



Voices of the Movement



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Port in North Africa



Leaving “Asian Bubble” Opens Door to Cross-cultural Ministry

by Amy Y.

Raised in Southern California, Amy is a third-year mathematics major at UCLA. She leads a small group of high school girls at her home church in Palos Verdes. Amy also enjoys dance, travel, and experiencing new things that God brings into her life. Unsure of plans after college, Amy does feel a call to minister overseas, probably in Europe or Africa, by focusing on humanitarian needs.

Muslim world summer project ● In August 2010, I participated in a short-term Muslim World Summer Project with Go.Live.Serve., a movement of students and professionals seeking to merge their education, career, and missions. The 7-week trip spanned four countries (orientation in America; exposure to immigrant ministry in France; three weeks of culture exchange, English teaching, and Arabic learning in North Africa; and debriefing in England.) Since the

trip, my passion for learning about cultures and religions outside of the Asian world, particularly Muslim, has only increased. This desire undergirded my decision to live with and minister to non-Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds, mostly international transfer students, in my college dorm.

Asian-American bubble ● Raised in a Japanese-American suburban household, I attended a predominately Asian-American church and high school. Until college, most of my life was completely contained within the Asian-American culture. It was only during my freshman year of college that I was finally exposed to different cultures. By talking with people from different “worlds”, who grew up so close to me, my view of the world expanded. I believe that God

used this life experience to grow my desire to learn about and live in other cultures. For example, in the small beach city in North Africa where we stayed, our team mates were the only Asians that most of the locals had ever seen; they looked at us like we arrived from another planet. I loved learning all about their language, culture, and religion, and they also eagerly shared their lives with us. We were immersed in the Muslim world full of amazing Arab people – an invaluable experience.

Carpe diem! ● After my life changing missions trip, I want to say to my likeminded brothers and sisters in Christ: Do something. Now. I think that as Asian-Americans and college students, we tend to have long-term goals and plans, which is good.

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LEAVING “ASIAN BUBBLE” OPENS DOOR TO CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

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However, I see many people so overly focused on the future that they forget there are so many opportunities in the present. I'm not saying that everyone needs to go overseas, but I am saying that we need to start living our lives missionally-minded. This means reaching out to the non-Christians around us. We are all surrounded by people with different stories, who don't yet know Jesus Christ personally. It's when we break out of our Asian bubble that we can truly enrich our lives with experiences that come only from different cultures. I spent the past two years in an Asian fellowship, which helped me grow tremendously, but my social circle consisted of mostly Asian Christians. I felt God calling me to move out of


that world, and when I did, I learned so much more about Him.

When I transferred to UCLA last Fall, I re-entered dorm life. In my first quarter, I encountered many worldviews, most of which were very different from mine. My relationship with God has been tried and challenged, but through defending it, I have discovered a deeper, unshakable faith in Him. God has shown me that there is only one thing in life that truly matters: *the message of Jesus Christ*. When I focus on that, everything else seems to fade into the background. We can rest in the knowledge of our assurance of salvation through Christ's sacrifice, but it should also serve as the motivation in all we do. Jesus spoke of how a light should be displayed on a stand, not hidden, so that it can be seen and give light to the whole room (Matthew 5:15, Luke 8:16), just as we should place ourselves in the midst of

unbelievers so God can use the light that He has placed within us.

Falling in love with Muslims ●

Before the trip to North Africa, I had very little knowledge of the Muslim world. I expected that I would learn about Islam and Arab culture, but I never thought that I'd fall in love with the people. The Muslim people, not only in North Africa, but all over the world are warm, hospitable, and God-fearing.

On the trip, we met a local named Hamdi (name changed). A devout Muslim believer, he loved to share his faith with our team and discussed openly the differences between Islam and Christianity. He prayed five times a day, recited verses from the Quran, and was very faithful to God, but when we asked if he thought God loved him, he responded with surprise and said that he was not sure. This shocked me. *How can someone know God, but not know of His love for us?* His love is the reason we praise Him and follow Him. Hamdi is living his life, hoping to please God, and praying for His mercy, but he does not have assurance of salvation. As Christians, we need to reach out to the Muslim community and share of God's grace and undying love for them just as Jesus prayed we would. (John 17:20-26). Their views of Christianity are very much like the average American's view of Islam: full of misconceptions. We need to break down the barrier between our two faiths and start sharing with each other and growing together. 



The team with local friends at the language school where we taught English and learned Arabic. The owner of the school threw a goodbye party for us and asked everyone to dress in traditional North African attire.



Beyond life and breath—and from within the foundation of our souls—lie our identities.

How we live, what we speak, and all we see flows forth from our understanding of who we are.

Though voices clamor to define us and measure our worth, our true identity rests in our Father. Through His Son, we have been adopted as sons and daughters.

We are His beloved. With that truth, we stand to claim our inheritance as those who will bless the nations.

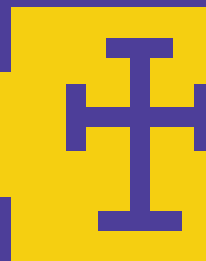
The World Christian Conference was founded on a grassroots movement of mobilizing Christians to a missional life, attuned to the fullness of God's passion for the world.

Join us this February, as we gather together to reclaim our identity, lay hold of our inheritance, and bless our world in need of the same.

Register at
<https://register.wcfellowship.org/>

For full information and details visit:
<http://www.wcfellowship.org/wcc/2011/>

Psalm 2:7-8



Plenary Speakers



Viji Nakka-Cammauf



Philip Gee



Arthur Gee

Beloved.

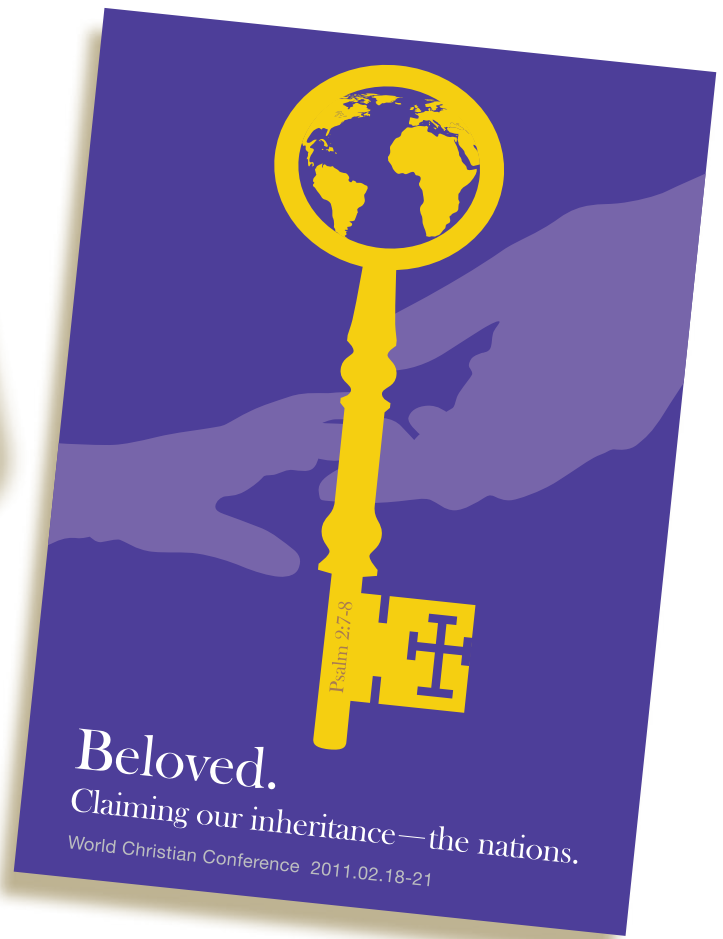
Claiming our inheritance—the nations.

World Christian Conference 2011.02.18-21



Pastors can attend the World Christian Conference on Saturday, February 19, for only \$35 (includes meals and access to conference events).

E-mail estherw@team.wcfellowship.org to register by February 4, 2011.



Greetings to Pastors and Church Ministers!

As an organization, World Christian Fellowship (WCF) values the local church and its leaders who shepherd their flocks so faithfully. Pastors and church ministers are invited to attend WCC 2011 for one day on Saturday, February 19. We believe the Great Commission (Mt 28: 18-20) is for all believers and this cannot be accomplished alone. We count it a privilege and a joy to have opportunities to partner with local churches to reach the lost and disciple nations, whether that's just in our own backyards or halfway around the world.

We welcome pastors to come and see what the Lord has been doing in WCC and WCF and to share in some of their members' experiences to bring back to their local congregations. It is our hope that we may come alongside shepherds of local flocks during this strategic and challenging time in our world. We want to team together to bring hope through our message of salvation to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the world.

For those who won't be able to join us at WCC this year, we want to extend a general invitation of partnership. At WCF, we want to complement and enhance your ministries and so we welcome any opportunity in the future to begin to build a relationship with you. Please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org.

Teresa C.

WCC Conference Chair

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear World Christian:

Welcome to 2011!! I hope that this new year begins a fresh chapter or leg on your journey as a World Christian – whether it is continuing to champion worthy causes overseas such as ministries for Sudan or local missionary outreach or cross-cultural ministry to Muslims. Or it could simply be living as a faithful disciple of God's word and planting the seed of the Gospel in new hearts and tending it well. Or perhaps you are shepherding a local flock of believers to see them grow and mature in spiritual truth.

Whatever your calling, I pray you are fully aware that you are the beloved of God. *Beloved* is the theme of WCC 2011 and it addresses the core of our being - our identity. As Vince L., WCC 2011 co-director put it, "Our salvation, purchased by the life and blood of Christ, has bestowed upon us an immutable relationship as sons and daughters of the Most High God. So great is the power that resides in this truth that in embracing our identity as His *beloved*, we are empowered to testify of His powerful love and grace, and to take this message to the ends of the earth."

As you read two testimonies in this issue – one by Amy Y. and the popping of the "Asian-American Bubble" and Kurt M.'s several short-term trips (he lead Amy Y.'s team in North Africa) on his roadmap to missions – may their journeys inspire you to press on for the Lord!

For the Glory of the Gospel,



Managing Editor

lillianl@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



Using a Roadmap to Missions

by Kurt M.

Kurt grew up in the Silicon Valley in a family that practiced Catholicism. While a senior in high school he came to really know, trust, and follow Christ when a friend invited him to a local youth group. That friend never could have expected that one day Kurt would become a missionary with an M. Div degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is happily married with one son and another baby on the way (through adoption). Photo: Kurt and his wife dressed and eating in the Kyrgyz style.



Meeting in a yurt 🗨️ I could hardly believe that I had ended up in a yurt a few hours from the nearest phone in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan (in Central Asia) “How did I get to this place?” I wondered to myself. Our team had traveled the whole day to arrive at this remote and beautiful place. It was raining outside while we sat on a colorful wool floor mat, eating food from a low table and sipping tea with our Kyrgyz hosts.

Although it’s nearly 7,000 miles from California to Kyrgyzstan, the most difficult part of my journey cannot be measured in miles because the real journey was in my heart – the distance from fear to outreach. So, the question about how I got to Central Asia was not actually about location, but how I changed in my mindset.

Over time God has given my wife and me opportunities to enjoy and appreciate Muslims and this calling has grown to the point of realization while enjoying that floor picnic that *I was doing something I was both called to and loved immensely.*

Me in missions? 🗨️ To tell you the truth, I didn’t always think and feel this way. You can probably identify with some of my initial feelings about Muslims: I didn’t know that much, but what *I did* know freaked me out. Frankly, I never wanted to be the guy who loved Muslim people. I always thought that people who wanted to work among Muslims thought of themselves like the Christian equivalent of the Green Berets, an elite special forces unit in the Army. That wasn’t me. I simply wanted to be

a regular guy with a normal American life. However, God had other plans.

Currently, my wife and I are preparing to work in Europe among the Muslims living there. We are aiming to establish teams in many different countries who will reach Muslims and train the local churches to do the same.

How did I get to this point in my life? As I look back on my process and progress, I can identify three distinct events that I will categorize as hearing, seeing, and walking.

Hearing the message 🗨️ First, I grew in my understanding of the power of the Gospel — its work in my life and its power to change others. I was encouraged at venues like Urbana ’96 and 2000 to act on the Truth that *continued on page 8*

USING A ROAD MAP FOR MISSIONS

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I knew. Speakers urged us to take our learning and put it into action and my wife and I decided to commit to serving abroad for two years.

I learned to hear God's voice regarding missions to Muslims by:

- studying Scripture because Scripture is soaked with God's plan to redeem the nations
- reading certain books such as *The Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross* by Nabeel Jabbour. It's *great* introductory reading because it doesn't just give facts, but instead offers insight into *how Muslims think*. I recommend this book for several reasons: 1) provides good information on Muslims; 2) written from a solid Christian perspective; 3) neither is the length too long nor the content academic; and 4) author depicts Muslims as real people to encounter in relationships.

Seeing my role in missions 🗓️ My wife and I had our first real contact with Muslims during a short-term project in 2001. God used these discussions with the locals over coffee and walks in the park to break down our defenses and prejudices towards each other. We discovered that loving Muslim people is easy. After all, it's hard to not like someone when they pay for your meal! Muslims love to talk

about spiritual things. I never would have known this if I hadn't taken the first step to go to a Muslim country.

We were convinced about serving God overseas, but didn't know where yet. When we learned how few missionaries were reaching out to Muslims, we thought that it could be a people group where God would send us.

Back in the Kyrgyz yurt 🗓️ The older man leaned over his cup of tea and asked the team where we were from. "California", "Texas" we said. "No, no, no," he said. "Where are your ancestors from?" When two on the team answered him, "China" and "the Philippines", he turned his palm up and patted his forearm. Eyeing us intently, he said, "Kyrgyz people are Asian people. You and me – *we have the same blood flowing in our veins*. We are the same!" Moments like these remind us of the powerful, divine connections that exist between people.

From this experience, I envisioned my active involvement in a Muslim's life by putting myself in situations where I would likely meet a Muslim person:

- Visit a mosque — I'll be leading mosque visits in the next couple of months. Join me!
- Eat at a local, Muslim-owned Chinese restaurant and chat with the owners. Check Yelp for a "Chinese Muslim" restaurant near you.

- Talk with a Muslim co-worker or neighbor. Start the conversation by asking how living out their faith in the U.S., rather than elsewhere, might be different; and then let the conversation go from there.
- Go on a short-term project to a Muslim-majority country.

Walking with likeminded people 🗓️

Realizing the steps in response to the exhortation my wife and I had heard at Urbana '96 & 2000, we moved to Europe 2003 and after a couple of years we began to see fruit in our ministry. But family life drew us back to America where we have lived for the last five years. After we returned home we worried about losing our vision as we got used to the comforts of home and family.

I have attended WCC twice ('06 & '07) and will attend WCC 2011 as an exhibitor. More than the enjoyment of the teaching at the conference, I truly appreciate that WCC has helped "fan the flame" of my calling by providing fellowship with missions-minded believers. As fellow World Christians, we need likeminded people who will encourage us to keep our vision alive and I'm thankful that WCC connects people in this way.

- Find places of community building such as WCC or the WCC monthly prayer meetings where you will meet people who will encourage your vision for missions 🗓️

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 a regional seminar coordinator each for the Southern California and Seattle areas. 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.

Accountant and/or Grant Writer

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/or Grant writer: help wanted ♦ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting and 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 this area. If you are interested in serving as an accountant and/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 fourth 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.

World Christian Fellowship
P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256
www.wcfellowship.org | newsletter@wcfellowship.org

Voices of the Movement e-subscription: send an email to wcf-newsletter-join@wcfellowship.org