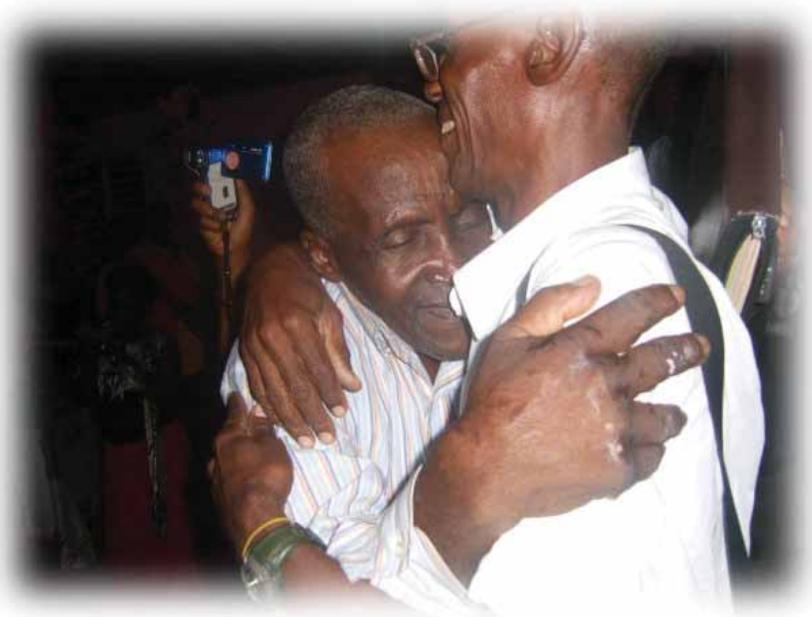


**MISSION
MOMENTS**
THE WORK DOES NOT BEGIN AND
END WITH SHORT-TERM TRIPS

The Climbing Way

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST VOLUME 20 / WINTER 2010-2011



A touching moment: Pastor Luterne hugs missionary Miguel Rubén Guante during the dedication of the church at Thoman.

Haiti

Through faith and patience inherit what has been promised

**“Therefore, as God’s chosen
people, holy and dearly
loved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness
and patience.”**

- Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

Our missionary to Haiti, Miguel Rubén Guante, made his first visit to the church at Thoman in May 2007. Pastor Luterne Polissain had requested the visit one month earlier when Climbing For Christ president Gary Fallesen was in the area and he asked if C4C could build his congregation a church. At the time, they were worshipping in a community-owned building that had been shared with voodooists.

We took this request under prayerful consideration, but it did not feel right. “Thoman was not a good place for C4C work,” Miguel remembered us deciding. Our mission is to go where others cannot or will not. Thoman is a village on a road (albeit made of dirt and stones) on the way into the Chaîne de la Selle range, where Climbing For Christ has ministered since the summer of 2005.

But after many months we realized no one else was going to Thoman. God had put it in our path. It was our responsibility.

Continued on page 4

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Members of Climbing For Christ agree that we are called to:

- Bring praise, honor and glory to God — the Creator of all things, including the mountains we love — and to our Redeemer, His beloved Son.
- Inspire believers to achieve greater spiritual and physical heights in this world.
- Introduce the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, to those living in or visiting mountainous areas who don't know Him personally in a new, exciting and everlasting way.

To join Climbing For Christ, visit www.climbingforchrist.org/Default.aspx?tabid=146

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WARNING! Activities described in this publication and on ClimbingForChrist.org carry a significant risk of personal injury or death. Do not participate in mountaineering, rock climbing, ice climbing, bouldering, and hiking and trekking unless you are an expert, have sought and obtained qualified professional instruction or guidance, are knowledgeable about the risks involved, and are willing to assume personal responsibility for all risks associated with these activities.

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GONE GREEN *The Climbing Way* is printed on 100-percent recycled paper. The recycled papers used to make the pages of this magazine contain at least 30 percent post-consumer waste recycled fiber certified by Green Seal and meeting EPA guidelines. This paper is elemental and process chlorine free. God created the earth and everything in it for us. We are called to be good stewards, and so we support responsible use of forest resources.

A moment in time

Gary Fallesen, left, shares a laugh with Paul, a friend from Heritage Christian Services, and C4C member Jeff Murray of Lake Placid, N.Y., on top of Bald Mountain. (Photo by Janet van Staalduinen)



God lives outside of time. But we are prisoners to it. “Deadlines and commitments; what to leave in, what to leave out,” the great American rocker Bob Seger sang in our youth.

We try sometimes to do what we can. Other times we do not. Wasted time.

“In some countries, surviving one day or more means that you have one God-given day or year to testify not only with your words but with your deeds,” a Latin-American Christian is quoted in *Standing Through the Storm*, a book about persecution from Open Doors ministry.

What have you done today to glorify our heavenly Father and further His kingdom? Are you living each day, each moment, as if it could be your last?

“Mission Moments” are what we dub updates that appear periodically on the Climbing For Christ Web site (www.ClimbingForChrist.org). They are snapshots in time, like the photo above. Gary doesn’t remember what brought such laughter to him, but it was clearly a good time. (You can read more about our partnership with Heritage Christian Services on page 13 in Diane Sturmer’s “Why I Support C4C ... and Why You Should, Too.”)

A mission moment is news from the front line. Missions are not short-term experiences; they are lasting. We may take a team to a place where other missionaries cannot or will not go for two weeks or so, but the work doesn’t start or stop then. It goes on and on.

That’s what this issue of *The Climbing Way* is about. Mission moments such as:

- The cover photo of our missionary to Haiti, Miguel Rubén Guante, being hugged by Pastor Luterne Polissain at the dedication of the church at Thoman. Pastor Luterne came to Climbing For Christ years ago and requested a church, and then he waited — patiently — on the Lord. That hug is joy that cannot be put into words ... but we try on pages 1 and 4.



Elaine Fallesen offers a new blanket to a child in Malasi, Haiti.

- Ace Concordia and brothers in Christ from C4C Philippines witnessing to a man whose defense of marijuana growers in the mountains of Kibungan makes us suspect that he might be one of them. But that does not keep us from trying to reach his hardened heart with Spirit-filled words. Our Lord spent His time with “tax collectors and sinners” because, He said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick” (Matthew 9:12, Mark 2:17 and Luke 5:31). Ace shares this moment in “Answering a divine appointment” on page 5.
- A Peruvian evangelist, C4C member Jaime Servat, needing only the fare for a bus to deliver the Gospel to six lost souls in Ecuador. They accepted Jesus as Savior. We tell this story in “The cost of a soul? Priceless” on page 7. Plus, as an added bonus we would like to show you the “Peaks of Peru” on pages 8-9, lovingly photographed by C4C members Edwin Milla and Gabe Colburn.
- Money raised at a food booth at a festival near the world headquarters of C4C (our house in Hilton, N.Y.) brings joy to other members of the body of Christ in Central Nepal, where a church will be built to His glory. See “Worship without fear” on page 10.
- Pastor Chris Joseph, whose church in Nigeria is supported by Climbing For Christ, shares what it’s like to “make friends with a violent madman” in our story “A Light has dawned” on page 11.

We are blessed to tell these stories. They are testimonies to God’s goodness and grace.

This is what Climbing For Christ is about: bringing glory to Him. See “A View” by Gary on the back cover and “What Climbing For Christ means to you” on page 15.

This is a celebration of mission moments, and an invitation to you to join us as we experience them first-hand. Time is short. Here, at least. Let’s “go”; you can make an eternal difference in someone’s life. As we like to say around C4C all the time: “Give ‘em heaven!” †

— Elaine and Gary Fallesen

HAITI, from page I



The church at Thoman. (Photo by Miguel Rubén Guante)

“The difficulty could have been the faith and patience of Pastor Luterne to wait,” Miguel said, “but he and the church leaders were able to wait patiently for God’s answer.” And God’s provision. Funding — or a lack thereof — delayed the building of a new church for some time.

Despite this, Miguel said Pastor Luterne never despaired. “Often he said, when he got married he wrote in his house: ‘Patience.’”

In late 2009, work began on the church at Thoman. It was completed and dedicated to the Lord on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010.

Pastor Luterne had waited 3 1/3 years for that moment. And he nearly wasn’t there to see it. On July 27, he was in a motorbike accident, suffering head injuries that hospitalized him for three weeks. When he left the hospital, Miguel said, it was “not because he was well, but (because) he wanted to be near the church.”

The church is not a building, but a body. A body of believers. Pastor Luterne is a living example of this. He is a Colossians 3:12 type of servant.

“Let me tell you something, my joy was so great, I could not stop crying,” Miguel said after the church’s dedication. In spite of (or, perhaps, because of) the hardship and suffering he sees daily in Haiti, Miguel is not often moved to tears. But witnessing Pastor Luterne and seeing his patience rewarded in a very real way was too much for Miguel.

“Until now, I had not seen a pastor feel so much glad, joyful to God through C4C for a church building like Pastor Luterne and his sons,” he said. “All his daughters and sons were singing and crying for joy. Praise God to help all this joy (so it) can be used for His glory.” †



Pastor Luterne dances with family at the dedication of the church at Thoman. (Photo by Miguel Rubén Guante)

HIStory

The church at Thoman was the third to be built and dedicated to the Lord by Climbing For Christ (*Monte Pou Kris* in Haiti). *Gentilhomme* (2006) and *Malasi* (early 2010) were the first two. Thanks to funding from First United Methodist Church in Cañon City, Colo., another C4C church is currently under construction in the Dominican border town of Jimani, where C4C missionary Miguel Rubén Guante lives in a community of Haitians. “In our four churches, we have around 600 people worshipping the true God,” Miguel said. “We have around 400 children in our schools (which are housed in each of the four churches).” Additionally, Climbing For Christ has assisted with agricultural, medical, sanitation, and water needs, all the while addressing the more important spiritual needs through a monthly seminary attended by pastors and church leaders from more than one dozen villages. Our ninth short-term mission to Haiti is scheduled Jan. 31-Feb. 11, 2011. You can follow Mission: Haiti 2011 online through our daily dispatches.

Visit www.ClimbingForChrist.org and check the “Mission Moments” for more updates from Haiti.



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Answering a divine appointment

By Ace Concordia



Ace Concordia, right, with Joseph.

As we were surveying the mission climbs for 2011 in Kibungan, Climbing For Christ members Pastor Den Javier and American Forrest Dedolph joined me on a hike to a local waterfall along the Almasi trail. The morning sun provided us a glorious view of the beautiful rice terraces of Kibungan, a remote area in the mountainous north. Led by our guide, Tim, we had planned to spend lunchtime at the waterfall, take a swim, and then head back to our lodgings.

As we reached the river we came upon a local resident taking a rest. Our guide greeted him and he joined our group because he was heading in the same direction we were going. Eventually, I ended up beside him on the trail, and we struck up a conversation. His name was Joseph. He asked me who my American friend was and what he was doing in Kibungan. I told him we were mountaineers on a day-hike.

Joseph then proceeded to talk about the difficulty of life in Kibungan and how many families there live in poverty. He went on to say that this was the reason why some locals have gone into planting marijuana in order to provide for their needs. He sounded bitter about people who criticize the marijuana planters, and challenged them to change places with the poor people of Kibungan to understand why they have to resort to this form of income. "People here have always been poor; there is never enough," Joseph said.

I saw an opportunity that God offered to give Joseph answers to his questions. I told him that I came from the city of Manila, but even there poverty was

widespread. I had also been to countries in Asia and even to America, and there were poor people in those places, too. I wanted Joseph to see that there are many people who are lacking, who never have enough to live by. I told him that poverty is not just the absence of money or food, but also the absence of joy and hope. Like everything in this world, nothing is in

permanent supply; eventually everything we hold on to — whether it be wealth, health or happiness — will one day run out. Our mortal life is eternally lacking; there will never be enough of anything.

I asked Joseph if he wanted to know where to get an endless supply of what he needed in life. He looked at me with curiosity. I went on to tell him the story of the wedding in Cana, where a joyous occasion was about to

end up in shame. A newly married couple had run out of wine at their reception, and this shortage threatened to rob them of the happiness of their wedding. But there was hope. Jesus had been invited to this wedding.

His presence led to a miracle that turned water into wine, and uncertainty into joy. Pastor Den joined our conversation and shared the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (found in John 4:11-13). She had been through six relationships, looking for the love that was lacking in her life. Jesus talked to her about water that never ran out.

HIStory

C4C Philippines has been ministering in the remote mountains of the Benguet Province in North Luzon since August 2008 with short-term teams going there each year. The next Mission: Philippines is scheduled June 6-16, 2011. There will also be an exploratory climb to Dalipey in February 2011 and a follow-up climb to Badeo in September 2011.



Cash crop: Marijuana growing in Kibungan. (Photo by Derek Fullerton)

PHILIPPINES, from page 5



Armed and dangerous: marijuana farmers set up camps to keep an eye on their remote fields. (Photo by Derek Fullerton)

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The water Jesus was talking about was Himself. The lesson that Jesus was teaching is that if we make Him part of our lives, then He will be the One to provide whatever is lacking. If we run out of happiness, He can fill us with joy; if we run out of courage, He can fill us with strength; if we run out of hope for this present life, He can give us a new one. There is nothing Jesus cannot provide. With Jesus in our lives we are not poor, and we will never be in want for anything.

We asked Joseph if we could pray for him. “Yes, please pray for me,” he said. We all closed our eyes and listened as Pastor Den prayed. In his prayer he mentioned the love and forgiveness of God. When I opened my eyes Joseph was in tears, crying, and yet with a smile on his face, as if a burden was lifted from his shoulders. He shook our hands and repeatedly thanked us. We were able to give him a tract to read, and promised to bring him a Bible on our return. He said he would look forward to our return to Kibungan

I wanted Joseph to see that there are many people who are lacking, who never have enough to live by.

so that he could meet with us again. I knew then that the real purpose for our coming to Kibungan had been accomplished.

As we trekked back to our base we talked about meeting Joseph on this trail. What were the chances of us running into him in the vastness of the mountains of Kibungan? The only way for that to happen was if we were to arrange a meeting, to agree on a time and day to meet on that river. But we didn't arrange to meet; God arranged for us to meet Joseph. Just like the woman at the well, He selected the time and day when Joseph and our team would cross paths.

As a Christian and a member of Climbing For Christ, I believe that God has prepared many such rendezvous. He has worked everything out so that nothing will stand in the way of us delivering the message of hope of the love of Christ. All we have to do is show up.

We all know what it feels like when someone doesn't come to an agreed meeting. This is the disappointment and hopelessness that people feel when they wait for hope and it never comes. That is why C4C needs more climbers to lace up their boots and pack their bags to fulfill these divine appointments. Because somewhere in the mountains of this world are people waiting to hear of the hope that you have found in Jesus. †

Ace Concordia, who joined Climbing For Christ in 2007, serves as an at-large member of C4C's international Board of Directors and coordinates C4C Philippines. He is a frequent contributor to *The Climbing Way* and our Web site .

www.ClimbingForChrist.org

The cost of a soul? Priceless

What will US\$204.82 buy you in South America? Six souls for Jesus. Perhaps even more.

There may be a crisis in the world's economy. But God's economy is to make something from next-to-nothing.

Jaime Servat of Huaraz, Peru, a Climbing For Christ member since November 2006, needed that small amount of money for a bus ticket to Quito, Ecuador. God directed us to provide for Jaime's need in late August. Servat and the Holy Spirit did the rest. They teamed up to bring six people to Christ, helped restore the faith of three others, and served the physical needs of another three people through medical assistance. The trip also gave Jaime an opportunity to share Climbing For Christ with many brothers and sisters in Christ in Ecuador, resulting in C4C's first 10 members from that country.

A month later, Jaime Servat was in Colombia, doing many of the same things. This is his lifestyle — going, going and going some more in the name of the Lord.



Rural girls in central Peru. (Photo by Edwin Milla)

When we asked Jaime to suggest where we might go in 2011, he had a long list of answers. In Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. "I pray to the Lord so He can put on my heart, under His guidance, how, when and where I would go first," Servat explained.

So, divinely inspired, Mission: Peru 2011 began taking shape. In May 2011, a Climbing For Christ team will travel to the Huascarán National Park area in the Cordillera Blanca range of the Andes in central Peru.

See some of the famous peaks found in this area, pages 8-9.

Jaime Servat won't sit idly waiting for reinforcements from the body of Christ. He will be evangelizing because that is what the Lord put on his heart to do many years ago. "I only go in obedience to glorify His name," Jaime said. He has been sent "for many men and women in the highlands." He is climbing for Christ. †

Visit www.ClimbingForChrist.org and check Mission: Peru 2011 for more updates.



Arrieros (muleteers), who move climbers' gear, load up their donkeys in Pashpa town, Huaraz, Peru. (Photo by Edwin Milla)

Peaks of Peru

By Edwin Milla
and Gabe Colburn



Sunset at high camp on Nevado Alpamayo (19,511 feet/5,947 meters).



Climbers near the summit of Nevado Chopicalqui (20,833 feet/6,350 meters).



Alpamayo was voted the most beautiful mountain in the world in a 1966 survey of climbers.

Edwin Milla, a member of Climbing For Christ since August 2009, works as a mountain guide in Peru. His photographs appear on page 8. Gabe Colburn, a C4C member since February 2009, lives in Colorado Springs, Colo. and visited Peru in August 2010. His photos appear on this page and on his Web site (www.colburnwildernessphotography.com).



Huascarán is the sixth-highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere at 22,205 feet/6,768 meters.



Huascarán Norte y Sur looms over Huascarán National Park.



Huascarán Norte y Sur Lake.



by a German magazine.

Worship without fear

We asked our members in Western New York (USA): "What do Hilton, NY and Dapcha, Nepal have in common?"

The answer: Applefest.

While Dapcha doesn't actually host an apple festival, the rural village in Central Nepal has been blessed by an Applefest a year for the past two years in Western New York. Funds raised in a Climbing For Christ food booth on the first weekend of October have helped the church at Dapcha purchase land and now begin work on a building that will be a Christian house of worship. Christian churches are not common in that region.

"I am grateful to God and happy to receive helping hands of C4C to build a church in Dapcha-Kavre, Nepal," said Pastor Tej Rokka of SARA Church On the Rock, our ministry partner in Kathmandu. "It is a miracle God did in the life of SARA Church On the Rock Kathmandu. God brought brother Kyle (Austin, an American C4C member) and connected me with brother Gary (Fallesen, the president of C4C) for this wonderful plan of God. We were praying to purchase a plot of land and build a church for this church on the mountain. But it seemed impossible because of remote village, (economically) poor believers and no funds.

"Thank God for proving Himself that He is the God of the impossible. He spoke to many hearts of God's people (to) whom C4C presented the need. First (in 2009), I received US\$4,100 for purchasing the land and we did it. Secondly, in November of (2010) I received another blessing of US\$5,500 to start church-building work. Thank God and those who gave cheerfully. We have started cleaning and managing the land as well as gathering materials and making a contract

with the main builder. (In early December) I will again visit that village and lay the foundation.

"It is needed because the church is growing, and renting a bigger place is not possible. Also, (the area) is dominated by Hindu, Buddhist and communist people, and they have wrong attitudes toward the Christian faith. So there is no way to get a place easily for worship. If we have our own place, we can worship God with dignity and fearless(ness)."

In Nepal, it is possible to be arrested for proselytizing. The small, mountainous country between China and India was once the world's only Hindu kingdom. But in 2008, secular democracy gained control of the government. This opened the door to spreading the Gospel of Christ. Christian ministries can operate freely as long as they do not convert or attempt to convert people.

Despite this lack of religious freedom Christianity has grown from 29 believers when the first church was formed in 1952 to as many as 850,000 Christ followers today, according to *Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation* by Jason Mandryk. There was significant growth after wide-spread persecution in the 1990s. Now, there is a church in each of the country's 75 districts.

"(In November) I brought four young people from Dapcha and gave them two weeks discipleship training," Pastor Tej said. "The leader of that church was in a week of special pastoral training in Kathmandu (in early December). We have a plan to ordain him as an Elder soon and delegate him responsibility. Praise God (in early December) we baptized 14 new believers in main church Kathmandu and at Dapcha we also had seven people ready for baptism, which we plan to do this month (December).

"Please pray for us. I trust God for everything and what He has been doing He will do next, too."

"...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - **Philippians 1:6b (NIV) †**

HIStory

Climbing For Christ sent its first mission team to Nepal in 2008. But C4C member Kyle Austin had already served there for two years. During his time in Nepal, he met and befriended Pastor Tej Rokka. The vision of building a church in the mountain village of Dapcha began in June 2009. The church build at Dapcha is only 30 percent funded. More than US\$13,000 is still needed to complete this project. Please pray for the church at Dapcha and consider giving financially to support Climbing For Christ's work there. Our third Evangelic Expedition to Nepal is scheduled Jan. 3-15. You can follow Mission: Nepal 2011 online through our daily Dispatches.

Visit www.ClimbingForChrist.org and check the "Mission Moments" for more updates from Nepal.



The Summit,

a new book by Climbing For Christ member Eric Alexander of Vail, Colo., is available online and in bookstores throughout the United States.

Read more about Eric and his book on Mount Everest at

www.ClimbingForChrist.org.

A Light has dawned

“For me, doing ministry in Nigeria is likened to a situation where you are trying, by all means, to make friends with a violent madman.”

These words, from Pastor Chris Joseph of Climbing For Christ, sum up the challenge of Christians evangelizing in Nigeria’s oppressed north.

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with more than 140 million people. It is an oil-rich nation (ranked 11th in the world for its oil reserves), but the average annual income is about US\$1,400 and more than half of the population reportedly lives on about US\$1 per day.

The country is divided nearly 50-50 when it comes to faith — with Muslims occupying the north and Christians the south. This is cause for a religious civil war.

“Little has been done to stem the growth of violent Islamist groups or to stop persecution of Christians in the north,” writes Jason Mandryk in *Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation*.

In the past decade, an estimated 2,100 Christians have been killed, hundreds of churches and businesses owned by Christians have been destroyed, and 50,000 people have been displaced by violence. Open Doors, a ministry that assists Christians who are under attack, ranks northern Nigeria as the 27th most persecuted place on its 2010 World Watch List.

Nine states in the north (and parts of four others) have imposed shari’a law — the sacred law of Islam. This law restricts church buildings, bans Christian religious education in public schools, and is often accompanied by violence against Christians. Unfortunately, violence can beget violence. Christians have been guilty of returning an eye for eye against Muslims. This is not Jesus’ way, of course. Even

on the cross, he beseeched: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (**Luke 23:34**).

Jesus instructed us in His Sermon on the Mount: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (**Matthew 5:44**).

This is why Pastor Chris Joseph’s church, the Climbing For Christ-supported Lives Aglow Global Outreach Center in the southern state of Rivers, has a mission of ensuring “that nations of the world are liberated from Satanic-controlling spirits through the introduction of the light of the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ to the hearts of men.” Joseph bases this vision on Isaiah 9:2: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” He willingly takes this Light to the north, where he was born.

In 2011, Pastor Chris will help Climbing For Christ deliver the Light to the Adamawa state along the Cameroon border, a place where numerous people groups

are “scarcely affected by the modern world and deeply trapped in the fearful world of spirits and ancestors,” according to *Operation World*. Many of the people in this mountainous region are unreached. One group that is being evangelized, the Koma Hills dwellers, serve as an example of the paganist practices enslaving a culture:

They are a people, primarily subsistence farmers, who believe god is the skull of their dead mother or grandmother. That skull is kept as a family idol and considered a link to the spirit world.

They are a people who have long regarded a twin birth as evil and, as such, “babies of multiple births used to be buried alive with the women who had the *misfortune* of being their mothers,” Nigeria’s *The Spectator* newspaper reported in July 2010. “The custom nowadays ... is to separate the twins and send them away from one another and their mother, to grow up in different homes. (But) in the out-of-the-way settlements on the hills, the ancient practice (of killing twins and their mothers) still thrives untainted.”

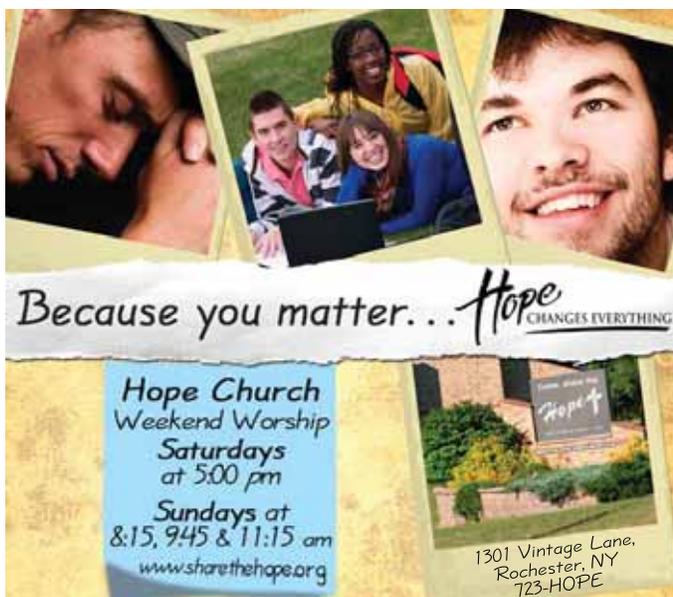
While Christian ministries are making in-roads with this particular group, the Muslims are not to be outdone. “Islamic organizations have their camps in Koma, where they work hard to convert as many as possible,” according to Nigeria’s *Sunday Trust* newspaper.

This is war, after all.

The challenge for Climbing for Christ is this: to make friends with the violent madman while climbing the hill to share the Light with the farmer who has it in his head that grandmother’s skull is god. †

Visit www.ClimbingForChrist.org and check Mission: Nigeria 2011 to learn more about this Evangelic Expedition and “Mission Moments.”

“For me, doing ministry in Nigeria is likened to a situation where you are trying, by all means, to make friends with a violent madman.”





19 Chronicles

Kevin Kimble, a board member from Spencerport, N.Y., placed all of his copies of *The Climbing Way* on the conference table at the end of our Board of Directors' annual meeting in October (above). He had been asked to do the closing prayer. He prayed about what these magazines have described in the past 19 issues; how God is moving and working through this, His ministry. Kevin later wrote:

I am so thrilled to have a complete set (of *The Climbing Way*). This is a huge blessing to me for so many more reasons than I could possibly express. I tried to bring it in prayer, but when I pray over these issues and what they mean to me, to the world, to God's work, to lost hearts and spiritually starved souls, there is just no end to speaking with God about all they represent.

Thank you for all the work you put into these quarterly issues. On top of all that, they have personally touched my heart as I — and I pray many others — have accompanied you in a small way through the chronicles of these journeys. †

Blessing from Malawi, Africa



Damson Samson with orphans supported by our Project 1:27.

'Let the little children come to me'

Julie Schiffmacher, a member from Fairport, N.Y., who participated in Mission: Indonesia 2010, is working as a teacher in Taiwan. She shared *The Climbing Way* (Volume 19, Autumn 2010) with her translator, who wrote this:

I wanna share with you what happened in my family worship. I show the C4C newsletter to my children.

Esther and Lois were so curious about every photo and asked me to tell them what was happening in every photo.

On the last page there was a testimony of two little children (Christine and Michael Lambrecht of Rochester, N.Y.) raising funds for C4C by selling lemonade. This one especially caught Lois' attention. You know what?

At our prayer request time, Lois said: 'Pray for those who never have the chance to hear the Gospel.' WOW, this was the first time she said that. She used to ask for her study, her health, her music lessons, etc. So I firmly believe that people will be encouraged to preach the Gospel no matter where they are, how old they are, or what they have. †



Julie Schiffmacher at the highpoint of Taiwan.

Damson Samson, a member from Phalombe, Malawi, is being sent by Climbing For Christ to Africa Bible College in the capital of his Central Africa homeland. His report on the first semester of his second year of college:

I write to have you informed that I started well my school and it was very exciting to have my story told (in the "Member Profile" in *The Climbing Way*, Volume 18, Summer 2010). Since we started, I have been living a wonderful life in the Lord. I thank God for speaking my situation to you. You have done a great part in my life and you have made possible my education, which will help my family members, our village, district, as well as the nation. May I thank those who are offering their money to contribute to my schooling. May the Lord of mercy remember them for the Bible says, blessed is the hand that giveth. †



Diane Sturmer, right, guides Carol up a trail on Bald Mountain with fellow Climbing For Christ members Jeff Murray, left, and Joseph Starling.

Why I Support C4C ... and Why You Should, Too

"I really got to know the people I climbed with up the mountain. They helped me with different challenges and encouraged me to the Big Rock. When we had devotions on the mountain everyone sang to me 'Happy Birthday.' It made me smile!"

- Carol Donahue

"It is cool to hike with my friends. It is also cool to know they are praying for me when I go through hard times. Hiking, sharing devotions, music and prayers is something I love. It is also cool to see the animals along the trail."

- Janice Johns

Saving bottles for souls By Diane Sturmer

Heritage Christian Services has been blessed by Climbing For Christ as we have adventured together these last couple years. Many C4C members have accompanied us on hikes through the trails of Mendon Ponds and Northampton parks in Rochester, N.Y. and all the way up to the summit of Bald Mountain in New York's Adirondacks. We have also enjoyed snowshoeing together through Bird Song Trail, enjoying sweet fellowship and seeing the chickadees eat out of our hands.

As fellow climbers, we thought about how we could support the labor and be part of the team at Climbing For Christ. We decided that we could save up our soda bottles and have that add up in between our times together and see what God

would do. We also prayed that God would not only multiply our gifts, but also our prayers for Climbing For Christ, and have made a point to mark down dates for each member who is climbing.

We all share the love of God's creation in the outdoors and a gratefulness for Jesus, whose story is marked by an extraordinary love. We wanted our story to be one of encouragement and joy to our friends at Climbing For Christ.

It is with great joy that we share our gifts with this precious ministry. †

Diane Sturmer, a Climbing For Christ member since October 2008, is a spiritual counselor for Heritage Christian Services in

Western New York. Climbing For Christ partners with Heritage to take friends with developmental disabilities on hikes four or five times a year. Our friends have presented us with more than \$200 in 2010. We know from Matthew 14:13-20 that God will take whatever we bring to Him and multiply it to His glory.

PRAY, GIVE, GO

Our desire is to see each of our more than 1,300 members actively involved in Climbing For Christ by praying, giving and/or going. You can use the enclosed envelope to send your financial gift to His ministry. It will be used to spread the Word to places where other missionaries cannot or will not go. Maybe you'll be one of those sent to deliver this Good News. Pray about it, and for the work He is doing through us. To God alone be the glory!



"I feel my heart opening up to the love of Jesus when I am climbing with my friends. I like that this love is carried around the world. Ace, who lives far away, gave me his hat when I climbed the mountain because it was cooler at the top."

- Anne Scoppa, with C4C Philippines coordinator Ace Concordia

2011 HIKES

- Saturday, Feb. 12: Snowshoeing at Mendon Ponds Park.
- Saturday, April 9: Spring hike on Bird Song Trail at Mendon Ponds.
- Saturday, June 4: National Trail Day hike at Northampton Park in Ogden, N.Y.
- Tuesday, Oct. 18: Bald Mountain climb in Old Forge, N.Y.

A VIEW, from page 16

He continues to refine and redefine who we are, what we are, and how we can best serve and glorify His name. In the beginning, when C4C was incorporated as a non-profit ministry in April 2004, we designed four “pillars”: Evangelic Expeditions, Family Ministry, Partners In Climb and Summit Stewards. But in the years since He has directed us to be focused on Evangelic Expeditions. We are a missions organization, a sending ministry. Our purpose is to go where other missionaries cannot or will not go to serve the physical and spiritual needs of those in mountainous areas.

That is not to say that Family Ministry, Partners In Climb and Summit Stewards are not important. They are, in fact, what we—as Christian climbers—should be instilling in our daily walk wherever we go, be it to school, work, the local climbing gym, or when we head for the hills. You don’t need Climbing For Christ to make you a better family person, to witness to a lost climbing partner, or take care of the creation with which you have been blessed by the Creator. Those are your duties as a Christian and as a Christian climber.

We will continue to use family events, outreach, and creation care as tools for fellowship and discipleship, especially on the local level, where we are looking forward to developing small groups (or cell groups) to strengthen and encourage our membership.

But where you need our assistance most is getting to unreached people in faraway locations — the Chaîne de la Selle range in southeastern Haiti, the Cordillera range in the northern Philippines, the high mountain valleys of south-central China, and various other off-the-beaten paths throughout the world.

We also need your assistance in getting there. “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few,” Jesus Himself tells us in Luke 10:2. “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

We ask. He sends. You go.

More than 100 members of Climbing For Christ have ventured with us into the mission field in less than six years. About one-third of those who have gone, have gone again — at least once, and some have gone again and again. Repeat Evangelic Expedition team members.

These team members serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, delivering what is needed to people in places where the Gospel message of Christ may have never been heard.

“The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.”
- **Habakkuk 3:19 (NIV)**

They also serve as the mouth of His ministry, returning home to share what they have seen and heard in their church and community. They are ambassadors for Climbing For Christ, having come to a better understanding of what our work is really about.

“To me, C4C is spelled L-O-V-E,” says Kevin Kimble, an at-large member of our Board of Directors and a participant in Mission: Mexico 2007. “In the work of this ministry, I witness God’s life-changing love, expressed in so many ways.

“I see a young man who is a wonderful worship leader and church worker in his community in Malawi, Africa,” Kevin said about Damson Samson. “He had prayed for seven years for the blessing of being able to attend Bible college. God’s love, administered through C4C, has answered this prayer. Today he is in college.



Damson Samson

“I see a young boy who was found discarded and dying in his family’s home (in Gentilhomme, Haiti),” Kevin said, referring to Gilbert Lindor. “He had suffered a compound fracture of his leg while playing with other boys. Gangrene had set in. He had only days to live. His father believed his son was cursed (by voodoo). He left him to die.



Gilbert Lindor

God’s love, administered through C4C, transported this boy 200 miles to get immediate medical care, saving his physical life. During this past summer (2010), the young boy, who is now in his teen years, was baptized into Christian faith. Now, by God’s grace, his spiritual life has been saved.”

One life, one soul touched by our One true God. And He blesses us with the opportunity to be the ones who take the Good News and the love of Jesus to places where His grace may have never been experienced.

We often ask our members, particularly those going on Evangelic Expeditions, “what does Climbing For Christ mean to you?” To me, it is our blessing and our responsibility. It’s a Luke 12:48 thing (“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked”).

It is not an avocation, but a vocation. We are called to bring glory to God.

This happens because of and through your prayers, your financial gifts, and your willingness to say, as the prophet Isaiah did, “Here am I! Send me.” We continue to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field. Will you be one of those workers? Or will you help a worker go in prayer and giving?

And if people ask, “What’s Climbing For Christ?” you can tell them: We are a God-glorifying, Christ-centered, Spirit-driven ministry sent to the ends of the earth. †

What Does Climbing For Christ Mean To You?

"Thankfully, Climbing For Christ does not mean a simple, social gathering of Christian climbers for sport and recreation. Climbing For Christ means pursuing the Great Commission



Pastor Derek Fullerton preaching at the UCCP church in Tacadang, Philippines.

and helping fulfill it in these last days. Climbing For Christ means God's heart — reaching the lost in the remote mountainous areas of the world. And Christ's Name in the ministry title is the power of the ministry. Jesus owns the ministry, birthed the ministry, and controls the ministry through us fallen and redeemed servants. This makes for an exciting adventure with Jesus leading

us, His partners, for His glory." — **Derek Fullerton** of Colorado Springs, Colo., an at-large member of the Board of Directors and a participant in *Evangelic Expeditions to Denali, Haiti and the Philippines*.

"I cry when I read the news of what God is doing through C4C. He is moving in a powerful way to reach those that many consider unreachable." — **Bob Kuebler** of Buffalo, N.Y., USA, and a member of *Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011*.

"It reminds me of what Jesus was doing; He liked to climb and pray. We need to reach the unreached people with the Gospel of Christ," — **Pastor Duncan Nyozani** of Migowi, Malawi and the *Far & Wide Children's Home*, supported by C4C's Project 1:27.

"An opportunity to be God's feet and God's hands. God has made me a very, very wise man, but I had not the opportunity to use my intelligence for God's work. I have this in Climbing for Christ." — **Miguel Rubén Guante** of Jimani, Dominican Republic, and C4C's missionary to Haiti.

"This ministry is a unique blessing and calling that the Lord has placed in my life, my marriage, my family and my future. I am privileged to help fulfill His command to 'Go' with the Good News into the highest, most remote places of the world." — **Elaine Fallesen** of Rochester, N.Y., USA, an officer of C4C's Board of Directors and a member of two *Evangelic Expeditions to Haiti and Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011*.

"I think Climbing For Christ is an awesome ministry! I'm so blessed to be a part of it. To me, Climbing For Christ is as big as fulfilling the great commission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and hurting world, and as simple as showing the love of Jesus to someone living right next door." — **Jordan Rowley** of Rochester, N.Y., USA, and a member of *Mission: Haiti 2009 and 2011*.

"Encouraging people all around the globe, seeing God change lives, and being part of a unique ministry that is so needed and had been so lacking in the world." — **Jim Doenges** of Littleton, Colo., USA, a former C4C staff member and participant in five *Evangelic Expeditions*.

"Climbing For Christ means that I have found what many others have been looking for all their lives: a mission, a goal, a

purpose, something to give my life to, and to find my happiness by giving whatever it is I have in life." — **Ace Concordia**, of Las Piñas City, Philippines, an at-large member of *Climbing For Christ's Board of Directors* and the coordinator of *C4C Philippines*.

"The Lord has laid the nations on my heart and specifically people in mountainous regions. I've been challenged by the stories I've read in recent years in *The Climbing Way* and I am so excited to serve with the Body in this way!" — **Shelly Torres** of Chicago, IL, USA, and a member of *Mission: Kilimanjaro 2011*.

"C4C offers me an opportunity to serve God's kingdom work in a way that is dear and passionate to my heart. There are endless needs and countless charitable works in this world. Those are good, but few of them speak to my innermost person like the work of C4C. I take that as a very special gift from God, to be able to pray/give/go through a work, which complements who I am and who He made me to be. It's a blessing from Him, tailored to my heart." — **Aaron Hemphill** of Blairmore, Alberta, Canada, and a member of three *Evangelic Expeditions to three continents*.

"To me, C4C's worldwide mission means the answer of the call God showed me through a dream and vision given in 1992 and 1996 to go, in obedience, spreading His name to the mountain ranges to minister and win souls for Him. A ministry born to bless people in the highlands with the most precious message of hope in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." — **Jaime Servat** of Huaraz, Peru, and a C4C missionary to South America.

"It is one front-line missions organization with a mandate to reach out to the neglected, least evangelized ethnic groups of the world with the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, via the instrument of love." — **Chris Joseph** of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria, and the C4C supported *Lives Aglow Global Outreach Center*.

"It is an honor for me to share His glory to people in mountains, which is very meaningful for me." — **"Frank"** of an undisclosed location, who serves as C4C's missionary in a country where Christianity is not freely allowed.

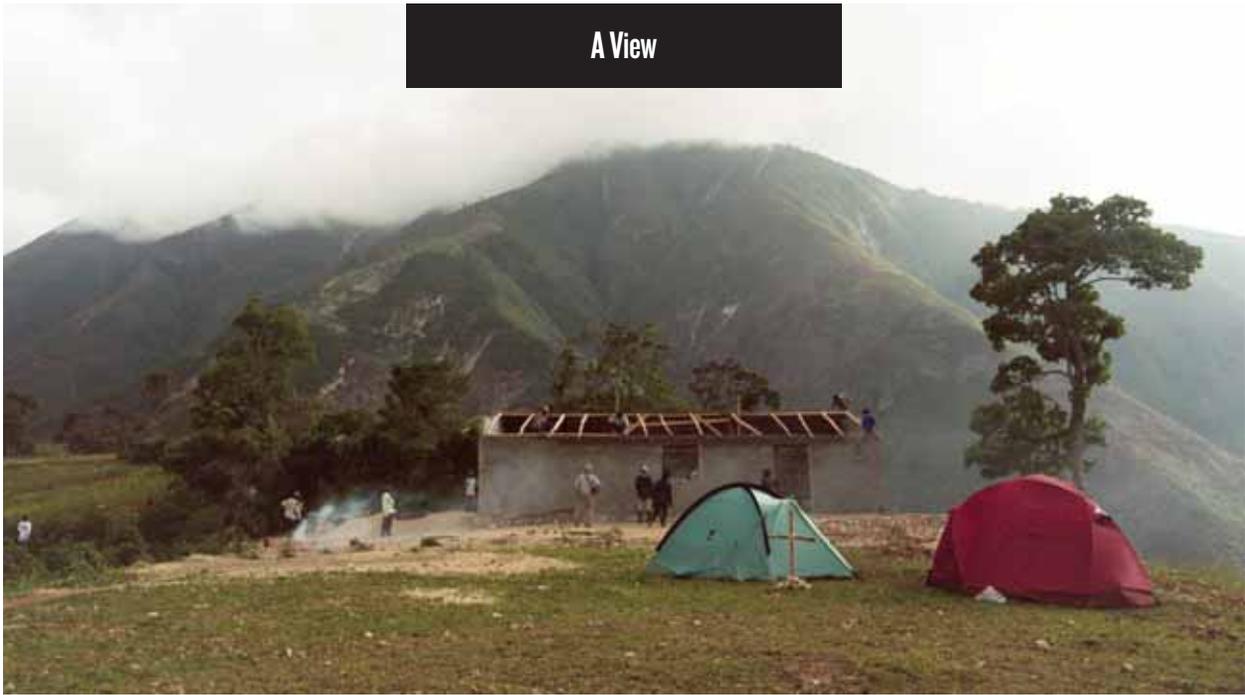
"Going where others don't! Everyone should get to hear about Jesus, and we are equipped to bring it where others are not." — **Kyle Austin** of Syracuse, N.Y., USA, a member of *Evangelic Expeditions to Mexico (2005), Nepal (2007, 2009 and 2011) and Indonesia (2010)*. †



Aaron Hemphill helps churn yak butter in a nomadic family's tent.



Kyle Austin provides instruction in Nepali during a medical clinic in 2008.



The church at Gentilhomme, Haiti under construction in 2006.

God glorifying, Christ centered, Spirit driven

By Gary Fallesen, *president, Climbing For Christ*

Pastor Larry Stojkovic was watching the 24-hour local news station in Rochester, N.Y. one Sunday following a morning of preaching in 2006. A story came on television about Climbing For Christ.

Pastor Larry knew about C4C. He'd been there for its birth, serving as a spiritual adviser and praying for what he thought was a nice marriage of avocation and faith. But as he watched the news story on how God was working through Climbing For Christ on a church-building project in Gentilhomme, Haiti, he had a revelation. He realized

what C4C really was, and that it was far more than he had imagined.

In fact, it is far more than any of us could have imagined.

Today, we have more than 1,300 members in 50 countries. God is using us to reach and minister to people groups in 12 countries. And He has more people and places for us on the immediate horizon.

God is moving and we are going and growing for Him and in His direction.

Continued on page 14



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