

But my servant Caleb,

because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

Caleb

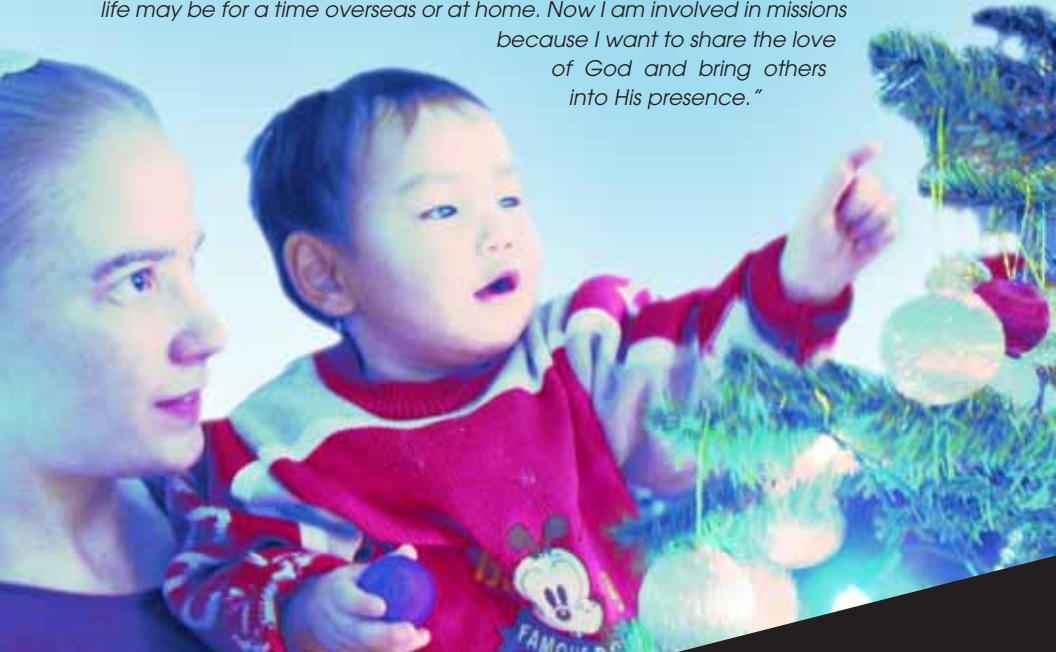
SPRING 2006 REPORT

The Caleb Report is the quarterly newsletter of the SEND Ministries Department of Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

THE CALL TO MISSIONS

"When I was young my mother read stories of missionaries to me. I always thought of them as heroes and amazing people because they lived in strange places and I thought it would be scary to be a missionary, but yet fun. Then in high school I felt God was calling me to go into missions. I went with the idea that. Wow! Cool, I get to be one of those super spiritual missionary people. But then I went into REACH and God showed me that missionaries are not any different from other people, that it's not about being in a foreign country or being super spiritual. He showed me that there are hurting people all around wherever I go and that the call to missions in my life may be for a time overseas or at home. Now I am involved in missions

because I want to share the love of God and bring others into His presence."



Wow, how many of us have felt that way? The call to be a missionary can seem so big and scary, especially when we're so small and inadequate. Yet, as Carol Neuschwander, missionary intern to Costa Rica, mentioned, it's not about being super spiritual, it's about being humble and allowing God to work through your brokenness.

Have you ever thought about being a missionary, but just didn't know where to go next? Here are some glimpses into the lives of Carol and her fellow missionary interns Anthony F (Central Asia) and Tamara W (East Asia):

Why did you get involved in missions?

Anthony: I got involved in missions through REACH, because I was bored with the ordinary, basically. I was tired of living day-to-day, but never feeling like each day got me somewhere deeper with God and brought others closer to God through me.

Tamara: Probably the biggest reason why I became involved in missions was because of the Great Commission. I felt that He kept laying on my heart the fact that many people have never heard and that I needed to go and tell them.

What do you do, just stand on soapboxes and preach?

Carol: My job as Pura Vida Missions Administrative Assistant includes many things—from office work, to physical labor, to visiting people, to leading youth groups. It varies daily depending on what is going on. It's a very flexible job.

Anthony: Only when I'm lambasting other Christians! No, I work to be a friend to people, and let my friendship with God come out naturally and powerfully as I get to know them.

Tamara: Living in [East Asia] puts a new definition on what it is like to be a missionary. Most of my work involves the same thing as living a typical life in North America would. I have a "job" and responsibilities that I am asked to complete.

Did you feel called specifically to the place where you are currently serving?

Carol: Yes and no. I felt a calling to work with Hispanic peoples and also with youth, but I had no specific country in mind. But once I started looking into my internship I knew that Costa Rica was the place that God was leading me to for this time. Whether God brings me back here or takes me to another place after my two years are over, I know that this is the place that I am called to for this time.

Anthony: At the moment, yes, definitely. Long term, possibly.

Tamara: Yes. When I made the decision to come and live [here] for a year, I spent a lot of time praying and asking for His wisdom and guidance. Therefore, through the course of events, I was sure that when I made the decision to come, that it was His timing and direction that led me here and not my own desires.

What is the biggest lesson you've learned so far?

Carol: I've learned that no matter what happens, God is in control and is faithful to take care of you. Just keep looking to Him in the midst of all the storms and tests that come along.

Anthony: The biggest lesson I've learned is that God is far, far bigger than we are, and His plans always outshine the biggest plans we could ever lay, and even when we are weak and feeling insufficient, He can still use us powerfully to His glory!

Tamara: Probably one of the biggest lessons that I have learned so far is the importance of "going with the flow of things." I like to have everything very organized and well thought out ahead of time. I have learned that it's okay to prepare and play ahead, but when something happens that's not in the plan, to go on and let everything else fall into place.

Is it worth it?

Carol: The cost is significant. You lose contact with all your close friends and family and miss out on all that is going on. Most of all the hardest part is when you return and you have completely changed and you no longer fit in with your friends, your family, and the world. Then you question, was it worth giving up all that? When you remember the smiles you received in giving a child his only Christmas present, or the friend that you saw grow spiritually over the time, you realize that you would give anything to do it again.

Anthony: Yes, yes, yes

Tamara: How do you describe worth? If you're looking at the financial benefits of doing an internship, it won't take you long before you realize that those who join the program aren't earning great dividends. However, when you look at the worth of your life as seen through the eyes of the people who you are helping, the time that you spend away from your home country, family, and friends all becomes worth it. I primarily work with orphaned children at a foster home. Each morning when I walk in and see all of their smiling faces greeting me, I feel like I am already receiving my earthly reward. Even though I have been able to see, in a small way, how I am affecting the lives of those that I am around each day, I realize that there are heavenly rewards that I won't be able to see or experience until after I die!

Missionary interns are individuals who are testing and clarifying their call to missions in a supervised setting. The purpose of a missionary internship is to place an individual in an assignment where they can exercise spiritual gifts and ministry skills in the context of a people group or country that they have felt called to work among. The assignment is designed to assist in the formation and clarification of a life ministry and calling.

Rosedale Mennonite Missions currently has ten interns around the world in places like China, Turkey, Ecuador, Uzbekistan, Russia, Costa Rica, and Belarus. If you think you might be interested in doing an internship or would like more information, please contact: Carla Lozada, RMM Missionary Intern Facilitator, at carla@rmmoffice.org or 740-857-1366.

Visit www.send-me.org for pictures and updates from the 2005 REACH Teams.

Position Available

SEND Administrative Assistant

If you're interested, email Davy at dcsslabaugh@yahoo.com.



Now accepting applications

for the following 2006 REACH & SWIM teams!

SWIM: Belarus, Kenya

REACH: China, Himalayas, Indonesia, Morocco, Southern Spain, Turkey

To find out more about these locations, visit www.send-me.org

PRAYER AND PRAISE...

Praise God

that the REACHers have reached their outreach locations, and are learning the culture

for the contacts that the REACH teams have been making

for the City Challenge, SWIM & REACH applications that we have already received

Pray

that God would call more people into REACH & SWIM, and that they would be obedient to His call

for the SEND Department as there is currently a lot of transition taking place

for the contacts that the REACH teams have made, that the REACHers may live out Christ's love for the nations

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

BIRTHS

Paul and Angie Sommers (R '98) had a son, Kyle Braden on August 30, 2005.

Davy (R '92, '93) and Collette (Miller) Slabaugh (R '93) had a daughter, Alinea Rayne, on January 7, 2006.

MARRIAGES

Simeon DiGennaro (R '02, '04) & Janelle Swartz (R '02, '04) were married on December 17, 2005.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME...

by Carmal Miller,
Assistant Director of
the SEND Department



God is on the Move

I feel the anticipation and suspense rising in my chest and all around me. Feels like I'm standing on my spiritual tiptoes knowing full well that the Kingdom is about to break through. Friend! Take a minute and look up. The Kingdom is near! Jesus is alive! And God is on the move!

Here are just a few God-spottings:

By faith, Jacob, our German brother who spent years ministering and suffering for the cause of Christ in Indonesia, returned to Banda Ache to observe the rubble left in the wake of the tsunami. By faith, the local believers who literally had lost everything said, "We have nothing, but we have Jesus." Jacob and his son went to the hospital where his brother worked as a doctor. His son said, "Papa, these people are dying without Jesus." By faith Jacob asked Muslim patients and their families if he could pray for them. One mother said, "Yes, and keep praying! The mullahs (Muslim holy men) haven't come to pray, but you have come...." Yes! Jesus has come!

By faith, REACH TEAM USA continues to minister in Phoenix, Arizona, even though most of the time they can't see direct fruits of their labor. The Kingdom broke through and eight young people accepted Jesus at a teen event night where the team had ministered in music and drama.

By faith, our Nepalese brother acted on a dream God had given him, a dream to help churches reproduce. And last year 18 new churches were planted in Nepal! God is on the move around the world!

God lives and moves and has His being inside of each one of us, inside our world, yet our lives—even our world—form boxes that could never contain Him. Our God is a consuming fire...it's by His grace that we are not consumed.



The SEND Ministries Department exists to equip and motivate youth to be Christ-centered, world Christians who make disciples.

www.send-me.org