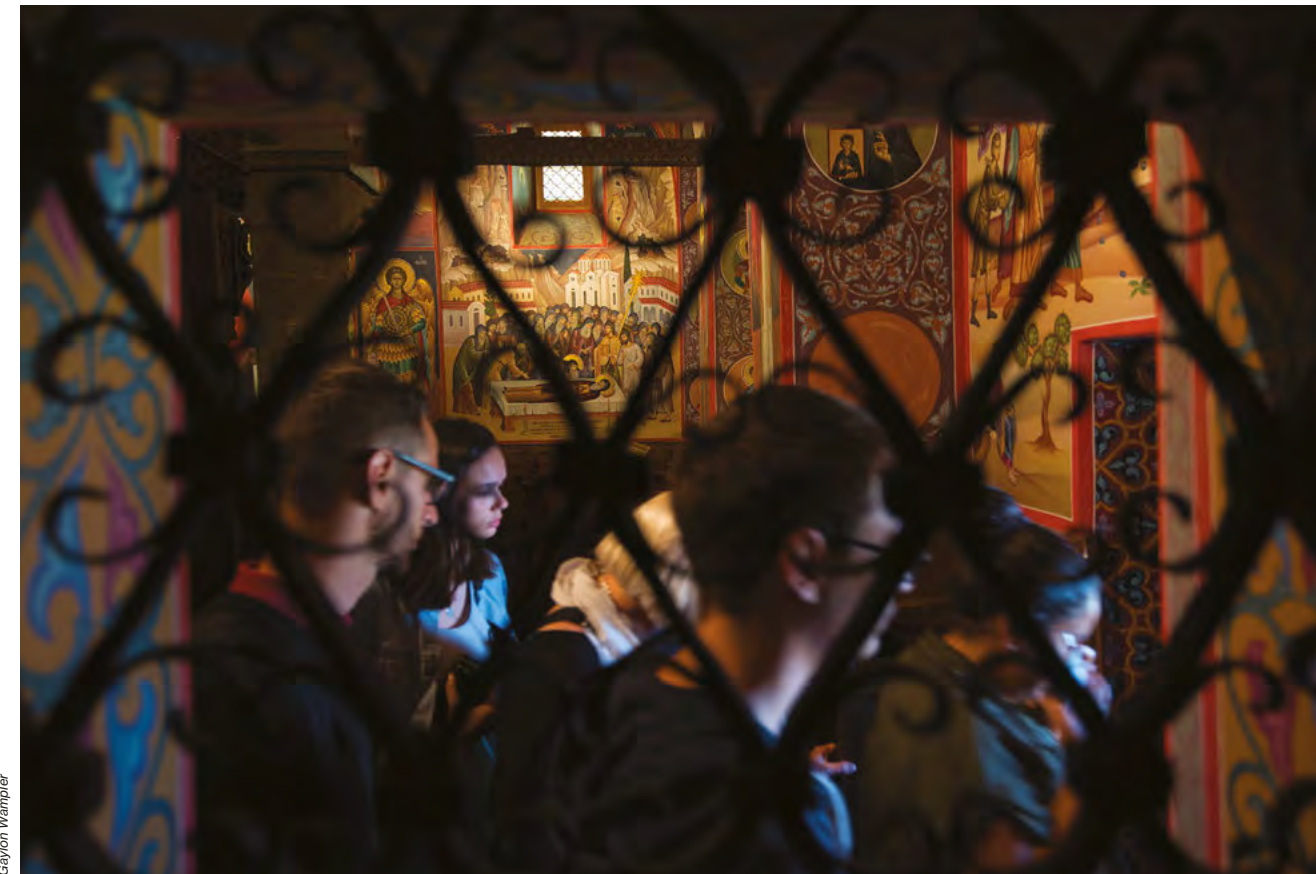


SO ALL CAN HEAR

worldview

GREECE

*A
Relevant
Jesus*



Gaylon Wampler

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A RELEVANT JESUS**
At Zoe Church Thessaloniki, people who have heard about Jesus since childhood are finding He can transform their lives.
by Renée Griffith

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AGWM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Greg Mundis

AGWM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
Andy Raatz

AGWM ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR
Randy Hurst

AGWM PUBLICATIONS STAFF
Don Burchfield, Arianna de Sena, Bill Fleming, Renée Griffith,
Scott Harrup, Alice Horne, Don Jones, Lucas Key, Marc McBride,
Kristel Ringer Ortiz, Kim Partin

AGWM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Greg Beggs, Omar Beiler, JoAnn Butrin,
Kevin Donaldson, David Ellis, Bob Friesen,
Jeff Hartensveld, Rick Johnson, Ron Maddux,
Gil Rodriguez, Paul Trementozzi

PHOTOGRAPHY
Gaylon Wampler


COVER
Gaylon Wampler

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Great Commission has been at the heart of the Church from the very beginning. Barnabas and Paul were commissioned and sent as the first missionaries, preaching and establishing churches wherever they went.

This call led Paul to Greece, triggering the initial wave of Christianity in Europe as a number of Greeks found the freedom that only comes through Christ.

Now, almost 2,000 years later, the need for missionary endeavors continues. As you read this month's cover feature on Greece, recognize the ebb and flow of history. Realize that each generation must be reached with the message of Christ's sacrifice.

Today's Greece looks very different from the Greece of Paul's day, but the needs of humanity remain the same: We all have a spiritual emptiness that can only be satisfied by a relationship with Jesus.

That same emptiness is being addressed by BaseCamp, AGWM Africa's training initiative to equip missionaries to reach the yet-unreached across that continent. BaseCamp combines theory and practice to take the gospel to the people and places that have yet to hear.

Whether you look back into history or forward to the future, Christ's commitment to see the lost become reconciled to His Heavenly Father remains the same. Remember the amazing miracles God has brought about in the life of your church in the past, and trust that He will become real to future generations as well.

How has God's history with your church prepared it to continue impacting the lost? We would love to hear from you at worldview@agwm.org.

ANDY RAATZ
AGWM Communications director



Next Issue

— **Paraguay:** Many who do not know Jesus are personally encountering Him.

— **Africa Oasis Project:** Clean water, Living Water

By Renée Griffith
Photography by Gaylon Wampler

GREECE

| 4

*A
Relevant
Jesus*

The Roman Forum in Thessaloniki, Greece, sits just below the surrounding ground level. A major attraction to tourists from around the world, it is cordoned off as the city's largest archeological site. With its Corinthian columns, amphitheater, and subterranean corridors, the Forum served as the religious, economic, and political heart of Thessaloniki in its day—the day of the apostle Paul. →

In writing to the Thessalonian believers after his visit, Paul commended their God-honoring lifestyle and urged them on to “still more” godly living (1 Thessalonians 4:1, NASB). Later he applauded their love for one another, again urging them to practice “still more” selfless love (4:10).

Today, one street over from the Roman Forum, rolling steel doors slowly retract to reveal glass walls with the words “Zoe: Love God + Love People + Love Life” etched across in modern font. On the other side of the glass, believers and seekers meet to do life together as a diverse yet unified community. The message Zoe Church sends, like that of Paul, is that for all the transformation Jesus is bringing to lives in Thessaloniki, there is still more to come. There is more for Greece.

PARALLEL TRACKS

Peter and Courtney Good, lead pastors of Zoe Church Thessaloniki, are no strangers to the many facets of Greek life. The media’s visual of Greece with its surrounding calendar-perfect island paradise stands in contrast to the Greece they know and love. Thessaloniki is a densely packed urban hub with bumper-to-bumper traffic along the Aegean coastline amid a sea of 1.2 million people, including 150,000 university students. The city is colored by its nightlife culture, cigarette smoke mixed with sea salt wafting through rows of street-side cafes, and eight-story *polykatoikia* (Greek-style apartments) encroaching on narrow cobblestone streets. Greece is known for its olive groves and fishing villages and sun-bathed images of summer relaxation; yet a full third of the country’s population is concentrated in just the two largest cities—Athens and Thessaloniki.

Transplants from Pennsylvania, the Goods sensed the Lord drawing them to move permanently to Greece after leading a short-term trip with their home church to Thessaloniki seven years ago. Shortly after their arrival in Greece, the Lord narrowed their burden for the nation to church planting specifically. “Our calling is to see Greeks have a

vibrant relationship with Jesus,” Peter explains. “Everything we do is done through the lens of building the local church.”

It’s no secret that Thessaloniki, like Greece itself, is full of church buildings. Most houses of worship have stood for centuries, now doubling as UNESCO World Heritage sites for their wealth of sacred art and masterful Byzantine architecture. Eager tourists and visiting Orthodox priests snap photographs alongside devout worshippers who come between weekly services to venerate icons. Subway construction has unearthed ancient catacombs and baptisteries, resting now in the shadows of pharmacies and internet cafes. By the time they enter the university system, Greek students have received years of compulsory religious education. The raw materials for a thriving spiritual life are as plentiful as the historical monuments that pepper the ancient landscape.

Yet for many people, “life and faith run on parallel tracks,” says Courtney. “What they have been taught about faith has little bearing



Courtney and Peter Good



on their everyday life.” As in most of Europe, secularism, an attitude toward religion ranging from indifference to rejection, is the way of life for many Greeks. They fail to see the relevance that a structure as ancient as the church can provide to daily life. Although 94 percent of people in Greece associate with the Orthodox tradition, fewer than 3 percent of all people in Greece today attend any church regularly.

In this context, ways of “doing church” have remained relatively unchanged over the centuries, while culture outside the church has repeatedly exchanged one set of values for another. In a predominantly secular culture where people live as though belief in a spiritual realm is an option, Zoe Church holds to the perspective of Christian writer C.S. Lewis: “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. ... It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

The Goods seek an intersection of these tracks of faith and life for every person who walks through the doors of Zoe. →

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*“Jesus makes
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everyday life.
I don’t leave Him
at church.
This is what it
means to be
a disciple.”*

RELEVANT JESUS

It’s after sunset, and Zoe is aglow from the inside, doors wide open. Worship music in Greek and English spills out across the street where a rooftop coffeeshop overlooks a 15th-century Turkish bathhouse. People stop to listen as they pass by, struck by the fact a church inhabits a storefront: This looks nothing like the churches of their heritage. Tall welcome banners on the sidewalk flank a high-top table displaying Greek Bibles and leaflets explaining Zoe Church. Several devout Orthodox enter and sit in the back row of chairs because the front rows are packed. One leaves; another stays.

“There is a war going on inside every one of us,” Peter says, preaching from Galatians 5. “You cannot coast in your relationship with Christ.” Samy, a Greek 20-something, translates into his mother tongue. Having joined the ranks of Zoe’s young adults who are passionate about seeing Jesus transform their city, Samy’s recent journey to faith has been one of discovering just how relevant Jesus is to everyday life.

Samy (right) encountered Jesus through meeting people who have a relationship with the living God.



Samy grew up identifying himself as Greek Orthodox, yet he had never attended an Orthodox service: That wasn’t essential to his profession of faith. He lived his life without the surface actions associated with his religious identity because he didn’t see them as having any bearing on the rest of his life. “It’s considered a bit weird if you go to church every Sunday,” laughs Samy. “People don’t often do that here.”

Upon being invited to a church in northern Europe by his girlfriend, he entered a Protestant, evangelical, Pentecostal church and saw people he could identify with come alive in response to teaching about Jesus. He wanted to know what made a difference in the lives of these people. When he learned it was a personal relationship with the living God, He asked Jesus to lead his life. Before returning to Greece, he learned

the northern European church he visited had a sister church, Zoe, in Thessaloniki. He began attending. The rest is history.

Now Samy meets regularly with a community of believers. “Jesus makes sense of my everyday life,” he says. “I don’t leave Him at church. This is what it means to be a disciple.” →



Maria (right) converses with young adults outside Zoe Church.



Maria grew up in the devout Orthodox minority. Her family attends church weekly and conscientiously observes traditions. As a journalist for a Greek arts company during college, Maria was placed on assignment with Timos, a Greek photographer her age who introduced himself as a worship leader at his church.

“I had never heard of that before, since priests direct all parts of a service,” recalls Maria. With piqued interest, she asked Timos many questions. She began attending churches of every Christian persuasion she could find in Thessaloniki, and in two weeks she had explored all her options. “Timos encouraged me to read the Bible. I had never read the Old Testament before because I had never heard anyone else read from it.”



“We’re passionate about discipleship. We don’t want to do evangelism only—telling people about Jesus and then moving on. We want to walk with them in the life of faith.”

Maria’s mother passed away when she was 16, so she began reading the Old Testament with Timos’ mother. “As we read the Old Testament together, it just sort of clicked for me: For the first time, I saw how the Old Testament prophecies point to the

New Testament and to Jesus. Now both parts of the Bible make sense to me.” “I knew that Jesus died because that was emphasized in my church,” Maria continues, “but I didn’t know what it meant. I never knew He died for me.” Maria grew in

her understanding of Jesus’ significance, and her faith came alive. She eventually married Timos, and while praying about which church to attend as a couple, the Lord spoke to them, “Go to Zoe.” They showed up one Sunday last year and have stayed since.

Timos is a worship leader at Zoe, and Maria is one of Zoe’s main Greek translators in the services. She also translated Alpha Course, a series of discussion-based sessions on the Christian faith. Together they lead a

discipleship initiative in Thessaloniki. “We’re passionate about discipleship,” says Maria. “We don’t want to do evangelism only—telling people about Jesus and then moving on. We want to walk with them in the life of faith.” →



Daniil (smiling) believes the message of Zoe Church is for his city.

A GROWING HUNGER

After church, half the Zoe attendees congregate on the sidewalk, always willing to engage with interested passersby. The other half helps with teardown, since the storefront doubles as a multipurpose area for Zoe’s other activities: Alpha Course, English Club, Zoe Sisterhood brunches, FIFA nights, and open mic nights for Thessaloniki’s burgeoning music artists.

Peter shares about Zoe Church’s approach when introducing people to a life with Jesus. “We don’t make following Jesus all about a moment. We recognize that a moment matters; but ultimately, your life is going to speak for the choice you make in that moment. We’re about long-term discipleship. When people express interest in Jesus, we invite them to say, ‘Jesus, I

give You my life.’ And we’ll see the changes over time.”

Daniil, age 25, is a testament to the changes Jesus makes in a life over time. “The youth of our city need this. I need this. Tonight’s message was for me,” he declares in reference to the sermon about the freedom Christ offers. “I feel like this almost every week. I want to see the youth of Thessaloniki to all come here. Our whole city needs this.”

Such conviction drives Zoe’s attendees beyond its walls and into the rest of Thessaloniki. “Because serving our city is a value at Zoe, last year we started giving away a portion of our weekly tithe to a local nonprofit,” Peter explains. Zoe Church chose the Refugee Care Center as their ministry, and each month Zoe purchases food and other necessary items for those fleeing persecution and unrest in the Middle East. “It’s crazy how this has changed Zoe,” Peter says. “We’ve seen

Zoe Church chose the Refugee Care Center as their ministry, and each month Zoe purchases food and other necessary items for those fleeing persecution and unrest in the Middle East.

people take ownership of this, our tithe has doubled, and people have come alive by being able to see the difference we’re making for people in our city.”

That’s why Peter goes every month to schools like Aristotle University of Thessaloniki to interact with students and invite them to English Club, a weekly meeting for Greek students to practice their English through topical discussion.

The first English Club at the start of the recent school year had students throwing around words like *algorithm*, *abyss*, and *correlation* as they sat inside Zoe Church. Over a warm batch of brownies, participants discussed what meaningful use of social media looks like and analyzed multinational attempts to positively influence mental health via social platforms. At the close, a new Greek student expressed her shock that there is a place for discussions like this for people her age: “There is



nothing else here in Thessaloniki like this that I know of—this place that’s for English club and open mic nights and a church and other things. Greeks that I know don’t hang out like this. They get together to smoke, drink, and have parties. This is really interesting.” →



Courtney Good fosters community at a Zoe sisterhood brunch.

Many Greeks are expressing interest in, even hunger for, a community that is holistic and wholesome. At Zoe, those characteristics begin to come into sharper focus through various opportunities to study the Bible.

“It’s an incredible privilege to walk with new believers as they discover and dive into the Bible for the first time,” Courtney says. “They bring this hunger and curiosity and fresh perspective. They ask questions I would never even think to ask.”

Bible study opportunities at Zoe expanded when Courtney started meeting with one of the newer believers to walk through the Book of John together. They used Discovery Bible Study, a simple method that empowers people who may be new to Scripture to read it and apply it.

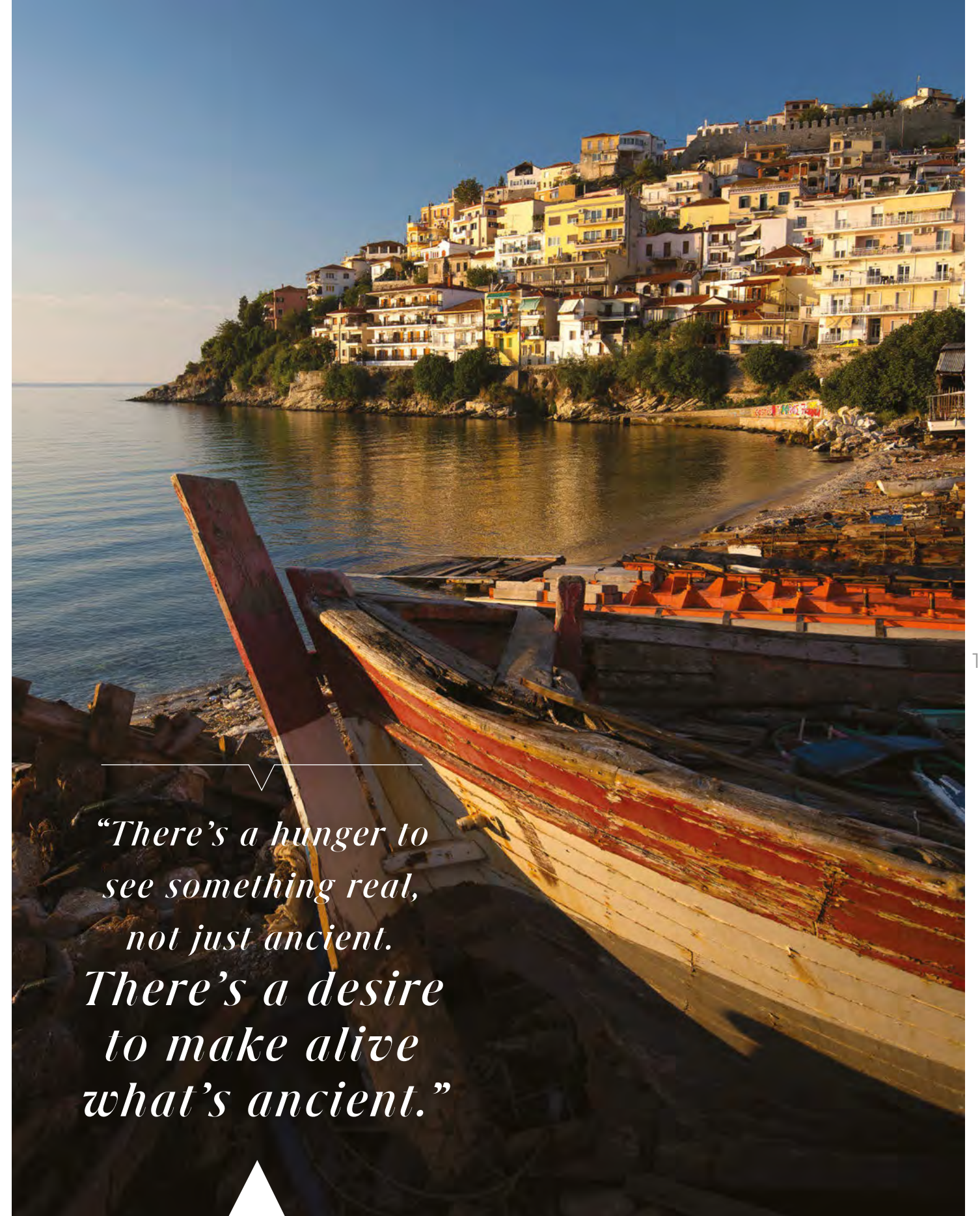
“That kind of personal engagement is so needed here in this country where most people have never been taught and encouraged to read and understand Scripture on their own,” Courtney says. “As more people heard about our study and expressed interest, we invited them to join us.”

Within a couple weeks, 13 people were gathering at a lunchtime Bible study to dig deep into Scripture together, many of them for the first time.

“It just shocked me in the best way,” Courtney says. “People want to know what the Bible’s about and why it matters; they don’t want to just hear it secondhand. There is a hunger here to understand the Spirit, and to understand spiritual power. There’s a hunger to see something real, not just ancient. There’s a desire to make alive what’s ancient. When we can marry the ancient and the alive, it is so powerful.” →



The White Tower of Thessaloniki



“There’s a hunger to see something real, not just ancient. There’s a desire to make alive what’s ancient.”



AT THE SPEED OF GOD

String lights adorn a wraparound porch on an apartment's top story as the sun sets. Outdoor speakers blare contemporary worship remixes to those gathered at a long dining table stretching the length of the balcony. Friends and newcomers pass around mustard chicken, lettuce salads, and fresh Greek bread. The Goods started "Connect Dinners" originally for the Zoe Church team. When they saw the hunger for community, they opened these Wednesday night gatherings to anyone interested. In traditional Greek fashion, guests stay beyond dinner and late into the night to play games, talk, and build relationships.

From the outset in their role as lead pastors, the Goods have intentionally fostered a Christ-centered community as the hallmark of Zoe, convinced it is in a worshipping community that personal transformation occurs. In the beginning, this version of community was a dream. The ratio of Greeks to internationals at Zoe fell more on the international side, with many people entering the country for short periods of time. Long-term discipleship was difficult. The Goods have prayed and striven to foster community among all people

*"We really feel revival
is stirring.
And in all that we
want to see,
we have to move at the
speed of God."*

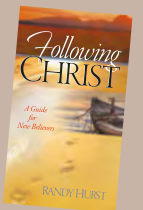


ABCs of SALVATION

To know God and place your trust in His Son as your Savior...

- A. Admit you are a sinner.** "There is no one righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:10,23, NIV).
- B. Believe in Jesus as your only hope of salvation.** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
- C. Confess that Jesus is your Lord.** "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Let us know you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, and we will send you a free booklet as you begin your walk with God. Please visit agwm.org/salvation and provide your mailing address to receive *Following Christ*.




while focusing especially on Greek nationals. Now they are seeing the fruit of their labors.

Courtney marvels, "It's crazy to think that what we prayed about for two years is now something we're known for—community." Yet she and Peter are sure there is more to come. "We really feel revival is stirring," she insists. "And in all that we want to see, we have to move at the speed of God. Our heart is to see churches planted all throughout Greece." →



When will revival break out across Greece? While the Goods don't know, they feel it is coming. They want Zoe Church to disciple carriers of that revival to the surrounding countries.

Church today in Thessaloniki looks different than it did 2,000 years ago—or even two years ago. As people discover Jesus' relevance in daily life and choose to walk the roads of Greece with Him, the spiritual geography of their ancient land changes.

Peter quotes 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing," and sees that what characterizes the Thessalonians of Paul's time also describes the Thessalonian believers today. "Is it ever possible to give too much encouragement?" Peter asks. He quickly answers with his and Courtney's unwavering goal: "May our church communities be the loudest voices, the biggest believers in people, and the most encouraging places where people can be welcomed home and gain the faith to face the life they walk through." 

RENÉE GRIFFITH
AGWM Communications

YOUR MOVE

Revival is stirring in Thessaloniki, and Peter and Courtney Good are believing God for many more churches to be planted throughout Greece and across Europe. Will you believe with them that there is more for Greece?

- *Pray that God continues to grant Zoe Church favor within the community, for scores of encounters with people who are hungry for a relationship with Jesus, and that Zoe Church raises up and deploys Greek leaders to be church planters throughout their homeland.*
- *Connect missionally with Greece through a short-term trip of one to two weeks with your church or college group, an internship of six weeks to three months, or a commitment to longer service of one to two years.*
- *Seek out ways to put your faith into action where you are; don't wait for another place. Courtney says, "I tell people that it's not a coincidence where you live, where you go to school, the people you work with—God placed you there." If you're not in Greece yet, you can still live on-mission where you are. Your prayers can usher in miracles of healing, provision, and breakthroughs.*



Courtney and Peter Good with their children Maevin and Britton

*As people discover
Jesus' relevance
in daily life and choose to walk the
roads of Greece with Him,
the spiritual geography of their
ancient land changes.*

The Apostle Paul in GREECE



1

Acts 16:9 tells of Paul's vision of a Macedonian man pleading for help. Paul took this as a message from God, so he and his companions set sail for Macedonia, bringing the gospel there and into Greece. The *WorldView* team traced some of Paul's footsteps in Greece, presenting you with the following photographic journey through Acts 16-18.

1. NEAPOLIS (Acts 16:11): Paul and his companions landed in Neapolis (an ancient port city near modern-day Kavala, Greece), marking the arrival of the gospel on the European mainland.

2. (a) PHILIPPI (Acts 16:12-40): Outside the city gate, Paul and his companions met Lydia, a Greek woman who had gathered with other women for prayer. He shared the message of Jesus, and Lydia responded. She and her household were baptized, making her the first convert to Christianity in Europe.

(b) Also in Philippi, Paul cast an evil spirit out of a female slave, and he and Silas were thrown in prison. Around midnight as the two sang hymns, a violent earthquake rocked the prison's foundations and shook all chains loose. When no prisoners escaped, the jailer responded to the gospel message. He was baptized, along with his household.

3. THESSALONIKI (Acts 17:1-9): God-fearing Greeks and leading women believed Paul's message, but some Jews stirred up a mob to attack a man named Jason because he had opened his home to Paul and Silas. He gave the angry crowd a pledge before they let him go.

4. BERE A (Acts 17:10-12): After the riot in Thessaloniki, Paul and Silas traveled by night to Berea, where they taught in the synagogue to Jews who were of noble character and examined the Scriptures to verify Paul's words. Several prominent Greek women and men believed as well.

5. ATHENS (Acts 17:15-34): Paul was disturbed at the city's many idols and preached in the synagogue and marketplace. Philosophers brought him to the Areopagus where he explained that the "unknown God" on one of their altars was the one God of the Bible.

6. CORINTH (Acts 18:1-17): Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla, Jews from Italy, and worked as a tentmaker between Sabbaths to share Jesus with Jews and Greeks at the synagogue. Silas and Timothy joined him, and many people became believers. Paul stayed until Jews rose up against him and accused him of worshipping God contrary to the Law. From there he set out for Syria.

* Locations on Paul's journeys not pictured: Samothrace (Acts 16:11), Amphipolis (Acts 17:1), and Apollonia (also Acts 17:1).

Pray For—

Although this feature focuses on the outreach of Zoe Church and the ministry of Peter and Courtney Good, please pray for all AGWM workers in Greece:

— Matt & Marissa Barker

— Kennon & Amanda Briggs



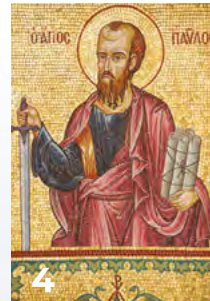
The Barkers



The Briggs family



2



4



6



The island of Milos, Greece

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

G R E E C E

INDIAN
OCEAN

Cuba GREAT COMMISSION FIRSTFRUITS



At the close of 2019, the Cuban Assemblies of God achieved the final phase of their historic global missions program – sending Cuban global workers to the field fully resourced with Cuban funds! This dream has been fulfilled in the form of two Cuban pastors ordained with the AG. They have raised their budgets through the support of Cuban people, and one now serves in the jungles of Panama while the other serves in Haiti.

The Cuban church has been told on numerous occasions that fully supporting their own mission-

aries would be impossible because the Cuban church does not have sufficient resources to fund a missions program. Don, an AGWM worker (last name omitted for security), says, “These brothers are the firstfruits of almost five years of investment and labor to see this come about. Please continue to pray that others from the group of 80 workers who were commissioned last January will be able to raise their funds and go to the nations of their calling to fulfill the Great Commission to the farthest corners of the planet.” WV

Ireland CHURCH PLANT MARKED BY FAMILY MIRACLE

AGWM missionary church planters Patrick and Michelle O’Loughlin share the following testimony from Lighthouse Church Dublin, a two-year-old church in Ireland that is drawing people to Jesus in powerful ways:

Days before the opening of Lighthouse Church Dublin, a man on the church launch team passed away suddenly from a heart attack. He had given his life to Jesus several years prior at a different Lighthouse Church plant, and his constant prayer was for his family in Dublin to accept Christ. He prayed especially for his niece, Blanaid (an Irish name meaning “blossom”), who was in the grip of drug addiction.

At age 15, Blanaid gave birth to a son and gave him up for adoption. She was devastated, diagnosed with PTSD, and began relying on alcohol to cope with her loss. For more than a decade, her life was caught in the grip of ad-

dictions to methadone, heroin, and crack. She stopped using in 2016 and gave birth to another son, but relational struggles landed her with a renewed addiction to alcohol.

When Blanaid heard about the one-year anniversary of Lighthouse Church Dublin, something inside her urged her to go. “I knew something had to change, or I’d be back on drugs in no time,” she says. “I went to Lighthouse Church and was greeted by wonderful, inspiring people. I was saved and never looked back. My uncle would have been so happy that his prayers were answered.”

Recently, Blanaid’s older son received Christ as his Savior. Things have come full circle for the family of the man who interceded for his relatives in Dublin. Their lives have blossomed through the power of God and the influence of Lighthouse Church. WV



Blanaid

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By Dan Van Veen, AG News

SHILOH’S SUNDAES

“Teacher Dan! I brought four quarters for BGMC this Sunday,” Shiloh yelled excitedly. “I know the boys are going to win now!”

Shiloh is 7 years old, and throws himself wholeheartedly into whatever he’s doing.

For BGMC (Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge) at Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri, we periodically have contests and fundraising goals to raise money for missionaries.

In the past, our group of 80 to 100 K-5 kids has raised funds for reuniting moms and children in South America and helping missionaries get women and children out of trafficking situations. We’ve even bought dozens of goats and two yaks to help missionaries make inroads in difficult lands.

During this boys vs. girls fundraiser, the winners would receive ice cream sundaes and

He prayed with passion beyond his years for kids needing to hear about Jesus, asking that God would use the money given to help kids learn about Him and not go hungry.

the money would go to BGMC to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of kids worldwide.

On the final week of the contest, I asked for volunteers to pray. Shiloh’s hand shot up, his body quivering with excitement and his arm reaching to its very limit. He prayed with passion beyond his years for kids needing to hear about Jesus, asking that God would use the money given to help kids learn about Him and not go hungry.



Shiloh

God’s presence was undeniable. I choked back tears as the Lord revealed himself to me through Shiloh.

In a last-minute twist, the boys won the contest. The sundaes were theirs! As we prepared to serve the boys, we let them know we had enough sundaes for the girls too – that is, if the boys thought it would be OK to share.

When I posed the question, Shiloh’s voice led, ringing above the other boys: “Yeah!” he screamed – his face beaming with excitement as he pumped his fist into the air. WV

Adapted from “BGMC: When Kids ‘Get It’” by Dan Van Veen, AG News

Read Shiloh’s full story here: news.ag.org/features/bgmc-when-kids-get-it/

STORY BY

Scott
Harrup

Assemblies of God World
Missions is melding ministry
and training in Africa

PHOTOS BY

Gaylon
Wampler

B
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Nepal's Mount Everest, at 29,029 feet, is the world's tallest mountain. For centuries it was considered inaccessible, but more than 4,000 climbers have scaled the summit since Sir Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay grabbed worldwide headlines in 1953 as the first people to do so.

It's a common misconception that climbing Everest is a task accomplished over several days or a week. But the mountain's "death zone," the area above 26,000 feet with insufficient oxygen for long-term survival, demands otherwise. Climbers must stay for one to two months at Everest Base Camp at 17,600 feet while they make numerous partial climbs into the mountain's upper reaches.

BaseCamps offer an immersive environment to discover Africa, discern God's call into missions, and develop the capacity to serve in cross-cultural ministry.

Ben Dunlap, AGWM missionary to Cameroon, draws a parallel between this scenario and AGWM Africa's recently established BaseCamp ministry strategy.

"Base camps are places from which expeditions are launched," he says. "They are where teams gather and prepare for their climb. They're often at higher altitudes so they can acclimate to the challenging conditions of their journey. This parallels our intent of our centers."

AGWM's BaseCamps offer an immersive environment to discover Africa, discern God's call into missions, and develop the capacity to serve in cross-cultural ministry.

"When asked if BaseCamp is a training center or ministry center, our response is YES! It is both," says Nate Lashway, AGWM missionary to East Africa. Nate and Tammy Lashway are also team leader overseers for the Swahili Zone—a ministry focus on the nations of Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. "In the Swahili Zone of East Africa, it is our desire to encourage

missionaries, develop leaders, and strategically partner with the African churches within the zone to reach those who have not yet heard the gospel and do not know the name of Jesus."

Each of these goals finds expression within a BaseCamp center.

"The training is not classroom training, where participants listen to lectures, read books, and take exams," Tammy says. "But it is experiential learning—learning by doing, organic. It is not about the mastery of knowledge of information but rather developing an increasing level of competency."

In December of 2013, AGWM Africa's missionaries and leadership set into motion a strategy to aggressively pursue God together in the power of the Holy Spirit for an increasingly redeemed and transformed Africa. Part of that endeavor was to identify critical engagement areas throughout the continent.

"Our team left that event excited about engaging the spiritual needs of Cameroon,"

Ben remembers. "It gave us clarity, renewed vision, and it opened our eyes to see where we needed to concentrate some of our efforts. It also showed us that if our team was going to aggressively pursue our strategic plan, we needed more help, more missionaries."

Whether serving as appointed missionaries, missionary associates, or even as short-term volunteers, BaseCamp participants receive invaluable preparation for their tasks. During their time at a BaseCamp, they develop in the six areas of AGWM competency: spiritual formation, missionary life and work, cultural understanding (including language learning), theology of missions, Bible and theology, and contextualized ministry skills.

Several BaseCamps have been launched across Africa, and several more will be launched within the next year. Some have a specific ministry focus, such as higher education trainers, children's ministry or university ministry. Others, like BaseCamp East Africa, focus on general

Several BaseCamps have been launched across Africa, and several more will be launched within the next year.



missions, preparing new missionaries to assess the needs in context in order to best serve a national church.

“Our ultimate goal at BaseCamp East Africa,” Nate says, “is to develop teams to launch in countries where we have an emerging national church, but no AGWM missionaries (Rwanda, Burundi or Uganda) or in countries where we have no Assemblies of God national church (South Sudan, Eritrea). BaseCamp participants are not coming to stay. They’re passing through on their way to serve somewhere else.”

By the completion of each participant’s experience, BaseCamp leaders hope that one of two things will happen: Participants move to a greater place of commitment and engagement to serve in Africa. Or, participants remain lifelong friends of Africa by praying, giving, or sharing in the needs of the continent.

“Either way, it is a win/win for them and for BaseCamp!” Nate says.

Although BaseCamps have different ministry foci, they all share the same DNA, ethos, and culture.

BaseCamp is both training and ministry—theory and practice. BaseCamp leaders intentionally give opportunity for this process through group pre-briefing and debriefing as well as personal reflection. As participants reflect on what they observed or did in light of theory, they will apply new insight to their missionary practice moving forward. It is a continuous cycle, which facilitates and encourages lifelong learning.

“In Africa, we plant, nurture, and partner with national churches,” Nate says. “We have chosen to run BaseCamp East Africa alongside a strong African church to model what a good church partnership looks like and to leverage the experience of many of our pastors and leaders who will speak into the lives of these new missionaries as co-mentors with us.”

Although BaseCamps have different ministry foci, they all share the same DNA, ethos, and culture. They foster intentional discipleship, a growth environment, the value of each individual,

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In the end, BaseCamp is aimed at recognizing continuing need and preparing people to meet that need.

hospitality, and doing life together, as a community in covenant.

“In the end, BaseCamp is aimed at recognizing continuing need and preparing people to meet that need,” says Greg Beggs, AGWM Africa regional director. “You can talk about the successes, and that will encourage your faith. But think for a moment of more than 700 unreached people groups still in place across sub-Saharan Africa. We are profoundly grateful for the successes God has given our missions outreaches. We are grateful for African AG fellowships that are strong and growing. Some of them are now 100 years old. But we must keep our focus on the remaining need.”

“The needs of Africa are overwhelming,” Ben says, reflecting on the growing BaseCamp initiative in Cameroon, but with a heart for the continent. “Jesus too saw the vast needs of His day. We can see this account in Matthew chapter 9. Jesus tells His disciples, ‘The harvest is great but the workers are few.’ Jesus tells His disciples to pray for more workers to be sent out. I truly believe that if we’re going to engage the needs throughout Africa we must position ourselves in a manner where we can mobilize people to meet these needs. There’s too much at stake.”

SCOTT HARRUP
AGWM Communications

Tammy and Nate Lashway (left) together with their cultural guide, Bolden, encourage the newly arrived Stewart family to explore the area around their BaseCamp.



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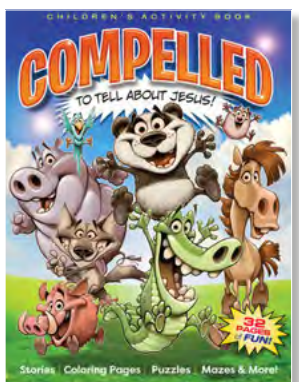
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UNSUNG HEROES

REPURPOSING TECHNOLOGY



Pam and Jeff Gregory

Jeff and Pam Gregory have spent 34 years as career missionaries first sent out from the British AG to the Philippines. In the mid-90s they transferred to AGWM to work with Asia Pacific Media Ministries. They now serve in multiple regions of the world with a focus on mobile technology.

Jeff, a native of Leek, England, responded to an altar call at age 12 during a British Assemblies of God General Council. "I felt the Lord ask

me, *How can you tell somebody something if you don't know it yourself?* It was then I realized that my faith was actually my family's faith; it wasn't personal. That night I became a Christian, and God called me into missions very clearly."

Pam grew up in the Philippines as an MK (missionary kid) with AGWM. "My call didn't come as a specific event but rather as a process. During eighth grade, I just knew that I would be involved with MK education." During college, God called her to serve in the Philippines. Her first missions assignment was serving in music ministry with Eurasia Teen Challenge (ETC) in Europe in the mid-80s. There she met Jeff, who was also serving with ETC. After ministering together for two years, they married and applied for full missions appointment with the British Assemblies of God and were sent as the first British AG missionaries to the Philippines.

The Gregorlys shifted their focus to helping missionaries use mobile technology as an evangelistic tool.

Jeff and Pam raised their children Victoria, Joseph, and Benjamin in the Philippines. Pam taught MKs, and Jeff assisted national churches with media across Asia Pacific and Northern Asia, developing projects from simple PowerPoint presentations all the way to theatrical release movies for cinemas and national television stations.

Jeff noticed people had cell phones nearly everywhere he traveled. God challenged him: "A cell phone is an incredible opportunity to engage people with the gospel." With the support of AGWM leadership, the Gregorlys shifted their focus to helping missionaries use mobile technology as an evangelistic tool. Additionally, Pam now serves as a consultant for MK education worldwide.

"God is doing amazing things," the Gregorlys say. "He's opening incredible doors of ministry to help people see that the technology around us was created by people who didn't have God in mind, but we can redeem it and use it for God's purposes."

RENÉE GRIFFITH

AGWM Communications



Compelled

Footprints

Perhaps you have heard of your carbon footprint, the amount of carbon dioxide emitted as a result of your energy use. Every time you drive a car, plug in a lamp, use an appliance, or fly in a plane, you take part in a carbon dioxide-emitting process. Vehicles and power-generating facilities emit CO₂, an environment factor that is continually discussed in today's news and political debates.

We all want to take care of the environment, to be stewards of God's creation. Having small environmental "footprints" makes sense.

But are there other circumstances when our footprints should be big? Where our impact should be huge?

Parents want their "footprint" in their children's lives to be massive. There are so many positive choices to make and negative choices to avoid, and children who see their parents resist temptation and live with spiritual integrity are likely to do the same.

Husbands and wives want their "footprint" of love to be inescapable for each other. A spouse should never have to wonder if he or she is loved extravagantly.

For followers of Christ, a love footprint needs to reach everyone else they meet. That's God's command, that's been His example to all of us, and we must take that mandate to heart daily.

There's one final area of "footprinting" that applies to all followers of Christ. We're all commanded to "go into the whole world and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). We're to tell everyone about the good news of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection in our behalf.

Sadly, too often, we treat our "Mark 16:15 footprint" like our "carbon footprint." We tiptoe through life in the softest, most politically correct, relationship slippers we can find.

And, all the while, God's calling us to put on combat boots.

SCOTT HARRUP
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