

V+H

MAGAZINE

GOD AT WORK

HOW CLEAN WATER IS ENABLING CHURCH PLANTING IN WEST AFRICA



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

P.6 | COVER STORY

P.4 | GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS

P.12 | MY PRESENT TO YOU

P.14 | LOOKING FOR A WAY



**LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Preparing the soil, planting seeds, watering...

Dear friend of Reach Beyond,

One of the amazing things about being a follower of Jesus is how God has uniquely gifted every believer to serve in His kingdom. I am reminded of I Corinthians 3:6 where Paul writes, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

Global missions is a team effort. It is not something we can or should try to do by ourselves. God has given each of us an essential role in building His Kingdom.

At Reach Beyond, we focus a lot on preparing the soil. This is important when trying to reach people groups who are unreached and resistant to the Gospel. Seeds won't grow in dry and hard ground until the soil has been softened, the rocks have been cleared and there is someone to give them water.

God has given us tools like radio, medicine and community development which are really effective in preparing soil, planting seeds and giving them water. He has positioned Reach Beyond to equip and empower local believers to use these tools to reach their own communities with the Gospel. God has uniquely equipped our indigenous ministry partners with skills and abilities to communicate and engage with their community on a heart level. And He is raising up the local church to water and nurture each seed.

God has a role for each of us and He wants us to work together.

Preparing the soil is not an easy job and many times we don't get to see any immediate results from our efforts. The same is true for those who plant and water seeds. It can take a long time for things to begin to grow. As believers, we often don't even know that we have planted or watered a seed. But God knows since He places those seeds. And in His perfect timing—The Lord of the Harvest will make things grow.

In this issue of Voice + Hands, you will read some amazing stories of God at work to reach an unreached people group in West Africa that has long been resistant to the Gospel.

There are many other mission organizations, missionaries and local believers who have been working for decades to reach this people group. We do not labor alone. God is on the move and we hope you will be encouraged by hearing about what He is doing.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts that are helping prepare the soil, plant seeds and give them water.

Join us in celebrating and praising God for what He is doing!



Daniel Enns | President

Voice + Hands Magazine is produced by Reach Beyond.

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Seven years ago, Reach Beyond helped put three clean water wells in West Africa to empower church-planting efforts. At that time, we could only imagine what God might do among this unreached people group. God has been at work in an amazing way!







1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-9 (NIV)

“...but God has been making it grow.”

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

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GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE MINISTRY

ASIA PACIFIC

Never underestimate the power of words, especially during the pandemic. When masks overshadow facial expressions and people are isolated from each other, words can be a gift. Our ministry partner in Indonesia operates many radio stations that Reach Beyond has helped to install. These stations spread words of truth and encouragement and receive numerous messages thanking them for being "there" during these hard times. Listeners say the programs have changed their lives and the lives of family and children too.

One listener wrote, "I listen to your station every morning. Sometimes I play it over a loudspeaker so the whole village can hear. I want them all to be blessed. I pray God will always bless the radio ministry!"

A listener from a different station wrote, "I've been a loyal listener for eight years. I enjoy listening while I'm cooking or doing my morning routines. Every day I feel strengthened, especially by the program called Making Life Better and Leading The Way. Sometimes though, I have problems with my radio, so I'm really thankful for my neighbor. He plays the station through a loudspeaker every morning so I can still listen and be blessed. And not just me, I know many people are blessed too. I pray every day for the staff that they will continue to be a blessing for many people. Thank you very much for your ministry!"

These stations typically have a potential reach of 70,000 -100,000 listeners. And with the help of faithful listeners who play programs over loudspeakers in their communities, the powerful words of the Gospel are going out to an even larger audience!

GET INVOLVED IN THESE MINISTRIES

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EUROPE/EURASIA

The media team in Central Asia is working with Reach Beyond New Zealand to translate the SuperBible into three languages commonly spoken in the region. The SuperBible shares Bible stories and the Gospel of Jesus in comic book format, both in print and video. So far, they have completed ten videos which have been made available through their online radio and internet ministries.

- *"Hi guys. Thank you so much for this great project. It explains many things that I did not think about before."*
- *"Hello. I've downloaded these cartoons and showed them to my kids. I never saw them so interested in Bible study like during watching your movies."*
- *"I'm a pastor in a local church. And with your permission, we use these during our Sunday church school. People are so pleased to watch these. I pray for you guys."*

We celebrate how the Lord is already using the SuperBible videos to engage people in this region with the truths in Scripture and draw them to a greater understanding of Jesus. Pray for the media team as they work to expand the SuperBible with more stories and additional languages.

SPAIN

"Could we use Radio Vida to do a day of prayer for Ukraine?" asked a local pastor. Bill, who is a Reach Beyond missionary, thought it was a great idea and he and the rest of the Radio Vida team immediately began preparations for the 14-hour event that would begin in less than two days. Radio Vida (Radio Life) quickly sent out invitations to Spanish-speaking believers to record prayers that could be played throughout the day. More than 50 people from around the world sent recordings. Local pastors in Spain were also invited to come to Radio Vida to pray live and in-person all throughout the day.

Radio Vida listeners were encouraged to message written prayers to the station. Through these interactions, Radio Vida learned about a Ukrainian church and other local churches that were collecting donations for Ukrainian refugees who have fled to neighboring countries. As a result, Radio Vida has been able to come alongside these local churches to publicize specific needs and invite the broader community to participate.

Though the Day of Prayer was a spontaneous event that was put together in less than two days, we are thrilled with what God did through it. God used Radio Vida to be a unifying voice for the local church to pray for the situation and for the people—including our brothers and sisters in Christ—who have been affected by the crisis. At the same time Radio Vida has been able to help the local church meet the physical needs of people in times of uncertainty. "Pray that God would use His Church and His People—to proclaim His peace and demonstrate His love—so that all of the world would know that He is the Savior."

GET INVOLVED IN THESE MINISTRIES

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GOD AT WORK IN WEST AFRICA

It's Sunday morning and over 300 men, women and children have gathered to sing and worship the Lord. The church is filled with smiling faces, while children and youth are outside huddled in groups underneath trees. The church meets in a traditional mud-brick building among scattered small clusters of homes in a rural part of West Africa—many miles from a main road. Few people know of its existence, but God is at work here using a clean water well, basic health training and digital media to enable church-planting efforts.

“Seven years ago there was not a single believer...”

Just seven years ago, there was not a single believer in this community or the surrounding area. They are part of a large unreached people group that embraced Islam many centuries ago—a people group who had been very resistant to the Gospel.

“We had felt God calling us to reach out to people in this area,” explains Henri*—Reach Beyond’s local indigenous partner, “But it was not easy.”

CALLED TO MINISTRY

Henri studied electronics at the university and began volunteering at a Christian radio station where Reach Beyond had helped provide equipment. After graduation, Henri started his own electronics repair business and continued to volunteer at the station. Three years later, he was recruited by missionary broadcaster Trans World Radio (TWR) to become a senior technician.

During one of Henri’s trips with TWR to the U.S., Henri’s host made a detour to go to their church’s missions conference. Henri recalls, “This church supports 105 missionaries all over the world. I heard reports by missionaries who had gone to where there was no church, and now they’ve planted like three to five churches there, and there is a great revival. I heard missionaries who had lost their wife because of malaria, or lost one of their children. I heard all of these

*names changed for security



“Attempting to openly share the Gospel is risky in areas where cultural and religious identity are very strong.”

messages. And that’s when I heard God’s voice saying, ‘that’s what you have to do for me, I want you to go all over the world to tell people about my love.’”

Henri would spend the next four years fighting with God about this calling. “Electronics had been my whole life. I thought the call meant I needed to leave electronics and resign from my job. And that was very, very difficult. I realized that I couldn’t continue to fight with God. I shared the burden with my wife. We said, ‘Okay, let’s fast and pray for three days. We’ll ask God if He really wants us to leave everything for this.’ By the end we received confirmation that God will take care of everything. So, we said, ‘OK, here we are God. What’s next?’”

NEW BEGINNINGS

In 2013, Henri and his wife began a ministry called Shining Light*. Still unsure of what God wanted, Henri looked to utilize the skills he had, “I said, OK, let’s build a small studio. We’ll start doing some radio programs and so we began recording pastors. We started looking for radio stations to air our programs, but we didn’t have money to pay them. So, I went to a radio station and met with the director. I said, ‘OK I have a special contract for you.’ He said, ‘Why is it special?’ And I said, ‘Because you are going to air my program for free.’ And his response was like ‘Say what?’ I said, ‘Yes, but wait. Any time you have technical issues, you can call me, and I will come and fix it for free.’” Using this approach, Shining Light’s programs were soon being aired on 24 stations—and now over 100 in the region.

Henri wanted to connect with other Christian radio ministries, so he traveled to Ghana in 2013 for a conference hosted by Theovision—a Reach Beyond partner ministry. It was there that Henri first met Alex, a Reach Beyond missionary.

One day, Henri and his wife were reading Acts 18 where it talked about Paul making tents to support his ministry. Henri was intrigued at how Paul integrated work with ministry. He decided to visit all the churches in the area to help them with their sound systems, teach them to mix audio well, and share about their ministry.

At the same time, Henri was looking for ways to reach rural communities. Attempting to openly share the Gospel is risky in areas where cultural and religious identity are very strong. Henri needed a way to gain access. “I said to my wife, ‘You are a veterinarian, let’s start using that in rural communities.’”

GOD POINTS THE WAY

Beginning a work in a new village requires a lot of wisdom and prayer. It often starts by finding a “man of peace” who offers hospitality. Henri recalled the first time they entered the village where Reach Beyond would eventually help put several wells. “We just had the name of the village we wanted to visit. Since we didn’t have a guide, we asked for directions. And then we got to a fork. Should we go right or left? So, we chose one. When we reached the next village, we asked for directions, and they said, ‘Oh, that village is over that way. But we are also from that village. Who are you looking for? The sun is hot. Come and sit down under a tree.’ They welcomed

“Beginning a work in a new village requires a lot of wisdom and prayer.”

“Reach Beyond was looking for ways to help media partners use clean water to expand their ministry.”

us so kindly. They gave us cow milk to drink. They were willing to take us to where we wanted to go. We looked at each other and said, ‘Maybe we should end our journey here.’” They had found a “man of peace.”

Henri began asking local people about how many cows, goats and animals they had so they could return with enough vaccines. “When we asked the chief how many cows he had, he became upset, and he took out his weapon and wanted to cut us in pieces. He was enraged and said, ‘How can you ask me how many cows do I own? Can I ask you how much money you have in your bank account?’ And we apologized and we did everything we could, but he wouldn’t tell us how many cows he had.”

Henri and the team from Shining Light returned one week later to vaccinate the animals. Henri recalled, “And when we finally arrived to the chief, we were only able to vaccinate around 20 of his cows before we ran out. He became angry again. He said, ‘I am the chief of the village, and now you don’t have enough vaccines for my cows?’” Henri again tried to apologize, “Oh, chief. That’s why last week we were asking for numbers. You became angry. You didn’t give us the numbers. So sorry, we’ll come back just for you to finish vaccinating your cows.” Henri and Shining Light learned some valuable lessons. It would take time to understand what is acceptable in this people group’s culture.

It was during these trips that Henri and his wife saw the need for clean water. “When we start entering rural communities, we discovered a need of water. People were walking several miles a day to get water from a stream—water that is unclean, that brought diseases, made them sick and even killed their children.”

PARTNERSHIP BEGINS

Henri mentioned the need for clean water in his monthly newsletter. When Reach Beyond missionary Alex saw the email, he forwarded it to Andrew and Laura, who were leading Reach Beyond’s community development work in the region at that time.



Reach Beyond was looking for ways to help media partners use clean water to expand their ministry, so they contacted Henri and began conversations with him. They traveled to meet with Henri and Shining Light, and visit some of the communities. They started working together on a well design that would meet local needs. Reach Beyond committed funds for three wells, but Shining Light would need to determine where to put them.

INVOLVING THE LOCAL CHURCH

By 2015, Henri’s ministry had a long list of villages where they had already done some sort of outreach and which most needed water. But Henri had another list—the churches he had helped with their sound systems. It was time to get them involved.

Henri explained, “So we said, ‘Hey, pastors. We have an opportunity for you. One of our partners is ready to give us three wells. This is a list of the communities. If someone is ready to go to this village and start a new church, we are ready to put a well there.’ And they rushed to our office. We were being visited by pastors every day saying things like, ‘Oh this village, we tried something there three years ago. If we can bring a well there, this would be an open door for us, we want to do it.’”

“If someone is ready to go to one of these villages and start a new church, we are ready to put a well there.”

Communities are highly involved throughout the process of building their well. They provide much of the raw materials including gravel and sand.



“These voice and hands strategies start spiritual conversations which lead to...Bible studies.”

VOICE AND HANDS TOGETHER

Reach Beyond has been providing funding for three new clean wells each year. Wells provide Shining Light with open access to villages. Reach Beyond has also equipped Shining Light staff to teach communities basic health, hygiene and sanitation practices using materials that integrate physical and spiritual cleanliness.

Shining Light recently began broadcasting audio programs in local villages using a simple MP3 player connected to a very low power FM transmitter with a range of around 1500 feet. Each month, Shining Light updates the 20 hours of programming on the MP3 players based on the spiritual openness of the community. Virtually all cell phones in Africa have a built-in FM receiver, so for less than \$300, these micro stations can reach an entire small rural village with the Gospel.

These voice and hands strategies start spiritual conversations which lead to small private Bible studies. Once there are several families in a village who are believers, a pastor/church planter from the responsible church will begin attending the Bible studies, and in time, assume full leadership. Once a house church has grown large enough, they will begin meeting in public.

This shared church-planting model allows Shining Light to focus its efforts on evangelism while maintaining the Biblical responsibility of the local church.

Involving a local church from the beginning is critical to Shining Light's ministry. In fact, they will not even begin a new project until a local church commits to long-term responsibility.

THE FIRST WELL/THE FIRST BELIEVER

The first well to go in was at the village where God had led them to the "man of peace." Putting a well in a community requires a lot of visits. The villagers are tasked with providing much of the materials, including gravel and sand. On one of these trips, Henri gave out some MP3 players containing Christian music that had been recorded in that tribe's language by SIM.

Not long afterwards, Henri was visiting the village when the "man of peace" came up to them. "He said, 'Oh my friend. Come, come. I am looking for you.' I replied, 'Is everything OK?' He said, 'No, no, no. It is not OK. I've been listening to your music, and I heard it say that Jesus is the only way to go to heaven.' We replied, 'Oh, you listened to that. That's good!' he said, 'No, no, no, no. It's not good.' We replied, 'Why is it not good?' He said, 'If it is good, that means that I am on the wrong way.' And I said, 'Oh, you also discovered that, that's fantastic.' He said, 'No, it isn't. What shall I do now? You are causing me trouble. I have to choose.' We replied, 'Yes, life is a matter of choice. You have the information. Now you need to choose.'" Henri continued, "We started working with him. And he gave his life to Jesus." (read more of this story on page 11)

Reach Beyond equipped Shining Light to teach basic health, hygiene and sanitation practices using materials that integrate spiritual truths. Shining Light is also using very low power FM radio transmitters to help start conversations about Jesus.



In the past seven years, Reach Beyond has partnered with Shining Light* to install over two dozen wells as part of local church-planting efforts by national believers.



GOD MAKES IT GROW

Since 2015, Reach Beyond has partnered with Shining Light to dig over two dozen wells in the country. Reach Beyond is helping prepare the soil for those who will plant seeds and for those who will water them. But it is God who makes them grow.

The village that received the first well has been radically transformed, both physically and spiritually. When the project began, there were no believers in that area. Now there are four wells, six churches, and another 24 Bible studies. One of the first twenty believers is preparing to become a pastor and is in his final year of Bible school. Over one-third of the people in that community have already chosen to follow Jesus.

Even though this unreached people group has long been resistant to the Gospel, there are now over 600 churches/house churches among them in the country. And God is not done yet. He is continuing to use many different ministries, working together in partnership with local believers and the local church to grow His kingdom in truly amazing ways. ■

“Now there are four wells, six churches, and another 24 Bible studies.”



THE FIRST WELL

FIRST BELIEVER

(Continued from page 9)

“One day, the 'man of peace' called us and said, 'I want to see you.' And so we went to the village. He said, 'You know in about two weeks it is Ramadan. I want to announce to everyone that I am no longer Muslim, so I am not going to celebrate Ramadan.' And we said among ourselves, 'Oh, no, this man will face persecution. How are we going to take care of him through this?'”

Henri* continued, “I said, 'Are you sure that you are ready for this?' He said, 'Yes, even if they kill me. No problem.' We said, 'OK. What about the chief? You are a member of the village committee!' He replied, 'You can tell the chief. I'm not worried.'” Henri thought about it and said, “OK, maybe the best thing would be to go tell the chief before he discovers it for himself.”

Henri explained, “Remember, this is the same chief who wanted to kill us when we asked how many cows he owned. So, we went to the chief. We all sat in a position so that if he took out his weapon again, we would all be able to run away. We said, 'OK chief, we want to inform you of a situation.' He said, 'Oh, is it bad?' I said, 'No, no, no, but we want to talk to you about it so it will not become bad.' He said, 'OK, I'm listening.' I said, 'You know that the first day we came here, we said that we are a Christian organization.' He said, 'Yes, yes, I remember, that's not a problem for me. You are helping my people.' I said, 'OK. And, do you know this man?' He said, 'Yes, of course.' We said, 'OK, we gave him one of our MP3 players.' He said, 'Yes, I also received one.'

Then we replied, 'Yes. But he listened to music. That started some conversations with us and now he has decided to become a Christian. Are you OK with that?'

The chief just stayed silent for like ten seconds. It seemed like an eternity as we were looking for his first reaction to know if we needed to start running away. The chief just stayed that way. Then he said, 'No problem.' I said, 'What? Did you say no problem?' He replied, 'Yes, no problem. When we get to heaven, if he is right, we'll know. If I was wrong, we'll know. No problem. It is his choice.' And that's how God saved us, because if this guy would have faced the kind of persecution that often happens, we would not have had the resources to really take care of him, or even the ability to teach him the Word and be strong in faith.”

Henri added, “God has brought us through many, many things, situations and experiences. And each step is a confirmation that we are where God wants us to be.” ■

“And each step
is a confirmation that
we are where
God wants us to be.”

*names changed for security



This is my present to you.

"We are going to inaugurate a well today. Have you ever done that?" Henri* posed this simple question to Wim as they were driving down a rural West African road. Wim said that he had done that many times in Ecuador. Henri replied, "OK, you will inaugurate the well." Wim asked if he could share the Gospel and Henri replied he could—if he felt God calling him to.

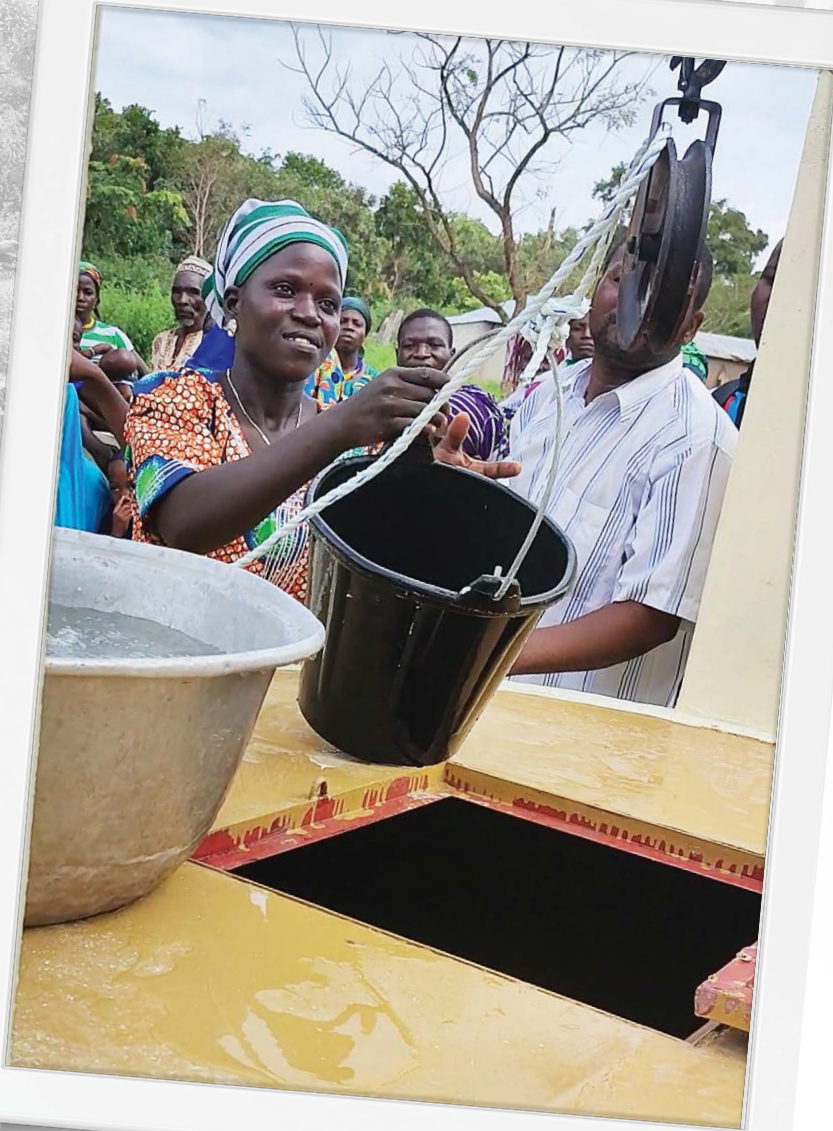
Wim is a Reach Beyond missionary from the Netherlands who specializes in community development and clean water projects. He had just arrived in the country to provide training for Shining Light*, an indigenous ministry that Reach Beyond has partnered with on over two dozen clean water well projects.

The first to speak at the inauguration was the local pastor who is leading church planting efforts in that community. Then village leaders spoke. After that, the project manager from Shining Light shared, followed by Henri.

Wim recalled, "And then it was my turn to speak. It was being translated from English to the country language, then to the primary local language, and then into another language. So, I needed to keep my thoughts straight, because I didn't have notes or anything written down. I just spoke from my heart.

I shared about how the end of the project is like crossing a finish line. 'We finally got there. We finally finished the project and now there is a finished well. But this well is also a starting line—it's a new day for them to start improving their health and their habits.' And I connected that to the Gospel and said, 'Water is just one of our problems. There will be new problems.

*names changed for security



“...the tribal leader just gave his life to Jesus.”

There will be other problems that you're going to face. Why don't you start walking with Jesus today, because He will give you hope in this life.' And I followed up with a simple question. While I was doing that, there was a lot of talk off to the side, but I needed to keep my concentration. So I finished with something like, 'If anyone wants to start today to walk with Jesus, just let us know.' and we continued with the inauguration.

Then Henri leaned over and told me that the tribal leader had just given his life to Jesus. My translator disappeared with the man so they could begin talking about what it meant to become a Jesus follower. They couldn't do that in public in this community, so he was taken aside privately to begin follow up."

Looking back, Wim says, "I had felt like I had no business being there. I only had three weeks to get ready for this trip. I don't speak any of the languages. I had never traveled to Sub-Saharan Africa. I had only

been in the country for like a day and a half, most of which was spent in the car speaking English.

I had worked really hard in Ecuador. We sometimes spent six years working on a water project where nothing really happened—where we wouldn't see anyone coming to know Jesus. And here it was pretty much the opposite.

But in this God said, 'Oh, you matter to me. And that's why I will show you that it is important that we keep doing this.' It was God telling me that there is a place for us to do ministry in Africa and that this is a part of His kingdom that he wants us to get involved in. So, for me, it was a confirmation. For them it was a confirmation. God arranged this inauguration of the well. He basically said, 'This is my present to you.' And I will rejoice in that. And I think that is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life." ■

LOOKING FOR A WAY

BY LINDSEY, DIRECTOR OF MOBILIZATION



It was our second day in country and already we were welcomed in like family. Our team of four students and two supervisors from Taylor University and I had just traveled 30 hours to this unfamiliar country. The Taylor team was there to learn, to pray and to be helping hands for our Reach Beyond missionaries and partners on the field. The missionaries connected us right away with the reason they live in country: the local people.

Sitting around the table with baskets full of traditional breads, we literally broke bread with local brothers and sisters in Christ whom we had just met. These local university students had made the bold step to follow Christ in a country that is 0.3% evangelical Christian. As they handed us chunks of bread, they shared with us parts of their stories of how Christ captured their hearts.

Temir* shared about leaving his village and coming to the big city to study at the university. While there he met Kanat*, a Christian. Kanat spent time with Temir encouraging him, mentoring him and sharing the Gospel. Finally, Temir did accept Jesus and committed his life to following him.

When Temir found the courage to share with his parents about becoming a Christian, his parents became angry. His father told him to never speak of the subject with them again and declared, "I will never step foot in a church." Yet, his parents couldn't help but notice the change in Temir. They commented on the positive shift in his character and attitude.

Temir shared that over time, his father has gradually been more open and actually has come to church twice! Temir continues to pray that his parents will open their minds and hearts to Jesus.

Aiman* shared her story of how she came to the language center as a fourteen year old, eager to practice her English. At that time there was a team of students from Boston who were there to offer their help as native English speakers. Aiman connected with two girls in particular and made a point to come every day to talk with them. One day, the girls moved from discussing school, fashion and relationships to talking about spiritual things. The Americans shared about their faith as Christians and invited Aiman to accept Jesus. Aiman said no, she was not willing to take that step. But she continued to think about what they had shared. On the very day that the girls were leaving to return to Boston, Aiman sought them out and asked to meet with them one last time. At that farewell meeting, she said she was ready to accept Jesus. And so, with the two strangers turned spiritual mentors, Aiman made the biggest decision of her life. She shared how she now feels love and joy and continues to follow Jesus four years later. She eagerly welcomed our team, knowing what a difference strangers from America can make even if they are only there for a few weeks.

Temir and Kanat work at a language center where they provide low-cost and free language learning services. The underlying goal is to build relationships where they can invite these students into their homes or coffee shops with the hope of sharing about Jesus. They have to be careful not to share their faith at the language center itself as that could lead to the language center being shut down completely. As we sipped our ginger tea and listened to these stories, I couldn't help but wonder what God may have in store for the Taylor team. We had just navigated all

Taylor university students were able to do a scavenger hunt with local university students as a way to get to know the city and its important sites.

“...we know God’s purpose prevails.”

of the challenges of traveling during the pandemic and anxiously hoping for negative PCR tests so we could board the plane. Unfortunately, one of the five students did test positive and had to stay home. There had been conversations about canceling the trip due to concerns about the Omicron variant. But, we decided to move forward with the trip as we wanted to live by faith instead of fear.

Little did we know that the Omicron variant had recently arrived in country and was spreading rapidly. Within the next day, our team had significant exposure and soon myself and one of the students tested positive. Over the next three weeks, our plans were constantly evolving because of COVID-19. There were moments of “Why are we here?” and yet “God clearly opened the way for us to come!” The entire team lived suspended in the tension of the unknown. Yet, we recognized that it is exactly in the unknown that draws us closer to God as we rely on Him in faith.

The Taylor students adapted and willingly helped in whatever ways they could. On days that the whole team was quarantined, we spent time prayer walking throughout the city (being careful to not come into contact with anyone else of course!) We passed by the prominent mosques and prayed for those who have yet to meet Jesus. We were also guided by Reach Beyond missionaries to small obscure churches where we prayed for local believers who seek to be a light to their Muslim neighbors.

Amazingly, the Taylor students were able to go to the language center for a couple of hours almost every afternoon. Temir and Kanat and other workers at the language center were grateful to have native English speakers to help students practice English; in fact, this was a draw to some students who wouldn’t have otherwise come to the center. Helping at the center was a highlight for the Taylor students as they were able to join in with the lives of local university students.

Katie* and Leah* were able to build a relationship with Inju*, an architecture student. The three girls connected over their enjoyment of art and beauty. Katie shared her experience with Inju, “We didn’t talk about God specifically. There just wasn’t space for that at the times we could meet, but she seemed really drawn to and curious about the way we talked about family life and happiness and the concept of joy. She was really passionate about doing the right thing and making the world a better place and seemed to be looking for a way that that could happen for real.”

While Katie and Leah did not have the opportunity to see Inju find the Way during their time there, we trust that God is at work. God made the way for the Taylor team to come to this country and to sow seeds through prayer walking, encouraging local believers and being a light to local university students like Inju. Even when all our plans are turned upside down, we know God’s purpose prevails. Our prayer is that one day we will sit at the table in the heavenly Kingdom and break bread with Inju and others at the language center and hear the stories of how Jesus captured their hearts. ■

**All names have been changed for security reasons.*



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