

V+H MAGAZINE

PARTNERSHIP

DISCOVERY

RADIO

PIONEERS

PRAYERS

CONNECTIONS

MEDICAL

DIVERSITY

FELLOWSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

THEN & NOW:

FOUNDATION

FORMING

COMMUNITY

TO REACH UNREACHED PEOPLE

**REACH
BEYOND**

VOICE+HANDS, TOGETHER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT | MEET ROGER BASICK, VP OF INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

WHERE ARE WE NOW? | ROHINGYA CLINIC MINISTRY UPDATE

A Legacy of Blessing

Dear friend of Reach Beyond,

As a youngster, Américo Saavedra loved hanging out at his father's bakery near Pucallpa, Peru. One day, a missionary dropped in to buy some bread. "Have you ever heard about the Bread of Life?" he asked. That act of personal evangelism was the beginning of Américo's journey of discipleship.

At the beginning of this year, I was with Américo in Pucallpa. The once sleepy town on the banks of the Ucayali River has turned into a bustling harbor city of over 300,000 people. As we wheeled our way across the metro area in motokars (3-wheeled motorcycles with a passenger cage welded on the back), Américo told me all about the missionaries and pastors that had poured into his life. At the various homes, restaurants and churches that we visited, we met with ministry leaders and pastors that Américo is now pouring his life into.

Reflecting back on this trip, I've got to say: Américo 'gets' disciple-making! His passion for evangelism and mentoring others toward Christlikeness is contagious! For 45 years, Américo and his wife, Kathy, have served as missionaries with Reach Beyond, doing evangelism and discipleship, and training local pastors and national leaders through the Apoyo ministry. Even today, Américo continues to pour into the lives of others for Kingdom impact.

As we kick off another year (and another decade!) at Reach Beyond, it is important to look back at the seeds that were planted before us and see the fruit that God has brought forth. It is equally important to continue planting new seeds, and to send new workers into His harvest field.

GENESIS 12:2B (ESV)

**"I will bless you ...
so that you will be
a blessing."**

*"I will bless you and make your name great, so that
you will be a blessing."*



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REACH BEYOND

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Our theme for this year is “Connecting the Past to the Present.” We want to celebrate what God has done through Reach Beyond. We are proud of the legacy we have inherited – to boldly follow God and proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel where Jesus is least known. We want to help unreached people everywhere hear about Jesus, see Him in action, and learn how to follow Him.

At the same time, we are excited for the way God is currently leading Reach Beyond. Many things have changed over the years in how we do ministry, but some things are still the same. We may have new people, new ideas, and new technologies, but we have the same commissioning: to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19 ESV)

“We want to celebrate what God has done through Reach Beyond.”

This issue of *V+H Magazine* looks at the role community has played, and continues to play, in reaching the unreached. As Clarence Jones said, “We cannot do our work alone. We must do it together, and we must do it as colleagues.” This is as true today as it was at the beginning of our ministry. We cannot do it alone. We must do this together, with each of us contributing our skills, our time, our resources and our prayers.

Just like Américo, we have received a blessing as followers of Christ. And, just like Américo, we have an opportunity (and an obligation) to pour out that blessing so the next generation will know Him. How are you going to be a blessing this year?

You are Loved,



Steve Harling
President



Top: Steve Harling preached at a church in Pucallpa, where Américo grew up.
Bottom: Steve and Américo traveled along the Ucayali River, where Reach Beyond continues to pour into the lives of the unreached.

LEARN MORE
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GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE MINISTRY

ASIA PACIFIC

On September 28, 2018, a major earthquake happened off the coast of Palu in Indonesia. The quake caused soil liquefaction and a tsunami, resulting in over 4,000 deaths and more than 10,000 people injured. Thousands lost their homes and access to clean running water.

Reach Beyond has a local radio partner in the area. Immediately after the quake, our first priority was to provide a generator for the station, so that they could resume broadcasting throughout the area. After such a difficult tragedy, it was important to continue spreading hope and information. We also provided solar powered radios. We helped the radio partner distribute supplies, including children's food packets and water.

Reach Beyond UK raised funds specifically to help with the rebuild in the area. As of September 2019, a year later, there have been repairs and improvements to the station, and installation of 10 new clean water pump-wells. Each well supplies water for 10 families, all who did not have clean water flowing since before the earthquake!

Our local radio partner continues to be a great source of information, comfort, healing and hope for the community through this traumatic time.



Reach Beyond Australia CEO Dale Stagg meets with members of the community during a recent visit to India.

AUSTRALIA

This past fall, Dale Stagg, CEO of Reach Beyond Australia, was able to take a trip to a remote area of central India, to see first-hand the impact their "Light up a Village" project has had. In about 100 small villages in the region, RB Australia has distributed solar-powered lights and shortwave radios, enabling the Voice of Jesus to spread through the region. Reach Beyond was broadcasting the Gospel in the region through shortwave radio, but without electricity, the villages were both literally and spiritually in the dark.

The Light up a Village project has brought light and hope into the community, and on this trip, Dale was able to visit a village that is now planting a church thanks to these efforts. Dale shared, "It was a privilege to be introduced to the tribal leader. This was the man who set aside land to build the church. This was the man who only a handful of years ago was prepared to sacrifice his daughter to the gods he worshipped to find favor; that was until he was introduced to Jesus."

"One of the reasons we have seen such an impact in this region," Dale continued, "is that the pastor who has so courageously continued to reach out to the dozens of small villages is also the 'voice' of our shortwave programs to this community. He is familiar to them and speaks the language of the tribal villagers. He is 'close' to them, even when for many weeks of the year they might not be able to attend church because their villages have been cut off due to floods."

The Gospel is being heard in India, and whole villages are being changed. Praise God for these efforts!

Reach Beyond distributed solar powered radios and helped restore water after the September 2018 earthquake off the coast of Palu in Indonesia.

Reach Beyond Canada is raising funds to provide pastoral training to support ministry in the Amazon.

CANADA

Reach Beyond Canada has been hard at work these last few weeks getting ready for Project Anapaiké. This project is a follow up initiative after distribution of hundreds of solar-powered audio Bibles in the Amazon in Suriname over the last five years. Tribes that have received audio Bibles are now requesting their own church building. These tribes are largely unknown and unrecognized by Western agencies.

In the first phase of this project, RB Canada and RB New Zealand will be working together to send teams in March 2020 to begin the build of a covered shelter and fellowship building where believers can gather together in a place protected from the extreme weather and nature's elements. In addition to the build we will provide water filtration systems to provide clean water, and we will plant a radio station to give the community unprecedented access to Christian content.

Phase two of this project will include a long-term pastoral training to train native believers for pastoral leadership. This will allow the villages to sustain and grow their home church, as well as provide support and counseling for their growing congregation. Finally, the project also includes teaching micro-business and agricultural skills to work towards a sustainable economic future.

Please pray that God would provide the CAD \$250,000 project goal, and that the Kingdom would be proclaimed throughout the South American Amazon. ■

“The Gospel is being heard...whole villages are being changed. Praise God for these efforts!”

**REACH
BEYOND**

**SUMMER
SHORT-TERM
TRIPS**

**Shine the Light of Jesus Among
Refugees This Summer**

Reach Beyond is leading two short-term teams this summer to serve unreached people groups among refugee populations. If you have a heart for the unreached and compassion for the refugee crisis, join us in bringing hope.



LEBANON
JUNE 9 – 20, 2020

Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in every 6 people is a refugee. We are partnering with a local church in Lebanon to serve in a number of ways, including ESL, music, children's activities, street evangelism, counseling and more.

GREECE
JULY 6 – 31, 2020



Female volunteers are invited to join us in a short-term trip to serve refugee women and children at a community center near Moria Refugee Camp on Lesbos island in Greece. Moria Refugee Camp is one of the largest camps in Europe, and the living conditions are hard, especially for women. Join us as we partner with a local organization to improve the lives of refugees, equipping them with skills and training in such a way that honors them and restores dignity.

“...I was a stranger and you welcomed me,”

MATTHEW 9: 37-38 (ESV)

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES
BY VISITING**

REACHBEYOND.ORG/SUMMER2020



APPOINTED

for a time such as this

Meet Roger Basick, VP of International Ministries

As a student at Moody Bible Institute, Roger Basick volunteered with a Saturday night youth outreach radio program called *Alive! with Ron Hutchcraft*. This first taste of radio ministry would teach him valuable lessons to help in his future ministry career, but Roger almost gave up on the whole experience.

“I felt like I was the least equipped, least talented person on the team, and I didn’t know if I was being any benefit to anybody,” he recalls. “So, I went to the director and asked if I was being more of a burden. If I was dead weight, he should just cut me.”

Thankfully, the director didn’t cut him. He asked Roger if he really wanted to improve, and he gave him a few pointers. But he also invited him to hear about the impact the ministry was making. He shared letters that came in from all over the country, written by kids who were tuning into the program each week.

One letter was from a young Native American girl. She shared that she was invited to a church located off her reservation by some friends and was able to hear about and accept Jesus. When she told her parents, they were outraged. They forbade her from leaving the reservation or associating with her friends. They said it was a “white man’s religion” and she would never have anything to do with it. She felt so alone and so cut off from everything she was excited about. She wrote that now her only youth group is what meets on the radio each Saturday night.

“I was just amazed reading her words,” Roger said. “I thought, if there is anything I can do, even behind the scenes,

to minister to one person, it is all worth it. So that’s how my radio ministry began, keeping in mind that one person, whoever they might be.”

Today, as the new Vice President of International Ministries at Reach Beyond, Roger is still doing whatever tasks God puts before him in order to reach people.

Roger steps into this new role during a season of change for the 88-year old ministry. Reach Beyond has been adjusting to changes in international jurisdictional law, IRS tax requirements, missionary retirement, dynamics with churches and supporters, and changing needs among unreached people groups.

These challenges aren’t specific to just Reach Beyond. Charities, especially religious organizations, in the U.S. and abroad are being scrutinized now more than ever. Roger says, “We have the opportunity now to step back, evaluate everything and be best prepared for storms and scrutiny that may come our way in future years so that we can position ourselves to be around another 80 years, if the Lord tarries.”

It turns out, stepping into important roles during a season of change isn’t new for Roger.

After college, Roger was newly married and working as a locksmith, when God pulled him back to radio. He went to work for Moody Radio, and saw Chicago as his mission field. But that all changed when Roger and his wife, Carey, took a trip to Ireland for their 5-year wedding anniversary.

“I grew up believing that Ireland was a wonderful Christian nation. I thought there would be churches and Christian radio stations everywhere. But, when got there, I was shocked. Christian radio was illegal, we couldn’t find an evangelical church or believers. My heart was just broken for Ireland, and I’m not even Irish,” Roger remembers. “When we left, Carey asked if I would ever want to go back, and I said yes, but I could never go as a tourist again. I would want to go to equip and encourage.”

Back at home in Illinois, the Basicks started researching opportunities to serve in Ireland, but it wasn't encouraging. "We heard about missionaries who went and came back burned out from difficult conditions," said Roger. "I asked God to release me from this burden."

But God didn't release him. Seven years later, a door opened when Roger was introduced to Stephen Cardy. Stephen and a team of Christians in Ireland had been trying to get a Christian radio license for 13 years. They went and applied every year, and every year they were denied. Roger was inspired by their perseverance. When he met with them, it seemed there was actually a good chance the government was going to grant the license that year, but they really needed help.

"They said, we have the people, the studio location picked out, we have finances, all sorts of help, but we don't have anyone to train us. They had a partnership with Reach Beyond (HCJB at the time), but they didn't have anyone to send," Roger said. Familiar with HCJB, Roger contacted them and asked if he could go.

"I got signed up. It looked ready, but at the last minute, the government gave the license to someone else. It was so disheartening. People had sold property, given up their jobs, done all sorts of things to make this happen, and it didn't work."

But, in the process, Roger discovered there was another small community Christian station in Ireland who had been given a license. They weren't on the air yet, but HCJB had a relationship with them. The government had given the station an ultimatum to get on the air immediately or lose the license, so HCJB sent Roger on a 3-month trip to get the station up and running.

Eventually, God opened the door for the Basicks to serve full-time. Focus on the Family Ireland (now Family.ie, led by Stephen Cardy) had started broadcasting radio in Ireland, and they asked Roger to move there full time to help develop Irish content for the Irish audience. It was a time of change and challenge for the ministry, dealing with loss of revenue that stemmed from structural changes, political backlash and a banking issue.

"Interesting enough, the Lord has used me in situations where people are lamenting the good ole days, and I didn't experience the good ole days," Roger said. "So I am able to be a bit more objective and look at how we can streamline, and say, what can we do with what we have now?"

After years of fruitful ministry in Ireland, the Basicks felt the Lord calling them back to the U.S., where Roger stepped into another role leading a ministry during a challenging time.

Reach Beyond had inherited the English Conversation Project (ECP) ministry, that uses English as a Second (or Other) Language in unreached parts of the world to open the door

"If there is anything I can do, even behind the scenes, to minister to one person, it is all worth it."

to conversations about faith. There are more than 1 billion people in the world who want to learn English, and want to practice speaking with native speakers. ECP provides online curriculum and conversation clubs to answer a need and create a natural opportunity for discussing faith.

Reach Beyond had been one of three primary funding sources for ECP, but after two of the funding partners had to withdraw, Reach Beyond took the program under its ministries. When Roger left Ireland, Reach Beyond asked him to serve as the new director for ECP.

"When I came to ECP, they had lost two major funding partners and everyone was in survival mode. So, we asked, what can we do now, what can we do different," Roger recalls. "Survival mode is necessary sometimes, to step back, mourn what we don't have but focus on what we do. We can ask, what does the Lord have for us now?"

Roger led ECP for three and a half years, expanding the ministry to include 90 clubs, 40,000+ YouTube subscribers, and well over 1 million visitors to the website and other social media channels. People in unreached places are learning English, coming to faith in Christ, and going on to lead other clubs in areas of the world where we would not be able to send a missionary.

Now as the Vice President of International Ministries at Reach Beyond, Roger has another opportunity to help an organization step back, celebrate and evaluate the past successes, but look at where we want to focus moving ahead.

"I'm excited," he says. "We have a rich legacy to draw on. We have unity, and we have new opportunities that didn't exist before. Circumstances have forced us to step back and re-evaluate a lot of what we were doing, not because any of it was bad but because it is a new day. How do we best make use of the time, talents and treasures God has given us for this time?" ■

FORMING

COMMUNITY

TO REACH UNREACHED PEOPLE



It was the first Christmas in a new unreached country. Our three missionaries invited all of the other missionaries in town (16 adults and 12 children in total) to join

them for food, fellowship and prayer. In that city, on that day, there were more missionaries than Evangelical believers. It was the start of something new.

Our missionaries arrived to establish a new Christian radio station, but they didn't yet speak the local language. So, if the Gospel was going to go out over this station, they would need to reply on and work with the missionary community already in country. Missionaries from other

“It's amazing what can be accomplished if you don't worry about who gets the credit.”

organizations had already helped us secure the radio license and permissions. Still other missionaries helped with their skills, knowledge and connections, and even helped pay the occasional utility bill.

The country was Ecuador, the year was 1931, and our first missionaries were our founder, Clarence Jones, along with engineer Eric and Ann Williams. But the story could just as easily happen today as we go into creative access countries, in community and partnership with other organizations, to share the Gospel where missionaries may outnumber local believers.

Clarence Jones said, “We cannot do our work alone. We must do it together, and we must do it as colleagues.” This collaborative spirit only works with a humble, selfless attitude. “It's amazing what can be accomplished if you don't worry about who gets the credit,” he said.

Some 9,000 miles away and 88 years later, Reach Beyond has formed a new team of missionary workers around reaching an unreached people group. Only instead of radio, the primary tool has been medicine. In this creative access country, it is illegal to proselytize and there are no opportunities to establish Christian radio stations. But, we can demonstrate the love of Christ through medicine and community development. The tool may be different, but the community, cooperation and goal are the same.

So, what does it look like to form an unreached people group (UPG) team in a creative access country today? It starts with an open door.

LAYING THE GROUND WORK

Dr. B* and his wife, N*, spent many years serving in a medical clinic in Ecuador, but the direction was changing in South America. As the local Church was growing and local leaders were rising up, it was time to start transitioning the missionary work from Expats to Ecuadorians. B remembers, “it looked like things were winding down in South America, and I have always been of the strong opinion that a ministry worth doing is a ministry worth growing. What we were doing in South America was transitioning, and there was a certain restlessness to go beyond that.”

Their kids were in college, so as empty nesters, it felt like time to explore something new. “Different people at different times came to us seemingly out of the blue and said we should consider Central Asia,” B said. “So, one thing led to another, and we were introduced to an organization already working in country. We came out in 2010 for 2-3 weeks, evaluated it and came up with a strategic plan.”

ESTAC
RADIO
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The plan got the green light, so in 2012, they were packing their bags and moving to the other side of the world. They went to a country where they would be the only Reach Beyond missionaries, laying new groundwork. They also would have another new language to learn. Just as in the early days of HCJB, as Reach Beyond was originally known, they would have to rely heavily on the partner organization already established in country for visas, community and connections.

“Anytime you go into a new place, there’s a sense of being a pioneer,” B said. “Learning what’s available, learning the processes. It’s the same whether it is a U.S. hospital or a clinic in the field. But, we also felt like a pioneer for our agency. This wasn’t the first effort in the area, but we were the first long-term team. We were able to be informants to the agency about opportunities and support services available. We had to discover those things when we first came here.”

Concerned about creating a viable ministry with growth potential in a creative access country, B and his partner looked at a business as mission model. In 2016, they opened a for-profit family practice clinic with a teaching focus (although in the U.S. it would likely be considered non-profit, since all the money they make is invested back into their work).

“Interestingly enough, the focus of our work is actually not the patients,” he said. “We are a family medicine clinic and we do take care of primary care needs of the patient population, but our primary focus is actually on the local doctors that spend time with us. We are trying to develop them professionally as doctors that practice evidence-based medicine, but we also want them to have an impact spiritually, in terms of the whole person. We want to develop them as leaders, because we recognize we will never be able to do all of the things that we want to do for the future by ourselves.”

That vision of the future involves growth. While they did not go into country with a strategy for making it the gateway to the world, they realized there are a number of like-minded healthcare professionals already working in the area. “We see a lot of potential for working with them to have a much bigger impact that we originally thought,” B said. “Our goal is not just our current city, but to have

“Anytime you go into a new place, there's a sense of being a pioneer.”

ION
SMISORA
J B

QUITO, ECUADOR.
CANTILLA 694

December 30, '31

dearest Sweetheart and Babies;
I wonder how you all are today,-the next to last day
ago, I have taken my Spanish lesson(the first during the
days). How did you spend Christmas? I missed you and the
dies so here. Wondered all day long what you would be do
I think that the hardest part of being away from you com
these special days when we always used to be together f
tivities. Well, we will have our own fiesta when you al
It is now Thursday,-the last day of the year. On
we had all the missionaries that were in Quito (some
their children (12) over for dinner. Considering the
you were not here to grace the occasion, and that my
ones could not see the tree and decorations, and the
not be with each other,-why, the affair was a success.
two turkeys (they cost 80¢ each down here) and two chickens, as
well as all the fixin's which could be secured. Best of all was
the fellowship we enjoyed with each other. After the meal, we had
games for the children and grown-ups, until we were exhausted with
fun; then we had a most delightful pr ayer service together to end
the gathering. In the evening, I had the folks who could, stay over
to help us in bro-dcasting a simple Christmas night program.
on the air daily now with test broadcasts. Most
mission we make up a simple



Above Left: Pioneer missionary radio station HCJB began in Quito, Ecuador, with three missionary staff: Clarence Jones, and Engineer Eric and Ann Williams. Above Right: From the very first broadcast on Christmas Day, 1931, the station relied heavily on Christian & Missionary Alliance, and other missionaries, who gave the Gospel messages in Spanish, sang Gospel songs and provided musical accompaniment for the programs. Left: Clarence Jones wrote this letter to his family after the Christmas Day broadcast, sharing details of the community gathered at the time.



“We don't have immediate family here. We have the friends we make here..”

satellite clinics throughout the region. Because such a large part of the area uses the same trade language, ultimately, we see our potential for impact from eastern Europe in the west all the way across to the Pacific Ocean, from Central Asia in the south all the way to the Arctic Circle.”

But first, they would need more people.

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

Dr. J* and his wife, C*, knew they wanted to serve in missions. As a pediatrician, J wanted to serve in medical work, specifically in rural areas. “I felt called to reach people with medicine that had little or no access to physicians, or healthcare in general,” he said.

They started researching what different mission organizations had available. “We realized that medical work is quite specialized and many people really didn’t know what it took to practice medicine in the developing world. We narrowed our search to organizations that did medicine and did it well, and that led us to Reach Beyond.” Specifically, the work happening in Ecuador with mobile clinics excited him, so they signed up to join the mobile clinic team in Ecuador, and they began their support-raising.

A year later, they learned that Reach Beyond was transitioning the work in Ecuador. “It was a clear sign that God didn’t want us there. We were 80% supported, but we took a couple months off. The Europe Eurasia Regional Director reached out

and asked us if we had considered Central Asia. He invited us to go and start a mobile clinic program there, but we weren’t initially excited. We didn’t see ourselves as pioneers. In fact, when we looked at unreached people groups, we thought, there’s a reason why they are unreached. They are difficult to get to, they are in the hard places, not necessarily safe.”

In the end, J and C looked at all the different areas Reach Beyond was involved and realized Central Asia was where God was calling them. “Even though this country was unreached, it actually looked like a good place to raise a family. There’s a good international school, there’s a team established ... so that was exciting for us to see. The opportunity to establish medical caravans brought us there, but knowing we had a teammate and a clinic also excited us. We had a lot of help and someone laid the ground work before us.”

J has an opportunity to serve in the clinic, while also partnering with area churches to bring mobile medical clinics into the outlying villages. In this creative access country, there is a huge distrust of outsiders, and resistance to the Gospel message. However, the medical caravans help to build relationships, trust and openness. J conducts several medical caravans a year throughout the country and is seeing an impact, both for the churches that are trying to build relationships, and for the local people who are getting quality medical care.

CONTINUING TO GROW

Dr. D* and his wife, K*, always knew they wanted to go into full-time missions. “We thought we would go as soon as D finished PA (physicians assistant) school, but we sensed that God was asking us to wait. It wasn’t at all our plan or at all what we wanted to do, but we waited,” said K.

They got jobs, paid off debt, had kids, and then in 2014, they went to the Global Missions Health Care Conference

MATTHEW 9: 37-38 (ESV)

“...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest...”

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

looking for short-term medical opportunities. “I thought, if we aren’t going long-term, what can we do to stay involved? But at the conference, we sensed God opening the door, that it was time,” said K. “We never really had a specific people group or place in mind, but the conference confirmed for us that it was unreached people; that’s where our hearts were.”

At the conference, they connected with Reach Beyond, but it took some time to realize this was where God was calling them. “What had been expressed to us was that they were looking for pioneers to go to these hard places, and we had three babies at that point,” K recalls. “At the season of life we are in with a young family and no long-term experience in the field, we knew we wanted to gain experience under others who had a lot more experience than we did.”

In the end, they trusted that this was where God was leading them. They joined the team in Central Asia last year and have quickly dived into language learning, mentorship and discipleship. D will begin more medical ministry work this year, looking at several different options to bring a different skillset and approach to the team.

“Starting something new isn’t necessarily something I feel I’m gifted in, but coming alongside and partnering with someone going in a certain direction is what I value and see as a strength of ours,” said D. “We feel strongly about coming alongside the local church, local fellowships and deepening those partnerships.”

K agrees. “There aren’t many generations of believers here. Three is rare. Most believers are first- and second-generation believers, so there is a lot that believers and the Church itself have to learn about the faith. That’s where my heart is. One of the biggest things for me is just opening our door and having people over. Sometimes that is planned and often times it’s not, so I am just learning the art of that here. There are a lot of opportunities just with hospitality.”

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Living so far from home and working in difficult conditions requires community and support. Just as the first Christmas in Ecuador included families gathering for food, games and fellowship, today’s UPG teams look similar.

D notes that although there is a large Expat community in country, creating their own team DNA is important, especially when everyone is doing different things. “Practically, it’s getting together, sharing meals, sharing what’s going on in the different spheres of life, what’s going on back home with our families. A big part of it is bringing our lives together and intersecting as much as we can. Holiday parties and birthdays, it’s all of that.”

“It takes individuals to come and bring some vulnerability, too. Our team has that,” says C. “We can come and be real and share with one another. We don’t have immediate family here. We have the friends we make here, but you don’t make them until you move here, so it is newer friendships. It isn’t deep, deep friendships like you would have at home, so we have each other and it is like a little family. Because of that, we are able to have good community together.”

B says they also continue to serve as a resource for one another. “Whenever there is a question about something, even something simple like where can you buy tortilla chips, one of us knows the answer. You are always discovering things, always sharing. Or, where can I get a rabies shot? One of us will know someone who knows these things.”

THE HARVEST FIELD

In Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV), Jesus tells us, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” The team in Central Asia sees so many opportunities around them, and they are praying for God to send more workers into the harvest field. But, what does it look like to grow the team?

For one, it is expanding beyond just the city where they have started. “I’m concerned that we don’t all just pile up in the capital city,” said B. “We’ve done that in the past in other countries. Too many people wanted to stay in the capital because that’s where the nice opportunities and comfortable life was. But we need to get out into the surrounding areas and surrounding countries. As we bring in new people, we need workers who are both willing and able to get out into the outlying regions. I see my role as out there in the future, as well.”

There is also a desire to bring different pieces together, to holistically reach the community and open new doors. One immediate need is for female medical staff to join the team.

“We had a lecture today on palliative care, and we had a chance to go fairly deep with our residents talking about patients who are dying, and this idea of dying well, and what are the areas physically, emotionally and spiritually where our patients are suffering and how can we help them,” said B. “The difficulty is all of our current residents are women. In

“We cannot do our work alone. We must do it together.”

this culture, it is not appropriate for men to talk about deep, emotional things with women, so we really are looking for a female colleague to speak into the lives of these residents more than we as men can do.”

Another need is through the international school, which includes 190 students representing 20 different countries. C serves on the board and as a teacher, and D and K also volunteer.

“Not all of our students and teachers are believers. I have about 25 students that I am able to invest in and build up. The students, as well as the teachers and staff, all need attention and love. There is such an opportunity for mentorship,” said C. “There’s a huge need. We are short staffed on teachers, admin and board members. It’s a way to provide people the freedom to do work, but we can’t run the school if we don’t have people to teach the kids.”

In addition, the team notes that being more multifaceted could provide additional opportunities. They need workers who specialize in engineering, teaching, counseling, English learning, and more. The team has brought in short-term teams of water engineers and community development workers with success, but there are opportunities to expand. “It could open the door to other villages, cities and regions, possibly easier than with medicine, or in a different way,” D says. “Broadening ourselves will give us different doors to different places. We can use our current base as a launching pad for different areas, but we need to recruit people willing to step out.”

J agrees. “There’s so much opportunity if someone wants to come. To be a multi-disciplined team would be healthy, and it would make connections with people who aren’t in our normal sphere.”

Almost 90 years later, the teams at Reach Beyond are still echoing Clarence’s words: We cannot do our work alone. We must do it together. ■

**Only first initials are used to protect our team.*

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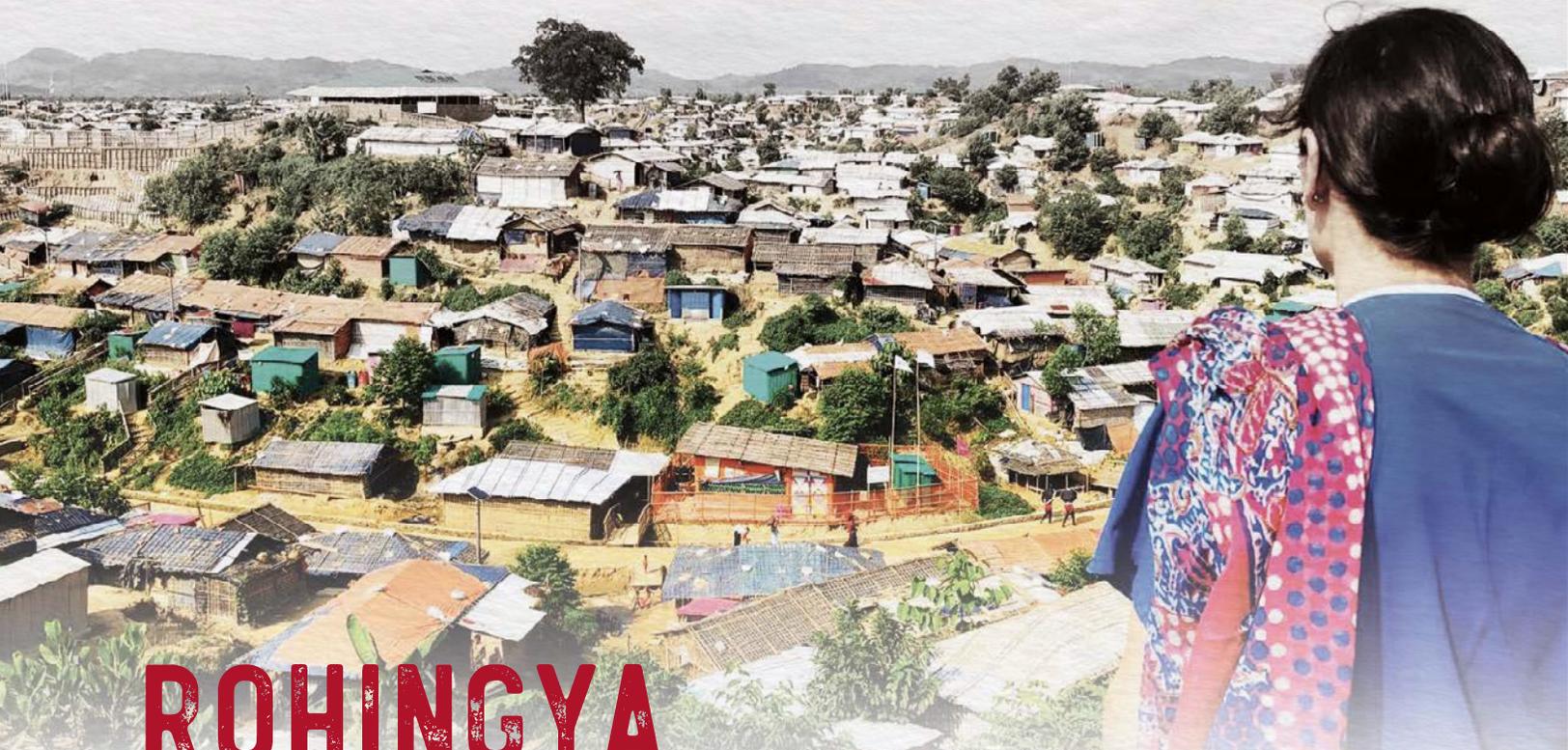
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Where are we now?



ROHINGYA

CLINIC MINISTRY UPDATE

BY LISA BALZER

Dr. Rachel, a Reach Beyond volunteer, overlooks the Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. After the initial crisis in 2017, almost a million Rohingya fled into Bangladesh, taking shelter in temporary camps.

Over the years, Reach Beyond has shared urgent needs and priorities with our prayer partners and supporters. Opportunities to serve unreached people sometimes open for just a season, but what happens next? In each issue of *V+H Magazine*, we will revisit some of these stories and share with you updates on the work, the impact made and how God has led us since.

In 2017, the plight of the Rohingya people made international news. An estimated 1 million ethnic Rohingya fled violent persecution in their home country of Myanmar and took refuge in neighboring Bangladesh. The Muslim-majority Rohingya are a conservative people group with their own language and culture. They are stateless - denied citizenship in Myanmar, and described by the UN as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.

God placed the Rohingya people on Reach Beyond's heart years ago and a window opened to help serve their immediate needs shortly after the crisis arose in Bangladesh.

In early 2018, we began partnering with a Bangladeshi NGO. Our first project was to provide 10,000 blankets to families who had arrived in camp with nothing. But, we wanted to do more. With the Bangladeshi partner, we identified a need for a medical clinic, and we helped launch a primary care clinic in one of the many Rohingya refugee camps – this one home to over 20,000 Rohingya people.

The clinic has helped meet the needs of camp residents through their time of greatest upheaval and urgency – during relocation and building of their homes, when access and paths to other medical options had not been established. Our volunteer doctors, and teams from around the world, have worked alongside the clinic's Bangladeshi staff to offer expertise and compassionate care to thousands of patients, treating each person with dignity and living out the love of Jesus. They have had more than 30,000 patient visits.

For the Bangladeshi team who are have been on site each day, there is a sense that the clinic has accomplished much in the overall health of the camp community. Dr. Arbind* (name changed) leads the local medical contingent and has traveled to the clinic almost every day that it has been open. "We have done very well in reducing the acute conditions. At first, so many of them came in, but now we are mostly



(left to right): (1) Nurse Rachel served in the medical clinic during a short-term trip in 2019. She is returning to Asia Pacific as a full-time missionary in 2020, with a special heart for working with unreached people. (2) Dr. Steve Nelson traveled from Ecuador multiple times to serve in the Rohingya clinic since it opened in 2018. (3) Lisa is encouraged by the work Reach Beyond was able to do alongside the partner in Bangladesh. She says, "They've done a beautiful job of providing care, education and a listening ear in Jesus' name. We continue to pray for a solution and for the souls of these precious people."

**“When we have touched someone’s life,
when they are healed and they come back
so thankful - it is a privilege.”**

managing chronic conditions. Cases of infectious diseases are vastly reduced,” Arbind says.

In addition to diagnosis and treatment, the local staff and volunteer teams have prioritized health education for patients in areas of hygiene, infant care, managing diabetes, hypertension and asthma. They’ve also trained numerous Rohingya midwives, who are now attending births in homes and training other women within the camp. This knowledge will continue to serve the people long after the clinic has finished.

As the health situation has stabilized in the camp, and solid, accessible pathways are in place for medical treatment, Reach Beyond’s part in this clinic has come to completion. Our local partner will continue to adapt the scope of the facility to meet the changing needs in the camp, and we will continue to serve and minister to the Rohingya people in other diaspora groups around southeast Asia.

Dr. Arbind is grateful for the opportunity which our teams have had to serve together to help so many Rohingya in need.

“I think our patients say it all. Sometimes they share, when they come into the clinic, in their own language: ‘Thank you. I pray for you’. When we have touched someone’s life, when they are healed and they come back so thankful - it is a privilege.”

We would like to express our deep gratitude to each donor, prayer supporter, medical worker, recruiter, administrator, and all who have helped to make the medical clinic ministry possible. While we will never know the full impact of our presence in the camps, we do know that Jesus asks us to be a city on a hill, doing all that we can to shine His light and truth into the darkness (see Matthew 5:14-16). The rest is in His hands. Thank you for helping to bring light to this dark place. ■

Reach Beyond continues to do ministry with the Rohingya people. Presently, we are involved in English lessons for Rohingya refugees, a computer lab for e-learning, and home visits in a strategic diaspora location. We plan to expand the ministry to include home wellness visits for pregnant women and new mothers in 2020. Reach Beyond Australia broadcasts to the Rohingya and is developing radio programs in their language.

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