

Representing CHRIST

editorial by todd miller



God is at work around the world.
He is at work behind the scenes.
And, He even uses us when we aren't expecting it.

Several months ago, I visited one of our REACH teams in Asia. They were helping teach English through a secular program. Teaching English doesn't sound or feel very spiritual when you are doing it. The team wondered at times if they were accomplishing Kingdom work. The secular program they volunteered for received quite a bit of notoriety for having national English speakers help in their program.

Behind the scenes, this program is the cover for many church planters. They work at this "secular" job to obtain access to the least reached areas and people of the world. Whenever a program is set up in a new area, church planters are the ones who move in and open the doors.

I spent several hours with the excited director of this program. Speaking about the REACH team, a city leader told him, "These are not like other Americans that I have met before. They are not arrogant and filled with pride." This opened a door that was previously closed. The city leader asked if they would come to their area (an unreached area) and start four new programs. The director was so excited. He told me that because of the REACH team's presence and work, they had been invited into a total of sixteen new areas that presently had no church planters.

As these new church planters move in, we pray that God would bless their efforts and that there would be a great harvest in the coming years.

God is at work! It is exciting to be part of something that's bigger than us. We represent Christ 24/7, even when we are unaware of it or don't "feel" like it. Let's represent Him well in all we do.



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

www.send-me.org

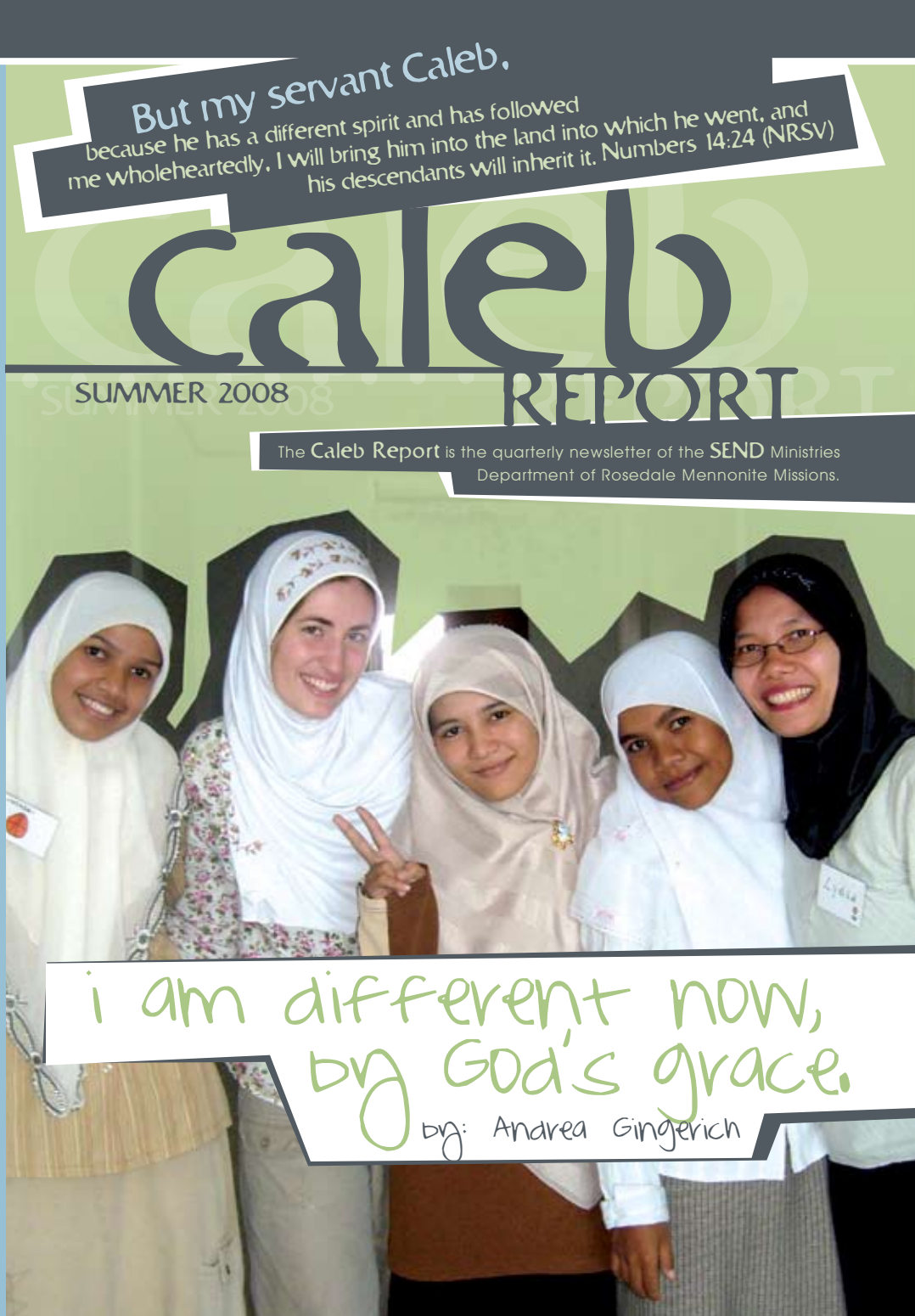
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REPORT

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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)

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SUMMER 2008

REPORT

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



i am different now,
by God's grace.
by: Andrea Gingerich

I am different now, by God's grace. My REACH experience, both training and outreach, changed the way I see God, myself, other people, and missions.

God is still the same as He always was, I am sure, but now I know Him better. I have seen His unfailing love for me and all people as clearly as if I were looking into His full, bright eyes and watching His tears of compassion drip down. I have only caught momentary glimpses of this love, but I will always pursue more sightings.

I have also caught distinct glimpses of my own personal weaknesses, especially through personality clashes with my teammates. Their honest criticism opened my eyes to my pride, selfishness, and controlling nature. Somehow, I often seem to believe that my way of doing things is really the best way. And it is, isn't it? Wait, do you mean that someone else's ideas could actually be better than mine? Why does that seem so strange? I still have far to go in my journey away from pride, but at least now I know I need to get away from it.



As I have realized my pride, I have also begun to appreciate other people more for who they are. My teammates may not see things or do things just like I do, but they are still pretty cool people who seek God and hear from Him. Also, as I have developed friendships with Southeast Asian Muslims, I have seen that God obviously created their fun, beautiful personalities very specially. Where else would nine-year-old Astri get her sparkling, mischievous eyes, Rose her sacrificial sweetness, Ika her motherly compassion and soft heart, Pak Jamal his generous hospitality, or Ibu Ati her cheerful servant's heart? It is as plain as the smiles on their faces that the Father longs for them to experience His deep love and the freedom of His forgiveness.

This awareness of His desire has changed my view of missions. I don't want to reach out to people or tell them about Jesus because it seems like the right thing to do -- my duty as a Christian. I want to reach out to them because I have come close enough to Jesus to feel His heart beating in love and longing for them. And I want them to know it.

So now I am different, though not as different as I hope to become in the future as God's grace continues opening my eyes.



Introducing the 2008 REACH teams

SOUTHEAST ASIA

*Andrea Gingerich (West Jefferson OH)
Alicia Slaubaugh (International Falls MN)
Joshua Stutzman (Riverview FL)
Mark Yoder (Bayport MI)

ISRAEL

*Derek Schwartz (Maumee OH)
Creigh Bartel (Newton KS)
Matthew Clements (Grabill IN)
Laura Good (Fisher IL)
Nick Miller (Middlebury IN)
Carla Yoder (Decatur IA)

MADAGASCAR

*Erin Lorencz (Grand Rapids MI)
Courtney Miller (Hutchinson KS)
Ryan Miller (Goshen IN)
Stacey Mullet (Millersburg OH)
Keith Suter (Pandora OH)
Matthew Schlabach (Holmesville OH)

THAILAND

*Bekah Shenk (Goshen IN)
Charity Miller (Sarasota FL)
Kimberly Miller (Clayhole KY)
Janessa Plett (Arborg MB)
Naomi Raber (Millersburg OH)
Bethany Zook (Belleville PA)

UGANDA

*Zach & Allyah Miller (Plain City OH)
Sara Hostetler (Middlebury IN)
Brittany Tull (Nashville IN)
Amanda Weber (Rosedale OH)
Jeremy Wilkerson (Middlebury IN)

SOUTH AFRICA

*Andrew Sauder (Patterson NY)
Karen Eash (Buckhorn KY)
Jonathan Fisher (Logan OH)
Kalen Long (Accident MD)
Meredith Lorencz (Owendale MI)
Joseph Zook (Belleville PA)
* team leader

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

MARRIAGES

Adam Maust (R 01, Staff 04) married
Bethany Weaver (S 05) on June 7, 2008.

Lem Yutzy (R 05) married Jessica Lee on
June 21, 2008.

Darrel Geiser (R 05) married Bethany
Cristophel on July 5, 2008.

Please inform us of any births, weddings, missionary appointments,
or change of address. (angela@rmmoffice.org)