

Vol 63 | Issue 4 | 2015

spread the word

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INTERNATIONAL

MESSAGE



CATCHING THE VISION

Brazilians Join ABWE in Reaching the World for Christ





Stepping Out In Faith

At ABWE, we talk a lot about starting “missions movements.” It’s a big idea but it’s actually quite simple; we want to empower believers around the world to pick up the torch of missions and join us in crossing cultures to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We do this by planting missions-minded churches, training leaders, and inspiring them to go out and do the same.

It is hard work, but because we serve a mighty God, we have recently seen our vision take hold and bear fruit in Brazil.

ABWE missionaries have been ministering in Brazil for more than 60 years, but the idea of sending out Brazilian missionaries always seemed out of reach for local believers. Jenuan, a pastor of a tiny church in one of the poorest regions of Brazil, often prayed for other countries’ missionaries, but starting a Brazilian missions movement seemed impossible. Then, God used an ABWE missions conference to show Jenuan that it was not only possible, but ABWE would help.

It took a few years, and the constant prodding of the Holy Spirit, but in 2007, Jenuan and his church stepped out in faith and sent out their first missionary. Now, Maranatha Multicultural Ministries is a Brazilian-funded and Brazilian-run missions organization with 32 missionaries in 12 countries on four continents.

I am amazed by our Brazilian brothers and how God blesses those who step out in faith. As you read this Christmas issue and discover how God is using missionaries around the world to share the gift of His Son, I pray you will also be inspired to step out in faith and share His gift with someone else.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas season.

Jim O'Neill | President

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

ABWE was founded in 1927 as an independent Baptist mission. The objectives of ABWE are to establish indigenous Baptist churches and to train national pastors and leaders. More than 900 missionaries serve with ABWE to advance God’s work in 60 countries around the world by sharing the story of hope, building communities of faith, and serving the world with love.

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Catching The Vision

Showing how God used ABWE missionaries and local believers to start a Brazilian missions movement

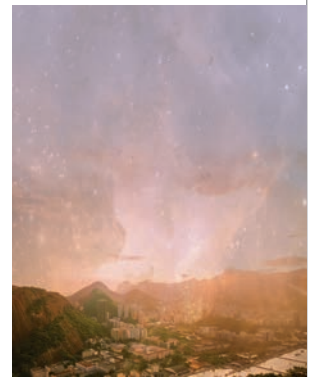
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ON THE COVER:

Photo overlay graphic art of sunrise over a Brazilian city by Lauren Miller. Base photo ©Nikada

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-  twitter.com/ABWE_Intl

SOUTH ASIA

The Gift of a Second Chance



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“God put us together at the right time,” Les said.

The Collins immediately took Asha to Heart House where Deb took Asha under her wing and began teaching her a new trade. Deb helps oversee all of Heart House’s 32 women employees as they sew uniforms for the hospital and a nearby Compassion International school, along with making quilts, handcrafts, and cultural dolls. Each employee has a high production quota and Asha’s progress was slow, but Deb worked with her every day. After watching her repeatedly fail to thread a needle, Deb realized what was wrong: Asha’s eyesight. Deb purchased her a pair of glasses, and Asha has made rapid improvement. Through Heart House, she is now able to provide for her family and has started attending church again.

“She’s so thankful for the work,” said Deb. “There has been an amazing transformation in her spirit. She has seen God provide through Heart House and she has more hope than she has had in a long time.” ■

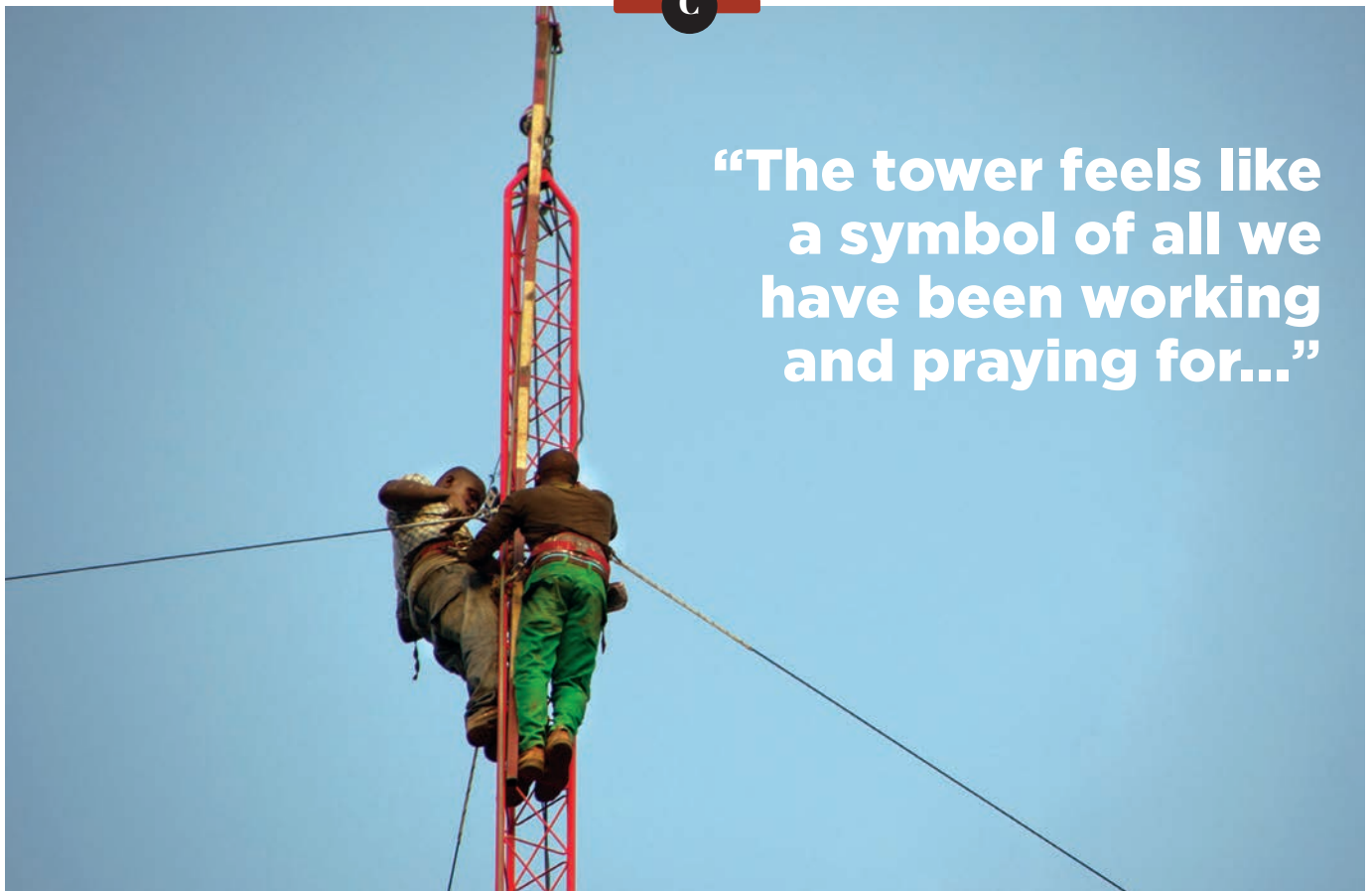
LEARNHOW you can support Heart House at www.abwe.org/hearthouse

When Asha’s* husband was killed in a work-related accident eight years ago, she was left as a widow with no social standing and no means of supporting her three children. ABWE workers invited her to work at Heart House, a sewing ministry that shares the love of Christ by helping marginalized women earn a living, but Asha refused the offer. She said the pay and the work were beneath her and instead began to support her family by illegally cutting and selling wood from a nearby government forest.

Because the work has to be performed at night and in secret, illegal woodcutting is incredibly dangerous for a single woman. Asha managed to do it for nearly a decade until one night she was viciously attacked by several men. She barely had enough strength to walk into town, but managed to find church members who took her to a government hospital for medical attention and to report the attack. Afterwards, Asha went looking for the Heart House workers who reached out to her in the past — and ran into ABWE team members Les and Deb Collins.

Heart House is a sewing ministry that shares the love of Christ with marginalized women in South Asia by helping them earn a living.

C



“The tower feels like a symbol of all we have been working and praying for...”

TOGO

Tower of Hope

Hope Radio started with the goal of expanding the reach of the Hospital of Hope in the Muslim-majority region of northern Togo and its neighboring countries. Radio has the unique ability to reach into people’s homes and enable the hospital to educate people about health issues while opening their hearts to the life-changing message of the gospel.

For more than three years, a team of ABWE missionaries has been preparing for Hope Radio, and when it came time for the construction, they

planned several months of focused, fervent prayer for the funding. Just a few days after they began praying, a local businessman got in contact with Evan Drake, the father of Hope Radio missionary Adam Drake. The businessman said he’d like to contribute and asked how much the radio project needed. Evan told him that \$25,000 would give them enough to construct the first building on the site, and he appeared to be seriously considering the large amount. Evan was encouraged by the way God

seemed to be providing so abundantly just a few days into the prayer campaign.

Then, a couple of days later, the businessman came with a check and a sheet detailing the building costs for the entire project. The man had circled every number on the sheet, added all the costs together, then tacked on several thousand dollars to cover miscellaneous expenses, and handed over a check for ten times more than what was originally asked for.

“It is in such a moment that we all stand in awe of how God provides more than

we could ask or imagine,” said Togo Missionary Melissa Friesen.

Thanks to that businessman’s generosity, Hope Radio’s 190-foot radio tower was recently raised.

“There is still much to be done, but the tower feels like a symbol of all that we have been working and praying for over the last three years,” Togo Missionary Amanda Justison said. ■

LEARN MORE about Hope Radio’s ministry at www.hoperadio.abwe.org



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THAILAND

Hope House Now Open

ABWE Missionaries Ed and Darlene Weber recently opened the doors to the Hope House for Girls, a haven for needy girls in eastern Thailand.

The seed for the home was planted when Ed and Darlene discovered that there were no children's homes in their entire province and their town had some of the most severe cases of child abuse and neglect. They immediately felt God calling them to expand

their ministry to help these at-risk children, and God quickly turned their dream into a reality. God provided enough funds in 10 months to purchase a piece of land and start building, and this summer, the Hope House celebrated its grand opening.

"The Hope House for Girls stands as a testament to God's miraculous provision," said Ed. "It is amazing to see what God can do when He gives a vision, when He touches people's

hearts, and when the Holy Spirit unites God's people toward a common goal."

Not only did God provide the funding, but He also provided miraculous support from government officials in a 95 percent Buddhist country. Several local officials attended the Hope House's dedication service to show their support for this new ministry, where up to 12 at-risk girls will be cared for and shown Christ's love daily. ■

●
ABWE's Hope House is now open and ready to provide a home for needy girls in eastern Thailand.
 ●



THE Gift THAT KEEPS ON Giving

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Did you know there is a way for you to use an investment asset to receive an ongoing income and save thousands of dollars in taxes — all while supporting missions?

Whether you own a rental unit, farmland, stock, or a business, a Charitable Remainder Trust can help support your income needs while also supporting life-changing missions work around the world.

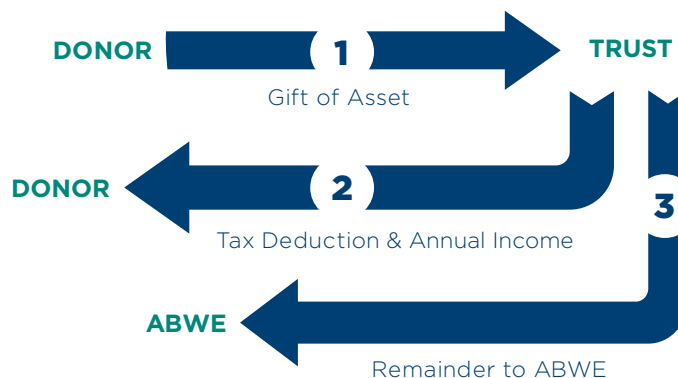
How A Charitable Remainder Trust Works

This irrevocable trust allows you to avoid paying capital gains tax (up to 20%) on the sale of your asset by gifting the asset into a Charitable Remainder Trust. By doing this, you are immediately eligible for a significant tax deduction, and you will receive an ongoing income from your gift — either for life or for a set term of years. And once the trust term ends, all remaining funds will be used by ABWE to share the gospel. A Charitable Remainder Trust is a win for you and a win for God’s kingdom.

Learn more about our Charitable Remainder Trust

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1.877.690.1009 | planned.giving@abwe.ca



** Please consult with your own attorney or financial advisor to determine what gift is best for your situation.*



STEVE & KAREN BORDERS

CANDIDATE CLASS: 1978
COUNTRIES SERVED IN: Peru & USA



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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



1974
Steve went on a short-term mission trip to Peru with ABWE



1981
Arrived in Lima, Peru



1990-98
Established First Baptist Church in Menifee, CA



Steve and Karen married on June 21
1975



Established Limatambo Church in Lima with Peruvian Pastor Francisco Acho
1984-89

AN INTERVIEW WITH **THE BORDERS**

Q&A

Q: How did God call you to missions?

Steve: When I was at a camp during my junior year of high school, God called me to preach His word. I prepared for ministry at Faith Baptist Bible College, where the importance of missions was emphasized. Friday chapels were designated for missions, and that exposure to what God was doing around the world gave Karen and me a desire to serve as missionaries wherever God wanted us.

Q: How did God call you to your mission field?

Steve: In 1974, I went with ABWE on a six-week missionary internship to Peru. That time solidified my desire to serve the Lord on the mission field, and Karen and I were married the following year with the plan of serving in missions.

We served in Lima, Peru for two terms, but when we came home for our second furlough in 1989, we felt God was tugging on our hearts to continue our church-planting ministry in the US. God led us to California where we have continued to plant churches for an additional 25 years.

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

A: Some of our favorite memories are the different baptism services we have had — in a river outside Lima, in a portable baptistry that leaked, in a swimming pool, in the baptistry of our mother churches in California — but one of the most memorable baptisms was with a young man who started coming to our English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Juan came to the classes for a few months, and then he also started attending the Sunday morning services where he heard the gospel. After several Sundays, he accepted the gift of eternal life and committed his life to Jesus Christ. When Juan came out of the water at his baptism, our entire church family clapped and cheered. We rejoiced at how God had used ESL classes to bring this young man under His teaching.

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

A: In 1982, we found ourselves sitting in the living room of our small home in Lima grieving a miscarriage — at a time when a 20-minute phone call home to family cost \$80. We asked ourselves, “What is God doing?” Our first year in Peru was full of many adjustments to the language

and culture. We had struggled through language school with two little ones, and after the loss of our baby, we felt the full weight of everything. We wondered if we had missed God’s direction for our ministry.

The Lord encouraged us with Psalm 34:17, “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.” God’s peace assured us that we were where He wanted us, and months later we saw the heartbeat of our third child on a sonogram. Ultimately, God blessed us with four children: Beth, Ben, Anna, and Rachel.

That experience strengthened our trust in God, and Karen has had the opportunity to use that struggle to reach other grieving mothers.

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

A: As church planters in the US, we’ve learned that you can cross cultures without crossing borders. The mission field has truly come to us. Learn to see the people all around you as the mission field where God has placed you. ■

**2005-12**

Established Iglesia Bautista Esperanza in Santa Clarita, CA



Established Community Baptist Church in Palmdale, CA

1998-2005

Starting a Hispanic, Spanish-speaking church plant with Orchard Baptist Church in Vacaville, CA

2013-Present

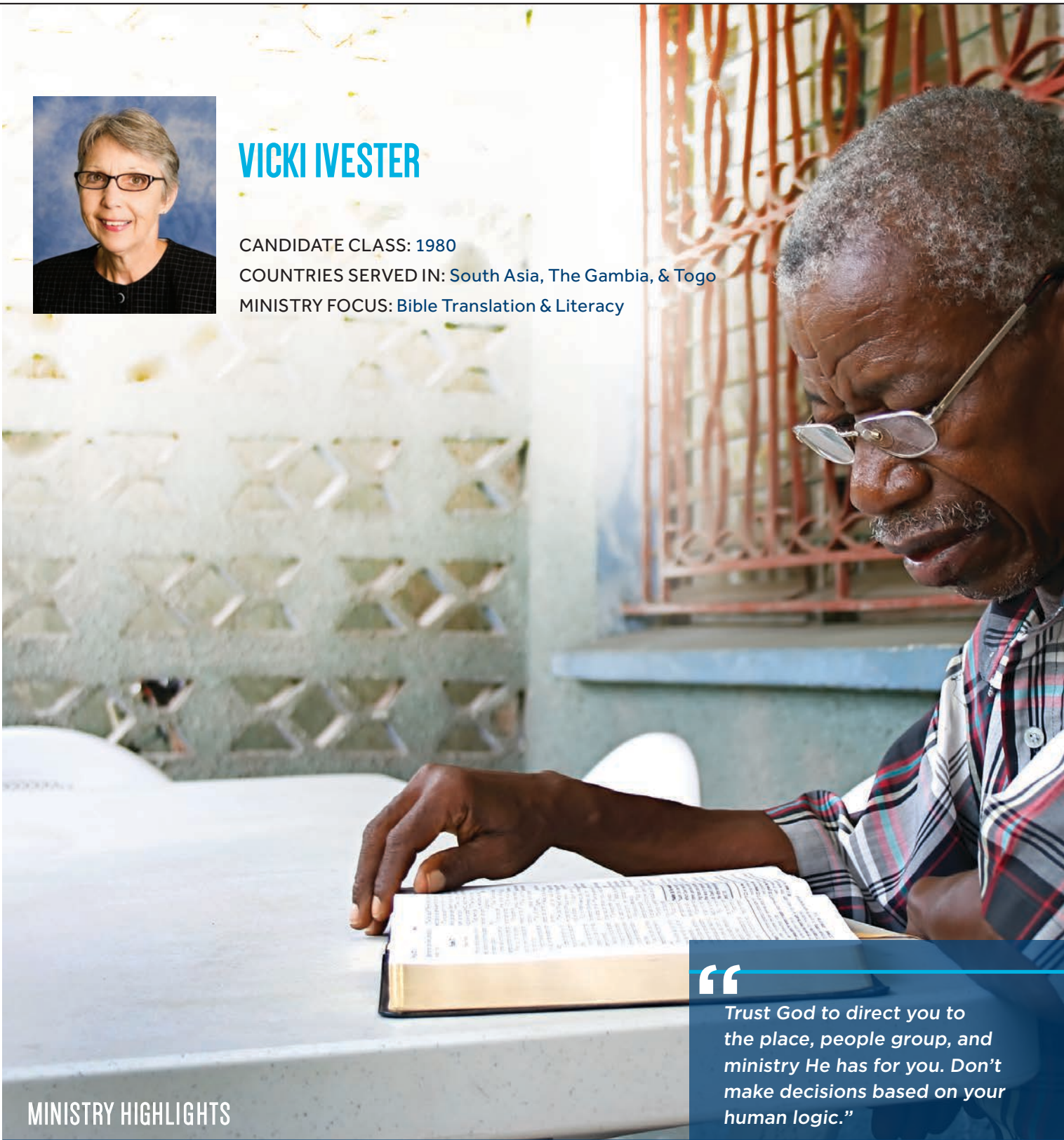


VICKI IVESTER

CANDIDATE CLASS: 1980

COUNTRIES SERVED IN: South Asia, The Gambia, & Togo

MINISTRY FOCUS: Bible Translation & Literacy



“

Trust God to direct you to the place, people group, and ministry He has for you. Don't make decisions based on your human logic.”

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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1981

Arrived in South Asia



1993

Transplanted from South Asia to West Africa — first The Gambia and then Togo



Began work in Bible translation

1984



Served as translation and literacy adjunct consultant for Bibles International

1993

AN INTERVIEW WITH VICKI IVESTER

Q&A

Q: How did God first call you to missions?

A: When I was 12, my pastor was preaching on a Sunday morning and read Matthew 9:37-38. I knew God wanted me to go tell people about Jesus. I looked around expecting adults to jump up and run out to go answer that call, but no one did. I committed to go when I was older, and I kept that commitment in the back of my mind as I majored in Spanish in college and went on for my master's degree in Education.

Q: How did God call you to translation ministry?

A: When I went to candidate classes, I had already decided to serve in Chile as an MK teacher. However, during the month of classes, God convicted me of my assumption. He showed me that what seemed logical might not be His plan for me, and I needed to ask and wait. I did, and He began to open my heart and mind to South Asia.

Then, during my years in South Asia, under the tutelage of my incredible mentor Lynn Silvernale, He guided me to my niche in translation and literacy ministries.

Q: What is your favorite memory from the mission field?

A: There have been so many thrilling and humbling memories from my years in missions, but a life-changing one was hearing the testimony of Rupon.

He was a highly educated young man who had used the national language in all his years of education and earned a master's degree. He was beyond fluent and capable in the national language, but it was not his mother tongue language.

In his testimony of salvation, Rupon said, "I had heard the gospel message many times in the national language, but it was not until I heard the gospel in my heart language that I truly understood in my heart and was saved."

That testimony sealed my passion for, and commitment to, providing scriptures in the heart language of people groups around the world. If someone with Rupon's fluency needed God's Word in his mother tongue in order to be saved, what about all those who had lesser or no ability in their national language?

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

A: As a first-term missionary in South Asia, I had an interest in Bible translation but no training or experience. I joined the Bible Translation

committee and attended meetings and helped with the "drudge" work of checking translation against a base text, word-by-word and verse-by-verse. For me, it was fun, exciting, and deeply fulfilling.

One day, at a committee meeting, the members discussed a project in a local tribal language that had been started years before but had no one to serve as coordinator. As a result, the hand-written translation drafts were sitting in storage.

As the committee discussed the need for a project coordinator, Lynn Silvernale said, "I think Vicki should do it." With no hesitation, I said yes. Their decision to entrust me with that project changed the course of my missionary life forever.

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

A: Trust God to direct you to the place, people group, and ministry He has for you. Don't make decisions based on your human logic. Allow God to stretch you. And enter each ministry with a commitment to stay the course. Scripture translation work requires a long-term commitment that few are willing to make. ■



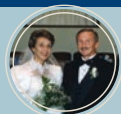
1994

Opened the Communications Resource Center in Togo working with translation, printing, and audio-visual materials



2001

Returned to the US to start WORD Ministries



Married and added Bill to the ABWE Togo team

1998



HOMEMADE MINISTRY

—
By Ingela Hartman

When you meet Lori Smith, you just know she's the kind of woman who always has Band-Aids in her purse and words of encouragement on her lips. The warmth of her spirit is almost tangible, and she instantly feels like your mother. That is probably because Lori has mothered more than 40 babies.

Lori and her husband Bill have been church-planting missionaries in central Papua New Guinea for over 25 years. But it was Lori's work at the Goroka Baptist Bible College medical clinic that gave birth to her unique baby ministry.

Lori is a natural-born caregiver who cannot help but help more. Her clinic treats more than 2,000 patients a month, but when she discovered that some babies needed more care than she could offer during her clinic hours, Lori — unaware that God was showing her a unique new ministry to reach families — began to care for these children in her own home.

Over the last 20 years, Lori has taken in 36 sick babies and successfully nursed all but three back to health before returning them to a loving family. Some of the babies Lori cared for were abandoned or orphaned, but most simply had health issues that couldn't be managed safely in their home village. Regardless of the circumstance, each child and its family can testify to Lori's loving care.





Over the last two decades, Lori Smith has taken in and cared for more than 40 sick children through her baby ministry.

HOMEMADE MINISTRY

“If I’m honest, my favorite baby is the one I am holding, but Moses and his mother hold a special place in my heart.”

“**T**his ministry and these babies are an extension of my heart,” Lori said.

When a baby comes to stay with the Smiths, Lori and Bill provide all of their care, food, and clothing at no cost to the family. However, the families are asked to visit the baby at least once a week, giving them an opportunity to get to know their child and giving the Smiths an opportunity to pray with and minister to them.

At around six-to-nine months old, when the baby is eating well on solid foods and using a sippy cup, they are transitioned to their permanent home. But Lori and Bill

continue to check-up on the child, and they continue to cultivate the relationship and the spiritual seeds they planted with the family. Over the years, many of these seeds have taken root — as they did with the mother of a baby named Moses.

“If I’m honest, my favorite baby is the one I am holding, but Moses and his mother hold a special place in my heart,” Lori said.

Moses came into Lori and Bill’s care after his mother, Serah, developed a serious breast infection that inhibited her milk production and caused Moses to become malnourished. He was starving, emaciated, and his lungs were tired from crying.

Moses needed to be bottle-fed, but that requires relentless attention to cleanliness that is hard to



accomplish in a village setting. Most babies who are bottle-fed in villages end up with diarrhea, and many die from dehydration. To ensure Moses' bottles were sanitary and safe, he came to stay with the Smiths when he was one month old.

During the next seven months, Moses' parents diligently visited him each week. They watched their son grow strong and healthy — and even chubby — under the Smiths' loving care, and they listened as the Smiths shared the root of that love: Jesus Christ. Slowly, God began to work in Serah's heart, and as she studied the Bible with Lori, Serah felt the need to put Christ in the center of her life.

"I had grown up in a charismatic church and was a 'Christian' person in practice, but I did not know Jesus as my savior," Serah said.

One day while sitting with Lori, Serah bowed her head in prayer and put her trust in Jesus. Now, Serah, her husband, and Moses attend a church started by the Smiths but now led by national believers, and recently, Moses' uncle also put his trust in Christ at the Goroka Baptist Bible College's youth camp.

"Seeing them all dressed up on their way to church is a blessing of amazing magnitude," Lori said.

Sadly, not all stories have the same happy ending. At about the same time that Moses came into their lives, another baby — a charming little girl named Esta — had one of the greatest impacts on the Smiths' ministry and on Lori's heart.



Esta's mother came to the clinic for prenatal care in the last two months of her pregnancy, so Lori was unable to do a full anatomy ultrasound of the baby to look for any issues. When it came time for Esta to be born, Lori was surprised to discover a huge mass on the baby's lower back was impeding her delivery. With some intervention, Esta finally entered the world, and Lori was able to see a mass the size of a large papaya on her tailbone.

With Esta's abnormal appearance, her village did not see a child in need of medical care; they saw something to be feared and destroyed. The people of PNG continue to be ruled by animism — a belief that the spirits of their ancestors inhabit the world around them, controlling good and evil. They believe good fortune and good health are the result of pleased spirits, but bad health and tumors are the result of angry spirits.

They claimed Esta was afflicted by sorcery and would bring a curse on their village. They threatened the life of her mother and father if Esta came into the village, so Lori and Bill brought their 32nd baby into their home.

They claimed Esta was afflicted by sorcery and would bring a curse on their village.



HOMEMADE MINISTRY

“**S**he was the happiest, sweetest baby, with a killer smile that still brings tears to my eyes when I think of it,” said Lori. “I loved her so very much.”

Esta did not just have a deformation; she had a Sacral Coccygeal Teratoma, a very rare and very serious issue. This type of tumor grows quickly and becomes malignant rapidly. Removal was urgent, but that is not an easy thing in PNG. The island nation is marked by steep mountains and thick jungles that make travel difficult and the march of progress slow. More than 80 percent of the country’s population lives in rural areas with limited access to basic healthcare.

Lori feverishly looked for a way to get Esta the life-saving surgery she needed. God closed the door for international care as it took too long to get hospital approvals, so the Smiths took her to the best pediatric surgeon in PNG, in the coastal town of Lae. Time was racing and the cancer was coming.

In Lae, the only pediatric cardiac monitor in their surgical theaters had broken, and the surgeon would not operate without it. It would take weeks for a new one to come, so the surgeon recommended the Smiths go back to Goroka. In Goroka, the waiting list was long, but a surgeon let them pay him privately so they could have surgery immediately.

“We would have paid anything, so the several thousand was not even a concern,” said Lori. “We wrote the check.”

The hospital in Goroka did not have a cardiac monitor either so they spent six hours doing the surgery with only a tiny finger oximeter to monitor baby Esta during the long procedure. But God guided the surgeon’s expert hands, and Esta barely lost any blood.

During the weeks of recovery that followed, Lori stayed with her day and night, sleeping on the dirty hospital floors near her bed. The hospital staff and other patients marveled at this woman who loved a child so deeply even though it wasn’t her own.

During the weeks of recovery that followed, Lori stayed with her day and night, sleeping on the dirty hospital floors near her bed.

“Each time a new baby comes to us, my brain knows the babies are not mine, but my heart forgets during the months of caring for them.”

It was a long recovery, but the threat on Esta’s life finally began to fade. It seemed like she was in the clear until Esta’s and Moses’ mothers came for a visit that changed all their lives.

The women inadvertently brought the Rotavirus to the babies. Moses managed to overcome the virus’ effect on his stomach, but the infection totally shutdown Esta’s intestines and vital organs. Lori admitted Esta at the hospital and tried everything to save her, but she died in Lori’s arms.

“I’ll never forget that amazingly brilliant smile as she saw the face of Jesus,” said Lori. “I mourned deeply and I still mourn for my baby. It ripped my heart out to prepare her body and place her in the tiny wooden coffin box. The nails that closed that box felt like they were being pounded into my heart.”

Not a day goes by that Lori doesn’t think of Esta, whose impact was felt long after her short life. Because of Esta and the deep love Lori had for her, the doctors, nurses and staff at the local hospital know who Lori is. They immediately respond to her and her patients’ needs because they know she is the white woman who loves their babies like her own.

“Each time a new baby comes to us, my brain knows the babies are not mine, but my heart forgets during the months of caring for them,” Lori said. “The hurt of saying goodbye and releasing them from my heart is more painful than words could express, but the eternal fruit is undeniable. The sacrifice of tears is worth it.”

Through this baby ministry, the Smiths have been given an opportunity to care for God’s children, while lovingly ministering to each family and exhibiting Christ’s love to their entire community. It has opened doors for the gospel and many families have been saved through this ministry. Most babies have at least one parent come to Christ, and several families now go to one of Bill and Lori’s church plants. In addition, three church plants and one Bible study have been started as a result of this ministry.

“God has used this ministry in huge ways,” said Lori. “We never could have come up with this idea on our own. This unique church-planting tool was not taught to us in Bible school. God orchestrated it just for us.” ■

LEARNHOW you can help support Lori Smith's clinic ministry in PNG at www.abwe.org/PNGclinic





CATCHING THE *VISION*

Brazilians Join ABWE in Reaching the World for Christ

By **INGELA HARTMAN**

PHOTOGRAPHY *by* Jamyle Pontes

As a Brazilian pastor, Jenuan believed in the importance of missions. He regularly gathered his congregation to pray for missionaries, and he passionately prayed that other countries would send more missionaries. But Jenuan never imagined that God would use him and his people to answer his prayers.

Over the last 60 years, more than 230 ABWE missionaries have served in Brazil, discipling, training, and equipping Brazilian leaders to take up the torch of missions. But the task always seemed too big.

In Jenuan's region of northeast Brazil, extra money is hard to come by. According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, 60 percent of all Christians live in the developing world, but only hold 17 percent of all Christian financial resources. And at many of ABWE's Brazilian church plants and partner churches, attendance often tops out at 50 people on a Sunday. With limited money and smaller congregations, the concept of raising enough money to support missionaries — or even just one missionary — seemed beyond their reach.



Pastor Jenuan preaches at his church in northeast Brazil outside the city of Fortaleza.





In 2008, Pastor Jenuan and his church sent out their first missionary to Cape Verde, a Portuguese-speaking island nation off the coast of West Africa.

“We prayed for missionaries from other places and believed in the work they were doing, but we felt like it was impossible for us,” said Pastor Jenuan. “We had a pessimistic view of Brazilian missions because, as a whole, we are a poor people with small churches.”

Still, ABWE continued to equip local believers for missions, and in 2004, ABWE’s South America Administrator Dave Southwell felt it was time for Brazilians to step out in faith. With the hope of lighting hearts on fire for the world, Dave organized a meeting for Brazilian church leaders interested in global missions. Pastor Jenuan listened intently as Dave shared the idea of Brazilian churches beginning to work together in cross-cultural missions. Dave explained that Brazil’s reputation as a nation of apolitical soccer lovers gave them a unique opportunity to reach regions of the world that are hard to reach or inaccessible to North American missionaries. Additionally, ABWE promised to help launch and support any local missions movement they developed.



“We had a pessimistic view of Brazilian missions because we are a poor people with small churches.”

Jenuan saw that a Brazilian-run mission was possible and was inspired, but he still wasn't sure that he was capable of changing his people's mindset and starting a missions movement.

Then, two years later, Jenuan's church held a special week of prayer for missions, and they invited two Cape Verdean girls, who were attending a local school, to share about their country's needs. God used their words to reignite Jenuan's passion for missions.

“After so long, I was getting discouraged that our meeting had no impact, and then in 2006, Jenuan called me out of the blue and told me about his plan to move ahead with cross cultural missions on his own,” Dave Southwell said.

Jenuan and his church decided to begin with Portuguese-speaking Cape Verde because there were no language barriers, and it was relatively inexpensive to live there. Plus, travel to Cape Verde was cheap and only a three-and-a-half hour flight.

Their first missionary arrived in Cape Verde seven years ago, and today, Maranatha Multicultural Ministries (MMM) is an established Brazilian-run, Brazilian-supported missions agency that has more than 150 churches supporting 32 missionaries in 12 countries — several that Americans can't easily access.

“We are in a very poor region of the country with relatively small churches, but more than 80 percent of the support comes from our region and more than 95 percent comes from Brazil,” said Jenuan. “In other words, our people have caught the vision.”

Along with planting the seed, MMM was patterned after ABWE, and ABWE helped provide the infrastructure, training, and some seed money to get the mission off the ground.



Despite having relatively small resources, Maranatha Multicultural Ministries' supporters are faithful, and today this Brazilian-run, Brazilian-supported mission agency has 32 missionaries in 12 countries on four continents.



Children in The Gambia play soccer on a public field. Soccer is the most popular sport in the country, as both a spectators' sport and a pastime game.

ABWE has also been instrumental in opening doors through its many contacts around the world. But MMM has truly picked up the torch and carried it further.

“Our partnership with ABWE has been such a blessing,” said Jenuan. “Because of our partnership, we can go farther than we would go alone.”

Reaching the Hard to Reach

MMM began with the dream of reaching all nine of the world’s Portuguese-speaking countries. The mission strategically chose to place its first ministry in Cape Verde, off the western coast of Africa, because it is a gateway to mainland Africa — which is home to six Portuguese-speaking countries. As time went on, MMM saw that a common language wasn’t the only advantage Brazilian missionaries had.

“Brazilian passports are the most counterfeited passports in the world,” said ABWE Missionary Jerry Neuman, who serves as director of administration at MMM.

People from Brazil are welcomed by a majority of the world. For decades, Brazil has avoided involvement in many political conflicts, and Brazilians are internationally known for their love of soccer. Because of this, many people, even in staunchly Muslim countries like The Gambia, open their hearts and borders to Brazilians.





This international acceptance gives MMM a unique opportunity to access hard-to-reach countries, and because of that, MMM was able to continue the work of an American-based mission agency after it was kicked out of a politically-volatile Latin American country.

The American agency had recently purchased a large orange grove in order to establish a Bible institute, but a radical change in the country's leadership led to an expulsion of all their missionaries. Knowing Brazil's wide global acceptance, the mission agency offered the property to a Brazilian pastor at a very reduced price so that he could continue their work. He bought the property, and a few years later, a family in the pastor's church felt called to go and take the project forward. They joined MMM and soon recruited another couple to go with them.

In just a few short years, these Brazilian missionaries have already had a great impact in the area surrounding the orange grove Bible institute. They are working with nationals to start two new churches, and last month, the Bible institute had its first official class with 15 local students — future pastors and church leaders.

“Our Brazilian passports got us into the country, but the unstable government could throw our missionaries out of the country at any time, so they are organizing, teaching, and training local leaders to carry the gospel and continue our vision,” said Jenuan.

Similarly, it has been increasingly difficult for North American missionaries to enter and maintain visas in Guyana, a former British colony in South America. American missionaries had been ministering to the country's large Islamic and Hindu populations, but when they were forced to leave, God brought MMM Missionary John Nascimento to carry on their work.

Sixteen years ago, John was a Mormon who was intrigued by the religious diversity in Guyana. He approached his bishop about going to teach the Mormon gospels in Guyana, but the church wanted to send him to Southern Brazil instead. Disillusioned by the Mormon Church, he began pursuing a career as an English teacher. He knew he needed to practice and perfect his English so he went to see a local American missionary. The missionary told him he taught the Bible not English, so John said, “Then teach me the English Bible.”



“Our Brazilian passports got us into the country, but the unstable government could throw our missionaries out of the country at any time.”

It was not long before John realized his need for Christ, and his desire to go to Guyana was reignited and transformed into a desire to share the truth of Jesus there.

John connected with MMM and began raising support to join the American missionary family in their ministry in Guyana. As the Nascimentoes were nearing their support goals and departure date, the government informed the American missionary family that their visas would not be renewed. John and his family arrived just three weeks before their former colleagues were forced to leave the country permanently. Today, John and his family are carrying on a thriving ministry built on the foundation of the American missionaries who had to leave.



Above: Pastor Jenuan, the property owner, and church leaders pray over the mission's expansion plans that will be made possible through the purchase of this new property.

Looking Forward

In the seven years since it began, MMM has grown beyond anyone's expectations, and it has certainly grown beyond its tiny office space in Jenuan's small church. The mission has no space to host missionaries during board reports or furloughs, and trainings have to be done at hotels. Jenuan knew MMM needed more room to expand for the future, so he started praying.

He prayed for a place that would allow the mission to continue to grow. He prayed that it would provide a home base for missionaries and a place where they could come to restore their physical, emotional, or spiritual health. He also prayed for a place where they could train people and help them catch the mission's vision for the world. He prayed for years, and then this year, God answered.

Jenuan shared his dream with a contractor who attended his church and asked him if he knew of such a place. The man said he knew of one property that might work. It turned out to be his property and it was in one of the best areas in the region. Jenuan had often looked in the same area, but property there was incredibly expensive.

Despite his reservations about cost, Jenuan went to see the man's land and found 5.4 overgrown acres smattered with several partially built structures. The property was being built to be a resort, but when the original owner died, the project was abandoned.



As Jenuan surveyed the swimming pool’s swamp-like concrete hole and the bones of six guesthouses, a café, and a few small buildings, he saw the makings of everything he had asked God for. Jenuan saw a place for the mission’s headquarters with six guest houses for visiting missionaries, and also a place for a future church-planting training center and a Biblical counseling center — with enough room for Jenuan’s church.

“It was perfect,” Jenuan said. “It was a paradise.”

He knew God had brought him to this property, but Jenuan refused to hear how much the man wanted for it. Instead, he set to praying.

He prayed for months, and when Jenuan finally asked the price, he was amazed. Not only was the man asking a remarkably low price for the value of the land in that area of town, but he also agreed to take Jenuan’s current small church property to cover almost 50 percent of the purchasing price. And as if that wasn’t enough, the man also said he would help finish building the property for the mission.

“Only God can do that.” Jenuan said.

MMM is paying for the remaining \$300,000 needed to purchase the property, and ABWE is praying to help them meet this need.

“ABWE’s vision has always been to inspire believers around the world to pick up the torch of missions. We want people to join us in sharing the news of Jesus Christ by starting missions-minded churches and training more leaders to continue to pass that torch. And that’s exactly what MMM is doing,” said Cal Clark, ABWE regional director in Brazil. “We planted the seed and now we have an opportunity to help it grow even bigger.” ■



LEARN HOW you can help support the expansion of Maranatha Multicultural Ministries and the expansion of gospel at www.abwe.org/MMM



With 32 missionaries serving in 12 countries,

God has truly blessed Maranatha Multicultural Ministries, a Brazilian-run and Brazilian-supported mission board.

But this Christmas, they need our help.

MMM has vastly outgrown its space in Pastor Jenuan's humble church. Hotels and church members' houses are the only places where the mission can do trainings and care for weary missionaries. They need our help to purchase a new property that will give the mission room to grow.

Your donation will support this Brazilian mission movement and help them send more missionaries to tell others that Jesus Christ is born.


And this year, your dollars mean even more. An anonymous donor has pledged an \$85,000 matching gift. That means that your \$1 is now worth \$2, but add that to an extremely favorable exchange rate and your dollar has three times the impact!

Your \$1 donation	x 2 through the matching gift	+ favorable exchange rate	= 3x the IMPACT
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 **GIVE ONLINE:** www.abwe.org/MMM

Send checks payable to ABWE Foundation to PO Box 8585, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Please add E15MSGAD in the memo line

 In Canada, give to MMM at www.abwe.ca/give/ways-to-give

GLOBAL MISSIONS TRENDS

In 2010, there were **550 million** evangelical Christians worldwide **WHICH MEANS** for every unreached people group, there were **78,000** evangelical Christians.

Christianity is the **fifth-fastest growing religion** in the world, coming in behind the Baha'i faith, Islam, Sikhism, and Jainism.


86% of adherents to other religions do not personally know a Christian.

In 2015, Christians from all traditions sent out approximately **400,000 missionaries.**

*** This does not include missionaries who went to work in their home countries.*



In 2000, Brazil sent 3,700 missionaries, and in 2010, they sent 34,000 - an

819% increase

In the last 15 years, the amount of missionaries being sent by Brazil has increased dramatically. And **Brazil recently became the second greatest sending country** in the world, trailing the US by 93,000 missionaries.

Top 10

Sending Countries

1. United States
2. Brazil
3. France
4. Spain
5. Italy
6. South Korea
7. United Kingdom
8. Germany
9. India
10. Canada



Receiving Countries

1. United States
2. Brazil
3. Russia
4. DR Congo
5. South Africa
6. France
7. United Kingdom
8. Argentina
9. Chile
10. India



MISSIONS MOVEMENTS

[Definition]:

At ABWE, we define mission movements as empowering believers around the world to pick up the torch of missions and join us in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We do this by planting missions-minded churches, training leaders, and inspiring them to go out and do the same.

Global Missions Trends From 1970 to 2015

1970

2000

2015

240,000 Missionaries

420,000
Missionaries

400,000 Missionaries

2,200
Missions Agencies

4,000
Missions Agencies

5,100 Missions Agencies

44.7% of the population
is unevangelized

27.9% of the population
is unevangelized

29.3% of the population
is unevangelized

Between 1970 and 2015, the evangelical population tripled while Pentecostals increased by 10x from over **62 million** to over **643 million.**



Money that goes toward unreached peoples:

\$450 million or **1%** of all church income.

For Comparison: That's how much Americans spent on Halloween costumes for their pets in 2011.

53% of Christians live in a country that has a Christian majority.

66% of Christians live in countries where there was a missionary presence 100 years ago.



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THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

By Traci Warner | *ABWE missionary nurse to Nicaragua*

The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage for medical and nursing students — transitioning from the world of books and practice to the world of clinical care in hospital wards. They proudly walk across a platform to receive the crisp white lab coat that tells the world they are capable and committed to providing quality medical care. Then, they exit that stage ready to conquer the world of death and disease.

Healthcare is a noble profession. Jesus is called The Great Physician, after all. What a privilege it has been for me to follow in His footsteps as a nurse practitioner. I have been blessed with the opportunity to watch the antibiotics I prescribed destroy a

bacteria's cellular wall and shrink the redness surrounding an infected wound, saving a man's leg. I have listened to the sounds of a five-year-old boy's crackling lungs and then handed his mother the medicine that restored his breathing. It's an amazingly satisfying profession, so when I recently had the opportunity to address a room full of eager medical and nursing students in their new white coats, I wanted to inspire them to provide the best life-saving care they could for their future patients.

"One hundred percent of my patients will die. And so will yours," I began.

How's that for a motivational speech?

Through years of intense and costly training, there is a lot that we, as medical professionals, can do to help people. We can cure illnesses with a quick scribble on a prescription pad. We can stent the coronary arteries to restore blood to a pounding heart. We can even drill through a skull to remove a life-threatening tumor. But we can't prevent death.

Despite our best attempts to delay it, we know all of our patients will die. But I know something more important. While I cannot make my patients live forever, I can offer them the hope of life after death. I can share the healing of body and soul that is available through a personal relationship with the Great

Physician, who deeply loves them and desires their fellowship.

This is why I chose to become a medical missionary, and not just a nurse. I want to heal more than my patients' bodies. When I take a physical history of my patients' state of health, I also take a spiritual inventory. I constantly look for ways to share the truth and healing of Jesus, and one evening, I found an opportunity with Mr. Taylor.

I was working the night shift. It was dark, and beeping machines echoed throughout the unit. Beneath the hum of an oxygen tank, I heard the subtle cries of an 82-year-old man who had suffered a massive stroke. I sensed the Holy Spirit prodding me to initiate a conversation with Mr. Taylor.

"I'm going to die, aren't I?" he asked.

"We're all going to die someday, Mr. Taylor," I replied.

It was a weak and rehearsed start, but it didn't take long for the conversation to deepen. Thankfully, my other patients slept through the night as I had the opportunity to share with Mr. Taylor how God can heal not only the broken bone, but also the broken spirit. And there, in room 7114, Mr. Taylor gave his life to Jesus.

He whispered again, "I'm still going to die, aren't I?"

"Yes, sir," I started. "You are going to die. But you are also going to live." ■

"One hundred percent of my patients will die."



Traci Warner has been an ABWE missionary and nurse practitioner in Nicaragua for more than three years. In addition to her medical ministry, she teaches church planting classes for pastor's wives, leads Bible studies for women and teens, teaches Bible classes at a bilingual Christian school, and hosts short-term missions teams.



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5 REASONS

A MISSIONS AGENCY WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR ME

According to Dan Branda

ABWE director of mobilization and former ABWE missionary

When you feel that unrelenting, sleep-depleting burden for lost people around the globe, the last thing you think about is infrastructure and the red tape involved in getting to the mission field – or maybe you’re like me and those are the first things you think about. Early Christians like Paul didn’t have to worry about those things (though they did have a recurring problem with angry mobs and rocks), but visas, insurance, and screenings are realities today and that’s where a missions agency really comes in handy.

As a former missionary and now the director of ABWE’s mobilization team, I’ve seen missions from the field and from the home office, and I’m often asked why someone should go with a missions agency. The way I see it, there are five key benefits that sum up why I wouldn’t have gone to the field without one:

- 1 Financial Peace of Mind** — A missions agency ensures that all contributions are processed, receipted as charitable donations, and deposited into your missionary account. Along with internal accountability, ABWE’s stamp of approval from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) provides financial credibility as missionaries raise support.
- 2 Thinking Ahead** — They have staff dedicated to benefits like insurance, retirement, and emergency evacuation. You probably aren’t thinking about something like retirement when you’re busting at the seams to get to

the mission field, but the good news is that your agency is thinking about it for you.

- 3 Equipping You** — An agency provides you with critical training and coaching to prepare you for a successful cross-cultural ministry. Courses in Bible and theology, cultural preparation and more are all available from ABWE’s training team to ensure that all of our missionaries are well prepared for the task God has set before them.
- 4 You’re Not Alone** — They say if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together. A missions agency offers missions thinking and strategy on a global level, and they also provide on-the-ground field teams who add support, encouragement, and strategy to each missionary’s ministry.
- 5 Expanding Your Reach** — When you get to the field, you will realize there is more to be done than you or your team can accomplish alone. ABWE’s mobilization and communications teams are able to reach beyond your own social network and put your ministry needs in front of more churches, donors, and future teammates.

A missions agency is there to take care of the less glamorous — but entirely necessary — details of infrastructure and support so that the modern missionary can get to the field and do what God called them there to do: be a missionary. ■



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A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

“Until I went to Romania with Storytellers Abroad, I didn’t realize just how much impact I could have by using media for missions. Communicating visually benefits multiple groups of people: the person in need who is given a platform to tell their story, the producer who is able to give a voice to that person, missionaries who use what is produced to more effectively tell others about their ministry, and viewers who are introduced to real people and how they can help provide for real needs.”

– Hannah Strayer, a 2015 workshop participant

About ABWE's Storytellers Abroad | *Missions Multimedia Workshops*

Join us for a two-week multimedia workshop that takes you to the mission field for hands-on training with top professionals who teach you how you can use your creative talents to share God’s heart for the world.

LEARN MORE about our 2016 trips to Nicaragua and Togo at:

www.StorytellersAbroad.com

Eleven years ago, a Brazilian pastor named Jenuan was exposed to something extremely contagious. He has already infected more than 32 people who are spreading it on four continents.

But it is not an illness they are spreading. It is THE cure.

Jenuan was exposed to ABWE's vision for a Brazilian missions movement, and he founded Maranatha Multicultural Ministries (MMM), a Brazilian-run and Brazilian-supported mission board that now has 32 missionaries sharing the gospel in 12 countries.

MMM is the embodiment of ABWE's vision to spark global missions movements that extend beyond us.

But this Christmas, MMM needs our support.

The mission has outgrown the tiny church it calls home and is in desperate need of a larger headquarters with space for missionary housing and training.

Your support will have an eternal impact, and because of the generosity of an anonymous donor who has pledged to match all gifts up to \$85,000, every dollar you give is doubled.

Help Brazilian believers spread the cure even further.

**To learn more or donate, go to
www.abwe.org/MMM**

