

VOICE & HANDS

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WHAT A DIFFERENCE A PARTNER MAKES

DAY FOR THE UNREACHED *p.4* | THEOVISION *p. 10*

a word from
Wayne



“There are still tribes that have no Bible, no believers and no Body of Christ.... In the book of Revelation the Bible says there will be people in heaven from every tribe, every nation, every language and every people. The only question is, will our generation fulfill that, or will we kick the can down the road to some future generation?”

Pastor Rick Warren recently made this statement. The tough question really tugged at my heart. How can the Body of Christ complete such a daunting task in such a complex world?

The technology exists to reach around the world. You can travel nearly anywhere in about a day. The Church is certainly big enough that if everyone did their part, the name of Christ would be made known among *all* nations.

So what’s holding us back? I’ve concluded that the answer is summed up in one word: *together*.

The Great Commission wasn’t given to a few radical disciples, allowing the rest of the believers to sit on the sidelines. It was given to *every* dedicated follower of Christ. It is *together* that the Body of Christ will fulfill this calling, and by His grace, strength and wisdom, it will be completed in this generation.

May we all take up the mantle of responsibility given to us by the Lord Jesus to declare His name among all the nations!

Serving Him together,

Wayne Pederson

Wayne Pederson
President, Reach Beyond

NEX+ GEN

There's a fresh wind blowing in the world of missions. In the past, primarily North American and European missionaries went to foreign fields to take the gospel to those who had never heard it. Today, more and more missionaries are coming from places that 100 years ago were unreached.

In Latin America, Reach Beyond is mobilizing emerging leaders and missionaries to take the gospel to hard-to-reach places and unevangelized people groups. The program, called *Corrientes* (Currents), is a mentoring initiative that prepares passionate Christ-followers from Latin America to serve around the world, helping spread the gospel in areas where there are few, if any, believers.

Anti-Western sentiment in North Africa and the Middle East can make it difficult for some missionaries to be effective while serving in resistant parts of the world. But Latinos are often more easily accepted and thus see greater response.

Reach Beyond is equipping these “next-generation” Latin American missionaries to go courageously and partner with national believers in places where the good news has seldom been heard. The essence of success in modern missions is increasingly dependent on partnership with local Christians—collaborating with them to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ to the unreached.

But programs like *Corrientes* are also dependent on your faithful gifts and support. Your gift to the Voice and Hands Project will help train these missionaries and also do so much more. Visit voiceandhands.org to learn how you can make a difference—*together*—with others around the world.

A Day to Act for the **UNREACHED**

The calendar is replete with special days of the year for good causes: World Water Day (March 22), Orphan Sunday (Nov. 13), World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) and even National Learn to Swim Day (May 21).

“I opened my mailbox and there was a postcard promoting a day set aside for a certain worthy cause,” observed Jon Fugler, Reach Beyond’s vice president of advancement. “Then it hit me, *There should be a day for the unreached*. So I approached some of my colleagues, and they embraced the idea.”

Steve Johnson, executive director of communications, agreed, saying a special day could help educate and motivate believers worldwide about the need to spread the message of salvation to the lost.

“The greatest injustice of the 21st century is that there are 2 billion people who don’t know Christ,” Johnson noted. “We started

to look around and said, ‘Who is the voice of advocacy for the unreached?’ There are lots of initiatives that are outward-focused, but nobody was making a call to the churches to say, ‘It’s time for us to ignite a new missionary zeal to reach those who have never hear the gospel.’”

The idea, birthed 1½ years ago, is about to become a reality as this **Pentecost Sunday, May 15**, has been designated as the first ever International Day for the Unreached (IDU).

The event, announced at the annual National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) convention in Nashville, Tenn., in February, is sponsored by the newly formed Alliance for the Unreached. This is a globally focused group that includes Reach Beyond, Bibles For The World, Operation Mobilization, The Seed Company and Missio Nexus.

“The rationale was that we all have different approaches to missions, but

the opportunity for partnership makes the sum greater than all of the individual parts,” Johnson explained. “The level of cooperation has been absolutely incredible. I’ve been part of other cooperative programs in the past, but seldom do they work because of things like organizational agendas and financial restraints.”

“It’s time for us to ignite a new missionary zeal...”

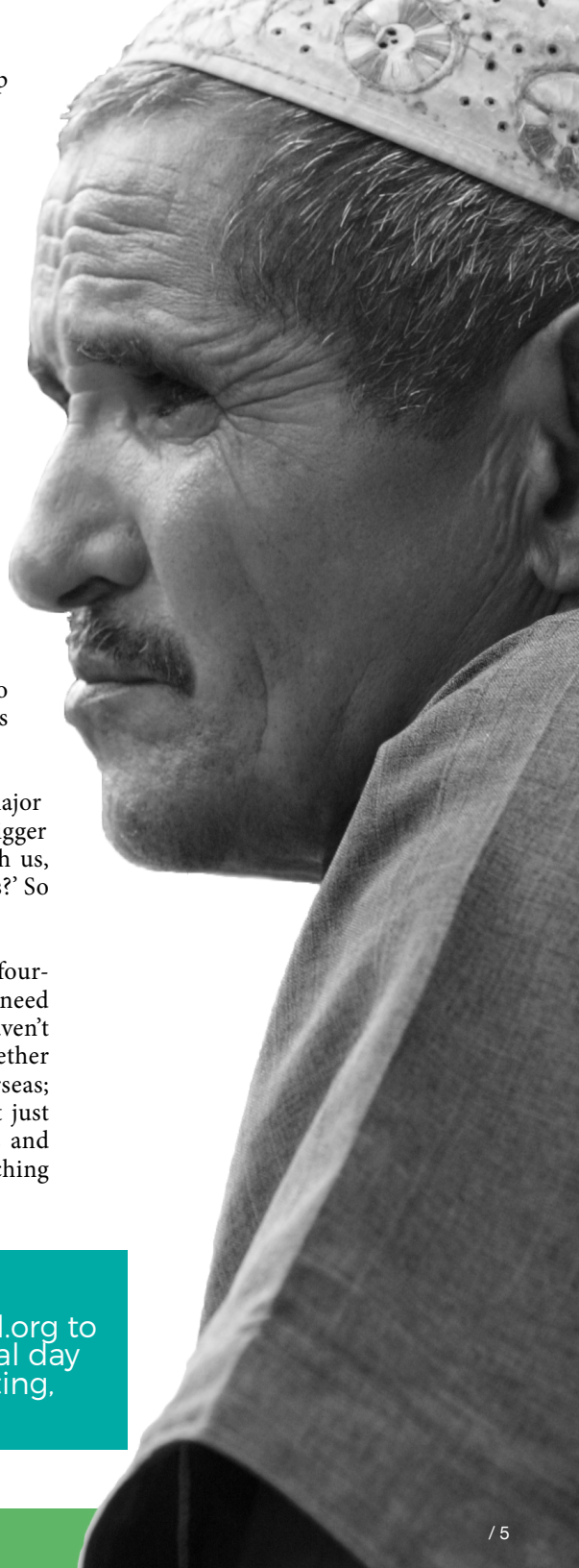
He was also surprised at the high interest in the special day expressed by participants at NRB, sparking dozens of on-air interviews with media outlets ranging from small radio stations to major television ministries such as CBN.

“We’ve also had a number of major ministries—many significantly bigger than we are such as Cru—approach us, saying, ‘How can we be a part of this?’ So we may expand IDU in the future.”

Johnson says the focus of IDU is four-fold. “We need people to **pray**; we need people to **advocate** for those who haven’t heard; we want people to **serve**, whether it be their own backyard or overseas; and we want people to **share**—not just in finances, but their time, talents and creativity to be multipliers in reaching people with the gospel.” 📌

ACT NOW:

Visit dayfortheunreached.org to get involved in this special day through praying, advocating, serving and sharing.





hope
for the
girls

Reaching those who have never heard the gospel often comes with unexpected and even horrible challenges.

When Reach Beyond medical missionaries go into remote areas to take compassion and healthcare to people with huge physical and spiritual needs, there are certain things they expect to find. Ailments like malaria, parasites and fungal infections are anticipated and, thankfully, relatively easy to treat.

But on a recent medical caravan to the West African country of Burkina Faso, organized by a local radio partner, the doctors encountered something more tragic. While physical in nature, the implications are far more devastating, both emotionally and spiritually.

Due to strongly held cultural beliefs, team members came across much evidence of the practice of female circumcision, better known as female genital mutilation (FGM). While practically nonexistent and not widely understood in the Western world, this practice typically causes extensive physical scarring, urinary tract infections, chronic pain and even infertility. Though technically illegal in Burkina Faso and many other countries, it continues as a tradition, especially in rural areas.

The physical consequences are horrific. Worse yet are the emotional and spiritual scars left on these young women—some as young as 7 years old. A form of physical punishment has been inflicted on them, distorting their identity as women and as children of God.

But with the assistance of Reach Beyond's medical team, local ministry partner *Radio Évangile*


Développement (Gospel for Radio Development or RED) is working hard to encourage people to stop this gruesome practice across Burkina Faso and ultimately the entire continent of Africa.

Their efforts are not merely for the physical benefits of those effected. Staff members are sharing the gospel through RED's eight-station network across Burkina Faso, and their efforts are making a difference.

"I am drawn to the people and I know the love of Jesus impacts lives."

"Many of the husbands and fathers [at the medical outreach] were appalled by the practice and vowed not to subject their daughters to it," said Dr. Joe Martin, a member of the Reach Beyond caravan team.

Linda Braio, a Reach Beyond retiree, shared her heart for the Burkinabe people. "I am drawn to the people, and I know the love of Jesus impacts lives." During the three-week outreach, loving each person who came across her path was her response to that call on her heart.

While treating malaria, infections and the horrors of FGM were the medical objectives of the trip, the real motivator was something of far more eternal value—introducing people to the saving love of Jesus Christ. 

pray

Commit to pray for the people of Burkina Faso, especially the young women whose lives have been permanently altered by FGM. Pray that Jesus' love would give them hope for today and forever.



A LIGHT IN thai

A dressmaker in Thailand tunes into a radio station called “Happy FM” and hears the announcer (a local pastor) talk about love. Encouraged, she calls the station and talks with the pastor on-air. He invites her to church where she finds the love of Jesus and a body of believers. Now she helps others find Christ’s love via radio.

A pastor in a small city northeast of Bangkok gives a solar-powered, fixed-tuned SonSet® radio to a neighbor lady who runs a restaurant. One week later the pastor and some church members visit the restaurant. During a conversation, the lady asks how she can become a Christian.

A fish seller in a local market used to listen to the local community station until it was taken off the air nearly two years ago. Still, the Holy Spirit challenges him, and he finally goes to church and asks the pastor how to become a believer.

Attendance at another church nearly doubles in size, moving from 30 to 50 people, largely through the influence of a community station even after the broadcasts were silenced following a military coup in Thailand in May 2014. The new government forced thousands of radio and television outlets off the air, including Reach Beyond’s 44




pointing to a loosening of restrictions as Reach Beyond's main partner in Thailand opened two new community stations in 2015. Another 21 stations successfully reapplied, bringing the on-air total to 23. Things could open up further when the country holds elections, tentatively slated for late 2016 or early 2017.

"If a new government is formed, we can move forward again," Brewer noted. "We're also negotiating with a denomination to form a partnership that will spearhead unifying all or most of the stations that air Christian programs—about 100 in total."

Meanwhile, Reach Beyond's main partner is sticking by its goal to launch 100 community stations by 2020, supporting efforts to plant churches in 80,000 villages.

The majority of the partner stations in Thailand emphasize seeker-sensitive, pre-evangelistic programming that appeals to a general audience.

"Evangelism takes place once the listener develops a relationship with the radio staff," Brewer explains. "Listeners are encouraged to call to talk off-air." Many share prayer requests or meet with the program hosts. Some decide to follow Christ and begin attending local churches.

"Radio is an engagement tool," he adds. "The gospel has been in Thailand for 190 years but with very little penetration except in hill-tribe areas. The national church is trying to enter communities and expose the people to the gospel in a nonthreatening way. Radio is a key method they've chosen to use." 

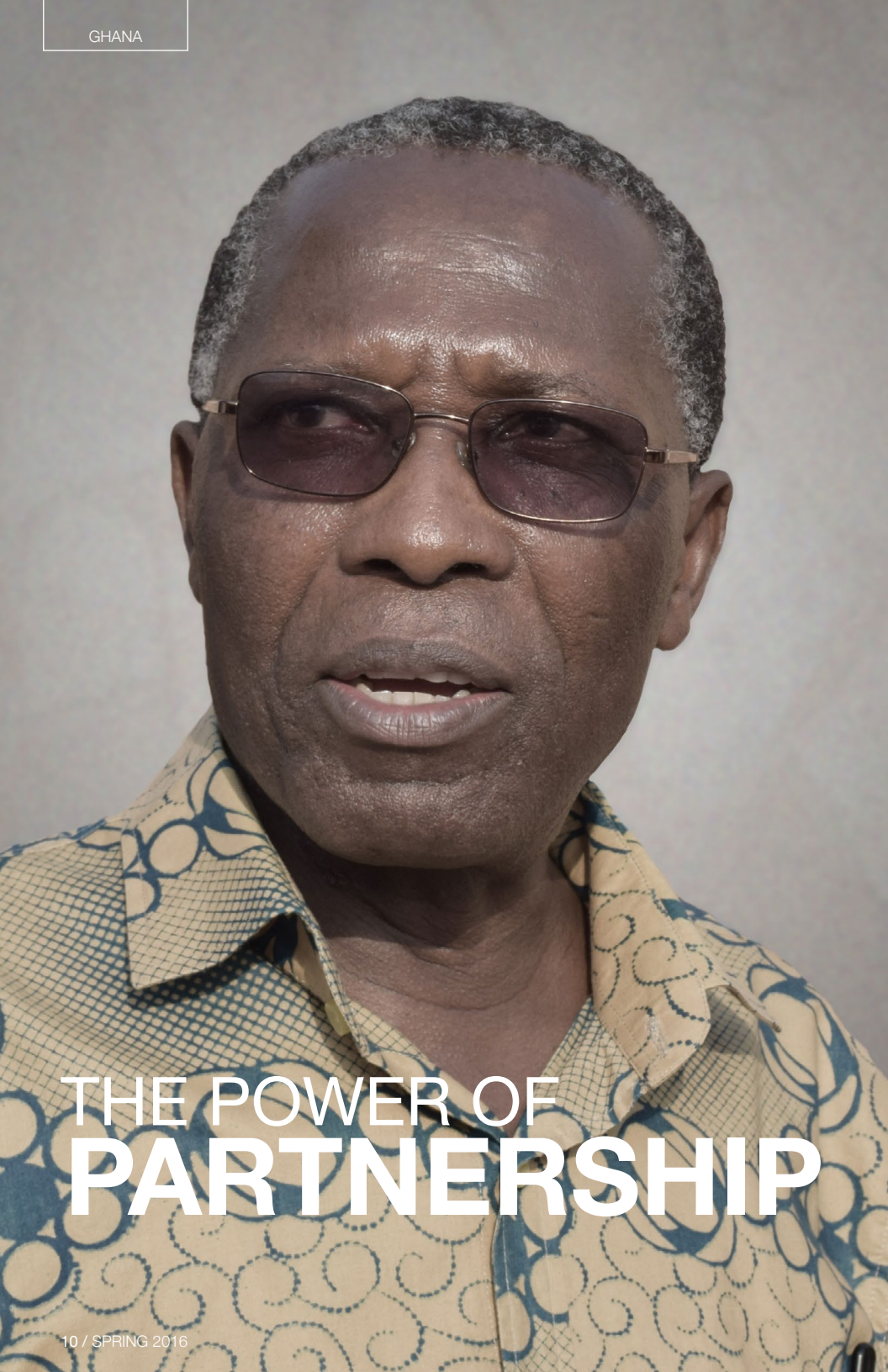
partner stations, requiring them to reapply for licenses.

"We repeatedly see churches struggling to break through to their communities, sometimes for generations," explains John Brewer, a Reach Beyond engineer serving in the Asia Pacific Region. "Their Buddhist neighbors have misconceptions about Christians and what they believe. But after listening to Christian programming on the local community radio station, they discover the truth and the walls break down."

While the future of Christian radio in Thailand remains uncertain, signs are

PRAY

Pray about potential elections in Thailand and that the new government would allow the establishment of community radio stations that carry Christian programming.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

THEOVISION

n. a Greek form for God
n. a great perception of future developments

When combined, these words form “Theovision,” that is, God’s vision for what He will accomplish among His people.

Aptly named, Theovision is also one of Reach Beyond’s most strategic partners in Africa. Founded in 1989 by Rev. Theodore Asare in Ghana, the ministry is actively involved in broadcasting the gospel across Africa, including many regions where Christianity has yet to make inroads.

Since 2008 Reach Beyond has partnered with Theovision to provide equipment and help plant radio stations that proclaim the gospel in Ghana and in many unreached parts of the continent.

In addition, Theovision has recorded the New Testament in nearly 325 languages. As a result, God’s Word can be heard in more than 35 African nations, many that are predominantly Muslim and resistant to the gospel message.

“The partnership with Theovision is absolutely vital to our efforts to reach the unreached people of Africa,” said Lee Sonius, executive director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region. “Our relationship is proof that when believers work together for the sake of the gospel, lives are changed forever.”

On a recent trip to Ghana, a team from Reach Beyond in Colorado Springs, Colo., went to a remote community called Asamankese. The village was what one might expect—mud huts, playful children, people working hard in the fields. But there was something special about this village.


In every sense, this community has been transformed spiritually by God through the partnership of Theovision and Reach Beyond. Until 2014, the people had no source of clean water. Their only water

source was in the jungle about a quarter of a mile down a steep ravine to a filthy puddle. It was infested with a host of bacteria, insects and germs that were wreaking havoc on the health of the villagers, especially the children. At the same time, there was no church or known body of believers in the village.

Together, the two organizations began to work to change both of those things. A team of engineers from Reach Beyond went to the village and found a way to drill a well in the center of the community. Today fresh, safe water flows freely from a central pump, providing physical life and improved health to the people.

Meanwhile, Theovision has established Bible-listening clubs in Asamankese where the people gather together daily to listen to God’s Word in their language on solar-powered, digital audio players, and discuss what they’ve heard. Others tune in to Theovision’s Christian programming on their radios.

The power of the partnership has provided clean water for their health and “living” water for their souls.

But you are part of this story, too. The well, the Bible recordings, the listening devices and the missionaries were all made possible by people like you. Without your prayers and faithful support, none of this could have happened. 

BE A PARTNER

To see this kind of ministry replicated worldwide, consider making a gift to Reach Beyond’s Voice and Hands Project. Your partnership will help spread the gospel to the ends of the earth in words and actions. Give today at voiceandhands.org.



FAMILY PRACTICE CLINICS:
CENTRAL ASIA

Eccuador is a Third World country, but Reach Beyond's Dr. B (*name withheld for security reasons*) is using his experience in this nation to elevate the role of family practice physicians in Central Asia where he's seen similar needs.


"Central Asia is where Ecuador was 20 years ago," he observed. "There is a family medicine department at the local medical school [in Central Asia], but the family doctors have nowhere to work in their specialty. I doubt if there are more than 10 family medicine residents in the entire country."

After 16 years in Ecuador, Dr. B and his wife moved to Central Asia four years ago. He'd seen the benefits of partnership in Ecuador, working with local doctors to establish a family medicine model in Quito.

"The [health authorities] realized that family doctors have a mandate to care for everyone using limited resources, and they saw that family medicine is a bargain," Dr. B noted.

Now he's working with Central Asian medical partners who launched the country's first private family medicine clinic in March—an opportunity for staff to incorporate the gospel as a part of their medical practice.

"Having lived through this scenario before and having been assigned to work with a local partner who has a history of working in this area, I see that God's timing seemed perfect," Dr. B said.

Plans are to develop a network of family practice clinics scattered throughout this country. Reach Beyond will also continue holding annual medical caravans in rural areas, sharing Christ's love and physical care, paving the way for permanent medical facilities. 

PRAY

Pray for the right mix of local and expatriate partners to come together in unity to build His kingdom in Central Asia.

TESTIMONY OF FAITH

Local media partners in Central Asia recently shared this story from a listener to the programs they broadcast:

Assel (*name changed for security reasons*) was devastated. She'd done all she could to raise her five children while her husband worked abroad. Sometimes he sent her money, but it was never enough, so she and the children grew and sold vegetables to supplement the funds he sent.

One day she received a "gift" from her husband—an old mobile phone with a note that said, "I'm leaving you and the kids because I've found another wife. I don't want to see you anymore. You must learn how to earn money and raise the kids by yourself."

"Everything for me seemed unreal," Assel confided. "At first I didn't tell my kids what their father said."

Assel saw suicide as her only way out. "There was nothing left for me to do in this life," she lamented, praying that Allah would forgive her for what she was about to do. Waiting for her children to fall asleep, she pulled out that mobile phone and came across a Christian radio program.

"I heard the voice of someone praying for families and kids," she shared. "As I started to pray with that voice, I felt an inner peace—a kind of confidence that all would be OK. I began to understand God's love ... just what we needed to survive."

"And we will survive!" Assel exclaimed. "Thank you, guys. You saved my life, and my children still have their mother. God bless you and your families."

RED HOT

What's red hot at Reach Beyond? Think CHILI. And it's more than just a "small pepper with a very spicy flavor."

CHILI—Community Health Intercultural Learning Initiative (a name birthed during a brainstorming session at a Mexican restaurant)—is a two-year program for

adults of all ages with a passion for missions that launches on Sept. 1.

Participants will take six months of community development training in the Amazonian town of Shell, Ecuador, followed by 18 months of service in an unreached area of another country.

“I am very excited about CHILI,” says Sheila Leech, Reach Beyond’s vice president of global healthcare. “Almost every week we hear of opportunities opening up for us to serve as the hands of Jesus among unreached people groups. Our greatest limitation has been a lack of human resources. CHILI will help prepare dynamic, passionate servants to go into the fields that are ripe for harvest. I can hardly wait to see what God will do through CHILI-prepared workers.”

The mission is seeking people who have the heart of a servant and a passion to reach the lost—not necessarily a long list of qualifications or experience, added Jenna King, a recruiter at the Reach Beyond Ministry Service Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“We would much rather have one person with a heart for Jesus than a dozen people just looking for a cross-cultural experience,” she noted.

Wim de Groen, team leader of clean water projects in Ecuador and national coordinator of CHILI, says the program’s focus will be spreading the gospel to “closed, hard-to-reach places.”

“Community development and primary healthcare are our tools—our wheelbarrows rolling into those places so we can create opportunities to share the message of Jesus Christ,” he explains. “Though the years we see more and more Christians who are very good at their jobs, have a passion for Christ and are willing to commit

for a couple of years.”

De Groen says the program will be used to “equip and empower participants to reach into those unreached places.... Community development is the approach we take to interact in a healthy way with communities to address their needs. It’s not bound to any profession.”

“We would much rather have one person with a heart for Jesus than a dozen people just looking for a cross-cultural experience...”

The first annual training sessions will host “experienced trainers from around the world who will guide students in our new leaning center. Each lesson will be followed up with practical real-life applications in the field.”

Participants will learn the biblical basis of missions and learn practical skills ranging from blacksmithing to horseback riding, drilling water wells, doing first-aid, cooking with a wood fire “and even making espresso in the barest circumstances!” de Groen exclaims.

“We’ll form them into a team, teach them how to receive and give feedback, show them when to lead and when to let go, explain how to set goals and teach them how not to lose the big picture.”

GET INVOLVED

Ask God if He wants you to get involved with CHILI, transforming communities and bringing hope to the lost in hard-to-reach areas. Pray for God’s leading as the first group of participants begins to study on Sept. 1. For details, visit reachbeyond.org/chili.



Saving lives is a daily occurrence for Canadian Reach Beyond missionary Annette Lievaart.

A respiratory therapist serving at Tenwek Hospital in a remote area of Kenya, Annette helps keep patients alive before, during and after treatment. She's worked at the hospital for 2½ years, but only recently joined Reach Beyond, which helped build a hydroelectric plant in the 1980s to power the hospital.

Annette often finds herself in the emergency room or the intensive care unit at the hospital founded by World Gospel Mission and currently operated by Africa Gospel Church. There she may encounter a middle-aged man suffering from pneumonia, a young woman

struggling after a suicide attempt, or an older smoker fighting to live following a heart attack.

"It's a joy when patients whom you don't expect to do well get better, knowing they wouldn't have survived without your services," Annette related.

Take 2-year-old Abigail who arrived in the ER with severe burns to her hands, head and neck. She'd fallen into a cooking fire—something not all that uncommon in Kenya.

"She was on and off a ventilator for nearly three months," Annette recounted. "She often had to go into surgery for dressing changes and skin grafts. My job was to keep her breathing."



Joy of Service

Before each procedure, Annette and medical staff members prayed with the mother who came daily to see her daughter. Finally Abigail was well enough to go back home.

Not all stories end so happily, and serving in Kenya is full of challenges. Annette realizes she could easily return to her high-paying job in Alberta, but she wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

“Life isn't all about earning money,” she said. “Tenwek is where God wants me right now. There's a lot of good I can do while sharing God's love. And only four people in all of Kenya have my specialty, so I can teach/train others. There's a lot of joy in that!” 📌

Motivation for Service

It's in all of us—an uncontrollable draw to connect, to make our lives count for something. We want the world to miss us when we are gone. We want to hear our Lord say, “Good job, faithful servant” when we gaze into His eyes.

It is something God has crafted into our hearts—desires that defy the voices in our minds. Instead of listening to, “Stay safe, stay comfortable, stay focused on you,” He challenges us to “Go out, go where it's uncomfortable, die to yourself.” This isn't for the faint of heart. At the same time, there are no superheroes.

Missionaries are a strange breed. What compels them to throw their lives into the chaos of relocation and adaptation? Why go to the places where faith is met with hostility?

It's not necessarily because they have spirituality of epic proportion, specialized training or even a passion to reach the lost. They often choose to go against the comfortably safe lifestyle simply because God asks them to. He opens the door, and they walk through it.

God uses the broken, the quirky, the passionate, the timid. More importantly, He uses the willing—those willing to open their hearts to love those who may be hostile to the gospel, willing to play a part, willing to sweat in the heat, often waiting for years to see results. They're willing to step out in faith, trusting God to provide.

What motivates missionaries isn't just measurable results, but the expression of worshiping a loving God through their obedience. Maybe you're meant to stay, but maybe God is opening a door that you need to walk through.



As a child attending a one-room schoolhouse in northwestern Iowa, Roger Stubbe never dreamed that someday he would be honored before thousands for a lifetime of missionary service.

But that's what happened Friday, Feb. 26, in front of 2,000 people as he received one of six National Religious Broadcasters Milestone Awards for 50 years of media service.


"I'm humbled by it—that my wife, Joyce, and I could serve that long and serve usefully for so many years," said Roger, pointing out that he recently passed the 51-year mark—all of it with Reach Beyond. He continues to help with radio ministry to such places as North Africa, Central Asia and the Asia Pacific Region.

An engineer, Roger has done a variety of media-related jobs throughout the years, whether it be installing transmitters and

antennas for Radio Station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador, heading up the station's Spanish broadcasts or directing the Sub-Saharan Africa Region.

After transferring to Colorado Springs in 1995, Roger became more involved with "World by Radio," a cooperative effort to make Christian broadcasts available in all the world's "mega-languages."

He worked with local media partners to put 11 of these languages on the air in Africa and Asia. As a result, over 100 million people could turn on their radios and hear gospel broadcasts in their own languages for the first time.

"We didn't really know what we were getting ourselves into when we went out to serve," Roger admitted. "But I'd do it all over again. It's an amazing journey that would not be possible without the prayer and support of hundreds of people." 



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REACH BEYOND
1065 Garden of the Gods Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907-3405
719.590.9800

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Take your stand

May 15, 2016

“With more than 2 billion people who haven’t had a chance to meet Jesus, it’s time for the Body of Christ to take a radical stand and say, ‘This has to end in our generation.’”

—**Rick Warren**
pastor, author