

# Message

Volume 72 | Issue 03 | 2024



## 50 Years in Togo: A Retrospective

A Clinic's Alpha  
and Omega

Freed From False  
Teaching

Driving for  
Change

**General Editor:**

Alex Kocman

**Managing Editor:**

Katelyn Hawkins

**Creative Director:**

Christine Morales

**Graphic Designer:**

David Brandt

**Contributors:**

Judy Bowen

Stephen R. Clark

Noel Lay

Stanley Leary

Liz Ortiz

Derek Penny

Roland Pugh

Jeff Raymond

Hannah Strayer

34-980 Adelaide St S.

London ON N6E 1R3

T: 1.519.690.1009

E: [info@abwe.ca](mailto:info@abwe.ca)

[abwe.ca](http://abwe.ca)

**WHO IS ABWE?**

ABWE was founded in 1927 as an independent Baptist mission. Supported by a network of 400 like-minded churches, we are a global family of ministries, dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying leaders, churches, and missions movements among every people. Currently, more than 1,000 ABWE missionaries are reaching the lost in 85 countries through evangelism, discipleship, church planting, leadership development, and national partnerships.

**RIGHTS & PERMISSIONS**

We encourage churches to use material from the Message to mobilize church members for missions. Permission is granted to copy material as published or excerpt material without photos for non-commercial purposes as long as this publication is credited as the source. Suggested credit: "ABWE Message. Used with permission." We request copies of material republished pursuant to this permitted use. All other rights are reserved by ABWE and permission for other commercial or non-commercial use requires written permission from the editor ([communications@abwe.org](mailto:communications@abwe.org)).



[abwe.ca](http://abwe.ca)

## Editorial

### Doing the Real Work of Witness

BY PAUL L. DAVIS  
ABWE U.S. PRESIDENT



Every ministry or organization, no matter how healthy or theologically sound, is always at risk of mission drift—the subtle, creeping temptation to veer off-course from one's purpose. Because of that, it's critical to remind ourselves of what we're about: the global advance of the saving gospel among the lost and least reached.

Despite the persisting nature of this temptation, I was recently reminded just how proud I am to be a part of the ABWE global mission. The men and women serving abroad, all committed to zealous evangelism, continually amaze me, and I feel deeply humbled to witness God's work through them.

Not long ago, Martha and I were traveling in the Philippines and found ourselves on a long bus ride with several of our missionary families and some nationals. The bus was full, and as Martha and I settled into our seats, we were surrounded by several locals. While getting comfortable and unpacking my things, I overheard a conversation in front of me. One of our missionaries was talking to a man seated directly in front of us. Their conversation was warm and engaging, and within just five minutes, our missionary was already sharing the gospel with this person he had just met.

Moreover, this missionary wasn't content to deliver a rehearsed, short sales pitch—rather, he took the time to walk through a rich, comprehensive presentation of the gospel, complete with an opportunity to respond in faith. I was convicted, encouraged, and excited as I watched, praying earnestly for an open door. While the local didn't receive Christ at that particular moment, he left the bus having heard perhaps the most detailed evangelistic message of his life.

I too walked off that bus changed—inspired by the experience. Before I had even finished settling into my seat, an ABWE worker was already engaged in proclaiming the gospel.

This missionary understands one of the core reasons why ABWE exists—for the global spread of the gospel.

As you read this online-exclusive issue of Message Magazine, remember that each missionary story is part of a rich, 97-year-old tapestry of gospel witness among more than 80 countries. May we never drift from our great obligation and opportunity to bear witness to our risen, saving Lord. ■

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES AND MISSIONARIES OF ABWE



## Contents

### Feature

# 18 A Beacon of Light for West Africa

Rejoicing in 50 Years of Ministry in Togo



#### ON THE COVER

Togolese national celebrates ABWE's 50 years in Togo.

Photo: Judy Bowen

### Departments

#### 04 CONNECTIONS

ABWE Stories and Updates From Around the World

##### A Clinic's Alpha and Omega: A New Beginning for a Medical Ministry

After four decades of providing gospel-centered medical care to rural villages in The Gambia, the Ndungu Kebbeh Health Center faced a crisis.



##### Freed From False Teaching: Pastoral Training in Action

An unlikely convert in a Hindu culture is saved from idolatry—and again from prosperity theology—along the way towards a fruitful ministry.



##### Reaching Unreached Bangladeshi Muslims Within the US

Prodip Das and Cathrin Anee bring spiritual restoration to Bangladeshi immigrants afflicted with the “cancer” of sin.



#### 14 LEGACIES OF FAITHFULNESS

For more than 50 years, Rich and Jo Ann Davis have faithfully served the Lord as missionaries across the globe.



#### 36 SPOTLIGHT

Driving for Change

#### 38 VOICES OF THE PAST

A Call to Churches to Unite for Missions: William Carey's Vision



#### 45 EXPRESSIONS

### Subscribe Online

Save postage and receive weekly articles, videos, and photos from our mission blog when you subscribe online. [ABWE.CA/SUBSCRIBE](https://abwe.ca/subscribe)



# A Clinic's Alpha and Omega: A New Beginning for a Medical Ministry

BY: KATELYN HAWKINS  
LOCATION: THE GAMBIA

**From Left:** A Gambian national meets with ABWE team leader Joan Schmitz.

After four decades of providing gospel-centered medical care to rural villages in The Gambia, the Ndungu Kebbeh Health Center faced a crisis. Its remote location on the north bank of the Gambia River (often accessible only by ferry), the harsh climate, and unrelenting tropical illnesses had slowly depleted the ranks of the ABWE medical staff and Gambian clinic workers who had faithfully served the local population for generations.

“We were praying that the Lord would show us what the next steps were—that he would help us recognize if this was a closed door,” recounted ABWE Team Leader Joan Schmitz.



Gambian children receive care at the Ndungu Kebbeh Health Center.

Since its inception, the clinic had provided inroads for the ABWE team to proclaim the gospel and pray with Muslim patients and employees in the name of Jesus. The skilled, affordable healthcare drew over 9,800 patient visits in 2022, providing vital pre-natal and infant care, immunizations, outpatient care, minor surgical procedures, and basic laboratory testing.

With clinic operations unsustainable, however, the team prayerfully informed the Gambian ministry of health that the clinic would close its doors by the end of 2022.

Once again, God's providence became evident—only one year prior, Patrick Reed, a former businessman with contract writing experience, had arrived in The Gambia with his family to serve as ABWE missionaries. With his expertise, the ABWE team

**Since its inception, the clinic had provided inroads for the ABWE team to proclaim the gospel and pray with Muslim patients and employees in the name of Jesus.**



Photo: Hannah Strayer



Two Gambian men pray at Omega Church.

was able to transfer the ownership and daily operations of the clinic to the Omega Foundation.

“We see clearly that our prayer was answered of keeping the clinic in good hands, Christian hands who love God and serve him,” said Joan.

The congregation of Omega Church has taken an active role in maintaining the clinic. Several doctors from the church travel weekly to treat patients, while a young woman has relocated to Ndungu Kebbe as a Gambian missionary to serve as the clinic administrator. The Omega medical providers are expanding the level of care offered by implementing a sonogram prenatal program and introducing updated dental care. They desire to plant churches in the surrounding villages through relationships built at the clinic.

The ABWE team praises God for the ministry potential provided by this transition to national leadership.

“Through the Ndungu Kebbeh Health Center, ABWE has worked diligently to work the soil, plant the seeds, and water the ground in a spiritually dark community,” shared Andy Kirby, ABWE executive director for Africa. “It’s now such an amazing pleasure to be able to encourage harvesters to join us—Gambian nationals, eager to see their brothers and sisters come to know the truth of God’s Word.” ■

**“Through the Ndungu Kebbeh Health Center, ABWE has worked diligently to work the soil, plant the seeds, and water the ground in a spiritually dark community. It’s now such an amazing pleasure to be able to encourage harvesters to join us—Gambian nationals, eager to see their brothers and sisters come to know the truth of God’s Word.”**

Andy Kirby, ABWE executive director for Africa



A Gambian man travels to afternoon prayers at Luma Mosque in Ndungu Kebbeh. Islam is the predominate religion in The Gambia, representing 97 percent of the nation's two million people.



# Freed From False Teaching: Pastoral Training in Action

BY: KATELYN HAWKINS

LOCATION: SOUTH ASIA

An unlikely convert in a Hindu culture is saved from idolatry—and again from prosperity theology—along the way towards a fruitful ministry.

Paul, a Live Global worker, teaches a Bible class to help prepare church planters with sound theological education.

**As Ram's burgeoning ministry expanded across South Asia, he felt a growing concern. Was he accurately preaching the Word of God?**

Raised as a devout Hindu, Ram had first heard the truth of Scripture several years prior when he accepted an invitation to attend a Christian prayer meeting. Awed by the one true God he encountered through the gospel, he renounced the pantheon of Hindu idols he had daily revered and committed his life to following Christ.

When Ram's godly example led his wife and sons to faith in Christ, the family's conversion was met with persecution within their own home. Ram's parents and brothers, with whom they live in a joint household according to cultural norms, angrily forbade



Photo: Noel Lay



A national pastor studies at the newly inaugurated church planting institute.

Ram from worshiping, singing, or fellowshiping with other believers in the home.

“Ram and his wife and sons stood strong, and slowly the opposition is softening,” shared Paul, an ABWE Live Global worker.

Ram’s dynamic influence soon spread beyond his immediate family. He invested himself in sharing the gospel with others, founding a church in his city and then establishing small groups throughout the region that are maturing into biblical churches. He later began leading online meetings for pastors in a large network of churches across the nation. Despite his ever-expanding ministry, however, he became aware of one limitation: he had no sound Bible training.

When Ram and his wife joined a biblical counseling class taught by Live Global workers Paul and Hannah,

**When Ram and his wife joined a biblical counseling class taught by Live Global workers Paul and Hannah, he was exposed for the first time to sound doctrine and the sufficiency of Scripture for all of life and godliness.**



Photo: Noel Lay

**“Robert has significant ministry not just in the capital city but around the country and even across South Asia. He was just recently asked to preach in a neighboring country. The impact of training such leaders is huge.”**

Paul

he was exposed for the first time to sound doctrine and the sufficiency of Scripture for all of life and godliness. He was appalled to learn that the online preachers he had relied on were, in reality, false prophets of a prosperity gospel.

Desiring to become better equipped for ministry, Ram enthusiastically enrolled in the inaugural class of the church planting institute Paul and Hannah launched in April 2024.

Paul and Hannah established the institute recognizing the great need to both train national church leaders and to reach their region, a major world population center.

“The goal is to build teams that are sent out to pursue unreached, unengaged people groups in South Asia,” explained Paul.

They designed the two-year program to prepare current and future pastors and church planters with a sound theological education, along with practical training in health services and business entrepreneurship to allow them to enter and serve local communities. The institute will be housed in the planned South Asia Ministry Center, alongside Paul and Hannah’s additional church-planting and evangelistic ministries.

With many of the 40 students already living in unreached communities, Paul highlights the strategic importance of equipping these leaders for effective ministry—including Ram, who now regularly applies his growing biblical knowledge within his network of churches.

“Ram has significant ministry not just in the capital city but around the country and even across South Asia. He was just recently asked to preach in a neighboring country,” Paul said. “The impact of training such leaders is huge.” ■

*Editor’s Note: Names have been changed for security.*



The South Asia Ministry Center will provide a base for ongoing church-planting and evangelistic ministries, including community outreach to families.



Photo: Noel Lay

# Reaching Unreached Bangladeshi Muslims Within the US

Prodip Das and Cathrin Anee bring spiritual restoration to Bangladeshi immigrants afflicted with the “cancer” of sin.

**BY:** STEPHEN R. CLARK

**LOCATION:** QUEENS, NEW YORK



Prodip Das leads members of All Nations Baptist Church in gospel outreach at a New York City subway station.

**N**estled in the heart of Queens, New York, All Nations Baptist Church serves a uniquely diverse population—including one unreached people group arriving at its doorstep.

As many as 100,000 or more Bangladeshi immigrants now live in New York City, reports *The New York Times*. Although the Bangladeshi community is overwhelmingly Muslim, with few known believers, some are spiritually searching. This represents a vital mission field that Pastor Prodip Das and his wife, Cathrin Anee, are faithfully and patiently harvesting one individual and couple at a time.

Prodip and Cathrin, both from Bangladesh, serve as ABWE EveryEthne missionaries with a passion to reach Bangladeshis in the US and their home country. They have planted two churches in New York City, including the Bengali-speaking congregation of All Nations Baptist Church, which Prodip co-pastors. In addition, Prodip regularly trains church planters in the US and Bangladesh.

To build relationships with Bangladeshi Muslims, Prodip stands ready to meet practical and spiritual needs in the community. In 2022, a Muslim couple, Abul and Shamaim, found his phone number on the church website and called, mentioning that they were looking for a Bengali church and pastor. Abdul told Prodip, “I want to talk to you about God’s Word.”

“I gave them a Bengali-language Bible and shared the gospel with them for more than a year,” Prodip reports. “They accepted Christ in July of 2023 and were baptized that October.”

Photo: All Nations Baptist Church





Prodip Das attends the Bengali service at All Nations Baptist Church.

Prodip is currently sharing the gospel with another couple he connected with through a friend in Holland, Michigan. Upon their arrival in the US, Faruq and his wife, Masuma, needed a room to rent and a ride from the airport, among other assistance.

They come to church every Sunday and participate in a monthly Bible study Prodip holds with two other families in the Bronx.

“They are open to hearing the gospel,” he shares.

In late spring 2024, Masuma discovered she had cancer and needed to undergo chemotherapy treatments. Shaken, the couple came to Prodip and Cathrin for prayer. Prodip read James 5:13-18 and explained, “While there is disease in your body, there is also the disease of sin. It is more important to confess your sin to Jesus and obtain salvation.” He says, “they wept openly and confessed their sin.”

While they have not yet accepted Jesus as Lord, they acknowledge their belief that Jesus could heal Masuma.

“Muslims believe Jesus is a prophet and can heal, but they struggle to believe he can forgive their sins,” explains Prodip.

Masuma has completed most of her treatments and the prognosis for recovery is good. They both continue to come to church and engage in Bible studies, indicating to Prodip that the prognosis for their souls is good as well. ■

**“Muslims believe Jesus is a prophet and can heal, but they struggle to believe he can forgive their sins[.]”**

Prodip Das

## Legacies

OF FAITHFULNESS

# Rich and Jo Ann Davis



For more than 50 years, Rich and Jo Ann Davis have faithfully served the Lord as missionaries across the globe, training church planters and leaving a legacy of discipleship and compassion.

**F**or more than 50 years, Rich and Jo Ann Davis have trained church planters around the world, multiplying their ministry throughout countless churches, villages, and regions. Their initial commitment to serve one year in Lima, Peru, extended to 33 years of planting churches and establishing a seminary and school in Peru before the Lord redirected their focus, leading them to train leaders as residential missionaries in India, St. Thomas, and currently Moldova—where their faithful ministry continues.

### **How did your journey to missions begin?**

We grew up in Palo Alto, California. We met in high school in 1962 and married in 1966. Jo Ann is Portuguese, and her family culture included a commitment to Roman Catholicism. Rich came from a non-religious family and claimed to be an atheist. Soon after our marriage, we decided to experiment with the hippy culture, but it failed to answer the big questions in our hearts. Through the faithful witness of a work colleague, Rich heard the gospel and trusted Christ as his Savior. Within months, the Lord made it clear that our life's purpose should be to serve him as missionaries, and we left California to enter Bible college in Colorado. We were invited to join a group of students in a short-term ministry with ABWE in Peru, where the Lord gave us a great love for the people, culture, and missionaries. In 1973, the ABWE Board appointed us to Peru.



**You've served in several different cultural contexts. How have you seen God use your experience in regions where you lived previously to prepare you for ministry in others?**

When we began ministry in Peru, we made many mistakes. For example, I (Rich) taught in so many Bible studies that it took me two weeks to get to each one. One man made a profession of faith one week, but when I returned to the group two weeks later, I learned that he had gotten drunk and abused his wife. People were not becoming good disciples automatically! I learned that discipleship and church planting require great concentration and dedication.

After 33 years in Peru, we moved to India to train church planters. We found that the national brethren in India respected our background, giving us creditability to teach. We trained 30 Indian believers for a year, resulting in 20 churches planted in surrounding villages. Later, when we were asked to become the executive director for Central America and the Caribbean, we were told that we could apply our experience in India to encourage ABWE teams to mentor national leaders in church planting. The Lord blessed the team in Nicaragua to develop the Institute of Church Planting (ICP), and today, we rejoice that Nicaraguan believers have planted more than 100 churches.

Another unique factor is that we became missionaries with limited training. When the Lord called us to a new ministry, we had to invest in additional preparation. Before starting a K-12 English immersion school in Lima, Rich completed a master's degree to learn how to administrate a Christian school. Likewise, when he became president of a Bible college in St. Thomas, he entered a doctoral program in Christian higher education administration. This academic training and practical experience continued to build, giving us more skills that might be used in



Rich teaches a group of children while ministering in India.

Photo: ABWE personnel



Photo: Stanley Leary

**From Left:** Missionaries Rich Davis, Dr. Jack Sorg, Jo Ann Davis, and Holly F. meet with national partner Eduard Edu in Moldova.

new locations and culminating in an open door in Moldova to teach at a Christian university and start the Institute of Church Planting.

**Much of your career has involved training national leadership. How have you seen God use this approach?**

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples in all nations, which is inherently a process of multiplication. Once a Christian has discipled a person to the point that he or she is capable of discipling another, you then have two disciples making two more disciples—and the process continues. We apply the same concept to training national leaders. By sharing our knowledge and skills with national leadership, we multiply what can be accomplished for the Lord. Currently in Moldova, we are training about 25 leaders who are planting a total of 12 churches in villages without a gospel testimony, which is far beyond anything we could do alone.

**At several points in your career, your ministry has involved relief work: starting compassion ministries when earthquakes destroyed churches in Peru, serving in India after the tsunami, and working with Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. How do you integrate mercy ministry with church planting?**

Jesus had compassion for the poor, teaching, feeding, and healing them. Compassion ministries go hand in hand with gospel ministry because they show people that you care about their felt needs, which



often prepares them to consider their spiritual needs. For example, in a village in India, we began by serving Hindus without conditions. Our example was our Christian testimony. Eventually, the village chief asked us why we were doing this. He told us that had the situation been reversed, they would never have done these things for us. We explained that we served because of the love of Christ. The chief then gave us land in the center of the village with permission to build a community center, offer vocational training, and teach the Bible!

Our outreach to Ukrainian refugees has seen some people trust Christ and join a church. They realized that we would help them even if they resisted our spiritual overtures. Our compassion ministry was not contingent on their spiritual condition or response to the gospel.

**You've served in ministry for 50 years, which is a huge accomplishment. How have you been sustained to continue serving?**

Like every missionary family, we have had good times and difficult times that taught us to trust the Lord more. One of the most amazing experiences happened in Lima when we did not want to start another church due to the difficulty of raising funds for the land and building. Even so, the Lord encouraged us to start the church with a team of Peruvian believers. We rented a large house, and within a year, we reached our capacity with over 130 people attending the services. We prepared to raise funds in the US, but before we even started, a young couple gave us over a million dollars to purchase a school that had gone bankrupt! I imagined the Lord sitting on his throne, laughing and saying, "So, you didn't want to start a church because of raising money?" Every experience gives us greater faith and courage to attempt great things for God as long as we know that he is leading. ■



Hear the compelling two-part story of Rich and Jo Ann's faithful service on the Cloud of Witnesses podcast—along with more encouragement from the lives of remarkable individuals advancing Christ's kingdom throughout the century-long history of ABWE.



Listen now at  
**[cloudofwitnessespodcast.com](https://cloudofwitnessespodcast.com)**.

# A Beacon of Light for West Africa.

## Rejoicing in 50 Years of Ministry in Togo

BY: KATELYN HAWKINS

LOCATION: TOGO

**“When we look back on the time since the first missionaries came to Togo, we can see so much fruit from their labors. . . . ABWE has seen Togo grow and flourish to become a beacon of light to West Africa.”**

Paul Davis, ABWE President

**T**he crowd of people gathering on the cement forecourt in the hot, humid air of Lomé, Togo, surged through the doors of Togo’s largest convention center, rapidly filling the 3,000-seat auditorium.

Arriving from churches, cities, and villages spanning the length of the nation, Togolese believers assembled with ABWE missionaries and leadership in one unified purpose: to praise God in joyful celebration of ABWE’s 50 years of ministry in Togo.

“Arriving from churches, cities, and villages spanning the length of the nation, Togolese believers assembled with ABWE missionaries and leadership in one unified purpose: to praise God in joyful celebration of ABWE’s 50 years of ministry in Togo.

“This celebration of 50 years is a great milestone for ABWE,” declared ABWE President Paul Davis in the March 23, 2024, ceremony attended by representatives of the Togolese government. “When we look back on the time since the first missionaries came to Togo, we can see so much fruit from their labors . . . ABWE has seen Togo grow and flourish to become a beacon of light to West Africa.”

“All of this is by the grace of God,” added ABWE team leader Honoré Afolabi, emphasizing the partnerships between ABWE missionaries and Togolese believers that have enabled a nationwide ministry, including founding more than 200 churches, two hospitals, a school for the blind, a radio station, pastoral training centers, a resource center, and impacting innumerable lives changed by the gospel.



Togolese believers celebrate the 50th anniversary of ABWE ministry in Togo.







Photo: Judy Bowen

ABWE missionaries and Togolese believers sing the Hallelujah Chorus in three languages at the 50th anniversary celebration.

Pastor Gaglo is one of those lives transformed. As a young man, he was hired as a mason during the construction of ABWE's first hospital in Togo, Hôpital Baptiste Biblique. After two years of listening to the missionaries and Togolese pastors preach the gospel to the crew each day before work, he understood he was a sinner and placed his faith in Christ. He immediately began following the Lord's direction to share the gospel with others, first as a hospital translator and later as a physician's assistant and a pastor in the town of Adéta.

"I could never have become what I became without the mission of ABWE," he testified. "It changed my life, and it's my joy to celebrate this day."

Choruses of worship echoed throughout the day-long commemoration, beginning with a festival of choirs and extending throughout a formal ceremony and worship service. Despite ethnic differences among those gathered, their praise harmonized—as did their attire, with most wearing clothing sewn from the blue, orange, and yellow swirled fabric printed for the event according to Togolese custom.

**"I could never have become what I became without the mission of ABWE, it changed my life, and it's my joy to celebrate this day."**

Pastor Gaglo





“While this is a beautiful crowd, and there are many who have heard the good news of Jesus Christ, there are many in Togo who still need to hear the gospel,” Paul Davis reminded the assembly. “There are still [unreached] tribes and villages . . . so we are praying that God would open a door for the gospel.”

### An Unexpected Entry

Fifty years earlier, Dallas (“Dal”) and Kay Washer waited in a holding pattern as their plane circled the Lomé coastline. Gazing down at the airport in Togo’s capital—their new home—they watched as the transport carrying Togolese President Gnassingbé Eyadéma touched down on the runway to great fanfare. Only a month prior, Eyadéma had survived a plane crash in northern Togo that had claimed the life of the pilot and crew. Hailed by his people as immortal, Eyadéma’s triumphal return to Lomé on February 2, 1974, was celebrated as a national holiday.

Dal and Kay navigated the jubilant crowds in the airport alone and unknown, arriving as the first pioneer missionaries to open the field for ABWE. Kay later wrote, “For us, it was a special date as well, for it was the date of our own ‘triumphal entry’ into Togo.”

Missionaries Dal and Kay Washer initiated ABWE ministry in Togo in 1974.



Photo: ABWE missionary





Photo: Liz Ortiz

A blind Togolese man demonstrates the craft of furniture building taught at the Village of Light.



Togo had not been the Washers' originally intended destination. After 18 years as missionaries in Niger, they had turned their focus to Benin. When the doors for ministry remained firmly closed, however, they charted a new course for its western neighbor, Togo.

Once settled in Lomé, the Washers launched into ministry from their home, inviting young people to Bible studies that grew into church plants. Their ministry flourished as their Togolese neighbors eagerly expressed interest in the Bible. Soon joined by ABWE teammates Dave and Elwanda Fields, Tim and Esther Neufeld, and Jim and Carol Plunkitt, the church plants became sufficiently established that Dal and Kay moved farther north into the nation's interior, the burden for Togo's 46 people groups—many of them unreached—compelling them onward.

### Mercy for Body and Soul

As they began church planting in the city of Kpalimé, Kay's heart was drawn to several blind children she observed in the streets. Her compassion for the visually impaired in Niger had prompted her to learn Braille, experience she now employed in Togo to begin the nation's first school for the blind—and initiate a chain of ABWE mercy ministries that continue to this day. As the students' academic success attracted the attention of Togolese examiners, the government granted the school a tract of land in Kpalimé to construct a permanent facility, now called the Village of Light.

Today, approximately 40 residential students fill the Village of Light each year, learning not only academic subjects but Bible courses taught through Braille, verbal instruction, and tactile learning. Young adults receive workshop training in furniture building or soap making to enable them to start their own business upon graduation. Many of the students, having been rejected for their blindness or subjected to painful animist rituals by village witch doctors, experience for the first time at the Village of Light the radiance of Christ's love breaking through the darkness.

The blind were not the only population sector for whom the growing missionary team was burdened. One day, as Dal and Kay surveyed the vast panorama of huts clustered among the steamy tropical mountainsides near Kpalimé, they prayed for the remote villages still beyond their reach.

"Oh God, these lost people need medical help," they pleaded. "Please send us nurses to meet the great need that we see."





Doctors perform surgery at  
Hôpital Baptiste Biblique.

Photo: Stanley Leary

Their prayer was answered above and beyond in 1985, when a new wave of ABWE missionaries completed the construction of Hôpital Baptiste Biblique (HBB), situated just north of Kpalimé in the town of Tsiko.

“The hospital immediately began bearing fruit as hordes of people would come suffering, and their suffering would be relieved,” said current HBB hospital administrator and surgeon Dr. Tom Kendall. “They would sense the compassion of the medical staff, and they would be open to the gospel.”

From the beginning, HBB’s mission has focused on providing quality medical care as an avenue for assisting the Togolese church with evangelism.

“HBB is a holistic ministry, taking care of the entire human being, both body and soul,” Tom continued. “If we only take care of the body, even if we do it well, we’re failing our mission because Jesus didn’t say ‘Go and build hospitals.’ He said ‘Go and make disciples.’ A hospital and medical ministry is just a means to do that.”

Some, like recent patient Midima, arrive with little hope remaining. Injured in a motorcycle accident several years ago, the fracture in his leg had never healed, and he was forced to limp painfully with an exposed and infected tibia. After exhausting all treatment options at other local clinics and hospitals, he arrived at HBB as a last resort.

“By God’s grace, the infected bone was removed, and after one month in our hospital, he walked out the door with the

**“If we only take care of the body, even if we do it well, we’re failing our mission because Jesus didn’t say ‘Go and build hospitals.’ He said ‘Go and make disciples.’ A hospital and medical ministry is just a means to do that.”**

Dr. Tom Kendall, ABWE missionary





aid of a single crutch and no pain,” reported HBB surgeon Dr. Jack Kehl.

During his hospitalization, Midima listened to chaplains daily preach evangelistic sermons, as well as converse with him individually. As with every patient, the chaplains recorded his spiritual interest in his medical chart. When Midima returned to HBB for a follow-up visit, Jack noticed the annotations and asked him what he had learned about Jesus.

“He broke into a big smile and proceeded to tell me that he used to think he had to keep all of God’s laws perfectly to go to heaven,” Jack shared. At HBB, Midima heard the true gospel for the first time. He believed and left the hospital filled with hope.

Each year, 2,200-2,400 patients like Midima are treated in the 50-bed hospital, while 16,000-18,000 visit the HBB clinic and 1,100-1,500 receive surgery. Since its founding, HBB has expanded to include men’s and women’s wards, a maternity ward, ICU, infection ward, operating rooms, an outpatient clinic, labs, and a pharmacy. On average, 14 percent of patients trust Christ for salvation during their stay.

“As medical professionals, we get to enter into the point of suffering in so many people’s lives and help address that, and that just opens their heart in a way that other avenues can’t,” explained Tom. “When people are brought face to face with their own mortality, they begin to think about eternity. . . . And so we don’t exploit that emotional state, but rather leverage that opportunity as good soil, like their heart has been prepared for us to share the hope of the gospel.”

In addition to evangelism, opportunities for discipleship at HBB abound—primarily through day-to-day interactions with the 150 staff members. A nursing education program founded by missionary Annette Williams in 1995 has trained Togolese students to provide quality, compassionate care, with discipleship woven into every aspect of the program.

The spiritual impact of HBB has spread far beyond the hospital walls. To date, 55 churches have been established in the surrounding region, along with a Bible institute.

As interest in the gospel grew, the ABWE team sensed a need to develop Bible study resources in local languages. The Christian Resource Center (CRC), constructed on the HBB property, opened in 1996 to design and print gospel tracts and discipleship materials, selling them at affordable prices in the



Photo: Judy Bowen

Togolese nursing students learn to care for patients at Hôpital Baptiste Biblique.

# “God wants me to know that I am a sinner. I read that brochure you gave me, and I asked Jesus to be my Savior last night.”

A new Togolese believer

Judy Bowen prepares gospel tracts for distribution at the Christian Resource Center.

CRC bookstore alongside imported French-language books and Bibles.

“We’ve gone from two yellow tracts in 1996 to over 900 titles, mostly in French, with some in Ewe and Kabiye,” said CRC director Judy Bowen, highlighting the unique draw of gospel tracts in Togolese culture.

One security guard accepted a tract from Judy one day, and the next day, quietly told her, “God wants me to know that I am a sinner. I read that brochure you gave me, and I asked Jesus to be my Savior last night.”

In recent years, the team has incorporated audiovisual resources to engage Togolese without access to education. By distributing SD cards preloaded with the Jesus Film or audio Bibles, Togolese from multiple linguistic backgrounds can access Scripture from their phones. ABWE ministry Studios Vérité has been instrumental in recording audio versions of Scripture, with plans to develop additional Bible training resources in audio and tablet formats.



Photo: Katelyn Hawkins



Herdsman from unreached people groups raise cattle in northern Togo.



Photo: Hannah Strayer

### Harvest in Stony Fields

As the growing ministries in southern Togo found ripe fields for harvest, the ABWE team cast their gaze to the horizon, beyond which lay an even greater concentration of unreached people groups.

Journeying over 200 miles north, the verdant plateau of southern Togo gives way to dusty fields of dry grass and tree-lined hillsides dotted with rural villages and herds of cattle. Many people groups in central Togo are staunchly Muslim or animist (or a combination of both), the stony landscape reflecting their resistance to the gospel.

“The best estimates indicate that there are 899,000 unreached, unengaged people in this region,” reports ABWE missionary Jonathan Archer. “There’s an overwhelming reality when you’re staring at someone face to face that doesn’t have access to Jesus.”

Ministry among these people groups often follows a different schedule. As a visual representation, Jonathan points to a wooden carving of an hourglass, quoting an African proverb, “Americans have a watch, but we have the time.”

He explains: “Time is our greatest commodity for people here. It’s so encouraging to know that [the work] doesn’t depend on us, and we’re just a little piece in the process that God uses to fulfill the task, in the roles that he’s put before us to connect with the people he created. Ultimately, he’s the one that gives the increase, and he’s the one that brings it to full fruition.”

**“The best estimates indicate that there are 899,000 unreached, unengaged people in this region. There’s an overwhelming reality when you’re staring at someone face to face that doesn’t have access to Jesus.”**

Jonathan Archer, ABWE missionary





Photo: Hannah Strayer

Since the late 1980s, when the first ABWE missionaries moved to central Togo, God has indeed been granting that increase. These missionaries, together with Togolese pastors, labored to plant two churches in the city of Kara, and later, three more, including in areas with deep Islamic roots. As the churches developed, the missionaries became aware that the Kabiye people group, traditionally fetish worshipers, lacked an accurate translation of Scripture in their language and partnered with Bibles International and a core of Kabiye believers to form a translation committee. After more than a decade of faithful work, the Kabiye New Testament was dedicated in January 2012.

Simultaneously, understanding that the long road to ministry success requires theological depth, ABWE missionaries formed a Bible institute on the campus of Bible Baptist Church of Grace in Kara, which trains local pastors to plant and lead congregations in remote villages and nomadic communities.

“I know of at least 16 churches that have been planted in the Central, Kara, and Savanna regions as a result of the initial churches that these former missionaries established,” says Jonathan.

Current ABWE teammates in Kara serve alongside Togolese church leaders, training them to intentionally reach outside their own ethnolinguistic groups to bring the gospel to the unreached tribes in their region. They model evangelistic interactions as they build relationships in their city, lead a community kids’ club, and engage with university students through the El Roï University Center that aims to create disciples with the goal of church planting in unreached areas.

### **To the Farthest Corners of Togo**

The call to press on to the farthest frontiers of Togo came in the mid-2000s. A team of medical professionals became burdened to develop a similar facility in the arid savanna of northern Togo, a remote region with limited resources and scarce gospel witness. The door of opportunity swung wide when Togolese government officials, recognizing the reputation of local medical centers as places where people went to die and infants didn’t survive birth, invited ABWE to establish a second hospital in the city of Mango.

When Hospital of Hope (HOH) opened its doors in February 2015, the president of Togo himself attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The 65-bed inpatient wards, four operating rooms,





Photo: Judy Bowen

and clinic facilities quickly reached capacity, treating patients arriving with acute and chronic illnesses and injuries, along with a high volume of trauma patients due to its location near Togo's only paved north-south roadway connecting the nation with neighboring West African states.

Bidima was one of the early patients treated in 2015. Traveling from Burkina Faso to receive treatment at HOH, he arrived septic and close to death due to a typhoid perforation of the intestines. Then-medical director and surgeon Todd DeKryger performed emergency surgery to save his life, and, after a long recovery, Bidima joyfully returned to his home country.

"When he left, he decided he would become a living advertisement for the hospital," said Dr. Alain Niles. To date, Bidima has brought 602 patients from Burkina Faso to receive treatment at HOH—of which he reports only three have died.

Each time he visits, Alain shares the gospel with him. "I see him almost weekly, and he is a reminder of the impact our hospital is having on the lives of our Muslim friends," he continued.

HOH treats over 2,500 inpatients and performs approximately 1,000 surgeries each year, along with caring for 100-150 patients per day at the outpatient clinic. Even with a consistently high patient census, ABWE missionaries and HOH chaplains prioritize sharing the gospel message with as many

**HOH treats over 2,500 inpatients and performs approximately 1,000 surgeries each year, along with caring for 100-150 patients per day at the outpatient clinic.**

## **“The majority of the chaplains came to faith in Christ through the ministry of our team,”**

Jennifer DeKryger.



patients as possible. Each of the chaplains come from different people groups in the region and speak different languages, enabling them to connect with diverse patients.

“The majority of the chaplains came to faith in Christ through the ministry of our team,” shared missionary Jennifer DeKryger.

One chaplain from an unreached Muslim people group known for being hostile to Christianity recently experienced God’s sovereignty among his own people group. A premature newborn girl, Bouba, was rushed to HOH in critical condition after being delivered in a village an hour away. During the baby’s long stay in the NICU, Bouba’s grandmother remained at the hospital to assist the mother and participated in Bible studies led by the chaplains, peppering them with questions. When her son arrived to visit his infant daughter and met the chaplain from their people group, they were astounded to discover that, before coming to Christ, he had attended Qur’anic school with Bouba’s uncle. Incredulous, they asked the chaplain what would compel him to leave Islam.

The chaplain explained that he had diligently studied the Qur’an, searching for an assurance of acceptance and eternal life with God, but never found it. Instead, he found confidence in the biblical account of the love and sacrifice of Christ. As the chaplain shared the gospel, the baby’s father recognized the truth and declared his desire to follow Jesus.

“I feel like a burden has been taken from my shoulders,” he told the chaplains, returning the next day to join them in Bible study. He asked for prayer to face the persecution that will follow as he relinquishes the duties he held as a Muslim leader in his community.

HOH confronts the darkness of the region not only by sharing the gospel with patients but through nursing education. As part of the three-year nursing training program led by Dr. Sharon Rahilly, students study God’s Word daily.

Likewise, both HOH and HBB entered a new stage in training and discipleship as they launched a five-year surgical residency program through the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

“We don’t want to just train surgeons,” explained Dr. Jack Kehl. “The vision is that these surgeons would go to different countries and share the gospel in places that we can’t go.”





Dr. Sharon Rahilly mentors a nursing student caring for a newborn.





**From Left:** ABWE missionary Adam Drake interviews Paul Davis on Hope Radio.

Photo: Derek Penny



The combined ministry of HOH has already resulted in multiple village church planting efforts, as patients encounter Christ during their treatment and carry the good news of the gospel back to their families and villages, with teaching assistance from HOH chaplains and missionaries. Additional contacts come through well-digging initiatives, a Christian school—and over the airwaves.

Since 2018, Hope Radio has broadcast biblical teaching, music, and Scripture in six local languages to a radius of 100 kilometers and one million people. In this region with unstable electricity, limited internet, and cost-prohibitive television, radio serves as the primary form of entertainment—and people are listening.

About three years ago, a man from an unreached Muslim people group walked into Mango and sought out the local chief of his tribe. He explained, “I’ve been listening to this radio station for nine months, and I’ve become a follower of Jesus. But,” he continued. “I’ve never met another Christian. Do you know if there are any in Mango?”

The chief pointed the man toward HOH, where a chaplain provided discipleship in his language.

Within the city, ABWE ministry partner Evan Drake reports that a group of imams often walk out of their mosque after prayer and flip on the radio, catching Hope Radio’s weekly theological programming. More often than not, they call him over to explain a biblical concept they didn’t understand.

“That’s the biggest difference with our radio station,” he said. “We dedicate ourselves to living among the people so we can build relationships.”

ABWE missionaries regularly conduct personal follow up in villages, distribute Bibles to those contacting Hope Radio for resources, and continue to develop discipleship-based broadcasts.

“We believe that truth when it’s spoken into people’s lives changes people’s lives and changes their eternity,” explained Evan. “And we’re doing whatever we can to speak truth to people.”

### **Anticipating the Next 50 Years**

Coming full circle, ABWE teammates once again established a ministry base in Togo’s capital in 2015, when ABWE missionaries Honoré and Kim Afolabi landed in Lomé to train Togolese pastors.

**“We believe that truth when it’s spoken into people’s lives changes people’s lives and changes their eternity. And we’re doing whatever we can to speak truth to people.”**

Evan Drake, ABWE ministry partner

**“We want to continue founding churches, facilitating church planting, and making sure that everything we do as a ministry—whether the Bible institutes, whether the blind school, whether hospitals, whether radio studios—everything we do leads back to the church, because Christ, when he comes back, is not going to take any of those institutions. He’s going to take the church. Let’s not forget this reality and the centrality of the gospel.”**

Honoré Afolabi, ABWE team leader

**From Left:** Missionary Honoré Afolabi, Paul Davis, Togolese Prime Minister, Victoire Tomegah Dogbé, and missionary Adam Drake.



Photo: Official photographer for the Prime Minister of Togo



“We strongly believe that in order for our churches in Togo, and in Africa in general, to have strong, quality disciples of Christ, we need to have strong, quality leaders in the churches,” stated Honoré.

To this end, he directs Bible institute courses and modular training for church leaders in remote villages. He, like the more than 100 other short- and long-term ABWE missionaries spread throughout Togo, remains focused on the core of Christ’s mission.

He explained: “We want to continue founding churches, facilitating church planting, and making sure that everything we do as a ministry—whether the Bible institutes, whether the blind school, whether hospitals, whether radio studios—everything we do leads back to the church, because Christ, when he comes back, is not going to take any of those institutions. He’s going to take the church. Let’s not forget this reality and the centrality of the gospel.”

As ABWE celebrates 50 years of ministry in Togo, we are thankful that the Togolese government allowed the establishment of ABWE in Togo. May we look forward in eager anticipation of how God will continue to display his glory in this nation, and may we strengthen our resolve to carry his name throughout the earth.

“Brothers and sisters, let us continue to unite together in the gospel of Jesus Christ because there is so much to do,” urged Paul Davis during the anniversary celebration. “Let us hand in hand take the gospel to Togo, to the rest of Africa, and to the world. ■

**“Brothers and sisters, let us continue to unite together in the gospel of Jesus Christ because there is so much to do. Let us hand in hand take the gospel to Togo, to the rest of Africa, and to the world.”**

Paul Davis, ABWE U.S. president





Photo: Jeff Raymond

**Katelyn Hawkins** is a communications specialist with ABWE. She serves as managing editor for Message Magazine and the ABWE blog. She holds an M.A. in Social Sciences and B.A. in Communications, and has lived in locations across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.



**Jeff Raymond** has been with ABWE since 1997 and currently serves in communications as a media missionary. He works closely with ABWE missionaries to train them to use visual storytelling as the basis of their communications strategies.

# Driving for Change

**LOCATION:** NICARAGUA

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** JEFF RAYMOND AND ROLAND PUGH

**BY:** KATELYN HAWKINS

**E**zequiel regained consciousness, slowly awakening to the realization that he was still alive—but he wouldn't be for long if he didn't find a way to radically alter his lifestyle. For more than 20 years, his identity had been consumed by his role in a Nicaraguan gang and fueled by alcohol and drugs.

He had joined the gang as an adolescent. Although his mother had occasionally taken him to church, he rejected religion, preferring to pursue a sense of belonging with his friends on the streets.



Then came the overdose in 2013 that nearly proved fatal. Ezequiel knew it was a wakeup call, but, after two decades in the gang, what purpose would his life serve apart from it? His lack of answers left him increasingly depressed.

When Pastor Ramiro Ojeda from Iglesia Vid Verdadera (True Vine Church) visited his house, Ezequiel agreed to talk with him and listened intently to the gospel. Two weeks later, he surrendered his life to Christ.

Ezequiel's life transformed. After several years of observing his spiritual growth, Pastor Ramiro invited Ezequiel to enroll in ABWE's Institute of Church Planters (ICP). Since its inception in 2008, the ICP has trained over 145 pastors who have applied their education to plant more than 100 churches throughout Nicaragua.

Armed with this preparation and a passion to rescue others in his community from gang involvement and substance abuse, Ezequiel became a pastor. Today, he leads the church in which he was saved, where he is blessed to serve with his wife, Maria Luisa, and daughter, Litzy.

### About the Image

Ezequiel, like many Nicaraguan pastors, is bi-vocational. Recognizing his need for part-time work, an ABWE missionary connected Ezequiel with a partner church in the US that graciously provided him with a moto-taxi. Moto-taxis and bicycle taxis are common in Nicaragua, especially in smaller towns, and the flexible schedule of driving is ideal for accommodating ministry responsibilities—along with ensuring that Ezequiel and his family have reliable transportation to a church plant as his ministry expands. ■



**Roland Pugh** became a freelance photographer after a 10-year career in finance. He graduated from NYU's School of Professional Studies in 2014 with a MA in Graphic Communications Management and, as a visual storyteller, has traveled on assignment throughout the world. Roland is currently working as a Multimedia Producer for the largest municipal health care system in the US.



Photo: Roland Pugh

# A Call to Churches to Unite for Missions: William Carey's Vision



**In the late 18th century, William Carey, a humble shoemaker turned missionary, penned a revolutionary work that would forever change the landscape of Christian missions.**

**H**is book *An Enquiry Into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens* challenged the church to take active steps in spreading the gospel. Carey's vision was not just about sending missionaries; it was a call for the entire body of Christ to engage in the Great Commission with zeal and practical effort. His strategic approach, comparing missionary work to that of a well-organized trading company, underscored the need for dedicated planning, collaboration, and perseverance.

Today, many question why missions is necessary when our own nation seems to be unraveling. Carey's challenge to his peers is a poignant reminder not to be indifferent. He reminds us that the obligation to send and fund missionaries belongs to local churches, and those churches must intentionally partner in voluntary association with one another for the gospel's advance. Consider this excerpt to see this missionary statesman's original vision for how those churches could partner to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. We now look back on this having enjoyed roughly 200 years of the modern missions movement, but we must recall our roots and plow a path forward.



## An Excerpt From *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*<sup>1</sup>

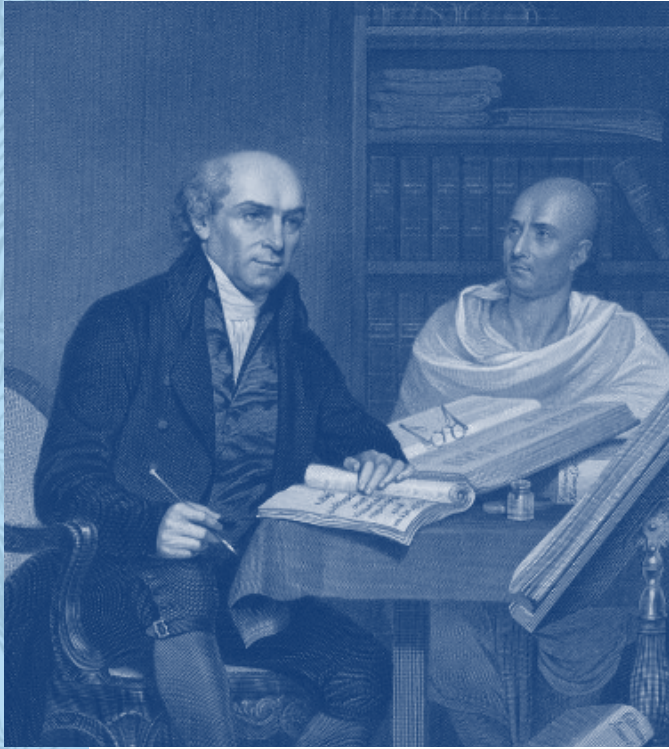
### From Section 5: The Duty of Christians in General—and What Means Ought to Be Used—to Promote Mission<sup>2</sup>

We must not be contented, however, with praying without *exerting ourselves in the use of means* for the obtaining of those things we pray for. Were *the children of light*, but *as wise in their generation as the children of this world*, they would stretch every nerve to gain so glorious a prize, nor ever imagine that it was to be obtained in any other way.

When a trading company have obtained their charter they usually go to its utmost limits; and their stocks, their ships, their officers, and men are so chosen, and regulated, as to be likely to answer their purpose; but they do not stop here, for encouraged by the prospect of success, they use every effort, cast their bread upon the waters, cultivate friendship with everyone from whose information they expect the least advantage. They cross the widest and most tempestuous seas, and encounter the most unfavorable climates; they introduce themselves into the most barbarous nations, and sometimes undergo the most affecting hardships; their

<sup>1</sup> Spellings, punctuations, and some phrasings have been updated for modern audiences. Subheadings have also been added to this excerpt to assist contemporary readers.

<sup>2</sup> The name of this section has been abridged from its original title in Carey's work, "An Enquiry into the Duty of Christians in general, and what Means ought to be used, in order to promote this Work."



William Carey, Baptist missionary studying with Brahmin Pandit at Fort William College early 19th century

Line engraving, published 1813.

Duotone applied in Photoshop.

minds continue in a state of anxiety, and suspense, and a longer delay than usual in the arrival of their vessels agitates them with a thousand changeful thoughts, and foreboding apprehensions, which continue till the rich returns are safe arrived in port. But why these fears? Whence all these disquietudes, and this labor? Is it not because their souls enter into the spirit of the project, and their happiness in a manner depends on its success?

We must not be contented, however, with praying without exerting ourselves in the use of means for the obtaining of those things we pray for.

Christians are a body whose truest interest lies in the exaltation of the Messiah's kingdom. Their charter is very extensive, their encouragements exceeding great, and the returns promised infinitely superior to all the gains of the most lucrative fellowship. Let then everyone in his



station consider himself as bound to act with all his might and in every possible way for God.

### **A Vision for Missions Organizations**


Suppose a company of serious Christians, ministers, and private persons were to form themselves into a society and make a number of rules respecting the regulation of the plan and the persons who are to be employed as missionaries, the means of defraying the expense, etc. This society must consist of persons whose hearts are in the work, men of serious religion, and possessing a spirit of perseverance; there must be a determination not to admit any person who is not of this description or to retain him longer than he answers to it.

[A missionary] society must consist of persons whose hearts are in the work, men of serious religion, and possessing a spirit of perseverance[.]

From such a society a *committee* might be appointed, whose business it should be to procure all the information they could upon the subject, to receive contributions, to enquire into the characters, tempers, abilities and religious views of the missionaries, and also to provide them with necessities for their undertakings.

They must also pay a great attention to the views of those who undertake this work; for want of this the missions to the Spice Islands, sent by the Dutch East-India Company, were soon corrupted, many going more for the sake of settling in a place where temporal gain invited them, than of preaching to the poor Indians. This soon introduced a number of indolent, or profligate persons, whose lives were a scandal to the doctrines which they preached: and by means of whom the gospel was ejected from Ternate<sup>3</sup>, in 1694, and Christianity fell into great disrepute in other places. . . .

3 An island in Indonesia.



[T]here would not only be enough [provision] to support the ministry of the gospel at home . . . but to defray the expenses of carrying the gospel into the heathen world.

In respect to *contributions* for defraying the expenses, money will doubtless be wanting; and suppose the rich were to embark a portion of that wealth over which God has made them stewards, in this important undertaking, perhaps there are few ways that would turn to a better account at last. Nor ought it to be confined to the *rich*; if persons in more moderate circumstances were to devote a portion, suppose a *tenth*, of their annual increase to the Lord, it would not only correspond with the practice of the Israelites, who lived under the Mosaic economy<sup>4</sup>, but of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, before that dispensation commenced. Many of our most eminent forefathers amongst the *Puritans*, followed that practice; and if that were but attended to now, there would not only be enough to support the ministry of the gospel at home, and to encourage *village preaching* in our respective neighborhoods, but to defray the expenses of carrying the gospel into the heathen world.

If congregations were to open subscriptions of *one penny*, or more per week, according to their circumstances, and deposit it as a fund for the propagation of the gospel, much might be raised in this way. By such simple means, they might soon have it in their power to introduce the preaching of the gospel into most of the villages in England, where, though men are placed whose business it should be to give light to those who sit in darkness, it is well known that they have it not. Where there was no person to open his house for the reception of the gospel, some other building might be procured for a small sum, and even then, something considerable might be spared for the Baptist, or other committees, for propagating the gospel amongst the heathen. . . .

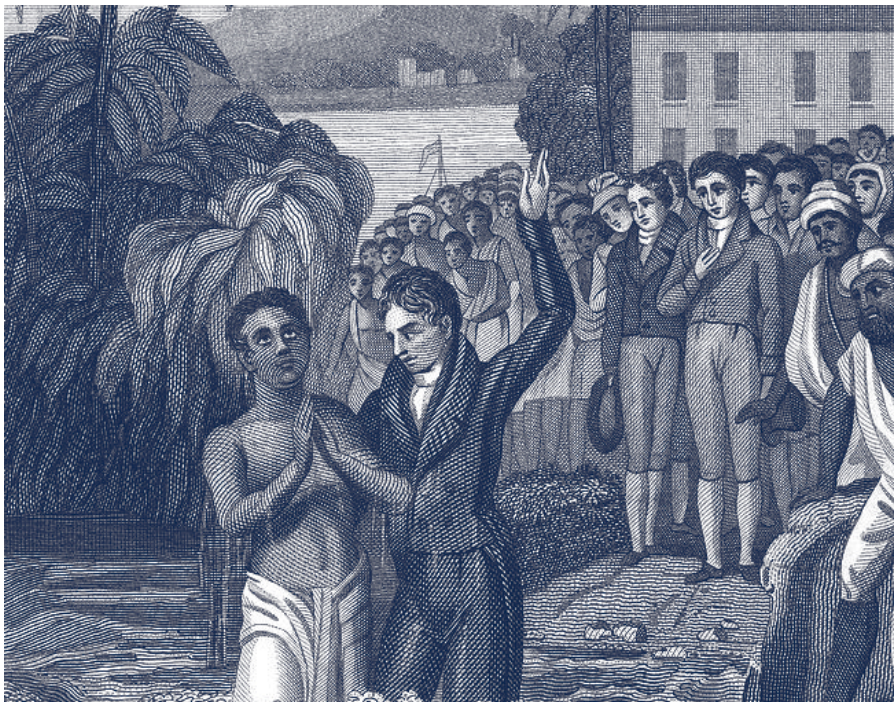
---

4 That is, the Mosaic covenant administration.



Surely it is worthwhile to lay ourselves out with all our might in promoting the cause and the kingdom of Christ.

We are exhorted to *lay up treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal*. It is also declared that *whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*. These Scriptures teach us that the enjoyments of the life to come, bear a near relation to that which now is; a relation similar to that of the harvest, and the seed. It is true all the reward is of mere grace, but it is nevertheless encouraging; what a *treasure*, what a *harvest* must await such characters as the Apostle Paul, John Elliot, and David Brainerd, and others, who have given themselves wholly to the work of the Lord. What a heaven will it be to see the many myriads of poor heathens, of Britons amongst the rest, who by their labors have been brought to the knowledge of God. Surely a *crown of rejoicing* like this is worth aspiring to. Surely it is worthwhile to lay ourselves out with all our might in promoting the cause and the kingdom of Christ.



William Carey (1761-1834) baptizing the first Hindu convert, a carpenter named Kristno, in the Hooghly River, India. Etching and line engraving, American, 1837. Photograph by Granger on Pixels.

**As we reflect on Carey’s timeless challenge, let us heed his call to unite and act with purpose. ABWE Canada’s Global Support fund is a tangible way for churches to come together and support the cause of Christ’s mission.**

This fund helps support 1,000 ABWE missionaries proclaiming Christ in more than 80 nations. The funds raised provide the necessary training, accountability, resources, and logistical support for these missionaries to carry out their ministries effectively—not only preaching the gospel but also planting churches, providing medical care, translating Scripture, and training local leaders.

ABWE, founded nearly a century ago, is a family of over 450 missionary-sending churches and thousands of financially supporting churches. We exist for the church and are formed by local churches to advance the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches.

By contributing to the Global Support Fund your church can play a vital role in this global mission. The funds raised will ensure that missionaries have the support they need to continue spreading the gospel and meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the lost and least reached across the globe.

We invite you to join us. Together, our churches can reach the lost and disciple the nations as Carey envisioned. **Learn more and involve your church here: [abwe.ca/projects/global-support-fund](http://abwe.ca/projects/global-support-fund).** ■







# Therefore

In the neighborhoods around us  
And the streets of distant lands,  
There are souls that need the Savior,  
Therefore go, as he commands.

There are many trapped in darkness  
Where the chains of sin are curled.  
There is hope and life in Jesus,  
Therefore go and tell the world.

There is faith that comes by hearing  
There's a Word they need to hear.  
By his power, God has sent you,  
Therefore go, and do not fear.

We should be about his business  
Till he comes or all have heard.  
We're entrusted with his message  
Therefore go and preach the Word.

There's a work that he has given  
That we cannot do above.  
God is love, and he has sent us,  
Therefore go, and go in love.

There are peoples, tribes, and nations  
Who will stand before the throne  
But they need to hear the gospel,  
Therefore go, till Christ is known.

**Krista Besselman**

grew up in Western Pennsylvania, fell in love with missions accounting in Papua New Guinea, and now helps track the resources used for Bible translation from her home in Texas. She writes poetry to process the ups, downs, and outright crises of life. Her favorite poems call herself—and others—to remember God's faithfulness in every situation.

©2024 Krista Besselman.  
All rights reserved.



# UKRAINE CRISIS FUND

**GIVE  
SECURELY  
ONLINE**  
[abwe.ca/ucf](https://abwe.ca/ucf)



The Ukraine Crisis fund provides aid to Ukrainians and supports gospel centered outreach ministries led by ABWE missionaries and partners, serving both in Ukraine and in neighboring countries.

The war has cruelly deprived millions of Ukrainians of their homes, their livelihood and their peace. Yet amid the violence and destruction of war, the church of Jesus Christ has risen to compassionately serve hurting people and share the gospel in time of great need.

As the war continues, the needs continue to be great for Ukrainians. Supporting the Ukraine Crisis Fund will ensure that gospel centered ministries can continue to meet people's physical and spiritual needs.

**Provide Resources To Ukrainian  
Refugees, Missionaries, & Ministry  
Partners Serving Ukrainian  
Communities in a Time of Upheaval  
& Unrest**



[abwe.ca/ucf](https://abwe.ca/ucf)