

# God answers the native cry



Are you ready to GO?  
Watch for this icon  
throughout this issue.

Native Americans  
Catch a Vision for  
Reaching Their Own



OAKS OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS



THEY  
ALL HAVE  
FIRST NAMES



SOWING THE  
GOSPEL IN  
DROUGHT



GROWING THROUGH CHANGE

REACHING FIRST NATIONS  
IN THE CITY

I'M (NOT) "JUST A NURSE"

# God answers the native cry

Native Americans Catch a Vision for Reaching Their Own

*“Satan has sold a bag of lies to my people, and the battle simply comes down to truth.”*

This insight laced with frustration comes from Dio Whiteface, a third-generation student at Mokahum Ministry Center in Bemidji, Minn. →



Dio Whiteface

Dio is from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where a population of roughly 28,000 saw more than 200 suicide attempts between December 2014 and March 2015—a disturbing trend that is all too common among Native American tribes. For Dio, there is no question as to the remedy for this epidemic. “I want them to see and experience the truth of John 3:16, which comes through an authentic relationship with the One who died for our sins,” he said. “Sadly, the feeling among many of my people is that the solution to their problems is a return to traditional Native ways.”

*“Sadly, the feeling among many of my people is that the solution to their problems is a return to the traditional Native ways.”*

Dio believes his time spent at Mokahum Ministry Center in Bemidji, Minn., is helping to prepare him for his ultimate goal—becoming a pastor to his people. Mokahum is a discipleship training center for Native Americans where students are equipped to sow the gospel among their tribes. The Center is one of the few small enterprises that strives to meet the overwhelming need for the gospel among Native American and First Nations (Canadian) tribes. Mokahum values Native leadership and brings in Native American instructors whenever possible. The Center’s director, Zane Williams, is Navajo, and the board chairman, Mitch Johnson, is Ojibwe.

### MEETING A CRUCIAL NEED

Recognizing the need for raising up Native American leaders, MTW tasked two missionaries, Bill and Susan Carr, veterans in training nationals for church leadership, to learn everything they could about discipling Native Americans. The Carrs moved from the sun-drenched savannas of South Africa to the long winters of Bemidji, Minn., to serve at Mokahum. They work alongside the Center for Indian Ministries and Oak Hills Fellowship, teaching and discipling the next generation of Native American pastors and church leaders like Dio.

Bill and Susan are convinced that ministry among Native Americans is not just important, it is critical. Bill describes a typical church on a reservation where he ministered a few years ago: “The building was falling apart, the property untended, but that was not the real problem,” he said. “The real problem was that the church’s three regular attenders were aging widows. All of the church leadership died within a year and there was no one →



Bill & Susan Carr



Patrick Lennox and family

**MTW WORKS AMONG THESE NATIVE AMERICANS & FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE**

1. Suquamish
2. Lummi
3. Colville
4. Maskwacis
5. Lethbridge
6. Chippewa
7. Mokahum
8. Moose Factory
9. Omaha
10. Cherokee
11. Tohono O’odham

## NATIVE AMERICANS: A MIS-REACHED PEOPLE

Are all Native Americans and First Nations people truly “reached”? Are we considering each of the 567 recognized tribes (nations), or did we lump them all together as one people with no recognition of their own identities?

BY: PATRICK LENNOX

Without question many have been reached, but history shows that many of the problems we face today in ministry are the result of our past mission strategies.

One popular adage was, “Kill the Indian, save the man.” That led to the cultural genocide of many tribes and left the Church with challenges that could have been avoided had we not attempted to “civilize” them by force according to Western standards of culture.

Missiologists are now recognizing them as a forgotten people. According to my limited studies and my own life experience, I agree.

There are Native Americans who have no idea who Jesus is. I know—I have met them. Please pray for them. Ask the Lord what you could do. Pray that the Church would raise up disciples and leaders to reach out to all the reservations with the gospel. [n](#)

to take their place. There were no younger men coming [to church services].” The need for raising up new leadership is crucial. And it must be done now. Although Native American churches do exist, most are in a state of rapid decline. Small, vibrant congregations dwindle as the older generations pass away and the young people left behind are stuck in deadly cycles of fear-based traditions and hopelessness.



**STUDENTS LIKE MICHAEL AND DIO GET TO WRESTLE THROUGH HARD ISSUES LIKE CULTURAL FORGIVENESS AND SYNCRETISM, LED BY NATIVE AMERICAN BROTHERS IN CHRIST AND TEACHERS TRAINED IN CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY.**

The Church still has much work to do just to bring the gospel to Native peoples. “Although it is true that much of Native America has been the target of missionaries over the last 500 years, it would be a failure on our part to check them off on our list of ‘reached’ people,” said MTW missionary Patrick Lennox, who recently accepted a call, along with his wife, Regina, to join the Carrs at Mokahum. “History teaches us that Native Americans and First Nations people are a mis-reached and under-reached people” (see sidebar on previous page).

The most mis-reached are the young people. Today, Native Americans under the age of 24 account for nearly half the population. These are third-culture kids in the extreme: indelible members of a complicated heritage, tied to the very land they live on. And yet they live with at least one foot in the broader American culture, subject to its false promises and impossible expectations. Meanwhile, Native American youth are being encouraged, even pressured, to return to the traditional practices and beliefs of their tribes.

This return to the old Native American faiths is a path devoid of joy or hope. Recent Mokahum graduate Michael Dowling fell prey to this way of thinking before he met Christ. “I became hopelessly stuck in an abusive cycle that I did not want to be in.

At the age of 22, I was ready to give up on life. I honestly felt that this futile cycle was all that life would ever be for me.” Now Michael is eager to help others find hope in Christ. He wants to be either a teacher for a Native American school or a missionary.

### HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

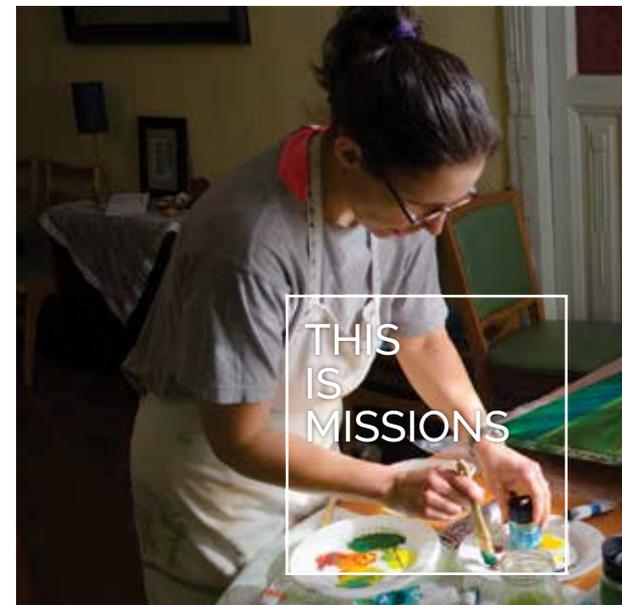
With MTW’s investment in the interdenominational efforts at Mokahum, a new generation of church leadership is being raised up. Bill Carr speaks with contagious enthusiasm of the priority placed on providing Native American teachers at Mokahum. “Always, our job as missionaries is to try to work ourselves out of a job,” Bill said. “Mokahum is one of our first efforts to equip Native American leaders, to increase the number of trained people who will go back into established churches and disciple the next generation.”

At Mokahum, students like Michael and Dio get to wrestle through hard issues like cultural forgiveness and syncretism, led by Native American brothers in Christ and teachers trained in cross-cultural ministry. The core program lasts for one year, with the opportunity at the end of that time to answer a call to ministry by pursuing two more years of training, an internship, and service.

As they look to the future, the Carrs, Lennoxes, and others at Mokahum pray that the number of ministry centers across the country would grow. Financial barriers present great difficulties for students wanting to participate in the program, particularly because of the distance between Bemidji, Minn., and pretty much everywhere else. If centers like Mokahum were available throughout the country, it could lower student costs, enable teachers to form Scripture applications that are specific to local tribes, and expand opportunities for the students themselves to disciple young believers.

For Dio, the time spent at Mokahum has been invaluable. “I came to Mokahum Ministry Center because of my deep desire to acquire a biblical education,” he said. “My people need to see that Jesus loves them even when they feel they are unlovable. They need to experience the fulfillment that comes from a relationship with our Savior, and truly experience what He’s done for us.”

→ Opportunities to serve in Native American and First Nations communities, both short- and longer-term, are plentiful. We need you! Visit [mtw.org/serve](http://mtw.org/serve) or email [go@mtw.org](mailto:go@mtw.org) to explore opportunities. For more on First Nations ministry, see View From the Church on p. 13.



**Save the Date!**  
2017 Global Missions Conference  
November 10–12—Dallas, TX  
[mtw.org/gmc](http://mtw.org/gmc)



FROM THE COORDINATOR



Dr. Lloyd Kim

## Growing Through Change

Coming into this role as coordinator of MTW, I was asked to take a fresh look at what we were doing and determine the changes necessary to achieve our overarching vision and mission. As I sought the Lord, I remembered the mandate He’s given us to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” We have a clear call. And it’s our responsibility both individually and as an organization to be good stewards as we live out that call.

Our overarching desire to be obedient to the Great Commission requires an honest evaluation of what we’re doing and how we can do it better. How can we best position ourselves to advance the kingdom of God throughout the world? How can we best organize to make disciples among all the nations?

To help answer these questions for MTW, we assembled a team to initiate a home office redesign. Several factors drove the need for a new design, but the major ones are:

1. We need to mobilize workers. More missionaries are retiring than new ones going. In order to pursue our vision of seeing the kingdom of God advance, we need more workers in the harvest.
2. In a recent field survey, our missionaries expressed an appreciation for our training and care, but also a need for more.
3. Missionaries also expressed the desire to be more consistently field led/field directed—moving away from office-initiated ministries.
4. Finally, we’ve become overly complicated, overly bureaucratic, and working in silos. We need to simplify our processes and flatten our structures.

The task of bringing significant change to our office structure and culture has been, at times, overwhelming and has driven us to much prayer. We’ve asked God to direct us by His Spirit, for unity of mind, and for His wisdom in the design as well as the implementation process.

Although we’re still in the midst of implementing the recommended changes, thus far we have seen clear evidence of God’s favor in bringing alignment and growth to our home team, and new creative energy to move us ahead in helping advance the kingdom of God throughout the world. As we seek to make wise use of all the Lord has entrusted to us, I’m excited and hopeful about how He is going to move us forward as an organization and more fully equip us to fulfill our call to “Go and make disciples.”

*Lloyd Kim*

# OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

## CHURCH-PLANTING IN GERMANY



“THEY WILL BE CALLED OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, A PLANTING OF THE LORD, FOR THE DISPLAY OF HIS SPLENDOR” (ISAIAH 61:3)

In an old church graveyard in Scotland, an oak tree grows between two broken slabs of tombstone. How did this happen?



A single acorn fell in the grave as it was being dug. Over time, the force of the growing tree broke through the stone slab. This is the power of new life that can crack open the hardest of surfaces.

Since 1993, our team in Germany has referred to its ministry as “plowing in concrete.” The ground seemed impenetrable. Much energy, time, and prayer were invested here without any visible fruit to speak of. Our international director for Europe and former Team Berlin leader, Ken Matlack, recounted that his parents spent a lifetime of ministry in Germany without seeing any converts. The Berlin team also pleaded with God for many years to soften the soil and to raise up “oaks of righteousness,” a new generation of German believers in the dead land of the Reformation.

Today the spiritual landscape looks quite different. Though the numbers still reflect that less than 1 percent of Germans are evangelical Christians, our teams are experiencing a new openness to the gospel. “The decades of prayer invested in this place are finally bearing fruit,” said one of our missionaries. “We’re standing on the shoulders of missionaries who went before, who plowed in the concrete and sowed the Word with tears. We aren’t doing anything different. We’re benefiting from the fact that God is softening hard hearts.”

### GOD CALLED HER, VIA TEXT!

“Roz, an annoying neighbor, kept hassling an immature believer in our church plant,” recounted an MTW missionary serving in Munich. “In order to keep her at bay, the young believer decided to scare her off by texting her Bible verses. But the text messages didn’t produce their intended effect. Instead, the Word of God pierced her heart and Roz gave her life to Christ!”

Roz still struggles in her Christian walk because she has never met any Christians outside her current church. Being a Christian is not easy for this twice-divorced single mom with a Muslim ex-husband and atheistic family who mock her and dismiss anything she says about her faith. But she knows God pursued her.

“I know God elected and called me,” Roz said. “I never would have wanted to find Him on my own. Never!” She now attends Bible study and church regularly and is learning what it means to find her identity in Christ and His love.

### JUST PASSING BY A CHURCH

Ola, a woman of Polish descent, was passing one of the Berlin church plants one evening and walked in right before a prayer meeting. She had questions about God and wanted someone to talk to. She stayed for the prayer meeting and our teammates were able to pray for her and encourage her desire to pursue a relationship with God. She had been reading the Bible on her own for some time and it was clear that the Word of God had already taken root in her heart. In the days that followed, she started coming to evangelism class. Two weeks later, she prayed to receive Christ!

“Ola recently gave her testimony of how the Lord gave her eyes to see her own impatience and judgmental attitude toward her husband, and how she could extend the grace and peace she has in Christ to aggressive customers at the store she manages,” shared one of our colleagues. God is changing her!

### I FEEL LIKE I'VE COME HOME

Carola, a young single mother who grew up an orphan in a children’s home, had been attending an outreach by one of our church plants called the Family Café. She’d only been coming a

few weeks before she showed up at church. She sobbed her way through the worship service. The next Tuesday she shared at a small group meeting, “I don’t understand what is happening to me, but for the first time in my life, I feel like I have come home. It is as if God is making my heart soft.”

The small group of German believers was able to help her understand what was happening to her using the words of Ezekiel: “I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26 ESV). This verse shocked her because it was just what she had experienced.

God is not done with Germany yet. The acorns of new life are sprouting. Like the oak tree in the church cemetery, they are cracking through the concrete of this atheistic place. May they grow up to be the “oaks of righteousness” our predecessors prayed for and provide shade, shelter, and new life for many others who will come after them.

→ Eowyn Stoddard is an MTW missionary serving in Berlin.

### The Refugee Opportunity

In recent months, refugees have flooded into Germany providing an unprecedented opportunity for ministry. Turn the page to learn more about MTW’s efforts in the refugee crisis across Europe in “They All Have First Names.”



# THEY ALL HAVE FIRST NAMES

## SEEING REFUGEES THROUGH GOD'S EYES

When people think of Greece, they probably imagine the vibrant blue water of the Aegean, seaside homes, and pristine sandy beaches. But for millions of refugees traversing dark, cold waters in overcrowded rafts, that coast carries quite a different meaning. →

Smuggled through dangerous mountain passes and over treacherous seas leading them to Europe, millions of refugees are fleeing for their lives. A fortunate few make it, but many don't.

Two thousand refugees arrive in Greece every day; Germany cares for 1 million refugees within its borders; thousands flee through Ukraine; and tens of thousands are stranded at closed European borders. That's a lot of people on the move. So how is this affecting the mission of the Church? A pastor of a Greek partner church believes that mission begins when our hearts are aligned with God's heart, a God who is a personal God and One who loves first names. Which means the Church should go where it's uncomfortable—learning people's names, listening to their stories, and telling them of a Savior who loves them.

### JESUS IN THEIR DREAMS

Refugees are flooding in from places normally unreached with the gospel. "Some are turning their backs on their religious upbringing when they experience the love of Christ through Christians at refugee camps," said an MTW missionary serving in Germany. "Some are having revelations of Jesus in their dreams and others are eager to study what the Bible has to say. We hear testimonies of people of Islamic background wanting to become followers of Jesus after only three meetings for Bible study, and reports of hundreds being baptized. God is doing an amazing work and MTW teams are eager to be a part of what God is doing."

### GREECE: JUST PASSING THROUGH

Our focus in Greece has been working alongside the local church, with additional supportive energy from MTW's Global Disaster Response and short-term teams. Most of the 800,000 refugees passing through are in transit to northern Europe with only the clothes on their backs and very few resources. The Greek church runs a day center focusing on women and children, offering clean bathrooms, a playroom for children, and a place to come out of the elements. They distribute clothing and baby supplies and host day clinics with local dentists and doctors.



Refugees are more open to the gospel now than ever.

The church has recently modified their kitchen to provide hundreds of hot meals weekly. Many of these families have been touched by the love of Christ and Farsi translators have been able to share the gospel with many in dire straits. Recently the United Nations High Commission for Refugees identified the day center as a "Blue Dot" hub, designating it as a safe center for children and families on the move across Europe. The church is currently working to provide housing for desperate, vulnerable refugee families trapped in Greece.

### GERMANY: SETTLING IN

"German intercessors have been praying for years that God would allow Germany to bless the nations, for a chance to reverse the curse of their past," said one MTW missionary/prayer warrior. And that's exactly what is happening. A new refugee task force was created from within one of our partner churches to deal with the overwhelming need in Berlin. Over 500 new refugees are arriving daily there.

**"GERMAN INTERCESSORS HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR YEARS THAT GOD WOULD ALLOW GERMANY TO BLESS THE NATIONS, FOR A CHANCE TO REVERSE THE CURSE OF THEIR PAST."**

The Berlin church has taken in a Christian Syrian family, two Syrian men, and a single Pakistani young man who is being mentored by the pastor to be part of the ministry to his own people. Although the refugee ministry is in its nascent stages, a number of committed Germans and MTW missionaries offer a café for refugees, coordinate efforts in local refugee centers, volunteer at emergency housing, help with donations of clothing and school supplies, find doctors who are willing to treat the refugees, and work as liaisons between parents and the schools. Germans have found that refugees regularly talk about religion and not only accept conversations about God, but expect it. Praise God for such openness and please pray for conversations as relationships develop.

### UKRAINE: COMING TOGETHER IN CRISIS

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea have forced hundreds of thousands to flee to escape fighting and danger, leaving many in new cities without jobs, savings, and in

chaos. The church and MTW missionaries provide medicine, housing, food, job training, and love and care to the orphans, widows, and families, opening doors for conversations about the Lord as they stand with their countrymen in times of great uncertainty. Split by politics, language, and geography, many Ukrainians are now coming together in crisis as the body of Christ.

God is moving the nations—people from Iraq, from Iran, from Syria, places like Afghanistan—and also calling churches to minister to their own people in crisis. For one missionary, there is no question that the Church must act. "Is it scary? Yes! Will it cost us? Yes! Do we feel like it is an impossible task? Yes! But remember that God often loves to move in impossible situations—He is the God of all impossibilities so that He might get all the glory."



Thousands of refugees arrive in Greece daily.

The refugee crisis is changing the face of the Middle East and Europe. It will also change the face of the Church. And it should change the face of missions. Why? Because these refugees from far and wide—from places where they've maybe never heard the name of Jesus—all have first names.

And God loves first names.

→ Kay Burklin serves as a refugee liaison for MTW.

Thank you for your earnest prayers and generous gifts toward our efforts in the refugee crisis. God is using your support to change lives and introduce refugees to the transformative love of Christ. To make a contribution to this ministry visit [mtw.org/refugees](http://mtw.org/refugees).



# SOWING THE GOSPEL IN THE MIDST OF DROUGHT

## BUSINESS AS MISSION NOURISHES WEST AFRICA

In West Africa, a microbusiness can be a gospel lighthouse—a beacon shining the light of Christ in a dark world. One missionary walks us through communities where the character of Christian entrepreneurs is making all the difference.

### CRITICAL DROUGHT OPENS DOORS

The serious lack of rain in West Africa last year caused a poor harvest last fall. Food supplies ran out months ago and now people are slowly starving, desperately hanging on however they can until the new harvest comes later this fall.



A typical West African horse-drawn cart, like the one that made the late night emergency trip.

If you are a pastor, people come to you for help. One of our pastors told me, “We are a community here. If I have half a bag of rice and my neighbors have nothing, I cannot keep the rice for myself. I must help them.” But he added, “It is hard to do that and take care of your own family.”

This is true sacrifice, the kind that hurts. It is partly motivated by African cultural norms, but for these believers, far more by the compassion of Christ. And recipients see the difference. They watch, ask questions, and they remember.

### A WELL-FED HORSE

The community was watching another pastor and his management of the drought. Late one night, the pastor heard a call from outside his hut. Neighbors had come in the middle of the night to ask if he would use his horse and cart to take them and their sick child to the hospital.

Why was this desperate Muslim family asking a Christian pastor for help? Because every other horse and donkey in the village was too weak to make the trip due to a critical lack of animal feed this season.

But not Concord, the pastor’s horse. Knowing the lean months were coming, the pastor put his business training to good use and saved during the good months. Now, because he was able to feed his horse, it was the only animal in the surrounding villages strong enough to make the emergency run to the hospital.

Just a horse, but it is a vivid reminder: how we work as believers really matters! Because this brother was a good steward, the entire community saw and took note. So now Concord is the most admired horse in the area, and other villagers come and ask the pastor for advice about caring for their own animals.

### BUSINESS AS DANCE FLOOR

It is rare to find a husband-wife team in business in rural West Africa, especially one that can conduct business peacefully together. Simply unheard of in this culture, except ...

“We have been watching you. When you and your wife work in your boutique you never get angry, fight, or shout at each other. Indeed, you laugh and appear to enjoy each other as you work. How is it that you can do this?”

At first the husband and wife entrepreneurs didn’t realize what was going on. But they went to a marriage seminar taught by a good friend of mine. He used the metaphor of dancing to illustrate good and bad relations between husband and wife. The partners can dance far apart and do their own thing (very typical of marriages in West Africa), or as taught in Scripture they can embrace each other and enjoy the intimacy of dancing in step together.

Once they returned home the couple talked and began to understand that they were “dancing together” but they hadn’t realized they had an audience. And their business was their dance floor.

The whole community was watching, wondering, and soon, asking. This is how the gospel slowly but powerfully begins to seep into a community, and transforms it. 📍

→ Richard\* is helping to change the world through business, equipping the national Church in West Africa to take the gospel to their own people as part of MTW’s Business As Mission ministry.

*\*last name withheld for security reasons.*



Above: A BAM drip irrigation seminar begins in the classroom then moves outdoors for hands-on practice.

# BUSINESS AS MISSION

## CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH BUSINESS

Many families throughout the world struggle just to survive. Using business acumen and a heart for ministry, MTW missionaries and volunteers help believers in underprivileged communities around the world start businesses and help train entrepreneurs on best practices in running a business.

Local communities and churches benefit from having their people involved in business that is based on sound Christian principles. And doors that are closed to local pastors open more freely when business is being discussed. The potential for business as a path to outreach is changing churches—especially in restricted-access countries.

### ARE YOU BUSINESS-SAVVY?

Consider using your business experience in global missions. Think of your business knowledge as a universal language that can be used to form personal relationships as a vehicle for outreach. Sharing your knowledge as well as your life can be a powerful witness for Christ. 📍



We have short- and longer-term opportunities to serve with MTW’s Business As Mission. Visit [mtw.org/serve](http://mtw.org/serve) to search opportunities or email [bam@mtw.org](mailto:bam@mtw.org) to express an interest in serving and we’ll match an opportunity to your interests.



## Reaching First Nations in the City

When my family moved to Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, to plant a church

BY: ROHAN CROWN

we had no idea how we were going to

effectively reach the community with the gospel.



Howard and Sandy Vander Griend reaching out to the kids in their community

Sure, we'd read all the books and gone to training, but the mission still seemed very intimidating and way beyond us. During this time a mentor gave Rebecca and me some wise counsel: be yourselves, soak your community in prayer, and remember God is wanting to do a work in you. This advice not only freed us, but laid the foundation for our ministry.

In being ourselves we just got to know people, regardless of who they were. Our community is full of single parents, addicts, and people who are hurting, lonely, and marginalized, many of whom are First Nations. At the same time we began prayer walking around our city, asking God to open doors into people's lives.

When those two steps collided, something incredible began to happen. By God's grace we quickly became a magnet in our community. At our kids' school, over 40 percent of children are

First Nations and over 50 percent of parents are single. We began inviting families of our children's friends into our home and loving on them. Ministry was organic, and doors wide open for the gospel. When you begin to care and provide secure friendship, trust begins to develop.

People started asking us to do weddings of non-believers, and during pre-marital counseling we shared the hope of Christ. We were asked to pray in people's homes, officiate funerals, and make hospital visits. Before we even launched Amazing Grace Community Church we had a large pool of non-believers in our lives.

As Rebecca and I began to see the needs, we experienced the struggle of the First Nations people in an urban environment. Beautiful and gifted people were in pain. Instead of looking at them, as many do, as a drain on the city (many of the homeless are First Nations), we began to pray for Christ to do a redeeming work in this culture.

Lethbridge is located on the border of one of the largest reservations in North America. As we prayed for revival for First Nations, God led MTW missionaries Howard and Sandy Vander Griend here to focus on reaching the First Nations people. God has launched a ministry and lives are being impacted for the gospel.

My advice to churches? Begin to ask God to open your eyes (through prayer) to see the people in your community and how you might reach them. Remember, you are not the experts—you're the servants. As you reach broken people, God will break you (which is good), because God works through broken people. God calls us to be faithful in following His call and He will do the rest. [📌](#)

→ Rohan Crown is the senior pastor of Amazing Grace Community Church in Lethbridge, Alberta. Help support Rohan's ministry. Visit [donations.mtw.org](https://donations.mtw.org) and select #97437 First Nations Ministry.

See ad on page 15 to learn how you can serve with the Amazing Kids ministry in Lethbridge.



## I'm (Not) "Just a Nurse"

I tell people I'm "just a nurse" to point out my limitations. And yet being "just" a nurse means I can be so much more! Let me explain.

When my family first set foot in Honduras, I looked at the medical deficiencies around us and wondered how I could possibly make a difference. But I knew God had equipped and called me, so I took a step. I decided to hold a pregnancy clinic in a nearby village.

One of the first women who came was definitely in need. I took her vital signs and measured her belly, and then asked the question that needed asking, "Are you sure you don't have twins?"

She looked at me like I was stupid. "Of course not! This is my 12th child—I would know if I was having twins."

"Well," I told her, "you need to go have your baby *now!*" She said she was going to have her baby at home just like she had her other 11 children. I implored her to please go to the hospital. "You might not survive this delivery and be able to even care for your other children!" She left completely disgusted.

I was so discouraged! What was I *thinking?* How could "just a nurse" make a difference here? I couldn't even convince a pre-eclamptic, gestational diabetic mom to go to the hospital. My heart sank. I don't belong here! I can't make a difference. What do I know?

Two days later I was making house calls when a young girl came running. "Just come!" she said. I followed her to a wooden lean-to house with a dirt covered floor, and there was the mom who'd been at my clinic, with a grin from ear to ear—holding a baby in her arms.

"I went home mad," the woman told me. "But then I thought about what you said. I need to be here for my other children.

So I went to the hospital. They checked my vital signs and scheduled an immediate C-section. Thirty minutes later they placed a 14-pound baby upon my chest! You saved me and my baby."

BY: ERIN PETTENGILL

Tears came to my eyes. Tears came to her eyes. And she placed this precious child in my arms. Wow—so I *had* made a difference. I'm not "just a nurse" after all.



Erin takes the vital signs of the 14-pound newborn.

### I WAS SO DISCOURAGED! WHAT WAS I THINKING? HOW COULD "JUST A NURSE" MAKE A DIFFERENCE HERE?

*Are you "just an accountant" or "just a teacher"? There are so many ways to serve Him in missions! "He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it" (1 Thess. 5:24) ESV. [📌](#)*

→ Erin Pettengill served as a missionary in Honduras for eight years. She now serves in Equatorial Guinea.

Explore medical opportunities at [mtw.org/medical](https://mtw.org/medical)



## Pray for 150 Becomes Pray 9:38

Many of you partnered with us in the Pray for 150 campaign, faithfully praying for 150 new missionaries by the end of 2015. Thank you!

We saw God's faithfulness with the approval of 145 new missionaries, only five short of the goal! Although we were just shy of reaching 150, we've seen the number of those serving in career missions (four years or more) increase dramatically.

But it doesn't end there. The interesting thing is, we're now seeing further fruit from your prayers. In March we had our largest new missionary training since 2012. Thirty-two newly approved missionaries participated in this training and orientation.



Our new prayer campaign, Pray 9:38, comes from Matt. 9:38, where we are told to "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers..." We'll be sending email updates under this new name for those interested in keeping up with us in this new labor of prayer. Email [go@mtw.org](mailto:go@mtw.org) and we'll add you to the list.



New missionaries at Launch, spring 2016

## Welcome New Missionaries!

Join us in welcoming the following missionaries who recently came through Launch:

### TWO-YEAR

Mark & Laura Ambrose (Cambodia)  
 Joshua & Natalie Anderson (Japan)  
 Bert & Cheryl Barber (Colombia)  
 Andrew & Kelly Baxley (Colombia)  
 Norman & Julie Beck (Native America)  
 Emily Delaney (Peru)  
 Thomas Hardison (Japan)  
 Clarke & Khrystya Norton (Ukraine)  
 Mark & Susan Walters (Taiwan)  
 Emily Whitley (Cambodia)

### LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES

Ash & Betsy C. Aeschliman (Global)  
 Daniel & Katy Brink (Alumni, Europe)  
 Dale & Sunny Cho (Spain)  
 Grace Chung (Bulgaria)  
 Ben & Kim Church (Alumni, Uganda)  
 Ruth Dinkins (Alumni, Brazil)  
 Tim & Laura Love (Ethiopia)  
 Brian & Megan Moore (Germany)  
 Luke & Sokha Smith (Alumni, Cambodia)

## Link Heads West

*Link* is a two-day event we started last year as an information-rich first step for those considering missions. We just finished a successful *Link* in April in Atlanta with 36 participants. Now we're gearing up for our fall *Link* event Sept. 16-17 in San Diego. This event is open to anyone interested in missions. Come and meet with MTW staff and missionaries, ask questions, and discuss any obstacles to missions you are facing. Learn more at [mtw.org/link](http://mtw.org/link).

## Missions doesn't always mean having to learn a second language



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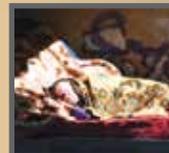
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