



MEDICINE OPENS DOORS
FOR THE CHURCH

The Church at the Center



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
REENERGIIZES CHURCHES



DISASTER RESPONSE
HELPS PLANT CHURCHES

MEDICINE OPENS DOORS FOR THE CHURCH

BY: ANDREW SHAUGHNESSY

MEDICAL MINISTRY DIRECTORS LEAVE A LEGACY OF STRATEGIC CHURCH PLANTING

Things were not going according to plan. Drs. Ted and Sharon Kuhn, co-directors of MTW's medical ministries, were leading a medical missions trip to a closed country in South Asia.

They had done this sort of thing many times before—traveled to a country with limited health care, set up a clinic in a remote area unreached by the gospel, and provided free medical services while local pastors and missionaries prayed with the people and built a foundation for ministry. But this time, the government wouldn't let them leave the city.

Barred from traveling to the villages, the Kuhns were forced to hold the medical clinic in their hotel. The circumstances were less than ideal, but they trusted that God would work through them nevertheless.

"Four years ago there was no witness here at all. Now there is a vibrant church."

"We were holding the clinic and all of a sudden this bus pulls up and all these people pour out," Ted said.

Dozens of people from a village in the hills had traveled several hours for medical care. The doctors tended to everyone they could, while local church planters prayed with and encouraged them.

"After we left, one of the local church planters went to the village and started a Bible study," said Ted.

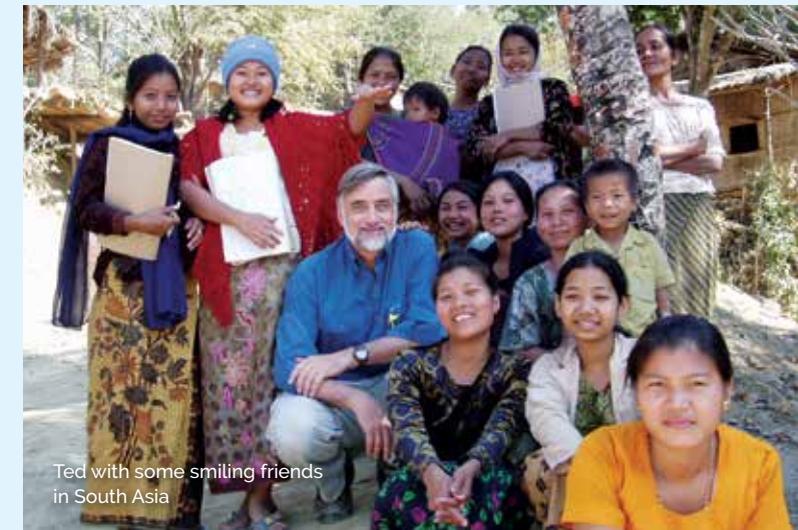
The Bible study started small, with only two or three people attending, but it was a beginning. When the Kuhns held the clinic at the same hotel the next year, even more people from the village came. By the year after that, a little church had been planted in the village. God had been at work.

AN UNEXPECTED CELEBRATION

Every year the Kuhns would lead a new team to serve in the country, the government would restrict them to the hotel, and people from the same village would come. Every year, little by little, the church



Sharon Kuhn works with a translator to speak with a woman and her child.



Ted with some smiling friends in South Asia

plant would grow. Finally, after three years, the government allowed the Kuhns to travel out of the city. This was their chance.

They took a bus first, and then hiked through rice paddies and over mountains. When they finally got near the village, 150 people were waiting for them, lining the road to the church.

"They were greeting us and shaking our hands," Ted remembered. "We went into the church, and it was overflowing. It couldn't hold all the people. We had a service of celebration. We ate →



→ and sang and danced. When we eventually left, I thought: “This is what medical missions is all about. Four years ago there was no witness here at all. Now there’s a vibrant church with lots of members and they’re talking about reaching out to the other people groups in the area.”

A PROFOUND IMPACT

Ted and Sharon were an integral part of many such stories. During more than two decades of service with MTW, the



Ted advises an elderly patient on proper wound care.



Sharon with a patient and team member Annie Thanga in South Asia.

dynamic duo led more than 150 medical mission trips to 44 countries, traveled with more than 2,500 medical students, trained around 270 medical professionals to lead mission trips, mentored numerous aspiring medical missionaries, and consulted on health issues for hundreds of MTW missionaries across the globe.

In February 2019, Drs. Ted and Sharon Kuhn retired from their longtime roles as co-directors of MTW’s medical ministries.

“Ted and Sharon are incredibly gifted and talented people who love God and are very concerned about seeing the kingdom of God expanded around the world and using medicine to help accomplish that,” said MTW Senior Consultant Bill Goodman. “They really got medical ministry on the map for us.”

It all began in 1997 when MTW’s leadership asked the Kuhns to build and lead the organization’s brand new Medical Missions Department. Ted and Sharon had plenty of medical missions experience under their belts, having already served in

“We’re a church-planting organization that wants to use medical missions to augment the growth and development of the Church.”

South Asia for nearly a decade, but they had their work cut out for them. There was no staff, no infrastructure. They had to build from scratch.

They began by asking, “What’s our core value?”

“We thought, ‘We’re not a medical missionary society that does church planting. We’re a church-planting organization that wants to use medical missions to augment the growth and development of the Church,’” said Ted. “At the time, that was a completely different paradigm than every other medical missions organization in the country was using.”

Ted and Sharon got to work recruiting and organizing. Within a year, MTW had career medical missionaries posted in Belize and the Middle East. In two years, they had sent people to Central Asia. Soon the Kuhns started brainstorming possibilities for sending short-term medical teams to MTW fields across the globe. In 2000 the Kuhns organized the PCA’s first-ever medical missions conference. Five hundred and fifty medical professionals showed up.

In the years to come, the Kuhns organized or led hundreds of teams of medical professionals on short-term trips to locations

across the globe where MTW missionaries had a presence. They went to Peru, visiting churches high in the Andes mountains and reaching tribes deep in the Amazon jungle. In Kenya, they offered clinics at villages with no evangelical outreach, providing a foothold for the evangelical church in Africa. People would come from miles around to see the doctors, and the pastors and church planters could begin building relationships.

Little by little the word trickled through MTW—short-term medical teams were not only offering Christ-driven mercy ministry, they were opening doors for church planters. The model worked particularly well in closed countries, where sharing the gospel is difficult or illegal. Ted likes to call this “a wedge ministry,” propping the door open for church planters: “You introduce a medical team and all of a sudden the community opens up.”

Under their leadership, MTW sent an average of 50 medical mission teams per year for the last 15 years. Across the globe, communities that would otherwise still be unreached by the gospel now have churches—thanks to the “wedge” provided by MTW’s medical ministry.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

“I saw Ted and Sharon and their medical work open up villages for church planting and ease suffering all over Asia,” said Senior Field Operations Director Cartee Bales. “They were incredibly loved as people and appreciated as medical missionaries.”

With the Kuhns’ retirement, MTW has asked each of its global regions to identify a field-based leader to serve as a regional medical coordinator who could facilitate medical missions that fit their particular local strategy. Simultaneously, MTW’s leadership is in the process of identifying a new medical director to replace the Kuhns. Those are big shoes to fill. Meanwhile we continue to send teams.

“Sharon and I have loved doing this,” said Ted. “It has been our heart’s desire and our life’s work. It’s been costly and physically uncomfortable at times, but it’s also been the most wonderful thing we’ve been involved in in our lives. ... God has poured His Spirit out on churches around the world, and we have been able to be a part of that. ... If I were to die tomorrow, I would say, ‘I’ve seen the glory of the Lord and I am satisfied.’”

Join us on a medical missions trip or learn more about how you can serve longer-term at mtw.org/medical.

1%

Are your members answering the call?

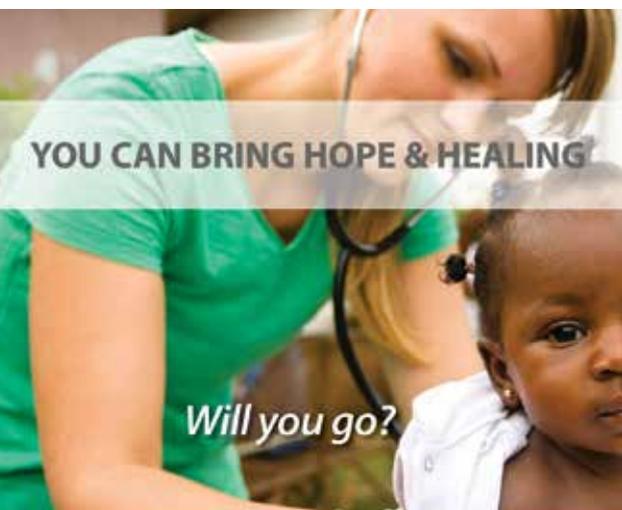
If your church has committed to the 1% Challenge, you may have members who are ready to learn more. We have resources to guide next steps toward serving in missions:

- **Training seminars** around the U.S.
- **Vision trips**—a chance to see firsthand what God is doing
- **Short-term opportunities**—serve one week, one month, or longer

We can help them see the need, recognize how they can serve, and perhaps confirm God’s personal calling to global missions.

Visit mtw.org/nextsteps for info and resources.

mtw
Mission to the World



YOU CAN BRING HOPE & HEALING

Will you go?

THE 18.26 NETWORK: SERVING THE CHURCH THROUGH VOCATION

MTW's 18.26 Network* offers a new paradigm for missions: sending people who find secular jobs overseas to do ministry in partnership with existing MTW missionaries and national partners on the field. Vocational missionaries Sarah Harris and Karina Legradi share their hearts and unique paths to ministry.

18.26



Karina Legradi in front of the school where she works in Budapest.

SARAH HARRIS, SANTIAGO, CHILE

I don't know when this story started. I'm not sure if it started in September 2000 when I tore my ACL in college and made the decision to get a master's degree in TESOL so that I could finish my basketball eligibility. Or in July 2007 when I found my heart aching at the end of an evangelistic basketball camp I led in Spain because it felt like I was leaving home. Or maybe it started in November 2017 when I asked Carl Chaplin, over a dinner of Crock-Pot lasagna, what he was working on lately and he mentioned launching the 18.26 Network. I simply said, "That sounds interesting. I'd love to hear more."



Sarah Harris, second from right, with Chilean church friends

**IT SOUNDS A BIT LIKE A WHIM,
BUT MY BRAIN CAN'T FULLY
COMPREHEND GOD'S PLANS.**

Lesson one: Be careful of Carl Chaplin's questions. Lesson two: Be careful of your answers.

I took the leap a year ago when I sent my resume to an English language startup in Santiago, Chile. Why Chile? It was never on my radar until I learned that MTW missionaries in Chile were interested in partnering with vocational missionaries. I don't have a more exotic story than this. It sounds a bit like

a whim, but my brain can't fully comprehend God's plans.

On a typical weekday I troop into the Santiago office of local business executives and we tackle English language usage through discussions on empathy, establishing work-life balance, the pressures of parenting in today's digital society. The lines

between grammar usage and sharing life blur as we carry our conversations into the local coffee shop after class or a class comes over to make dinner on the weekend. In truth, I'm not sure where work—or ministry—begins and ends.

I've been blessed to connect with MTW missionaries serving in Santiago. Johan and Stephanie Van Der Westhuizen have taken me under their wing and brought me into their home and into their church. I'm included in MTW team events. I am learning how to love and serve God in Chile pretty much by watching the MTW families as they carry out their lives and work.

I don't always know how God is using me. I don't know the impact of the hours spent hanging out with university students from church. I don't know why I get access to some of the most influential business leaders in one of the most resistant sectors to evangelical faith. I just know that God has commanded me to worship Him, and I want to do that daily while riding the metro, playing basketball in the park, seeking community, and working in Santiago de Chile. [👉](#)

* Named for the story of tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:26

KARINA LEGRADI, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

My journey to serve with MTW in Hungary through the 18.26 Network didn't come about in the most typical way, but it was clearly God-directed. After being laid off from a Christian organization, I began praying about whether to seek an opportunity to serve in my parents' native country of Hungary. I applied to numerous jobs in the U.S., but one by one, each of those doors closed. At the same time, I was sensing a stronger and stronger call in my heart to go to Hungary.

Out of 60 job applications I submitted, two organizations reached out: MTW's 18.26 Network and an international Christian school in Hungary. Connecting the two was fairly seamless and that's how I could tell that God's hand was in it. The 18.26 Network has been eager to support me with prayer and meet with me one-on-one to help me with the logistics of moving overseas and making connections with Christians in the region.

I've been in Hungary a little over a year now, working full-time as a school administrator. Some of my tasks are mundane, such as ordering textbooks or organizing the payment for field trips. But I also get to do exciting people-oriented tasks like leading the school's student government, debate class, and being a substitute teacher in any class at any given time slot (which happens daily!). It is a fast-paced job in a work environment that's small enough for us to encourage each other in the Lord as coworkers, and students and their parents as well.

**IN ADDITION, I'M HELPING
MTW LEADERSHIP IN EUROPE LOCATE
AND CONNECT WITH POTENTIAL
NATIONAL PARTNERS.**

This school is unique within our network in that only about half of the students are Christians. They come from about 20 countries around the world. Though they receive Bible instruction each day, we give them freedom in their faith journey. As a result, we see many of the Christian students ministering to their unbelieving friends. We see examples of this in all age groups, from the rambunctious first graders who stop what they're doing when one of their classmates is injured and all rush over to pray, to the 12th graders who plan their own worship sessions during lunch time.

In addition to my ministry at the school, I'm helping MTW leadership in Europe to locate and connect with potential national partners in the hopes that an MTW team will one day form in Hungary. I feel blessed to work in Hungary and to have the support of the 18.26 Network to help guide my steps as I minister to the Hungarian people. [👉](#)

Is God calling you to partner with MTW through the 18.26 Network? Visit mtw.org/1826 to learn more.

BY: ANDREW SHAUGHNESSY

THE GREEK CHURCH MEETS DISASTER WITH MERCY

A composite image of a home damaged during the wildfire.

Christopheros had little warning before the world burned. On July 23, 2018, fueled by high winds and summer heat, Greece's worst wildfire in 100 years swept from the west at breakneck speed, trapping his seaside city of Mati between the water and the flames.

It didn't make sense to run away from the water, but as the fire approached, a strange feeling pushed Christopheros away from the sea. Instead, he took his wife and daughter and ran toward the flames. Their home was totally destroyed, but miraculously Christopheros and his family found an unburned path and made it through the fire alive and completely unscathed.

Not so for many others. Thousands had fled for their lives, many leaping off cliffs into the boiling sea. The fire destroyed thousands of homes, businesses, and cars. One hundred people died, some falling victim to the flames and smoke, others sinking beneath the waves.

In nearby Athens, Pastor George Talias, from the Greek Evangelical Church, and MTW missionaries rallied local Presbyterian churches to help. MTW missionaries assisted him, and teams of volunteers were soon traveling to Mati three days a week.

MTW missionary Joe Nowland was with the first group of church members who responded. The city was quiet when they came. Half an inch of ash and soot covered everything, and the buildings were reduced to charred concrete shells. Wood beams supporting terra cotta roofs had been incinerated, raining tons of clay tiles into the living rooms and kitchens of those who had fled.

"Anything that could burn, burned," Joe said. "Things were melted that I didn't even know could melt."

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

At first the volunteers focused on cleaning soot and debris from the homes of an elder and deacon who served at churches in Athens but lived near Mati. With the help of MTW Compassion funds, they purchased a pressure washer and respirators and began to help others as well, moving rubble and cleaning up at 20 local families' homes. A six-person MTW disaster response team came to Mati and tirelessly helped with the cleanup. The church hired a social worker to offer basic trauma counseling, help families replace lost government documents, place their kids in new schools, and find new jobs.



A camera melted by the wildfire

"I think they were skeptical for the first month or two, like maybe there was a hidden agenda," said Joe.

But the help kept coming, and the church never asked for anything in return. The people of Mati were astonished, and began to ask why. Spiritual conversations naturally flowed from the time spent and relationships built over months. George and some of the other pastors were able to express that they, the church, were showing love out of an overflow of the love Christ has shown us.

Christopheros' family was one of those helped by the church. When Christopheros told George his remarkable story of survival, George said: "That's amazing. As a Christian, I'm led to think that was the Lord protecting

But the help kept coming, and the church never asked for anything in return. The people of Mati were astonished.

you." The exchange kicked off a conversation about how God is a good Father, our protector, a God who sees us and cares for us.

"We are seeing God attract people's attention through simple acts of faith," George said. "We did not enter the community with an agenda to promote our church, but now God has connected 60 families to the ministry. Many people have invited us into their homes, asked for prayer, and want to know more about Christ. Some of these homes are even establishing Bible studies. God is doing something incredible."

"WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?"

Now, a foothold for gospel ministry has been established in Mati. The church elder who lives in the seaside city has begun hosting coffee socials for local families. The first coffee social, though never intended to be a Bible study,

An MTW GDR volunteer power washes soot from a wall.



Volunteers shovel broken roof tiles.



turned into a prayer night. People were asking questions: "You're an elder at what church?" "You're not Greek Orthodox, you're evangelical, but what does that mean?" and "Why are you doing this?"

Five families came on that first night, seven on the second. Meanwhile, some of the pastors from Athens who had been volunteering in the church's relief efforts have been going door to door doing evangelism and offering pastoral care. Families helped by the church, though still not Christians and not attending church, have begun reaching out to the pastors and asking for prayer.

"We don't know exactly what God will do in the future, but it is clear He is speaking to hearts in Mati," George said. "God has opened the door for daily interaction with families and building relationships. ... Six families that we have been ministering to have visited our church. After visiting, one person asked, 'Why don't you have a church in Mati?'"

"It's crazy to think that [at first] all we were doing was cutting down limbs and moving debris, and now it's turned into real conversations about church planting," Joe added. "There's a lot of likelihood that that could happen. It's cool to think of what the Lord has done." 

Help support MTW's relief efforts around the world by giving to the Compassion Fund at mtw.org/compassion.





Toward A Diverse 1%

PERSPECTIVES FROM REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN IN SAN ANTONIO

MTW South Central Director Jerry Gibson recently asked Rev. Victor Martinez, associate pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas, and board member of the PCA's Hispanic Leadership Initiative, about his perspective on diversity and the 1% Challenge.

Q. Why is diversity important to Redeemer?

A. San Antonio is 64 percent Hispanic. Beyond demographics, San Antonio is thoroughly Hispanic in almost every way. Our city also hosts the largest Martin Luther King, Jr. march in the nation! It boasts 250,000 participants



Victor Martinez (left) with Clemente Bustamante and Marq Toombs of Christ Covenant Church in Mesquite, Texas.

every year. It'd be hard for any church to claim that they have a significant ministry to the city if that church isn't serious about diversity.

Q. Why is MTW's desire for diversity important?

A. If we are not putting diversity and missions together we will not reach the world. Our churches, locally and globally, will be more beautiful with diversity. We will be better able to speak and boast in the gospel of God's grace. Our richness would be evident culturally, theologically, in worship, and in service.

Q. What are some of the things Redeemer is doing to help raise up diverse missionaries?

A. Redeemer is partnering with MTW's Northern Mexico Team in Monterrey. I've gone to Monterrey, Tampico, and Laredo, Texas, to teach church planters. Redeemer has invited leaders of the Church Planting Institute in Monterrey to come and sit down with us to discuss the next step in partnering to plant more churches. We believe this partnership will spill over in fruits of grace across the border to bless God's Church on the Texas side.

We need to continue building up Latino brothers in our churches so they can develop leaders. Redeemer has 15 men going through Third Millennium Ministries for theological training. If we are praying and we have a vision for it, some of these men will be called to serve overseas.

Q. What would you say to encourage more churches to take up the 1% Challenge?

A. I would encourage churches and presbyteries to share stories of grace about the power of the call to missions and how God uses missionaries abroad. Enlist elders who will take the lead in praying that God would raise up an additional 1 percent, of all ethnicities, and make sure that this spills out into their churches. The 1% vision of raising up more missionaries combined with the vision for diversity will help the Church become a true reflection of the image of God, with a heart committed to His global mission. [📖](#)

Help your church encourage diversity in missions. Contact Barbara D. Jones at barbara.jones@mtw.org to get started. Learn more about MTW's newly launched Hispanic chapter of RADD (Reformed and Diverse Delegates) on page 14.



MTW & RUF IN COLOMBIA

A FRUITFUL MISSIONARY PARTNERSHIP GROUNDED IN THE CHURCH

Samuel* was looking for a community, a place to belong. During his second year at the National University of Colombia, his mother passed away, suddenly severing his most vital relationship. Three years later, he felt not only estranged from his family but from his church as well.

It was during this season that Samuel discovered Reformed University Fellowship. He had seen our welcome table during the first week of classes, so when a friend invited him to attend a Bible study, he decided he would give it a try. But he was skeptical. Could he really find friends here? Would this be a place he could renew his Christian faith?

BETTER TOGETHER

At RUF meetings worldwide, we reach out to students like Samuel to grow their faith and give them fellowship with believers. But how will Samuel—and new believers, for that matter—connect with the local church for a lifetime of growth and service? This why MTW and RUF are partners—we're two missions agencies of the PCA serving together to reach the next generation for Christ. We want to see students come to love Jesus and His Church, become part of new and growing church bodies, mature, and serve Christ for decades.

MTW/RUF ministries span five countries in Latin America, Europe, and Africa. At the National University of Colombia in Bogotá, we have the opportunity to reach and equip some of the 31,000 on our campus, but that's a drop in the bucket in a city of 1 million college students. And that's just a fraction of the 20 million college students in Latin America, a number that has more than doubled since the turn of the century.

A FAITH RENEWED

A birthday party convinced Samuel that these strangers in RUF could be his friends. And the opening study of our

Basics of Christianity course convinced him that the God who pursues prodigals and sweeps them up in His costly embrace could take him back too.

BY: PETER DISHMAN

Over the last couple of years, Samuel has come to see more and more how God's love in Christ gives us a new status, a new family, a new nature,



A group of RUF Global students celebrate the graduation of a classmate at the National University of Colombia in Bogota.

and a new future. As we have walked together, one of the things that has become clear to Samuel is the need to make a commitment to a healthy local church where he can glorify and enjoy God for a lifetime. He recently began the membership process at a church started by MTW missionaries in the 1990s.

It is our prayer that many among the 1 percent of the PCA that MTW is seeking to mobilize for missions will be called to serve through this PCA partnership—pastoral ministry at the crossroads of the future. Could He be calling you or someone you know? [📖](#) **Name has been changed.*

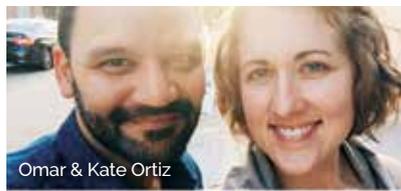
Find opportunities to serve with MTW and RUF-Global at mtw.org/engage.

Peter Dishman serves as the MTW team leader in Bogota, Colombia.

MTW Launches Hispanic Chapter of RADD

MTW recently launched the Hispanic chapter of Reformed and Diverse Delegates. RADD exists to facilitate a more focused effort to raise up men and women of color to go to the mission field. A RADD delegate is a voice that speaks into and shares about global missions within his or her sphere of influence. The African American chapter of RADD launched in 2017 and RADD-Asian American is currently forming.

Omar and Kate Ortiz of Christ the King PCA in Boston, Massachusetts, and Eva Castillo of New City East Lake PCA in Chattanooga, Tennessee, founding members of RADD-Hispanic, are helping pioneer these efforts with MTW's Barbara D. Jones. This summer Omar and Barbara are leading a prayer-focused vision trip to Cusco, Peru, with a team of primarily Hispanic men and women.



Omar & Kate Ortiz



Eva Castillo

Are you a person of color interested in missions? Contact Barbara.Jones@mtw.org to learn how you can serve internationally or become involved with RADD efforts.

Welcome New Missionaries

Join us in welcoming the following new missionaries!

March 2019

- Long Term:
- Mark & Laura Ambrose, Cambodia
 - Mark & Megumi Bocanegra, Japan
 - Diana Chen, Japan
 - Rebecca Giles, Scotland/Next
 - Chris & Donnette Brock, France

- John Lee, Cambodia
- Andrew & Krista May, Peru
- Zach & Joy Sale, Bulgaria



Launch, March 2019

Short Term (Two-Year):

- Elizabeth Brinkley, Bulgaria
- Brian & Tonya Thatcher, Belgium
- Angel & Wally Velez, Japan

September 2018

Long Term:

- Matt & Katie Abbatiello, Spain
- Kim Allerton, Canada
- Stephen & Rachel Bond, Japan
- Chris & Donnette Brock, France
- Samantha,* Southeast Asia
- Brenden & Ashley Camp, Nicaragua— Todd & Liz Crusey, Australia
- Lenden & Gemma,* Central Asia
- Ross & Angela Floyd, Colombia
- Ginny,* Enterprise
- Phil & Wendy Stogner, Scotland
- Dan & Joanna,* Enterprise
- Kelsey Wiggs, Business as Missions



Launch, September 2018

Short Term (Two-Year):

- Louisa,* Southeast Asia
- Rachel Rabe, Japan
- Nathan & Elizabeth Sato, Japan
- Lauren Stovall, Ukraine
- Thomas Wong, Japan

*Last name is not listed due to sensitive country placement

MTW Online: Straight from the Field to Your Inbox

Enjoy the stories you read in *Network*? Twice a week, we publish stories like these on MTW's blog. Subscribe to MTW Online and receive these stories straight from the field to your inbox twice a week! Subscribe at mtw.org/blog.

Here's some of what you've missed:

Young Syrian Refugee Church Leaders Hungry for Theological Training

Syrian refugees who became believers just a few years ago are now leading congregations and are full of questions.

Sunday Stick Shift Lessons

For the past few months I've been learning how to drive a stick shift, in another country. Thankfully I've had a patient teacher.

Church Planting With Team L'viv [VIDEO]

One of the challenges in L'viv is that most people have a certain respect for the Church, but don't read the Bible themselves.

Making Room for More

When 50 women showed up at a small group Bible study meant for seven, missionaries in Peru scrambled to make room.



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Lloyd Kim MTW Coordinator
Amy Glass Editor-in-Chief
Melanie Benedict Managing Editor
Tom Mills Art Director
Andrew Shaughnessy Staff Writer

Editorial offices:

1600 North Brown Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
(678) 823-0004
mtw.org

Please send address changes to:
hello@mtw.org



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FROM THE COORDINATOR

The Church at the Center

One of our core values at Mission to the World is the Church. We love the Church because Jesus loves the Church. The Church is the bride of Christ. Therefore all the various ministries that we are engaged in at Mission to World ask the question, “How do these ministries grow the Church, revitalize the Church, plant churches?” In other words, the Church is at the center.

Does this mean that we are not concerned about matters of justice and mercy? Of course not. Part of the Great Commission mandate is “teaching them (our disciples) to observe all that I (Jesus) have commanded you,” (Matt. 28:20). Jesus has some pretty clear teachings on how we are to care for the hungry, thirsty, strangers, sick, and prisoners (Matt. 25:31–46). But this work of mercy is never divorced from our identity as the body of Christ, nor the proclamation of good news of the kingdom.

So often, we treat these callings as if they were either in opposition to one another or completely separate activities, as if we have to choose between planting and revitalizing churches and engaging in acts of mercy and justice as they reflect God’s love—but that’s simply not so.

All across the globe, MTW missionaries are living out the Great Commission. Their callings and ministries are diverse, yet the Church is at the center of each one.

In Greece, a mature church, driven by a holistic view of the gospel, ministers to the physical needs of the community around it. In remote villages around the world, missionary physicians use their God-given abilities and the wonders of

science to pave the way for the family of faith. In Colombia, a searching student finds connection and community in a church Bible study in the midst of a bustling metropolis. In Zimbabwe, a fledgling Christian community in a remote African village meets under a tree and learns the hope of grace.

We, the Church, are to serve as signposts in the fog, pointing toward what will be. As followers of Jesus, we declare to the world: “Jesus has risen. Death is defeated. Something new has begun. Repent and believe.” But then—and this is our enormous privilege—we get to be part of that “something new” here and now. When we heal the sick, befriend the lonely, make God-glorifying art and music, seek economic and racial justice in our communities, we can point forward toward the ultimate redemption of the cosmos and say—this is but a taste of what will come.

That’s why a mature church, embracing the fullness of the gospel, does all these things. That’s why we, at MTW, do all these things. Acts of mercy, justice, kindness, and creativity draw people to the church, and they are a natural outworking of the church. Our ministries are not islands—church planting or medical ministry; economic empowerment or Reformed theological education. They overlap, yet the Church is always at the center, and that’s just the way it should be. [n](#)

Lloyd Kim



Dr. Lloyd Kim

inside >>



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