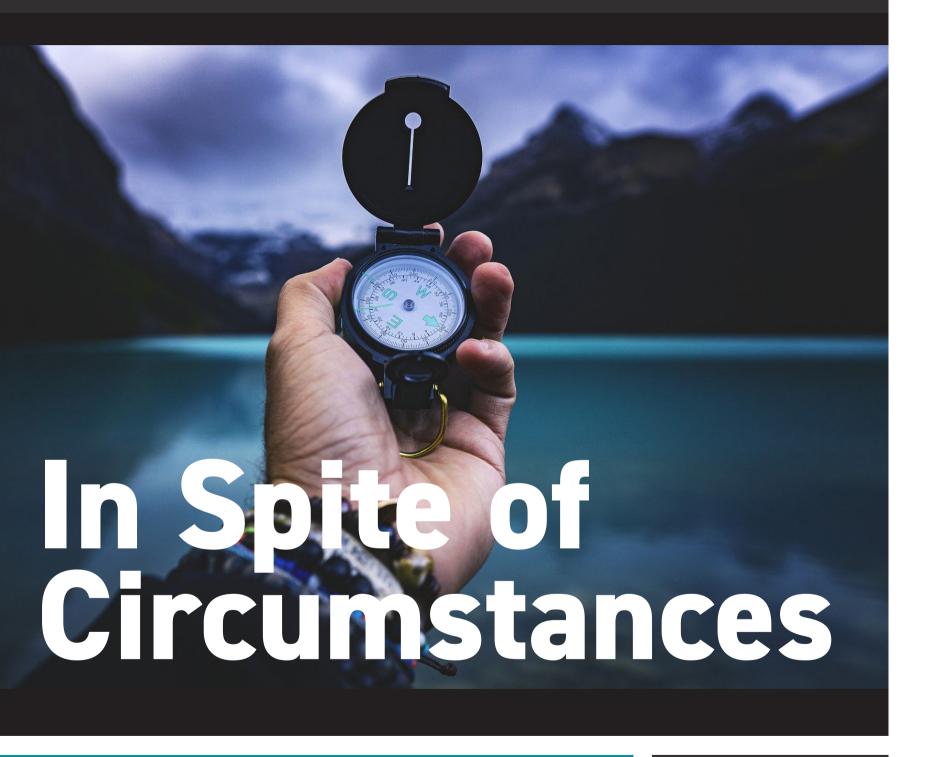
MISSIONS

CALVARY CHAPEL ST. PETERSBURG



Church Planting

Developing Disciples

Supporting Bible Translation BE A MOVEMENT OF THE GOSPEL FOR ALL PEOPLE

MISSION & VISION

Missions Statement: "Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg (CCSP) exists as a movement of the Gospel of Jesus for all people.

We accomplish this through Gospel-centered teaching, service, community and multiplication."

"CCSP Missions exists to multiply disciples through the church - by planting churches, developing disciples and supporting Bible translation."

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BEING A MOVEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the Gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:8-9

At Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg (CCSP), we believe the Gospel of Jesus is for all people. At first glance, we see that the word Gospel means news about an event, a declaration of something that has changed the landscape of humanity and has a personal bearing on me. Jesus' birth marked God's arrival to the earth to redeem us from our failed attempt to define the world in our own making by giving "his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

When people believe the Gospel of Jesus, a transformation occurs. We experience the forgiveness of sins and the hope of perfect life to come when God unites all things in heaven and earth. (Eph.1:10) Being a movement of the Gospel means we look to share this news of forgiveness and hope, of transformation, with others: through forgiving others who have wronged us, meeting practical needs like repairing roofs, providing food, or simply listening to others' pain. The Gospel gives us a mandate and joy to live this life in light of its message of forgiveness and the future hope of its unity. I am reminded of this quote I heard years ago about the hope of the Gospel in my life:

"Hope gives us an assurance that my bad things will turn out for good, my good things cannot be taken from me, and for the certainty of the best and perfect life which is yet to come."

At CCSP, we are excited about the Missions possibilities we have the opportunity to invest in. We are looking for new ways to reach people in our own backyard with the news of the Gospel, while continuing to encourage our partners as they minister similarly to others overseas. We join with God's plan that the people of the earth hear and accept the news of God's victorious love in a very personal way.

God is doing amazing things despite our circumstances, and we hope you find encouragement in the following pages. Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Ryan Marr Lead Pastor, Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg

Julie's Thoughts

Proverbs 16:9

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Doesn't that verse just sum up 2020? When I think back to where I was in December 2019 preparing for the year ahead, nothing that has happened was on my radar. I'd laid out plans for all the things that I wanted to happen: two to three mission trips, building on what happened in 2019 with the Missions classes and Missions dinner, and to add some more activities to involve our whole church body including the youth in learning and loving on Missions, but...

What I saw instead was God working in ways that blew me away. Amidst fear, anger, separation, and loss of hope, God wove many things together and drew more people to Himself. He challenged all of us to trust Him wholeheartedly and in many cases, got us out of the way of the work He wanted to do. (Think of the way churches everywhere did services via technology in such a way that viewership has exploded, as just one example.)

I've loved the stories our missionaries have shared of what He's done in, through, and around them this last year. In this magazine you'll get to read some of these stories.

As I've been praying about the direction of this next Missions magazine, it's been on my heart that we need to give Him all the glory for what He's been doing in this season. Telling these stories will, I'm sure, touch you and share hope. As you are reading, you'll also get to experience how the Kingdom around the world continues to grow in the midst of "quarantine."

God's purpose is that ALL will be saved and that we love one another. He's not stopped moving towards that goal. The challenge for myself, and that I offer to you is that, in spite of our current circumstances, "How can we join Him in that purpose right where we are?"

Julie Murphy Missions Coordinator



Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)

Connecting to Missionaries

What a privilege it has been to be a part of the team working behind the scenes to send, strengthen, and encourage the missionaries whom Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg supports!

As a member of the Missions Core Team the last two years, I have had the privilege of hearing missionaries express both great joy and great disillusionment in the work they are called to do. They share the struggles when things become scarier than expected and their ministry does not quite go the way they thought it would. They share their joy when people come to Christ, and also the pain when those same people end up being persecuted by their own families for going against the family religion. Some live primitively without the conveniences we enjoy here in the United States. Yet, these missionaries willingly take the risks and live without many conveniences so that the Gospel can go forth.

Because of the challenging situations that missionaries experience, it is very important that they have a team of people that they can depend on to intercede for them. As a part of CCSP SENDERS!, I have joined with others to pray for the needs of our connected missionaries. The great thing about CCSP is that through SENDERS!, life groups and various prayer groups, the missionaries hear from us as well. We build relationships with the missionaries by communicating often via email, phone, Facebook, and Zoom calls. We send birthday and Christmas cards along with small gifts for the children, just to let them know that we have not forgotten them. Many of the missionaries say it is a tremendous blessing for them to know that there are people meeting to pray for their current needs. They say that CCSP does more to encourage them than most other churches do. This is not to brag about CCSP's efforts. it is meant purely to underline the importance of being in connection with those who are called to share the good news of Christ in places and circumstances that are rarely easy.



"Let's be a movement of the Gospel to those who are sharing the Gospel in the most difficult places."

I urge that supplications, prayers, intrcessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people. 1 Timothy 2:1

Missionaries are just normal people who have been called by God to go the hard places. And they have willingly said YES to that call. We can all pray for them, but how about going a step further? Take a step out of your comfort zone and get to know at least one missionary family so you can know better how to pray for them. How about joining SENDERS!, encourage your life group to adopt a missionary or participate in a prayer group, in which you can become aware of the current needs of the missionaries? Missionaries need our encouragement. They need to know we haven't forgotten them. Let's be a movement of the Gospel to those who are sharing the Gospel in the most difficult of places.

Ever since I was a young girl, I have been fascinated by and drawn to missions work and the missionaries who undertake it. Because of that I count it a huge blessing to have been part of the Missions Core Team and SENDERS! group at CCSP, where I have learned a lot about how to care for and build up those who GO – whether they go across the world or across the nation. My family and I are moving to Michigan, so I won't be able to continue my involvement with CCSP Missions, but I look forward to using the knowledge I have learned as we move to our "next assignment." My heart's desire is to continue to be involved in caring for missionaries, and I think it would be great to start a SENDERS! group in our new church, if it doesn't already have one. Either way, I look forward to seeing how the Lord will allow me to help others connect with missionaries in a meaningful way.

Vanessa Halstead



Julie Murphy

Growing up in church, I'd heard about missionaries but didn't really connect with who they were or what they did.

That changed literally the first time I came to CCSP in 2004 and, to this day, I have been surrounded by Missions.

I didn't plan it or ask for it, but God knew I needed to be thrown into something and He had a purpose for me. As I met missionaries, helped first and then designed Missions conferences, magazines, field trips, classes, and became involved in other ways, God continued to show me clearly areas where I could serve well.

In 2007 we recreated SENDERS! to be the support system to our missionaries here at CCSP. From that I have had the honor to train many of our missionaries going to the field, work both through the church and with Missions agencies to coordinate, provide care and fill needs of those on the field and to be there for re-entry (multiple adjustments that are

encountered) whether they are coming home for a few weeks or coming off the field. God allowed me the privilege of joining the church staff to oversee Missions in 2017. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I have had to see God do extraordinary work around the world and, with increased technology, be in communications with our missionaries instantly whether for hardships or blessings.

While 2020 had its challenges, God continued His mighty work. It is with great optimism that I look forward to seeing what He will do in 2021.

I have attended Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg since 1998 and serve as an

Kevin Roberts

Elder and a leader in the Youth Ministry. This year is exciting for me as God has blessed me with a wonderful fiancé, Shauna, and we have wedding plans for March. I'm also excited to join the Missions Core Team.



I went on my first short-term mission trip to Central America in 2004. Since then, I have had opportunities to go on several short-term trips to Asia and Africa, serving the missionaries that were there. Through these trips I saw that there is a great need for the native pastors and leaders to be equipped in order to be able to teach the word of God correctly in their own communities. I have a desire to support the ministries that work to equip the local pastors and leaders to be able to make disciples and see the Gospel multiply.

The scripture that is my prayer for these pastors is

1 Timothy 4:16
Watch your life and doctrine closely.
Persevere in them, because if you do,
you will save both yourself and your
hearers.

Chris & Tre Kitson

Our family is fanatical about

Missions and the great commission. Chris himself even got saved on the way to a mission trip to Mexico as a teenager. When we met in 2006, Tre already had her plane ticket purchased to serve in Cape Town, South Africa for one year as an intern with Arise & Shine Evangelistic Association. We waited patiently for almost two weeks before deciding to get married when Tre returned from her internship.

During our engagement, Chris visited the mission and church plant in Cape Town, and there, God spoke to him confirming a call to serve as a missionary. After Tre's return, we married, started a family, received some training and the blessing of CCSP and moved to Cape Town in 2010. There, our family (growing to three kids: Lydia, Job, and Timothy) served the church plant. Chris served as a pastor, teamed with a criminal and drug rehabilitation center, and spent as much time as possible evangelizing around Cape Town.

We were not lone rangers! We had great support at home and spent a great deal of time around other missionaries that God had brought to reach the city of over four million people. We developed a strong appreciation of the unique personalities and unique calling each missionary has in spreading the news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God has called us home this year, and we are praying for Him to use us in His own unique way here in Florida. Our hope is to be useful in service and support to other missionaries, in any way we can, here or abroad! Being a CCSP missionary full circle from call, to sent, to supported, to returned – we count it a privilege to serve as part of the Missions Core Team.



Jim & Jan Coffman

Jan and I have been married for 39 years in February 2021. We have been

at CCSP for 27 years and I have the honor to serve as an Elder. We have a son, James, a daughter-in-law, Andrea, and two adopted grandkids, Michael and LaShawn, all a part of CCSP too.

I have been blessed to serve on several short-term mission trips including Hungary, Nairobi, Kenya, Jordan, and Central and South America. Through these experiences, God has given me a heart for caring and encouraging those whom God has called to long-term Missions.

Jan was water baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, but came to really know Jesus as her Savior after hearing the testimony of a "Jesus Freak" and seeing his life transformed. He explained that the Bible is real and living and that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. After receiving the Holy Spirit, everything became so real to her – the scriptures came alive and she stays steadfast in the Word to know Jesus better.



Jan has experienced so many great times in the Lord and with other Christians. He led her to a career in nursing and that has been her mission field – to express her care, faith, and the love of God to others. Throughout her life and challenging seasons with her health, the Lord has brought her through. Serving Him and being salt and light in the world is her mission.

For seven years, He's allowed her to be part of The Good News Clubs at three elementary schools. Now with Covid changes, She is meeting more of their neighbors and is excited to assist with the Missions Core Team after years of supporting those who serve on the mission field. Our prayer is that in all we do, Jesus be honored and glorified.

The Plan

In 2019, under the direction of Pastor Ryan, a core team of Missions-devoted individuals were gathered to oversee Missions at Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg (CCSP). This team has direct oversight and care for our missionaries and the funding as it pertains to the church.

It's an important and sometimes heavy ministry but worth every minute as we participate in what God is doing here at CCSP and throughout the world. We have watched God work out many details and have seen exciting things happen.

For more information or to meet with one of the team, contact:
Missions@calvarystp.org.

Our Mission Efforts



Within our CCSP Mission Statement (see page 1) we have determined three areas of focus. Our missionaries

are designated by the following letters that best describe their ministry emphasis.

CP - Church PlantingDD - Developing DisciplesSBT - Supporting or participating specifically in Bible translation

Also, you will see a * next to certain names and *Restricted used in certain places.

*Restricted – means our friends work in an area where they are monitored closely and there may be laws against sharing the Gospel openly. To protect them, and those they serve, we limit the amount of information provided (first name only or in some cases just at letter). As you read their articles, you will see we may replace certain words. These are used in place of others that may draw undue attention to them. (God = Father, He) It's a code and it can be fun communicating with them, so don't be intimidated when connecting with them.

For any questions, please contact Missions@calvarystp.org.

Despite Circumstances





What words come to mind when you think back on 2020? Quarantine, lockdown, pandemic, vaccine, politics? I want to go back 2,000 years to the first "lockdown" placed on the church, imposed by Jesus Himself. Jesus forbade His disciples to travel outside of Jerusalem until the "promise of the Father", the Holy Spirit, came and empowered them. In the midst of extreme political tension between Romans and Jews, and in a dark time in history, Jesus wanted His followers to have power from the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel.

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which," He said, "you have heard from Me" Acts 1:4 NKJV

They stayed in Jerusalem and prayed. They grew together in unity during this time of "lockdown" and they became unified. This was a time where the church was seemingly "doing nothing", but they were really doing everything that needed to be done - they were waiting on the Lord, were in one accord, and were ready to do His will.

The Holy Spirit came in power when they were in unity waiting on Him. I believe the Lord has called us as a church in 2020-2021 to become more unified and to wait on Him. Due to the curfews, lockdowns, and closures of businesses and religious places, we have been forced to find other ways to connect and fellowship as a church. We have started meeting together in each other's homes and in parks much more often and have prayed more as a church in the last year than in the previous three years combined. We have barely been able to do any "outreach activities" - yet this year has proven to be the year that we have seen the most growth in our church.

We have grown more spiritually, relationally, and numerically in 2020 than in any year prior. And I believe it is because we have spent more time in seeking God and in pursing unity as a church. God has poured out His Spirit in fresh ways as we have waited for Him. And He has reminded us of the importance

of seeking Him and fellowship with each other.

K* Family
Serving in the
Middle East

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." Acts 2:1 NKJV

Divine Reset

SBT



in the midst of a three-day virtual retreat over Zoom. The marvels of technology that everyone is now more familiar with have allowed us to "meet" and stay connected. Somehow hearts can connect, and relationships can be maintained and even grow. From the Bible translation side, work is getting done and in many places faster than usual. Some teams are using Zoom or messaging, but most are continuing to make progress. Some translators have had more time. Some young people have had to return home to village areas, so they are joining in. Locals are being trained with more intentionality since the expats who normally travel to do the training have been grounded. The whole world seemed to pause and breathe - a divine opportunity to reset and reevaluate what is important that most of us

As I sit down to write this, we are

When our area went on lockdown in March 2020, we had eight weeks where our children were not allowed to leave our apartment. They were inside our modest apartment for two months with only a few outings. I was very thankful we had a balcony. We sat on the balcony every single day. Masks were required if we went anywhere - even the lobby to collect mail. Signs were and still are everywhere about how to wash your hands and "social distance" and how to wear

didn't want. How do we really want

to spend our time, our money, and

our lives?

your mask. The total lockdown was especially hard on our kids, but it was great for our family time. Our children will remember 2020 forever, but I hope they remember the extra family time. The new hobby that they started together. The extra game times and movie nights.

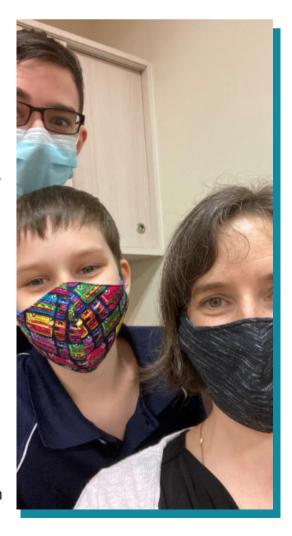
Once the total lockdown lifted, we felt so free. We could go on walks all together outside on the road in front of our complex. School started in person again in August - though it did go back online for a month in November - but miraculously the government allowed schools to open up again and they finished the semester in person with joy before Christmas. This was an incredible gift and they knew it. They did not take it for granted.

We have not been to a fellowship gathering as a family since February. Initially churches closed and gatherings over 20 people are still monitored. When fellowships started to open again, they were at half capacity or less with registration required. I miss corporate worship. I can read and sing and pray and listen to a teaching on my own or with my family, but I didn't go to a service for those things really. I went for fellowship, for communion. There is something profoundly powerful in the corporate gathering for worship and communion.

We are still under daily restrictions and continual contact registration. Thermometers are everywhere at every building entrance and large gatherings are still discouraged. After school activities are not allowed. This divine reset has given us a new appreciation for our freedom and our time with others, especially in fellowship. That's how we were designed by Him - to share our lives with each other. We will now cherish being together in person and not take it for granted. We're grateful God has given us resources to stay together electronically but...nothing beats an in-person hug!

Rebekah C* - Serving in SE Asia

A divine opportunity to reset and reevaluate what is important that most of us didn't want.



Always Trust in Him!

DD

Imagine going on vacation and never returning home.

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who love Him." James 1:12

That is what happened to our family last January. We went to Thailand for our conference with the company with which we serve, just like every January. We told the kids not to bring too many things because we would only be gone a few weeks. Several days later after our travels had begun, we heard about a new virus spreading in China. Several weeks later, when we were scheduled to return to our home, our company notified us that the authorities in China would not allow us to return. They all told our company, "No. Please stay outside of China. We don't want to be responsible for your health. Now it is too dangerous." We were told to wait another month and see if we could return after that. We were in a hard place of limbo, not being able to return to our home in China and living with limited things out of a suitcase. We began to do our work online and trusted that God would give wisdom and insight into how to navigate these new circumstances.

There were many bumps in the road as we balanced our emotions, work, and life in a new environment. By the middle of March, many of our fellow missionaries decided to return to the States because the "writing was on the wall"- it was seemingly impossible that China would allow anyone from the outside back in that spring. Our family, along with about 50 others, decided to stay. We knew that staying in Asia increased our chances of getting back home and this provided a glimmer of hope. We had to cross the Myanmar/Thailand border to get another tourist visa. It was stressful since borders all over Asia were closing. Thankfully, our crossing and visa renewal were successful, giving us another 30 days.

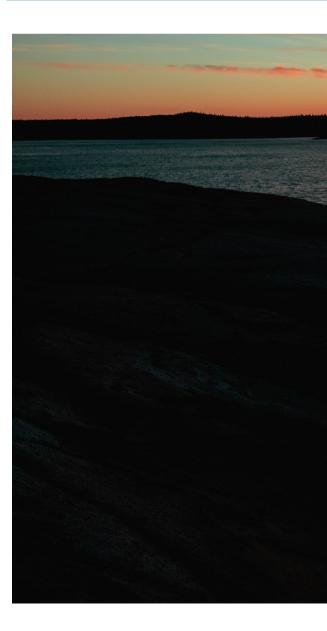
After living in hotels and Airbnb condos for over two months, the Lord graciously provided us with a townhome to live in, which was in a Thai neighborhood. The American who rented this home just asked us to pay utilities and drive his truck! Being in that location when the lockdowns in Thailand began was a huge blessing! We had three bedrooms and two bathrooms and lived closer to other foreign missionaries.

The end of March was very sad when China closed the borders to all foreigners. We hoped that it would be only a month or two. Then the US issued the Level 4 travel warning for all Americans to return to the US or they should be prepared to stay where they were indefinitely. Most people with our organization left Thailand at that point with fears of being stuck without air travel in the future. However, we again decided to stay since we had a place to live, and a few friends also decided to stay.

We still gathered every Sunday with fellow Christians in their homes since all churches were closed during this time. This was a sweet time of meeting and encouraging a fellow missionary's family and a Chinese Christian family. It was a great blessing to worship together and encourage each other. We played football and soccer regularly with others from our organization that stayed with us. There were few people outside as Thailand was encouraging everyone to stay inside. We weren't the only ones that needed to get out of the house; this allowed us to meet some Thai kids in the neighborhood and a Thai man. We got to share the Gospel with him and gave him a bilingual New

Testament. We were thankful that even though we were displaced, God provided for us and led us to share with this man. Wherever we go and, in all circumstances, may we be a people that are looking to shine the light of Christ into others' lives.

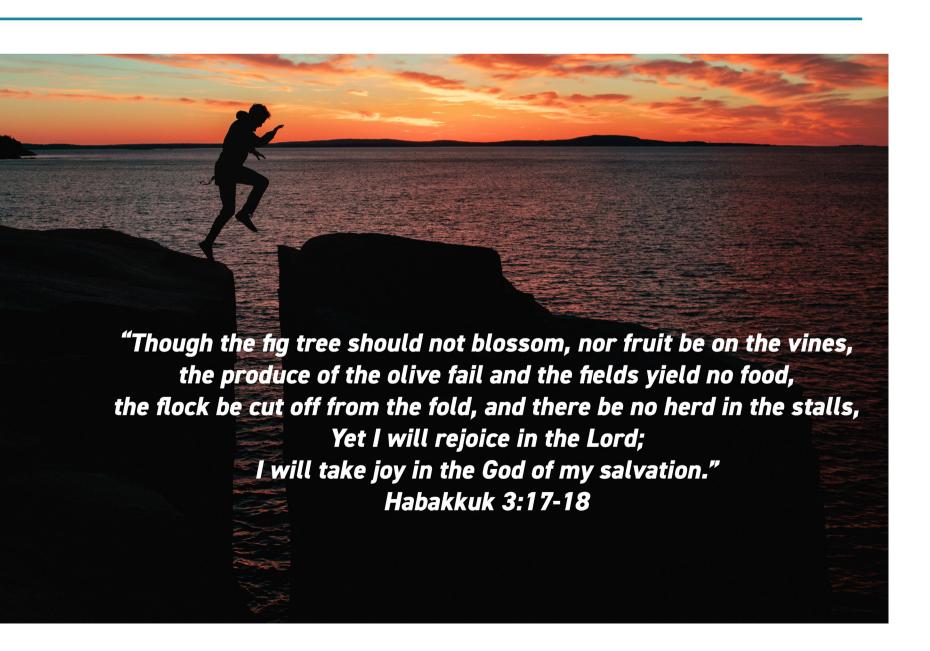
Wherever we go and, in all circumstances, may we be a people that are looking to shine the light of Christ into others' lives.



Living as a tourist in a foreign country means you have to renew your visa often. Such was the case at the beginning of April. We still hoped to return to China, but this was a far hope that was becoming fainter as time went on. On April 20th, we had a panic moment, and all hope seemed to be lost. The lockdowns were getting more aggressive and we knew that our visa would run out on May 10th. We asked the US Consulate for a letter to help get an additional extension, but they responded, "We will not write a letter to help you stay in Thailand longer; you should return to the US soon." We were sad because China was not opening up and we had no place to live in the US. All of our friends and family said, "We don't have anywhere for you long-term; we'll ask around and look for you." We were stressed because a decision would have to be made soon. In the evening, we got an email from a friend that was so timely and miraculously encouraging, saying, "Don't worry about where you will live in the US. God will provide and take care of you. You have enough on your plate being in Thailand and trying to take care of your belongings in China." He didn't offer to pay for a place to live, or promise anything, but he simply reminded us of the powerful truth that God is in control and that He is a good Father who provides for His children! It brought much-needed peace. Amazingly, one hour after we got that email, Thailand announced that they were allowing all tourists to stay in Thailand without having to renew their visas until July 31st! We were incredibly relieved. Now we had to work on having Chinese friends pack, move, and store all of our belongings since it was now clear that we would not be going back to China for at least a year.

Though we couldn't return to China to say goodbye to the people that we worked with and our friends, though we couldn't return to China to pack our home, we still rest and rejoice in the Lord who is far more wise and good than we know. It was stressful, to say the least, but God taught us that no virus, no authority, no amount of disobedience will ever thwart His plans. He has been and will always be victoriously working out His great plan to fruition. Even though we are not in China, it is ok because God is still working there. God is calling the Chinese to stand firm in the faith and to proclaim the Gospel to their fellow citizens. God gave us the unexpected gift of hardship in being displaced for six months. It was humbling, eventful, productive, encouraging, and faith-building. We are closer to the Lord because of it. Now we better know what it means to "count it all joy" in the various trials in life. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4 Jesus is our true Hope to which we cling. In Him, we are made righteous and will spend eternity with Him. What a glorious day that will be and it inspires us to press on in faith and obedience, even in uncertain times.

R* FAMILY *NAME & LOCATION RESTRICTED





If March 2020 was a movie, "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" would have been its soundtrack. I quickly realized if I was going to be of any assistance to anyone else in answering that question, I would need to answer it for myself first. Graciously, the Father (God) made it very clear that not only was I to stay, but that it would likely be a while before I'd be able to visit the States again. I have had overwhelming peace about that decision from that moment forward. That's not to say it hasn't been hard, and new costs were added to the call. But I've learned that peace doesn't take away the hard and that peace in the hard is such a gracious gift from Him.

But I've learned that peace doesn't take away the hard and that peace in the hard is such a gracious gift from Him. I want to make it clear that I don't feel like being called to stay is in any way more desirable than being called to go, but I do want to tell you some of the things that the Father is doing here. Things that I get the privilege to have a front row seat to see. None of 2020 has caught Him off guard and He was working here before 2020 (with and without me) and will continue to work here (with or without me.)





Introducing the teachers
to spaghetti at my
officemate's request



University Teacher Meeting



Thanksgiving meal for English Club Year 1 students

Staying has definitely had a major effect on my relationships at the school. There has been a noticeable shift from being viewed as an "outsider" to "being in this together." The first example of this was when I was asked to host a going away party for the US embassy teacher who left, immediately after telling them that I was not leaving. Then at a meeting I was seated with the teachers as opposed to the visitors. I was also invited to travel with the teachers over the summer for a school meeting. (All new things!)

While that is all well and good, the best is what this shift has afforded, which has been opportunities for more salty conversations. I have also shared the complete good news more times in the past six months than the entire previous eight years that I have been here! And one of those opportunities was with a teacher. That has only happened on one other occasion.

It's not just here in the city where I work where we are seeing this favor. Our summer program is staffed by a short-term group from the States. Obviously, that wasn't going to happen this year. Training sessions were also being cancelled because of rules regarding group gatherings. After lifting up the situation, He (God) made a way for our full-time teachers for the project to work with national teachers that had previously been through the program to be the trainers! The program happened with the authorities' approval.

Then there are the students. When I came to this campus six years ago, we only knew of one like-minded (Christian) student in our facility. Now there are several in each and every class and they are boldly reaching out to their classmates. We are learning how to come alongside them in that. We are also building relationships with the fellowships that they attend.

I could tell you so many stories, but they have given me a word limit that I am already over. I'm hoping to share with you in person when I return. 2020 has been a challenging year. It hasn't been my worst year - not even close. My pr (prayer) for you is that you might be able to have the eyes to see where the Father is working in your corner of the world and how you might join Him in it.

Until we see each other again... much love from L*.

Julie*
Name & Location Restricted

SHOULD
I STAY OR
SHOULD
I GO?





One Step at a Time

DD

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. Psalm 40:2

As we wrap up a very turbulent and exciting year, we continue to learn to trust the Lord and find joy in whatever He brings our way! We began the year by taking all 15 Tanzanian Bible college instructors and our Ugandan site director and his wife to Israel for ten days, and we can honestly say it was the high point of the nine years we've spent on the mission field. Then Jim's mom passed away the day after that trip ended. Janice's work permit and visa expired while we were in Israel, and her passport was confiscated and she was interrogated for 14 days when we reentered Tanzania. Oh, the miry pit! Simultaneously, Covid-19 hit Africa, which was actually a blessing because the US Embassy in Tanzania used that as leverage for Janice to get her passport back so we could return to the US.

We sat home for several months, having no idea if we would be able to return to the land and people we loved, but we trusted that God would work it out in His way. Slowly, as the US started to open up, we began visiting churches and supporters. We felt the Lord would have the ministry work continue, even if we might not be able to be present full-time, so we pressed on with that next step in faith. By August, an opportunity presented itself for us to return to Tanzania for the last quarter of the year, so we moved forward and were soon fully immersed in our work again!



We felt compelled to look at the ministry very differently because of our forced absence, and realized we needed to restructure some things and better equip the nationals so they could carry on without us if/ when the time comes. We had a renewed sense of purpose and excitement, and it became infectious throughout the ICM-Africa team!

They are ready for the challenge and excited to participate in learning more. And we're okay with coming back and forth from Tanzania to the US for the next year or so if that's the only way to accomplish the goals the Lord has set for us. He has taught us to take one step at a time in obedience to Him, and He will direct our steps. We've all ended the year on a spiritual and emotional high, giving all the glory to Him!

Moving With God!



CP

We are able provide a "basics" food box that contains rice, beans, oil, sugar, coffee, toilet paper, toothpaste, detergent, salt, and many other necessities for about \$35.00 USD to families in need. We have been able to help over 50 families so far.

We also have a very large Venezuelan community who have come to Colombia as refugees. They have set up tents in vacant lots and beg on the streets for food. Many are families with small children. We have partnered with several Colombian pastors and a foundation who work with the Venezuelans. Open Hands has helped nine large Venezuelan families with gift cards to the local grocery store so they can buy items for their families.

As we reach out to new families, we use this opportunity to point them to the Savior, our only true Hope.

We are entering our 16th year in Cali, Colombia. During the early years, we focused on building relationships with people by inviting them to our home for a meal and by offering English classes. As the relationships grew, many received Christ as their Savior and we began one-on-one discipleship with each person.

We planted a small church in 2007 called The Mission, and God has brought many to help and serve as leaders in our children's, youth, and music ministries. In 2017, Jimmy Castro, who is from Cali, became our national pastor.

Our newest ministry came as a result of a great need during the Covid pandemic in Colombia. Our country completely shut down for many months. Many in our church and other neighbors and friends lost their jobs and had no income or way to provide the basic needs for their families. We started Open Hands Ministry (Manos Abiertas) in March 2020 which provides basic food and necessities to those in need.

Many families in Colombia earn a minimum wage which is about \$290.00 per month. With this wage, many don't have the basic needs that most of us take for granted. Thank you for your prayers for this important ministry. It has been a great joy for us to meet and help so many Colombians and Venezuelans. We're excited to see God moving and our joy is to move with Him.

Ron & Debbie Stafford

Serving with Pioneers in Cali, Colombia If anyone would like to contribute to this new ministry, you may do so through give. Pioneers.org. Choose "donate to a Missionary". Our project code is 151088 Open Hands Cali-Ron Stafford.

MISSIONS GALLERY

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES



K* FAMILY CHURCH PLANTING MIDDLE EAST



C* FAMILY
SUPPORTING BIBLE
TRANSLATION
SE ASIA



RON, ALEX, ANJA & ULI HOSTETLER CHURCH PLANTING WIESBADEN, GERMANY



JANICE AND JIM LARSON DEVELOPING DISCIPLES TANZANIA



JULIE*
DEVELOPING DISCIPLES
SE ASIA



CAMILLE, ETHAN & SHILOH REICHENBACH
SUPPORTING BIBLE
TRANSLATOIN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



KEN AND SHEILA NELSON SUPPORTING BIBLE TRANSLATOIN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



R* FAMILY
DEVELOPING DISCIPLES
LOCATION UNDISCLOSED



KARI & RANDY SAUL
DEVELOPING DISCIPLES
CHURCH PLANTING
KISII, KENYA



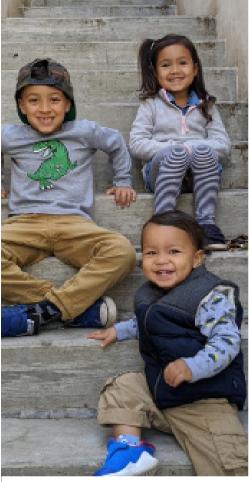
PAUL & DORI PITTMAN DEVELOPING DISCIPLES LATIN AMERICA

What To Do When The Old Ways Don't Work?

DD

In the summer of 2019 we helped lead a summer discipleship program in Colorado Springs for ten international students and we were planning to host the program again in the summer of 2020. Until, like everyone else, our plans were completely disregarded by the all-cancelling power of Covid.

As we considered what to do with the extra time we had that summer, we began thinking about all the others whose plans had also left them at home with freedom in their schedule. It was still our heart to impact the nations on our US campuses and we knew God still had good plans in mind. And so we began reaching out to Navigator staff and students across the country to see who was ministering to international students and if they were in need of any training and encouragement. Our calls were met with thankfulness and enthusiasm as it turned out that there were many looking for just what we had in mind. We ended up putting together a group of ten participants that met online for six weeks.





Otero Family - Joel, April, Isaac, Lila & Tobias



We had a great time together digging in the Word, reading, watching videos and discussing practical ways that we could join with God to build relationships with international students and see the Gospel move forward in their lives.

One special thing we did was to have a question and answer time with a different senior Navigator staff each week. The participants gleaned a lot from the senior staff's years of experience and as senior staff we were encouraged to see young staff and students with such a passion to reach the nations on their campuses.

Although we didn't have the same direct ministry to international students this past summer, God orchestrated this unique new opportunity in order to encourage a new generation of believers, who we pray will have a far greater impact. To God be the glory!

Joel Otero
Navigators
Florida International University



Season of change indeed! 2020 started off with exciting changes as our son Cory and his family joined us in ministry here in Kenya. We had others coming for short and long visits to be a part of making Jesus known and moving people closer to Him. The plans for the year were forecasted and it was going to be a good full year!

We have learned through the years to hold on to plans loosely... praise God!

Covid happened, schools shut down, borders closed, trips got canceled.... And yet...for us in this village, things kept moving. We were given money to start a feeding program that we coupled with our evangelism outreach and took food into over 150 homes. In each home the Gospel and good news of Jesus was shared and so many prayed for salvation. We printed Swahili ABCs of salvation and passed out hundreds. Pastor Denis started a new believers' class that began with 38 people! The U-Turn Ranch was full and these guys have grown deep in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Last week one of our new graduates went to visit his sisters at the orphanage he grew up in and had been kicked out of years ago. One of our guys went with him and witnessed the sweet rejoicing as he shared his testimony and all Jesus has done.

One thing 2020 stirred in us was the urgency in sharing Jesus and moving people closer to Him!

Other unplanned changes took place:

Our son, Cory and his family moved back to the States to minister to his wife Vanessa's mama as she battles lung cancer.

·We added two new grandbabies, one born here in Kenya, one born in the States.

·The Lord has brought a wonderful brother to join us in directing U-Turn.

·We have a Kenyan intern that served with us last year. He will be coming back to be discipled by Denis as he prays for the calling of ministry he hears from God.

·We took in six children in September that had been beaten and threatened with death by their mom. Only through God's sovereignty, she is now in Teen Challenge in Nairobi and the kids are here doing great.

As we loosely held our great plans for 2020... our amazing God guided, directed, moved, and worked mightily in this little village. He has shown His faithfulness and His love and we say of this crazy time... oh come and exalt our God together!

> Kari Saul Missionary to Kenya Calvary Chapel Kebabe, **U-Turn Kebabe**





I'm sitting at the airport in Sochi with Monika and some other teenagers from our church. We are on our way back home from a missions trip in South Russia. Since our flight has been delayed, I started writing down some impressions while they are still fresh in my mind.

A while ago, Pasha, a good friend and pastor from Vladimir, got the idea to take our youth to Sochi (located on the Black Sea). For many years now, there has been a Calvary Chapel church in Sochi and it has built up relations with many other churches in town, but also with fellowships just across the border in Abkhazia (about 25 miles away). Originally that area belonged to Georgia, but after a difficult time of turmoil and war it has been recognized by Russia (and a few other countries) as an independent republic. Georgia, on the other hand, still considers Abkhazia its own territory. Destroyed and empty buildings, old roads, and poverty all testify to the recent war and disputes.

God has called us home this year, and we are praying for Him to use us in His own unique way here in Florida. Our hope is to be useful in service and support to other missionaries, in any way we can, here or abroad! Being a CCSP missionary, full circle from call, to sent, to supported, to returned – we count it a privilege to serve as part of the Missions Core Team.

But it's not my desire to frighten you--everything went fine and nothing 'bad' happened. Ok, the bus driver hit a cow and some teenagers were quite upset by the sight of the cow's head smashing against the windshield and then being thrust into the air...but that was the only real incident.

Originally, Pasha thought about a dozen teens would sign up. But after a year of social distancing and sitting at home, the prospects of traveling south with other youth was just impossible to ignore. Eventually we had a team of more than 50 teenagers and about a dozen adult leaders from all over Russia. Sochi has a subtropical climate and the temperature was around 60F. (It's going to be quite a shock going back to St. Petersburg where it's 12F right now!)

Since Abkhazia is an independent republic, you can't cross the border easily. Minors have to provide a notarized consent. But not all teenagers could provide these papers, so I was asked to stay in Sochi with the ones "left behind". I'm glad Monika did visit Abkhazia, and she told me that she enjoyed those two days there most of all. The Russian Orthodox people celebrate Christmas on January 7, so it was the ideal time to share the Gospel. Through drama, games, VBS and the like, our team was able to encourage many people in Abkhazia.

And while the others were in Abkhazia, I took my team (one guy and five girls, ages 16 - 18) to poor families to bless them with some food. In Sochi there is a whole region where people actually live in garages. In the first garage someone was fixing his car, in the next one a bumper was being spray painted, and the following garages are actually "apartments": in the basement there is a tiny kitchen, the living room is at the ground floor, and on top of that they have a small bedroom. The Armenian pastor visits these needy people regularly. We visited a single mom with her daughter. They were very happy with the food, but most of all they craved our prayers. The lady was so blessed by our time of praying together.

Although we came to hand them some groceries, the lady almost immediately disappeared in her kitchen and started preparing some fried pancakes with meat. They were delicious. We could hardly convince her that we came not to eat, but to pray for and with her. It's impossible to resist the Armenian hospitality - you just have to accept it and enjoy it. And I loved every minute of it.

Back at home, our church family continues gathering and that's great. We are very thankful that we've grown much closer and that many people have taken up responsibilities in the church. I find it amazing that most of our Sunday school and youth leaders are men! And I regularly ask two of them to teach and they do an excellent job when I'm out of town.

God keeps working all things together for His good when times are normal, and especially when they are not. We see new encouraging benefits, growth, and a strong commitment in our fellowship resulting from this last year of trouble, and we look forward to seeing what the future will bring.

Bart, Anya, Monika, Emma and Luka De Craene Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg, Russia



It was in late March of 2020 when we received notification from our Ukarumpa clinic that we needed to return to America. This was due to Ken being listed among those in the "highest-risk" group for complications which could lead to death should he contract Covid-19. Our clinic does not have the resources to treat Covid so people in the "highest-risk" category were being asked to leave.

"Wait a minute...this is a mistake!" we told them. There were never any medical tests or lab results done that could substantiate Ken as having any of the conditions that would place him in this group. We were upset and confused. We did not want to go. Regardless, the clinic doctor who had made this error required that we return to America where quality medical care was available, if needed. Even though we knew a mistake had been made, we humbly submitted to the authority God had placed over us and prepared to leave. We had only a few days to pack up, place our belongings in storage, and leave on the US Embassy repatriation flight back to the United States on April 8th.

We didn't understand why God had allowed this to happen. We were certain that He wanted us to remain in Papua New Guinea. We felt hurt and frustrated as we returned to America. We went through two weeks of quarantine and during that time, God confirmed to us that He had a plan in place; we just needed to trust Him. We knew that He was working all things out for our good. There is nothing or no one that can stop God from carrying out His plans.

There is nothing or no one that can stop God from carrying out His plans.

After finishing up quarantine and spending time at JAARS in North Carolina, we returned to Florida where Ken had a complete medical check-up and extensive lab work done. He was completely cleared of any conditions that would have placed him in a high-risk group for Covid and was cleared by Wycliffe to return to PNG. So why did God allow this to happen?

Our Welcome Home

We discovered that some of the lab work showed that Ken needed laser surgery on a vessel that was severely blocked. The doctor said he would have most likely suffered permanent kidney and bladder damage had this surgery not been done immediately. God used this human error that was made to bring us back to Florida. He knew that Ken needed to leave PNG to have this simple surgery done and that there would be no way out of that country after the Embassy flight left. GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT!

During our time in the US, we were extremely blessed

to have an opportunity to get much needed rest and time with family. Many churches were still not meeting in



Our Dear Friend Mama Rut

person and we were not able to visit with some of our supporters due to Covid. However, God still worked in such a mighty way for us through all of the challenges and difficulties of going through re-entry during this unprecedented time in our world. In His amazing goodness, God provided for us in every way possible during this time back home. Then He put everything perfectly in place for our return in November 2020 back to Papua New Guinea utilizing a World Food plane so we are able to continue our service to Him! ALL GLORY GOES TO GOD!



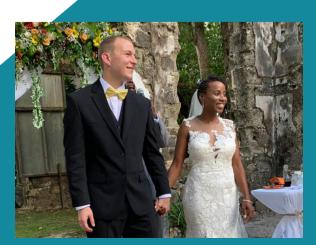
Ken & Sheila Nelson Wycliffe Bible Translators Papua New Guinea

God Hears Our Hopes

When I came to faith in Christ five years ago, I would have never thought that my hopes and desires would manifest in 2020, a year painted with much confusion and sorrow around the world. Actually, when I decided to follow God's call, I began to lay aside my hopes for a family. He called me to such a faraway place, home to such foreign cultures in Papua New Guinea (PNG), that it seemed easier for me to focus my enthusiasm on walking in His purpose than on my hopes and desires.

It took me two years of purposeful preparation before I finally departed in early 2018 for PNG to serve in Bible translation by working and caring for translation teams, their families, and Papua New Guineans. Under Wycliffe Bible Translators, I served in a clinic in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. I was the only single doctor that had ever served in the clinic. The work was difficult and emotionally taxing at times, but a daily and hourly walk with Christ fueled my perseverance.

The suppressed hopes that I had to have a family gradually surfaced again when I met Ethan, a new linguist on the scene from Ohio. I saw his passion for Bible translation and his commitment to follow God's call. He had surrendered everything for an indefinite amount of time to work in PNG in Bible translation. I, however, before leaving for PNG, thought that the Lord was only calling me to two years on the international mission field, ignoring the hints that this may not be the case. As time passed in PNG, Ethan and I felt God calling us together. In many ways God confirmed His plan for us. We had to abandon our plans for ourselves and pursue His. I submitted to God calling me indefinitely to working in Bible translation. My hope for a family was manifesting before my very eyes when I least expected.





Bringing Gospel Hope to Papua New Guinea

In 2019, Ethan and I united in marriage. The following year came the birth of our precious daughter, Shiloh Rose - a 2020 miracle that I could not have imagined when I left everything behind. Ethan, Shiloh and I now plan to return to PNG to continue serving in Bible translation. The destination might be Papua New Guinea but the journey is wherever we are, walking in close proximity and relationship with our Lord Jesus. We make our plans but the Lord establishes our steps.

Dr. Camille Reichenbach Serving in Papua New Guinea Wycliffe Bible Translators

"IN THEIR HEARTS HUMANS PLAN THEIR COURSE,

BUT THE LORD ESTABLISHES THEIR STEPS."

PROBERBS 16:9



I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE IN NEED, AND I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO HAVE PLENTY. I HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF BEING CONTENT IN ANY AND EVERY SITUATION, WHETHER WELL FED OR HUNGRY, WHETHER LIVING IN PLENTY OR IN WANT.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12 (NIV)

We made it to 2021, hooray! Um....now what? We are all grateful to God for the ways He sustained us and led us to change. Even amidst the celebratory things we are writing about from 2020, we are all happy to be moving forward. But just because the calendar says 2021, the sting of the past year is still with us. Financially, many people everywhere were hit hard as shutdowns happened. It affected many of us and there was a ripple effect with our ministries. Despite the vaccine and a fairly firm view of a path back to a recognizable life, we are still sitting in this class we have been forced to take – the Philippians 4:12 class. Knowing what it's like to have, or not have, what we need, yet possess the contentment to hang in there. Organic chemistry's got nothing on this!

While we will not soon forget 2020 and its lessons, it's time to move forward. We all now likely have a new definition for sustainability, for long-term viability, as a missionary, as an organization, perhaps even as a church. We are living the "faith-funded" life. God has ordered that the way we pay for this work He has called us to is to invite His body to give of their treasure. We ask not because we "need" the money. God is the Provider and He will bring every dime necessary for what and who He has called. We, as missionaries, ask for financial support, in large part, so that individual spiritual lives can grow. We ask people to give because it's GOOD FOR THEM! And you know what? It's good for us too. We get to demonstrate our trust and obedience to God and ask the right person, at the right time, for the right gift. We also aren't doing this alone, but sharing the ministry.

The way we move forward, in the new normal of 2021, is by re-setting an old normal. We ask the Holy Spirit to invade our thinking and bring people to our mind. We ask Him to teach us what it is we want for those that support us, not just consider what we can get from them. We re-boot our efforts to be as relational as possible with those God has put in our lives. This is good advice for all of us to take a moment, pick someone we've not spoken to in a while and start connecting today! Isolation is a real thing and what better way to show God's love but to reach out!

Asking, giving and receiving.....these are sacred tasks. We are inviting God's people into a critical Kingdom work. Ask with confidence, bathed in prayer, and fully inside your convictions. Want help with pulling off all of that? I invite you to contact me and let's get you to the place where you realize that fundraising is a joyful calling, not a necessary evil.

I'm confident that you have at least one person who is with you on this journey, and likely many more than that. Touch base and ask them how they are. Tell them how much you care about them and that you are praying for them. Ask them what they dream of seeing out of this ministry. Do they have any expectations of their partnership with you? God has provided you with champions, so steward them well. We are the body of Christ and we all have a specific part to do to make this body work. We are all in this together and we need to remember that we need each other to do what God's asked us to do!



Chuck Peterman, Mission Increase Foundation 2 Corinthians 9:11-13

When God Closes A Door CP

I know we are all kind of burnt out from talking about a particular year. But instead of recounting

about all the crazy things that happened in the span of the year, I would like to tell a short story of how God used it in our family and in our ministry.

God had called us in 2007. We were sure that day was just around the corner, but God had a plan to keep us and grow us, preparing us for three years before we got on that plane. Those entire three years, we were in suspense, wondering when God would bring about what He had made so plain.

May 12, 2010 – Tre and I left with a baby in our arms and a baby on the way, traveling to Cape Town, South Africa (SA) to serve alongside another missionary family, help establish a church plant, and cater to the poor and the outcast. We were trained for all the things to expect when working with crosscultural ministry, and after being pastored, counseled, and educated in all things missionary – we were ready... Ready to be surprised by how little we knew of God's plan.

Ready to be surprised by how little we knew of God's plan.

December 12, 2019 – Our family had an especially difficult year in every category. We knew that God had opened a door for us to return to the US on furlough - to rest, recover and to visit our supporters to see if God would strengthen our support base. It all seemed very promising. Doors were opening on the calendar, plenty of invites to share, and we needed some refreshment and encouragement that comes along with visiting your friends and loved ones. We were ready... Ready to be surprised by how little we knew of God's plan.

Our "home assignment" itinerary (planned months in advance) had utterly fallen apart. Our "trip" across the States was re-routed, canceled, resumed, and reversed, I want to say three times, but I can't even say for sure: I was such a wreck. I like calendars. I like checklists. It was obvious that God had opened the doors to get here, so why was everything seemingly falling apart? We knew that God opened the door out of necessity. To be very direct, if our support base did not grow while we were in the States, the likelihood of continuing to serve in Cape Town seemed impossible financially.

While here in the States, some doors I thought were closed reopened. We met people and reconnected with people whom God had laid us on their hearts, and they agreed with the vision of the ministry in Cape Town. Over our time in the States, God had brought together ALL of the support

we needed to continue in Cape Town, and from my estimation, even more than we needed. God made it plain... Plain how little we knew of His plan.



During this time, God had healed our injured and burnt-out hearts from the difficulties and heartbreaks of 2019. He had placed just the right people in our path to provide a way to becoming permanent residents of SA and we were excited to get back to our friends and church family.

The week before our flight was scheduled to leave for Cape Town, a funny thing happened. The whole world shut down. We watched live on YouTube as South Africa's president declared our visas revoked and incoming travel suspended indefinitely. It was surreal. We were thankful that the church was letting us stay in the missionary trailers (we were already way over the expected use time, with their sale being mysteriously held up.) We canceled our tickets, fully expecting to return in a few weeks (you know, to slow the spread.)





Meanwhile, in South Africa, the people were part of one of the world's strictest versions of the lockdown. For months, no one was allowed to leave their homes except for groceries or medical visits. Our church couldn't meet, our weekly evangelism outreaches were suspended, and the drug/criminal rehab was halted entirely. Even if the borders opened, what ministry was there really to be able to do?

So, we got ready to leave, at a moment's notice, whenever God opened the door - that He had so loudly shut.

Also, meanwhile, in South Africa, the missionaries we came to work alongside had no one alongside them. The ministry we used to do together was now having to be done with members of the church. The evangelism outreaches were happening, but I was not there. People were preaching in the recently reopened church, but it was the men who had been reluctant to step up before. Evangelists were evangelizing, preachers preaching, and ministers ministering - but all without us being involved! Wait... isn't that the goal? Wasn't that what we were striving to accomplish all those years? A South African-led church that ministers the Gospel and the Bible to the South Africans?

This was incredible! For years and years, we could see giftings for leadership, but the men were reluctant. This ministry was bearing a fruit that had not shown in previous years! Several months into the "waiting" to return, God very clearly and explicitly told us to prepare for life here, back in the USA. And while the year was filled with so much uncertainty and even anxiety... God was working so powerfully, and we didn't even see it happening.

I have learned this year to never try to force what you think is God's plan. If God plans to keep a door open, He will do it. Unlike the popular cliché – "If God shuts the door",... stop trying to open the window! We are so grateful for the time we have spent decompressing, processing, digesting the last ten years of ministry in South Africa.

I am convinced we had the Great Counselor sitting with us, night after night, as we laughed and cried over all the things that have taken place in Cape Town, by God's plan, that we were so blessed to be a part of. We are so grateful to have served, but perhaps are even more grateful now, to have been released, because we have the ability today to see what fruit was brought out of it.



My plan was there but His was so much better. I am sure there wasn't a single person that received our newsletters that would have said, "Chris, you should stay home for a year this time." I know there was no one in the church in South Africa praying for God to keep our family from returning (or at least I hope there wasn't.) I am also completely certain that the missionaries we worked with would have never counseled us to cancel our tickets indefinitely. Yet God had a plan... and not a single Pastor, Missionary, Praying Christian - NO ONE knew what that plan was ahead of time. God doesn't always share His thoughts, but He expects us to trust Him and be ready. Ready... to be completely surprised by how little we know about His plan - and ready to be completely in awe when He chooses to reveal it!

Chris Kitson Former Missionary to Cape Town, South Africa



Sparks, Smoke & Salvation



"Heavenly Father, Your will be done."

Our CCSP Samaritan's Purse Team went to Alabama in December to help homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sally. About two hours away from our destination, sparks and smoke were seen flying from a rear tire on our trailer. Pulled over on the side of I-10, I prayed: "Heavenly Father, Your will be done." God showed up and gave our leadership team wisdom. He also blessed us with the right person to tow the trailer to a company that ended up fixing it the next day.

Although we had a temporary setback, the Father's will was still done! During our five-day trip, we were able to help seven homeowners in a variety of ways: tarping roofs, removing drywall, insulation, nails, and debris from yards such as fallen trees and broken branches. We also talked with and prayed for those we served. Once our work was completed, a Billy Graham Study Bible was presented to each homeowner.

Among those we helped, three people received Jesus as Lord and Savior. Another person rededicated his life to the Lord. To God be the glory for, despite sparks and smoke, salvation was received! Hallelujah!!!

Charmalyn Thurman (Sender and Goer)

Hallelujah!

What God Is Doing Here At Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg

ESL Program

God has put our country in a unique position. The world has been coming to us and they are living in our communities. We have the opportunity to engage with God's mission to reach the ends of the earth without leaving our country. As the foreign community comes to America, they sometimes are restricted due to their inability to speak English well. We can bless this community by helping them improve their English by offering free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Through this service of teaching English, bridges are built into lives with whom we may not have otherwise interacted. This allows us to help people grow in their English ability, build relationships, and impact lives to the glory of God. Please consider joining this ministry as a teacher or helper. Your heart will be blessed as you seek to meet the needs of others. No experience needed - just a heart to serve.

For additional information, contact ESL@calvarystp.org

SENDERS!

This is a group of Missions-focused people that care for our CCSP missionaries in whatever way is needed to better equip them in these areas of support: moral, logistic, financial, prayer, communication and encouragement during re-entry, whether on furlough or coming off the field. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Contact Missions@calvarystp.org for more details.

JOIN US!



Missionary Prayer Groups

It was 7 p.m. Thursday night, and we were praying for a missionary family 8,000 miles away in South Africa. There was a dangerous water shortage. In another "closed country," also thousands of miles away, we were praying for protection for a missionary family living and serving there.

This is serious praying, and we know the Lord hears us. We have evidence of His answers and we are amazed and thankful. We are just an example of a small home missionary prayer group, seven to 12-plus people from several churches. We worship, share requests, often from the missionary mothers themselves, and we PRAY. As we listen to updates from missionary newsletters and prayer requests, we can pray specifically and in general as we see so many of the world issues. Sometimes, we even have those very same missionaries visit us, and we feel the connection. I find that people almost hate to leave—we enjoy having fellowship with each other and being in His presence.

A missionary prayer group is part of taking the Gospel to the nations. And, it is exciting!

AnnMarie*
Name withheld due to
connections to restricted missionary



CALVARY CHAPEL ST. PETERSBURG

Our Church & Strategic Partners

Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg (CCSP) is a Mission-focused¹, sending church following the examples set forth in Paul's writings. (Review Rom 10:12-17; Acts 13:1-3, Eph 6:18-19, Acts 14:26-28, Acts 21:10-15, Rom 16, Phil 4:10-20.)

"A Sending Church is a local community of Christ-followers who have made a covenant together to be prayerful, deliberate, and proactive in developing, commissioning, and sending their own members both locally and globally, often in partnership with other churches or agencies, and continuing to encourage, support, and advocate for them while making disciples cross-culturally."²

This is a good definition of what we are called to do – prepare, partner, and advocate. At CCSP we do this in many ways, including individual and life group support, holding "meet & greets" to hear what God is doing, and providing both financial backing and on-going emotional support – especially through our Missions Core Team and SENDERS!

It seriously takes a village to provide for those on the front lines. As a church, we never want our front-line workers to feel alone. Not only are there people here in CCSP that provide financially, there are also those who get to really know our missionaries personally. There are also many agencies and groups that provide training and support. Part of our Missions Core Team commitment is that we will work with agencies to provide a well-rounded level of care to ensure that all of our missionaries have the care they need.

Intensive Care Ministries

Disciplining and training pastors and leaders using Inductive Bible Study

https://www.icmbible.com

Pioneers

Focus on church planting

https://pioneers.org

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Making the Bible available in all heart languages through a wide variety of skills, providing hope https://www.wycliffe.org/get-involved

ELIC

Teaching English, building relationships, sharing life

https://www.elic.org

Velvet Ashes

https://velvetashes.com

Velvet Ashes is a wonderful group that has been a 2020 addition to the resources we have for our female missionaries. While several of our ladies have participated in the Velvet Ashes annual retreats over the years, not all were aware of everything the ministry offers. For a very minimal cost, and no matter where you are, you can join other women serving on the mission field to share experiences, look for help for you, your family and especially your kids, ask for prayer, blog together, do book clubs, and "find a community of women doing life together across the globe."

What does this mean for those of us at CCSP? As senders, Velvet Ashes is an incredible tool to learn more about what our missionaries might experience firsthand. It also gives us opportunities to join with others in supporting ladies around the world. For men, it may give some insight into how women react differently to challenging situations.

For anyone interested in Missions, it is well worth your time to explore this website, watch some of the videos and, if you like, you can join a small group here in the States to participate in the next retreat. If you feel led to do so, there is also an opportunity to help fund this valuable ministry.



[&]quot;Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg (CCSP) exists as a movement of the Gospel of Jesus for all people. We accomplish this through Gospel-centered teaching, service, community and multiplication." "CCSP Missions exists to multiply disciples through the church - by planting churches, developing disciples, and supporting Bible translation."

HEART Village

heartvillage.org

My first encounter with missions at CCSP began on a MAV (Missions Awareness Venture) trip to HEART. In the middle of Florida, I experienced "squatty potties," really big bugs, skinned snakes, cool sustainable agriculture, and clipping goats' hooves. I came to understand that you never wanted to be the one on the outside of rabbit rotation. I also learned how to jump start a tractor and that you can bury a van to the axle in sugar sand! That was the hands-on side, but in classes and through personal stories I had my eyes opened to the many difficulties found around the world and how using practical ways to help can share God's love in powerful ways.

"HEART" stands for Hunger Education And Resource Training. This is a school for cross-cultural workers and missionaries, and the campus is designed as a functioning simulation of a developing world village and demonstration farm. Students, visitors, and volunteers come here from around the world to gain practical experience and valuable knowledge. They strive to teach a holistic perspective on ministry focused on cultivating genuine relationships, working to improve the quality of life, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ's unique worldview

HEART's mission of educating, equipping, and empowering Christian workers with practical skills is what started our partnership with them many years ago. We've sent missionaries there to learn new skills, as well as short-term teams that go to build team unity and work on problem solving. There are many stories of things that were learned at HEART being practical, life-saving experiences used on the mission field.

Students attend HEART to do 15-week college-level training programs, or individuals can do a 3-week training program. For a small donation, teachers can schedule field trips to learn and explore on an interactive tour. Volunteers are greatly appreciated at HEART. Because CCSP values what happens here, we also send work teams as often as we can to help keep the village in operational order. There is always work to do.

Once you've experienced HEART for a weekend, or even a longer period of time, you won't forget it! Relationships are built, skills are learned, and memories are made.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

https://www.perspectives.org

Since 2009, CCSP has had a strong relationship with Perspectives – in both hosting the program and asking our missionaries to complete the course as part of their pre-field training. We have had several missionaries and folks from our church become coordinators for the program. Watch for information as we are planning to host the program for Fall 2021. If you would like to know more or speak to someone who has taken the class, contact Missions@calvarystp.org.

God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for any Christian.

Perspectives is a 15-week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" of Missions—Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose.

The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day. The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope.

Enlarge your perspective and be part of God's plan for Him to be loved by every people group.

Missionaries Supported through Prayer

While financial commitments may be limited, we have other amazing Missionaries that we continue to come alongside in prayer and other types of support. We value what each of these listed below do and how they work to reach others for Christ.

Specific prayer requests can be found on the kiosk in the Missions area of the Lobby. The full list of requests for all missionaries associated with CCSP is updated bi-monthly (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec.)

If you would like to know more about their ministry and how you could assist, please contact Julie at Missions@calvarystp.org or reach out to them directly.

Church Plants

- •Bart & Anya De Craene, Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg Russia, thriving church & community development b.d.craene@gmail.com
- •Andy & Gen Falleur, Calvary Ottawa, Canada, fully thriving church andy@calvaryottawa.ca
- ·Luis & Karol Sanchez, Calvary Chapel Antigua, Guatemala growing young church and Calvary Bible Institute, teaching young adults from all over Central America; Luis Sánchez piedralisa@gmail.com www.ibccguatemala.com
- •Ron & Debbie Stafford, with Pioneers serving in Cali Colombia – as second career missionaries they went to plant a church and now serve as elder support to a growing church community

staf3748@gmail.com; Pioneers 10123 William Carev Dr. Orlando, FL 32832 #110854/Stafford

Bible Translation

•Martin & Beate Knauber, Wycliffe Bible Translators translating Bibles in languages to the Hutterite people in Northern US/Canada, the Dawawa people in Papua New Guinea and assisting with conflict resolution in areas where they serve; martin.knauber@sil.org; Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628211, Orlando, FL 32862-8200 memo: Knauber, Account # 220794

Development

- •Rex Almquist, SEAR Ministries serving Christians in Vietnam & also local Vietnamese families SearUSA@yahoo.com; Mail & Financial support: P.O. Box 15025 St. Petersburg, FL 33733
- •Andy & Suzanne Farina, Navigators at University of FL/ Gainesville area – discipling young adults to find answers in Christ; andyfarina@earthlink.net; Financial support: The Navigators, Gift Processing Center, P. O. Box 6079, Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679 memo: Farina #140210
- Steven & Karen Masood, Jesus to Muslims (ITL) reaching out to Muslims that are seeking to find the true God using live & recorded radio programing, books and internet contacts; training; karen@jesustomuslims.org; Financial support: ITL-USA, P.O. Box 1555, Summerfield, FL 34492
- Joel & April Otero, Navigators at Florida International University, Miami – reaching out to international students to provide friendship and relational discipleship, ongoing support as this multiples believers returning to their home countries; joel.otero@navigators.org; The Navigators, Gift Processing Center, P. O. Box 6079, Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679 memo: Otero #22890768
- Chuck & Jackie Peterman, Mission Increase Foundation Offers teaching, coaching, consulting, and even matching grants, all at no cost to ministries in the Tampa Bay area; self-funded through generous donations; cpeterman@ mif.org
- •Brian Smith, Harvest Aviation Chief pilot providing air relief support to missionaries in Belize, Honduras and other Central American countries, as well as relief efforts for disasters in the Bahamas; training young pilots with hearts for Missions; www.harvestaviation.org; email Brian t64dirt@gmail.com

•Tom & Lois Wilson, Missionary Ministries providing reliable vehicles to missionaries on furlough at a reasonable cost, including US insurance. Funding assistance always gratefully accepted; www.missionaryministries.org or email: missionaryministries@juno.com

Connect & Support

Assist our Missionaries Financially

Ron & Uli Hostetler, Anja & Alex CP

Uli-ruhostetler@gmail.com; Ron-rehostetler@gmail.com Support: SEED Ministries, PO Box 3327, Riceville, TN 37370-3327; Memo: Hostetler

Jim & Janice Larson DD

jimandjanice.larson@gmail.com; Support: Intensive Care Ministries, PO Box 109, Mentone, CA 92359-0109; Memo: JJ Larson www.jimandjanicelarson.com

Ken & Sheila Nelson SBT

kenneth_nelson@wycliffe.org; sheila_nelson@wycliffe.org Support: Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200; For the ministry of K&S Nelson, #242829; https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/Nelsons-PNG

Paul & Dori Pittman DD

pndpittman@gmail.com; Support: United World Mission, PO Box 602002, Charlotte, NC 28202-2002; Memo: Pittman #31144; www.uwm.org

Dr. Camille & Ethan Reichenbach, Shiloh Rose SBT

camille_hippolyte@wycliffe.org; ethan_reichenbach@wycliffe.org Support: Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200; For the ministry of Reichenbach, #398864; https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/EC-Reichenbach

Randy & Kari Saul CP/DD

www.abideintruth.org; karimsaul@yahoo.com; Support: Calvary Chapel Palm Harbor, 32676 US Hwy 19 N, Palm Harbor, FL 34684; Memo: Kenya Mission or https://ssmfi.org/missionary/randy-and-kari-saul/

For specific contact for these Missionaies, please email: Missions@calvarystp.org

C* Family - SE Asia SBT Julie* - SE Asia DD

K* Family - Middle East CP

R* Family - Undisclosed location DD

Call To Action

What Can I do?

Sometimes God speaks to us to do something but we see that the need is great and it's overwhelming to know where to start. If you are feeling that you'd like to somehow participate in Missions, here are some practical ways to begin.

PRAY

You will find missionairy bi-monthly requests, compiled by the church, to see specifics of what is happening in their lives. This list is located on the literature racks near the Missions area of the Lobby. Some of our missionaries are also able to provide monthly newsletters and these are located in the same area

You may also contact them directly for their updates to stay current with their ministries and let them know you are praying. It is a huge encouragement to them knowing people at home are thinking of them.

PROVIDE

The cost of living, regardless of the location, continually rises and many missionaries have had large expenses incurred such as medical bills, transportation costs, provision for those they serve, etc. If God is speaking to you about providing funds, you will find contact information above.

There are other ways to provide assistance such as donating airline miles, use of a vehicle or a place to stay, activity tickets (Busch Gardens, etc.) or having a family over to dinner when they are home. If you'd like to learn more, contact Missions@calvarystp.org.

PARTICIPATE

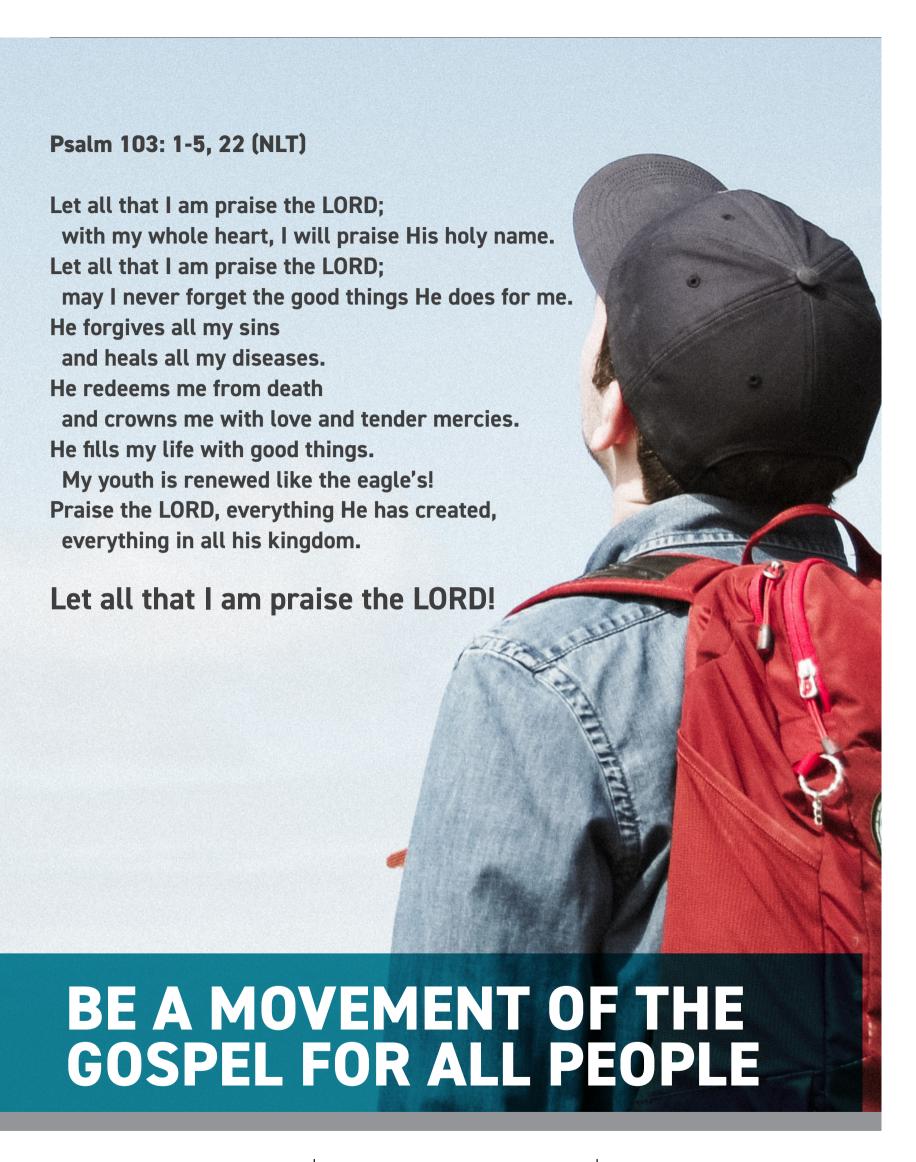
When missionaries are home, reach out to them and show interest in what they do; attend Meet & Greets to learn more about them and their ministry.

Join SENDERS! or Missions activities to learn more about Global Missions.

Serve locally.

Visit calvarystp.org to find groups and ministries that interest you





Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg

8900 US Highway 19 N. Pinelllas Park, FL 33782 (727) 577-7705

Missions@calvarystp.org

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