

# WHERE HE LEADS...

FOREIGN MISSION OF THE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

1ST EDITION

2018

## KENYA: A DAY IN THE VILLAGE

By Rochelle Seppala

**O**ur last day at Pastor Timothy's was spent going house to house, praying, and giving. We went to the church members' houses that were in greatest need. At each house we would walk in, introduce ourselves, ask about the family living in the house, inquire if they had prayer requests, and give away clothes and food. It was beautiful being able to talk with them about their greatest needs and lay our hands on them in prayer that God would be with them and help them through their struggles. We then had the privilege of giving something to each child in the home: a shirt, a dress, a pair of shorts, or a pair of shoes. As we were walking

toward one house, a young boy (around two or three years old) in a red shirt came running up to me and shook my hand with determination. As he did, I noticed that the shoes on his feet were falling apart. The worn, little, brown, cloth-material shoes were starting to fold over at the tongue and sides. I told Julie, "We need to give him a new pair of shoes."

The family welcomed us into their home; and I noticed that it was the only one throughout the house visits in which the father was present. Julie looked at me and said, "This is a happy family." We talked and prayed with the family of five (parents,

two boys, and a girl). Then Julie opened her suitcase and handed the boys new shorts and a pair of shoes. Immediately, the little boy in the red shirt slipped off his old shoes and put on his new, blue shoes – smiling from ear to ear, alongside his brother and sister.

I fought back tears at the sight of the old and new shoes, and what gladness it brought them. We then asked the family to come out to the car with a bucket or bag, so we could fill it with flour to help feed them.

This was my favorite part of the trip because we were able to go from house to house and personally spread the love of Jesus. We were able to meet some of their physical needs and submitted the rest to God.



A happy family.



Distributing food and clothing.



Praying with a mother in the village.



## From the Foreign Mission Administrator's Desk

The Foreign Mission of the ALCA  
John Ruotsala, Administrator  
63 Poor Farm Road  
New Ipswich, NH, 03071  
Email: [foreignmission@comcast.net](mailto:foreignmission@comcast.net)  
Phone: 603-878-9878  
Website: [www.themissionsite.com](http://www.themissionsite.com)

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV)*

**Lord, help us to go forth faithfully according to Thy WORD...**

Your Foreign Mission has felt especially blessed during the last year. As in any year in the mission field, there are plenty of highs but also many lows. We are always comforted to know that our job is only to sow the seeds (the WORD) and God is the only one who, through His Holy Spirit, can give

the increase.

We have seen sinners repent and believe the gospel. We have seen rejoicing in salvation, singing from the heart, and hunger for the Word. We have seen backsliding and falls into sin. We have seen hurts, pains, hunger, sickness, and disease. We have seen healings, health, and the blessing of God in every country and life... Through it all, we know that the King is on His throne. We know that He is Lord over all and can handle all the situations that we face in life.

We are thankful that so many of you have contributed in many ways to the work that God is allowing us to be a part of in His Vineyard around the world.

These ways have included: prayer, coming on trips to preach and teach, contributing gifts of love

financially, and many other humanitarian efforts. We are so thankful and humbled to receive your support as we go forward in this often-difficult work. Whether in ways big or small, you all have been a part of it! This work is HIS work, so all of God's children are part of this mission.

In 2017, we traveled to as many countries as we could, according to the number of workers that volunteered and responded to the call to come forward. Since Jesus gave the great commission, we understand that it is essential to focus upon this commission as our top priority!

As we look forward to 2018, we again desire to be obedient; we desire to be wise and good stewards with what God provides through His children. We covet your prayers and we welcome all of you to come on trips and stay in close contact, so we can facilitate your desire to be part of the work and answer your questions.

Contact us anytime at [foreignmission@comcast.net](mailto:foreignmission@comcast.net).

## SHARING THE GOSPEL IN RWANDA

By Pastor Frank Famiyeh

During the past few years, Pastor Jean Claude has cried out to the Foreign Mission to come to his churches in Rwanda to share the Gospel.

After our mission efforts in Kenya, Pastor Gregory Greve and myself were dispatched to Rwanda to meet with Pastor Jean Claude and

the churches he oversees to share the Gospel with them.

We arrived at the beautiful Kigali airport in Rwanda after an hour-and-a-half flight from Nairobi. Right away, Pastor Jean Claude was there to greet us and take us by bus to his home district seven hours away from Kigali.

The first thing that struck me on leaving the Kigali airport was the impeccable cleanliness of the environment and the people. As we made the journey to the countryside, I noticed that every place was clean. My prayer was that the hearts of the people would be equally clean to receive

**Continued on page 3...**

the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we were bringing to them. On the first day, Gregory Greve and myself preached at the opening service and afterward led the pastors in a study from the book of Romans. In attendance were twenty-five pastors and church leaders. Several questions were asked which gave us an idea of the participants' level of understanding of the Gospel.

This gave us an opportunity to explain in detail the extent to which people are saved through repentance and faith in the merits of Jesus Christ and not by human efforts. Most of the pastors and church leaders clearly had a fair knowledge of the Bible, but apparently weren't very conversant with the doctrine of salvation by God's grace through faith.

The teaching continued the second day and we concluded the lesson with an in-depth explanation of the Office of the Keys – the authority given to all believers by Jesus Christ to forgive sins in His name and blood.

The third day was Sunday. We were transported by motorbike over a distance of fifteen kilometers of mountainous terrain to worship in a village church. Again, Gregory and I preached well-received sermons to the people.

When asked if anyone in the service had sins that were troubling their conscience and

needed prayer, nearly all the people came forward to the altar. We laid hands on them and pronounced forgiveness of all their sins in the name and blood of Jesus. I could see joy in the faces of these forgiven children of God; and trusted that they had believed the Gospel. This was a very lively service with vigorous music and pounding drums. It was interesting to see the believers dance gently to the hymns.

When parting with Pastor Jean on Monday morning, he expressed deep appreciation for our coming to them and especially for our teaching and preaching, which he believed had turned many hearts to trust in Jesus alone for their salvation. We arrived back in Kenya the same day and the following day I was on my way to Ghana, leaving Gregory to continue the mission in Kenya.



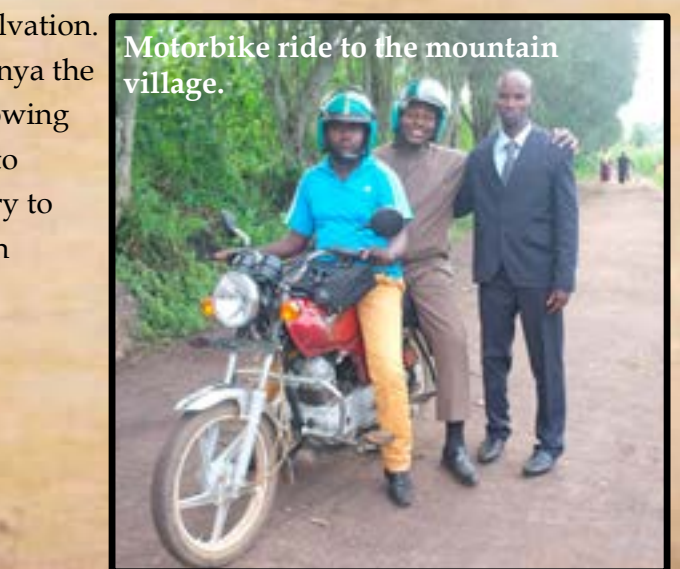
Children from the village.



Pastors gathering for the service.



The joyful congregation waving farewell.



Motorbike ride to the mountain village.

# LOVE AND DEVOTION: THE STORY OF DAVID ARTEY

By Pastor Bob Maki

*This is a story of how "... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 KJV)*

About 12 years ago, Pastor Frank Famiyeh helped establish a new congregation at the Liberian refugee camp in Ghana, West Africa. He served this congregation as its pastor, and the FM preached at this church annually...

During a devastating civil war that raged for fourteen years in Liberia, David Artey, a Christian family man and college-educated math and science teacher, was forced to flee along with his family and tribe to the neighboring country of the Ivory Coast. There, David cared for many orphans whose parents had been killed in the war, and God blessed him with a prosperous chicken business that enabled him to provide for their needs.

When a civil war erupted in the Ivory Coast and threatened the lives of David and his extended

family, they were again forced to flee their home, leaving everything behind. To reach the safety of Ghana, they had to make a dangerous journey through a heavily-armed rebel territory, traveling by night and hiding by day. It would mean certain death if they had been discovered.

On a starry, moon-lit night, they approached the Ghana border. A large contingent of the hostile rebel army was located within one-hundred feet of the place they needed to pass through. With much fear and trembling, with prayers on their lips and in their hearts – they cautiously proceeded. Suddenly, the sky turned dark and a torrential rain fell, and they were able to pass by unseen by the rebels to enter the haven of Ghana.

There, they were placed in a refugee camp and David worked with the United Nations and the Lutheran Refugee Organization. David was able to receive refugee status to go to the United States, but his wife and family did not. They were faced with a difficult decision. If they were to stay in the refugee camp they would be dependent upon the UN for everything (food, shelter, clothing), because jobs were not available in this economically depressed refugee area. If David went to the USA there would be opportunity to work and send money to the family to provide for their needs, especially the children's schooling. In most African countries, school is not free. At a minimum, all the school supplies and uniforms must be purchased by the parents.



Receiving citizenship.

Uniforms are a requirement for all African schools.

In the winter of 2006, David arrived in Worcester, MA to a new snowy, cold climate. He was able to get a paying job, and at times two jobs, to cover his living expenses and send the bulk of his earnings to Ghana to care for his family. Much of the time he lived in poverty, surviving on rice.

One Sunday morning while on a walk, he spotted a sign that read "Apostolic Lutheran Church: All Welcome". He went into the church service and has faithfully been attending since. He has said that he felt the love of God's people towards him and was warmly welcomed by all, even the children. That love is a mutual love in Christ, wherein it is evident that we are the children of God when we love one another. David loves God's children, and he even refers to the little ones as his children. He is a vital part of

Continued on page 5...

our church, where he serves as a Sunday school teacher, assistant Sunday school superintendent, a board member, and a lay preacher.

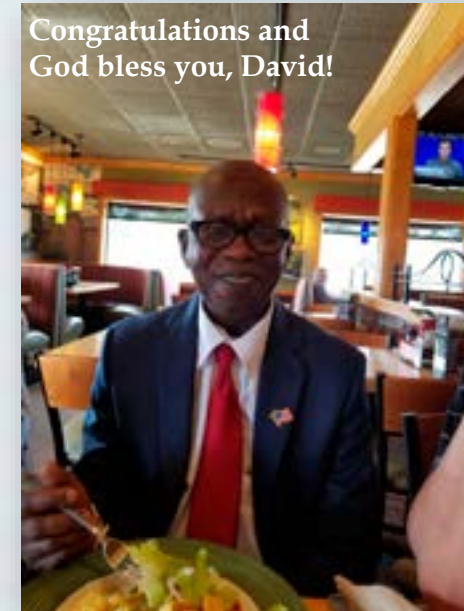
It is amazing to consider that David's family are members of the church in the refugee camp that the FM is with each year in Ghana, and that God led David to be in the USA in the church pastored by the FM missionary that travels to Ghana.

Some Africans in Worcester have asked David why he attends a white church. Besides being fed with God's Word, he asks them how many of their pastors have visited their families in Africa. When they respond that their pastors have not, David says,

"My pastor visits my family in Ghana every year".

This October, David was sworn in as an American citizen. Many from the church were there with him to share in this joyous occasion. The church members donated money to purchase airline tickets and cover other expenses to reunite David with his family after eleven years of being apart. David spent the month of December with them and has started the paperwork to allow his wife, Elizabeth, and the children under the age of eighteen to be able to immigrate to the USA to live as a family again.

David was able to celebrate the true joys of Christmas united with his loved ones, in addition to



Congratulations and God bless you, David!

celebrating his 72nd birthday. We pray for God's richest blessings upon them. God is so good!

## "EMEM ABASI!" FROM THE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH OF NIGERIA

By Pastor Frank Famiyeh

As Pastor Bob Maki and I arrived at the small airport in Uyo, capital city of the Akwa Ibom State, the Nigerian church president warmly greeted us with "Emem Abasi" – "God's peace" in the Ibibio language.

There is no other church that I have visited in any other country where people have greeted so often with the ALC greeting of God's peace. How Nigerians love to greet and make friends!

During our two-week stay we were taken to visit all of the twenty-four congregations of the Nigerian Church; and in all of these places we were graciously received by a gathering of

brethren waiting anxiously to meet and greet us with "Emem Abasi".

With these congregations, we worshipped and preached the Gospel. Many were touched by the sermons in which repentance and forgiveness of sins were extensively preached, and they responded to our calls to them to believe their sins forgiven through the name and blood of Jesus.

It was apparent that the Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the Word, was working faith in the hearts of several hearers to repent and believe the Gospel. We therefore laid hands on them and pronounced forgiveness of all

their sins in Jesus name and precious blood.

We appealed to the president of the church to encourage the pastors to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins, citing the ministry of reconciliation and the Office of the Keys that our Lord has given for our use.

Our visit to Nigeria coincided with the 52nd anniversary and convention of the church and we were thrilled to take part in the celebrations. One highlight of our trip took place when a Gospel outreach and street evangelism program, led by the evangelism team of the church, went to the

Continued on Page 6...



A joyful day.

streets to minister to the people. They distributed tracts and Pastor Bob Maki preached to several onlookers who had lined the streets to listen. We trusted that the Holy Spirit would work repentance and faith in the hearts of those who heard our preaching. The anniversary celebrations climaxed with a well-attended Sunday service at the vast convention grounds where Pastor Maki and I were privileged to preach sermons.

What a blessed time the Lord gave us to share His Gospel with fellow believers in the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Nigeria! We pray He sends us there again in His own time.

Emem Abasi!

*Pastor Frank Famiyeh*



Outreach services.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RAINFOREST

By Gregory Greve

As I walked in our misty island rainforest this morning, praying and seeking our Lord's wisdom and inspiration for this article, I thought of the Foreign Mission newsletter's North American audience and wondered what message or inspiration the Lord might give for them through my experiences in Kenya. I thought about how He provides for our work in foreign lands through your prayers and contributions, and so my prayer was that I might write something that would encourage you in your part of the work.

Most of what is inspiring for me in the mission field is found in simple things, such as in the genuine welcome of brothers and sisters thirsty for the Word, or in the passionate song and praise during worship service. I find them in the thirsty eyes that

follow me as I preach and in the tears and humble hearts seeking prayer, forgiveness, and blessings after service. I find them in the calling of local men and women who give their lives for the service of Christ and His children. Yet on each trip there are special moments that always stay with you.

One of those moments came for me at the day's end when the services were over. We had retired to our little guest house in the lush, Kenyan highlands and sat drinking tea and sharing the day's events, when a man came knocking at our door. He came in, sat down, we poured him some tea, and shared some of our food with him. He began to speak and one of the pastors translated for me. "He says he has come to greet you, Gregory, because of how you answered his question today. He

had been struggling in his heart with the question of forgiveness for a long time, but after hearing from you today, he felt he could finally believe."

After a service earlier in the day I had asked if there were any questions on the hearts of the hearers. As I answered questions from them about life and faith matters, this elderly man who had been listening from way in the back stood up and asked "Can a murderer be forgiven?" I looked at him for a moment and said, "Yes, absolutely!" I then began a lengthy explanation of my answer, including the stories of King David and of Apostle Paul. I talked especially about David and compared his crime, relating how much more heinous it was, even when compared with someone who might simply have gotten

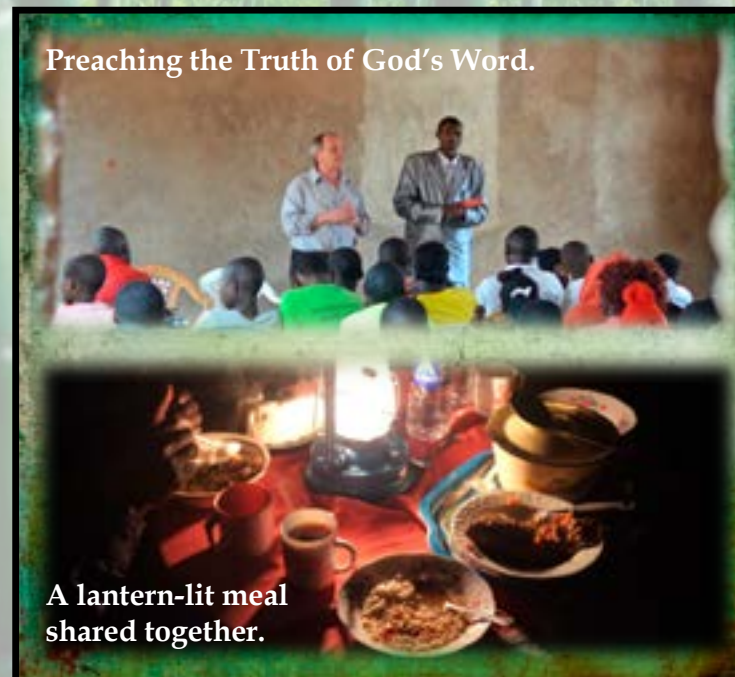
**Continued on page 7...**

angry and killed out of passion. Then I opened the Psalms and talked about David's heart and about his repentance and our Father's response to all of that, finally bringing it all around to our own sins and to Christ, who died so that we might live.

I had remembered the man and his question, but I waited until later, when he left, to ask about his story. I learned that he was a village elder and a few years earlier he had come across a young, unmarried couple from his village being affectionate in public. He reprimanded them, and the young man got angry and threatened the elder with a beating. The altercation escalated, and the young man came after the elder-- who hit him squarely on the head with his cane. The next day the young man began to complain that he didn't feel well, and the following day he was sent to the hospital where he died. This elder spent three years in prison for that young man's

death, where he repented and became a Christian, yet he always struggled to know for certain if God had really forgiven him. I didn't have any idea about his story when I answered his question. It didn't even cross my mind that he was speaking about himself, and so it seems wondrous to me how the Lord led me to answer the question in such a way, and with the correct details, so that his heart would finally be comforted.

This may seem like a simple story from the mission field, but it was a vital one for that brother's heart and for our Lord's heart too, as Christ truly cares and is concerned for His children. Of course, it is not only these simple cups of water that your prayers and contributions support, but they are all vital parts of it. May the Lord touch your heart to know that even if you never set foot into the mission field personally, your prayers and contributions to that work do not go unnoticed.



Preaching the Truth of God's Word.

A lantern-lit meal shared together.

**Where He Leads** is published quarterly by the Foreign Mission Board of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America, P.O. Box 574, Brush Prairie, WA 98606, under authorization number (USPS 02 1-043), and is distributed free-of-charge to congregations in America, Canada, and foreign countries.

### Editor:

Ashley DeVries  
P.O. Box 251  
Carlton, MN 55718  
Tel: 218-390-5030  
ashleydevries@gmail.com

### Co-editor:

Liisa Seppanen  
705 NE Clark Avenue  
Battle Ground, WA 98604  
Tel: 360-702-9060  
jacobandliisa@gmail.com

### WAYS TO HELP THE FOREIGN MISSION

- Foreign Mission general fund support— used for preaching of the Gospel
- Specially Earmarked Funds, such as:

- Bible Fund
- Emergency Medical Fund
- Church Building Fund
- Bicycles for Poor Pastors (\$85)
- Water Wells
- Mission Hospital in India
- Other funding ideas:
- Memorial Funds
- Endowment Funds
- Top Five Current Specific Needs List (available by emailing: [foreignmission@comcast.net](mailto:foreignmission@comcast.net))

### DONATIONS

Donations in support of Foreign Mission efforts can be made electronically at [www.themissionsite.com](http://www.themissionsite.com) using the 'Click here to Donate' button, or you can mail a check to:

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America  
1601 NW 4th Avenue  
Battle Ground, WA, 98604

For a check, write: Apostolic Lutheran Church Foreign Mission. Donations can be earmarked to support any of the areas identified.

### THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Maki, Chairman  
Scott Niemitalo, Vice Chairman  
Greg Greve, Secretary  
Jacob Seppanen, Vice Secretary  
Michael Krupinov, Treasurer  
Andy Whitten: Vice Treasurer  
Raymond Hilman, Trustee  
Ansten Tretten, Trustee  
Brian Niemitalo: Trustee

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

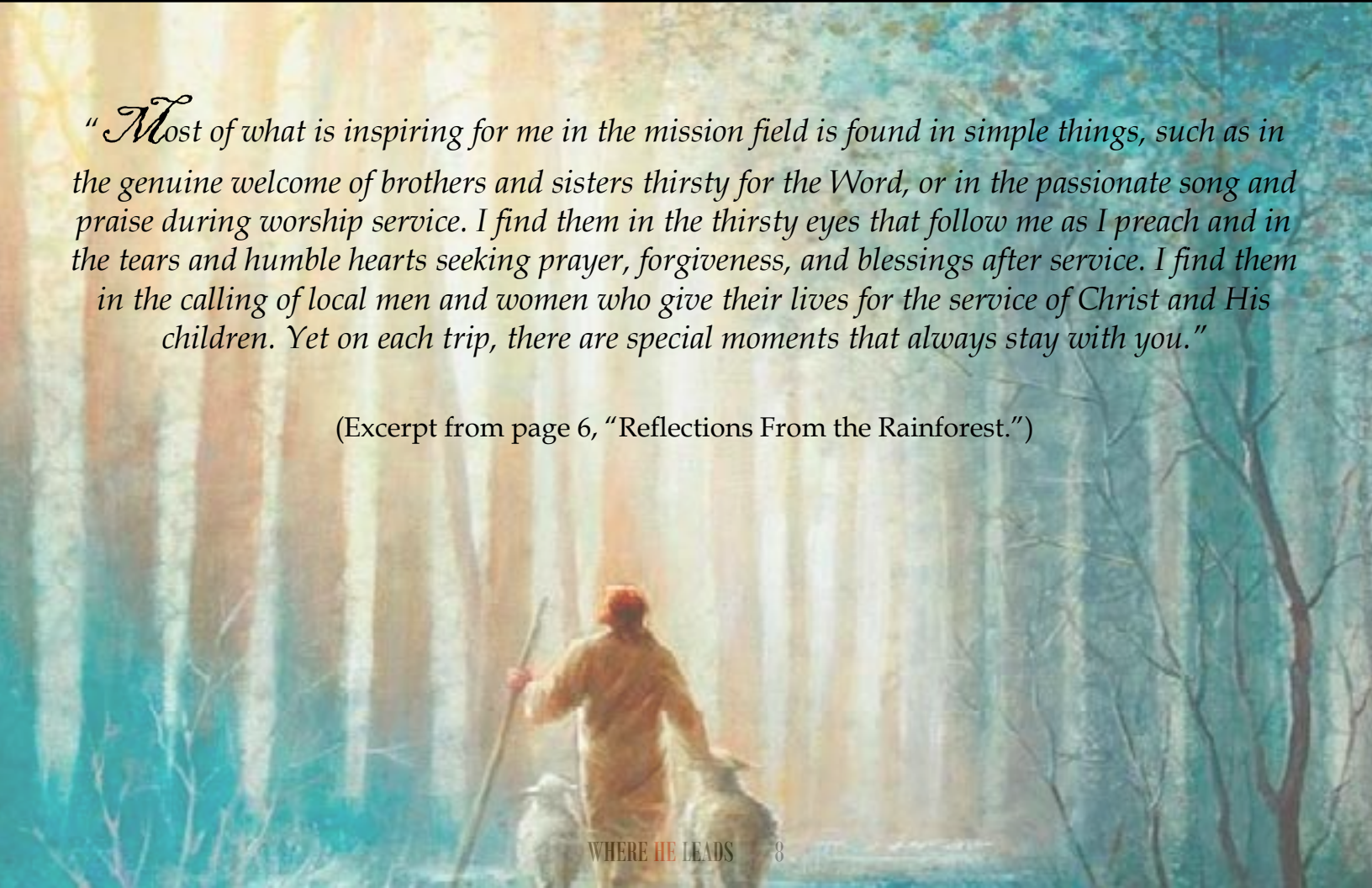
P.O. Box 574

Brush Prairie, WA 98606

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED?

When we get returned newsletters, the Foreign Mission has to pay for the return postage. Help us avoid this unnecessary cost by notifying us if your mailing address has changed. Please send an email to Ashley DeVries at [ashleydevries@gmail.com](mailto:ashleydevries@gmail.com).



*“Most of what is inspiring for me in the mission field is found in simple things, such as in the genuine welcome of brothers and sisters thirsty for the Word, or in the passionate song and praise during worship service. I find them in the thirsty eyes that follow me as I preach and in the tears and humble hearts seeking prayer, forgiveness, and blessings after service. I find them in the calling of local men and women who give their lives for the service of Christ and His children. Yet on each trip, there are special moments that always stay with you.”*

(Excerpt from page 6, “Reflections From the Rainforest.”)