

MESSAGE

Vol 66 | Issue 1 | 2018

abwe[®]
INTERNATIONAL



Save Me

HOW WE CAN RESCUE A WORLD THAT IS DROWNING IN DARKNESS

THE EVANGELISM ISSUE



Equipping the Church for the Great Commission

As a pastor for 28 years, my wife, Martha, and I have engaged in missions in the context of our local church, leading missions trips and sending out missionaries. During these years of ministry, I also developed a passion for helping churches partner together to fulfill the Great Commission.

Now, as president of ABWE, I get to connect these experiences with ABWE's 91-year legacy of ministry. My excitement grows as I think about the variety of ways that ABWE missionaries are helping multiply leaders, plant churches and foster missions movements through their evangelism and discipleship efforts.

Whether sharing hope with Rohingya refugees fleeing genocide, training believers to share the gospel in their own cultures and context, or working with national church leaders to see their role in global missions, ABWE missionaries are serving to advance the gospel. In this issue of *Message*, we focus on some of the evangelism and discipleship tools we've developed to help them and YOU engage in the work of the Great Commission.

 | ABWE President



Editor: Naomi Harward | ABWE PO Box 8585
Art Director: Lauren Farr-Miller | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585
www.abwe.org | Email: info@abwe.org | Phone: 717.774.7000 | Fax: 717.774.1919

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 1,000 ABWE missionaries are working to advance God's work in more than 75 countries by sharing the story of hope, building communities of faith, and serving the world with love.

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Artistic rendering by Lauren Farr-Miller and @francescoch

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UNITED STATES

Celebrating Our New President



Leadership is practiced not so much in words, as it is in attitudes and actions. So, when ABWE conducted a presidential search last year, the organization sought someone whose entire life reflected leadership, humility, service and missions.

Paul Davis was serving as senior pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Holland MI, and sat on the ABWE Board. His wife, Martha, was working as a high school principal for a Christian school. They were content in their ministries when God called them to ABWE in November 2017.

“As part of the ABWE Board, I was praying for the right leader to come,” Paul said, laughing. “I hadn’t considered the idea that it was going to be us.”

But after considering the assignment, God began to put the pieces into place, and the Davises felt confirmation on the Lord leading them into a new era of ministry impact—resourcing and equipping those serving the Great Commission work around the world.

Long before this assignment, Paul had begun cultivating a ministry philosophy that was focused on leading and discipling new believers, and empowering people to use their gifts for the Kingdom.

No one probably saw this philosophy play out more than the Davises four children.

“My parents lived out their faith in our home and in their ministries,” says Rachael Davis, who now works in the Senate in Washington, D.C. “They are known for putting people first and serving others.”

“When my dad was a pastor, he’d take the calls at 2 a.m., and get up and go to the prison,” or in one case, the accident scene of a fatal crash that took the life of Rachael’s high school friend.

“They love people and give everything to serve them, even at a cost to themselves,” she said with tears in her eyes.

As Paul and Martha hosted missionaries in their home over the years, their children learned their greatest desire was to teach others to follow God.

“Every night, we would pray that our children would understand why we are here and have a heart of obedience,” says Martha. “If

VIEW

THE PRESIDENTIAL
INSTALLATION SERVICE

www.abwe.org/livestream

they had that, no matter where their paths lead, they can serve God in fulfilling His purpose.”

Now, the Davises want to focus on helping missionaries use their gifts and fulfill their purpose.

Paul is known as a strong communicator and an innovative spiritual overseer, with experience in team building, fundraising, leadership development and ministry growth. He and his wife, Martha, have been married for 28 years, and have both served in numerous roles in Christian ministry and education.

Recently, Paul’s appointment was made official at an installation ceremony held at the ABWE International Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA.

“I am just one person and ABWE is about Jesus Christ and His church,” Paul told several hundred people in attendance. “Jesus Christ is the reason for ABWE. It is about His mission. He is the purpose and strength behind ABWE. If we flourish, it won’t be because of a president’s creed or an 8-point plan for leadership. It will be because of His good favor.” ■



TOGO, WEST AFRICA

Finding Forgiveness

Tears streamed down Edem’s* face as he read about the life of Joseph. Despite all that he had suffered at the hands of his brothers, through God’s strength, Joseph forgave them. As Edem read the story, he felt convicted of his own hardened heart against the uncle who had abused him as a child, and was now dying. Until this point, anger had prevented Edem from going to see his uncle, or forgiving him for the pain he had caused.

But Edem knew what he had to do. He made a trip to visit his uncle, and explained to him that God’s Word teaches forgiveness, and that he wanted to follow in that obedience. His uncle broke down in tears at the words. To further demonstrate the extent of his forgiveness, Edem brought the ailing man to the hospital, and covered the entire medical bill.

Continue to pray for God to move in this way in the lives of the people of Mango. ■

LEARNHOW

ABWE is ministering to the people of Togo
www.abwe.org/togo

*names changed for security

AROUND THE WORLD

Thank You for Giving Joy

At Christmas, we told you about five needs around the world, and you responded!



Because of you, Memorial Christian Hospital has been expanded and upgraded, and will soon serve up to 300 outpatients per day. Through the hospital, thousands of Rohingya refugees will have access to life-saving care, and a chance to hear the gospel for the first time.

Your gifts also supported the planting of more than 200 churches around the world, made Bible Study tools accessible to East Asian pastors, equipped North American leaders to transform lives, supported a Chilean pregnancy crisis center, and helped transform a Zulu community

“

“We thank God for the way He has provided through our faithful givers.”

— PAUL DAVIS —

7 Rivers Outreach

In partnership with a local South African church, four missionary families are transforming a community through a Zulu church-plant and a 100-acre farm which provides micro-enterprise opportunities, training, and leadership development for Zulu pastors.

The Result: \$6,019 went towards purchasing the farm. When the purchase of land is complete, they will begin building eight homes for vulnerable children, many of whom have been orphaned by HIV.

EveryEthnē Church Planter Residencies

To reach more people in North America, the EVERYETHNĒ initiative focuses on creating more effective churches. To start more effective churches, we need leaders who are uniquely equipped to share Christ with people in their communities and cultures. EVERYETHNĒ was created to cross cultures without crossing borders by providing residencies, resources, and support for church planters.

The Result: \$8,531 was raised to support and equip ministry leaders in North America.



Bangladesh Hospital Renewal

Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH) in Bangladesh is a major surgical resource and vibrant Christian platform for the 10-million people who live in the surrounding area. MCH offers quality, compassionate medical care, creating spiritual openness among those who may otherwise be hostile to the good news. We have seen the work at MCH result in congregations, Bible colleges, pastoral training, Bible translation work, literature and other opportunities to impact the community.

The Result: You provided more than \$7 million for this renewal project! Then earlier this year, Dr. Franklin Graham and Samaritan’s Purse provided the necessary funding, and gave additional funds to purchase a CT scanner, and cover other construction costs.



East Asia Bible Study Toolbox

The East Asian church has experienced explosive growth, with more than 1 million new believers annually. But pastors lack access to quality theological resources and preaching materials. The free Bible Study Toolbox was built to provide national pastors and ministry leaders in East Asia with crucial resources, like Bible translations, Hebrew and Greek concordances, sample sermon outlines for every Bible passage and commentaries, all translated into their own language and available online.

The Result: Over 80% of Asian Internet users access the Internet via their smartphone. \$14,460 went towards creating a mobile Bible commentary app, expanding the number of resources readily available to pastors.



FLORECE Building Purchase

FLORECE is the only known pregnancy center of its kind in Chile. With a vision to meet the physical and spiritual needs of women and families in crisis, the FLORECE Pre-natal Center provides free pregnancy tests, personalized maternity classes, Biblically-based peer counseling, and a “baby boutique” of infant clothing and items. FLORECE also promotes abstinence and the value of human life in area schools.

The Result: \$20,927 was raised to purchase an upgraded facility that will allow them to implement recently purchased ultrasound equipment, by meeting Chilean government medical building standards. ■

LEGACIES



John & Marilyn Rust

CANDIDATE CLASS: 1982

COUNTRY SERVED IN: Portugal



1982

Attended candidate class



1984

Began Loures Church, in Loures Portugal



Arrived in Lisbon, Portugal

1984



Led the fieldteam through construction of the Lisbon Training Center

1994

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RUSTS

Q: How did God first call you to missions?

John: I was 13 years old, in our little church in Elk Rapids, MI. A missionary speaker gave an invitation to commit our lives to missions. Having been born in India to missionary parents, I had been exposed to the mission field nearly my whole life. I knew most of my friends hadn't been outside of Michigan and didn't want to live in another country, but I had, [and] certainly could again.

Marilyn: As a child, I remember my parents hosting missionaries in our home many times, and I had such an admiration for them. That was the beginning of the desire God put in my heart to become a missionary. I fully committed my life to missionary service in college, when God confirmed the call to missions during a summer trip to Brazil.

Q: What moment had the biggest impact on your ministry?

A: In high school, I joined the cross country team to get in shape for basketball season. It was five kilometers, and I almost died every time. Anyone who can run a 42k marathon and enjoy it must have a God-given ability. A number of years ago I began to keep a list

of missionaries we've known in Portugal who have left the field. It's up to 203. Yet, here we are.

But I've realized that God can gift who He pleases to run 42k, 10k, 1,000 or 100 meters. And who am I to think that the "marathon runner" of missions is more valuable?

Some people have asked me "what keeps us in Portugal?" I've come up with various plausible reasons in the past, but most recently I've realized that just as God has put eternity in the hearts of men, He has put Portugal in our hearts. He has given us a genuine love for the country, the people and the ABWE team.

Q: What is the best part of being a missionary?

A: One of the things I love about what we do is that we do it together, as a couple, and we help each other out.

Our verse that we chose as a couple, and the reference engraved inside our wedding bands, is Philippians 3:10-14. We change the singular tense to plural when we read it together: "...(14) But one thing we do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. We press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

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

Marilyn: Portugal is a beautiful place to live. But there are difficulties that come along with it. This past term has been one of the most difficult ones for us. There were times we wanted to quit.

But what has helped us, I'm convinced, is knowing that our supporters are praying for us; and also remembering what God has done in the past, and realizing how wonderful it is that we can trust Him to accomplish His plan, for the present and the future.

John: Sometimes when I'm discouraged, I find music is great therapy, so I pick up my old trumpet and I play through my memorized repertoire, and usually come to "Press On", an old favorite by Dan Burgess: In Jesus' name, we press on / Dear Lord, with the prize / Clear before our eyes / We find the strength to press on! ■

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**1999**

Started Miratejo Baptist Church with Bob and Jo Fry

**2017**

Joined by their son Andrew and his wife, Mollie who serve as tentmakers



Started Samora Baptist Church in Samora Correia with Andy and Mara Cook

2007

Praying to pass the baton of leadership off to the Portuguese in Samora

2018

WE'VE BEEN
waiting
FOR YOU

WORDS: NAOMI HARWARD

PHOTOS: CHUCK BIGGER





PHOTO: A Rohingya refugee is treated at Memorial Christian Hospital in Bangladesh for injuries she sustained while fleeing from her home in Myanmar.

Mobarega lost her home and many of her family members when militant oppression forced them to flee their country. During their escape, the young child suffered several deep wounds to her legs. She arrived at Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH) covered in scars that refused to heal.

As the doctors cleaned out the wounds and pulled away the tissue that was keeping them from healing, the little girl cried out to God to save her. The process was excruciating, and had to be done with only local sedations. Mobarega was conscious for the whole thing.

“This little girl, at just 2 years old, fiercely prevailed over the most severe darkness any human could endure,” wrote Malia Barshaw, a volunteer nurse at the hospital. Malia was directly involved in the operation, holding the crying girl down as the doctors did their best to finish the process quickly.

“She cried a thousand tears,” Malia recalled.



“

“This little girl, at just 2 years old,
fiercely prevailed over the most severe
darkness any human could endure.

She cried a thousand tears.”

- WORKER AT MCH -



AN ETHNIC CLEANSING

On Friday, August 25, 2017, Rohingya freedom-fighters attacked a number of Myanmar police posts, killing several officers. They operated independent of the Rohingya as a whole, but they were fighting for the rights this people group had long been denied.

Mayhem ensued. The enraged government responded by unleashing punishment so severe, it was described by the United Nations as “a textbook ethnic cleansing”.

Hundreds of Rohingya villages were attacked and destroyed—even those several miles from the initial conflict were burned to the ground. Women were beaten and raped. Villagers were locked in burning buildings to be consumed by the flames. Families were shot as they tried to escape. Children were ripped from parents’ arms and killed; their bodies dumped in holes or on the side of the road.

In the weeks of violence that followed, 6,700 villagers lost their lives. About 730 of those were children under five.

Land mines, gun fire, and treacherous travel conditions all met the Rohingya as they fled for their lives.

Their destination: the open arms of the Bangladesh, just across the border.

THE ROHINGYA

Living on the border between Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh, this Sunni-Muslim population has faced religious persecution from the majority-Buddhist country of Myanmar for years. Denied citizenship by both the Myanmar and Bangladesh governments, they lived, in essence, as stateless immigrants.

CONTINUED

Prior to the crisis, thousands of Rohingya had already migrated across the border to Bangladesh to escape the abuses they were suffering from Myanmar security forces. Though the Rohingya still have not been granted citizenship, Bangladesh has allowed them to establish refugee camps on the country's edge. It was to these camps that the rest of the Rohingya fled when the conflict with the Myanmar came to an explosive head last summer.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

They are safe from the oppression of Myanmar now, but the Rohingya are not happy in the camps. They miss their homes. Once they were farmers, students, mothers, business people, living self-sufficient lives; now they are homeless, living and sleeping on top of each other in muddy, overcrowded camps, relying on the kindness of others to provide for them.

Disease is a constant struggle in the camps. There has already been one diphtheria outbreak. With monsoon season underway, the fear grows that another is imminent if they cannot find a way to keep the shallow latrines from overflowing and further contaminating the water sources in the camp.

Flooding has also become a concern. Refugees have all but cleared the vegetation from the hills where their camps rest to provide firewood and other resources. Little is left to stop the flooding and mudslides when the torrential rains begin. Relief workers expect to see many more lives lost.

Despite these hardships, however, the Rohingya don't want to go back to Myanmar. Nor can they. The government refuses to guarantee their safety should they decide to return, and the Rohingya fear being chased from their homes again. For now, they are stuck in a limbo between worlds, homeless and unwanted.

But in the midst of all of this, God is working. Specifically through a small hospital lying just miles from the camps.



PHOTO: Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees have built makeshift shelters on steep, sandy hills in Bangladesh. They've fled what the U.N. has called ethnic cleansing in neighboring Myanmar. Now they face a new danger in the unplanned camps that sprawl over 3,000 acres: The monsoon season is underway, and with it will come new injuries and illnesses.

CONTINUED



CONSIDERED THE WORLD'S FASTEST
GROWING REFUGEE CRISIS,

800,000+

ROHINGYA

HAVE FLED FROM THEIR
HOME STATE OF RAKHINE.

90%
OF THEM

FLEEING ROHINGYA ARE
CROSSING THE BORDER

35

MILES FROM
MEMORIAL
CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

1 IN 3

PATIENTS

BEING TREATED AT
MCH ARE REFUGEES

.0001%
ARE CHRISTIAN

Established in Malumghat, Bangladesh in 1966 to combat the great medical and even greater spiritual needs of the people, Memorial Christian Hospital has been serving the Bangladeshi community for more than 50 years. In the wake of the recent crisis, the hospital has been a main establishment aiding the Rohingya, and it was the first hospital they were referred to for surgical treatment.

Originally built to support about 65 inpatients, the hospital often found itself filled to capacity even before the influx of war-torn refugees. Its infrastructure was already near the breaking point before they arrived. As hundreds of refugees—most suffering severe traumatic injuries—came flooding into the hospital, the staff found themselves stretched thin and exhausted. Even with the help of the selfless volunteers who rushed to its aid, the hospital was in dire need of more room, more help, and better facilities.

The influx of refugees has slowed down and Memorial Christian Hospital is seeing fewer major surgical needs. The need remains, however, for an expanded building and more staff as trauma treatments give way to ongoing medical needs.

Collapse does not appear to be part of God's plan for this hospital that has been so impactful in the refugee's lives.

CONTINUED



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“Collapse does not appear to be a part of God's plan for this hospital.”









 PHOTO: Memorial Christian Hospital was the hospital chosen to provide the initial surgical care for the Rohingya. Staff are being recruited for the opening of the new facilities in 2019 - there is an urgent need especially for primary care physicians and nurses.

In late January, Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse visited the camps and the hospital. After witnessing the exclusive ministry opportunity Memorial Christian Hospital provides, he pledged the remaining funds to complete the building expansion project started by ABWE in 2013. The previous gifts of over \$7 million from faithful donors combined with Graham's final gift not only helped fund the project to completion, but will also help cover any other construction expenses the hospital might face.

Set to open early next year, the hospital has also received gifts of equipment and resources since the height of the crisis.

For the current short-staffed facility, it cannot open soon enough.

Until then, the institution continues to function efficiently, providing not only exceptional medical care but also something much more valuable to these refugees. . .

HOPE.

NEW FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- A 130-bed, 125,000 sq. ft., multi-level medical center, with shell space for an additional 35 beds
- A 10-bed ICU, 7-room OR suite, 10-bed PACU, OB wing, private rooms, ER & trauma services
- Improved outpatient clinic space — roughly tripled to enable care for more than 300 outpatients daily

“

“When they seek love, care, & support,
it is “The Christians” to whom they turn.”

- WORKER AT MCH -



A THOUSAND TEARS. A MILLION SMILES.

Mobarega’s legs were finally free to heal, but the extensive operation left her unable to walk for several weeks. Her mother had to carry her everywhere. At times it was frustrating to the little girl, who could not possibly understand everything that was happening to her.

Yet through it all, Malia noted the life in her eyes. Despite the immense amount of pain and loss Mobarega had endured in the short time she had been alive, she smiled through her frightened and confused tears.

“You could never make eye contact with her without her smiling back at you,” Malia remembers. “And she didn’t just smile with her face—she smiled so deeply into you that it penetrated your soul. [It] felt like an arrow of love shot through you.”

Memorial Christian Hospital strives to bring its patients not just excellent medical care, but also that same kind of light and hope that shined in Mobarega’s eyes. Through the gospel.

As part of God’s sovereign plan to use the hospital to reach this once unreached, unengaged people group, it recently obtained a gospel adaptation in a language the Rohingya can understand. It was just being finished as the crisis was beginning.

The selfless service of the medical workers has changed the way the predominately-Muslim people group views believers. Christians were once reviled by them. Now, they call the workers and volunteers “The Christians,” and it’s not at all derogatory. When they are seeking love, care, and support, it is “The Christians” to whom they turn.

The door has been thrown wide open to reach thousands who have been so secluded for years. In the midst of dark adversity, where hope seemed to be lost, God is clearly working.

There are still many questions surrounding what comes next for the Rohingya. Plans to send them back to Myanmar have been put on hold, due to the fact the government won’t guarantee them safety should they return.

For now, the refugee city on the border of Bangladesh will remain. And as Memorial Christian Hospital begins to expand, the message of hope will continue to spread throughout the camps. ■

LEARN MORE about how you help us serve the Rohingya refugees at Memorial Christian Hospital | www.abwe.org/refugees



Fertile Ground

ABWE's Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Training is Producing
Fruit

// By *Naomi Harward* //

“My name’s not in the Lamb’s Book of Life,” Tony exclaimed, suddenly grasping the weight of a truth he had long rejected.

Months prior, Tony had started asking questions about the gospel.

His former coworker, Jason, had been sharing Christ with him and had shown Tony a Bible app. Since then, Tony was diligently reading through the Scriptures on his phone. But, he didn’t understand everything he came across.

Shortly before leaving to prepare for the mission field, Jason visited Tony and learned he still had a lot of questions. Sitting in a nearby McDonald’s, Jason began sharing *The Story of Hope*—a chronological Bible resource that outlines the big picture of the gospel using 20 Old Testament and 20 New Testament stories. Starting with the story of Creation, Jason walked Tony through several major Bible events, all the way to the end of ages described in Revelation. As the pieces came together in his head, Tony began to understand how the “big story” of the gospel was relevant to him. His eyes lit up with conviction.

“I am not where I thought I was with the Lord!” he exclaimed.

It was clear what Tony needed to do, but the decision to surrender his life to God was a heavy one.

“If I do this, I will have to change a lot about how I live,” Tony said, his head dropping into his hands.

Jason sat quietly as Tony began to weep and struggle through the battle between his flesh and his spirit.

Minutes passed as the Spirit gently worked to soften Tony’s heart. At last, he lifted his head and met Jason’s eyes.

“I’m ready,” he said.

And with that, Tony’s name was written into the book of life forever.

THE START OF GOOD SOIL

When it comes to evangelism, one size doesn’t fit all. That’s why the creators of *The Story of Hope* wanted to develop a resource that would help believers like Jason share the gospel effectively, regardless of a person’s language, religion, or worldview. They recognized that many factors, called “worldview noise,” can impact how someone understands the gospel, and sometimes, even predispose them to outright reject it.

ABWE wanted to change that. So in 2005, the mission’s training division launched Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship resources, and released *The Story of Hope* and a discipleship follow-up book called *The Way to Joy*.

The Story of Hope is a 64-page book that covers God’s redemptive story—from Genesis to Revelation—and helps lay a foundation for the reader to understand the concepts of God, man, sin, death, Christ, the cross, faith, and life.

The idea behind Good Soil is that once people grasp basic biblical truths outlined in the materials, they can better understand the relevance of the Bible and their need for a savior.

One pastor from a small town in Iowa began using Good Soil after his shocking discovery that many of the children going through his VBS program had never even heard of Jesus before.

CONTINUED



DOWNLOAD
FREE RESOURCES at
goodsoil.com/resources



WHAT IS

“GOOD SOIL”?

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship got its name from the parable of the soils where Jesus defines a “good soil” response to hearing the gospel—that the hearer fully comprehends (Matt. 13:23), embraces (Mark 4:20), and holds firmly to the Gospel of Christ (Luke 8:15). Every resource the Good Soil team has produced centers around achieving this goal.

What began as a handful of books 10 years ago now includes CDs, visual aids, pocket versions, and even mobile apps. *The Story of Hope* and *The Way to Joy* are available in 26 languages, with nine more translations in progress. In partnership with several translating agencies, work is being done to produce Good Soil resources in at least 50 of the world’s languages.

In 2007, Good Soil began training people from all over North America to use the resources in their churches, ministries, and communities. To date, Good Soil has sold more than 130,000 books and resources and they host five trainings a year at the International Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA. Join us for one!

BEFORE GOOD SOIL

Leading people to Christ, discipling them to maturity, and planting churches make up the core of ABWE’s ministry philosophy. But in the early 2000s, ABWE leadership began to notice that the focus might be drifting.

“Some of our missionaries weren’t emphasizing evangelism,” said Good Soil founder Wayne Haston. “They were focusing more on [other ministries].” But ABWE understood that without evangelism, compassion ministries like healthcare and education only address physical needs.

Because of this, Wayne was tasked with developing a more in-depth training program to help prepare ABWE’s people for the field. He began by conducting a survey of the missionaries joining the mission in 2004. While not reflective of the missionary family at large, the results from this small sample were shocking.

Less than half of the new missionaries had ever led an adult to Christ. Ninety percent had also never discipled a believer in a systematic fashion. Only one couple had ever been involved in any kind of church plant.

“So, we’re sending these people out to be full-time missionaries,” Haston mused. “But, if they haven’t done [these things] in North America, how do we expect them to go to a Muslim country—or a Buddhist, Hindu, spiritist, or tribal country—and be effective?”

This realization served as the catalyst for changing how ABWE prepared its missionaries. And that same year, Wayne presented a small group of missionaries and evangelists with a challenge: Create a training program to teach missionaries to do cross-cultural, worldview-relevant evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. The solution also needed to consider the starting point and literacy levels of the people using it, and allow flexibility in the amount of time it required.

Out of those meetings came Good Soil.

CONTINUED



PHOTO: ABWE missionaries use a variety of ministries, including compassion ministries, to reach their communities with the gospel.

“

With Good Soil, ABWE created a training program to teach missionaries to do cross-cultural, worldview-relevant evangelism, discipleship, & church planting.





PHOTO: Steve Mabin (left) had known Bryan Goebert (right) through coaching baseball for months before learning Bryan was a pastor.

GOOD SOIL TODAY

Mitch trusted Christ as a young girl, and she loved sharing her faith. As an adult, she attended a Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship training session, led by a missionary who had been through the training at ABWE Headquarters, and then brought it to his field in Asia. The new evangelism methods she learned empowered her to reach Lea, a young mother and former Catholic who came to faith in Christ and had been attending Mitch's *Story of Hope* study.

One day Lea met the missionary who had trained her mentor, Mitch, and excitedly announced that she was taking her faith home with her. She had been working three hours from home, in Hong Kong, but was leaving her job to move back to her husband and 3-year-old daughter. Now she couldn't wait to share this newfound hope with her husband and her mother, both still devout Roman Catholics.

But that was only the beginning.

As Lea diligently studied the Good Soil resources and grew in her spiritual strength and love for the Lord, her burden to spread that good news grew as well.

Only two months into her faith, Lea already had a clear understanding of man's great need for the gospel, and she wanted others to understand it as well. She gathered together a group of people from her home province, and asked missionaries from Mitch's church to come share *The Story of Hope* with them. Mitch and a team made the three-hour trip to Lea's hometown to help Lea teach her friends—just like Mitch had taught Lea, and the Good Soil team had taught Mitch.

Today, Lea runs a children's outreach program in her community. Her husband, Arnel, who had helped her by leading music for the program, also recently accepted Christ after listening to Lea teach.

STEVE'S STORY

As a self-proclaimed agnostic, Steve was furiously fighting against God.

The death of a close friend in high school left him feeling betrayed—he saw Keith's death as a great injustice—and the bitterness changed Steve for the worse. The deaths of his parents some years later did nothing to help this.

Steve not only closed himself off to all religion, but also grew actively hostile toward those who held to any kind of religious values. He lived that way for years, spinning into a dark spiral of depression and anxiety. The end of every day left him feeling drained, exhausted, and broken.

But even in the midst of the storm, the Spirit was stirring in Steve's heart. Beneath his angry shell, there was an unfulfilled yearning that he was seeking to fill. And, unbeknownst to him, God was slowly guiding him toward the solution, in the form of a good friend named Bryan.

Steve knew Bryan for six months through coaching baseball before discovering that he was a pastor. By the time Steve learned of Bryan's occupation, he had already developed a deep respect for the man and how he lived his life. That respect overrode his predisposed ideas about Christianity.

CONTINUED



2004

ABWE asks, "What do we need to do to train missionaries to evangelize, disciple, & plant churches?"



2005

First edition of *The Way to Joy* is written



2005

18 ABWE missionaries and leaders meet in Kusel, Germany to strategize



2006

The first edition of *The Story of Hope* is written

“

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2007

The first Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Seminar is taught at the ABWE International Headquarters



2009

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship is taught in South Africa, the first of dozens of countries



The Story of Hope is translated into Spanish and Portuguese
2008



The first edition of Gaining Ground with Good Soil is published
2009

Steve and Bryan began meeting on a regular basis and Bryan introduced him to *The Story of Hope*. The way the book laid out the big picture of the Bible made it easy for Steve—who had not been raised in a church and had never read the Bible before—to understand the gospel without overwhelming him. With every lesson, Steve found himself growing hungrier for more of the Word.

After several weeks of lessons, and with the Holy Spirit gently working on his hardened heart, Steve broke down and surrendered his life to God.

“I prayed. I wept. I had such a heavy heart. My shame for the way I spoke of and treated God was immense. [But as] I prayed, I could feel my heart get lighter, as if a weight had been lifted.”

But Steve didn't stop there. He continued to meet with Bryan, graduating from *The Story of Hope* to *The Way To Joy*. He also walked his family through *The Story of Hope*, and had the great pleasure of leading each of his children to Christ and baptizing them.

GENERATIONS OF TRAINING

This vision of training and equipping disciples worldwide to effectively share the gospel has only grown as the news about Good Soil spreads.

Joseph Blasko and his wife, Vangee, were already gifted teachers and very influential at their Christian school in Greater Manila, Philippines. But God began using their gifts in new ways after they attended a Good Soil training seminar hosted in their province, led by Ariel Abadiano, the Good Soil Director in the Philippines. Ariel had been trained by ABWE's Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship International Director, Gil Thomas.

Through Ariel, Joseph learned how to train others in his community, and how to implement Good Soil's resources to compliment that training. Joseph's

church has since recognized his God-given gift of teaching, and made him the lay pastor of missions and evangelism.

To date, 35 people in Joseph's church have been trained and are using Good Soil resources to raise more disciples. People are trusting Christ, being baptized, and joining the church in vast numbers, across the globe.

GOOD SOIL AROUND THE WORLD

While Good Soil was initially developed for ABWE's overseas mission work, its reach quickly spread beyond ABWE. Today, at least 21 known missions agencies and ministries have used the curriculum in 40 countries. The resources have found their way across North America, into jails, youth groups, Christian schools and homeschool families, deaf ministries, military bases, among refugees, and even on the baseball field.

While ABWE developed the materials, the agency does not limit who can use them. In fact, the hope is to empower Christ followers to share God's story of hope with their families, and in their communities. Since training was developed for the resources in 2007, more than 15,000 people have been taught how to take the materials back into their communities to train others.

Good Soil was created to train ABWE missionaries. By God's grace, it has not only accomplished that, but so much more. It continues to build and grow and impact many with a gospel presented more clearly and contextually than ever before.



LEARN MORE about Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship resources & trainings at www.goodsoil.com



2009
Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship goes to the Philippines and Brazil spreading throughout those countries



2010
Roots of Faith is taught for the first time in Harrisburg, PA



The 105 Bible-event images in the Good Soil Redemptive Art Series are completed
2010



The first edition of *The Story of Hope Kids* is published
2013

Reach Your Neighbors

GOOD SOIL: EQUIPPING YOU TO SHARE GOD'S STORY OF REDEMPTION

JOIN US

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Basic Training

May 21-22, 2018

October 15-16, 2018

Good Soil Trainer Seminar

May 23, 2018

October 17, 2018



2013

The Message of Hope, a Muslim adaptation of the The Story of Hope, is completed, followed by Buddhist and Hindu adaptations



2014

Reflections is published



Hooks for Hanging the Old Testament and New Testament Storyline is published

2013



The Story of Hope is published into its 25th language

2018

ABWE & Evangelism

Around the World

WHAT DID ABWE DO in 2017?

- 76,448 received compassionate care
- 2,359 baptisms
- 741 churches planted
- 31 translation projects completed
- 2,000+ mobilized to missions
- 10,216 leaders trained

1,000+
MISSIONARIES IN
75 COUNTRIES

DID YOU KNOW?

30%

of Millennials do not believe in God.

45%

of Americans said they read the Bible "seldom or never."

72%

of Americans believe in Heaven, but only 58% believe in Hell.

480

the number of people groups currently in the United States.

—Pew Forum, Religious Landscape Study

LEARN HOW to REACH

your neighbors, engage your church, & cross cultures without crossing borders.



REACH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Seminary Training

Helping people clearly understand, embrace, and firmly hold onto the gospel.

abwe.org/training



REACH MUSLIMS & THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Heart, Mind & Soul Seminar

Breaking down common misconceptions to help you understand core beliefs and develop effective outreach strategies for these communities.

abwe.org/heartmindsoul



ENGAGE YOUR CHURCH

Ministry Area Profile

Combining demographic research tools and analysis, we will create a ministry area profile to help your church better understand the uniqueness of your local community.

everyethne.church



REACH THE WORLD 24- DEMO

Discovering why going with a missions agency is so much more effective and rewarding than going alone. Learn about our opportunities all over the world, and receive the guidance for the next step of your journey.

abwe.org/24hourDEMO



REACH THE SICK

International Healthcare Ministries Missions Trips

Using trained medical professionals who want to combine their passion for caring for people with their passion for sharing the gospel.

abwe.org/medicaltrips

The **IMPACT** of **GOOD SOIL** Evangelism & Discipleship Resources



Agnostic Finds Faith

Steve found a renewed hope and joy when the gentle discipling from a friend broke the anger and bitterness he had held toward God for years.



Finding Clarity

After years of searching, but learning nothing, Gloria was introduced to a clear presentation of the gospel by a friend outside of her Catholic church.



Passing the Torch

Within months of coming to Christ while working in a nearby town, Lea began her own discipleship ministry after returning home.



Bringing Hope Home

Javier left his financial dreams in the US to bring the salvation he found back to his wife and children, still living in Mexico.



Creating Leaders

Lauren and Samuel served as ABWE missionaries in Togo, teaching a school of blind girls how to disciple each other in their faith.



From Fear to Faith

Like many in Papua New Guinea, Rusta lived bound to his intense fear of angering the spirits inhabiting the world around him. Until his eyes were opened to the truth and light of Christ.



THE STORY of HOPE

67,000 COPIES

have been sold from the International Headquarters alone

7 VERSIONS

in English and Worldview adaptations have been published

25 TRANSLATIONS

for The Story of Hope and The Way to Joy with 8 more in progress

135,000+ GOOD SOIL RESOURCES have been sold from our International Headquarters

15,000+ PEOPLE

completed Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship Basic Seminar in at least 33 COUNTRIES



©Samaritan's Purse

The Heartbeat **OF MISSIONS**

FN

..... By Malia Barshaw | *Volunteer Nurse at Memorial Christian Hospital*

Sakera,

The first day I met you, you were so scared of everything around you. You were so shy that when I would say something to you via the translator, you didn't want to respond or even make eye contact. You and your family had just fled for your lives from the place you knew as home. I can imagine your confusion. I can imagine you thinking: "Who is this strange American girl and why is she talking to me?"

Why do I have to talk to her? What is going to happen to me here?" You must have had so many questions running through your head.

Somehow, you had broken your elbow and come for treatment at Memorial Christian Hospital where I was volunteering. You had to have it elevated 24/7 and you hated that.

I sat next to you on your bed and took my stethoscope off my shoulders, motioning that I was going to put it to your chest. I listened to

your heart beat and smiled. *“Thump, thump...”* Your heart was beating fast, signalling your anxiety and apprehension.

You had so much fear in your eyes. I wanted so badly to tell you that everything was going to be okay to put you at peace. But I couldn't. So I handed you my stethoscope and put the ear piece in your ears, placing the diaphragm on my chest so you could hear my heartbeat.

Thump. Thump.

It was like magic. The muscles on your face softened, and I could almost see a smile surface. Your eyes told me that you were unsure and also intrigued. You had never heard a heartbeat before, or touched a stethoscope.

So then I put the stethoscope to your heart. It was the first time I saw you smile. Your eyes told me everything. You turned your gaze toward me with a smile on your face and I could feel your guard come down. Taking your hand, I placed the chest piece back on my heart, and then back to your heart. *“Thump, thump...thump thump...”* We laughed.

I could tell you understood the oneness between us, the sound of our hearts both beating the same. Even though I couldn't speak your language, even though I was from

a different country than you, and even though we followed a different religion. We both had the same beating hearts. We were part of each other. God had made us both human.

After that moment, every day, I would braid your hair and let you wear my stethoscope. We would take turns listening to each others heartbeat. I couldn't speak to you in your language, but I could let you feel me through my heartbeat. On my last day in Bangladesh, as we said goodbye, we listened to our hearts beating, one final time.

The honest truth is that I will probably never see you again, Sakera. But I hope you are laughing and playing—even though you don't have a home and only have a small tent in the refugee camp.

I know you miss your home and you are grieving family members who died. I know you don't fully understand everything that happened to you or what is happening in this world. You were too young to experience such violence.

But your heart is still beating, and love pumps through you. I thank you for sharing your love with me and I pray that you come to know Christ's love for you. He knows every hair on your head, and every beat of your heart.

“Thump, thump.” ■

“I wanted so badly to tell you that everything was going to be okay.”

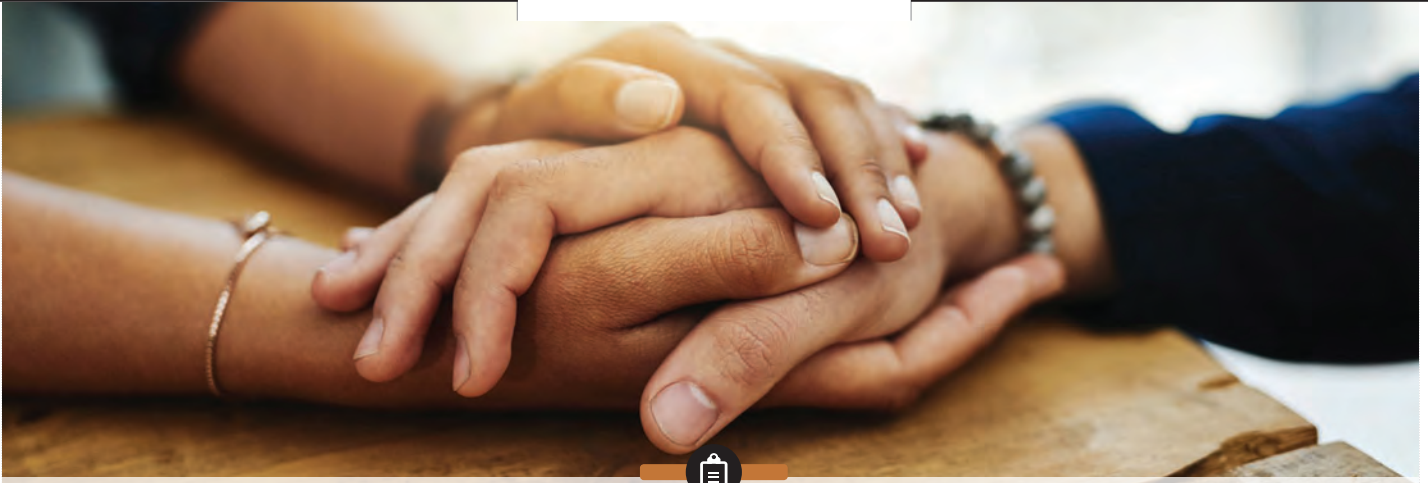


Malia Barshaw is a Registered Nurse at Stanford Healthcare, California. She met Sakera while volunteering at Memorial Christian Hospital in Bangladesh, serving the battered Rohingya refugees who flooded into the hospital following last August's explosive Rohingya crisis.

Would you like to volunteer at MCH?

If you're a trained medical professional who wants to combine your passion for caring for people with your passion for sharing the gospel, we want to talk to you.

www.abwe.org/go



3 THINGS EVANGELISM ISN'T

According to

Alex Kocman, Director of Long-Term Mobilization

When I was a youth pastor, I interviewed a woman seeking to volunteer in the student ministry. As was my custom, I began with a seemingly simple question: “What is the gospel?”

Her answer took me aback. “It’s basically God’s rules for how to live your life,” she proceeded to explain. I was stunned. This kind, helpful church lady had just exchanged grace for law.

In another more recent conversation, I asked a young woman why she was interested in cross-cultural ministry. “I just feel like the Bible has a lot of great guidelines that can improve life, and I want to share those and help people,” she replied.

I have conversations like this more often than I care to admit. We’d like to assume Christians understand the gospel as the message of Christ’s death and resurrection to save sinners by faith (*1 Cor. 15:1-4*), but we can’t. Definitions matter—especially when the gospel is at stake.

1. Sharing Your Story—Sharing your personal testimony can open doors for spiritual conversation, turning awkward monologues into friendly dialogue.

But unless you explicitly unravel the nature of God, the problem of sin, the redemptive work of Christ, and the call to repent and believe, simply sharing your testimony isn’t evangelism. To evangelize is to proclaim God’s good news, not personal insights (*Gal. 1:11-12*).

2. Showing Mercy—Both testaments command God’s people to serve the poor and marginalized (*Deut. 6:5, 15:11; Matt. 22:39; James 1:27*). Even the Apostle Paul—preacher, theologian, evangelist—saw this as his responsibility (*Gal 2:10*).

But however much we may adorn social justice and mercy ministries with spiritualized labels—“showing Christ’s love,” or Assisi’s “preach(ing) the gospel with words (only) when necessary”—meeting physical needs is not evangelism.

Compassion can open doors to gospel conversations, but acts of compassion themselves don’t “tell” the world anything. The “telling” is still our job.

3. Sharing the Benefits—In our evangelical zeal, we’re often tempted to goad our hearers into making a decision.

We risk confusing the gospel with its benefits. “Jesus can change your life,” “Jesus can save your marriage,” or “Jesus can heal your wounds from trauma” may or may not be true statements, but they don’t tell me how to be saved. Those who profess faith after hearing claims like these often fall away when life gets hard, having never grasped Christ’s redemptive work.

We are to tell people the gospel—understandably, with words—and trust the Spirit to open hearts (*1 Cor. 2:1-5*). When we do this faithfully, we have obeyed our evangelistic mandate. ■



SMALL SHOES TO FILL

“**The shoes of over a hundred children lined the front porch steps**, as heavy rains drove the group indoors for the last two days of Vacation Bible School in this Asian country.

Children and youth here are sometimes banned from reading the Bible in their home, under the threat of being kicked out by their parents. But these children come to Christ knowing that persecution – even from family – is possible. And God is using Vacation Bible School and other children’s ministries to start over 90 percent of the churches in this country. Parents notice a difference in their children, and they respect that. They start to realize this is not just another religion. Sometimes, parents stand at the back of VBS and just listen to what is being taught. Many will place their faith in Christ. Later, a new church is planted. When children come to Christ in this country, it fosters a vision for planting new churches.”



ABOUT THE MISSIONARY | ***Jim & Susan Cook, Next Generation Ministry***

Jim Cook, formerly a longtime pastor in Indiana with a passion for youth and missions, serves as the head of ABWE’s Next Generation children’s ministry, where he equips children’s ministry leaders, supports missionary kids, and works with children in crisis. Jim trains ABWE missionary kids through our STAMP program and also teaches several Good Soil seminars.

You may give to one missionary,
NOW YOUR GIFT CAN SUPPORT 1,000

**TOGETHER WE CAN DO
GREATER THINGS**

in the work of the Great Commission.

• ABWE GLOBAL GOSPEL FUND •

