



Voices of the Movement



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Brian and his wife Sylvia spent two years living and teaching in China after their college years. Upon returning to the United States to pursue divinity training, Brian continued to mobilize educators for China. Brian is currently serving on the pastoral team of a multi-lingual church in Mountain View, CA and is on the WCF board of directors while Sylvia previously served on the board. In this sharing, Brian shares about the family's first missions trip with their two young children and how God used them to break the ice with the local Belizeans.

YOUNG FAMILY BRAVES BELIZE ON FIRST MISSIONARY TRIP

by Brian L.



A parent's dream ✓ I have always dreamed of taking a missions trip with my young children. First of all, my wife Sylvia and I have feared that our kids, BJ (6) and Samantha (4), so accustomed to our current state of home-bound luxury, will one day look at us and never understand that once their Mom and Dad were nation-hopping missionaries who could live anywhere and eat anything in the name of Christ. Surely, if they could join us "in action" it would later make their bedtime stories of serving Christ in China or the inner-city seem more than fairy tales.

Second of all, I have this dream because I believe it is vital for our kids to see that our life in America is not the reality for most people around

the world. Plus, I wanted our kids to know that they too could serve the Lord as young as they are.

Reality bites ✓ However, in reality, bringing two young kids into an unknown situation is not as easy as a dream. Last winter, when I proposed that our family go on our church's summer mission to Belize (in Central America), Sylvia brought up many concerns. She pointed out the risks of taking the children to a mosquito-infested, tropical rainforest nation. (In 2008 I returned from 12 days in Belize with more than 400 bites.) More important, she didn't want our kids to burden the team with their greater needs as small kids. We also didn't want to hinder the team in their ministry because we wanted

our children to experience missions. Eventually, as we continued to talk and pray over our concerns for a few months, we entrusted our fears to the Lord and prepared to go.

Everyone loves kids ✓ Along with our family, I led a team of 29 others to Belize in July 2009. BJ and Samantha had no idea what they were getting into, but they were excited. We prayed for their safety and ability to adjust to the heat and humidity. We also prayed specifically that each child would have at least one opportunity to contribute individually to the team's ministry goals. Right from the start, God showed us that they would be just fine. On the first day all 33 of us cleaned and painted the restaurant/
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YOUNG FAMILY BRAVES BELIZE ON FIRST MISSIONARY TRIP



Samantha and BJ painting

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home of a local Chinese family. The kids dug right in, grabbing brushes and painting to their hearts' content. They got more paint on themselves than the building, but *they were part of the team*. And we saw that from that day our teammates had embraced our little son and daughter, constantly watching out for them. As parents, Sylvia and I realized that God had relieved us of our concern so that we could serve unhindered.

Blessed to be blessings ✓ In the following days, God used the kids to "open doors" for us. One afternoon we went to a youth prison on the outskirts of the city. These tough street kids had committed major crimes and just started shutting down when they saw our team coming. No matter what we tried to do or say, they just stonewalled us. Then BJ saw a soccer ball and walked right up to a youth and asked him to play. The next thing we knew, a soccer game broke out and the youths were teaching BJ tricks. Somber faces transformed into smiles and laughter. On the inside, teenage girls clamored to paint Samantha's nails. Evidently, they had

never seen young children in that desolate place. They expressed that they missed their younger siblings, and the joy of seeing our kids opened their hearts to the rest of team. (This summer we'll return to that prison and build a new basketball court).

When we visited an orphanage the next day, the orphans, not used to seeing an intact family, gathered around Samantha and Sylvia, eager

***God used the kids to
"open doors" for us.***

and curious to know a mother-and-daughter pair. God provided a ministry opportunity for each of our kids and great memories of each event. Lastly, God protected the kids from the ever-present swarms of mosquitoes. While the team averaged 80 to 100 mosquito bites by the end of the trip, our kids each had only 10 bites.

This trip to Belize marked the first of our missionary trips as a family. BJ and Samantha still talk about it, one of our young family's most cherished memories. 🙏



A new friend with Samantha.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear WCF community,

Hope you all enjoyed reflecting upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ this month during Easter. May our hearts be filled with joy and thanksgiving because the tomb was empty and our Savior is alive!

Families with very young children often face many challenges as they spend much energy caring for little ones. Daily exhaustion makes it difficult for parents to think and act intentionally about God's global purposes and how the whole family can participate. So, it's encouraging to read in this issue about parents, such as Brian L. and his wife, who are cultivating a family value of serving God overseas together with their 4- and 6-year-olds. May more families be inspired to serve and launch out together in creative and integrated ways!

Let's see if you can relate to this scenario: you have certain plans for your life, and then God gets a hold of you and redirects your dreams. This happened to Susanti K., whose World Christian journey began with spiritual darkness in Indonesia and later led to finding the true love of Jesus in the United States. Though she experienced twists and turns on the mission field, God is directing her heart back to Indonesia. Many times, it seems that God uses the sovereign foundations of our upbringing and spiritual growth to equip us for His work and service later on. Our life experiences, even the struggles and hardships, are never wasted!

Blessings,

Esther W.
estherw@wcfellowship.org

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

Regional WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Prayer Groups

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. Join one or start your own!

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)**


Contact: sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

"Let these prayers of the saints be sweet smelling incense to Your heart." — Matt Redman






CHRIST IN THE FIELDS OF THE WORLD

Symbolically, the logo of the World Christian Fellowship (WCF), , strives to portray the images mentioned in John 4:34-35 and Matthew 9:35-38 where Jesus points out that the world is the field and that the field is ready for harvest.

Graphically, the logo represents the joining of the Chinese character, *tian* (field), with the cross because Christ is the focus and center of WCF's existence. The use of the Chinese character relates to the Chinese heritage from which WCF originated, and continues to represent the Asian American cultural flavor of the movement. This created symbol aligns with WCF's vision of mobilizing individuals and churches to possess a mindset of going, sending and building up World Christians for the field and harvest.

Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV) says: "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

John 4:34-35 (NIV) says, " 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the **fields!** They are ripe for harvest." 

Originally from Indonesia but now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, Susanti K. is currently serving in a college students' ministry with her church and will be finishing up her theological training next year. After graduation, Susanti hopes to continue involvement with college students or engage in some other full-time ministry work overseas. She says that she is learning "hard" to trust God with her future even as she faces some challenges with her family. In this reflection, Susanti shares about the freedom from spiritual darkness and bondage that God's love has brought her and her growing desire to share Jesus with whoever and in whatever country God gives her access to.



CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD BREAKS CHAINS OF BONDAGE

Spiritual strongholds 🌐 I was born in a fishing village built on stilts, in a river of Sumatra, Indonesia. Worshiping idols and ancestors, consulting mediums and fortune tellers, and practicing Buddhism and animism were regular parts of my childhood. Unknown to me during my teenage years, my parents had exchanged my soul for fortune at one of the locally known saints' tombs. As a result of this "exchange" agreement, I started to faint anywhere at any time. On one occasion (witnessed by my cousins) after fainting, I started to scream aloud in a low male voice and I had the strength of four adult males. I had become possessed by a demon. These distressful experiences continued after I arrived in the United

by Susanti K.

Sates in 1995. One time I fainted and fell off the pavement to a street as a bus was approaching. Another time, I fainted and tumbled down a stairway in a two-story house.

During this time, I began attending church because I had no Indonesian friends and felt lonely. I always looked forward to the social, hang-out time. However, I was not at all interested in becoming a "hypocrite believer." I never liked Christians because of my previous bad experiences with them. Therefore, I pretended to sleep during sermons and asked nonsensical questions during the Bible study to prove that the Christian God is false

and the Bible is fallible. I even "burned the friendships" with those who tried to push me into Christianity.

Love breaks through 🌐 After some time though, I started to feel empty in my beliefs. I was tired of having to perform good deeds because my "scale" was tipped with bad deeds. I grew curious of Christianity because I began to feel that something was different about Christians. They showed much patience and love to me despite what I had done to them. When I was in deep trouble, they reached out to me beyond a superficial caring duty. I started noticing the growth of this strange love from other believers after I asked their God to *continued on page 7*

CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD BREAKS CHAINS OF BONDAGE

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prove Himself to me. At this time the Gospel started to make sense to me. It was thirteen years ago in 1997 when I accepted Christ and was liberated from demon possession.

Dead ends and redirection 🌱 I grew in love and desire to preach Christ to all nonbelievers, especially Buddhists, and desperately wanted to serve overseas in China. When I learned from the China Embassy that I could not get a visa due to my travel inquiry, I felt very discouraged and frustrated. To further my disappointment, one of my classmates at Western Seminary told me that the Chinese were becoming increasingly materialistic since development in China had grown so quickly.

As an alternative, my friend suggested Cambodia as a target country. At first, I was not interested, but after learning of the plight of the Cambodian people and the overwhelming darkness there, I was moved. Unfortunately, the summer program was full so I inquired about participating the next following year. I waited a long time, but I learned that it also tested my seriousness. Finally, I went to Cambodia in February 2008. The trip proved challenging since most of the students we wanted to minister to were not at Phnom Penh due to Chinese New Year.



Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, Phnom Penh, the site of a former high school what was used as the notorious Security Prison 21 by the Khmer Rouge.

After this trip I flew to Singapore for a vacation and to visit my relatives. Yet my plan was not God's. Upon my arrival, the Singaporean government enforced a new regulation that prevented me from entering the country. I was escorted to the detention center and I felt angry at God! *"Was this supposed to be the resulting gift of my mission trip?"* I asked Him. But indeed it was a gift because my detention turned out to be an opportunity to preach the Gospel to people from four different nations in Southeast Asia at once. Heaven rejoiced because one person accepted Christ. I rejoiced also: *"This is beautiful Lord; even her soul is very precious to you. You met her at this detention center."*

A changed heart towards Indonesia 🌱 Learning the lessons of discipleship from my trip has helped me understand the seeds God has

planted in me. Before, it would have been impossible for me to love the Indonesian people because of all my negative experiences there. After pondering for a period of time and witnessing a classmate and his wife launching out to Indonesia, I started to question my bias against Indonesia, *"Why shouldn't God send me?"* The country is indeed in need of hearing and knowing about Isa Almasih. I can speak the Indonesian language and am familiar with my culture, so why not go back to my birth land? Amazingly, this realization came with perfect timing: I was able to obtain my American passport. Isn't God cool? My desire to answer yes to Indonesia came with the opportunity to go. I am learning to keep on praying and be flexible! *Let His Kingdom come. Let His will be done. Amen!* 🙏

OPPORTUNITIES

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 in addition to 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.

Grant Writer And Accountant

Vision and purposes ♦ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is committed to fiduciary standards that are above reproach and continuously strive to develop and improve the organization's financial and financial resource systems.

Accountant and grant writer: help wanted ♦ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting/finance or in research/grant writing AND you believe in the vision of WCF of mobilizing more Asian-American Christians for God's global purposes, please consider serving in one of these two areas. If you are interested in serving as an accountant or grant writer for WCF, please contact info@wcfellowship.org

WCF PURPOSES

The purposes of **World Christian Fellowship (WCF)** are to challenge and empower individual Christians and churches to:

- **Equip** committed Asian-American World Christians and World Christians who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview who are active disciples and evangelists for the nations, both in local and overseas ministry.
- **Activate** these individuals and churches to the nations through prayer, training, guidance, and support.
- **Facilitate** teamwork and networking among individuals, churches, and other organizations with a World Christian vision.
- **Partner** with other organizations and networks with complementary objectives so that we as World Christians can unite towards the goal of building up the universal body of Christ.

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.



Voices of the Movement, the monthly online publication of WCF, serves to inspire and motivate the World Christian community through articles contributed by fellow World Christians. In its third year of publication, Voices of the Movement is also an archive of stories that document God's work through Asian-American World Christians and those who closely identify with the Asian-American worldview in the growth of His Kingdom on earth.

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