

### In Every Circumstance

Dear friend of Reach Beyond,

In a recent Prayer World email, we mentioned some practical things to remember when we talk with our God. I want to expand on those thoughts as we consider what the Lord is up to at Reach Beyond in this issue of Voice + Hands.

As I read these updates and stories, I can't help but stop and give thanks to our God, that He would allow each one of us to take part in making these stories possible. Your prayers are vital to the work of Reach Beyond missionaries across the world.

In my journey, I've discovered that God is interested in the moments where I pause and reflect deeply in His presence. We can seek Him for counsel in these moments. We rejoice in things that seem large or small to us. We praise out of abundance, and we praise when it feels like we don't have enough. We have been made to worship, and when we verbalize to God what He has done for us, we experience even more joy.

But God is also deeply interested in the numerous spans of time outside of these moments.

When talking about praying we might ask: "How's your prayer life?" The heart behind this question typically comes from a good place, but it seems to skirt around the larger stretches of day where we have a lot of opportunity to learn to commune with the living God. Perhaps the following questions might be better for self-reflection and accountability in friendship:

- Have you been enjoying conscious communication with God throughout your day? Why or why not?
- Has your relationship with Him been real today? Or has it been a vague, abstract idea?
- Has your faith been tying your mind and heart to Him?
- Have you been leaning on God throughout your day and not yourself?

As you read the stories and updates included in this issue of Voice + Hands, I'd like to invite you to allow God a "seat at the table" in your thoughts and processing. Give Him praise as you read something that gets you excited! Ask Him to intercede when you see a clear opportunity. May He be glorified in our thoughts and prayers today and throughout this month.

Daniel Enns | President



#### **PRAYER**

## REMINDERS

When we pray, we are consciously communicating to a very real God.

There is no "box to be checked" when it comes to prayer. We allow it to be an overflow of our dependence and relationship with Him.

Prayer can happen in many shapes and forms:

- Throughout the night
- Short moments throughout our day
- With a dear friend
- Alone in silence

Prayer tethers our hearts and faith to the reality of His presence.

Prayer reminds us to depend on our God in everything.

MAGAZINE

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#### **REACH BEYOND**

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (ESV)

# "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing..."

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

LEARN MORE
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# The state of the s

#### **ASIA PACIFIC**

One of the great benefits of the difficult season COVID-19 has brought to the world are the amazing opportunities to equip churches and media groups online. Video courses in particular have allowed our missionaries to share their specialty trainings with larger groups of people in the region which has broadened their impact. Some from our Asia-Pacific team have been hard at work on a short course for Indonesians about how social media can complement and extend the ministry of radio. This course will help them recognize how to engage their audiences and get them thinking and talking about their faith online and offline.

Much of this region is facing stricter COVID-19 restrictions due to the delta variant. We've been hard at work with local partners buying and delivering basic food supplies to areas to help refugees with the necessities they need to take care of their families. In just a week, this group delivered over 5,000 pounds of food!

Pray that God would continue to provide the finances and endurance necessary for our missionaries to carry on this critical work during this unique time. We trust that God will continue to use this ministry opportunity to bring hope and new life to these refugees as we share the Gospel with them.





### NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

These testimonials come from our church planting partners in the Middle East who do some of their ministry through their social media. Rejoice with us for these people who have given their lives to Christ! Pray for them as they get connected with a local church and learn the rhythms of following God daily.

I am 19 years old, and I pray sometimes. But I never felt like God listened to me. I reached out to this page and was told that God loves me and wants what's best for me. I realized that God gave me free will to choose how to live. I used to think that prayer was worship that God wanted from us. I started realizing that God wanted us to have a relationship through prayer. I have since accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

I was struggling with sexual addiction when I came to your social page. I was lost and confused. I wanted a solution. I

began to realize how God is present and can free me because He loves me. A representative explained all of this to me. I accepted the Lord as my Savior, and I wanted to have a Bible right away. I am following the discipleship program and learning.

My parents started telling me on my 26th birthday that I was too old to get married because I had turned down four men. I did not think any of them were right. Their words and actions have truly exhausted me. People's words hurt me deeply. When I realized that this does not comply as God's love and redemption, it healed my soul and heart. I accepted God as my Lord and Savior. I started to learn more about being in a true and stable relationship with God.





#### **GET INVOLVED IN THESE MINISTRIES**

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### GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS



#### **EUROPE/EURASIA**

We have been working closely with media partners in some of our creative access areas to study the needs of radio listeners. One topic they've noticed many people in this country are looking for guidance in is love and relationships. As a result, our partners have been working hard over the past several months to provide conversations about human relationships as well as our relationship with God.

Many people are discovering this media partner through English-learning resources. Young people in particular have a growing need for these kinds of resources. By creating content that addresses spirituality, people are learning English and discovering the Good News of Christ at the same time!

People living in these areas often encounter difficulties that can be quite threatening. We were incredibly encouraged by one of our partners who mentioned while speaking about their trials, "Without them, our work would be boring." What a reminder that whether it's big or small, God wants to use everything we face in this life to make us "mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:4)

#### **GET INVOLVED IN THESE MINISTRIES**

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**JOHN 17:3 (NASB)** 

"That they may know You..."

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

#### **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

Imagine being at a clinic or a hospital where electricity was unreliable, especially at night. At one hospital in Liberia, medical staff were often having to use cell phones as a light source, including in the infant delivery room.

Reach Beyond helped install solar panels that ensure the staff can safely deliver babies and perform other medical procedures as well.

The staff at the hospital remains steadfast to make sure they continue providing their patients with the best care possible. This need was presented thanks to one of our partner radio stations that has connections to the hospital. This radio staff personnel made a comment about how these solar panels reflect a deeper truth:

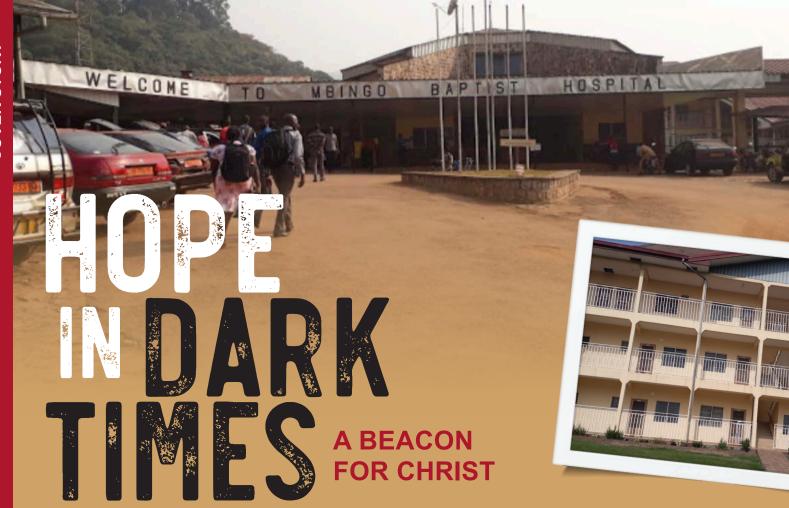
"Jesus is the light of this world and we, as His followers, have come to bring a temporary light to those around us. Remember that even these solar panels are temporary. But whosoever believes in Christ will have a permanent light that will lead them to the Kingdom of God and be with Christ in heaven. All we need to do is accept this free gift through Jesus Christ."

#### **GET INVOLVED IN THESE MINISTRIES**

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At Reach Beyond, we know that we can always do more through the right partnerships with indigenous people and other Gospel-oriented groups than we could ever hope to do on our own. One timely example of how we're doing this is with the Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon.

"We originally found out about this opportunity through Eric Moore, who has served as a Reach Beyond missionary for over 45 years. We ran into him at a European conference a few years ago where he told us he had a job for us to do. We were all ears."

Bill and his wife Emily first became involved with Reach Beyond in Quito, Ecuador in 2000. Bill was the director of the Internet Ministries Department, in charge of the web sites for the various language services as well as the

development of secure online giving. Emily worked with the engineering team on the Loreto Hydroelectric Project. After returning to consulting engineering work in Canada in 2004, Bill and Emily became involved again with Reach Beyond in the North Africa/Middle East Region and other international projects in 2018.

Eric let the couple know that a missional hospital in Cameroon had an incredible opportunity to increase what they could offer to their community. But they needed help to get there.

This hospital is the only of its kind within a 9 hour drive of it. Currently, patients who need radiation treatment have to make that long (and often dangerous) journey in order to get it. Because it's so difficult, these patients instead often receive chemo or surgery. "Radiation is the best way to treat this. You should





**MATTHEW 5:14 (NIV)** 

# "You are the light of the world."

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

Top: Bill meets with Dr. Dennis Palmer and team members from the building technology group. Left: This project is a major undertaking requiring collaboration from many people. Keith is a Construction Specialist seen here checking the plans for their building site.

have 1 radiation unit per million people, but they're currently limited to about 1 per 8 million. There are quite literally lives on the line."

Mbingo Baptist Hospital has a legacy of being a beacon for Christ to local people while administering the physical care they need. "Every patient that goes there gets some exposure to the Gospel," shares Bill. "It could be a chaplain visit or their network of TV's that broadcast Christian music and programming. Once people are on the hospital grounds, they are told the Gospel."

Reach Beyond works closely with partners who reach people with the Gospel through media and medical means. Mbingo Baptist Hospital fits this bill well, especially with the

deep relationships formed over time through Eric, Bill, and Emily's connections there.

"Most of the doctors there are missionary doctors so they take their purpose very seriously. They're there to share Jesus with the people of Cameroon."



Right: Our team trained local construction workers on how to survey the property and prepare for the construction process.

### THE ENGINEERING BEHIND THE EQUIPMENT

Installing the equipment necessary for radiation treatment takes a massive amount of planning. Even powering this treatment equipment will take an entire hydroelectric facility. Through extensive research, visits, and conversations, Bill and Emily have determined the best means for the equipment to be delivered, installed, and used.

"We actually did something similar in Ecuador and Papua New Guinea, too. Being able to install massive equipment like this isn't just about doctors who use it." The regulations and best practices are extensive when it comes to where the equipment is placed, how it is kept up-to-date, and many other measures to maintain it.

Bill and Emily are honored to do the hard work behind-the-scenes to ensure that the staff at Mbingo Baptist Hospital has all the information necessary to treat their patients well and utilize the equipment for a long time.





#### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The timing of this equipment's installation comes during a critical juncture in the country's history. Cameroon is currently in a civil war that has been ongoing since September of 2017. This conflict is a reflection of the country's mixed roots in colonization by the Germans, British, and French. Unfortunately, this war has already seized thousands of lives and has displaced more than half a million people from their homes. And there is not a clear end in sight.

"The hospital is a sanctuary. Both sides of the war respect it as a safe zone. Everyone likes to be in that area because it's safe." With people fleeing to this sanctuary, Mbingo Baptist Hospital is a beacon of physical safety and physical healing. The people of the town are thankful for a place where they know they'll be OK.

Of course, COVID-19 has impacted this project significantly as well. "This was already an extensive construction process from the beginning. But the delays caused by the pandemic obviously could never have been foreseen. We're trusting God's timing for this project and the people of Cameroon." They are hoping for excavation for the building to begin in Fall of 2021.

In a trip that Bill and Emily took to the site, they had multiple doctors tell them how immediate the need was for this equipment. "I saw multiple people today who I would've recommended radiation to if we had access to it," was a common sentiment. Their continued work will ensure this urgent need is met soon.

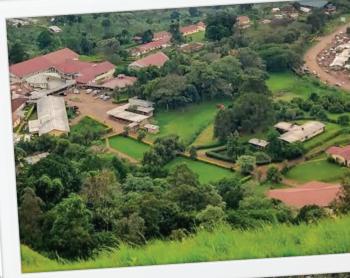
#### CHARACTER BUILDS IN THE WAITING

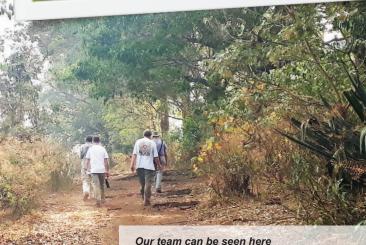
Romans 12:12 calls us as Christ followers to "rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, [and] be constant in prayer." The believers in this area have been patient in their prayers for better equipment to meet the needs of the local Cameroon people. Amidst the uncertainty and difficulties of civil war and COVID-19's impact, this equipment's installation and use will be an answered prayer for the staff and medical personnel at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

We, too, as Christians often find ourselves in times of waiting, whether that's for direction, for a cure, for a call from a loved one... God is oftentimes interested in using these waiting periods to sanctify our lives, clarify our calling, and strengthen our capacity to love others regardless of our circumstances.

# "We're trusting God's timing..."







Our team can be seen here walking the route to where the new hydroelectric facility will be.

# Testimonies

Reach Beyond works to equip and empower Christian radio stations all over the world. With your prayers and financial support, we're able to make sure God's Word continues to reach people of many different countries. These testimonies come from some of these stations.

Celebrate the personal impact God is making in the lives of many!

"Thank you for your attitude towards me, for your understanding, for the fact that you pray for me. I don't even have such words to thank you for everything, I can only say that I will continue to pray for you."

# I'm looking for the truth. Could you tell me about Christianity and your book?

Every morning, I get delighted to listen to God's Word [on this station].
Thank God!











REACH BEYOND

### URGENT OPPORTUNITIES



**SCAN ME** 



# RADIO STATION MANAGER | SPAIN

- Experience in radio station management, live radio presentation and program production.
- A heart for reaching unreached communities including Muslim immigrants and post-Christian Spanish people.
- A passion to mentor local media volunteers and disciple new believers in an evangelistic-oriented radio ministry while living on Spain's "Costa del Sol"
- High fluency in Spanish.
- A desire to build collaboration with local churches and mission organizations to reach an underserved and unreached part of Spain.
- An interest in combining traditional radio with social/digital media outreach.

**REACHBEYOND.ORG/URGENT-OPPORTUNITIES** 

# WHAT IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE?

BY AARON N, DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The story of the Rich Young Ruler in Matthew 19:16-29 has been on my heart a lot lately. In that story, a rich man comes to Christ and asks what he must do to be saved. It seems like he's prepared for Jesus' answer and professes his own holiness and adherence to the law. But when Jesus tells this man to sell all he has and follow him, the young man walks away, defeated. While the admonition against greed, idolatry, and self-righteousness feels like an increasingly important message in our modern age, it's not why this story has been at the front of my mind. Rather, it's the disciples' response that I've been wrestling with. When Christ explains the difficulty of a rich man entering heaven, the disciples "were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?'" (v. 25) Jesus responds, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (v. 26) As I've read this recently, I've come to believe that the scope of the disciples' question - and Jesus' answer isn't limited to this specific context.

My wife and I are foster parents. We're relatively new to both the foster system and parenthood. One of the most common sentiments that we hear from our well-meaning Christian friends is how much they admire what we're doing and how they "could never" be foster parents. Some have mentioned that they couldn't handle falling in love with these little ones (and some big ones too) and then having to let them go. Let me tell you a secret: Neither can we.

Who can love a child with everything they have and then freely let that child go, potentially never to see them again? Who can give up everything familiar in their life – friends, family, career, home – and travel to another country to commit their life to service and evangelism? Who can give generously in times of economic uncertainty and make sacrifices when conventional wisdom suggests we should be saving for the future?

#### "Who then can be saved?"

The disciples asked that question because they understood the deeper implication behind what Jesus was saying. They understood that they themselves would be asked to give everything and to follow Christ.

Is our "calling" conveniently aligned with our skills, talents and comfort? Do we believe that God is calling us to serve in a way that paradoxically gives us the illusion of control in our lives? Do we feel safe in our world because of how we've positioned ourselves far from perceived dangers? For me, the answer can sometimes be an easy "yes." But as I struggle to align my will to God's will (and not the other way around) let me make a humble admonishment:

The true calling of God on our lives will lead us directly into the impossible because that's where God can reveal who He is and the breadth of His love for us. We are all called to love, to go, to give, to follow Christ even to the cross. And these things *should* cause us to say, "I could never do that" or "That isn't my natural gifting" or perhaps "that's impossible." And those statements can all be true.

But with God, all things are possible.

### REACH BEYOND

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Reach Beyond will be celebrating 90 years of ministry this December, and we'll be celebrating in the next issue with your help! Write to us about why you love partnering with Reach Beyond. This could include:

- A personal story
- Why you get excited about what Reach Beyond is doing
- Words of encouragement
- Pictures from the mission field with Reach Beyond

We'll select some responses in a creative celebration for the next issue!

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

celebrate@reachbeyond.org