

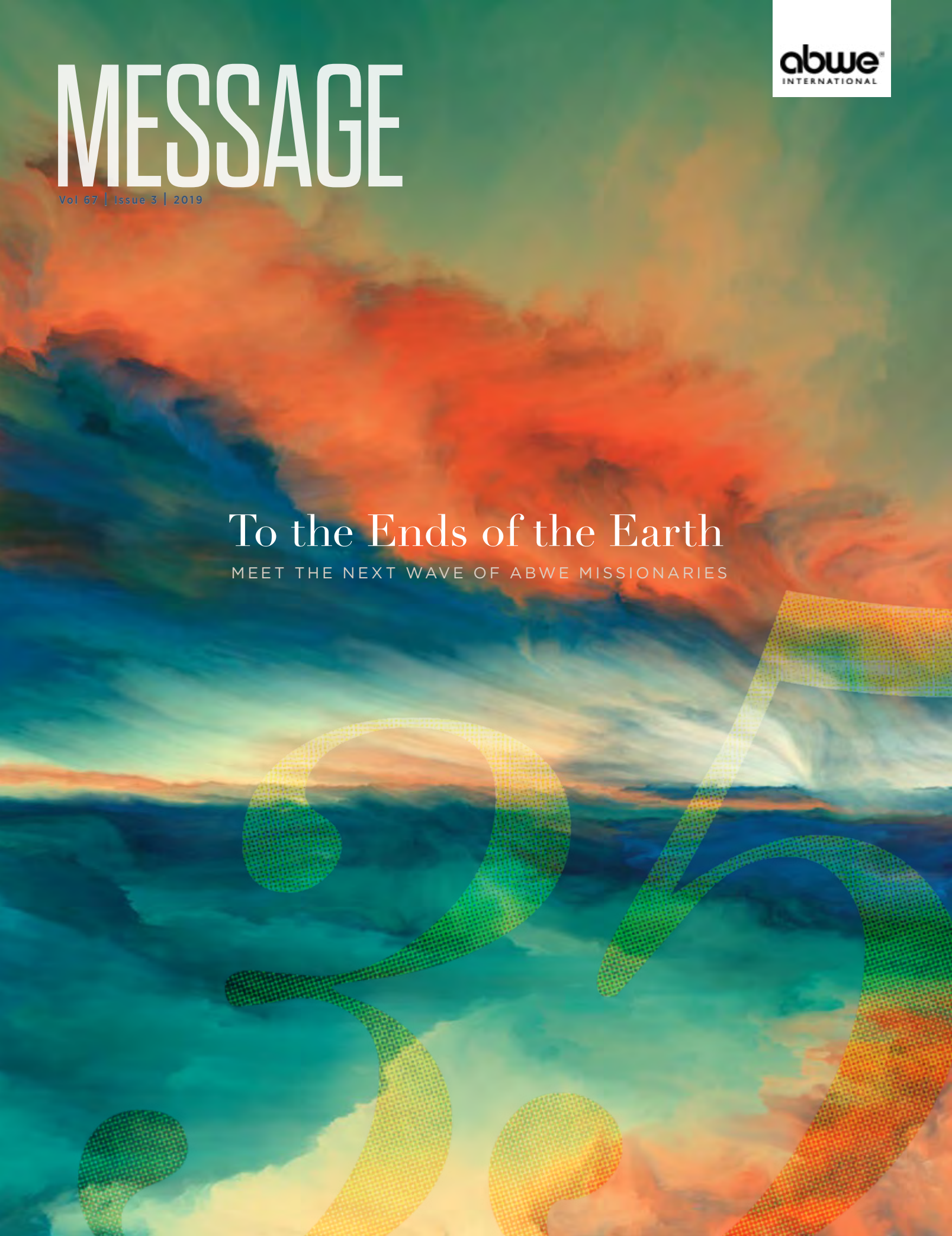
MESSAGE

Vol 67 | Issue 3 | 2019

abwe[®]
INTERNATIONAL

To the Ends of the Earth

MEET THE NEXT WAVE OF ABWE MISSIONARIES



Letter from the
PRESIDENT



Leaving a Legacy

You can leave an inheritance to people. But to leave a legacy, you need to leave something *in* people. At ABWE, we are working to build a legacy for Christ in the lost. I'd like to invite you to participate in two amazing opportunities to advance this legacy.

First, God has blessed us this year with 35 new, full-time missionaries. I'm personally astounded by his faithfulness. Would you pray that God would bless the ministries of these missionaries and their families?

Second, we are overjoyed to see amazing support for the Global Gospel Fund, which enables us to better equip all of our missionaries as they reach the lost for Christ.

Peter encourages us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have...as faithful stewards" (1 Peter 4:10). Would you partner with us in continuing to build a legacy for Christ by giving to our Global Gospel Fund?

We praise God for each of you and your continued partnership in prayer and support. We pray that God will bless you richly in Christ.

| ABWE President, Paul Davis



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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 70 countries by sharing the story of hope, building communities of faith, and serving the world with love.

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Celebrating the 35 new missionaries who joined ABWE in 2019

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Until the Whole World Hears

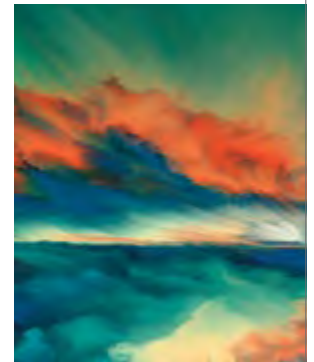
Through real redemption stories, learn how God is pulling people out of spiritual darkness and into his saving light



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SOUTH AFRICA

Radio Repentance

A confident pastor, Dumisani had the people in his congregation refer to him as “The Apostle.” He relished in the distinction and respect attached to such a prophetic title. One day, he heard some fellow men talking about a radio program where a pastor was teaching the Bible in a way they had never heard before. This intrigued Dumisani, and so he tuned in to Vuma 103 FM.

The radio host’s message on chaotic church practices angered “The Apostle” at first, but the truth of God’s word convicted him. Dumisani called the radio preacher and asked to meet with him in 2018. The man behind the microphone was Pastor Dennis Nkosi, who had been shepherding Crossroads Community of Christ church in Durban, South Africa, for 13 years. He began teaching Dumisani and another 20 Zulu pastors who were uneducated in sound Bible doctrine. According to

those who know Dumisani, the vast majority of his preaching was theologically inaccurate before meeting Pastor Dennis. Things have changed now.

For months, this group experienced tremendous growth in the word of God. As the truth uprooted Dumisani’s arrogance, the burden of his heretical name grew heavier on his shoulders, so he approached Pastor Dennis about renouncing it.

“I need to go before my church and tell them that I am wrong,” Dumisani said. “They should not call me ‘The Apostle.’ I understand now that what I have been preaching is not the truth. I must ask them to forgive me. Not only them, Pastor Dennis, I must go on the radio with you and tell everyone that I was teaching false doctrine.”

Zulu men are very proud. They carry themselves in an authoritative manner and usually stick to their word

even when they are wrong. Dumisani was no exception, which is what makes his self-effacing action something unheard of in his culture.

In 2019, Dumisani appeared as a guest on Pastor Dennis’ show, giving his testimony on air. He retraced the steps that led him from his “Apostle” days to his transformed life through Pastor Dennis’ classes. Dumisani emphasized that pain typically accompanies truth. Conviction isn’t a mild experience. But this pain gives way to peace through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

By all accounts, Dumisani is a changed man who desires for his congregation to obtain the same awakened spirit that he himself experienced. ■

LEARN MORE about a Zulu focused church-planting initiative in Durban. [abwe.org/crossroads](https://www.abwe.org/crossroads)

As of September 2019

35

New Missionaries

27

Student Internships

104

Short-term and Mid-term Missionaries

173

Potential missionaries visited the International Headquarters to discern their call

“PLEASE KNOW HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE FOR THE PART EACH OF YOU HAS IN KEEPING US ON THE FIELD... IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO REPRESENT EACH OF OUR SUPPORTERS AS YOU GIVE AND PRAY FOR THE GOSPEL TO BE DECLARED.”

CAL & JOYCE VOELKER, MISSIONARIES IN PORTUGAL



GERMANY — STEVE & REBECCA DYE

Several children had serious faith conversations at a summer day camp in Berlin. ■



ENGLAND — CLIFF & ALISON REYNOLDS

The Reynolds’ two oldest children, Caleb and Hope, made public declarations of their faith through baptisms in July. ■



MOLDOVA — DAVID & BRANDI PRAIRIE

Roughly 60 campers attended Speranta Camp, where they learned of the Fall-Redemption-Restoration storyline of the Bible. ■



UKRAINE — CALEB & CHRISTINA SUKO

Three people made public declarations of their faith this summer, including a 92-year-old woman who said these words after her baptism: “I have a new life.” ■

by Loren Skinker



**A dying refugee.
A child fleeing from war.
A criminal looking for revenge.**

Each year we encounter hundreds of powerful stories that reflect the lives of tens of thousands of people who were impacted by ABWE missionaries.

These are real stories of real people who encountered the life-changing hope of Jesus Christ.

Theirs are the stories that get at the heart of missions; why we do it; why it matters; and why we must continue the work of the Great Commission next year and the next and the next...until the whole world hears.



Abdul

Abdul had given up on life and wanted to die—and it looked like he might get his wish. After a successful operation on his colon, Abdul should have recovered, but he had lost the will to live.

As a teenager, Abdul found himself living in a refugee camp. Uncertainty was his constant companion, while necessities like food, safety, and shelter were inconsistent.

Morning after morning, he lay in his hospital bed and heard the voices of the nurses beside him during their Bible study. “God is good, all of the time,” they sang.

Each day, hospital workers sat at Abdul’s bedside sharing stories of the Bible with him. Despite their patience and care, Abdul was overcome with despair, refusing to eat or participate in activities that would help in his healing.

It was during this time that Abdul began searching for something to cling to—a permanent source of comfort and protection.

One day Abdul was talking with a member of ABWE’s medical team.

Suddenly, God opened his eyes and he excitedly said, “Tell me about Jesus!”

The stories of God’s abundant grace and enduring promises spoke to Abdul’s deepest needs. It was like he had stumbled upon a well in the middle of an arid desert, and the cool water not only quenched his burning throat, but also his restless soul.

Eventually Abdul was discharged. When he later visited the hospital, the joyful and healthy man who stood before the doctors was hardly recognizable. A beaming Abdul boasted of the joy that had transformed him earlier, declaring “God is good.”

“All of the time,” the team responded.

Abdul’s hunger to know the Lord continues to grow. Although illiterate, ABWE workers were able to share audio recordings of scripture in his native tongue. Despite the risk he faces for being caught with Christian recordings, Abdul has since returned to camp to share with others the same good news that rescued him: God is good, all the time.



Chesa

Chesa was only two when she was struck by a bullet that injured her and killed her father.

While fleeing Myanmar, Chesa and her family, along with more than 1 million other Rohingya, were forced to flee their homes after being attacked by their Buddhist government's army.

Their escape to Bangladesh came at a high cost, as families were often separated or killed in the violent exodus. In Chesa's case, only her mother and one other sibling remained. Everyone else, everything else, was lost in the chaos.

As she was being treated for her gunshot wound by the staff at ABWE's partner Memorial Christian Hospital in South Asia, Chesa and her mother began to learn of the one person, named Jesus, who would never leave them.

A Muslim sect, the Rohingya have historically despised Christians. However, through its physical and spiritual care, the staff at Memorial Christian Hospital has been able to reach a group of people they have long prayed to impact with the truth. The Rohingya now respectfully refer to them as "the Christians."

This work is a powerful example of how showing the love of Christ in practical ways—especially to people in crisis—can open the door for sharing the gospel.



Cesar

Cesar exited the cell, battered and bruised from a recent scuffle, but still bursting at the seams with a deadly rage. He wanted to kill someone. Anyone.

Born and bred on the streets of Santiago, the slender, battle-hardened Chilean only knew one way of survival—violence. He learned to steal at a young age. But Cesar’s crimes intensified as he grew older, eventually escalating to assault. One night, the police cornered Cesar during an armed robbery, intent on killing him.

Desperate and hopeless, Cesar considered provoking them to put an end to his misery. But in that moment, he felt something directing him to peacefully surrender.

Inevitably, Cesar’s unruly spirit spilled into prison life—a trait that quickly made him more enemies than allies.

“The guards hated me,” he says. “The prisoners wanted to kill me.”

At night, the guards sometimes beat him with rods. And one day, after walking back from a period in solitary confinement, Cesar said the other inmates were waiting with homemade weapons to kill him.

As he prepared to fight them, a hand gently touched Cesar’s shoulder and someone said, “Cesar, God is calling you.”

Suddenly a group of inmates encircled Cesar to protect him from his assailants.

These inmates were Christians who escorted Cesar to safety.

After spending his life fighting nearly anyone who came near him, this sudden act of compassion felt like a haymaker to the face—the knockout punch that finally brought him low to a state of humbleness. In that moment, with bent knees and a lifetime supply of restrained tears, Cesar gave his life over to the Lord.

This group of Christians adopted Cesar as their own, welcoming him into their Bible study and community. Unsurprisingly, the story of Jesus hanging on the cross beside the two robbers spoke to Cesar’s heart above any other.

The story’s message moved him in such a powerful way, because despite his sinfulness, Cesar was being offered a second chance. And he took it.



Over the next several years, Cesar grew tremendously in his faith. He became a leader within the prison ministry, where he crossed paths with ABWE's Executive Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Scott Russell. Russell noticed something different about the man whose very presence radiated a warmth not so unlike the sun's rays on a chilly day.

When Cesar was closing in on his last days in prison, Russell approached him about attending Facultad Teológica Bíblica Bautista, an ABWE seminary in Chile. He offered to pay for his tuition. Cesar enthusiastically accepted Russell's gesture and has been diligently studying God's word and serving in the local church ever since.

"It's hard to imagine Cesar in his former life," said Doug Kreeger, ABWE missionary and a professor at Facultad Teológica Bíblica Bautista. "Everybody loves him. He's full of energy and kindness."

In two years, Cesar will graduate from the seminary and begin pastoring a church in Santiago.

Years ago, fellow inmates made Cesar into a fisher of men—an improbable catch by all standards. Today, he wishes to do the same with others, casting a wide net to those who are lost and in need of salvation.



It's About People

“Jesus sought to advance God’s kingdom among every tribe, tongue and nation. By the grace of God, ABWE is striving to replicate Jesus’ vision—seeking to glorify God by pursuing the hearts of people. Because billions hang in the balance of eternity,” says ABWE President, Paul Davis.

That is why ABWE has launched the Global Gospel Fund—a fund to help multiply the impact of global missions so that more people can learn of Christ’s life-changing love.

“At the end of the day, when the curtain rolls up and the theological chatter stops, only one thing matters—reaching people,” says Davis.

“We must continue to do what we do, so we can reach more of the Abdul’s, Chesa’s, and Cesar’s who are still out there, searching for hope and eternal life.” ■

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CANADIAN DONORS GIVE AT ABWE.CA

meet our newest missionaries

Join us in celebrating the 35 new missionaries* who joined ABWE in 2019. Pray for them as they pack up their belongings, say goodbye to friends and family, and answer God's call to go to the mission field.



*For security reasons, not all 35 missionaries are featured in this issue.



Junior & Bree Souza | *Brazil*

East Side Baptist Church
Crawfordsville IN



souzasinbrazil.com

Born and raised in Brazil, Junior and Bree were both familiar with the unique upbringing of missionary life. However, this familiarity delayed them from experiencing a genuine desire for missional living.

Junior's parents were first-generation Christians who had departed from the widespread Roman Catholicism of South America. They launched a ministry in São Paulo, where Junior enjoyed helping out with music and the youth. Despite hearing his father's sermons every Sunday, he maintained a self-righteous view toward the gospel, not fully comprehending the wickedness within his own heart.

It wasn't until Junior attended a summer camp in middle school that he finally realized his desperate need for a savior to rescue him from his sinfulness. From that point on, Junior has felt the Lord's gentle hand pressing him to share this good news with others.

Bree grew up in a missionary family in Campinas, a municipality located outside the city of São Paulo.

"Being a missionary kid [MK] was normal life to me. I was born into it, I didn't choose it," Bree said.

Bree viewed missions as a requirement more than a voluntary service. Her perceived lack of choice in the matter almost drove her away from ministry.

She had a change of heart after joining an ABWE missions trip to the Amazon rainforest. Witnessing other missionaries in action, who weren't her parents, opened Bree's eyes to the gospel in a fresh way. It was like she had taken a step back to look at the bigger picture and she finally understood her piece in the puzzle. Bree returned home with heightened senses, suddenly becoming more aware of the lack of missionary presence in Brazil.

Junior and Bree met at an event through mutual friends. Despite the long distance of living in different parts of Brazil, they began dating. Bree's family moved to the US during her senior year of high school, and Junior eventually followed to pursue seminary and marry her.

Since then, they have been training to become missionaries, bent on returning to Brazil as long-term missionaries in the summer of 2021 to equip pastors, plant churches, and make disciples of Christ.

Cole & Debbie Albright | Peru

Living Waters Fellowship, Des Moines IA

Cole's relationship with ABWE extends back a generation to when his father helped build the Harrisburg headquarters in 1993. His family was also close with ABWE missionaries who served in Brazil. Their stories inspired Cole to one day do the same. Growing up in a Christian family, he trusted Christ at the age of five. He stayed close to his home in Des Moines, Iowa, through his college years, attending a small Christian college just up the road.

He met Debbie, who was also a Des Moines native, at Faith Baptist Bible College. She had been brought up in a Christian household and had given her life to the Lord

after her mother presented the gospel one night while cleaning up spilled dinner on the kitchen floor.

During his junior year of college, Cole participated in a Spanish immersion program in Peru. According to Cole, his role included many responsibilities not so unlike that of a youth pastor—from organizing sports programs to teaching at youth events.

He returned to the US affirmed in his desire to enter the mission field. Cole and Debbie graduated in 2008 and married in 2009. For the next three years, they began searching for ways to go to Brazil. However, the Lord had other plans. At every threshold, Cole and Debbie were met by closed doors. It was a frustrating stretch of years, as God seemed to be rejecting their offers to faithfully serve abroad.

In the meantime, Cole began three real estate and construction businesses and became a deacon at his church while he and Debbie entrusted themselves to however God would use them, regardless of vocation. In February 2019, they sensed the Lord moving them. But instead of Brazil, the Lord opened the door to Peru. By the end of 2020, they will be leaving to help a church plant in Lima.



www.facebook.com/groups/MeganOnMission

www.meganonmission.com



Diana Duncan | *Togo*

Calvary Community Baptist Church, Northglenn CO

“Everything that I’ve poured myself into these past 30 years is gone.”

Diana spoke these somber words to her daughter days after the death of her husband in February 2017. Her children grown and out of the house, Diana found herself desperately searching for a new purpose.

Amidst the suffering, her daughter asked a question that became the hinge on which the entire future of Diana’s life turned.

“Mom, what is it that you’ve always wanted to do but never could?”

Christianity played an integral role in Diana’s life since childhood. She said she cannot recall a day when Jesus Christ wasn’t her savior—a testament to the extraordinary process of sanctification at work within her.

Missions has also held a special place in her heart since high school, when she joined her church’s youth group on a trip to Mexico. However, at 19 years old, she married her husband, Scott Duncan. Scott had health issues that made travel nearly impossible, so for the next three decades, Diana remained content to cheer missionaries on from the sidelines.

Her daughter’s inquiry wasn’t so unlike a coach’s call to action to get in the game. Inspired, Diana rose to the occasion, immediately downsizing her possessions and tying up loose ends to pursue long-term ministry. Soon after partnering with ABWE, she traveled to Togo, West Africa, for nine months. Having homeschooled all four of her children through high school, Diana was tasked with caring for the missionary kids. This helped their parents to more effectively carry out the work of their various ministries.

Although deeply saddened by her marriage’s abrupt ending, Diana is confident the Lord will ultimately work it out for good and use her suffering to purify her and further his kingdom in this new season of life. She returned to Togo in August to continue her work educating and caring for the children of missionaries.





“
**In the US, I never had
a patient die. But in
Togo, on my first day,
I had babies die
in my arms.**
”



Seth & Rebecca Mallay | *Togo*

Hillsdale United Brethren Church, Hillsdale MI

“During my entire residency in the United States, I never had a patient die,” Seth said. “In Togo, on my very first day, I had babies die in my arms.”

While on the mission field, Seth and Rebecca encountered this harsh reality on a daily basis. But they continued to serve faithfully, knowing this was the path that the Lord had called them to since they were both children.

By the time he was seven years old, Seth wanted to be a missionary doctor. His father, a short-term missionary in the Philippines, shaped Seth’s missional aspirations. However, outside of divine inspiration, he can’t explain the origin for his fascination with medicine. Besides his delivery by ABWE’s own missionary doctor Tim Hepworth, Seth had no interactions with doctors.

With her parents serving as missionaries in Brazil, Rebecca knew at a young age that she desired to help others through healthcare. But there was a catch: she didn’t want to be a doctor or nurse. So at the age of ten, Rebecca began praying to God for a husband who was a doctor with a heart for missions.

Years later, she met her knight in shining armor during

a medieval-themed birthday party at a friend’s house. When Seth and Rebecca discovered their mutual passions during their time at Cornerstone College, each knew they would likely marry inside three to four months of dating.

Once graduated and married, Seth finished his residency training. They then pursued full-time ministry through Samaritan’s Purse. After completing language school in France, Seth and Rebecca and their four children headed to Togo, where they would work at a hospital for a year.

Two other little ones would join them later. Their children Arwen, Caspian, Elora, Gwynevere, Irene, and Kalmar are all named after fictional royal characters from fantasy stories.

In 2018, their eldest daughter, Arwen, was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma, requiring them to return to the US. Thankfully, the tumor has remained stable, but if it does worsen to a terminal degree, Arwen wants to go back to Togo until the Lord calls her home.

While stateside, Seth and Rebecca are seeking God’s guidance for their next steps. They hope to partner with ABWE’s mobile clinic to serve a predominantly Muslim people group in Togo called the Tem.

A man with a black cap and a green and tan backpack is seen from behind, sitting on a large rock. He is looking out over a vast, dense cityscape, likely Hong Kong, with many high-rise buildings and a prominent skyscraper in the distance. The sky is blue with large white clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear.

CAN YOU SEE **YOURSELF** ON THE Mission Field

Join us for a 24-Hour DEMO. Come to ABWE's International Headquarters in New Cumberland, PA, and learn more about what it takes to become a missionary.

We'll provide everything—two nights of lodging, meals, and materials for a small \$20 registration fee.

You just need to get here!

abwe.org/DEMO



thehollandsfamily



Jason & Katy Hollands | *North America*

Lagrange Baptist Church, Pavilion NY

“Thirty years ago, someone started praying and that’s why I’m here.”

Jason attributes his partnering with ABWE as a missionary to his mother’s persistent prayer life while he was still in her womb. His father wasn’t a believer, but his mother earnestly desired Jason to follow Christ like she had.

Growing up in a spiritually divided household, Jason says he observed the dichotomy of light illuminating his mother and darkness swallowing his father. He trusted Christ as his savior as a young boy and participated in his church’s youth ministry. With the help of YouTube, Jason taught himself how to juggle and create balloon animals. This quickly developed into a passion, one which his youth pastor advised him to pursue for the Lord’s kingdom.

Katy’s father was a preacher, and so she knew the Bible forward and backward ever since she was a child. She met Jason at a local Bible study. By then, Jason’s juggling and balloon talents had evolved into a part-time job, and so Katy

stepped in to be his manager. They were married just over a year later.

Eventually, Jason’s entertainment business transitioned into a full-time career, and so they traveled the area performing shows. Jason began incorporating comedy into his routine, but he noticed a deepening sense of despair as the shows progressed. Despite the many laughs, each show left him feeling hollower than before.

“I couldn’t give the audiences emptiness and just let them walk away without hearing the truth,” Jason said.

It was an arduous eight years. Katy had experienced four miscarriages, burying her in the darkest hours of her life. But light broke through when she was able to mentor other ladies who had undergone similar circumstances. The Lord also blessed Jason and Katy with four children. They will be partnering with ABWE’s Good Soil ministry, using an RV and Jason’s talents of entertainment to encourage audiences to share the gospel with others.

Jennifer Allison | Portugal

West Hill Baptist Church, Akron OH

Jennifer had never been so confident in the Lord's direction for her life.

In 2007, Jennifer moved to Akron for work, not having sat in a church pew for years. While in Akron, a woman invited her to church.

At first, Jennifer complied because she thought Wednesday Bible activities couldn't hurt her young daughter. However, Jennifer was eventually drawn into prayer meetings and Sunday services.

Her childhood church had never preached the gospel, and so the news about Jesus' death and resurrection compelled her to repentance and submission. At the age of 25, Jennifer was saved and baptized.

As she became more involved in the church, Jennifer decided to go on a short-term missions trip to Japan. She returned convinced that the uncomfortable and unstable lifestyle of the missionary wasn't for her. But the missions mantra, "God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called," prompted Jennifer to try again. So when the next opportunity came around, Jennifer took it and found herself heading to Portugal.

This experience left a very different impression on her. She remembers going to bed each night and waking up with the Portuguese people on her heart. Unsure of what to do, she began to pray, knowing that the Lord was behind this mental wrestling match.

The Lord won, and in 2018, Jennifer went back to Portugal with her daughter. They served with ABWE's field team at a children's camp, maintained the grounds at the Greater Lisbon Christian Academy, and assisted local churches. After the trip, the Lord's call for Jennifer to enter ministry in Portugal had never been clearer.

Jennifer is currently completing prefield training with ABWE and plans to move to Portugal by June 2021. She will be assisting with business management for the Portugal field team and working with local churches to develop outreach strategies to single-parent homes.



Grant Dicks | *Norway*

Grace Baptist Church, Chattanooga TN

As a freshman in high school, Grant found himself on a plane to Hungary. Other than the mountains and street music, Budapest was a far cry from Chattanooga, Tenn.

This wasn't his first time to the central European country. Grant's father had brought the whole family over for a brief stint when covering for a missionary on furlough. But this was different—Hungary would be home for the next four years.

Grant and his four siblings spent most of their time helping out their parents' ministry at the International Christian School of Budapest, a school for missionary kids and other Hungarian students. His roles varied from teaching English to playing music. Although he enjoyed the opportunity, Grant returned to the US for college with the intention of leaving ministry behind for good.

"I wanted to take a major that wouldn't take me back to the mission field," Grant said.

Grant studied music education at Liberty University, naively believing such a skill would be of no use in God's harvest. His attitude and actions reflect that of Jonah. Albeit, Grant's change of heart would ultimately require much less divine intervention than the prodigal prophet's.

After graduating in May 2018, Grant returned to Chattanooga, serving in his home church from childhood and giving private piano lessons.

Over time, as he became more involved with the youth group, memories of Hungary resurfaced. They carried a warm and quiet voice, stirring Grant's heart to reconsider his decision to abandon mission work.

Grant prayed through his conflicting emotions for months. Even after four years on the run from God, he was astounded to discover the Lord waiting only one step behind him. Ultimately, he turned and followed God's call.

Grant's college friends and peers had always encouraged him to visit Norway. In retrospect, he thinks it was the Lord's way of foreshadowing his path to ministry. Grant will be discipling Norwegian believers and training musicians for local churches. Besides the piano, he plays the guitar, banjo, mandolin, cello, and accordion.





“
**Of course you are going
 back. You belong there.
 That’s your home.**
 ”

Brian & Ariel Dicks | *Hungary*

Woodland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga TN

High school sweethearts from Chattanooga, Tenn., Brian and Ariel have known each other since their kindergarten days.

Brian, the older brother of another ABWE missionary candidate Grant Dicks, grew up in a Christian family. Through Awana, the Lord convicted him of his sin, and so at the age of five, Brian knelt at his bedside and committed himself to Christ. Ever since, he has strived to challenge and strengthen his faith, eventually earning a bachelor’s degree in biblical studies at Bryan College.

Ariel became a Christian as a young girl after her older sister shared the gospel with her. Ariel still remembers holding her sister’s hand in excitement while praying in the back of their car. However, years later, she rededicated her life to the Lord at a middle school summer camp.

During college, the pair often discussed and prayed about God’s plan for their future marriage. They were leaning toward missions since Brian had spent nine months in Hungary, serving missionary kids and Hungarian internationals at the International Christian School of Budapest (ICSB).

Once married, they decided to return to ICSB. Brian taught a variety of subjects, from Bible to technology, while Ariel stuck with her passion for science.

After three years, they felt compelled to return to the US in the summer of 2017. It was a time of deep pain and confusion, as both were unsure why the Lord had pulled them away from their beloved mission field.

Just as Brian and Ariel were growing comfortable in America, God called them back to Budapest. Although weary and discouraged from the constant transitions, they knew the Lord had used this furlough to prepare and reorient their hearts for long-term vocational ministry.

When relating the news to others, they received godly affirmation from a dear friend.

“Of course you are going back. You belong there. That’s your home.”

The Lord wiped away their tears and dried their eyes, and a wave of joy overtook Brian and Ariel. They plan to return to Budapest by 2020 to continue their service at ICSB with ABWE.

Jonathan Jelliff | *Japan*

First Baptist Church of Massapequa, NY

Christianity put Jonathan in over his head, so to speak, and that frightened him.

“Baptism was a real challenge for me because I didn’t know how to swim,” Jonathan said.

As a young boy, the notion of being dunked under water required genuine trust in both his biological and heavenly fathers. But he was willing to do it to express his newfound faith and obey Jesus’ teachings.

Jonathan grew up a missionary kid, living in Germany where his parents worked as leaders of a small church—a very small one.

“Some weeks, my sister and I made up the entire congregation,” Jonathan said.

Jonathan’s parents fostered an environment that was steeped in religious activity and learning. He and his sister rehearsed catechisms and memorized Bible verses regularly.

Although much of his Christian knowledge came from reading and listening, Jonathan says his faith developed the most through his parents’ example. As diligent servants of the Lord, they emphasized to their children that home was wherever God placed them and, above all, to do your best unto the Lord.

God led Jonathan’s parents from Germany to lead a church in New Haven, Conn., and then one in Massapequa, N.Y. Following these transitions, Jonathan entered Bob Jones University to pursue a major in creative writing and a minor in composite speech. After graduating, God opened Jonathan’s eyes to the pain and devastation ravaging North Korea. God used the plight of the North Koreans to have Jonathan embark on a study of the languages of the region so that he could share the gospel with them if their nation is ever set free.

One of those languages was Japanese. He then applied for and was accepted into the Japan English Teaching program (JET), a governmental project that enabled Jonathan to serve in Japan.

For the past seven years, Jonathan has been working at a church in Kumamoto with other ABWE missionaries, serving as an assistant pastor, conducting Bible studies and teaching English at the church’s cafe. Lord willing, he will return to the US for prefield training in August 2020.



“
**You will be on my team,
but you are going to
sit on the bench until you
are ready to go all in.**
”



www.centurionproject.net

Rich & Jenny Culp | *North America*

Christ Community Church, West End NC

“You will be on my team, but you’re going to sit on the bench until you are ready to go all in.”

God’s command fell on Rich like a ton of bricks, demolishing his pride and redirecting his life toward a higher goal.

Rich was born with a competitive spirit. Sports inevitably became both his passion and religion. However, the Lord would use this idol for his glory. While playing basketball at a local church, a pastor presented the gospel during half-time. The message split Rich’s defenses, and he devoted his life to Christ that night.

This profession of faith occurred in high school, but a few years passed before the gravity of the gospel hit home. After graduating from the Naval Academy, Rich was on deployment with the Marines when he developed tendonitis in his hip. He could barely put his boots on. The Lord was crippling his idolatrous goal of becoming a professional triathlete. In the midst of this experience, Rich surrendered everything to Christ. From then on, he vowed to be all in for God’s team.

Although she grew up in Christian family, Jenny was impacted more by a friend, Lisa, than any of her relatives. Lisa’s joy in the face of terminal cancer ignited a flame within Jenny.

She desired the same quiet strength that abounded in her fourth-grade friend.

Jenny enrolled in nursing school at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., which was Rich’s hometown. He was home one weekend from the Naval Academy when he noticed Jenny at his church. Rich could handle burpees, but approaching the young, striking woman proved too much for the midshipman. Thankfully, his father stepped in as an intermediary, asking Jenny out for Rich.

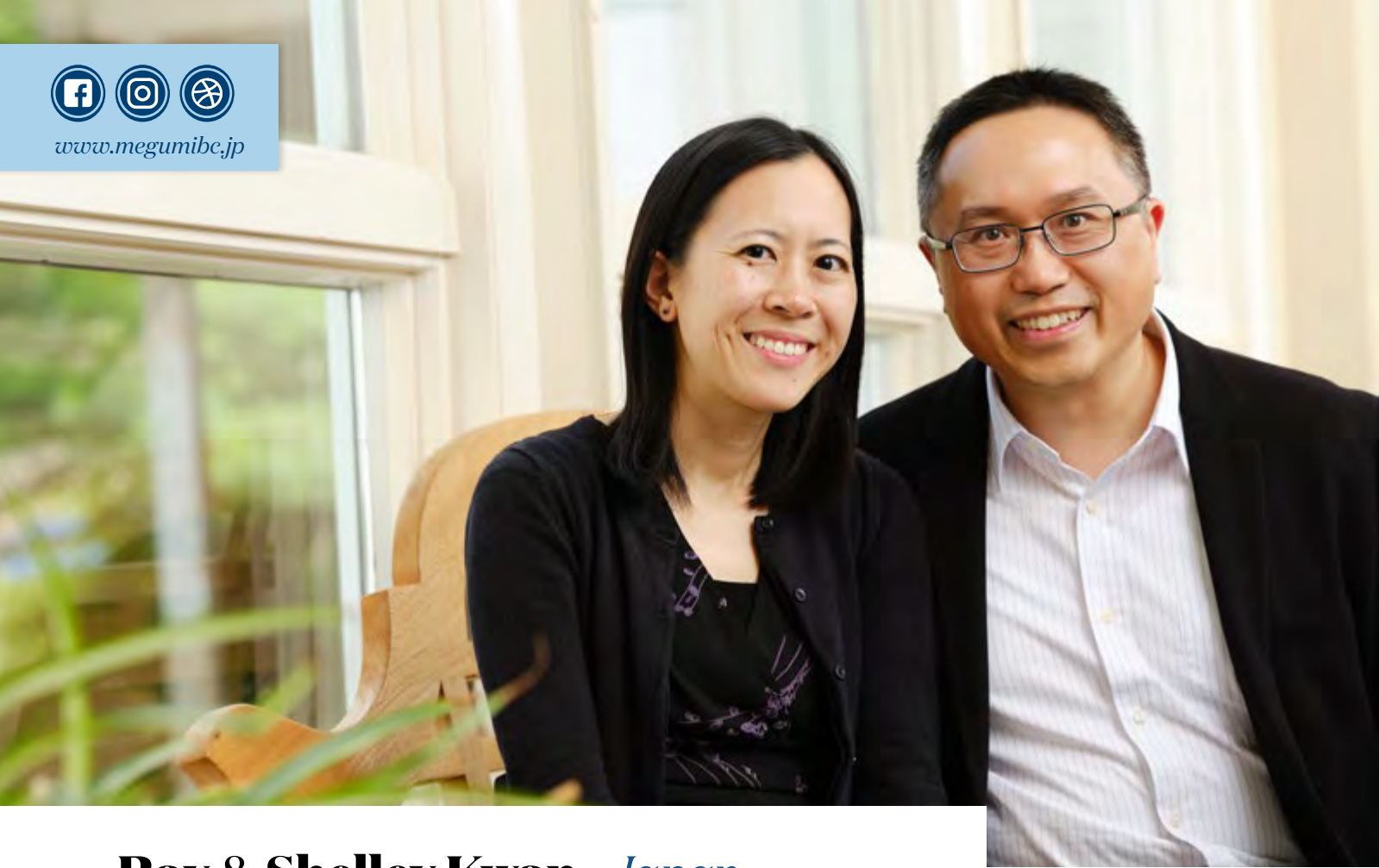
Despite their initial communication obstacles, things worked out. Years later, they were married in the same church.

After his spiritually transforming deployment, Rich left the military for full-time vocational ministry in 1994. He attended Dallas Seminary and has served the local church in several pastoral positions. During this time, he also partnered with several biblical training organizations to train pastors in Africa, Indonesia, Mongolia, and most recently Costa Rica.

They reside near Fort Bragg, N.C., where Rich and Jenny will be serving with ABWE’s EveryEthne Initiative. Their primary focus is the Centurion Project, a plan to network and equip 100 churches to train military leaders in the Great Commission.



www.megumibe.jp



Ray & Shelley Kwan | *Japan*

Immanuel Bible Church, Los Angeles CA

Ray felt out of place when his family began bowing down all around him. He shouldn't have because this was the normal routine he'd practiced for years when performing Chinese ancestor worship.

But as a newly professed Christian, Ray refused to bend downward for these pagan gods.

A couple of years had passed since his high school friends invited him to a Bible study. The teaching of mankind's inherent sinfulness struck a sensitive chord in Ray, one that he didn't completely come to terms with until his freshman year of college when he became a believer.

He began attending Grace Community Church and joined a team traveling to Japan for a short-term missions trip in 2002. Ray focused on college evangelism and was distressed by the amount of misconceptions many Japanese students held about Christianity. He entered seminary upon his return to the US, determined to strengthen his faith and love the Lord with all of his mind.

In 2007, toward the end of his seminary education, Ray met a woman who shared a similar passion for ministry—especially for Japan.

Shelley, born and raised in a Christian family in California,

completed a three-week homestay in her grandparent's native country of Japan during the summer after her freshman year of college. She was dismayed by Christianity's sparse presence when she couldn't find a church one Sunday morning. The experience burdened Shelley to return and share the gospel with the people of Japan.

Ray and Shelley married in 2009. Two years later, elders of their church approached them about embarking in full-time ministry to Japan.

"We took it in a heartbeat," Ray said. "Well, we prayed about it first of course."

Their first few years in Japan consisted of language school. After getting more comfortable with the language, they both jumped into various roles, with Ray teaching at a local church and Shelley leading a single ladies group. Ray, along with three other seminary graduates, serves with the Japan Bible Academy, a traveling Bible institute for nationals to learn scripture.

Ray and Shelley's newest project includes a church plant in Tokyo. They were recently stateside for ABWE prefield training but have since returned with their son, Masanobu, to continue their work in Japan.



Dan & Jeanne Herman | *Ireland*

Gretna Baptist Church of Gretna, NE

“What do you want me to do next?”

Dan sat in his car in the Edward Jones parking lot, requesting God’s direction about a work-related assignment. The answer Dan received was more than he had bargained for.

God responded with a call to return to missions work. In 2012, Dan and his wife Jeanne had left full-time ministry for the secular workforce.

He now sat in the driver’s seat, paralyzed by the Lord’s beckoning to drop everything again and follow him. Dan spent the next week praying and fasting in a nearby park during lunchtime, attempting to shrug off the uncertainty that clung to him. He said he wanted more clarity before approaching his wife about the subject.

A former Catholic, Jeanne used to be puzzled by the Christian’s passion to trudge through crocodile-infested waters for the sake of the gospel. Why go to such lengths to share the good news? However, after committing her life to the Lord at a Word of Life camp when she was 15 years old, her attitude toward missions turned upside down.

On the other hand, Dan was raised in a churchgoing family. Even during his teenage years, his eyes had been set on ministry—although, international ministry may not have been on his radar.

Dan and Jeanne met at Northland Baptist Bible College. Upon graduating, Dan floated around to various positions for 20 years, serving as a principal in Pennsylvania and a pastor in Iowa.

With seven children, they felt it was necessary to have some income for future investments like higher education. Dan became a stockbroker for TD Ameritrade, eventually transitioning to a financial advisory position at Edward Jones.

In 2018, after six years in the workforce, Dan and Jeanne both agreed to turn their eyes back to the mission field. They’ve undergone prefield gymnastics over the past six months, bouncing between mission boards, until finally landing on ABWE. Lord willing, they and their two daughters will leave for the Republic of Ireland in 2020, focusing on church planting and discipleship.



Daniel Mora & Aemilii Melby | *Asia*

Vineyard Escazu, San Jose, Costa Rica

As a young girl, Aemilii would often recite the Lord's prayer after her night terrors. She didn't learn it at Sunday school, but from her father's alcoholic seminar. Her family didn't attend church. Instead, they believed in the "postmodern idea" that all roads lead to God.

Nonetheless, God's pull on Aemilii strengthened over the years. She eventually became a Christian through InterVarsity, a college ministry. By leading Bible studies and living in community with other Christian women, she grew in her faith while at Winona State University.

In 2014, she studied abroad in Costa Rica to improve her Spanish-speaking abilities. Aemilii met her future husband at a local church event. Daniel describes their first meeting in the park as divine providence. He was more than willing to take on the role of her Spanish tutor. They began dating just one month before Aemilii returned to the US.

Having parents who were active in the church, Daniel grew up serving in the youth group and sleeping in pews during evening services. He always assumed Costa Rica was a "reached" nation because of the Christian community that surrounded him. His perception changed as he traveled to remote areas

with his church. The Lord showed him the brokenness that plagued his country.

"If my country of Costa Rica is still in need, then how much more in need are other countries where the gospel isn't part of the norm," Daniel said.

Daniel pursued youth ministry, but his heart was bent on going overseas when he first met Aemilii. She also had a passion to serve abroad, and so the pair connected through their mutual callings. After dating long distance for over a year, they married in 2016, and Aemilii moved to Costa Rica.

Lord willing, they plan to leave for an undisclosed country in Asia in 2021, becoming ABWE's first missionaries to serve there in the last 10 years.

About 700 years ago, a powerful emperor asked Pope Gregory X to send 100 Christians to his kingdom, which stretched across a fifth of the globe. The Pope permitted just two, ultimately producing a meager Christian population of less than two percent. It's widely recognized as the greatest missed opportunity in the history of missions.

For Daniel and Aemilii, a chance has risen again. And this time, they don't plan on passing it up.

“
After much prayer and seeing the need for life-long discipleship, we knew that God was leading us toward long-term service in Ireland.
 ”



Ethan & Laura Foss | *Ireland*

Unity Bible Church, Lewiston ME

Ethan told Laura that if they were to marry, then she would have to drop her dream of missions. He was never going to become one of those, as Ethan liked to call them, “wacky Christians.”

As a child, Ethan was plagued with vivid nightmares of Satan for two years. He began praying to God, pleading with the Lord to save him from the devil. In the six-month preparation for his baptism, Ethan learned of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and trusted in him as his savior.

Laura was raised in an unsaved family, but she accompanied her friend to a Baptist summer camp at the age of eight. To the confusion of her parents, Laura returned home a Christian. Her parents later became believers when their local church hired a new pastor who preached the gospel. The Epistles opened Laura’s heart to the Great Commission, and ever since she was 17, she has desired to be a missionary.

As Maine natives, Ethan and Laura met at New England Bible College. Once married, Ethan served as worship and youth director at his home church. In 2013, they transitioned to a new church plant in Indiana. Coincidentally, Ethan and Laura had

met the pastor and his wife at a conference years before.

Over the next two years, Ethan warmed up to the idea of missions. God shattered the misconceptions from his childhood—that missionaries were arrogant zealots who ventured on “God vacations” with other people’s money. His eyes opened to the biblical mandate of ministry, and he gradually let his walls fall down, starting with a short-term missions trip.

He and Laura joined a team from a church in Maine to help at a Word of Life camp in the Czech Republic. They taught English to teenage nationals, incorporating the gospel throughout their lessons. Ethan was even able to lead worship.

Ethan and Laura pursued serving short term in the Czech Republic, but felt the Lord saying, “No.” After much prayer and advice from a close friend who knew most of ABWE’s Ireland team, they began to take the next steps and found that the needs in Ireland matched their desires for life and ministry. Ethan and Laura hope to move there in the summer of 2020 to begin church planting and life-on-life discipleship.



Wayne & Debra Moore | *North America*

Liberty Bible Church, La Porte IN

“Lord, I’ll do anything for you, but please just don’t send me to Africa.”

Wayne overflowed with passion after his conversion at Life Action Ranch in Michigan, prompting him to offer this ostensibly committed pledge of service to God.

Looking back, he says the Lord has a curious sense of humor, as he and his wife Debra have now visited the continent six times. They gained a real love for the people.

Debra was brought up in a churchgoing family, giving her life to the Lord during a local VBS when she was just six years old. The pair met in their twenties at a church singles group in Indianapolis.

Once married, Wayne launched into a long-lasting career in the medical field, accumulating 35 years of general surgery experience. However, a tug on his heart inspired Wayne to attend Dallas Theological Seminary and earn a master’s in biblical studies while maintaining his practice. Upon graduating in 2015, Wayne and Debra felt led to serve briefly in Africa.

They made three trips to Cameroon to make disciples, strengthen church leadership, and assist surgery residents. On

another three separate occasions, Wayne and Debra worked at an ABWE hospital and taught biblical theology to Cru staff in West Africa.

“I like to teach surgery, but I love to teach the Bible,” Wayne said.

This past March, God instructed Wayne to retire as a general surgeon and pursue full-time ministry with Debra. The amount of devastation they briefly witnessed in Africa, from Ebola to civil war, propelled them to encourage and support other missionaries, spiritually and physically, who might be struggling with exhaustion and burnout.

Combined, Wayne’s extensive surgical history and Debra’s child development background will be immensely helpful in shouldering some of the responsibilities ABWE missionaries are experiencing all around the world.

Homebase will be La Porte, Ind., for Wayne and Debra. They will be joining ABWE’s Member Care team, making trips as needed to care for missionaries who are on furlough and abroad.

They plan on traveling to Africa by the end of 2019.



David & Glorianne Levy | *North America*

Grace Baptist Church, Owatonna MN

“I’m one of God’s chosen people, so you don’t have to worry about me.”

David rather smugly informed the Christian school teacher of his Jewish heritage, assuring him that he didn’t need the Jesus Christ he had just spoken of.

His parents had divorced when David was nine. A few years later, he moved in with an aunt and uncle who were believers, and they sent David to finish his high school career at a Christian school. It was just the second day of class when he heard of Jesus Christ, a figure he knew little about due to his traditionally Jewish upbringing.

During chapel that day, a pastor explained to him every person’s need for Jesus Christ as their personal savior—no matter one’s ethnic background. David trusted in Christ that very day and resolved to know him better.

Glorianne was raised in a Christian family, receiving Christ at the age of eight. Her parents emphasized the importance of ministry in God’s kingdom. She remembers listening to them read prayer letters aloud from missionaries they supported. The Lord continued to nourish her love for ministry throughout her college years.

David and Glorianne met during their sophomore year at Northland Baptist Bible College. Their mutual interest in ministry sparked a relationship, and they married in December 1988.

David spent the next 24 years serving in a variety of pastoral positions in churches across the northern Midwest. In May 2016, he attended ABWE’s Good Soil seminar and was trained in *The Story of Hope*, an evangelism resource.

He was so affected by the resource that he began praying for opportunities to use it with someone. Ultimately, the Lord had David lead multiple people to Christ through his sharing of *The Story of Hope*. Also, Glorianne participated in a small group study for *The Way to Joy*, another Good Soil evangelism tool.

Gil Thomas, ABWE’s International Director of Good Soil Ministries, approached David and Glorianne after speaking at their church. He encouraged them to think about pursuing full-time ministry with ABWE.

After months of prayerful consideration, David announced his resignation from his church. He and Glorianne will be joining ABWE’s Good Soil team, helping others to understand and accept the gospel.



» PATHWAYS

New Ways to Send. Better Ways to Go.

With over a third of humanity lost in spiritual darkness, the global church must discover different routes to send missionaries to the ends of the earth.

ABWE Pathways is mobilizing the next generation of missionaries through a variety of flexible ways to serve—as a mid-term, associate, short-term, long-term, or intern missionary, or on a missions trip.

Pathways allows more people to join the next wave of missionaries serving in the Great Commission. The following profiles feature two of our mid-term missionaries who will be serving up to four years on the field. These missionaries have decided to embark on a limited-duration assignment as a way to help discern their next steps in ministry.

LEARNMORE
abwe.org/pathways

Anna Chubb | *North America*

Orlando Grace Church, Altamonte Springs FL

Anna had never experienced such intense pain and grief in her entire life. Shortly after she returned to the States for furlough, her brother, who identified as gay, took his own life, forever turning Anna's world upside down and confirming the nudge she had felt to move back to the US after nine years of serving in Togo.

Over the years, a burden had been growing in Anna's heart for LGBTQ individuals, but the sudden loss of her brother gave her a deeper understanding of the often-masked inner conflict that lies underneath the surface of one's proclaimed identity. Ultimately, God led her to ABWE's Heart, Mind, & Soul: LGBTQ Seminar. Hearing the seminar content and then becoming a part of the seminar team has been a healing and redemptive gift.

The opportunity to be a part of a seminar that teaches how to build grace and truth relationships with lost LGBTQ individuals, while weaving in parts of her brother's story that honor his life, is evidence of the fact that God doesn't waste pain. Anna desires that God would use her involvement with the seminar to point others to the unshakeable hope of Christ in the midst of heartache.

In addition to serving with these seminars, she is working with an outreach ministry to international students in her hometown of Orlando, Fla. Many of these students who are coming to college campuses in America are from unreached parts of the world, having never heard of Jesus Christ.

The opportunity to reach the nations, by discipling these students in the US and sending them back to their countries as leaders, excites Anna.

Anna especially desires to help believers in North America cultivate God's eyes and his heart for spiritually lost individuals that go unnoticed in the US, right where Americans live, work, and play.

Because of this, Anna has joined ABWE's EveryEthne team, which focuses on reaching people groups and planting churches within the US. She is grateful for this undeserved grace to serve as a presenter with the Heart, Mind & Soul: LGBTQ Seminar team.





“
We sensed the Lord
gently escorting us out
of our comfort and onto
an uncertain journey.
”

Andrew & Jacquelyn Kirby | *Togo*

Northshore Bible Church, Covington LA

People discover ministry opportunities through a variety of different avenues. Some find them through their churches or hear stories from friends and family members. Others, like Andrew and Jacquelyn, run across job ads on Indeed.com.

A horizon for change was dawning for Andrew and Jacquelyn, who had increasingly sensed the Lord's hand gently escorting them out the front door of their own comfort and onto an uncertain journey.

Things were only improving for Andrew and his family. The company that he was working for was expanding and so were his roles and responsibilities. However, through the Lord's blessings, they still felt a restlessness and a calling to increase their service to others through their skills and experience.

The pair met on a blind date at Cedarville University, where Andrew studied political science and Jacquelyn majored in history. Once married, Andrew took a position at an oil field safety training company while Jacquelyn hit the ground running with their first of five children.

As life-long Christians, Andrew and Jacquelyn believe the Great Commission is a centerpiece of the faith. Andrew was

saved at just five years old after praying with his father one night, a routine he'd been doing since he can remember. And as it still does today, Jacquelyn's faith clung to her like a sweet aroma during childhood. She would leave traces of it with her friends on the bus and at school.

They were both heavily involved in their church in Covington, La., serving as Bible study leaders and Sunday school teachers. Although ministry always had a place in their hearts, God was shutting doors in order to better prepare and mature them for his perfect timing.

A rather odd door, or a window more precisely, was opened when Andrew scrolled through Indeed's website this past February, finding a job ad stating, "Teachers needed in Togo, West Africa." Soon after their applications had been processed, ABWE caught wind and enlisted them.

They are slated to depart for Africa in December. Jacquelyn will be teaching the hospital staff's children and Andrew plans to assist with the business side of the hospital and help his wife until the arrival of a second teacher.

**“If ABWE is a vehicle for missions,
then the Global Gospel Fund
is the engine on which it runs.”**

– Duane Early, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships –



God is working in the hearts of people and drawing them to the mission field.
Countless others are still waiting to be called and sent.

Give to the Global Gospel Fund and help ABWE
mobilize more Great Commission laborers.

abwe.org/globalgospelfund

*Canadian Donors: Please note that gifts
to GGF are non-taxable and additional
international fees will apply*



FOLLOW THE JOURNEY OF YOUR _____ DOLLAR

What does a dollar buy in missions?

Each year, more than 20,000 of you give generously and faithfully to ABWE missionaries and ministries. But what does missions cost? How exactly are missionaries funded? And what part of your dollar goes directly to the field? These are the questions we are frequently asked and the factors we prayerfully weigh as we process your gifts.

Follow the journey of your dollar as we trace how gifts are stewarded through the organization to support missionaries, grow gospel impact, and carry out the work of the Great Commission.



MEET JOHN & ANNA

John and Anna are serving in Togo, West Africa, with their two school-aged children. John is a doctor at the hospital and Anna works as a teacher at the local school.

SALARY

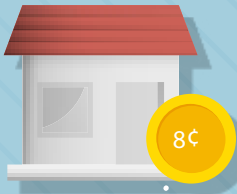
Yes, even missionaries have salaries to spend on food, clothing, utilities and other expenses. Leadership at the International Headquarters calculates a missionary's salary based on where they live and how many children they have. Residing in a place where \$1 is worth 591 CFA francs, John and Anna have been assigned a salary to meet the specific needs of their family.



**This chart tracks \$1 given to a fictitious missionary couple and shows how percentages are divided up to fund the wide array of missionary services and benefits offered to those serving with ABWE.*

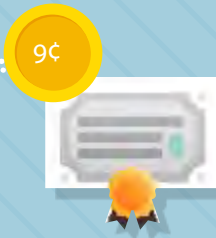
HOUSING

Housing prices vary based on location as the cost of living differs from region to region. For example, it costs \$3,000 per month for a missionary family to live in Paris and only \$500 a month to live in Ghana. John and Anna live in a house on the hospital property, so their housing costs are fairly low.



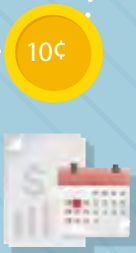
CHILD EDUCATION

An MK Consultant at ABWE works with families to determine how much money is needed to cover the costs of educating their children. This portion of support allows John and Anna to send their two kids to the MK school in Togo.



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

This portion subsidizes the cost of services provided by the International Headquarters staff that are vital to our missionary's success. By offering donation processing, training, strategy and oversight, medical consultation, member care and more, ABWE invests in services that equip, empower, and protect missionaries like John and Anna today, and for the future.



RETIREMENT

At ABWE, we like to plan for the future. That's why every missionary has a pension plan, maintained and organized by the finance department. An outside firm also oversees the plan to ensure that funds are invested and distributed properly. This enables John and Anna to focus on their ministry, and rest assured that their futures are secure.



INSURANCE

Our missionary's safety is top priority at ABWE. That's why we make sure they are well-covered with insurance. This includes medical, life, accident, evacuation and others. Human Resources keeps tabs on the details and paperwork so that John and Anna are protected and can serve to the best of their ability.



MINISTRY

It's our goal to provide every missionary with the resources they need for their ministry—from building rent, vehicles, and travel expenses to funds for outreach, compassion work, and evangelism. John and Anna rely on this fund to afford specific medical equipment and school materials to effectively serve Africans in Togo.





What About the Kids?

ANDREW PAUL WARD | *Missionary in Togo, West Africa*

Many people think twice about becoming missionaries because they are worried about what it would be like for their kids. Will they fall behind academically or socially? Will they be prepared for college in North America? Will they resent moving to another country? Will they be safe and healthy?

Every missionary with children must weigh these legitimate concerns. My parents considered these factors when they took me to the mission field, and my wife and I wrestled through them before bringing our kids to West Africa as well.

So, what is it really like to be a missionary kid (MK)? It's almost impossible to describe in full because every MK experience is unique.

I was the typical American Christian kid—church on Sundays and Awana on Wednesday nights. All of that changed when my oldest sister came back from a medical mission trip to a country that I had never heard of called Togo in West Africa. My parents eventually decided to become missionaries to Togo, and I was coming along for the ride.

My father would later serve as the director of the ABWE mission hospital in Tsiko, and while I didn't know much about Africa at the time, I knew that I didn't like hospitals, snakes, or spiders. I was not "counting it all joy." I was apprehensive, but I kept my fears to myself.

From the perspective of a 12-year-old American, Togo was annoying—the heat, the humidity, the disgusting medicine to avoid malaria, everyone speaking in foreign languages, no cable TV, and the neighbor's chickens that lived right outside my bedroom window that would wake me up every morning at 6 am...you catch my drift.

Despite all of this, some of my most formative and enjoyable years of life occurred as an MK. I ziplined in my backyard, planned my own school schedule, enjoyed fresh tropical fruit, toured a battleship converted into a floating hospital, drove a motorcycle, experienced African wildlife up close, learned a foreign language, saw great works of art in Paris, visited medieval and renaissance castles, explored a Roman aqueduct and colosseum, and walked along the battlefields of the Normandy beaches—all before my 16th birthday.

More importantly, I grew tremendously in my faith during those years. The first time I read the Bible completely through in a year was in Togo. I saw up close the Christian faith lived out by my parents, the other missionaries, and Togolese believers. I learned what it meant to be spiritually disciplined before I could express it in words. And I saw how believers, especially my parents, had joy in the middle of trials.

I remember attending a Togolese church as a 12-year-old in the city of Lomé. With sweat dripping off our foreheads, we spent several hours in a hot building, sitting on uncomfortable benches listening to an indiscernible sermon. Today, my own kids go through a similar experience nearly every Sunday. I know what they are going through, and I understand their discomfort.

Looking back at my Sundays as a 12-year-old, I don't remember a single time my parents complained, rolled their eyes, or gave a whimpering sigh about going to a Togolese church service. I honestly didn't realize how difficult this example would be to replicate for my own children. Yet I constantly think about the kind of example I'm setting for my kids, especially in regard to my attitude. What kind of attitude am I displaying when a visitor interrupts my work? How do I react when we get a flat tire on the way to a village? How should we behave when the electricity is unexpectedly cut? Ultimately, I'd be much happier if my kids learn how to have joy during trials than if they get straight A's in school.

Every mission field holds unique challenges for both missionary parents and their children. Parents' concerns for their children are real and should not be dismissed, but God graciously provides the means for us to endure trials and serve him with joy. ■

**“Looking back
on my Sundays
as a 12-year-old,
I don't remember
a single time
my parents
complained.”**



Andrew Paul Ward is an ABWE missionary to Togo, West Africa, where he serves as the team leader. Andrew is the husband of Mary, and father to Emmanuel, Cyrus, and Alethia.



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3 Ways to Be Missional in Retirement

DUANE EARLY | Vice President of Strategic Partnerships

The book of Proverbs speaks of a “crown of glory” that accompanies old age and a righteous life. Perhaps that is why many people anticipate that retirement will be one of the richest seasons of their lives. With a biblical perspective, the long-awaited respite can usher in a deep sense of peace and give you the freedom to worship and serve God in new ways.

Certainly, one isn’t finished in the Lord’s harvest just because his hands may be too weak for the plough. Here are three ways you can continue to support missions through your golden years of retirement.

1. Use Your Talents

Don’t fall into the temptation that the Lord has no use for your skills because you are no longer employed. Expertise doesn’t suddenly disappear when one steps through the door of retirement. Have a background in construction? ABWE’s Project Office has more than 70 ongoing construction projects. Are you a retired doctor or teacher? Your areas of knowledge could be repurposed to train and equip missionaries or nationals.

Whether as a second career, or a short-term volunteer, your years of training and experience can most likely be used to support those on the mission field.

2. Use Your Time

Time is a valuable thing—and maybe you have more to offer than ever before. Even without a specific skill-set, a servant’s heart goes a long way. Many retirees volunteer at the ABWE International Headquarters: cooking, cleaning, gardening, and even opening mail.

Consider planning a visit to the field to encourage a missionary or sending them a care package or letter.

Prayer is arguably the best use of anyone’s time—pray that ABWE missionaries would be fruitful in proclaiming the name of Jesus around the globe. Ultimately, never take for granted the time you have been given. As long as breath remains in your lungs, you can use it to serve the Lord.

3. Use Your Giving

Being able to invest in a ministry like ABWE International, that is training leaders, planting churches, and multiplying missions movements, provides a special kind of fulfillment, especially during your “wise and wonderful” years. Current and legacy gifts to missions, through IRAs, wills, trusts, and gifts in kind, can support missions for years to come.

“When I invested a little money into my IRA, the day I might need those funds seemed a long way off. But God blessed me, and so when I reached 70 and was required to take a minimum distribution (RMD), I didn’t need the funds. So I gave my minimum distribution to ABWE,” explains ABWE Board Member and donor, James Geurink.

“It’s a joy that I can use my retirement savings to support a ministry that I love and enable them to spread the gospel.” ■

LEARNMORE about how you can use your giving to make a difference in kingdom work, contact Duane Early: advancement@abwe.org | 717.909.2394
To volunteer, email: volunteers@abwe.org



Some Days Ya Gotta Dance

The South Sudanese tribe began its Sunday church service in typical fashion. The worship ritual involved a clapping circle where individuals would enter the middle and dance one at a time. Off to the side, Natalie Farran swayed to the beat of the drum. She and her family were helping the local missionaries in their church-planting initiatives.

A group of women noticed Natalie's enthusiasm and invited the young girl to join the ring. Soon enough, Natalie found herself skipping into the center, hand-in-hand with a native boy, while joy spread across the onlookers' faces as they watched the two children worship God together. ■



About the Photographer | KYLE FARRAN, PORTUGAL

Kyle Farran is the ABWE Western Europe Regional Director. The Farrans started their missionary career in 2007 when they moved to South Africa to do AIDS ministry. From there, they moved to Tanzania where he served as the East Africa Regional Director. He, his wife Heather, and three daughters currently live and serve in Portugal.