

2014
SPRING

Voice & Hands

HCJB Global is now

reach
beyond!

Moving
Mountains in
Nepal
Pg. 6

Celebrate with Us!
10 Years, 100 Radio Stations
on the Air in Asia Pacific

Pg. 8

A Debilitating Illness
Called "Heaven"
Pg. 10



a word
from
Wayne



Reach Beyond President

Dear Friend,

Bakhar (name changed for his personal protection) has a bounty on his head. It's not because of any crime he's committed. It's because he is planting Christian radio stations in a resistant part of the world. To him the risk is worth any price. Why? Because he loves Jesus and he loves the lost.

I'm amazed by his work, but even more so by his fearless resolve. "If they catch me, they will likely kill me," he shared once. "But if that is the price I must pay for Christ, so be it."

The Reach Beyond Manifesto says, "We refuse to fear the darkness that entraps people when common sense says, 'protect yourself.' We will put on the armor of God and pray fervently for the sake of the unreached."

To Bakhar, these words are his daily reality. I'm challenged by this. I've experienced some discomfort for my faith—an occasional sneer or a person who disagrees with something I say. But I've never risked my life for the sake of the gospel.

I also know that I want to be so committed to sharing the love of Christ that I would not be deterred—even if my life were required. That's what reaching beyond is all about. We're not all called to risk our lives, but we are all called to be active in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Please join us in supporting people like Bakhar—people willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of the unreached.

Serving Christ together,

Wayne

Wayne Pederson
President, Reach Beyond
(formerly HCJB Global)

To learn more visit
ReachBeyond.org

gearing
UP

Players of Hope

The Amazon River winds for thousands of miles through deep mountain ravines and lush tropical jungles. It's teeming with life of the most exotic kinds. But woven throughout the miles in which the Amazon flows are thousands of unreached people who are precious in the sight of God, yet few know what it means to trust Jesus.

Taking the good news to such people is a tremendous challenge and an even greater opportunity. Reach Beyond missionaries are taking Players of Hope—solar-powered MP3-like audio players loaded with Scripture, biblical teaching, music and other tools—deep into the Amazon jungles and straight to the heart of the people.

While a missionary can typically only meet with a limited number of people, Players of Hope become treasured possessions in the hands of the villagers. These “solar-powered missionaries” are giving entire communities the opportunity to encounter the God of the Bible, often for the first time, and lives are being changed for eternity.

This year Reach Beyond is working to provide 500 more Players of Hope to people living along the Amazon. In addition, we're establishing a portable recording studio that will enable local missionaries and believers to record programming that will take the gospel message much further than any individual can.

The cost to provide the players and establish the recording studio is \$37,356. Pray that God would provide the resources necessary to complete the project. More importantly, please join us in praying that God would use these simple devices to change eternity for those who listen.

**Join us at
reachbeyond.org**





Corrientes—Changing the Current of Missions to the Unreached

*Dr. Isabela is a Bolivian pediatrician who has a clear sense of where God wants her in the future—reaching Muslims in Europe. But she recognizes her need to be well prepared before she leaves. That’s why she’s in Quito, Ecuador, studying in *Corrientes*, Reach Beyond’s mentoring program to help prepare Latin American missionaries for service overseas.

Corrientes, a Spanish word that literally means “currents,” symbolizes the movement of God’s people around the world and the movement of the Holy Spirit in people’s hearts.

“Today’s Latin American missionaries are professionals,” explains *Corrientes* Director Carlos Pinto. “However, they often go out with a lot of passion but with little orientation in cross-cultural skills.” In response, one of the key aspects of the program is pairing participants with multiple experienced missionary mentors in areas such as personal spiritual formation, cross-cultural relationships, language acquisition and vocational internship.

Among those mentoring Isabela is *Blanca, an Ecuadorian missionary who has spent 11 years ministering to Muslims in Europe. Another is Dorothy Nelson who has traveled with her husband, Steve, a physician, on numerous Reach Beyond emergency medical response teams, sharing God’s love with children. Isabela said she’s thrilled to learn from Dorothy’s experience as she has a similar passion and talent.

Isabela is also grateful for her vocational internship at Reach Beyond’s community medical clinic in Pifo. “This is exactly what I wanted to experience—to see Christian doctors, nurses and dentists treating and sharing God’s Word with their patients,” she related. Her adviser there is the clinic’s director, *Dr. Carolina, a *Corrientes* graduate.

Specializing in AIDS and spiritual counseling, Betty Van Engen, a Reach Beyond nurse, teaches the “Saline Solutions” class. The course is geared to

coach medical personnel on how to effectively share about God in the few seconds or minutes they have with patients, encouraging them spiritually and emotionally while treating them physically.

One of the former participants, Ecuadorian physician *Dr. Sofia, had joined a medical team treating cholera patients in Haiti. Through a translator, she talked with two of her patients who eagerly accepted Christ even though she cautioned this would mean having to give up voodoo. She credits *Corrientes* for giving her the courage to share her faith in that situation.

Leaving family to serve in a faraway country is something that goes against Hispanic culture—another area where *Corrientes* can help, reducing the attrition rate among Latin American missionaries.

“I’m a medical doctor with a call to serve as a missionary in a closed country, but my parents are not happy with my idea of leaving home,” admitted *Mateo. “Yet I feel God’s call too strongly and too deep in my soul to disobey it.”

Corrientes staff members make it a priority to meet with family members who have been “left behind,” helping them cope with the anxiety of being separated from their children or siblings. In one case, two single *Corrientes* participants whose mothers met during a get-together became fast friends and are now supporting each other outside of *Corrientes* meetings while their children serve on opposite sides of the globe.

Since its launch in 2009, *Corrientes* has prepared and mentored more than 40 Latin American believers who now serve as missionaries around

the world, typically among unreached or hard-to-reach people groups.

Reach Beyond is privileged to be part of this “current” initiative, eager for the day when Isabela, Mateo and others will also arrive in their places of service, prepared to minister effectively in the places God has called them to serve.

* Students’ names changed for security purposes.

“Since its launch in 2009, Corrientes has prepared and mentored more than 40 Latin American believers who now serve as missionaries around the world...”





MOVING MOUNTAINS IN NEPAL

by Sheila Leech, vice president of international healthcare

I've always dreamed of visiting Nepal—seeing five-mile-high mountains and Sherpas who are brave enough to climb them. I hoped one day to visit as a tourist and trek along one of the famous routes. This year I got to visit Nepal twice, but not as a tourist and not to trek. Yes, I saw indescribably beautiful mountains towering high into the Himalayan sky. However, what I saw and heard on the ground blew me away much more than the winds blowing down off the mountain peaks.

Meet *Paul, a young married Nepali man born into a privileged Brahman family. When he met Christ and committed his life to serving Him, in the eyes of his family and friends he threw away the “84,000 reincarnations” it had taken him to become a Brahman. He became worse than an untouchable—a Christ-follower. Now he pastors a small church and reaches out to his family and community by equipping other church planters. His radiant face as he shared his story spoke louder than words.... Whatever I gained I count it as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus as Lord.

Meet *Mahima who has paid dearly for professing her faith in Jesus. When she became a Christian, her husband and oldest son both shunned her. She was forced to leave her home and find ways to care for her younger son alone. When our team arrived, we hired Mahima to help take care of us. She washed dishes, fetched wood and served us in countless unseen ways, joyful because she knows Jesus is much more valuable than anything she lost. As the work team boarded the bus to leave the village, she wept openly, clasping the men's hands one by one and hugging the women team members fiercely. Her faith and hunger for Christian fellowship was fearless despite the persecution she endures.

Meet *Miriam who had been rescued by a Christian group (led by our Nepali radio partner in a remote community) after being trafficked and sold into slavery. While spending nine months in a “safe house” following her rescue, she heard about Christ and committed her life to Him. She immersed herself into studying God’s Word and threw herself into leading the small church in her village. She manages the water well projects there, runs a savings club for women and is working on getting latrines installed for the community. She truly understands the transforming power of Jesus Christ in her life and longs that others would too. It was also gratifying for me last November to take part in midwife training at the new birthing clinic that Reach Beyond and volunteers helped build in the same community as the radio station.

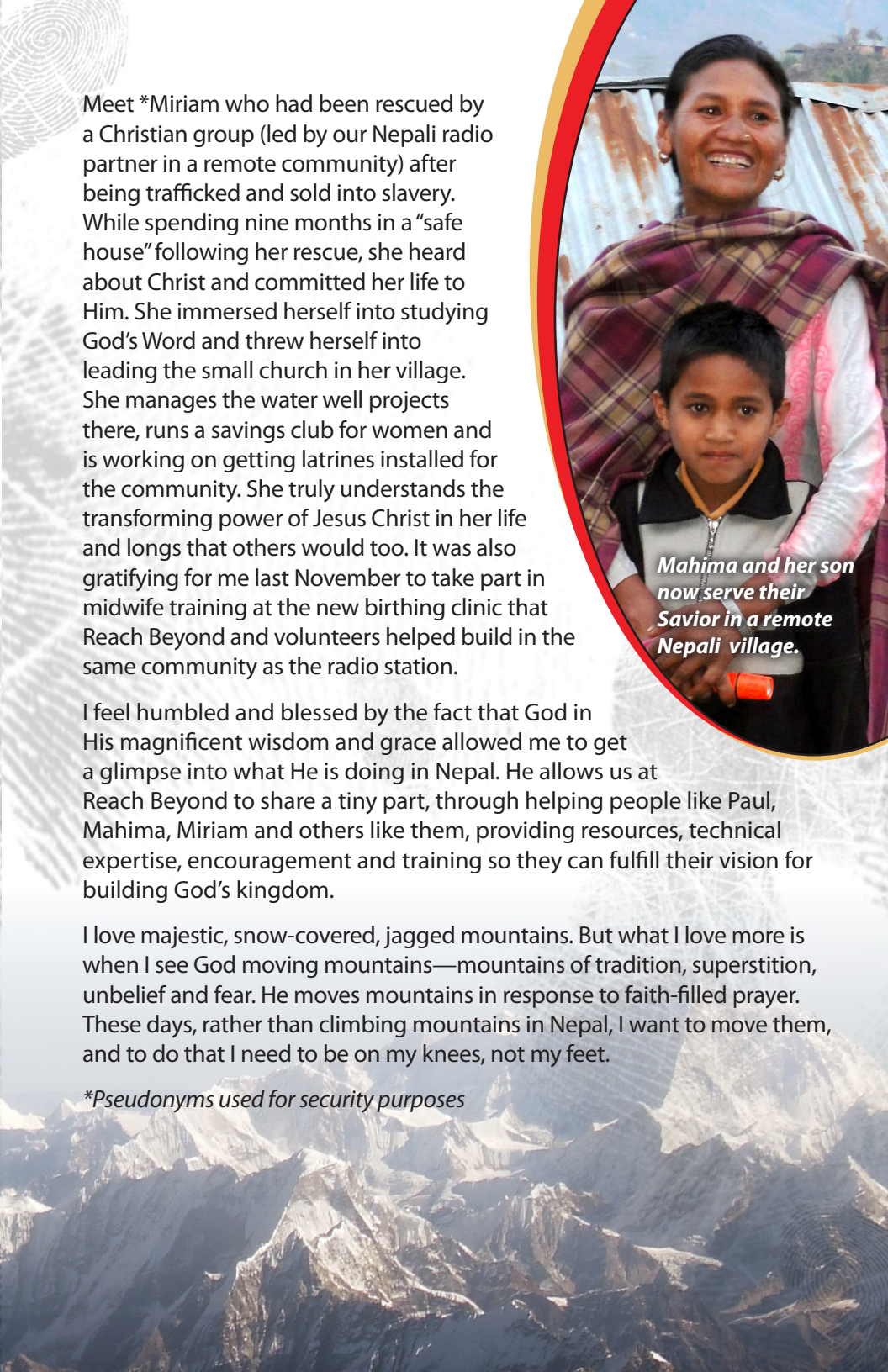
I feel humbled and blessed by the fact that God in His magnificent wisdom and grace allowed me to get a glimpse into what He is doing in Nepal. He allows us at Reach Beyond to share a tiny part, through helping people like Paul, Mahima, Miriam and others like them, providing resources, technical expertise, encouragement and training so they can fulfill their vision for building God’s kingdom.

I love majestic, snow-covered, jagged mountains. But what I love more is when I see God moving mountains—mountains of tradition, superstition, unbelief and fear. He moves mountains in response to faith-filled prayer. These days, rather than climbing mountains in Nepal, I want to move them, and to do that I need to be on my knees, not my feet.

**Pseudonyms used for security purposes*



*Mahima and her son
now serve their
Savior in a remote
Nepali village.*



VOICE ACTIVATED



ASIA PACIFIC: 10 YEARS, 100 STATIONS, 100,000 BELIEVERS AND COUNTING ...

On Friday, Feb. 28, Reach Beyond celebrated the establishment of the 100th partner station in the Asia Pacific Region since the office was founded in 2004. Regional Executive Director Ty Stakes tells about the milestone.

Why are these stations so strategic in spreading the gospel?

Radio is a platform that has added to our partners' existing outreach strategies. Radio then becomes a huge amplifier for their message and ministry because in these countries, local FM is still the most important communication medium for community information.

How would you describe the spiritual response to the broadcasts?

According to our radio partners, a conservative estimate is that 10,000 are coming to Jesus per year across the region via the broadcasts. In some cases they're also planting churches. In one unreached area data shows that radio has contributed to the establishment of more than 150 house fellowships and some 450 discovery Bible studies in the last three years. This movement is growing fast.

How did Reach Beyond go about planting 100 stations?

We formed radio-planting partnerships with local people to empower them to reach their communities using FM radio. In those partnerships, we provide broadcast equipment, training and technical support in the long-term relationship. In short, with God's help, we make their vision a reality.

What challenges needed to be overcome?

The challenges we have faced are common to most ministries: funding, finding the

100 Stations in Asia Pacific Since 2004

Indonesia	53
Thailand	38
Nepal	7
Cambodia	1
Undisclosed country	1

right partners and fighting the battle spiritually. By God's grace, we have overcome all of these challenges in the last 10 years, providing awesome partners, fertile fields, funding and team members.

Tell about the celebration to mark this milestone.

There was no fanfare—just a pastor and a few engineers, technicians and trainers in an improvised studio at a small church in northeastern Thailand. At the microphone a nervous pastor prepared to go on the air for the first time. On the other side of the studio, some 30 people were taking a radio training course. But for the 50 to 60 believers in this small church, it marked the beginning of their dream—a vision and passion to use radio to share the good news of Jesus in their community. This church is the only one in a district with about 200 villages and a population of more than 130,000.

Is spiritual openness growing in Nepal?

Yes, the church is increasing rapidly in Nepal, and this is simply a God-thing. The Lord has decided to move in this place that was so dark and closed for centuries. There is still a stigma attached to Christianity even though people there now have freedom to follow Jesus. Having freedom, however, doesn't mean it will be easy. The church is growing, yet there is strong opposition.

What is the vision of Reach Beyond's Nepali partners?

Our friends in Nepal have a vision to start 25 to 30 stations nationwide that will work with in partnership with us. This is a God-sized vision, for sure. It is indeed an encouraging development and shows God's favor toward the work. Praise Him!



The Reach Beyond Asia Pacific team prays in the studio in Thailand just before the station goes on the air.



Dr. Steve Nelson examines a young African girl during his recent trip to Ghana.

A Debilitating Illness Called 'Heaven'

Ananias was a young boy “deposited” at one of the free, one-day medical clinics held with ministry partner Theovision as part of Reach Beyond’s internship program in Ghana last summer.

The term “deposited” is apropos as the boy had been wheeled in by an unidentified person who parked him in the sun and wandered off. He remained there for hours, unmoving and alone, until one of the nurses wheeled him to a doctor.

His name was Ananias, and he suffered from numerous maladies. A translator tried to tell Reach Beyond physician Steve Nelson what was

wrong. It turned out that translator was Jacob, Ananias’ father.

Jacob said his son had a case of “heaven.” Obviously, something wasn’t translating correctly, but soon it became clear what the problem was as Jacob sounded it out, syllable by syllable: “ep-i-lep-sy.”

Seizures often shook Ananias’ body, said Jacob, who explained that they called this illness heaven because “we believe that spirits from above bring diseases. The children with ‘heaven’ look up as the convulsion begins.”

Dr. Nelson asked Jacob if he were a Christian. “A strong one,” he replied, “but I also believe much damage has been done in my village by spirits.”

Jacob wanted the doctor to heal his son. “I had a dream that Ananias could walk,” he recounted. “My son has wanted all his life to be taken to see a ‘white man’ in the hopes that he might walk like others.”

As the doctor looked at Ananias’ atrophied lower legs and the huge

calluses on his knees that had developed from years of crawling, he could feel his own heart breaking. What could he say to this worried father?

Dr. Nelson explained that his healing powers were limited to medical knowledge, and anything beyond that was up to God. He and the nurses did what they could to treat Ananias' epilepsy. They also gave him medicine for malaria.

Before Jacob and his son left, the doctor took a moment to make sure they knew that God loved and cared for them both very much. He also related that heaven wasn't a disease, but a place where people spend eternity with God.

"In heaven," he explained, "each of us receives a new body. In heaven, your son will walk once again. Everything that malaria, epilepsy and poverty have stolen from him will one day be restored in the presence of his healer and Savior."

Ananias smiled as his father wheeled him away. He now knew what heaven really was, and he had the assurance that he would experience this wonderful place himself someday.

The world is full of people just like Ananias—people who are suffering, who don't know God loves them—people whom Reach Beyond is passionate to help.

This is just one of the many inspiring stories that appear in Wayne Pederson's new book, Reach Beyond. To download your copy, see the ad below.

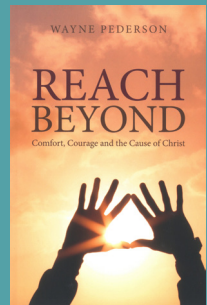
"In heaven your son will walk once again. Everything ... will one day be restored in the presence of his healer and Savior."

HOT off the press ...

Reach Beyond

Comfort, Courage and the Cause of Christ

Reach Beyond President Wayne Pederson opens his heart in the pages of his new book, called *Reach Beyond*. Read about Wayne's journey from a farm in northern Minnesota to the jungles of Ghana. But more importantly, read about lives that have been transformed through the power of the gospel when reached by the "voice" and "hands" of Jesus.



For a free downloadable copy, visit
reachbeyond.org/books

Perseverance Paves the Way for Gospel in Guinea-Bissau

“Perseverance” may be the best word to describe “Bynas,” a radio partner in the small West African country of Guinea-Bissau.

It was 18 years ago that Bissunsate Na Sil—his full name—first had the vision to launch the country’s first full-time Christian radio station.

From the onset, Bynas was faced with roadblocks—lack of funds and equipment, difficulty receiving a broadcasting license, technical problems and at least three coups in the country since 1999.

Feeling discouraged, Bynas’ hopes were renewed when he shared his dream of Christian broadcasting with American missionary John Hiskey, founder and president of Servants to Missions, a ministry with a heart to bring the gospel message to Guinea-Bissau. He and his wife, Rachel, first came to Guinea-Bissau on a short-term trip in the early 1990s, eventually becoming full-time missionaries in 2002. They were based in Gabu, a city of 200,000.

“With a literacy rate of just 40%, he saw radio was an ideal medium to reach the local population for Christ....”

Hiskey saw Christian radio as a key strategy to spread the gospel message in Guinea-Bissau, a country steeped in Islam and traditional religions. More than a third of the 1.7 million residents are animists or engaged in spiritism. Another 52 percent are Muslim, and just 1.6 percent are evangelical believers.

With a literacy rate of just 40 percent, he saw radio was an ideal medium to reach the local population for Christ, especially as nearly every citizen has access to a transistor radio despite the nation’s widespread poverty.

It was Hiskey who first contacted Reach Beyond’s Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Office in Accra, Ghana, several years ago. Engineer Jeremy Maller conducted the initial site survey. Then a group of brothers who own a company in Minnesota donated funds to Reach Beyond to pay for the studio equipment.



Gomes tunes in to the first test broadcast.

"We encountered delays all along the way," related Hiskey. "But it wasn't until after the coup in mid-2012 that we realized what God was doing. Had there not been delays, our radio station would have been destroyed during the coup along with all the other stations in the country."

A year ago, staff from the HCJB Global Technology Center in Elkhart, Ind., traveled to Gabu to install a tower, antenna, transmitter and studio equipment. Finally, the first test broadcasts went out. Brief as they were, Fernando Gomes, a guard at the campus where the new station is located, heard those initial broadcasts.



Despite being a Muslim, 73 year-old Gomes was excited to tune in to *Rádio Evangélica FM* on his tiny radio. "I am very happy with your work here," he said. "Keep doing what you are doing. We cannot repay you ... but God will!"

While the test broadcasts were a success, the staff had to wait another eight months before receiving final government approval to officially go on the air on January 14, 2014.

"The broadcasts cover about two-thirds of the nation," explained Hiskey. "The signal reaches the borders to the north, east and south and about two-thirds of the way across the nation to the west. It's a real blessing."



Solar-powered 'Missionaries' Spread the Gospel Where People Can't Go

“While the church planter was not allowed to share the good news of Jesus, the message that flowed through the radio began to change the hearts of the villagers.”

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

Sadly, there are times when the story of Jesus and those who share it just aren't welcome. But even resistance can't stop the love of Christ.

Again and again, a Christian church planter had tried to enter an animistic village in Indonesia to share the gospel, but the chief refused to let him in. The chief saw the gospel as a threat not only to the community but to his power as chief.

But the church planter was determined....

Several years later he returned and handed out solar-powered radios to the village leaders. Thrilled with these gifts, the entire community came together to listen to the programs. The radios were fixed-tuned to a new local radio station in the area—one operated by believers. While the church planter was not allowed to personally share the good news of Jesus, the message that flowed through the radio began to change the hearts of the villagers.

Within weeks, the church planter was invited to visit and teach the people more about Jesus Christ. The chief, his 100-year-old mother and many others in the village became believers, and a church was planted there.

That's the result when someone refuses to stand idly by as others enter eternity without Christ. One man, one radio, one message—lives changed forever.

Thanks for your support of the SonSet Effect.

**Learn more about the
SonSet Effect at
ReachBeyond.org**



Reach Beyond

A song by Ty Stakes
Executive director, Asia Pacific Region

I've run in circles, I've been afraid,
But I've been awed by the sunrise and the wonders You have made.
I've judged my brother, I've been unkind,
But You showed mercy in my sorrow, and Your truth has changed my mind.

And I wondered, "Why would You reach out to me?
Was I not beyond help, was I not beyond reach?"

(Chorus) You reach beyond every limit, crossing time and space.
You reach beyond majestic beauty to this broken, needy place.
You reach beyond heaven's glory to hang upon a cross.
You reach beyond every border, counting everything as loss.
You reach beyond, You reach beyond ... for us.

No turning back now, I offer You my life.
Help me follow Your example and be a living sacrifice.
Use my voice, Lord, use my hands, speak the truth,
Touch the hurting, let the broken understand ...

That because of Your love, You reach out to me.
No one You've created is beyond Your reach!

(Chorus)

I'm afraid to cross the boundary of all I know and all I see.
Help me reach beyond my fears to live what I believe!

(Chorus)

Reach Beyond® song lyrics
© Reach Beyond, 2014



Dan and Sheryl Shedd



Sometimes serving as missionaries is a generational thing. Take Dan and Sheryl Shedd who've served as Reach Beyond missionaries for 26 years—most of those in Quito, Ecuador. Both came aboard with a solid Christian heritage.

"I was born to missionary parents in Bolivia and grew up mainly in Chile and in Uruguay in my high school years," Dan said. "My parents and grandparents were missionaries."

Sheryl spent part of her formative years in Japan where her parents served as short-term missionaries. Both Dan and Sheryl came to Christ as young children and grew up seeing the needs of missions firsthand.

They were part of the same class at Wheaton College where Dan and Sheryl majored in economics and math respectively. They married in 1984, both landing excellent jobs. But they missed the mission field.

In one critical week in 1986, the Shedd's spoke with veteran missionaries Tom and Lois Fulghum who told them about the need in Quito for an accountant and a math teacher. They hosted a visiting Reach Beyond missionary couple, and saw slides taken by Sheryl's cousin

while in Ecuador on a short-term missions trip. Less than two years later they arrived in Ecuador to serve with Reach Beyond.

Dan has served in key administrative posts ranging from finance controller to his present position as vice president/executive director of the Latin America Region. Sheryl has taught mathematics and music, and together they've reared eight children—all committed believers.

Dan is now guiding the mission through a transition time in Ecuador, especially with the closure of some longtime ministries and the transfer of others to national ministries, following the pattern of 2 Timothy 2:2, "... entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

Visit ReachBeyond.org

Consider joining the Shedd's' support team as they seek to reach the unreached.

Vol. 9, No. 2

Visit us at ReachBeyond.org

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



REACH BEYOND-CANADA
3 - 44 Saltsman Drive
Cambridge, ON N3H 4R7
519.650.5444

Follow us on



facebook & twitter
through reachbeyond.org