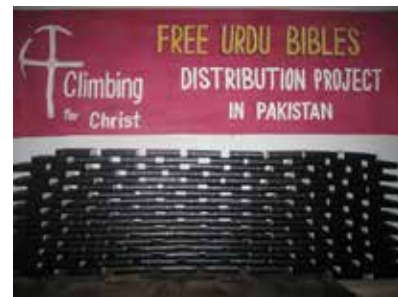
but because many of these people can barely maintain the bare necessities of life (food, clothing and shelter) let alone buy a book.

Most of us can't really begin to understand what that's like. But we can imagine the joy and comfort and peace that God's precious Word could bring to their hearts. If only every Christian (from the First World to the Third World) had a Bible for themselves!

It's our passionate belief that each and every follower of Christ should have his or her own copy of the Scriptures! After all, we believe what the Bible says about itself. God's Word tells us that the Scriptures are a light to our path; they are living and powerful; they are sharper than any sword.

And the Bible also declares that all believers should let Christ's Word dwell richly in their hearts. For US\$6-to-\$12, God can use you to bless a fellow believer with his or her own Bible. This is one of the most inexpensive yet truly priceless gifts anyone could ever give or receive!

Would you please consider partnering with us as we bring God's Word to hard-to-reach places in Haiti, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and beyond? †



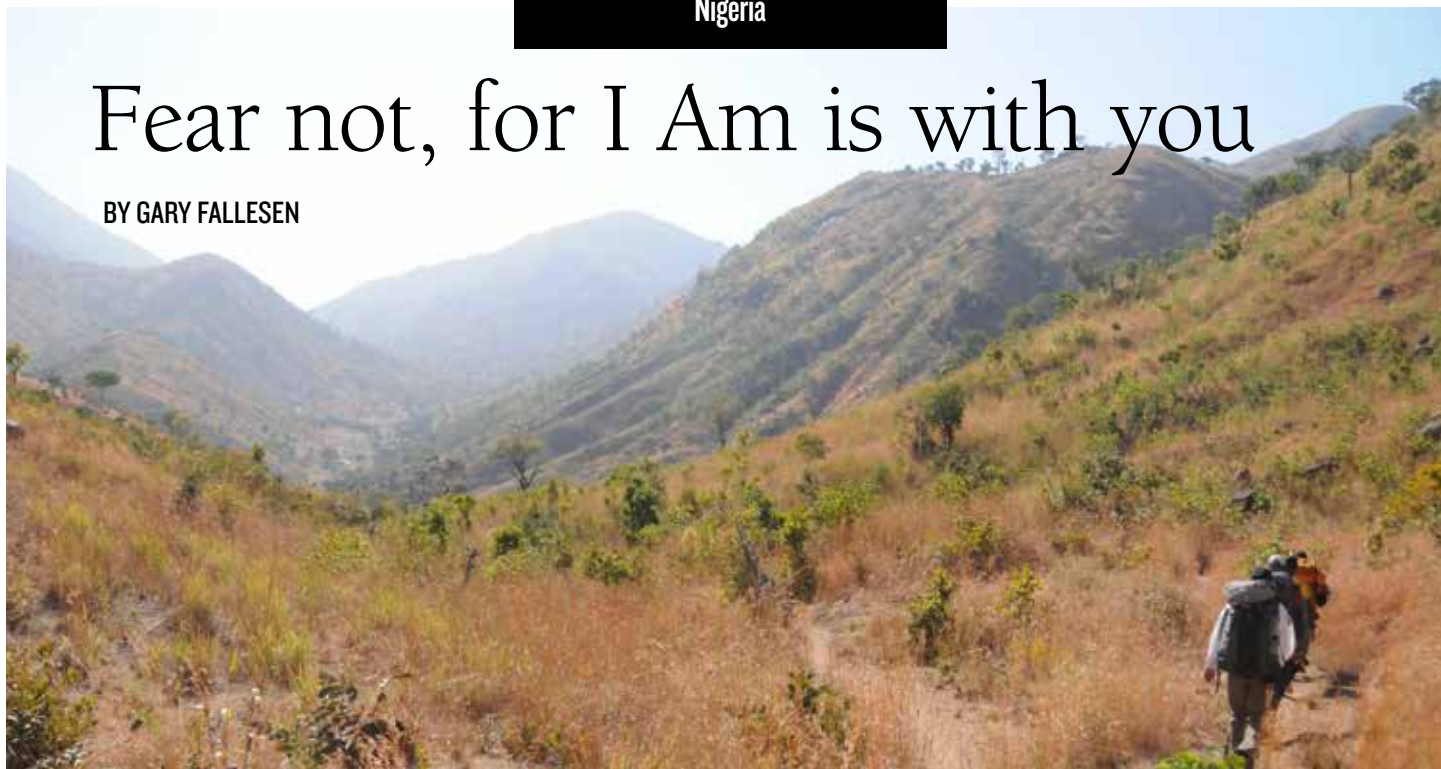
Urdu-language Bibles for Pakistan. (Photo by Haseeb Masih)

The 1,500th member joins. **Oct. 25, 2011**



# Fear not, for I Am is with you

BY GARY FALLESEN



Climbing For Christ has ministered to a primitive people living in Nigeria's inhospitable Koma Hills along the Cameroon border since visiting in 2011 by sending Pastor Chris Joseph to continue the work.

Human nature, Pastor Chris Joseph tells us, makes living in Nigeria with an extremist terror group like Boko Haram on the prowl “both frightening and life threatening.” Thousands have died at the hands of those Islamic jihadists, whose goal is to eradicate everything Western – from education to religion.

But, Pastor Chris cautions, “Spiritually speaking, the Bible admonishes us as Christians to watch and pray. We are to *‘be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.’* (1 Peter 5:8-9, NIV).”

Christians need not fear the enemy – or his demon-inspired minions who walk the earth – because the Lord has given us power to stand against such evil. “I believe that with God on our side, Boko Haram activities will be brought to a halt soon,” Chris added.

The Bible also tells us if our brother (or sister) is suffering, all of us are suffering (1 Corinthians 12:26). But who among us truly feels the anguish of Nigeria?

Pastor Chris loves what Climbing For Christ stands for – that we are “passionate for soul winning, helping the helpless, and putting smiles on mourning faces, especially in places where other missionaries cannot or will not GO.”

He recognizes that C4C may not be “popular” – or known among international ministries, let alone in the world – “but it is peculiar to the glory of God.” In other words, we seek our Father’s applause, not the applause of man. Further, by being less known, perhaps we can fly under the radar. Perhaps we can deliver the Gospel behind enemy lines where others might fear to tread.

Climbing For Christ has managed to organize only one Evangelic Expedition to Nigeria. The opportunity to GO there still exists. Any takers?

*“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’” – Isaiah 6:8a (ESV) †*

The “EMT” (Eric Memorial Tent) is set up in Haiti for the first time. After years of makeshift sites to hold medical clinics on Mission: Haiti, Dr. Steve Quakenbush’s prayer is answered as C4C purchases a Mountain Hardwear Stronghold (10-person, 4-season) tent. Funds for this come from the Dr. Eric A. Cederstrom Memorial. Eric, a friend of Climbing For Christ, died of cancer in 2008. But his service to the world through medicine lives on in the Eric Memorial Tent.



Jan. 31, 2012

Jan. 6, 2012

Comedian Brad Stine turns our “Put a Climbing Helmet On!” fundraiser in Rochester, NY, USA into a Bible-thumping event. He asks the audience to give to an effort to purchase 1,000 Nepali-language Bibles. The response: enough donations to purchase 1,016 Bibles! “God definitely wanted to anoint your mission,” Brad says after.

# Listen to the LORD

BY BRANDY EVERTS

Climbing For Christ is not about a job; it's about Jesus.

C4C is about going to unreached areas of the world and sharing Jesus. It's about hiking in 40°C (104 °F) heat to share Jesus with one man in a Nigerian village who has never believed. It's about playing volleyball at 10,000 feet with 16-year-old girls and sharing the reason why we are hiking in the part of Nepal that they call "home."

It's about sharing His glorious name with the world so that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. We have one calling, one purpose on earth, and it's to bring glory to Him. And that's what C4C does.

## C4C Canada

C4C Canada was a dream that Gary Fallesen had and held in his heart until God wanted to make it happen. In December 2011, while sitting in a sweltering hot Nigerian hotel, Gary asked me if I would come on staff and begin setting up C4C Canada. At first I saw C4CC acting both as a financial conduit to send more support money into the nations, and as a conduit to send more Canadians to the nations. Even though that was a good start, God had more planned.

The "forgotten mission field" in Canada, as many refer to it, is the North – the Arctic. People live there. These people are searching for the Truth. The perfect place for Climbing For Christ, eh?

God is calling, "Who will go for us?" Who will answer, "Here I am. Send me!"?

There is so much of God's work to do, but we ask: "What can I do?" Romans 12:1 states, "Present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice unto the Lord." That perfectly says it all – offer yourself to God. Begin by praying. When God says, "Do something," be obedient and do it. When He says "give," give; when He says "GO," – pack your bag!

Continue to trust and share Jesus, because that's what life's all about.

FOR HIS GLORY! †

*Brandy Everts joined Climbing For Christ before Mission: Possible 2009, an Evangelic Expedition into a closed nation. She didn't know if she would do another trip with C4C; now she works for the ministry. Why? Because God told her to do so.*



Brandy Everts with a young goat and the attention of many women in a village in Morocco. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

C4C Canada is incorporated. The Canadian branch of Climbing For Christ becomes fully operational on Dec. 16, 2013 with Brandy Everts serving as coordinator. The original C4C Canada board consists of Gary Fallesen (president), Brandy Everts (vice president), Al Robinson (treasurer), Aaron Hemphill (secretary), Andrew Bailey (at-large member), Mary Lindsay (at-large) and Jim MacTavish (at-large). This board is voted in on Nov. 5, 2013.

Sept. 5, 2012





# Going to new heights

BY GARY FALLESEN



Pastor Rich, left, preaching in a Rwenzori village.

Pastor Rich Friday Kyabughirwe joined Climbing For Christ in August 2012. After about one year of watching from afar the work that God was doing through C4C, Pastor Rich heard a call.

He had ministered on the streets and in the markets of Kasese in western Uganda for five years. "I could preach but I could not win souls," said Rich, founder of Hope Mission International Ministries and Hope For Vulnerable Children. "Yet I had a great zeal for preaching and seeing souls joining the Kingdom of God.

"Time reached us when God brought us together with Climbing For Christ. The vision and mission of Climbing For Christ were the same as ours.

"The people of the Rwenzori Mountains were thirsty and hungry for the Word of God because preachers did not take the Gospel there. But God enabled

Climbing For Christ to open my eyes to see and think about those neglected and abandoned souls.

"Climbing For Christ empowered me financially and enabled me to take the Gospel there. Many souls are joining the body of Christ whenever we climb the Rwenzori Mountains.

"And also Climbing For Christ has been a great blessing toward my orphanage ministry. It found our orphanage undergoing a serious crisis, but Climbing For Christ brought hope to these poor helpless children and now they are no longer helpless since God is the Father to the fatherless and also Climbing For Christ is there supporting them.

"May the LORD God Almighty continue blessing Climbing For Christ for the betterment of building the Kingdom." †

**Oct. 12, 2012**

Ace Concordia of C4C Philippines meets with Summer Institute of Linguistics to discuss reprinting the Kankanaey Bible for people of the Benguet Province, where Climbing For Christ has ministered since 2008. The Kankanaey Bible has been out of print since the 1990s.

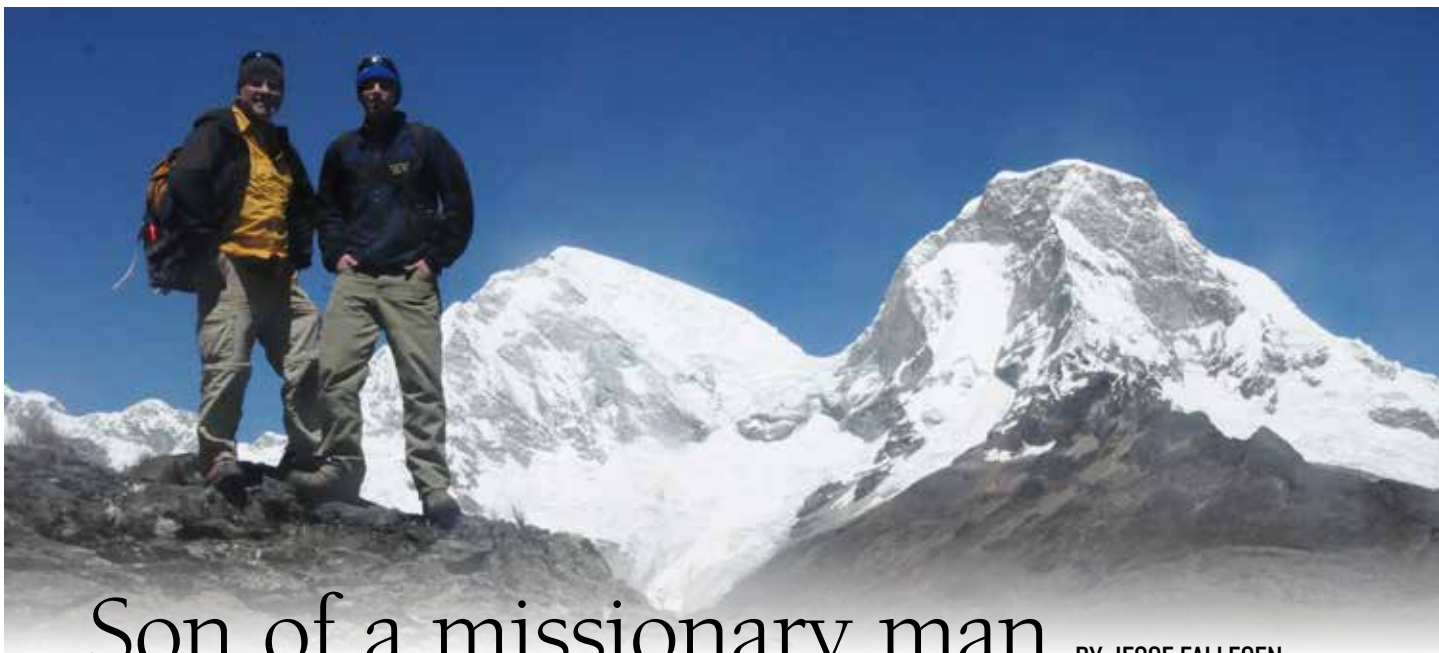
**April 14, 2013**

The first expedition to Morocco begins.

Pastor Rich Friday Kyabughirwe of Kasese, Uganda is inspired to make his first crusade into the nearby Rwenzori Mountains after serving for many years in ministry. **Sept. 4, 2013**

**June 8, 2013**

The church at Milatu, Mozambique is dedicated. This is the first church in Africa funded by C4C.



# Son of a missionary man BY JESSE FALLESEN

Climbing For Christ has grown more than I could have ever imagined in the last 10 years. The amount of work God has both provided and allowed the ministry to do is mind-blowing.

Taking the Word of God to the ends of the earth is a literal statement that my father lives by. He has never been discouraged by a tough border crossing – where machine guns are slung by men whose morals are questionable. His never-ending faith in God has allowed him to persevere.

I think back to the first time we went to Haiti, specifically, when we arrived at the border. Two guards asked for our passports. We handed them to the soldiers and they began to swiftly walk away. Before I could ask what was going on I found myself following my dad up a dirt hill into a building where the soldiers were headed, lugging heavy backpacks as we went. Those passports were our only form of identification, so following those men was not an option. In the end, after questioning, they stamped our passports and we entered Haiti.

From this point on I knew I wanted to go wherever my father was going – especially on first-time excursions. I have been blessed to go on five C4C missions to six countries. And I have been overwhelmed by the blessing of supporters who financially enabled me to go on these adventures. Without their help I never would have been able to help spread the Gospel worldwide.

I am so proud to be the son of a man whose faith has allowed him to continue driving forward no matter the obstacles; God always had and has a divine plan for this ministry. I look forward to what He has in store.

My prayer is that C4C reaches as many people on earth as possible – and that we will plant the seed of the Gospel worldwide so that all may hear it! †

*Jesse Fallesen participated in Climbing For Christ's first mission (to Mexico in 2005) as a high school freshman, and then went on the ministry's first expeditions into Haiti (2005), Tanzania (2007), China (2008) and Peru (2011). He experienced life as a guinea pig on C4C's survey missions, and – much to his sister Hayley's chagrin – ate guinea pig in the mountains of Peru.*



## A DAUGHTER'S VIEW

Hayley Fallesen wrote about her first C4C mission experience (Mission: Ararat 2013) in the last issue of The Climbing Way. She is a member of the Mission: Peru 2014 team in May. When asked what Climbing For Christ means to her, the daughter of the founder said:

*"A blessing for everyone involved – those involved in the ministry, as member or staff, and their families. Those reached through mission trips who may not have ever heard the Good News about Jesus had C4C not reached them. Anyone who hears about C4C can acknowledge God working through it and what a blessing it is."*

Climbing holds donated by members from Minnesota, USA and sent by C4C to a member who had requested assistance in Uzbekistan are used to reach children considered to be developmentally disabled. "Praying that as these precious kids reach up to those handholds they will also learn to reach up and hold onto our Heavenly Father's loving Hand, as He is always reaching out to us," said donor Janice Chocklan. "And also praying that others will continue to give as the Lord leads and enables for His glory, and then be blessed with His indescribable joy!"



I could not have predicted where we are currently on the timeline “in the beginning,” no more than I can tell you what the next decade will hold for His ministry. I cannot speak with any authority about what God is doing *right now* (aside from His will and His way and for His glory), let alone what He will do in 10 years or 10 months or even 10 days.

It has been a remarkable decade since Climbing For Christ was incorporated. We consider April 20, 2004 our birth day. That occurred after God opened one of many doors for me to stumble through.

I was a newspaper sports writer at the time. God had moved in me to start a Christian climbing organization in 1998, but I had no idea where or what it was meant to be. When our Web site – [www.ClimbingForChrist.org](http://www.ClimbingForChrist.org) – went live in 2003, people started to join and started to wonder how they could support C4C. I was clueless.

“Can we pray for you?” they would ask. I would gratefully accept this offer.

“Can we give to the ministry?” they would say. But I would not know how to answer. *Give? For what? To what?* “Well,” they would say, finally, “are you a 501(c)3?” *A 5-0-1-what?!*

I had spent my entire life in and around sports. I knew a lot of numbers: Jersey numbers. Field-goal percentages. Earned-run averages. Golf course yardage. But I had no idea about this 501(c)3 thing.

God knew this, of course. That’s why He sent an attorney into my life.

During the CHRISTmas 2003 season, Rochester attorney Wayne Harris sent a greeting card. I’d known Mr. Harris for several years and he’d never sent a CHRISTmas card before. But this was God’s timing.

Inside the greeting card was Mr. Harris’s business card with the offer of legal advice if it was ever needed. It was a divine appointment. A few months later, Climbing For Christ was incorporated as a non-profit – *pro bono*. The late Mr. Harris’s firm did \$10,000 worth of work – *for free*.

You don’t get where we are today without story after story like that. They are stories of God providing. We trust He will continue to do the same in the next 10 years. That much we know will be true.

We play a role in all of this, of course. We are not casual observers, but His players.

This is where a few of our favorite Bible verses and some of our favorite expressions come into play:

*“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”*  
– Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

We ask our members – who since the beginning have numbered nearly 2,000 – to do at least one of these three priceless things:

1. PRAY
2. GIVE
3. GO!

My wife Elaine likes to say “go” is the biggest word in the Bible. It appears something like 1,500 times in Scripture. It is a clear directive of Jesus, who said in His great commissioning:

*“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 (ESV)

*“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’”* – Mark 16:15 (ESV)

We are the sent ones: Christ-centered, God-glorifying, Spirit-driven disciples. It turns out I never really left the news business; I just went from writing for a newspaper to delivering the Good News.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*  
– Acts 1:8 (ESV)

God has put us in many places with members having joined from 60 nations. But there are many ends to this earth that are still unreached.

If anything is realized in the next 10 years, my prayer is that our mission to GO where others “**cannot or will not**” shall become even more of an imperative.

What role will you play in the Great “GO-mission”? Will you do whatever it takes to expedite the LORD’s return? Every nation, every tribe must hear. As John wrote in Revelation 7:9, *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”* (ESV)

We have been called to fulfill His perfect will for our lives and the lives of those who may not know Him until they meet us. What an honor. Forget 10 years; He chose us “*before the foundation of the world*” (Ephesians 1:4). He did so out of love.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit,” Jesus tells His followers in John 15:16.

GO therefore, and bear fruit. Make the next 10 years the best 10 years in HIS story. Nothing will compare to accomplishing this mission. †

Gary Fallesen is the founding president of Climbing For Christ. He is a kindred spirit of Peter and John, who – Acts 4:13 tells us – were “*uneducated, common men,*” but because they had been with Jesus they were able to do astonishing things. May Climbing For Christ stand with Jesus and continue to astonish.



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## A View

# The next 10 years

BY GARY FALLESEN



Gary Fallesen pondering an unseen future more than 10 years ago on Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.

I am always thinking about the future, where God is leading, how to get there. Am I going the right way? Am I taking Climbing For Christ where He wants us to GO?

Bob Goff wrote in his great book *Love Does*: “Some people speak with a great deal of authority about what God is doing *right now*. I’m always amazed because I can never figure out God that quickly. I usually understand what God is doing by seeing through the rearview mirror. Only then can I connect the dots, and even then, it’s a pretty dodgy sketch. Maybe that’s why the Bible described what we are often doing as looking through a mirror dimly. The Bible says that right now we only know ‘in part’ and that one day, after we’ve gone, we’ll know ‘in full.’”

*“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.” – 1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV)*

From page 1 to 27 of this special edition of *The Climbing Way* (Volume 28) we share HIS story of Climbing For Christ. We connect the dots, giving a glimpse, an outline of the sketch that is C4C after 10 years.

**Continued on page 27**