

spread the word

Vol. 65 | Issue 1 | 2017

MESSAGE

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電話: 27825778
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Set-Free

Ministering to women trapped by
human trafficking in Hong Kong

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Private Road
私家路
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Transformed Through Suffering

Suffering is an inevitable part of life. God's own chosen people — the Israelites — experienced enslavement and oppression at the hands of the Egyptians. But those of us who know how the story ends, know that their suffering was setting the stage for a glorious redemption.

When the Israelites were brutally treated as slaves, they cried out to God, and God answered their prayers in powerful ways.

Similarly, this issue of *Message* highlights the suffering of many women in Asia who have been enslaved through human and sex trafficking. Yet, like the Israelites, God continues to hear the cries of His people, and makes a way where, by human understanding, there is no way.

While most of us cannot fully fathom the suffering of the Israelites or these women, we each have our own stories of suffering. We have all faced struggles, and for most of us, we would testify that it was during those times that we found God most reliable and ourselves most vulnerable and changed by Him. I pray that as we are transformed through trial and God's reliable grace, we would become more reliable and eager witnesses of His redeeming grace. Because it is through Him that slaves are freed and suffering is transformed into hope.

Al Cockrell | Interim President

Editor: Ingela Hartman
Art Director: Lauren Miller
Director of Communications: Leah Pickard

ABWE PO Box 8585
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585
Phone: 717.774.7000 | Fax: 717.774.1919
www.abwe.org | Email: info@abwe.org



WHO IS THE ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR WORLD EVANGELISM (ABWE)?

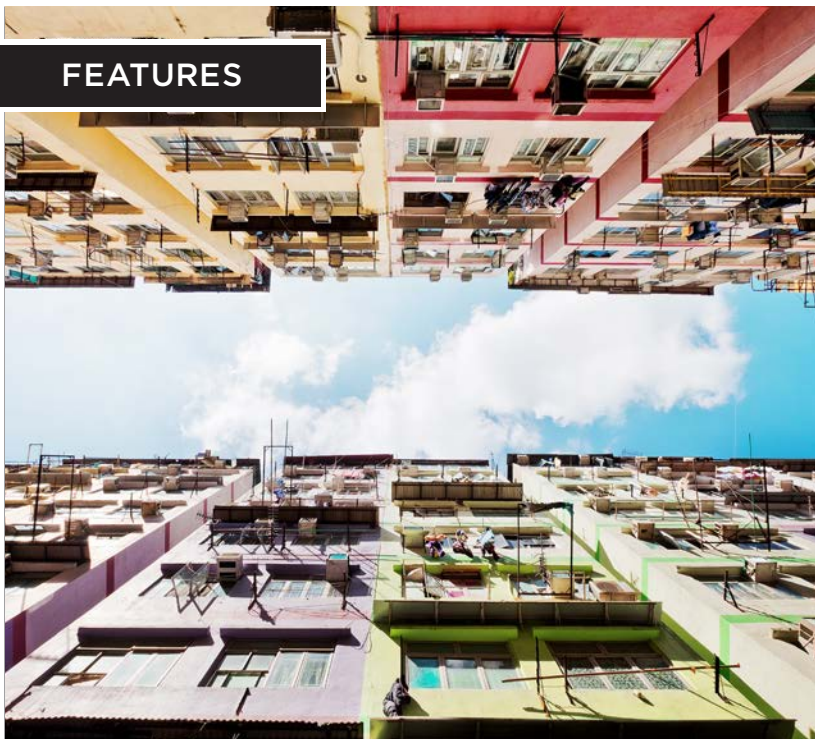
ABWE was founded in 1927 as an independent Baptist mission. We are dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying leaders, churches, and missions movements among every people. Currently, more than 1000 ABWE missionaries are working to advance God's work in more than 70 countries by sharing the story of hope, building communities of faith, and serving the world with love.

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Set Free

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ON THE COVER:

Hongkong Street Scene
in Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Photo ©Nikada

ONLINE

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KENYA

A Bump in the Road

>> *There are memorable days, and there are unforgettable days. Recently, ABWE North America missionary Brian Hanson had an unforgettable day in the Kenyan bush.*

Although Brian serves in North America, he goes on at least one overseas mission trip per year, and this year, God led him to Kenya with the hope of ministering in a region that has barely heard the gospel. Tensions and violence in the Western Kenyan bush had greatly decreased in recent years, opening the door to take the gospel deeper in to unreached regions.

“We’ve all heard missionaries talk about how events on the mission field build their faith and trust in Jesus, but for those of us who are not missionaries in harsh environments, it’s hard to appreciate what it is like to live and serve day after day, year after year,” said Brian. “These trips give me a glimpse.”

Immediately, Brian got to experience the daily struggles of Kenya’s roads, and by day four, Brian and his team were a full day behind schedule. After mending a flat tire, they bumped over muddy potholed dirt roads into the village of Kamanau to set up camp. Their disappointment that they had not arrived the night before was palpable, as that day they had planned to be deeper in the bush showing the “Jesus Film” where it had never been shown before.

They were disheartened, but God quickly reminded them that no labor in the Lord is in vain when Losikal, the most prominent elder in the area with a violent past as a tribal militia leader, came by the church. Losikal had served

time in prison, fled to Ghana on foot, and was now back home because tribal tensions had calmed down.

Although he had been exposed to the church and Christian ways, Losikal had not turned his life over to Jesus, and the team seized the opportunity to share the gospel with him.

Inside a cement-block church under a metal roof with no finished doors or windows, no permanent pews, and no pulpit, Brian sat on a wooden plank and told Losikal about God, as a Kenyan pastor named Aggrey translated.

Brian shared a straightforward presentation of gospel that included God the creator, original sin, the crucifixion and resurrection, forgiveness, and repentance. When Brian finished, he asked Losikal many questions, and this tribal war leader shared that he had been changing his ways, but only because he thought it was a good thing to do, not because of a belief in God.

“I have done a lot of bad things that I’m sorry about,” Losikal said. “Now, I see how God worked everything out

“I believe that more than ever, no one is a lost cause.”

-Brian Hanson

for you to be here from America for this moment.”

Brian asked Losikal if he would like to pray to receive Jesus as his savior,



and he agreed, saying that this short conversation had brought clarity he had never had before.

In order to make sure Losikal truly understood in his heart what he was about to do, Brian led Losikal in a repeat-after-me prayer through two translators: first, Pastor Aggrey translated Brian’s prayer into the local language of Pokot, and then, one of Losikal’s son, who was even more familiar with Pokot, translated it again.

“To sit and watch Losikal be saved was as humbling as it gets. It reminded me that everyone is equal at the foot of the cross,” said Brian. “I believe that more than ever, no one is a lost cause.” ■

LEARNHOW you can serve on a short term mission trip with ABWE at www.abwe.org/go

 **UPCOMING EVENTS - MAY 2017**

Good Soil Basic Seminar

When: May 15-16, 2017

About: This seminar equips you to share God’s story of redemption chronologically, so that people will clearly understand, sincerely embrace, and firmly hold on to the gospel.

Good Soil Trainer Certification

When: May 17, 2017

About: This one-day workshop equips and certifies missionaries and church leaders to train other believers in Good Soil evangelism and discipleship principles and techniques.

Learn more and register at: www.goodsoil.com/training

PERU

Sharing the Light in the Darkness



© Ozgurdonmaz

“She had been praying for Norma’s salvation but was not allowed to talk with her because she was an evangelical.”



When Peru Missionary Dorothy Budd’s phone rang, she had no idea God was giving her an opportunity to change someone’s life.

Dorothy picked up and one of her church members asked her to come explain the way of salvation to her cousin, Norma, who was dying of cancer. Dorothy and her ladies Bible study had been praying for Norma for months, but it was becoming clear that she didn’t have long to live.

When they arrived, Norma’s family gave Dorothy the freedom to fully explain the way to be saved from her sins and receive Christ as her Savior.

As Dorothy shared the gospel in the dim light by Norma’s bedside, God supplied Dorothy with His Word, and by the time she left, Dorothy believed the Word had penetrated Norma’s heart. Six days later Norma passed away, but not before telling her cousin that she was ready to go and her sins were forgiven.

The following Sunday, Dorothy accompanied Norma’s family to the cemetery and ran into a young man who had come to her church as a teenager. His wife was Norma’s sister-in-law, and when Dorothy informed the couple that she had the privilege of giving the

gospel to Norma before she died, his wife burst into tears. She told Dorothy she had been praying for Norma’s salvation but was not allowed to talk with her because she was an evangelical. Norma’s family is Catholic and leaving the Catholic Church is perceived as a betrayal, but since Dorothy wasn’t family, she was allowed to speak with Norma.

“We were amazed and reminded how God uses others to reach someone we can’t, and that we should never give up on praying,” said Dorothy. ■

Is It

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

It seems like everything these days is costing more and more, but there is less and less reward for those who save.

If you're tired of low interest rates, low dividend yields, and the volatile stock market, then a Gift Annuity Agreement through ABWE may be the right answer for you. It can provide you with increased income, while also supporting the future of global missions.

Gift Annuity Agreements are simple. In return for donating cash or securities, ABWE promises to give you fixed payments for life. Your payment rate is based upon your age and the amount you've given, and a portion of it is tax-free. Additionally, you are eligible for a charitable tax deduction the year the annuity is established.

SET UP A GIFT ANNUITY AGREEMENT

to help support your income while also supporting the advance of God's Kingdom.

AGE	%
65	4.7
70	5.1
75	5.8
80	6.8
85	7.8
90+	9.0

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For giving options in Canada, contact

David Green - Planned Giving Representative
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NORTH AMERICA

Street Evangelism



LEARNMORE about
this ministry at:
www.restoredchurch.org

>> *It was midnight when North America church-planter Dan Nichols first ran into Nasir bouncing a basketball outside of Dan's home in Wilkes Barre, Pa. Dan started talking with 16-year-old Nasir as he dribbled in the street, and after a bit of small talk, an idea hit Dan.*

"Would you like a basketball hoop?" he asked.

Nasir's eyes lit up.

Dan reached out to his church and a church member donated his old basketball hoop. From that moment on, Dan's relationship with Nasir quickly grew. Dan discovered that Nasir had attended his church's youth group with his best friend before Dan and Nasir met that night. He also discovered that Nasir's parents weren't in his life anymore and had very few people to fill that role.

"He invited me to come check out his tux for prom to make sure he looked 'fresh,'" said Dan. "I taught him how to tie a tie and told him not to do anything stupid."

Dan got to know Nasir better by playing ball, watching sports, and inviting Nasir to his house church. One day as they were shooting hoops, Nasir told Dan that he was 17 that day.

"It's your birthday today?" Dan said.

"Yeah," he said with a shrug.

"Do you have any plans?" Dan asked.

"No."

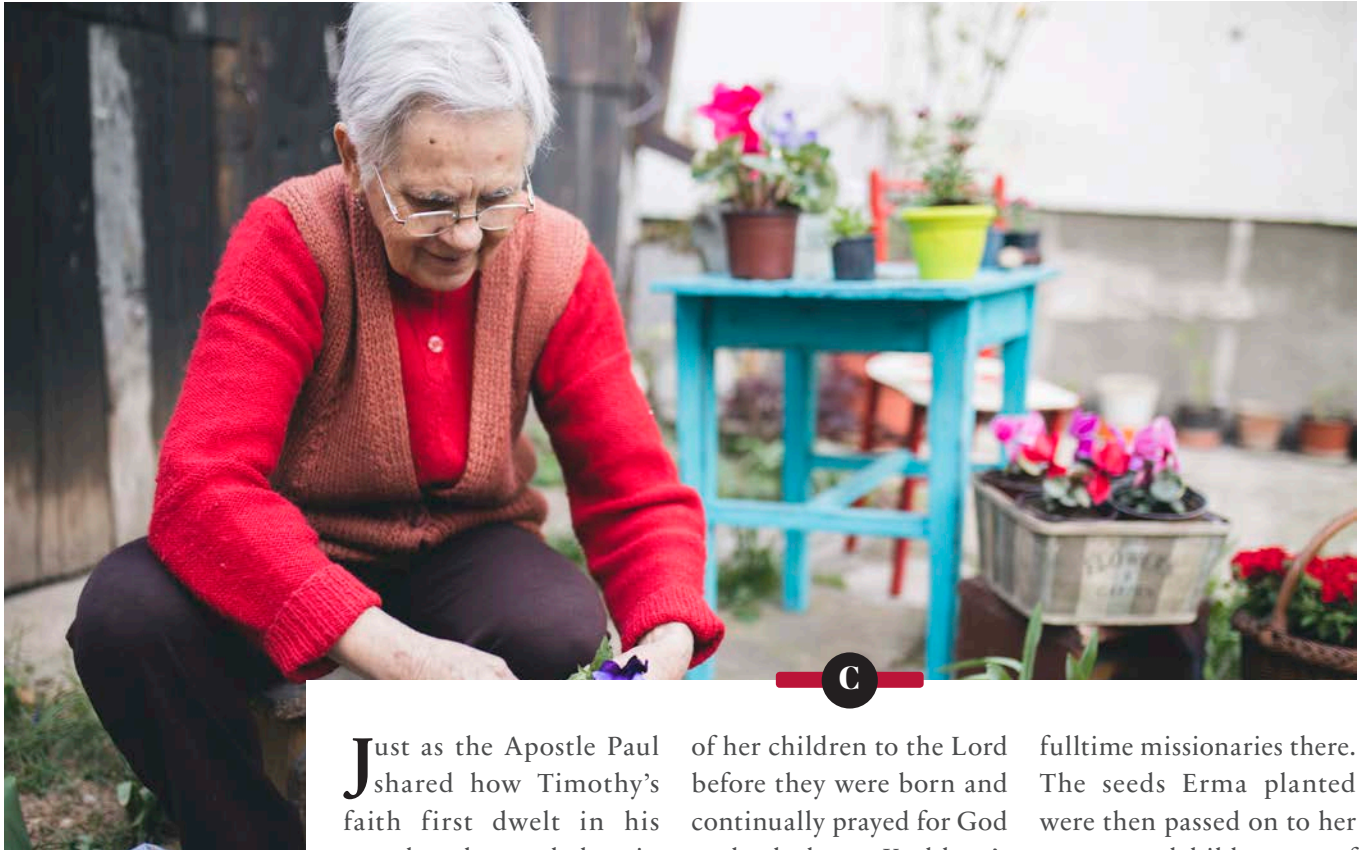
That night, Dan and his wife had Nasir over for dinner and then took him out to get frozen yogurt, where his friends from youth group were waiting to surprise him. Later, they all watched the Stanley Cup — Nasir's favorite sport.

Through spending time together, Dan and Nasir's friendship deepened and Dan was able to walk Nasir through the gospel several times. This summer, Dan had the blessing of praying with Nasir as he put his faith in Jesus, and then a few weeks later, he was blessed to baptize Nasir.

"From the basketball court to the grocery store, the opportunity to share the gospel is all around us," said Dan. "Please pray for Nasir as he continues his spiritual walk." ■

BRAZIL

Growing an Eternal Legacy



©Peter Viisimaa

“It was not I the Lord desired on the mission field, but my children.”

Just as the Apostle Paul shared how Timothy’s faith first dwelt in his grandmother and then in his mother, ABWE Missionary Kathleen Weber’s grandmother, Erma, was also the root of a significant spiritual legacy.

At a young age, Erma felt the Lord’s calling and she dedicated her life to serve in foreign missions. But her plans were changed when an Iowa farmer asked to marry her. Erma prayed for months until the Lord gave her peace that this was His will for her life.

While she got married and stayed in Iowa, her heart for missions never waned. She dedicated each

of her children to the Lord before they were born and continually prayed for God to lead them. Kathleen’s mother remembers a time when an airplane flew over their farm and her younger brother said he would never go in one. Erma just smiled and said, “You never know where God might take you someday.”

Erma was right. Her passion for the Lord and for missions led four of her six children to follow the Lord’s leading to become missionaries to Brazil. Twenty-two of her grandchildren grew up in Brazil, learning Portuguese and loving the Brazilians, and 10 went on to become

fulltime missionaries there. The seeds Erma planted were then passed on to her great-grandchildren, 11 of whom answered the call to missions in Brazil, Africa, Portugal, Spain, China, Indonesia, and Guatemala.

Four missionary children, 10 missionary grandchildren, 11 missionary great-grandchildren later, Erma miraculously sparked a missions movement without leaving her farm in Iowa.

“It was not I the Lord desired on the mission field, but my children,” Erma later said. ■



NICARAGUA

Final Wishes

>> *Missionary Traci Warner met Dominga while serving alongside a medical team in rural Nicaragua. Although Dominga was helping serve food to the patients and medical team members, she really should have been a patient herself.*

A paisley scarf enveloped her head where her hair should have been, and she had to frequently sit down to rest her weary body. Despite the harsh chemo treatments and the ravaging effects of the cancer, she smiled as she chopped up tomatoes and onions.

Dominga would live for another year, but inwardly she was dead already.

“It’s easy, Momma,” her 9-year-old son Jader said. “Why won’t you be saved? You don’t have to do anything – just believe in your heart that Jesus died for you and ask him to forgive your sins.”

Each day when Jader returned home from school, he would kiss his mom all over her face and read Scripture to her. And one Sunday, Jader stepped up in front of the church and asked if he could share a prayer request for his mom to know Jesus. There wasn’t a dry eye as the congregation prayed for Dominga’s salvation.

“In moments like these, I am thankful for the medical knowledge I have and that God can use that to help me connect and care for others,” said Traci.

Traci began making house calls.

Dominga had already decided she didn’t want to continue with the toxic chemotherapy treatments, but now her pain was debilitating. Traci offered her what physical relief she could provide, but more than that, she offered hope. Traci read Scripture to her, prayed over Dominga, and shared the good news that Jesus offers eternal life.

After several weeks of care and conversation, God opened Dominga’s heart and she prayed to receive Christ as her personal Savior.

A week later, as Dominga was preparing to leave this world with her family at her side, she shared her last wishes. She didn’t wish that her children would be rich or successful; she simply wished that they would follow Jesus.

“When I die, I want Jader to continue going to the church. And I want you all to promise to seek after God. Don’t do what I did and wait till you’re old and dying,” she said. “Follow Jesus now.”

Dominga took her last breath in May, but her family was comforted by the knowledge that when they see her again, she will be standing pain free next to her Savior. ■

***“Don’t do what I did
and wait till you’re old
and dying,” she said.
“Follow Jesus now.”***

C



TOGO

Start of Something Big

After breaking his leg in a motorcycle accident, Edem* was rushed to ABWE's Hospital of Hope in northern Togo. As a respected village elder in a deeply animistic region with little-to-no gospel influence, Edem's accident could have been looked upon as punishment from displeased ancestors or a curse from an enemy. But in God's hands, it became the perfect opportunity to share Christ's love and build a community of faith.

As Hospital of Hope doctors cared for Edem's physical health, missionary Josh Farver and other chaplains visited him to check on his spiritual health. Initially, Edem refused to speak about spiritual matters, but after watching The

Jesus Film in his native language of Moba and experiencing the authentic love that hospital staff showed their patients, Edem's heart slowly softened and a miraculous transformation began to take place.

By the time he was discharged, Edem understood and believed Jesus was the only way to God. But that was just the beginning.

Filled with a desire to grow in his newfound faith, Edem invited Josh to his home to begin a Bible study with his entire family, and within two months, the study grew to include most of his village.

"Through Edem's accepting and inviting us in, we are seeing God do amazing things in this family and village," Josh said. "They are

soaking up all they can and are even praying and studying together when we are not there."

Families throughout Edem's village have accepted Christ, and Edem also began sharing the gospel with friends in a nearby village. This outreach has led Josh and the hospitals' chaplain team to start an additional Bible study in the area.

"Recently, they started asking about baptism, so now we are discussing what that means," Josh added. "It so exciting to see God work and to know that this is just the beginning." ■

LEGACIES

Honoring 35 Years of Ministry



DAVE & RUTH ANN ROGERS

CANDIDATE CLASS: 1980

COUNTRY SERVED IN: Chile

© claudiobentzperéz



1980

Married on June 14



1987

Began first church plant, Resurrection Baptist Church (now Big Rock Bible Church)



1999

Joined the team of the New Life Baptist Church in center city Santiago



Arrived in Chile on September 2

1984



Supervised second church plant as outside adviser to the Grace of God Baptist Church in Recoleta, Santiago

1994

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ROGERS

Q: How did God first call you to missions?

Dave: I formed an interest in missions through my parents who were church planters, and that interest grew after I read the book “Jungle Pilot.” But the real clincher came in college when my pastor preached on the promise and the plan of God to call and sustain His servants. This was the Apostle Paul's rock solid conviction, which he expressed in 2 Corinthians 4:1-4. This belief was solidified through a missionary apprenticeship trip I took to Peru in 1979.

Ruth Ann: Through the example of my parents, my heart grew more sensitive to the needs of people. Later God burdened me through Isaiah 6, where God calls the prophet to a life of holy dedication for His glory. I also visited Peru where God confirmed His leading through the influence of godly, dedicated missionaries.

Q: How did God call you to Chile?

A: As a newlywed couple, we went to ABWE's Candidate Class where we heard of all the crucial needs around the ABWE world. We were undecided on a country so we decided that we would ask the Board to recommend a field to us. By doing so we were resting in the promise that “in a multitude of counselors

there is wisdom” (Prov. 11:14). The ABWE Board recommended Chile, and we took that as a sign from the Lord. We have never doubted it in all the years we have been in Chile.

Q: What is your favorite memory from your time as a missionary?

A: There have been so many joys — serving alongside our field team, training local believers to serve as pastors, leading people to a saving trust in Christ — but to see those we disciplined learn to evangelize others has been amazing! One example is Jose Luis who was our neighbor in our first house in Santiago.

As a university student, Jose pressed us with many questions about the Bible, and eventually we had the joy of leading him to faith in Christ. We disciplined him, and later, we officiated his wedding. Then, we trained them both to take on several important ministry roles in our church.

Later, Jose's work moved his family to the north of Chile, and after serving faithfully for many years in other churches, Jose felt the call of God to plant a new church. They reached out to us and we had the joy of helping them launch a church plant in their home. There are now about 25 people attending his new church!

Q: What is biggest thing you've learned through your time on the field?

A: Through prayer, we have learned to trust how God leads. It is a fundamental part of our lives as missionaries. However, our human tendency is to do what seems most logical or reasonable to us, instead of what God seems to be saying in answer to prayer. Throughout our ministry, God has led us to where we would serve in ways our rational minds could have never arranged.

Q: What advice would you give to those considering missions?

A: If you have questions, fears, or doubts about being used by God, consider the words of Paul, “...since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but have renounced the hidden things because of shame...but we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.” Once you are submitted to God, you never need to worry that you are inadequate. You and I are only the clay pots. The work is done by the Master Potter. ■

LEARNHOW you can start building your own legacy of faithfulness
www.abwe.org/go

**2008**

Began the building project for the New Life Ministry Center in downtown Santiago

**2016**

Called and ordained the second pastor at New Life, Patricio Díaz



Founded the "Grow Publishers" (Editorial Crece) to help service literature needs in Chile
2006



Called and ordained the Chilean pastor of New Life, Yentzen Sanhueza
2010



SET FREE



Ruby* thought God had abandoned her.

Growing up in the Philippines, her mother left her, her step-mother physically abused her, and when her father died, she went to live with her uncle who sexually abused her. She ran away to the city of Manila when she was 15 years old, and with no other way to support herself, she fell into the world of prostitution.

“I felt God had left me to fend for myself,” Ruby said. “I didn’t know where to go, so I sold my body to make ends meet. As long as the men paid, I didn’t care who I gave myself to.”

After a few years in Manila, a “recruiter” told Ruby about a domestic helper job in Singapore. It seemed like the answer to her prayers, and the end to her nightmare of abuse at the hands of strange men. But when she got to Singapore, it was not the Eden she had envisioned. Her employer sexually abused her regularly and refused to pay her.

After two years, a friend told her about opportunities for domestic helpers in Hong Kong. While she was hesitant to leave her friends and feared her next employer would be as bad as her last one, she found another “recruiter” and went to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, her employer was fairer, but she felt very alone and afraid in her new country. Eventually, she was befriended by a Christian woman, and as their friendship grew, so did Ruby’s stomach. Ruby had been told during her recruiting agency’s physical that she had a stomach tumor, so she was surprised when that tumor started moving. Ruby was fired by her employer when they found out she was pregnant.

“I felt God had left me to fend for myself,” Ruby said. “I didn’t know where to go so I sold my body to make ends meet.”

**names changed for security*

“I asked God where He was, but He was nowhere to be found,” said Ruby

Seeking help, Ruby’s friend took her to church and introduced her to ABWE Missionary Maylin Hartwick.

Maylin, her husband Chris, and their two sons first arrived in Hong Kong nine years earlier. They knew the country’s need for the gospel, but they had no idea how deep that need really was. During their years of ministry in Hong Kong and through their travels, they learned more and more about the epidemic of prostitution and human trafficking that was rampant throughout Asia.

According to research by the Far Sight Institute, modern slavery is a major global issue, particularly in Asia, and 71 percent of victims experience some

“Maylin and her church slowly opened my heart to God after it was closed for such a long time,” said Ruby. “I can’t explain to you how the words of Jesus suddenly changed me.”

When Ruby welcomed her son into the world eight weeks later, she was excited to bring him up in the ways of the Lord.

While she was forced to return to the Philippines after her son was born, Maylin continued to disciple her, and with the aid of other prayer and financial partners, she helped support Ruby through midwifery school.

Today, Ruby is a midwife and has started Bible studies to reach women in the slums where she lives. As part of her ministry, she also uses her midwife training

Most people have turned a blind eye to these issues and these women, so we started praying that God would lead someone to reach them,” said Maylin. “But instead of sending someone, God called us.”

combination of confinement, confiscation of documents, or verbal, physical or sexual threats, and abuse. It is a tricky issue as victims of modern slavery are often hidden, which is especially true for the world’s estimated 52-million domestic workers who live and work in the privacy of their employer’s homes.

“Most people have turned a blind eye to these issues and these women, so we started praying that God would lead someone to reach them,” said Maylin. “But instead of sending someone, God called us.”

Since then, God has given Chris and Maylin many opportunities to shine His light into these dark places and to help women like Ruby.

When they learned that Ruby was pregnant and homeless, Chris and Maylin immediately took her into their home. And when they learned that Ruby would be deported without a job to support her visa, Maylin helped fight to extend her visa until the baby was born. Maylin was successful, and as they waited for the baby to be born, she was able demonstrate and teach Ruby about the hope of Jesus Christ.

to help pregnant women who can’t afford medical care.

“For other women who are in the same situation I was in, I want to tell them not to let anger destroy you. Trust and surrender everything to the Lord because you will only suffer if you allow yourself to be driven with anger,” said Ruby. “Jesus is knocking at your heart. Let Him come in because He is the Only One you can lean on. Those sad circumstances that occur in your life, allow you to remember Him. Christ died for you because of our sins, He has forgiven you, and you need to forgive yourself.”



Photo: *There are an estimated 52-million domestic workers like Ruby (not actually pictured) around the world.*



“

I can't
explain to you
how the words of
Jesus suddenly
changed me.”



71%

of trafficking victims
experience verbal, physical
or sexual abuse.

Red-Light Ministry

Maylin's passion for helping women began when she was a child, so when she discovered widespread sex and human trafficking in Hong Kong, it broke her heart. She told a friend about her desire to do more and her friend connected Maylin with a local organization that ministers to workers in the red-light district.

In the last five years, the organization has established a group of strong Christian volunteers who meet every Thursday for a time of prayer and worship before setting out in teams to build relationships in Hong Kong's red-light district. The teams visit the same area of the neighborhood each week and work to form meaningful connections with the women working in the bars.

"Because we go out in teams on the same street every Thursday night, the ladies and everyone else who works in the bars know our routine. Once trust has been established, we are able to let them know that there are options available for them if they are willing to take it," said Maylin. "When we show our care and concern, reaching out to them and asking to pray with them, many of them can't hold back their tears."

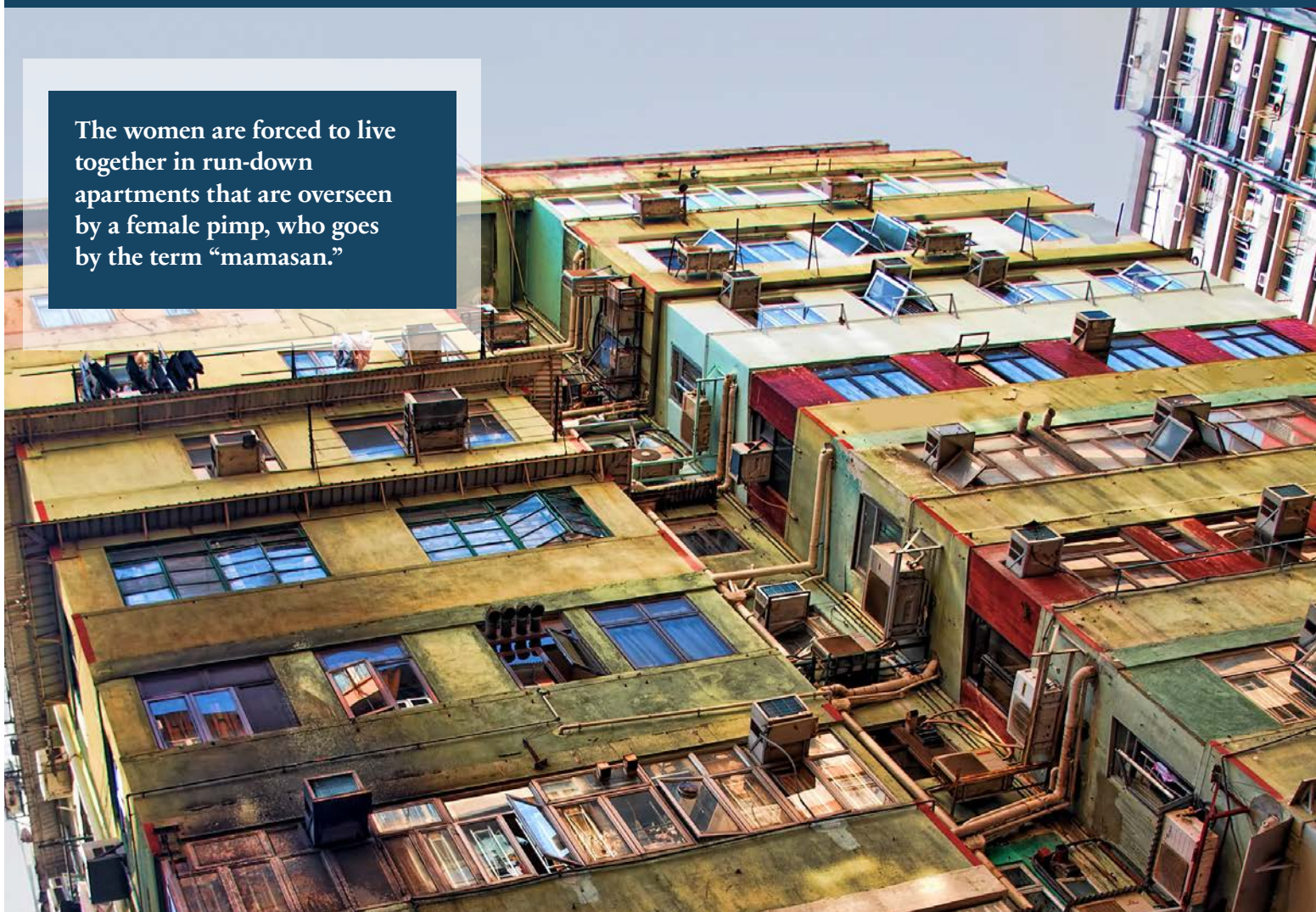




“

We go out
in teams
on the same
street every
Thursday night.”

The women are forced to live together in run-down apartments that are overseen by a female pimp, who goes by the term “mamasan.”



M

Many of the women they meet in their street outreach are from other South Asian countries, and they come for a variety of reasons, but their predicaments are not unique. There are three kinds of women Maylin frequently ministers to: women, like Ruby, who came to be domestic helpers; women who knowingly come to work in the bars; and women, who were promised a good-paying job and then tricked into working in the bars.

“Regardless of how or why they came to Hong Kong, even the women who knowingly come to Hong Kong as prostitutes, their freedom is taken away,” said Maylin. “The bar owners and the mamasans take away their documents until their debts are paid.”

That is exactly what happened to Isabel.

Isabel* was a single mother living in the Philippines with four children, and she was desperate to find money to send her drug-addicted, 15-year-old daughter to a rehab center. Isabel was already struggling to make ends meet so the cost of rehab seemed beyond her reach until a “recruiter” told her about a good-paying restaurant job in Hong Kong. She promised her that they would take care of everything including money for her airfare, hotel and visa. It seemed too good to be true — and it was.

When she arrived in Hong Kong, they put her up

According to Anti-Slavery International, debt bondage, also called debt slavery, is the least known but most common form of modern slavery. Debt bondage occurs when a person is forced to work to pay off a debt. They are tricked into working for little or no pay, with no control over their debt. Most or all the money they earn goes to pay off their loan. The value of their work becomes invariably greater than the original sum of money borrowed, and they face violence and intimidation if they try to leave.

This has happened to almost all of the women Maylin ministers to. They are forced to live together in run-down apartments that are overseen by a female pimp, who goes by the term “mamasan.” The women are trapped by the debt they owe for getting to Hong Kong and then they owe more money for food and living in the apartment. The mamasans hold the women’s debt record, but often the women don’t know how much they owe or how much they have earned.

“To pay their debts, girls are told they need to dance in the bars or they just need help encourage patrons to drink more, but then they find out later



Photo: (bottom) Maylin Hartwick (2nd from the left) walks with her husband, (center) and several members of their church

According to Anti-Slavery International, debt bondage, also called debt slavery, is the least known but most common form of modern slavery.

in a nice hotel for three days, and then she discovered there was no job, but she still owed them all the money for the ticket, the visa, and the hotel. She was told she had to go work in the bars in the red-light district.

“Many women who are trafficked to Hong Kong are promised a job, but when they get here, there is no job and they find out they owe money,” said Maylin.

they are expected to sleep with the men,” said Maylin.

When Isabel found herself trapped in this situation, she was devastated. The mamasan told her that she only had to stay in the bar and drink with customers, but that her debt must be paid. Isabel already knew the hope of Christ, but with no other way out, she agreed to go to the bars.



Photo: (Bottom) Taste of Hope ministry participants showcase their work.

“I didn’t go to have sex with the men but many have embraced the lie that they are doing the right thing for themselves and their families. Many have gotten into gambling and drugs and done other bad things for the money,” said Isabel.

It was at the bar that she met Maylin during one of her Thursday night outreaches. Maylin and her church family welcomed Isabel, prayed with her, and helped support her as she worked to survive her situation and pay back her debt.

Then one night at the bar, Isabel met an Australian business man who offered to pay off her debts and help her get home to the Philippines. Leary of such a generous offer, Maylin and Chris met with him to ensure his intentions were pure, and he confirmed that he was asking for nothing in return. Through the man’s generosity, Isabel was able to return to her family in Manila and send her daughter to rehab.

“I am back in the Philippines now and it’s been hard to provide for my children without a job. We had to relocate to a different slum area. We would like to just have a place where we don’t need to have to move again. It’s been a hard life after my husband left me, but in faith, we keep hoping and praying,” said Isabel.

While life is still hard, Isabel has the prayer and support of Maylin and her church in Hong Kong. Isabel dreams of having her own small business selling vegetables and cooked food from her home, and Maylin recently went to visit to see her vision. Now Maylin is working to find supporters to help Isabel start her business so she can safely earn an income while raising her children.

The Hands & Feet of Christ

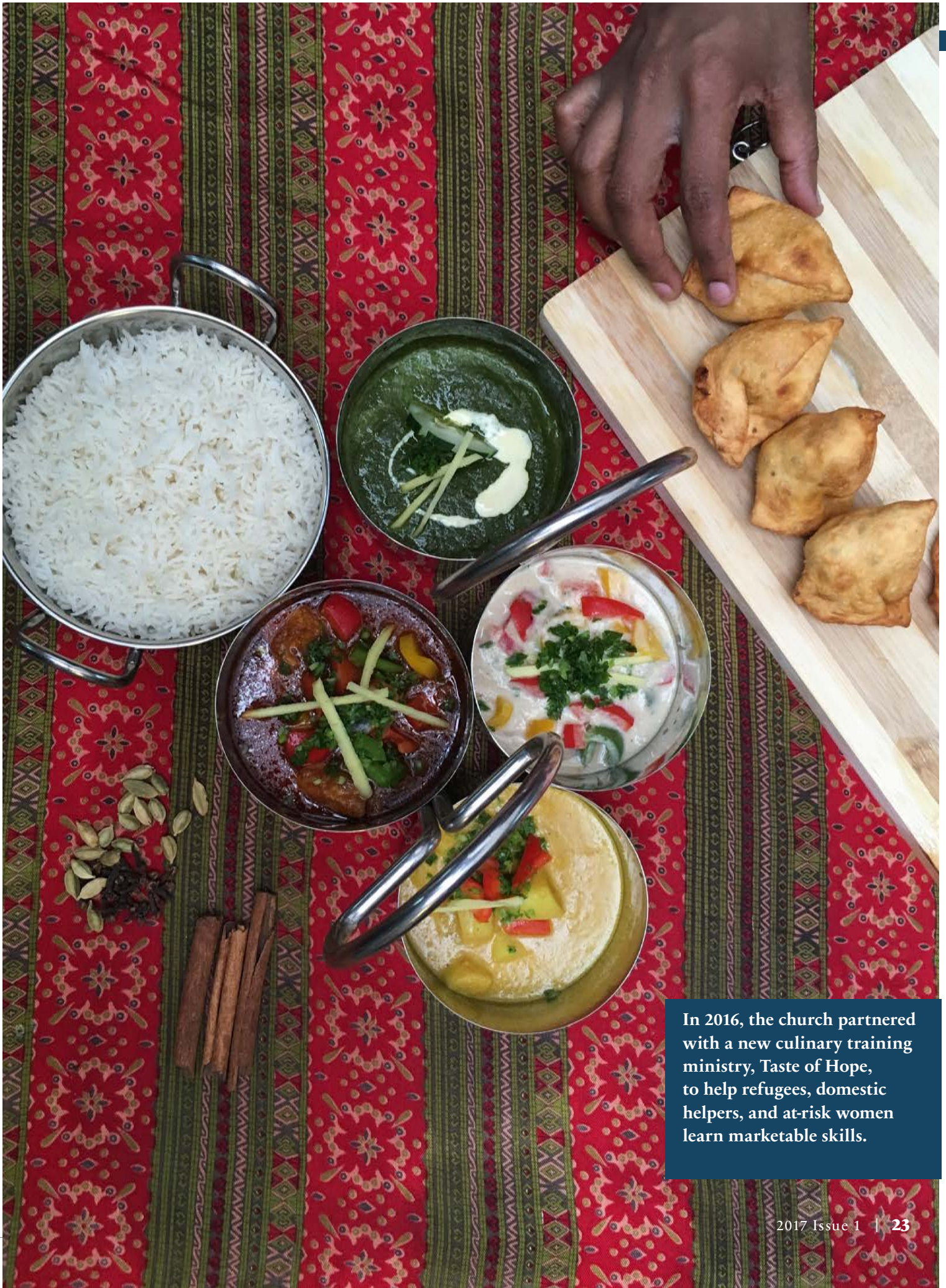
When Maylin got involved with the red-light district outreach, she brought her passion and the need to her church. They whole-heartedly embraced the idea, and every Sunday, their congregation of about 60 people prays for persecuted Christians and people



trapped in human trafficking and slavery. Then, when their church’s lease was up three years ago, they felt God calling them to move their church to the red-light district in the heart of Hong Kong’s business district. Despite its high-end restaurants, it is home to thousands of modern slaves and a large Muslim population in need of gospel.

Moving their church to this area has allowed them to live alongside people in deep need and their church members have become missionaries in their own neighborhood. Their church quickly became known as a place where people in need can turn to get help.

Many of the church ladies minister to their community by cooking for the red-light district outreach. And in 2016, their church partnered with a new culinary training ministry, Taste of Hope, to help refugees, domestic helpers, and at-risk women learn marketable skills that they can use to build a better life for themselves and their families.



In 2016, the church partnered with a new culinary training ministry, Taste of Hope, to help refugees, domestic helpers, and at-risk women learn marketable skills.

Together, Maylin and her church continue to minister to women trapped by debt bondage and sin by sharing the hope of the gospel with them and by helping them navigate their situation and their options. They help teach them about the local laws and their rights in Hong Kong. Their church also created a small shelter where these women can stay for a short time if they lose their job or need emergency housing.

“Many trafficking situations stem from a dysfunctional family, coupled with a lack of opportunity and a need for money. These women are vulnerable to deceivers,” said Maylin. “We teach them that Jesus is

the only one who can provide, and He will provide.”

While Siti* was a Christian before she met Maylin, she was still deceived and trapped.

“I grew up in a Muslim home where I was treated like I was just a shadow

compared to my brother and sisters,” said Siti.

When Siti was 14, a “recruiter” came to her village in rural Indonesia and told people about a well-paying opportunity to work overseas. Siti, feeling neglected, jokingly told her father she was considering it, and he told her she should go.

“I couldn’t believe my ears. I thought my parents didn’t love me anyway, so I decided to leave,” said Siti.

Siti contacted the “recruiter” and signed up, secretly hoping her parents would love her enough to stop her. They did not, so at just 14 years old, the recruiting agency gave her a fake I.D. with a new name and her new age, 22.

Despite being a child, she was sent to Singapore as a domestic worker where she was treated appallingly. She was physically and emotionally abused by her employers. She was on call 24-hours a day and typically worked about 16 hours a day making about a dollar an hour. She was given less than 10 percent of her meager earnings and the rest was taken by the agency to pay back what she supposedly owed.

“I worked in a country where I didn’t know the language or the people. Even though I was treated badly and was not paid the salary I was promised, what was most painful was that my parents didn’t even care where I was,” said Siti.

After her two-year contract ended in Singapore, she applied to work in Hong Kong where her employer was also cruel to her. Luckily, she met Maylin who prayed with her and helped support her until she was able to find a kind and fair employer.

“Maylin and her church helped me stay spiritually strong through a tough time and learn how to forgive my family and my employers,” said Siti.

Maylin continues to disciple Siti, and with the help of their church, they are reaching more domestic workers who are struggling.

While some may be wary of having prostitutes or at-risk single women in their church, Maylin says, “Jesus loves them. There is risk with anyone, but I think the key is remembering God’s grace. Every day is a blessing that we are not in their situation.” ■

“I grew up in a Muslim home where I was treated like I was just a shadow compared to my brother and sisters.”

LEARNMORE about the Taste of Hope ministry in Hong Kong at: www.tasteofhopehk.org

SOURCES

seefar.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Farsight-Modern-Slavery-in-East-Asia.pdf
www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/debt-bondage/

“

Maylin and her church helped me stay spiritually strong through a tough time and learn how to forgive my family and my employers.”



Global Ministries

ABWE AT WORK









2016

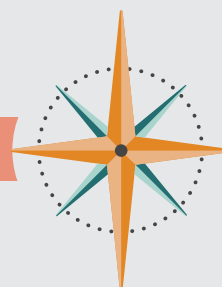
CHURCH PLANTS: 47

BAPTISMS: 1,499

Ministry Types:

-  AVIATION (5)
-  CAMPS & SPORTS (13)
-  BIBLE COLLEGE (30)
-  CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (25)
-  MEDICAL (24)
-  AT-RISK-WOMEN (2)

TOTAL MISSIONARIES: 1,022





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WHEN GOD BREAKS YOUR STUFF

EN

..... By Jennifer Mee | *ABWE Missionary to Colombia*

I was such a good missionary. I had given up so much. Surely God would respect that. Right?

In 2008, I felt like I was already sacrificing things. As a bride, I didn't register for china, didn't ask for fancy wedding gifts, and returned things that would have been "too big" to take to South America where God had called us. The sacrifice felt good. It felt praiseworthy.

As we prepared to leave for language school two years later, I gave away or sold all our worldly possessions except what would squeeze into 20 plastic bins. When we finally arrived in Colombia, we were living in temporary housing, and I felt pride when I looked at

our meager 20 bins. I felt like such a good missionary. God must be proud that I had given up so much for him.

But I had no idea what God had in store for me.

Over the next 12 months, God began a slow and deliberate pruning in my life. One by one, items that I had carefully selected and lovingly packed in my plastic bins, began to break. They were wedding gifts, things you couldn't simply replace, things you couldn't even get in South America, and they were breaking. Some were knocked over during Bible studies, some got spilled on by guests, and some were dropped by people who had come to hear about Jesus.

I was frustrated, and then, as we were about to go out the door one Sunday morning, two little figurines that I had since I was a little girl fell to the floor and smashed into thousands of pieces. I couldn't take it anymore. I fell to the floor weeping. Why did this keep happening? Why was God doing this? I had given up so much to go to South America to share His gospel. I already had so much less than the average American, so why did He keep taking things from me?

I was overwhelmed with emotion, and my hands felt limp as I tried desperately to pick up the pieces. But even through my tears, I could see that no amount of glue would ever put the things back together again. I felt like God was taking my clenched fists and slowly, purposefully, painfully, prying my fingers apart until my hands were open and empty.

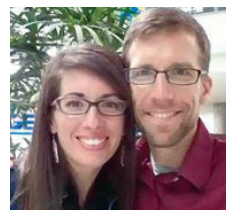
While I knew we needed to go and minister to people that morning, my thoughts were filled with my broken things. I couldn't get past it. I was still angry. Even bitter.

Finally, I sat down and began to make a list of all the things God had taken from me over our 12 months in Colombia. I wrote and numbered each item He had broken. I stopped at 32, because my face was drenched with tears. I was broken. I cried out to God in my distress and He heard me.

I gave that list to Him, and as I surrendered, I felt like He was gently lifting my view from all my things. Those things were wood, hay, and stubble which would all burn someday, and God was trying to show me the eternal. When I lifted my view from all my precious things, I realized that each time something had broken, there were people involved. People with precious eternal souls. I saw in the darkness of my own heart that I had resented people coming for Bible studies because they inevitably broke things, spilled drinks on my couch (three times in one night!), and dirtied my apartment. But by examining that darkness, Jesus lifted my chin and showed me that people are always more important than things. Always.

Over the past five years, this has been an ongoing lesson. But now I hold my things lot more loosely. And if God needs to break more things in my life so that more people hear the gospel, I am ready. ■

“Over the next 12 months, God began a slow and deliberate pruning in my life.”



Jennifer and Daniel are ABWE missionaries in Bogotá, Colombia, focusing on church planting and seminary teaching.



© Joel Carillet

4 Challenges For Missionary Wives

According to

Joann Hoganson, former ABWE missionary to Brazil

I recall very clearly how I felt when my family was just weeks away from leaving for our first missionary term in Brazil. We had worked very hard to get to that point, but we didn't feel close to being ready. Those were exciting, scary, hectic, exhilarating and faith-building days.

During that time, we learned to rely on God in a new and different way, and when we finally arrived in Brazil, we learned to rely on Him even more.

Those first days and weeks I experienced one of the biggest transitions of my life. Everything was different — different language, different climate, different food, different money, different house, different friends. My life felt like a snow globe that someone had shaken up. But amid all those changes and new experiences, there was the deep realization that I was doing exactly what God had called me to do, and I was in the very center of His will.

For any wife about to leave for the mission field or those still settling in, I have four challenges for you:

1. Keep your marriage and your family as your primary focus. There are many missionaries and opportunities to minister, but your husband only gets one wife and your kids only get one mom.

2. Take care of yourself — physically, emotionally, and spiritually. You cannot minister to others if you are empty. Your ministry starts with your daily walk with the Lord.

3. Remember God is the one who produces the fruit. We prepare the soil, we plant, we water, we fertilize, but in the end it is God who saves souls and builds believers. Be faithful in what God has called you to do and leave the results to Him. Don't allow yourself to get discouraged when you don't see the fruit as quickly or as profoundly as you would like. Just trust the Lord.

4. Don't forget that the most important work you do will be done on your knees. As it says in Zachariah 4:6, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by power nor by might, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."

Leaving family and friends behind as you step out to serve the Lord is not easy. I vividly remember how I felt as I got on a plane and left my 18-year-old daughter here in the United States. I wondered if my rib cage could contain my aching heart. But, this voice of experience will tell you, along with the apostle Paul in Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

It is not easy, but it is so worth it. ■



© Joshua Huang



A SPORTING CHANCE

“**Large sporting events are extremely social gatherings** where people eagerly engage with strangers. For that reason, we founded Sports Event Evangelism (SEE), a ministry that uses sports as an opportunity to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the 2016 summer Olympic Games, more than 90 people joined together for an opportunity to reach people on the streets of Rio de Janeiro. In just 10 days, our group used specially designed booklets and bracelets to start conversations with people from 106 nations. More than 125,000 booklets and bracelets were given away and the gospel was declared more than 850 times.” – *Matt Douglas*



About the Missionary | *Matt Douglas, North America Missionary*

Since 1994, Matt & Barb Douglas have been church planters in Australia, and in 2016, they founded Sports Event Evangelism (SEE), a ministry that grew out their desire to offer opportunities for believers to see evangelism in action and for the unsaved to come see Christ.



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We have the
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TOGETHER
we can fulfill the Great Commission.

A woman in a white sari is kneeling on a patterned rug, lighting a diya (oil lamp) during Diwali. The scene is dimly lit, with the warm glow of the diya and other lit diyas on the floor around her. The background is dark with bokeh light effects.

Let us help you fulfill God's calling on your life.
Get started today at www.abwe.org/go