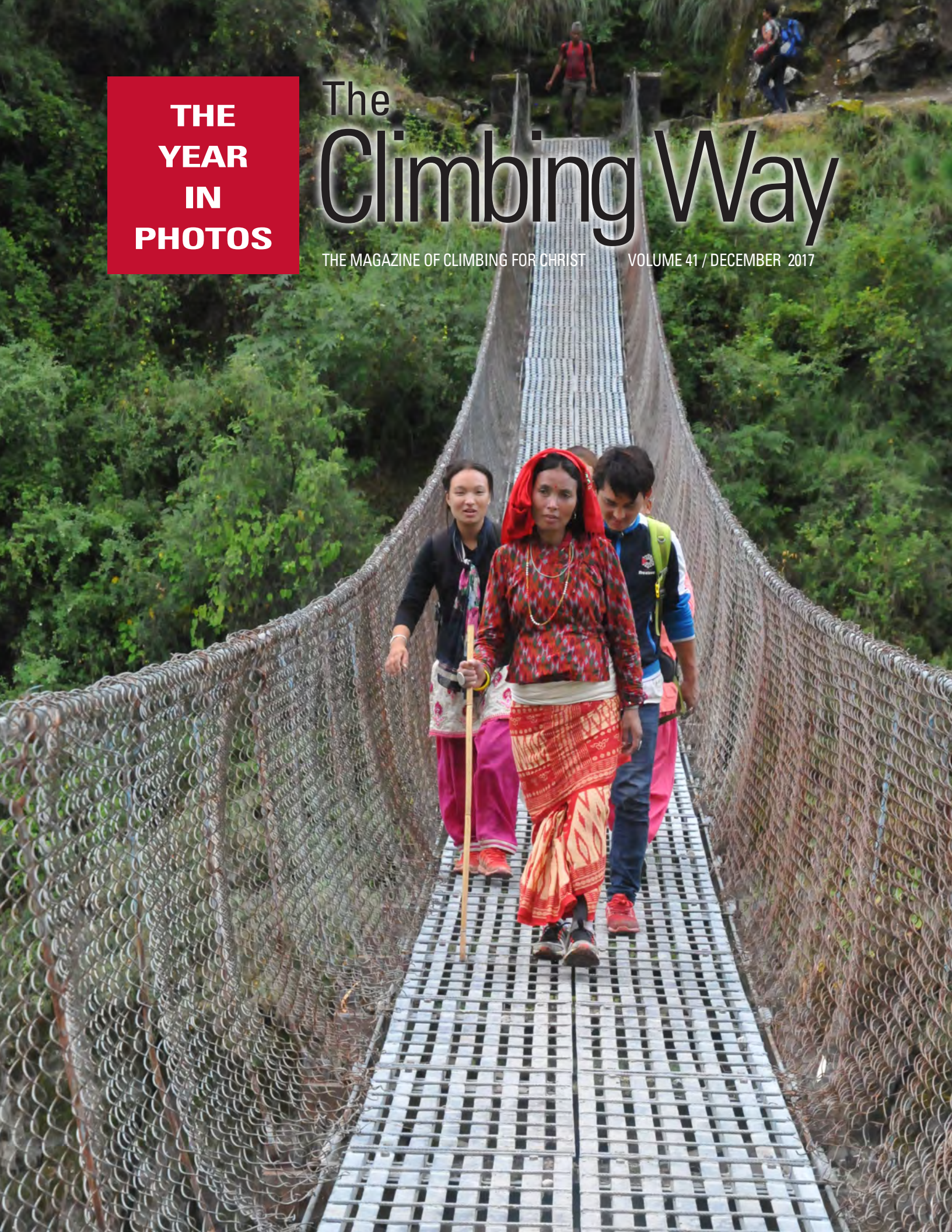


**THE  
YEAR  
IN  
PHOTOS**

# The Climbing Way

THE MAGAZINE OF CLIMBING FOR CHRIST

VOLUME 41 / DECEMBER 2017





# Climbing For Christ

The primary purpose of Climbing For Christ is to GO and deliver the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the mountains of the world, where other missionaries cannot or will not go.

## Mission Statement

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/Contact/MembershipApplication.aspx](http://www.climbingforchrist.org/Contact/MembershipApplication.aspx)

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To contribute to *The Climbing Way* or [ClimbingForChrist.org](http://ClimbingForChrist.org) send an inquiry to [info@ClimbingForChrist.org](mailto:info@ClimbingForChrist.org).

*“Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.*

*Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.”*

– 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NLT)

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

# The joy of travel, part 2

BY ELAINE AND GARY FALLESEN

We shared some stories of **eventful** travel in the last issue's Letter from the Editors. We told about missed flights, stranded travelers, run-ins with customs, and more.

Our prayer as we GO to the ends of the earth is always for **uneventful** travel.

The air miles piled up this year: Indonesia, the Philippines, Morocco, Nepal, Malawi, Peru, Nepal again, an undisclosed Southeast Asian nation, Tanzania, Canada, and in and around the United States. We've flown around the world 5½ times – more than 140,000 miles, according to Travel Agent Kathy, who books every leg of our travel.

You'll see images from many of these places – and a couple others (Haiti and Pakistan) where Climbing For Christ is working – in this, our annual Photo Issue. We hope you enjoy the “Year in Photos.”

What you won't see are photographs of us going through security checks, standing in lines waiting at customs, or enduring hours at 39,000 feet with the seatback of the guy in front of us reclined in our laps. Never mind the bad food, bad movies, and bad attitudes of people around us.

Getting there is part of the journey. Turbulence along the way is to be expected.

We usually try to rub some dirt on it and keep GO-ing (a Climbing For Christ mantra). Plus, we know there will be little victories to enjoy en route to our final destination.

Take our delay at the Nepalgunj airport in southwest Nepal in September. We were on our fourth day of flights, having traveled across nine time zones from New York to Kathmandu on days 1 and 2, and then setting out for the Humla district in the northwest corner of Nepal on an airline we'd never heard of.

Domestic flights in Nepal (less than one hour long) require an overnight stay in Nepalgunj, an unsightly outpost on the India border. We'd risen long before the sun to get to the airport for our fifth flight in four days.

But it was delayed, which was the story of the start of Mission: Nepal 2017, Part 2.

Brother Megh, our indigenous missionary to Nepal, responded to the delay by buying us coffee at the Hello Airport Canteen (we're not making up that name!). OK, it wasn't Starbucks. Or even the Himalayan Java House. But it was coffee, and for that we were thankful.

As they say, everything gets better with coffee. Including flying. ✚

*Elaine and Gary Fallesen enjoy their coffee from Indonesia, Nepal, Malawi, Peru, Tanzania, and other coffee-producing nations around the world they are blessed to visit. They also enjoy photography in those places. They hope you enjoy the photographs in this issue of The Climbing Way.*



## HAITI

Gilbert Lindor, who at the age of 14 was rescued by Climbing For Christ from the jaws of death in the Haitian mountain village of Gentilhomme, graduated this year from high school in the Dominican Republic. He was first in his class. Gilbert returned to his home village last year to re-start the school C4C supported for many years. More than 139 children are again receiving an education. Gilbert, meanwhile, is

planning to begin college in the DR in January 2018. The 24-year-old, who lost his leg but had his eternal life saved in 2007, wants to study medicine.

*“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”*

– James 1:12

## INDONESIA



Jordan Rowley, left, and Gary Fallesen enjoy some morning joe outside “security” at the Nepalgunj airport in Nepal. (Photo by Zach Herbert)

Climbing For Christ returned to Indonesia in January, enjoying reunions with:

- JEJAK (now C4C Indonesia), which was established in 2007 as our first international chapter;
- Sasak people around Mount Rinjani on the island of Lombok;
- The Christian Dodo family living in West Java, home to one of the world's largest Muslim unreached people groups. (All but one family member in the photo follows Jesus.)

We have committed to a five-year plan to engage unreached people groups in the world's most populous Muslim country.

# A mission day to remember

BY GARY FALLESEN

It was a Top 10 mission day; one of the best in our 13 years of doing missions.

Friday, June 30 will always be an extra special memory for my wife Elaine and me. I'd already witnessed 60 Ngoni people coming to the LORD during an outreach that Damson Samson and I conducted during the day in central Malawi. Meanwhile back in southern Malawi, our Mission: Malawi 2017 team, led by Dr. Steve Quakenbush and assisted by Elaine, completed a full day of medical service in a village clinic Climbing For Christ helped build. We were all reunited in the evening for the monthly widows' worship that Damson organizes. Hundreds of widows gather to praise God throughout the night.

This night, Damson had encouraged the widows we have helped to give back to us. What a counter-culture idea. What a Jesus moment. We were humbled to receive gifts from people who are among the poorest in one of the world's poorest nations. The least of the least of these. People whom we have been blessed to bless with sleeping mats, clothing, food, seeds, and – in some cases – houses. They formed lines

for each village and danced into the rented classroom at the local teachers college to give us bags of food, live chickens, wood carvings, and hugs and kisses. It was part of what was one of the most joyous worships I have experienced.

That's when my cell phone rang. It was our daughter Hayley, calling from Canada. The call, taken as I was about to speak again to hundreds of widows, was not unexpected.

"Hi, daddy," Hayley said, delivering news we'd been waiting to hear. "I'm engaged. I'm so happy!"

After talking with our daughter, who will marry Mitchell Harris on Oct. 6, 2018, we went back to sharing with the widows. We were about to give them a small gift of appreciation (a piece of cloth for each person in attendance). But first I told them the news we'd just received from Hayley. Many in the audience had met Hayley on Mission: Malawi 2016 and they celebrated her announcement with cheering and dancing. It was the beginning of a wedding celebration that, at the time, was still 16 months away. It was the completion of a mission day unlike any before. †



Turning mud into bricks for the building of houses.



A day in the life of a mission (clockwise from above): Gary Fallesen on the phone with his daughter, who called to say she was engaged to be married. Elaine Fallesen receiving a chicken from a widow while Damson Samson's son Koinonia sits on her lap. Damson, Elaine and Dr. Steve Quakenbush give a widow a gift during our medical clinic. Members of the Ngoni tribe do a traditional dance.

# ‘Who will go there?’



The journey of more than 100 kilometers began with a single glance out an airplane window.

The plane and the window were small. But the view was big. The vision grand.

Climbing For Christ spiritual coordinator Jordan Rowley, finishing his first visit to the remote northwest district of Humla, looked out of our little 14-seat, two-propeller plane as it took off from Simikot in 2013. He saw countless villages on countless mountainsides. He felt a burden and dared to ask the question: “Who will go there?”

Four years later, he was on the flight back into Simikot with members of a team that would be the first to go **there**.

Three Americans (Jordan, C4C president Gary Fallesen, and Zach Herbert of Los Angeles, Calif.) and three Nepalis (C4C missionary Megh Gurung, his younger cousin Samuel, and Thana Raut of Simikot) trekked more than 100 kilometers (65 miles) from the district headquarters and airstrip in Humla to the district headquarters and airstrip in the neighboring Mugu district. The team ascended and descended more than 35,000 feet (10,600 meters).

Many heard for the first time. Four came to the Lord. A handful of believers who already lived in this area were encouraged.

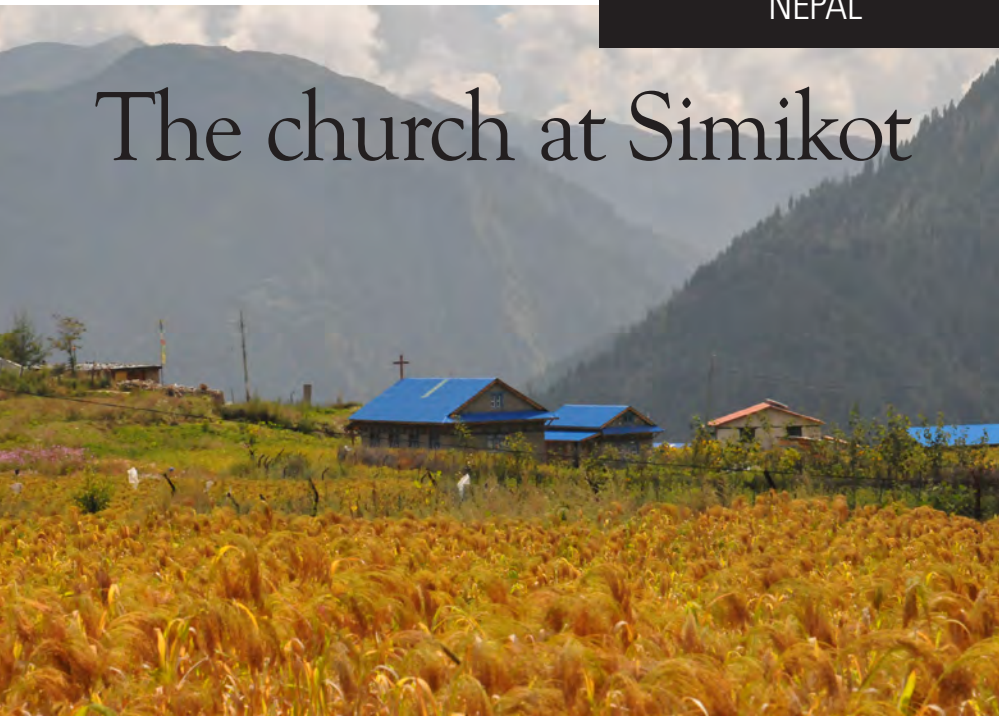
In the wake of our 14th short-term mission to Nepal (our 11th in six years), new anti-conversion laws were signed by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari. Proselytizing was always against the law (even after Christianity was permitted in the Hindu kingdom in 1953), but now the threat of punishment has increased. Penalties of five years in prison and a 50,000 rupee fine (about US \$500) will be levied against nationals and foreign workers will be deported if caught evangelizing.

But the work goes on.

Climbing For Christ is building its fifth church in Nepal and raising funds to purchase land in 2018 for a sixth church. Houses of worship have been built for the church at Dapcha (Kavrepalanchok District, Central Region), Korchabang (Rolpa, Mid-Western), Kathmandu (Central), and Simikot (Humla, Mid-Western). We first went to Humla in 2012 and have visited every year since. †

*“...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” – Matthew 16:18*

# The church at Simikot



*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” - 1 Corinthians 12:27*

The church is not a building. The church is a body of believers.

When Climbing For Christ first arrived in Simikot, the district headquarters for Humla, we did not know if there were any Christians living in Nepal’s northwest corner. We met seven young men. They were the only believers in Simikot in 2012. They asked us to pray that women would come to Christ so they would have someone to marry. We prayed and, in the years since, we have celebrated two weddings and the birth of two babies.

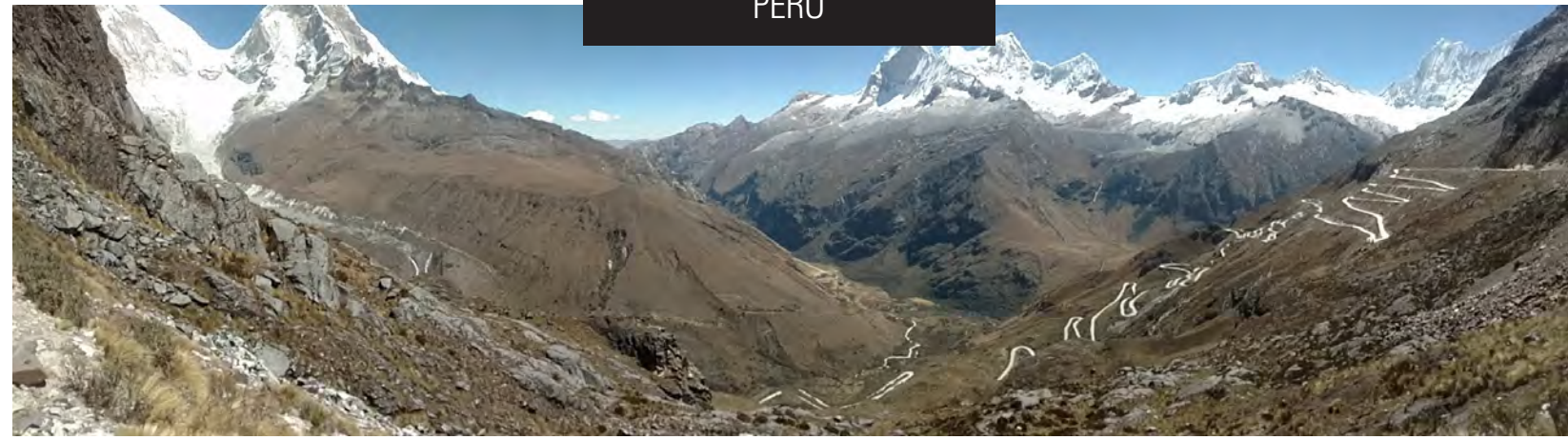
We also helped the church at Simikot build its own house of worship.



## Project 1:27



Children in Malawi, below, make cards that were delivered to orphans in Nepal, above.



Mission: Peru underwent a reboot this year. It had been two years since the last Evangelic Expedition into the Peruvian Andes. We sent a team of seven North Americans to South America, where they joined Climbing For Christ’s long-time co-laborers, Jaime Servat and Edwin Milla, for a six-day trek in the southern Cordillera Blanca range. Our team also returned to the mountain village of Chalhua, where Climbing For Christ helped build a church for the Quechua people. (Photos by Jordan Rowley, top and bottom, and Michael Wall)

## PAKISTAN



Our Project 8:36, established in 2016 to free children and families from illegal slavery in brick factories, helped to free 18 more people (12 children and six adults) in 2017. Among them were orphaned brothers Sharman and Aman, who were placed in the care of ministry partner Save Pakistan. (Photo by Haseeb Masih)

## MOROCCO



It took years of dedicated engagement to lead a handful of Berber to the Lord in the Atlas Mountains. Climbing For Christ's third expedition with expats who have worked there occurred this year. God put on our heart a burden for those who know Him, and the many who have yet to hear. (Photos by Missy Dedrick)



## KILIMANJARO



Dauson Chonjo (above), a guide on Mount Kilimanjaro and one of the leaders of Climbing For Christ's Kilimanjaro Chapter, feeds chickens that were purchased for a project to help C4C members in Tanzania. The Kilimanjaro Chapter was started in 2008. When Damson Samson of Malawi accepted a call to serve as Climbing For Christ's missionary to East Africa in 2014, the work around Kilimanjaro picked up. Damson was making his 14th trip to Tanzania at press time. He has been discipling guides and porters and in late November was meeting Climbing For Christ president Gary Fallesen to again teach Kilimanjaro Chapter members about evangelism. The training itself has led Muslim co-workers and friends, such as Juma Sanare (at right with his wife), to accept Jesus. (Photos by Damson Samson)





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## A VIEW

Gary Fallesen focuses his camera lens on a view down the Karnali River in northwest Nepal. See the photos he and others shot during Climbing For Christ missions on the pages in this issue of *The Climbing Way*. This photo was taken by Jordan Rowley.

