

Voices of the Movement

World Christian Fellowship Newsletter



May 2009

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Phnom Penh, Cambodia

revised 5/29/09

FOLLOWING GOD'S BROKEN HEART TO CAMBODIA by Nathan C.

In this article, Nathan C. shares about his search for a purpose to his life and realized that it was not about "MY" purpose but about focusing on what is in God's heart. Discovering that God had a plan of redemption, God broke Nathan's heart in an area that makes God cry, specifically, the enslavement and exploitation of the people of Cambodia.



Cambodian family of four on a scooter

Important questions. Have you ever asked these questions: *God, what do you want with my life? What is my purpose here on Earth?* I certainly did when I accepted Christ into my life. In fact, I had similar questions as a seeker, except that I was not sure how or whom to ask. When God found me, I finally knew *who* to ask. I literally went on a 25-mile run to pray and listen. He said only two words: "Be prepared!" Yet I had no idea what to prepare *for*. So I did what I could: I sought to know God. To me the best way to know God is to obey God.

Stepping into Cambodia. In the summer of 2007, six months into my salvation, God told me to go to Cambodia for the first time on a medical mission trip. One of the major things we did was preach the gospel to and wash the feet of over a thousand patients who came for medical services in order to emulate Jesus' servant hood to them. During this trip, God showed me the poverty of the Cambodian people who survive on very little. About 38% of 14 million people live below the poverty line at 46 U.S. cents a day.

Human trafficking. God taught me that if there were ever a people who would be a "least of these", Cambodia would be one of them. I learned about human trafficking, specifically about the sex slave industry that is comprised of approximately 40,000 women and 30,000 children, some under the ages of six- and seven-years-old. Some parents sell their

offspring for survival while predators trick or forcefully kidnap innocent children. However, most work in brothels or karaoke clubs, suffering rape more than six to ten times each night.

Sometimes a girl would escape or someone would buy her back from a brothel. "Abolitionist" type organizations could also conduct a raid and free the enslaved persons. The critical question then becomes *where do they go from there?* They can run left and right, but it makes no difference: They have no home and are likely to become trapped again in another brothel and/or forced labor situation. The experts say that it takes five minutes to rescue a child-enslaved prostitute from a brothel, but it takes five years to rehabilitate her back into society.

Hagar International. Enter Hagar International (www.hagarproject.org) onto the national scene. Hagar is an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) that is dedicated to helping the destitute women and children of Cambodia who are predominately from the sex slave industry. It provides social rehabilitation and economic empowerment while also offering shelter programs and schools for women and children to have safe refuges. Hagar also provides critical therapy for these traumatized victims.

In a country where pre-arranged marriages still frequently
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Some Hagar staff

"God taught me that if there were ever a people who would be a 'least of these', Cambodia would be one of them. I learned about human trafficking, specifically about the sex slave industry that is comprised of approximately 40,000 women and 30,000 children, some under the ages of six- and seven-years-old. Some parents sell their offspring for survival while predators trick or forcefully kidnap innocent children."

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

REGIONAL WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUPS

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. For more information e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Seattle (Tukwila, WA)**

Contact: Seattle-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **L.A. (Temple City, CA)**

Contact: LA-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Mid-peninsula NorCal (San Mateo, CA)**

Contact: midpeninsula-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting
(San Francisco, CA)**

Contact: SF-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **East/South Bay NorCal (Fremont, CA)**

Contact: SouthBay-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **South Bay NorCal
(Mountain View, CA)**

sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

“God will always reveal His will to one who is willing to ask” – Hilys Jasper

FOLLOWING GOD’S BROKEN HEART TO CAMBODIA

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occur, Hagar empowers women economically so that they avoid the stigma of their past prostitution. Hagar provides vocational training for women through social enterprises such as a soya milk factory or a restaurant and catering business.

A divine opportunity. A vision team from my church met with a managing director at the Hagar-run restaurant and learned about a service opportunity that was a good fit for me. Hagar was searching for a general manager of operations who had a background in the service industry and I had been doing technical sales for the last 10 years, but was also gifted with cooking for the masses and had cooked in a restaurant for more than two years.

As I prayed about this opportunity, the answer came quite easily. As I worship God, He continues to break my heart for the lost and the least. I saw this concern is what is in God's heart and serving in this role with Hagar was what I needed to do in my worship and obedience to Him.

Spiritual clarity. People ask me all the time: *How do you know this is it? How do you know this is what God has been asking you to be prepared for? How do you know this is your purpose and call in life?*

And I tell them that I don't have 100% clarity as they may think. Instead, I am clear on two things. The first is trust in God; and the second is that I was once very separated from

God and very far from Him. But by no act of my own, I now have a relationship with God because of His son, Jesus Christ. In a similar way, I need to reach out to the women and children of Cambodia; to serve them in whatever way I can: to let them know that God has not forsaken them, God has not forgotten them, and that they are not alone.

I had an atheist friend once ask me, “Where is your God in all of this?” And my answer to him is that God is right here in this church, as the body of Christ working in His people to help Him with freeing and loving the people of Cambodia. God has allowed me to be a part of what He is doing in the world and has invited others as well. I am committed to remain in Cambodia until God tells me to go somewhere else.



Workers at Hagar's restaurant and catering business

“... by no act of my own, I now have a relationship with God because of His son, Jesus Christ. In a similar way, I need to reach out to the women and children of Cambodia: to serve them in whatever way I can, to let them know that God has not forsaken them, God has not forgotten them, and that they are not alone.”

ATTENTION WCF/WCC ALUMNI – SAVE THE DATE!



Save the date! ▲ Were you part of World Christian Fellowship's prayer legacy that began over 30 years ago? Have you attended one or more of the past 24 annual World Christian Conferences? World Christian Fellowship is getting ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary! For almost a quarter of a century, WCC has been a grass-roots gathering where Asian Americans grapple and struggle with what God is doing in the world and how they can join him!

World Christian Conference 2010 25th Anniversary Redwood Christian Park • February 12-15, 2010

Spread the word! ▲ If you know alumni who are living overseas, pass along this information to them. More announcements will be made through the WCF newsletter subscription list (to subscribe, send an email to wcf-newsletter-join@wcfellowship.org), the WCF Yahoo!Group, or website (join through wcfellowship.org). Questions may also be directed to WCF at 25thAnniversary@wcfellowship.org.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

by Esther W.

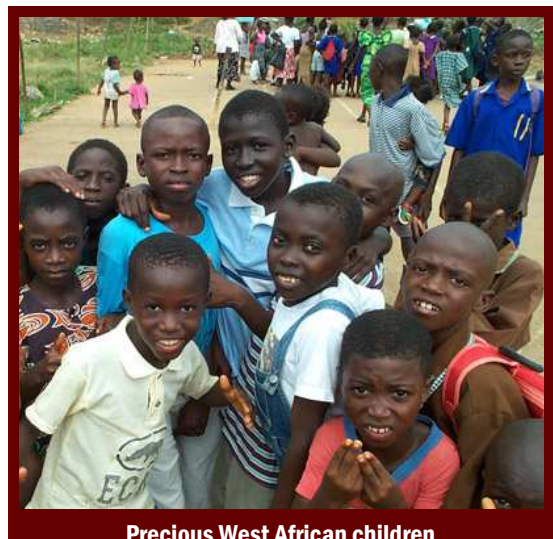
Modern-day slavery ■ While we expect to hear about human trafficking in poor third world countries such as Cambodia or Thailand, the modern-day slave trade is a global activity. In its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, the U.S. Department of State has identified over 150 countries that function as a source, a destination, or a transit country for the slave trade. The 2008 report states that "the common denominator of trafficking scenarios is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for profit. A victim can be subjected to labor exploitation, sexual exploitation, or both." Furthermore, the human trafficking trade is currently the third largest criminal enterprise behind drugs and weapons.

Some of these criminal practices happen in our own backyards in major U.S. metropolitan areas. Many of us are surprised to learn that there are more people in bondage today than there were bartered in four centuries of the transatlantic slave trade according to David Batstone, author of *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight it*. Wide ranges of estimates exist for the scope of modern-day slavery, as high as 27 million individuals. The International Labor Organization, an agency of the United Nations, estimates the number closer to 12.3 million. Most victims are women and girls, but men and boys are not excluded. Worldwide, 2 million children are estimated to be involved in the transnational sex trade at any one time.

Tips to find out more or get involved ■

- Read *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight it* by David Batstone

- Download *Trafficking in Persons* (TIP) report from U.S. State Department's website at www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/.
- Consider joining the modern-day abolitionist movement. Check out organizations such as (a much longer list can be found at the end of Batstone's *Not for Sale* book):
 - Antislavery International (antislavery.org)
 - Hagar International (hagarproject.org)
 - International Justice Mission (ijm.org)
 - Not for Sale Campaign (notforsalecampaign.org)
 - Polaris Project (polarisproject.org)
 - World Vision (worldvision.org)



Precious West African children

"Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our time."

– Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. secretary of state

STARTING A CHURCH MISSIONS PROGRAM: THAILAND

by Jackie W.

In March 2006 Jackie W. helped launch a missions program at her church. Using the Bible (II Cor. 5:13-15), Overseas Missions Fellowship (OMF) training material, personal experience of short-term trips, and a church that wanted a short-term mission, Jackie shares about how she began the first steps as well as an overview from their trips to the southern part of Thailand.

1). Start strong and with certainty! ∞ We all know Christ's command in Matthew 28:19 "to make disciples of all nations." However, this statement doesn't name a specific country. Begin with prayer. Forming a prayer team for support and encouragement is vital to launching the missions ministry.

2). "Where should we go?" ∞ The Lord put Thailand on my heart. Our senior pastor had visited Thailand to perform a wedding. Upon his return, he often talked about his trip. It made strategic sense that we go to the country that impressed our pastor because then he would be supportive of future trips there.

3.) "Who will we help?" ∞ I originally planned for our team to work with OMF, but due to timing those plans fell through. God had other ideas. Through other connections, I made a contact in Bang Sak, southern Thailand, who needed our help on constructing a training center for the 2004 tsunami victims. The pioneering team members wanted to serve God however He asked. What more could I ask for? Flexible team members are a dream come true for any group leader.

4). Lastly, "Why is it important to go as a church body overseas?" ∞ Acts 13:1-3 gives us the example of the church sending Barnabas and Saul. The advantages are numerous. The church as a whole has a personal connection with its own flock and will pray and give for the team's success. The church will realize the fruit of their support through the team's testimony. Plus, the team will return to a family eager to hear their report. Essentially, the team is supported before, during, and after the trip. If team members came from different churches, it will be difficult to reunite again regularly post-trip. Also, the church's responsibility to maintain relationships with the start-up church in Thailand becomes greater with every future visit.

Ministry in Thailand ∞ The first two short-term trips in 2007, January and July, involved construction work on a training



Completed training center building

center in Bang Sak. The most recent trip in March 2009 saw our team assist in minor construction on another training center in Koh Kho Khao where we held an English and Bible camp. The team's challenges related mostly to the children's limited English fluency that caused us to rely more on God.

This last trip blessed us especially as we worked beyond the physical building to relational building. We spent time with the children, welcoming them as Jesus told us to do (Matthew 19:14) and experienced the joy of sharing Christ with them. I'll never forget the moments I handed out Thai / English New Testaments to my students. They showed their gratefulness with the traditional Thai bow and then eagerly flipped through their new treasure and showed it to their friends. Holding a copy of God's Word will outlast anything I could ever say.

I had read that Thailand is a hard place to receive God's Word. The Thai people live by a saying, "To be Thai, is to be Buddhist." Some parents feared that their children would become Christians and so kept them away from the English and Bible camp. Going beyond the habits of religion to a living, dynamic relationship with God is a challenge that crosses all cultures.

Statistically speaking Thailand has only 0.6% Christians with many of them being young Christians. Training for good stewardship, discipleship, and foundational understanding in the Word of God is desperately needed. Please pray for God to continue to intervene in the hearts of the Thai people as they battle karma (acceptance that good or bad things happen because it's deserved), spirit houses (little houses outside each home that exist to keep spirits happy), the sex trade, drugs, and AIDS. Pray for God to raise up Thai workers solidly grounded in God's Word and with a heart to reach out to their native people.



Teaching the "lost coin" parable to Thai children

SEMINAR COORDINATORS

Vision and purposes ■ The purposes of the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) include equipping, activating, networking, and partnering with individual Asian-American World Christians and those who identify closely with the Asian-American worldview, and their churches. To this aim, WCF hopes to host more regional one-day seminars with relevant workshop content throughout the year, not just at the annual World Christian Conference (WCC).

Seminar coordinators wanted ■ WCF is looking for regional seminar coordinators in both Northern and Southern California. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve God through the WCF movement and have gifts and talents in the areas of event planning, marketing, and networking please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org.



WCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Vision and purposes ▲ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is beginning to make plans to celebrate World Christian Conference's (WCC) 25th anniversary during the *February 2010* WCC. During that WCC and throughout the following year, WCF would like to celebrate the past 25 years by thanking God for what He has already done through the WCF movement; reconnecting with past WCF alumni; recasting WCF's vision; and looking forward towards the future in anticipation of what God might continue to do through the WCF movement.

Celebration preparations: help wanted ▲ If you are interested in contributing to the anniversary celebration, please contact WCF at 25thAnniversary@wcfellowship.org. We are especially looking for people who can and are willing to reach out to previous WCF alumni and be project coordinators/implementers.



VOICES OF THE MOVEMENT

Vision and purposes ✨ The monthly WCF Newsletter serves a few purposes. The first is to function as a regular official communication vehicle from the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) to the WCF community at large. The second purpose is to capture the voices of World Christian journeys and articles that describe how God is realigning hearts and lives for his global purposes, and then sharing these with the WCF community for encouragement and inspiration. Finally, the WCF newsletter serves to archive the history of what God is doing through the WCF movement in order to inform future generations of Asian Americans who are interested in continuing the spiritual legacy of WCF.

Joining the team, contributions wanted ✨ If you are interested in contributing a testimony or article, or want to help serve on the WCF Newsletter Team, please contact us at newsletter@wcfellowship.org. We have needs for a graphic layout person, editors, and both regular and one-time contributors.



DONATIONS



Donations ► If you would like to make a charitable contribution, please send checks payable to *World Christian Fellowship* and mail to P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256. Make sure you include a valid address so that we can send you a tax-deductible receipt.

Amazon.com affiliate link ► If you already do some of your shopping at **Amazon.com**, you can help WCF receive a small percentage back by **clicking through our affiliate link** at wcfellowship.org/contact.html and making a purchase during the same session.

