

Vol. 12, No. 4 | Autumn 2017

VOICE & HANDS

SHARING CHRIST IN HARD PLACES

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FOR CENTRAL ASIA

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SUMMER INTERNS
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IN GHANA

PG. 4

reach
beyond 

**“Let the redeemed of the LORD
tell their story”** Psalm 107:2

DEAR FRIENDS,

Recently I went to one of the most lively, engaging worship services I've ever attended. It was loud, energetic and joyful. In the room were representatives from over 20 tribes scattered throughout Indonesia. Although many of these first-generation believers had paid a high price for their faith, their joy was contagious.

The church's pastor is one of our key ministry partners. In the last 12 to 15 years we've helped him plant more than 50 community radio stations nationwide. The impact of the broadcasts has been enormous. Thousands have come to faith in Christ. Over 1,500 daughter churches have been planted and a dozen orphanages have been established.

At one point in the service, a group of children from one of the orphanages led in worship. All of these kids have stories of rejection and abuse, but they also have stories of love and redemption. Amid their brokenness, God has brought healing and hope.

In the children's choir there was a 9-year-old girl named Enea. Her story brought me to tears. When she was only 4 years old, she and her 2-year-old brother were abandoned by their parents. Taken in by their grandmother, they received shelter, but little more.



When a famine hit the island, Enea's grandmother struggled to find food for herself and the children. In desperation she decided that it would be better to end it all.

Without going into the disturbing details, Enea's grandmother committed suicide after taking the life of Enea's younger brother. Now she was all alone—a 4-year old child with no home or family.

After the bodies were discovered a few days later, Enea was found wandering aimlessly nearby. She was so traumatized by what she had seen and heard that she couldn't speak.

The villagers had heard the radio broadcasts from our partner. They

FROM TRAUMATIZED TO ENERGIZED: A STORY OF REDEMPTION

 | FROM THE PRESIDENT

knew that the pastor loved orphans as he had established a children's home on a neighboring island. When our partner and his wife passed through the area for a "listeners' meeting," the villagers brought Elnea to them, begging that they would take her in.

The young child couldn't speak and stared with dazed, haunting eyes. The wife of our partner prayed, "Lord, what do you want us to do? We could never meet the needs of this broken child." The more she prayed, the more God spoke, "Take her in. She will be a leader someday."

In the next several months, her house parents held Elnea tightly for hours every day. They rocked her gently, prayed for her and sang

to her. Four months later, the girl uttered her first word.

Today Elnea is a vibrant, happy child. She even speaks English and is thriving in the children's home.

Elnea's life is a miracle of God's healing and redemption. Hearing her story reminded me of the power of the voice and hands of Jesus to redeem and transform.

It reminds me of the old hymn, "I Will Sing of My Redeemer."

Blessings,

PASTOR STEVE HARLING,



President, Reach Beyond



CENTRAL ASIA CLEAN WATER PROJECT: GOD SHOWS HE CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

Just getting to our destination—a remote valley in Central Asia—was a feat of endurance and fervent prayer. In June our journey there took us more than 16 hours, traversing roads riddled with potholes and deep ruts. At times the road became the river, and sometimes the river became the road!

This valley is really only accessible in the summer months since at

other times it's frequently cut off by snow. What a wild introduction to rural Central Asia for the three young engineers who accompanied me!

Enveloped in a cloud of dust, we finally arrived at our destination just after sunset. We had come to engage with this community of 1,500 people that is unreached with the gospel. Working with a partner mission organization,

we were responding to this Muslim community's request for assistance in improving their access to safe drinking water.

The need for potable water in the community was urgent. The residents depended on contaminated river water, muddy water in irrigation ditches or on an unprotected spring (shared with livestock) for their drinking water.

Women and children had to haul heavy containers of the unsafe water long distances back to their homes. Now our team of four was here to fulfill our promise to help the residents build a new water system.

Staying in the home of a Muslim "person of peace" who was our original doorway into this community, we enjoyed cooking and eating the local food, playing games with his children and getting to know his family.

But even as our first day of work began, we quickly realized there would be new mountains to climb if we were to see this project through to completion. Due to a change in village leadership, some members of the community were not even aware that a project to provide clean water was about to start. Nevertheless, a handful of men arrived, committed to help, and the hard work got underway.

The weapons of Satan are discouragement, fear, division and confusion, and we faced all of

these. However, together with some members of the community, we protected a large spring so the water is now safe to drink.

We also put in a pipeline with places to tap into the water, significantly reducing the time it takes to fetch water. As a result, the health and lives of some of the villagers, especially the women and children, have been substantially improved.

Our partner is committed to an ongoing outreach in the village despite internal community dysfunction. Meanwhile, we have a standing invitation to work on a water system in a nearby village, again with strong contacts made through a "family of peace" that is open to our involvement.

Join us in praying that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on the unreached people in this faraway valley where social, religious and political barriers to Christ-centered community development are strong.

This story was authored by a Reach Beyond missionary who serves in the Europe/Eurasia Region. Names and locations are omitted for security reasons.



TRANSFORMED LIVES WORLDWIDE

ASIA PACIFIC

INDIA: “My husband died five years ago. I have three children. We know about Jesus from your radio station, and we listen to all your programs. The nearest church is far away, and attending makes the villagers angry, so every Sunday your radio program, ‘Church On-Air’ is church for us. My children also believe in Jesus, and we pray to Him.”

INDONESIA: Reach Beyond’s Asia Pacific radio trainers recently met with an Indonesian pastor who had attended two announcer training workshops within the last year.

He shared that the evening prayer program he now hosts connects deeply with the community, and he leads up to four people to Christ each time the show airs!

EUROPE/EURASIA

CENTRAL ASIA: “Although some of my family members are Christians, my father drinks too much and gives me a lot of grief. One day I got really angry at him and started shouting at him. To avoid my father, I turned the radio way up and did my homework. The programs you were playing right then discussed praying for others, forgiving them and not giving the

devil a foothold. I listened closely, and everything is much better now, thanks to God.”

UNDISCLOSED COUNTRY:

Three local believers began meeting because of what they heard on the radio about small fellowship groups. Eventually their number grew to 15, but because of security issues, they divided into two groups. Those groups grew too, and now there are four small home groups—each with about 10 people, most in their early 20s. They seek to be exemplary citizens, helping people in practical ways and being honest in business.

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL: Fausto, a Brazilian missionary, had been trying to approach a river village, but the people were angry and wouldn't let him in. But through helping a family in a neighboring village, he was able to get an audio “Player of Hope” to the father who lived in the contentious community. When Fausto returned to the man's village, he was again shouted, down. But after explaining that the man had invited him to his house, they finally let him in. Now people come to the man's house every week to listen to evangelistic programming on the players and discuss it.

NORTH AMERICA

U.S.: “I work in construction in El Paso, Texas, and I drive a company van to transport some of my co-workers to

work each day. One of the guys was a believer, and he always tuned in Radio Manantial (Spanish-language station operated by partner Inspiracom). I said, ‘Leave your religion at home!’ But we ended up having heart-to-heart talks about God, and I put my faith in Jesus.” Now he's the one who plays Radio Manantial even though some of the guys complain.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

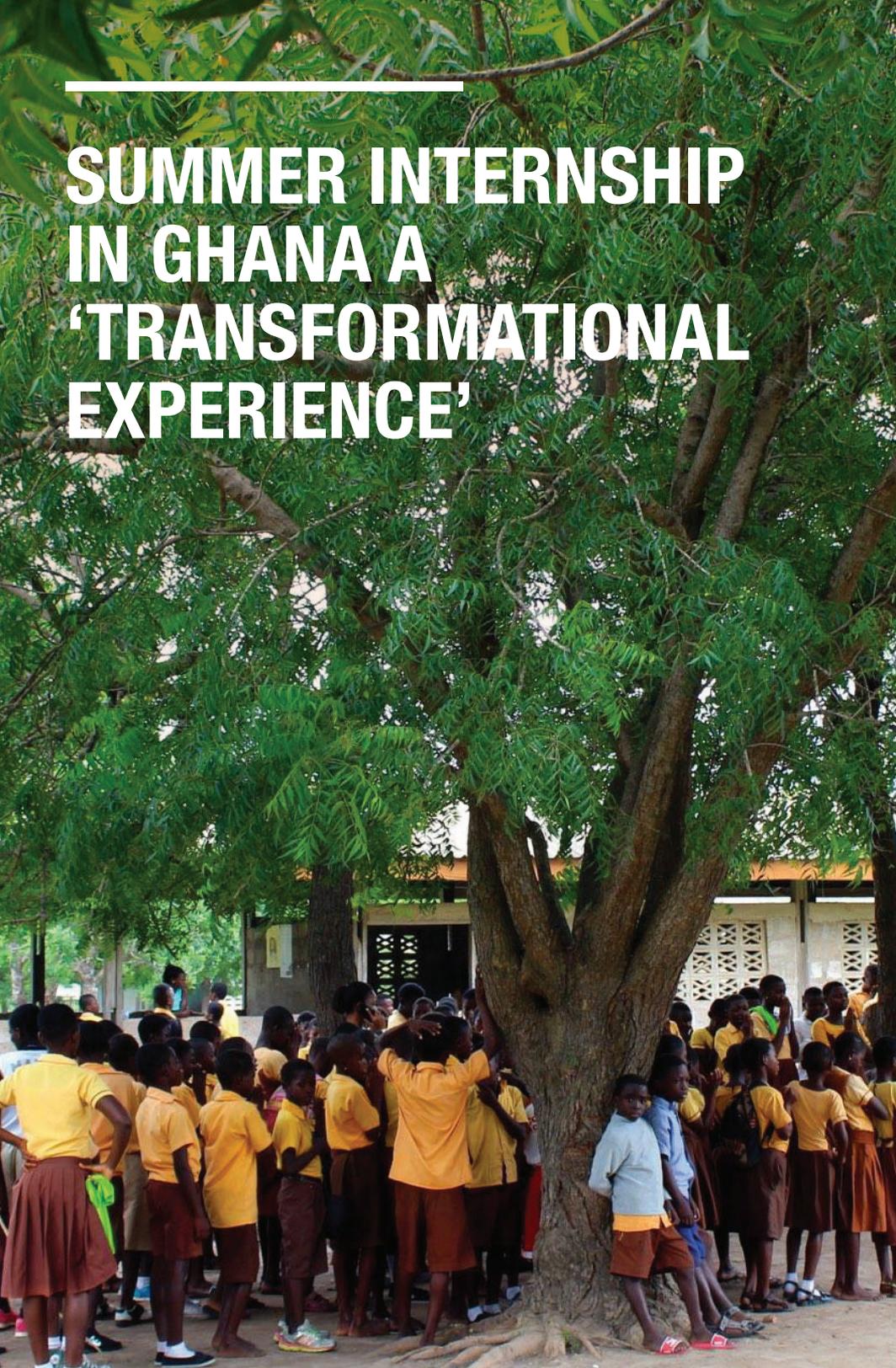
MADAGASCAR: A Muslim lady who began listening to the radio programs from a new partner station in Madagascar decided to visit the studios, telling the staff, “I want to offer my life to Jesus and go to heaven.” They prayed with her, gave her some study books, and she gave her life to Jesus. When her husband became ill, he went to church with her, and the pastor prayed for him. He began to improve and later he too came to Christ.

NORTH AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

UNDISCLOSED COUNTRY:

A young believer doing his military service isn't allowed to access the internet, use his smartphone, watch television or have a Bible. But he is allowed to listen to the radio. He was surprised to discover the signal from a partner station that airs Christian programs reaches the remote mountainous region where he is stationed. Now he encourages other soldiers to listen and shares the gospel with them.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN GHANA A 'TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE'



Little Cristabel was limp and lethargic when she arrived at the medical caravan in remote village of Yaodonkho, Ghana. She was brought in by her concerned mother who had carried her for miles beneath the hot sun. Irritated and crying, the sick child had a high fever and a raspy chest.

Doctors were especially concerned because Cristabel was unable to take fluids or swallow medicine without vomiting. She barely even reacted when nurses administered a painful suppository for fever and an antibiotic shot. After rehydrating her, the staff sent the pair back home. Before leaving, however, the clinic team gathered to pray for Cristabel, asking for God's healing hand, and then gave them a ride back to their village.

When the car returned 30 minutes later the staff excitedly shared a video clip they had taken when they dropped off Cristabel and her mother at home. To their amazement, the child was in her mother's arms, smiling and waving as the team drove away. Was it a quick response to the medications or a miraculous answer to prayer? Maybe both. Team members were ecstatic as they rejoiced in the child's sudden improvement.

Cristabel was just one of the 1,839 patients seen in some 10 villages during Reach Beyond's annual Akoma Ntoso (Linked Hearts) medical internship in July. The team included nine interns from the U.S. along with

about 10 staff members from Reach Beyond who worked alongside Theovision. This is a partner ministry founded by Rev. Theodore Asare in 1989 to record Bible passages in hundreds of African languages and then distribute and play them in a Bible-listening outreach.

Interns worked hand-in-hand with missionaries to screen patients for medical issues, prescribe medications (under supervision), give advice and refer them to specialists in more severe cases. They also prayed and shared the gospel with patients and entertained the children with activities such as Bible stories and games.

"Your encouragement, advice and financial gifts have made it possible for us to treat 333 cases of malaria, and 192 patients received a decent supply of blood pressure medications for their hypertension," wrote Ryan Thompson, a biology student at Geneva College in Pennsylvania, in a letter to his ministry partners.

"In rural Ghana, it's estimated that children may experience up to 15 episodes of malaria per year," noted Sheila Leech, a registered nurse who serves as Reach Beyond's vice president of global healthcare. "Although malaria is a deadly and debilitating disease, if caught early, treatment is swift and efficient, and patients make a remarkable recovery."



One of those was a boy named Kwesi who was so dehydrated and feverish that he was nearly unconscious when he arrived at the clinic. Tylenol brought down the fever and oral rehydration fluids mixed with a soft drink quenched his thirst.

“Within an hour he was up and running around, demanding food and snacking on peanuts. His fever was gone!” Leech exclaimed. “Resilience is built into our bodies. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. As we traveled back to our base that night, we speculated about what would have happened had we not been in the village that day. What would Kwesi’s fate have been?”

Thompson added that the team’s doctors also prescribed medications for such things as lower back pain, parasites, infections and viruses, and they handed out reading glasses to those who needed them. “Many young girls who would normally have to miss a week of school every month due to their periods were given hygiene kits so they could still attend class.”

Thompson said he was intrigued to hear the story of a man who had visited the mobile medical clinic last year and returned to see the same Reach Beyond doctor. “He was a fetish priest—a very powerful member of the village known to cast spells and act as a witchdoctor,” he explained. “Through Theovision he came to hear the Bible in his native language and found Christ.”

Anna Bornemeier, a nursing student at Grace University in Omaha, Neb., said she decided to follow the Lord in baptism during the Ghana outreach. “Being here in Africa really opened my eyes to the amazing healing power that Christ has, not just physically but also spiritually. I’m so very thankful that I had the opportunity to be baptized in the Atlantic Ocean, expressing outwardly what Jesus has done for me by dying on the cross and taking away my sins.”

Leanna Lehner, a biology student at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio, said her most profound



experience was assisting Dr. Margaret Mensah, medical superintendent at Theovision's Tree of Life Clinic in Accra.

"I was a bit nervous because of her fast pace in diagnosing patients. She knows what she's doing and she is super intelligent," Lehner explained. "She quizzed me along the way, so that made me nervous too, thinking, 'I hope I don't answer this wrong.' But it was all in preparation for me to see my own patients. By the end of the day I was able to diagnose them and write prescriptions under her supervision. That pushed me way past my comfort zone." Lehner is now considering serving as a physician assistant on the mission field someday.

"In one way or another, we each eventually had to do something that we weren't comfortable with, but by asking God to be with us we were all able to stretch ourselves past what we thought we could do," added Julianna Twigg, a biomedical engineering student at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Kristen Thiessen, who had served on a previous Ghana internship and is now working as a registered nurse in Colorado Springs, Colo., joined the team again this year to gain more experience in a missions setting.

She said she was pleasantly surprised to finally be able to conquer her trepidations about praying out loud. "I found how easy it was to pray with patients and in front of the group when I just relaxed and let the Holy Spirit take over. With a little nudge from the staff, I was able to overcome these fears."

"I was able to regroup, refocus and refresh, gaining new insight into what it really means to be in healthcare—what we are called to do in this field," Thiessen concluded. "I was given the tools, and this outreach really allowed to me gain confidence and understanding. I got good practice that I could bring back with me. I feel enabled."

Source: Reach Beyond

GLOBAL VOICE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TRAINS 27 BROADCASTERS IN INDONESIA

By Ron Cline, Global Ambassador

Reach Beyond's Global Voice Leadership Institute (GVLI) started in 2006 in Singapore. I serve as the dean of the training program, so I do the scheduling, planning and inviting of guest faculty members in cooperation with the regional director.

This was the seventh time we have held the institute in Indonesia where our principal partner has established over 50 FM community radio stations. As a result of the radio ministry, more than 1,500 churches have been planted nationwide. Indonesia has the highest population of Muslims in the world; most of the leaders being trained are first-generation Christians.

The program is designed to train nationals, selected by our partners, for ministry leadership. This year our partner selected 27 new broadcasters to be trained—nine women and 18 men. It was a five-day event.

Jacob, a pastor in Papua, started a radio station at the urging of his wife. Each day he saw three to four people

accept Christ. He encouraged those people to attend his church so they could grow in their faith. His church has now grown so large that he needs to add space for all the people that are coming. He contributed greatly to the class with his vision and passion. Every one of the students has a story of commitment and service.

In addition to my wife, Barb, and I, this year's faculty included Steve and Becky Harling, Ty and Paul Stakes and three Indonesian partners.

So far GVLI has trained, encouraged and coached leaders from Indonesia, Cambodia, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal, Mongolia, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji, America Samoa, Australia, New Zealand and Central Asia.



CHRISTIAN RADIO PROGRAMS GIVE NEW HOPE TO DISABLED LISTENER IN NEPAL



I grew up in a poor family in Nepal with two brothers and three sisters. My parents did not have enough land to make a living, so they made ends meet by working for other people.

I was born with a disability—short, bent legs. However, I had a positive outlook on life and married a local boy when I was just 19 years old. I faced many challenges, but I never gave up. My husband was just a common laborer, and whenever there was no work, we didn't have food to eat.

My husband used to drink alcohol and quarrel in the evenings, making life even harder for me. But then I had the opportunity to attend some training organized by the district development committee for the disabled. I took basic computer classes, and at the same time learned how to make bamboo chairs.

One day while I was in training, my husband came home from the local market, only to leave again. Later that night some people found him lying

in the street, unconscious, and then he died. I discovered that he had taken poison to commit suicide. My husband could no longer deal with a life of poverty and hardship. My hopes of living a happy life with a man were dashed, and I became extremely lonely. I became depressed, finding no meaning to life. Several times I too attempted to commit suicide.

Then I became a regular listener to the local community FM radio station that airs Christian programs, and it gave me hope for living. One day my friend and I were listening to the radio, and there was a program about people with disabilities. We heard how even the blind and deaf can live happy, dignified lives. They shared some wonderful stories that touched my heart. After noting the telephone number at the end of the program, we called the radio station.

The staff at the station directed us to a man named Keshav for further help. He introduced us to an organization that offers training for handicapped students. My friend contacted him, and I enrolled in his school. However, I was still struggling to cope with my situation.

My parents and some other friends introduced me to a partially blind man in a village, and they suggested we marry. Since I was living a lonely single life and needed a friend who could support me, I married him. Unfortunately, my new husband had no home or land, and since he was legally blind, he couldn't work or take care of me. I needed to take care of him. The house where we lived didn't belong to us, and the landlord eventually asked us to leave. We didn't know where to go. I felt like I was the saddest woman in the world.



Around this time the manager of the radio station came to my place and interviewed me along with my husband. During the interview I was crying hysterically, saying that I felt like I was the only person in the world who suffered like I did. After the interview aired, some people came to support us financially, and the station collected donations for me and my family.

My life changed, and again I had hope to go on living. I asked the station manager if she knew of any training

that I could take. She helped me find a training center in Kathmandu. As a result, I learned tailoring, handicrafts, music and cooking. I also had the opportunity to learn about the Lord Jesus. I accepted Christ there, but it wasn't easy for me to go to the local church because none of my relatives were Christians. I requested prayer for my family.

Now I have a small place where I do tailoring, and the local people provided us with a place to live at no charge.



The villagers bring their clothing to me for repairs, and I sew new dresses.

I cannot say that my life is without difficulties as I still deal with many challenges. However, my life has changed because of the radio station. I can say that radio is very powerful tool that speaks to our needs, teaching us how to live. I used to think of radio as just a form of entertainment, but I've found that it has the power to touch people's hearts and change lives.

I would like to thank Keshav and the staff at the radio station for giving me a platform to share my story. Without the station, I never would have found any opportunities to improve my life, and I probably would have ended my own life, just like my first husband did.

** Names changed for security reasons*





NEWS

REBUILDING CONTINUES IN NEPAL 2½ YEARS AFTER EARTHQUAKE

Rebuilding efforts are continuing in the remote community of Harmi that was devastated by Nepal's April 2015 earthquake. Ty, executive director of the Asia Pacific Region who recently visited the village, said he was pleased to see progress on the partner radio station that is now operating in the new building. Reconstruction is complete or is underway on 48 of 56 damaged homes as well as the church/community building.

AGRICULTURAL OUTREACH LAUNCHED IN SHELL

Reach Beyond's community development staff based in the Amazonian community of Shell, Ecuador, has launched an agricultural outreach to supply jungle villages with cacao and vegetable plants along with training on how to grow them. This will provide communities with potential additional income, a nutritious food supply and more opportunities to hear the gospel, said Wim de Groen, recently named director of community development in the Latin America Region. The mission got involved last January after the government distributed thousands of cacao plants in rural areas, only to see them wither and die. Reach Beyond began by planting 5,000 cacao seedlings in a special greenhouse.

VETERINARIANS MAKE BIENNIAL VISIT TO ECUADOR

Every other year, Dan Shedd, executive director of the Latin America Region, helps coordinate an effort involving the Christian Veterinarian Mission and Dr. Gary Oeptzel from the University of Wisconsin. In July a 12-member team, including three veterinarians and nine students, spent over a week in Ecuador's Amazon region, visiting several farms where they screened cattle and other animals for diseases, offered simple treatments and made recommendations such as ways to double the cows' milk production. They also held VBS activities for the children and shared the gospel.



TIME TO REVIEW YOUR ESTATE DESIGN

Is your estate design up-to-date, reflecting your end-of-life desires? Here are two important questions to ask:

- I Have you listed those to whom you wish to give because of dependency and/or love, including charitable organizations?
- I Do you know the cash value of your assets?

Here at Reach Beyond we want to be of service to you. We have prepared a special “Guide to Planning Your Estate” that includes information and guidelines to aid in this process as well as an inventory form where you can list data on your people, property and plans.

Whether you’re reviewing your existing estate plan or have yet to take the first step in this important act of stewardship, we would like to make a copy available to you at no cost or obligation.

For help on reviewing your estate design or a free copy of “Guide to Planning Your Estate,” contact Shirl Lee Huscher at 800.525.8857 or GiveBeyond@ReachBeyond.org.

REACH BEYOND

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