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Missions

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Thinking It Through

BY WARREN HENDERSON

Lead Softly

Jacob was not a perfect husband or father, but he exhibited a number of good shepherding qualities in caring for and guiding his family. God blessed Jacob in Padan Aram while also diminishing his deceitful father-in-law's herds and flocks. Tensions were mounting. After 20 years of silence the Lord interceded by speaking to Jacob: "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you." (Genesis 31:3) Jacob's response was commendable; he immediately informed his wives of God's word: "I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family." (Genesis 31:13) God called Jacob home to Bethel, a place where he and God could dwell together.

As his family's spiritual leader, Jacob had the huge responsibility to oversee his family's demeanor toward God. Progression and continuance toward Bethel symbolized increasing family devotedness to God. It is the same for Christian families today: fathers must consistently advance their families heavenward. Fathers must make every effort to expose their children to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so they too can be born again and enter into an abiding relationship with God. Then, fathers are to encourage their children's continued pursuit of God and to maintain communion with Him.

Before the journey began, Jacob explained the Word of God to Rachel and Leah. Husbands must prioritize their schedules, so teaching the Word of God to their families is first place. Sometimes parents assume the easy way out by teaching a list of "dos and don'ts" or "the whats" but do not invest the time to teach "the whys" of Scripture. If parents want the "whats" to remain in their children, they must be faithful to teach the "whys." Enforcing traditions and personal preferences are poor substitutes for freshly exploring God's Word together as a family. A Christian family is not a household of Christians, but a Christian household, that is, a safe haven where all pursue the heart of God and where His Word has the final say in all matters of life. Family members follow when the one leading is a man of the

Book. Jacob was such a man, and his wives stood with him on the decision to leave.

Jacob and his family secretly departed the region. Thankfully, a few days later, the Lord protected Jacob from a wrathful Laban who pursued him some 300 miles. But Jacob had another worry—he had to face his brother Esau who vowed to kill him. Again, the Lord intervened on Jacob's behalf by soothing Esau's heart. As a result the two brothers warmly embraced each other. Esau wanted Jacob to dwell with him in Seir, but that was not where God wanted Jacob. The situation became awkward when Esau offered to escort Jacob and his family to a location contrary to God's destination for them. Years of shepherding experience guided Jacob's response to Esau: "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die. Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure." (Genesis 33:13–14)

Jacob displayed a spectacular barrage of shepherding wisdom. He knew his family's needs, limitations, and what they could endure. He led softly according to that knowledge. He did not overdrive them for even one day so that harm would not result. He would not allow others to interfere with his task of guiding his family.

Jacob understood it was his responsibility to lead his family's spiritual journey, and he did not delegate his duty even under pressure to do so. Too many men today are shirking their God-given occupation for complacency. Jacob had his faults, but he exhibited a good shepherding model for us: fathers must know their families' needs and limitations, then lead them softly by a pure example that heeds and reveals God's Word, not overdriving them by authority or scattering them by delegating it. May God give us imperfect fathers grace to follow this example and lead our families heavenward. ■

Warren Henderson serves in full-time ministry in Ottawa, Kansas.

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Surprised by God in Iran

*Voice of Christ Media
Ministries*

We never expected this! My wife and I served as missionaries in Iran in the 1970s. But everything changed when the Islamic Revolution broke out in late 1978. The Shah of Iran was overthrown. A harsh Islamic government took power. The name of the country changed to the "Islamic Republic of Iran." Missionary work stopped as we and other missionaries were forced to leave the country.

Then, in the early 1980s, God began a work in Iran that had never before been seen. Hungry to know about Jesus, Muslims flocked to the few churches that existed. A growing number became Christians even though they knew it could cost them their lives.

Today, many Iranians are disillusioned with Islam and open to the Gospel.

Many Muslims are repelled by radical Islam

In his book *Answering Jihad*, Nabeel Qureshi points out that most Muslims do not understand the Quran. It is written in a language that is not their native tongue and one that was spoken many centuries ago. Muslims rely on centuries of interpretation

defined by Islamic jurists. As Qureshi points out, this is an Islam looking for a reformation.

But things are changing. Like the Protestant Reformation, Muslims are increasingly beginning to look to the original texts. As they do so, their eyes are being opened and they are faced with a decision. Will they apostatize, become apathetic or radicalize?

To be sure, this "Islamic Reformation" is leading many into radical Islam. The Quran encourages this. But for every Muslim radicalized, far more are repelled by Islam and the violence. Millions are now on a spiritual search. Today, Iranians are at the forefront of this movement.

Millions of Iranians are on a spiritual search

They long for hope—and they especially want to know more about Jesus. Iranians are still more open and responsive to the Gospel than other Muslim people groups. Never in the history of Iran has God's Word found such fertile ground! Hundreds of thousands have placed their faith in Christ. This is the largest movement from Islam to Christ since Mohammad. In fact, the number of evangelical Christians is growing faster in Iran than in any other country! One day, when we gather in the presence of Christ and give thanks for all He has done for us, we will be joined by believers from every tribe, tongue and nation—including Iranians.

Of course, the government of Iran is aware of this and doing all it can to stop the spread of Christianity. It relentlessly monitors and arrests Christian believers, especially those who are leaders. Scores of Iranian Christians are in prison for their faith. Some have been martyred because of their faith and witness.

Our part

Ever since the 1979 Islamic Revolution engulfed Iran, many have given Iran a "closed country" label. But this really isn't the case. The door may not be wide-open, but there's a big keyhole! There's a way to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every corner of this Muslim land.

This has been our passion for the past four decades. I serve with a team of more than a dozen believers in a ministry called Voice of Christ Media Ministries (VoiceOfChristMedia.org). Our focus is to reach out to Iranians and share the love of Christ through evangelism and discipleship. Muslims need to hear the Gospel. The Church in Iran is young, and new and immature Christians need to be built up in their faith.

Because we cannot live inside Iran, our tools consist of various cutting-edge media and technology that people in Iran

use. We broadcast radio programs to Iranians 24/7 via satellite and internet radio. Our Farsi website (RadioMojdeh.com) contains thousands of written articles and audio programs, the complete Farsi Bible, and many other resources.

We maintain a Farsi Facebook page and produce video clips for our own YouTube channel. To reach the current generation of Iranians, especially youth, we increasingly use mobile technology. We have developed Android and Apple mobile phone apps that play our internet radio station and include other features. Those who want to contact us use Telegram Messenger, a free app for mobile phones and desktop computers that provides secure messaging.

However, the tools are not the main thing. The focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ and making Him known through God's Word. The technology merely enables us to reach out to the hearts of Iranians and share the love of Jesus Christ.



Some of the fruit

When interested website visitors, radio listeners, and Facebook friends contact us and request spiritual help, our follow-up team responds by answering their questions and giving biblical counsel and encouragement.

One man in central Iran wrote us:

I think there are people like me who are in the grip of

sin and corruption who need a perfect Savior—Jesus Christ—and the message of salvation that you present through Radio Mojdeh. I received the gift of salvation through this radio. Your voice could be used to save other people who are deprived of salvation.

Another man who lives in a remote village contacted us via Facebook:

I will never forget about a man who came to our church one time. He gave us a sack full of money and said, "This is my tithe. I have been saving it for 10 years. Then I found out there is a church in this city!" He said that he had been listening to your radio programs for those 10 years and gave his heart to the Lord because of the broadcasts.

Although it takes a long time for some Muslims to understand and accept the Gospel, others come to faith rather quickly. One radio listener wrote:

I was full of all kinds of sin. One day I found Radio Mojdeh and heard a man say, "Jesus died for your sins and is able to save you." Those words went through my heart, and I became a believer right then. He totally changed my life. Nobody could believe it! People asked what happened to me, and I shared the Good News with them.

It is one thing to win converts in Iran. Seeing these converts become mature, faithful followers of Christ is more difficult. However, discipleship growth is happening. Here are two examples:

The Lord saved me. Now that I have found Radio Mojdeh, I am growing more than ever. I am grateful that God allowed me to find this radio station with all your kind teachers. I listen all the time.

I get up with you every morning at 5:30 a.m. and listen to your good radio programs. All the Bible teaching and worship songs are wonderful. Sometimes I record them and listen to them over and over. Then I send them to other people.

You can have a part

Lest you get the impression that the fruit comes easily, we need to stress that we are in a great spiritual battle with the forces of darkness. We face many obstacles in creating our media content, exposing Iranians to it, and seeing it penetrate hearts so it bears fruit.

We desperately need your earnest prayer. You can march



They long for hope—and they especially want to know more about Jesus.

into the spiritual battle and have a part in what God is doing by praying for the following:

1. Pray that the Lord will cause millions of Iranian Muslims to become disillusioned with Islam and be hungry to hear the Gospel.
2. Pray that many Iranians will access our media, see the uniqueness of Jesus, and be convicted of their sin and need for salvation.
3. Pray that thousands of Iranian Christians will be grounded in the Word, encouraged and strengthened as they are exposed to Bible teaching.
4. Pray for persecuted Iranian believers. Pray for their protection and that their faith will remain strong.
5. Pray that God will meet the needs of every one of our team members. We need wisdom, courage, and encouragement.

You may not speak Farsi, but you can have a vital role in sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ with Iranians as you link with us in prayer. Now is not the time to shrink back. Now is the time to double our efforts to reach out to this spiritually open people group in the name of Jesus Christ. ■



Outside the Box

Community Outreach in Zambia

BY PATRICK COLEMAN

The Lord's work is about relationships. Regardless of our vocation, we are admonished to "make disciples of all nations" as we carry out the Great Commission. The first step to make disciples is to build relationships.

Build relationships

When I arrived in Zambia in 1993, after being evacuated from Zaïre (now the D. R. Congo) two years earlier and spending that time going back and forth between the two countries, I was invited to speak at the Rotary Club of Luanshya. They wanted to know what I was doing and my reaction to the events in Zaïre. I took the opportunity to share my work and goals for ministry.

A few weeks later I was invited to join the Rotary Club. After praying about it and conferring with my home church leadership, I agreed to join. My purpose was to get to know the residents of my new "hometown." I did not realize that I was about to have doors opened to new areas of ministry.

Two years later I invited another Luanshya-based missionary to join the Rotary Club of Luanshya. She had seen one of the projects I had initiated (a wheelchair ramp at the town hall) and wanted to be a greater part of the business community as well. Her name was Sherry Welch. After working together on a number of projects, including a polio immunization campaign in Luanshya, our friendship grew into love, and in 1997 I married my best friend.

Be part of the community

Sherry and I are able to reach out into our community because we are seen as more than just "the foreigners or missionaries" in town. We have become an integral part of our community. Through our Rotary connections we have provided water to schools, clinics, orphanages and churches throughout the Luanshya area. Sherry has an impact on young people through her youth classes and Bible correspondence

courses at the Christian Resource Centre. This was enhanced through a Rotary campaign that we presented in the Luanshya district school system to protect children from abuse.

Recently, a group of Texas Rotary Clubs helped us purchase insecticide-treated mosquito nets. We distributed 250 nets to Christian youth ministries, schools and rural churches to protect them from the biggest killer in Africa—malaria. Another 200 nets were given to Luanshya police officers.

Love your neighbor

Years ago Sherry and I were asked by our assembly leaders, "Why join Rotary?" Our answer was simple. When the Lord Jesus Christ was asked in Matthew 22 which of the commandments was the greatest, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:5: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." The Lord Jesus continued telling the Pharisees that the second great commandment was like it by quoting Leviticus 19:18: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

For most believers that first commandment is pretty easy—at least we tell ourselves that. The second commandment is a bit tougher. I can like most of my neighbors if their children are not too noisy, their pets do not soil my lawn and their late-night parties



are quiet by a decent hour, but loving them might take more effort! I am, of course, exaggerating a bit (I hope), but the reality of life is that most believers do not really know their neighbors more than a cursory wave over a fence or an occasional brief conversation during a Little League game.

Being involved in a Rotary Club project gives us the opportunity to actually put Christ's love into practice. Sharing with vulnerable members of our community, providing water to thirsty children, protecting families from malaria and the various other means of showing our neighbors that we really do care for them builds relationships that can lead to opportunities to share the Gospel.

This is not a new concept. Medical missionaries treat patients in rural hospitals without asking them whether or not they are believers, but while they recuperate in the hospital the Good News is shared. Missionary teachers are given the opportunity to share their faith with students along with teaching typical classes. We are able to do the same thing in our community outreach through Rotary.

President Theodore Roosevelt said, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Showing our neighbors that we care has encouraged them to listen to what we have to say about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Rotary avenue has opened up new areas of ministry. We have been introduced to the civic and national leaders in Zambia as well as other parts of Africa. I was invited to open a meeting in prayer in Mombasa, Kenya, and surprised the attendees by doing so in Kiswahili. I have prayed at the Malawian Statehouse for then President Bakili Muluzi. Just last month I was asked to lead two services in Durban, South Africa. All of this was made possible through my Rotary connection.

Our local outreach has expanded to include a deaf ministry in town, and Sherry has been sought out for counseling by several members of the expatriate community. For more than 20 years I have worked closely with the ex-servicemen's league in Luanshya caring for our WWII Zambian veterans. We only have one remaining veteran, Warrant Officer Benson Nkonde (age 95). He refers to me as his "nephew"—a high honor for anyone, especially for a foreigner.

Serve others to share Christ

In 1943 Rotary International adopted "The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do." The test asks the following four questions. "Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendship? Is it beneficial to all concerned?" Created by Herbert J. Taylor, a Christian Rotarian who became the president of Rotary International in the 1950s, this test is used by Rotarians worldwide as a moral code for personal and business relationships. These principles have guided Rotarians for almost three quarters of a century. It is as much a part of Rotary today as the day it was adopted, and it fits perfectly with the commandment to "love our neighbor."

Why Rotary? It opens doors. It leads to evangelistic opportunities. It makes us a part of our community. All of that is good! We encourage you to find ways to serve your local community as a way to share Christ's love. ■



Patrick and Sherry Coleman (pictured here with their Zambian sons, Shadreck Mbayole and Dickson Siwale) are commended by Bethany Bible Chapel, Toms River, New Jersey.



Page 6 (top): Rolling water barrels donated by Rotarians in the United Kingdom with nets donated by Rotarians in Michigan. **Above (L-R):** Rotary Clubs in Texas provided insecticide-treated mosquito nets for students at Mobile Mission Maintenance Vocational Training Centre (MMM VTC); Patrick with Warrant Officer Daimon Mweeta (Ret) of the King's African Rifles, one of the fiercest battle groups of WWII; A truck and sewing machines given to MMM VTC by the Rotary Club of Shenendehowa, New York; Sherry addressing the Rotary Club of Luanshya.

"HE WILL DIRECT YOUR PATH"

God's Leading in Ministry

BY MARK A. SWAIM

Since early childhood, the Lord has stirred in my heart a love for His work around the globe. As a boy, I wrote to missionaries, receiving many letters back that piqued my interest. A weekly missionary emphasis in Sunday school and frequent missionaries' visits to the assembly increased my enthusiasm. By age nine I was certain I wanted to serve the Lord just like the men and women who wrote to me and graciously spent time with me when they passed through our area. The message given to me was clear: "He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:6)

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

I spent my younger years serving the Lord in various ways. As a college student, I spent a semester in Costa Rica and saw firsthand the work being done by David and Kathleen Reid and David and Nancy Booth. It seemed certain the Lord would call me to Costa Rica, but He did not.

The late William Grumbaum invited me to spend a summer in Eastern Europe. That led to contacts and further indication of the Lord's direction and the eventual understanding that the Lord had work for me in Poland. But I could not go. College finances were a burden, one the Lord could immediately take away, but He did not. It can lead to confusion when you believe the Lord's direction has been given. Why the delay? The promise of directing comes with the imperative to trust. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Working and studying from 2 a.m. to 11 p.m. was grueling but part of the Lord's training. At the end of two years, my health was failing, and it all became too much. Had I misunderstood the Lord's call? The prayer went up: "Lord, I know you can clear this college debt in 12 months. I am asking you to do so, or I will understand that the foreign mission field was not the path you chose for me." How did the Lord respond? He provid-

ed a job in Saudi Arabia that would clear up the debt in 12 months. Some of the most fearful moments of my life came when I took that job. On the plane to Saudi I prayed, "Lord, you promise never to leave me nor forsake me; I am now holding you to that promise." What was I doing? Was not the Lord's call to Poland? Circumstances did not point that way. Three weeks after landing, I met a believer and went to meet others. At that first meeting a brother stood and declared, "The Lord has made a promise, that He will never leave you and never forsake you." That year was filled with ministry in a place I never wanted to be. "Trust in the Lord... do not lean on your own understanding... He will direct your path."

A NEW HOME

At the end of the year, there was nothing hindering me from going to Poland. But I wondered if I should be married first. Before leaving Saudi Arabia, I prayed again: "Lord, if I go home for six months, surely it isn't enough time to find a life partner; but I will give you that time frame and then go to Poland." I am not one who advocates these types of prayers—I just did not know what to do. So I committed it to the Shepherd's care. I flew home, and received a huge shock.

No one knew I prayed that prayer. The weekend I landed, my sister-in-law handed me a piece of paper. On it was the name of a young woman I never met, living halfway across the country. My sister-in-law told me that this woman had given her the paper with a message that I could write to her if I wanted to. I stood in utter disbelief. It was January 1997. The woman's name was Tami. We were married in December of the same year.

Two months after our wedding, Tami and I went to Poland to serve the Lord. We preached the Gospel, taught the Word of God, established a Bible program in Kraków, a biannual youth retreat, and an annual conference in Balin. But our main work was in a mountainous region near the Slovak border. There, we organized meetings in our home, combated false teaching,

and had Bible studies for students and youth. We were blessed with five boys, all born in Poland. He directs the believer's path.

AN ALTERED DIRECTION

After 10 years, we realized one of our sons was probably on the autism spectrum. We did not know what to do. After eight months of prayer and counsel, still we had no peace about leaving Poland and no peace about staying. The Lord gives peace, and yet in our situation, He had not. What was the Lord doing?

We came back to the States for an extended furlough. We had plans to stay at our commending assembly in New Jersey, but the Lord had other plans. At a conference, we met Gini Haskell, who offered us a place in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area. After settling in, we learned that a woman at the local assembly was qualified to diagnose our son. Through these events, we sensed the Shepherd's invisible hand directing our path.

Our son was diagnosed on the spectrum with moderate to severe autism. The Sovereign Lord still directed, this time using our son to place us in the States. That changed the dynamics of the work we did, but it did not change the work. I started flying four times a year to Poland and continued preaching the Gospel, teaching the Word of God and mentoring youth, now on a wider scale. These journeys have not been easy and are not the ideal. But the Lord confirmed His direction in various ways.

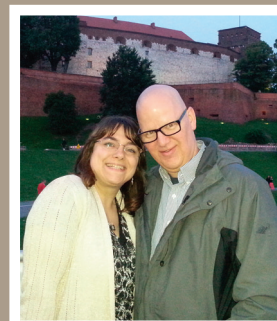
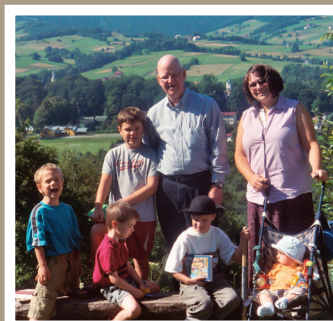
THE LORD CONTINUES TO LEAD

Eight and a half years later, the Lord continues to lead. We now have two sons on the spectrum but are thankful for the progress they have made and the joy we receive from our children. The journeys to Poland continue. Much of what was done is now in the hands of Polish believers, and for that we rejoice.

This is our 20th year in the Lord's work. By experience we have learned about the faithfulness of God, the power of His Word, His wisdom and mercy. Today we encourage more Bible programs like the one in Kraków. Two more are planned currently in Poland. And one is planned in Portugal. There are other open doors. What does it mean? We can approach opportunities from a human perspective, or we can learn to lean heavily on the Shepherd, trusting in Him and waiting on Him. He certainly will continue to direct the path. ■



Mark and Tami Swaim were commended in 1997 by Central Bible Chapel, Palisades Park, New Jersey, and Tami was commended by Bethany Gospel Chapel, Worcester, Massachusetts.



From top (L-R): The assembly in Popardowa, Poland; An annual conference held on Mother's Day in Balin, Poland—Mark helped start this conference and generally speaks at it with three other people; Young people the Swaims worked with in their home in Nowy Sacz; The Swaim family in 2008; Tami and Mark in 2013 in front of Wawel Castle in Kraków.

OPEN DOORS IN FRANCE

BY BRAD & CATHERINE DICKSON



Everybody has one. Aix en Provence, where we live, has many beautiful doors as you see in these pictures. We don't usually think about their importance, but Jesus did: "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved." (John 10:9) So the first door we'd like to talk about is the door of salvation. People are either in or out. Our job is to show them the way. Catherine is reading the Bible with several different seekers right now. Please pray they will understand and accept the Gospel.

Another door we must talk about is the door to our new ministry center. With your faithful prayers and generous gifts God has opened this door! We still have trouble realizing that God has done a true miracle for us. Three years ago we arrived in this expensive city with nothing in our pockets. We now have the keys to a building that we will renovate over the next months. Ideally located near a college campus, it will serve primarily as a student outreach but also as a training center for church planters and as a meeting place for our fledgling church. Please pray for wise decisions and safety during the work.

Then there is the open door for new church planting projects. We came to this region with the intention of planting a network of churches. We set up a training program for new

church planters, and our first group of students is in the middle of the first year of the two-year program. We have several target cities around us, with contacts waiting for someone to come and help them start a new church. They weigh on our hearts like Macedonian calls. Please pray for the Lord to send out more laborers into the harvest. We are seeking French people and missionaries, full-time or self-supported, who are willing to take up a big challenge by faith and in a team setting.

Pray for the Lord to send out more laborers into the harvest.

Lastly, there is the door to our hearts. It is open to you dear brothers and sisters. We often feel our relationship is one-way. We are on the receiving end, benefitting from your gifts and prayers. Please know that we do thank God and pray for you. ■



Brad and Catherine Dickson were commended in 1985 by Fairhaven Bible Chapel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Assiniboia Charleswood Community Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Home with the Lord

Corina Saword

November 12, 1966 – March 25, 2017 • Missionary in El Salvador

Corina Saword unexpectedly passed into the presence of our Lord on March 25, 2017. She fell ill with a severe case of streptococcus pneumonia, which was unresponsive to any medications. We would think this home call came far too soon, but we know the One who called, and He makes no mistakes.

Born in El Salvador on November 12, 1966, Corina was the youngest of five siblings. The Gospel first reached her family via missionaries in Mogotillo, and soon after her mother accepted Christ. A few years later, at age 15, Corina attended the 1981 Easter conference. While there, she came to know Christ as her Savior through the simplicity of the words of John 3:16. She was baptized and received into the assembly fellowship shortly after. Children's work soon became her calling. Until the day the Lord took her home, she was continually exercised to teach young children about the Savior who loves them and longs to reach them (Matthew 19:14). Her class of 25 three to five year olds in El Rosario all commented that their teacher, Corina, truly loved them.

In her early days of children's work she met Craig Saword, who was also involved in the various outreach works. They began a friendship, fell in love, and were married on February 11, 1988. Shortly after, they moved to Arlington, Washington,

Corina spent her life showing God's love to all around her.

and became part of the local assembly. The Lord blessed them with three wonderful sons during this time in Arlington. Corina loved her boys. A wonderful mother, she taught them how to respect, love, and care for each other and the people around them.

In 1992, after having lived in the U.S. for four years, they answered God's call to full-time service for Him. The verses that confirmed to her His calling were Ecclesiastes 5:15-16: "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return, to go

as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath labored for the wind?" Corina never turned back or regretted making such a life-changing decision. She made the mission of her life to bring fruit to God and not meet her Lord empty-handed.

Corina and her husband, Craig, were commended and served the Lord faithfully for 25 years. Those who knew Corina well remember her for taking time to make people feel special. They remember her sound, Christ-centered advice and value in personal conversations. A woman of God, described as resourceful, humorous, and genuine, Corina always stood for what was right, regardless if there was a price to be paid. Corina worked hard without expecting to be praised. Her constant prayer was that more Christians would see the need and hear God's call to the full-time work in El Salvador.

The last Sunday she was in El Rosario, Corina spoke to a young man. Working hard in his university studies, he had drifted away from the Lord. She sat with him and shared the importance of seeking first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). At the funeral, he told us about the advice he had received from Corina. It was the last counsel she ever gave.

A living example of the Gospel, Corina spent her life showing God's love to all around her. She is survived by her husband (Craig), sons (Daniel, Jeffrey, and Steven), mother (Virginia), brother (Victor), sister (Teresa), and several nieces and nephews. Tony Flett, Ike Frazier, Mark Bachert, and Raul Aguirre spoke words of comfort and preached the Gospel at her funeral. More than 1,000 people attended her memorial services. Countless lives were touched by a sister who cared, loved, and lived the Christian life before them. She is truly missed by her family and the believers in El Salvador. Please pray for them as they learn to continue in her absence.

CRAIG, DANIEL, JEFFREY & STEVEN SAWORD

REACHING 2017 HIGHER

Discipleship

BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

In its seventh year, Reaching Higher is a conference to help men and women in their 20s and 30s be refreshed, encouraged and challenged in their spiritual walks and enjoy fellowship with like-minded believers. An annual event held at the Christian Missions in Many Lands Missionary Guest Home in Wall Township, New Jersey, approximately 50 young people from around the U.S. and Canada participate. Held Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, the schedule is filled with five ministry sessions, a question and answer time, three breakout sessions exploring missions or practical issues, a Breaking of Bread worship hour and plenty of time for fellowship, games, and exploring the CMML facilities or local areas.

Held March 17 to 19, this year's conference focused on the theme of discipleship. David Reeve (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 29, Special Areas) reminded the participants that discipleship is God-led and people-involved. Christ commanded His followers to "Go and make disciples." The first step of discipleship is to lead unbelievers to Christ. After that, the discipleship relationship continues to help new believers grow and mature while making new disciples of their own. He warned that we should not leave certain aspects of discipleship to others—we are all meant to lead people to Christ and help others grow. To reinforce the weekend's teaching, Ken Hardisty (MPH Day 11, Philippines) and Don Dunkerton (a New Jersey full-time worker) gleaned from their years of experience to share practical tips for discipleship and growth.

Additional photos from this year's Reaching Higher can be viewed at [Facebook.com/cmmlus](https://www.facebook.com/cmmlus). Lord willing, Reaching Higher will continue next year as a ministry for young believers to be refueled and encouraged in their Christian lives. ■

Annie Elliott is the editor of Missions.

