

#CALL

WORLD GOSPEL MISSION WGM.ORG FALL/WINTER 2018

FEATURE STORY:
GABRIELA

P. 4

WE SAID YES!

P. 9

**HANDPRINTS
OF GOD**

P. 12

**THE WORTH
AND THE COST**

P. 18



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

AS WE STOOD, she posed a question I hadn't anticipated.

We had hiked 15 minutes up to an outlook overlooking a vast valley bordered by rugged mountains. A beautiful backdrop framed us—lush green mountains towering into stunning blue skies, perfectly accented by billowy white clouds.

This area in Papua New Guinea is very remote, nearly cut off from the rest of the world and is only accessible by heavy-duty four-wheel drive vehicles. It is frequently silenced from the rest of civilization when the cell phone signal unexplainably disappears, sometimes for days. Time, energy, finances, and the mission my interviewees give their lives to only permits them to travel to a less remote area every couple of months.

I asked WGM missionaries Seth and Veronica Porter, "Why? Why have you given up the comforts available in this world? Why have you made the sacrifice to live in these very challenging conditions with your four small children?"

Veronica answered first. Her answer was itself a question.

"Why not?"

They are participating in the Lord's harvest—His Great Commission. They are helping transform lives. They have said yes to God. They have counted the cost, concluded it is worth it, and as a result, have found God's best.

Why not live in the center of God's will? Why not find His best and embrace it? Why not live differently than those of the world, fully surrendered to Christ?

In the following pages, you'll read stories from around the world and have an opportunity to respond in powerful ways. WGM is here to help you discover and experience God's best for your life. To learn more about how that can happen, visit our website at www.wgm.org.

In His service,



Dan

Dr. Dan Schafer

THE CALL

FALL/WINTER 2018
WORLD GOSPEL MISSION
VOL. 100 NO. 1

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
JOHN RINEHIMER

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
LAURA NEEDLER

COPY EDITORS
PEGGY BUSHONG, ALEX GERGELY,
& ANGELA OLSEN

PROJECT MANAGER
JULIE FLETSCHNER

DESIGNER
KIM SHAVER

WORLD GOSPEL MISSION IS AN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL MISSIONARY-SENDING
ORGANIZATION THAT IS WESLEYAN-ARMINIAN IN
DOCTRINE AND WORLDWIDE IN SCOPE.

WORLD GOSPEL MISSION, INC., ©2018

THE CALL (USPS 085-420) IS THE OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF WORLD GOSPEL MISSION AND
IS PUBLISHED BI-ANNUALLY. INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
IS AT 3783 EAST STATE ROAD 18, P.O. BOX 948,
MARION, IN 46952-0948. NONPROFIT STANDARD
MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT MARION, IN, AND ADDITIONAL
OFFICE. A FREE SUBSCRIPTION IS AVAILABLE FOR
ANYONE WISHING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LEADING
AN ACTIVE MISSIONAL LIFE. PRINTED IN USA.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED WITH THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT WORLD GOSPEL MISSION
HAS COMPLETE DISCRETION AND CONTROL
OVER THE USE OF ALL DONATED FUNDS.



3783 EAST STATE ROAD 18
MARION, IN 46952-0948
PHONE: 765.664.7331
EMAIL: WGM@WGM.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.WGM.ORG

UNITED KINGDOM OFFICE, "BETHEL"
7 BEECHFIELD MANOR
LURGAN, BT86 7BR
NORTHERN IRELAND, UK
PHONE: 01144.28.38328197



- WORLD GOSPEL MISSION
- WGM TWEETS
- WORLD GOSPEL MISSION

CONTENTS



BEFORE AND AFTER...

P.12



IT'S WORTH IT...

P.18



BEST LAID PLANS...

P.9



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE...

P.4

DAVID HAWK | MISSIONARY, HONDURAS
WITH RACHEL ELWOOD

GABRIELA

I met Gabriela in a mucky, stench-filled landfill in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. I was part of a team from the New Covenant Church of Waverly, Ohio, and a local pastor, Carlos Mendoza, had invited us to see the school he and his wife, Mirna, had founded for children living and working in this garbage dump.

It was a rainy, humid day, and we had come to the dump to pass out food to over 600 people who called it their home. San Pedro Sula is the second-largest city in Honduras and is considered the industrial capital. People who live in the dump are forced to literally fend off buzzards in their quest for food. They make their living by searching for saleable items such as clothes, plastics for recycling, and in the case of Gabriela, reading material.

Gabriela is 10. That day, she darted through the mud among the piles of putrid trash dumped by the trucks, adding to the smell that permeated the air, our clothes, and our hair. The smell eventually washes off, but the memory stays with you. And she lives in it day in, day out. I watched her moving with ease, stopping to pick up some paper, then a book, and then what looked like a child's discarded homework. With her hands full, she walked toward me with a triumphant smile on her face and showed me her treasures.

"Do you want to see my library?" she asked.

"Library? You mean you have a library here?" I asked, incredulous.

"Yes!" she replied. "Follow me; I will show you."



"WITH HER HANDS FULL,
SHE WALKED TOWARD
ME WITH A TRIUMPHANT
SMILE ON HER FACE
AND SHOWED ME HER
TREASURES."

Gabriela led me to a structure some distance away that stood about four feet high, made of four stacks of tires. The roof was a discarded wood pallet, and a used swimming pool liner had been placed over it to shelter the occupants from the elements. A piece of a damp, dirty mattress lay on the floor, and in the corner, a wooden fruit crate sat full of torn textbooks, papers, and magazines. Gabriela laid her new-found items on the ground and began to separate papers from books, pausing to appraise each item and fit them into their proper place in the crate.

“See?” exclaimed Gabriela, “This is my library. Sometimes I come here to read, and I am teaching my little sister to read.”

Since it was the end of the school year, many schools were discarding old books and papers that had accumulated throughout the year. Gabriela collected what she could find, and she was eager to show it off and demonstrate her ability to read and count. Her older sister, now 13, no longer studies. Gabriela walks about a mile each morning to her school outside the dump where others ridicule her for her torn clothes, dirty face, and worn shoes. But in this little sanctuary, she learns and teaches others.

Later, as darkness descended over the dump, our team sat down for supper and a time of sharing. Pastor Carlos explained the ministry of educating the children of people who work in the dump. He and his wife, Mirna, started

“BUT IN THIS LITTLE SANCTUARY, SHE LEARNS AND TEACHES OTHERS.”

Brazos de Jesús (Arms of Jesus), a school and feeding program on the edge of the landfill. Several mothers do the cooking, while others take their places working in the dump to ensure the family still gets income that day.

A graduate of El Sembrador Bible Institute, Carlos pastors a church near the dump. The teachers at Brazos de Jesús are all members of that congregation who work a second shift teaching at Brazos de Jesús in addition to their regular jobs. They work there understanding they are doing a service for God and the children, and if they happen to get paid, they consider it a blessing. Carlos himself has not received a salary for three years, dedicating himself to the school and the church. His wife

“WE LIKE ENDINGS OF TRIUMPH AND HAPPINESS. BUT HOW ABOUT THOSE STORIES WHERE TRANSFORMATION HAS NOT REACHED THE MAIN CHARACTER?”



Mirna, also a teacher, supports the family.

Pastor Carlos began to describe what goes on in the dump after dark. The trucks unload trash around the clock, so there is a night shift of workers. Gabriela does not sleep in her improvised library; instead, it transforms into a place of business where her 13-year-old sister helps support the family by selling her body to whoever can pay. When a young girl reaches puberty, it is normal for the parents to pull them out of school and press them into prostitution.

My mind immediately went to Gabriela. This young child, so full of innocence and life despite her surroundings, was created in the image of God to glorify Him. But she lives in a fallen world, and in two short years, her fate will be the same as her sister's if God's people don't act.

Sights of poverty and suffering are not new to me; I've served in Honduras for over 25 years. I've seen a lot. But never has another person's hopelessness impacted me like Gabriela's. I can't bear the thought that this young girl with a thirst for knowledge, an appreciation for art, and love for teaching others, will soon be forced to trade all that promise for the hopelessness of prostitution on a dank, dirty mattress in the misery of a city landfill. Gabriela's own grandmother and mother were conceived, born, and grew up in a dump just like Gabriela—

“THIS YOUNG CHILD, SO FULL OF INNOCENCE AND LIFE DESPITE HER SURROUNDINGS, WAS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD TO GLORIFY HIM.”

three generations living like this. If nothing changes, Gabriela is likely to conceive as a child, give birth as a child, and raise children alone as a child through no choice of her own.

This is Gabriela's story. It has broken my heart.

As believers, we like to read stories about transformation and feel good about the role we played in that story. We like endings of triumph and happiness. But how about those stories where transformation has not reached the main character?

Pastor Carlos and Mirna are bringing transformation to Gabriela and others like her. They invite you—they need you—to help write

a story of transformation for 60 children and their families this year. Each child enrolled is one less who is destined to a life of hopelessness!

Earlier this year, an individual donor provided a \$25,000 matching grant to Pastor Carlos, inspired in part by Gabriela's story. Pastor Carlos is now seeking funds to match the grant, which will help the school increase enrollment from the current 56 students to 86 students next year. We would like to see the funds raised by the end of 2018 in order to finish this year well and have a strong 2019.

Let's make sure God's kingdom is established in the landfill just as it is in heaven. Gabriela is waiting.



ACTION STEPS

GIVE: Do you want to be a part of providing a hope and a future to children who are being raised in the San Pedro Sula garbage dump? We need you to help match this \$25,000 grant. Please go to www.wgm.org/brazos to make your gift.

PRAY: Pray for the health and salvation of the students attending Brazos de Jesús. Pray for their parents and siblings who continue to work in the dump. Pray for God's provision and protection to be on the teachers and Pastor Carlos.

GO: Volunteers are welcome to serve at Brazos de Jesús. Please contact us at www.wgm.org/serve to get more information on how you can be the hands and feet of Christ in Honduras.



DAVID HAWK and his wife, Debbie, are based in Dallas, Texas and serve with the Americas Regional Leadership Team.



BECKY DARFUS | MISSIONARY, AMERICAN INDIAN FIELD

WE SAID YES!

“There is no greater discovery than seeing God as the author of your destiny,” Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias once said.

I have known this for most of my adult life, but over the past year God has widely opened my husband's and my own eyes to the knowledge of His plans. And as it often happens, His plans aren't what we had in mind for our lives.

It all began in 2004. We had been married for six years, and while I had an interest in missions and missionaries, Doug made it clear he had no desire to take a short-term trip. One Sunday morning at church, though, God convicted Doug

“WE DON'T NEED TO WAIT FOR A NEON SIGN TO TELL US TO ‘GO INTO ALL THE WORLD.’ GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS MESSAGE MANY TIMES IN THE BIBLE.”



My husband, Doug, has worked as a teacher for 27 years. He is the planner in our marriage and will admit that he had an idea how the rest of his life would go: teaching, retirement, travel, etc. My focus has been on raising our three boys and other day-to-day activities. However, through a series of events surrounding short-term mission trips, we discovered God has been turning our lives around to get us onto a new path. All we needed to do was say *yes*.

with the youth pastor's reminder: we don't need to wait for a neon sign to tell us to “go into all the world.” God has given us this message many times in the Bible. Later in the service, when it was announced the church would be sending a work team to Kenya the following summer, Doug said *yes*. In fact, he signed us both up without consulting me! While I did have an interest in missions, here's my confession—I



hate to fly. I had flown once on a short flight to Florida, and I said I would never do it again. I could not even imagine the amount of flying it would take to get to Kenya! Faced with the realization that I needed to choose between my fears and obeying God, I chose to say *yes*.

These were the first steps onto God's path. Our Kenya trip was an amazing experience. God simultaneously took us out of our comfort zone and made us feel comfortable in what we were doing. The trip as a whole was shockingly eye-opening as I realized our living conditions are quite pampered compared to

"FACED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT I NEEDED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MY FEARS AND OBEYING GOD, I CHOSE TO SAY YES."

the rest of the world. But what truly moved me was the realization that no matter how different we might appear or how different our backgrounds might be, we are connected as brothers and sisters in Christ.

During that first trip, God placed a desire on my heart to take our children on a similar trip. At the time, they were only 4 years old and 16 months. Over the next eight years, that burden stayed on my heart. I believed it would truly benefit my boys to experience cross-cultural missions and change their worldview as they grew. I felt it would make them better people. In 2013, I had the blessing to take Noah, who was 12, to the Africa Gospel Church Baby Centre in Kenya. He was the youngest member on the short-term team, and he did great! He worked alongside grownups and showed compassion toward the little ones. The two of us grew much closer on that trip.

Since our 2005 trip to Kenya, Doug felt God telling him it wasn't yet his time to go. Then, one Sunday in 2015, he picked up a church bulletin and saw the need for male dorm leaders on a work team to the American Indian Field (Arizona) that summer. The idea was a little unappealing to him (we had a busy summer ahead), but Doug knew God was asking him to go. His answer of *yes* was another step down God's path.

While in Arizona, God used a young boy at camp to plant a seed in Doug's heart. After being home from the trip for a few weeks, he suggested our entire family go back the

following summer. This was an easy *yes* for me, and we applied to WGM's volunteer program. We served for a month and had a great time getting to know the missionaries and the Native people.

Once we were back home in Ohio, we both wrestled with the possibility that God might be calling our family to full-time missions work. God had placed a passion on Doug's heart for Native American youth. Through prayer, godly counsel, another trip out West, and changing circumstances, we knew this is what God was asking us to do. We said *yes*.

We were accepted as missionary disciples in 2017. Since that time, I would like to say our family is functioning in perfect harmony, and the boys are thrilled at the idea of leaving friends, family, and their schools to move across the country, but that's not the case. Saying *yes* has brought spiritual warfare we weren't expecting, but we know the devil would like to see us fail.

How reassuring to know that God is with us, and through the cross, victory has already been won! We thank God for what He is teaching us as we travel along His path. The people we have met and churches we have visited have been a blessing. We are excited about the future and believe God knows the plans He has for us, as He tells us in Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV): "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

ACTION STEPS

ACT: What might God be asking you to do today? Do you feel a tug on your heart to step outside your comfort zone? You can trust Him! It might be different than what you have planned, but it will be so much better! Just say *yes*.

BECKY DARFUS currently lives in Ohio with her husband, Doug, and their three boys. Their family blog can be found at www.TheDarfusFamily.org.





ANDY BOWEN | MISSIONARY, PARAGUAY

HANDPRINTS OF GOD

ESTELA COMES HOME

I love watching God work. In my experience, He's very hard to predict, but when He has a plan, you can see His handprints all over it.

That's what's been happening in the little community of Huguá'i in rural Paraguay. We had been preparing for a youth team to come from our home church in Wilmore, Kentucky at the end of March. Because we had plans to build two houses for missionary families to use while they're here for Guarani language study, the plan was for the group to work on one of those.

However, that changed when a couple ladies from the church in our community wanted to talk to me. The church is called Ita Tenondegua, which means "cornerstone" in Guarani, the language folks in rural Paraguay prefer. Norma and Lili had been meeting with other ladies from the church to pray for their neighbors, and as they prayed, several began feeling a weight of responsibility toward a woman named Estela. Estela is a widow with five children, two of whom are very young. As the women were visiting her one day, having taken some food for the family, they began to feel terribly sad about her living situation. Her house was a makeshift wooden structure with boards haphazardly nailed upright around the outside, each with an inch or more of space between them. The roof, made of discarded corrugated steel sheets, was

riddled with holes. When it rained, the water poured in through the roof and at the sides, and in a hard rain, the single bed and what few other belongings they had would get soaked.

The women watched as Juan and David, the youngest children, sat down on the bare dirt outside to eat the food they had brought them. This was the last straw. They realized they had to do something.

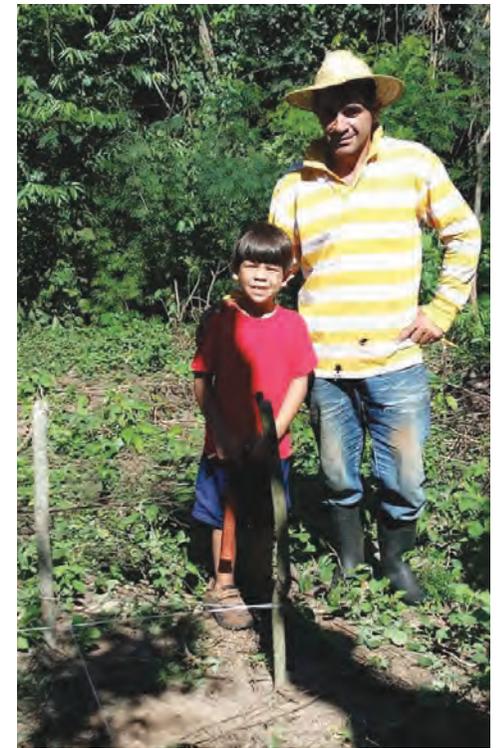
Estela comes from a First Nations background. Her people, long marginalized from majority

Paraguayan society, are looked down on by many Paraguayans. They are the most discriminated-against people group in the country and have the least access to

education and work opportunities. Many Paraguayans seem to think that if First Nations people live in

intolerable conditions, it is simply what they are used to. There is a general mentality that they are not the responsibility of the larger population.

"...AS THEY PRAYED, SEVERAL BEGAN FEELING A WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD A WOMAN NAMED ESTELA."



Norma and Lili shared all of this with me, finishing by asking, “What can we do about it?” As we talked and prayed, a plan began to form. We wondered could the team coming in March build a more permanent house for Estela? The land where she had her house had been her husband’s, but when he died it hadn’t passed to her, so she was technically squatting. We couldn’t build anything there. Norma committed to asking around to see if there was a small piece of property we could buy. We grew excited about the possibility of putting the widow’s family into a solid structure that would keep them dry when it rained and warm in the chill of the Paraguayan winter.

I shouldn’t have worried that the team would be wary about changing their project. The leaders of the Wilmore team were thrilled to be a part of something so impactful to a family and, consequently, to a community.

Within a short time, Norma found a woman who would sell a small piece of her property for only \$600. Estela was delighted that she was going to get her own house on her own piece of land. We designed the simple structure, gathered materials, and began to raise the funds we’d need. I told our church in the nearby town of Paraguari about the venture, and several of the members approached me about giving funds or materials or offering to work.



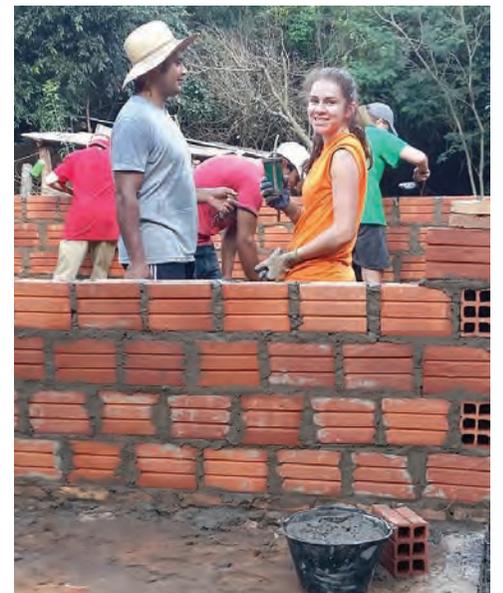
WGM set up a donation page to raise \$3,000 for the house and \$600 for the property.

Within two or three days, all the money had been raised! Here’s an amazing story: Mark Bosscher, a missionary with Serving In Mission in Paraguay, who began studying Guarani with me in August, saw my post on Facebook about the house. Mark had recently left a lucrative practice as an attorney in Pella, Iowa, because he’d heard God call him and his wife, Jodi, to minister to First Nations people of Paraguay. Exhilarated that it would benefit not only a widow but one from a First Nations background, he contacted a friend back in Iowa. This friend had asked Mark to

keep him posted about any opportunities in which he could be involved. The friend went to the WGM website and contributed the full \$3,000 for the house! In less than a week, God had provided all the funds we needed in the way He almost always does—through His people responding to Him in obedience! (In fact, thanks to so many people responding to this need, we were able to provide some new furnishings for Estela and her family!)

With just days to go before the Wilmore team arrived, we had the property in our possession. Norma’s husband, Dani (pronounced “Donny,” short for Daniel), who is the pastor of the Ita Tenondegua church, and I went to measure and mark the foundations. Bricks were delivered, and Dani and other men from the church took turns digging the foundation. The weekend before the group came, I put out a call to the Paraguari church to come help us get rocks for the foundation from a quarry in the forest. Seven believers from Paraguari and three believers from Huguai came on a Sunday afternoon to help me get three pickup-loads of rock. Dani and other neighbors worked hard to get the foundation ready for the Wilmore group who would start laying brick on Friday.

On Good Friday morning, I took the thirteen members of the Wilmore team, who had arrived the day before, down the hill from



our house and to the work site. They began by carrying the bricks 100 yards to the work site and clearing the property around the foundation. Some learned to mix mortar and lay brick—a couple of them got really good! Some dug a pit for a septic tank, and others broke rocks for the subfloor. Carrying mortar and sand, working together with men and women from our community, the team members served Christ with joyful attitudes and determination. With hesitant Spanish, through interpreters, and with signs and expressions and laughter, my neighbors from the south and my neighbors from



the north developed a bond of shared labor and purpose.

Over the weekend, we celebrated Easter together—Paraguayans and North Americans proclaiming the resurrection that brings us real life—contagious, exuberant, and authentic life. On Monday, we continued to live out that life by demonstrating the authenticity of the gospel we had declared over the weekend. If the Kingdom of God is real in our lives, families, and communities, it is meant to be spread through words and actions that verify its genuineness.

Each night the team gathered to share their highs and lows from the day. Throughout the week, we struggled with power

“IF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS REAL IN OUR LIVES, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES, IT IS MEANT TO BE SPREAD THROUGH WORDS AND ACTIONS THAT VERIFY ITS GENUINENESS.”

and water problems, broken washing machines, and schedules changed by rain, but the young men and women from Kentucky celebrated God’s goodness. Coming from a generation supposedly characterized by entitlement and self-absorption, they affirmed that some of their favorite experiences were rainy rides home in the back of the pickup, washing clothes by hand in the bath tub, and taking baths in the stream. Rather than complaining, they demonstrated servanthood. For many, both a high and a low was seeing Estela’s current home and realizing the impact that their decision to obey God and come to Paraguay was helping make. My high one day was seeing youth pastor Andrea sitting with Griselda, the disabled daughter of Estela’s neighbor Ramona. Unable to communicate with words, they sat together, simply laughing for long periods of time.

By the time the team left Huguai, barely a week after arriving, the house was almost finished. The last day they were on the work site, we gathered in a circle and prayed. Pastor Dani prayed for each one,



and the Wilmore team gave Estela and her children some gifts. Estela, never one for many words, told them that she had no way to pay for what they had done for her. We realized that with those words, she was expressing the meaning of grace. Estela’s second youngest, Juan, 6 years old, who had never said a single word to me, came up and gave me a big hug.

Just a few weeks after the team left, Estela and her children moved into their new home.

How does God do things? He gathers people, sometimes from areas far apart, and puts a desire in their hearts. What one can’t do, many can accomplish together, each one playing a unique and divinely-assigned role. The act may be small, but the meaning is never small and is

“IN LESS THAN A WEEK, GOD HAD PROVIDED ALL THE FUNDS WE NEEDED IN THE WAY HE ALMOST ALWAYS DOES—THROUGH HIS PEOPLE RESPONDING TO HIM IN OBEDIENCE!”

never insignificant to those who are involved. When people obey and unite and submit to one another in love and genuine service, God receives the glory and lives are changed. The result doesn’t belong to those who did it, but to Him. And yet, they get to be a part of His plan!



ACTION STEPS

PRAY: Pray for the ongoing impact of this home construction project. Pray that God’s love will shine through, and that Estela, having seen grace in action, will surrender to the message of Easter and find herself, at last, truly at home.

GO: Are you ready to step up and help meet a need on a mission field like this team did? Whether you want to help with construction, Vacation Bible School, medical care, or other projects, you’ll make a real impact! Let’s start the conversation at www.wgm.org/serve.

ANDY BOWEN and his wife, Lizet, currently live in Paraguay with their three boys. You can find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BowensInParaguay.



NATHAN METZ | MISSIONARY, UGANDA

THE WORTH AND THE COST

We've all made sacrifices to be here. This concrete room with a chalky blackboard and one always-off lightbulb serves as host to a powerful conversation. The course is Pentateuch, a 16-week look at the first five books of the Bible. It took me over an hour to drive through Kampala to the gates of the university. I won't be done until noon, and I won't be home until 1:00 or so. It's a sacrifice in the middle of my week, but it's worth it. Actually, it's not really a sacrifice—at least, not compared to those of my students.

As I draw their attention to God's word choice toward Abraham, I say something like, "Do you notice how God referred to Isaac as Abraham's 'only beloved son'?" The room nods. I ask them, "Why do you think God chose those specific words?" One man says, "God isn't asking Abraham to do something that He himself is unwilling to do. They both put their sons on the line." Several students glance at a South Sudanese man who takes notes by the door. Unaware, I continue teaching.

Several weeks later, I'm interviewing the students about their lives leading up to this course and the education they desire. The South Sudanese man leans toward me and speaks softly, "As a pastor, I make no money here. I've been unable to provide healthcare for my family because God has called me to this work. As a result, I've lost three sons."

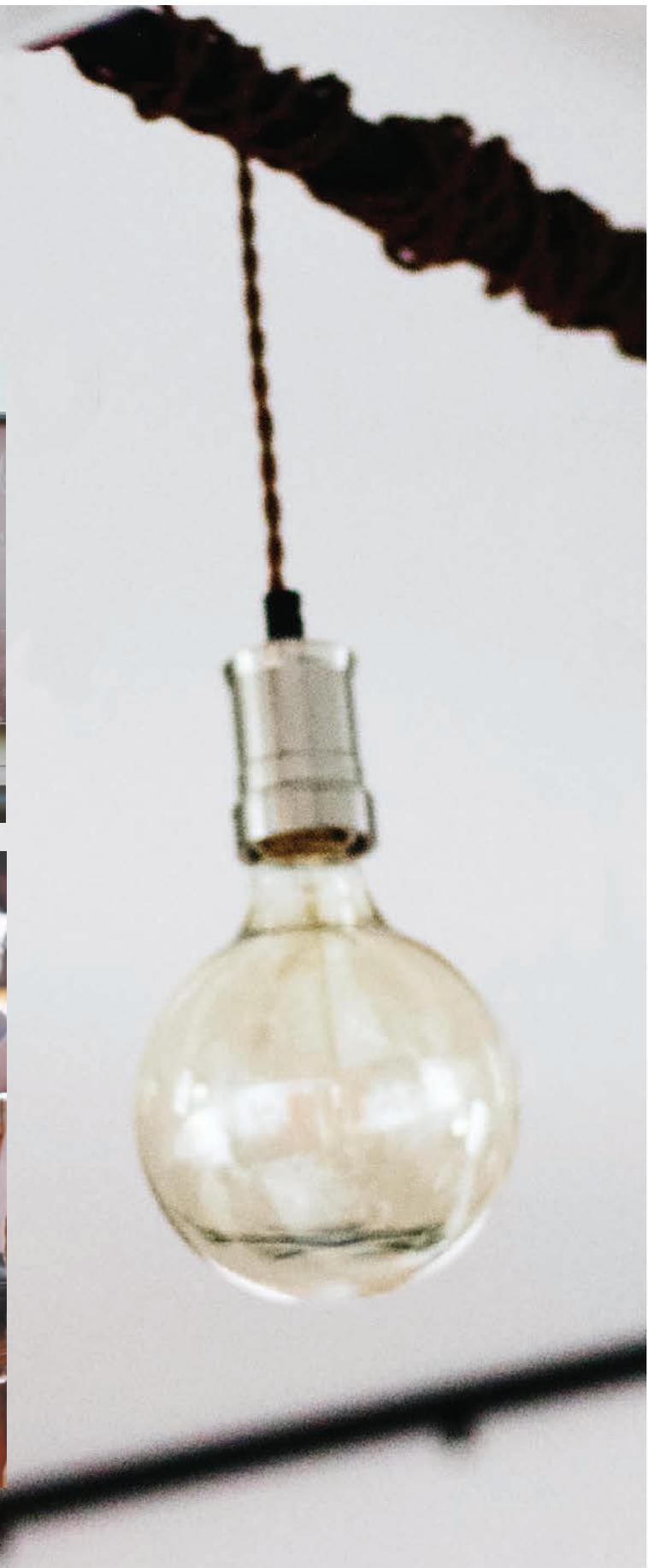




Photo has been altered to protect the identity of the individuals.

I was speechless. As I looked around the room, instead of shock, I saw eyes full of agreement. Their faces said something completely foreign to my experience in life. It was as if they were all fully comprehending this horrific statement, and I was the only one left without words. After a few moments, I asked them, “Is this common?” The room responded, “Yes.”

“WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO LEAD THIS GROUP OF STUDENTS AND PASTORS WHO KNOW THE CALL OF GOD IN THIS WAY?”

As the only Westerner in the room, I was immediately hit with a feeling of inadequacy in my position as the so-called “leader.” What right do I have to lead this group of students and pastors who know the call of God in this way? In my house is a painting of a lion with a quote from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. It reads: “Safe? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King.” It hangs in a place where I see it every day. In that moment in the concrete room, I realized my reading of that quote is far different than theirs. I have four children. I still have them.

As the interview continued, I began to hear stories about families and relationships. I noticed that many of these pastors from East African countries were either currently rejected by their families or were in the process of trying to heal

relationships from prior rejection. I asked them, “How many of you have been rejected by your family for saying *yes* to the call of God?” All hands were raised as the room replied, “I have.” I listened to their response as I thought about my family. “We’re so proud of you, son.” My parents say this all the time.

On the drive home that day, I dodged potholes and rifled through the baggage of a weighty interaction. I felt self-conscious and nervous about how I was perceived. I felt inadequate and out of place. The sacrifices of these men and women were beyond my comprehension, so my mind raced to justify and rationalize the value of my own story. “Well, I was born somewhere else,” I mumbled in an ego-soothing tone. “If I were born here, who knows.”

I thought about some of the other stories. A young student’s Muslim father brought in the imam to sit in their living room and talk him into rejecting Christianity when he was just a young teen. When he refused, the imam left and the father threw the boy out of the house. They haven’t spoken since.

During another class, I continued listening to these stories in the concrete room, and I wondered how they could have held on to faith with such passion and certainty. I asked them, “When you think about everything God’s call has cost you, is it still worth it?” I expected them to wrestle with the question and discuss their struggles with faith and doubt. I expected them

to speak of the power of the Church community in helping and holding them. While all these things may have been true, I didn’t hear them. I just heard a unanimous, “Yes, it’s worth it.” One man added, “I have come to learn that anything worth something, costs something.”

“I HAVE COME TO LEARN THAT ANYTHING WORTH SOMETHING, COSTS SOMETHING.”

On the bumpy ride home, I replayed that phrase again and again. Anything worth something, costs something. I realized that the order of the statement is fundamental. The worth comes first. In many ways, I’ve lived my life following Christ, saying *yes* with the cost coming before the worth. I think about my life as the cost that earns something of “worth.” I soothe the pain of the cost with the thought, “Well, this will pay off in the end.” I didn’t see this mindset in the students. I’m sure they feel a sense of hope in the future, but I saw them paying the cost for something that was already of worth. Anything worth something, costs something. In other words, because Christ is of such worth, we are happy to “cost” for it. When they said *yes*, they had already received the worth they desired. As a result, the cost was viewed not as a transaction but as an expression of worship. The beloved son. The Muslim father. These are counted costs offered as worship to a worthy God.

I can only say *yes* to the here and now. What is

God asking me to do right now? His worth in my life creates in me a desire to worship Him by paying the cost in the form of a *yes*. It’s true that it costs more for some than others. This world is

a broken, unfair, and painful place to live where one *yes* brings fruit upon fruit and another *yes* costs three sons. I cannot say *yes* to anything other than

the step in front of me. Regardless of where that step leads, I pray that God continues calling and costing, because He’s worth it.

ACTION STEPS

PRAY: Pray for the pastors of East Africa as they continue in the call God has put before them. Pray for the health and protection of their children. Pray for the salvation of their extended family and for healing in broken relationships.

GIVE: You can be a part of encouraging pastors in their training in East Africa. Please visit www.wgm.org/pastoral-training to give and for more information.

NATHAN METZ lives in Uganda with his wife, Jade, and their four children. You can follow them online at www.nathanandjade.blogspot.com.

In every issue of *The Call*, we take time to pray for the people, projects, and places that God has placed in WGM's path. Use this Prayer Guide for direction as you pray through the next six months, thanking God for His blessings, and asking that His will be done in every nation.

2018-2019

WINTER/SPRING PRAYER GUIDE

DECEMBER

- ▶ Pray for the Darfus family and for the work they will do in the American Indian Field as they follow God's leading and step into full-time mission work (page 9).
- ▶ Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to gradually work on the hearts of believers like Doug and Becky Darfus, that they would accept the call to mission work despite fear and anxiety.



AMERICAN INDIAN FIELD
There are currently nineteen missionaries serving across the American Indian Field. Pray for the educational ministries currently taking place.

- ▶ Pray for the Living Word Academy on the Tohono O'odham Reservation in Arizona, that students would receive scholarships and hear about Jesus for the first time.
- ▶ Lift up the Kirtland Ministry Center in New Mexico as it reaches entire families and communities through outreach programs.

JANUARY

- ▶ Pray for Gabriela, her sister, and her mother in Honduras. Ask that the women who are cornered into sex work every day are given the chance to live a life of freedom, opportunity, creativity, and joy away from the horrors of ultimatums (page 4).
- ▶ Lift up the Brazos de Jesús school as Carlos and Mirna Mendoza pour themselves into others and into their community, that they would see entire families and neighborhoods rescued from sin and poverty.



HONDURAS
Pray for the sixteen missionaries currently serving with WGM in Honduras through education, capacity building, and church ministries.

- ▶ Pray for Laurie Potter and her work through discipleship and mentoring ministries in Honduras.
- ▶ Remember Steve and Kelly Solheim as they attempt to reach children and youth through their outreach and family-based ministries, also in Honduras.

FEBRUARY

- ▶ Lift up the African preachers who have sacrificed everything to serve the Lord. Ask that their faith be a continuous example of the cost of belief, that He comforts them, and that they never lose their incredible trust and love for serving (page 18).
- ▶ Ask God to continually keep our lives in perspective—that we would humble ourselves when we think of sacrifice and do more when it comes to radically loving others.



- ▶ Request that funds be provided to allow Ugandan women the opportunity to learn biblical values in a Christian environment at the Uganda Conference for Women.
- ▶ Remember Kenneth and Delight Hopson as they work in The Print Shop and at Heritage International School, respectively, reaching people all over Uganda and throughout Africa.

PARAGUAY
WGM currently has five missionaries serving in Paraguay. Pray that the Lord will raise up more workers to lead in the national church.



MARCH

- ▶ Pray for Estela and her family in Paraguay, that God will open her eyes to the love and care He has for her and for belief to take root in her newly constructed home (page 12).
- ▶ Lift up the marginalized First Nations people group of Paraguay, for widows, and for families who are struggling to survive even without outside societal pressures.



UGANDA
Nineteen people serve with WGM in Uganda. Pray for the work they do in education, business, church ministries, and health empowerment.



- ▶ Remember Paraguayan church plants, that they will thrive and would receive the funds needed to update meeting spaces and provide pews.
- ▶ Pray for Mark and Susana Bev Donahue as they serve in discipleship, leadership, and music ministries in Asunción, Paraguay.

APRIL

- ▶ Remember the church planting and youth ministries of Randy and Chris Amberman on the American Indian Field.
- ▶ Pray for Leroy and Sandy Anderson, also on the American Indian Field, and for their field leadership and relational discipleship ministries.
- ▶ Lift up the Manuelito Project in Honduras as it seeks to rescue and restore abandoned children off the streets of Honduras.
- ▶ Ask that the Choluteca Vocational School in Honduras will have scholarships available for students as it prepares them for a successful career in a variety of fields.

MAY

- ▶ Ask God to give you eyes for outsiders in your own community. Pray for the courage to love them both in prayer and in action, and ask God to open opportunities for service that may be unmistakable.
- ▶ Write a list of some things you have had to sacrifice for your faith in God. Ask that He will sustain you, and if you're brave, pray for help to sacrifice more.
- ▶ Thank Him for the good work both long-term missionaries and short-term teams are able to do. Ask that He continue to provide selfless and flexible teams like the Wilmore group who put the needs of the field first (page 12).
- ▶ Pray for contextual and intricate understanding of culture and the Bible for missionaries all across the world, that in their leading and teaching, they would connect with people at the most fundamental level.

Please direct all subscription requests, including change of address and canceling of extra copies, to: World Gospel Mission, Attn: Circulation, P.O. Box 948, Marion, IN 46952-0948; or email communications@wgm.org.
When corresponding by mail, please include mailing labels(s).



MAKE AN IMPACT THIS SUMMER.

Join a short-term team.

Uganda | Peru | Cambodia | Kenya

WWW.WGM.ORG/SUMMER-TEAMS

