

# 2007 SPRING EDITION Chapel NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY CHAPEL WARWICK, RI

## - Pastor's Corner -

### *"Go out of the country? Me?!"*

Out of the state!? I can't leave my comfort zone, (even if it's not comfortable). I'd have to get a passport and all that. Missions trips are good for someone else, maybe for those younger, older, more spiritual, smarter, richer. I'm too busy right now. I don't have what it takes. What could I do?"

I believe that anyone could potentially go on a missions trip. Not that everyone has to. It's not a required thing we must do to enter heaven, but rather a blessing that we *get* to go! I have been blessed, challenged, stretched, taught, (and so much more!), every time I've gone on a trip. My thought is, if you can go even once in your lifetime, go. It's so worth it, and you will not regret it!

### *But, why should I go?*

**Because God will use you, in ways you never thought possible.**

You have so much more to offer than you think. God has given you gifts and a unique personality that you can share with others. I've seen all different types of people go and give. And we so often receive more than we ever give!

**It's part of fulfilling the Great Commission.**

Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"(Mark 16:15 NIV), We are bringing the good news to people all around the world. Going on a trip often opens our eyes to the needs of the world, and gives us an awareness that the world is so much bigger than our little corner.



**You will bless the long-term missionaries in the field.**

This is one of our main goals when we go on a trip from our church. We ask ourselves: *How can we encourage them? What can we bring them? What are their needs?* They are always so appreciative of the fellowship and support.

The fellowship experienced with team members is always a blessing. God knits hearts together as people go out and serve as a team.

**God may be preparing you for the future.**

Some are called to go out for longer periods...some even for life. Going on a short trip gives one a taste of life in a foreign country. After Paula and I went on a short trip to England, we felt God calling us to go back. We ended up living in England for three years, which was a very special time in our lives.

**Because you can!**

If you're willing, God can put it all together for you to go.

A couple more questions you may be asking...

*"How could I ever afford it?"*

I've seen over and over again how God provides!! This is something that

## Focus on Missions

After listening to all the great testimonies from everyone who went on the recent missions trip to Nicaragua, Ulana and I had a strong desire on our hearts to focus the upcoming newsletter on missions. It's something at the very core of who we are as Christians, and the work God has called us to in our jobs, in our homes, and sometimes, further afield.

We're both humbled and excited by the examples everyone has shared with us in putting this edition together, and hope you will be too.

Danny & Ulana Chapman,  
*Editors*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:19

really builds your faith, seeing how God provides for the trip.

*"What if I'm afraid?"*

Fear. I know what that's like. I always feel anxiety and fear before I go. Even after going on quite a few trips, I remember being scared to death preparing to go to India for the first time.

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# Life Changing Experience

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Timothy DiPilato

**Whenever someone asks me “what was your most life changing experience?” I never have to think twice about the answer.**

When I was fifteen, I went on a short-term mission trip to Africa. Sixteen of us went to Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire (the Ivory Coast), where we performed a drama that told the gospel story, and spoke through interpreters to witness to the people there.

Before I left for Africa, I had lots of doubts about the whole trip. I didn’t know how I was going to get the money to go, wondered whether I should be a stronger Christian before I went, and I didn’t have a clue as to what it would be like to live in Africa for almost a month. One of the things that going to Africa proved to me, was how good God is at providing us the ability to do whatever He asks us to do.

Going to a different country and being in a different culture were super cool opportunities in and of themselves, but those things were the least of what I got out of the trip. While we were there, we had to work as a team to get anything accomplished. We all had a responsibility to each other and more importantly to God. I got to know God better while on the trip than I had ever known Him before. For me, the best thing that I experienced from the mission trip was the feeling of waking up in the morning, knowing that the reason I woke up was to hang out with God, serve Him and show His love to the people that He loves.

My life has been so impacted by the things that I experienced on that short-term mission trip, that even now, 6 years after coming back, I am continually encouraged and affected by it.

“The Bible is full of ordinary people who went to impossible places and did wondrous things simply because they decided to obey God.

Brother Andrew,  
Open Doors

*Pastor, continued from page 1*

Upon arrival in a foreign country, in strange surroundings, I’ve felt so often, “What am I doing here? Why did I come?” But when it’s time to go home, I’m asking, “What was I so afraid of? Do I have to leave? Can’t I stay longer? When can I come back?!”

My conclusion: If every believer could go even once on some kind of missions trip...they, and the world would be blessed. Next time an opportunity comes up...will you consider it? Yes, even *you!*

In His Love,  
*Pastor Rich*

## - Nuts & Bolts -

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### ■ Softball Season is here!

To keep track of things, check out: [www.christiansoftballassociation.org](http://www.christiansoftballassociation.org)

### ■ Interested in writing for the newsletter?

Got some great testimonies to share? Pictures? News?

E-mail us at [dchapman02@mac.com](mailto:dchapman02@mac.com) or stop by one of our meetings after church on Sunday.

- **Calvary Chapel Meals Ministry** is a ministry seeking to serve families & individuals who, due to the disruptions of moving, sickness, new babies etc., need meals prepared for them. If you need meals, call Pam Moccia (401) 353-3895 or Beth Birkenfeld (401) 732-9396. If you would like to make meals, and / or deliver meals, sign-up on the “Meals Ministry” sheet, located on the resource table at church. We welcome any other creative meal ideas (gift certificates, pizza delivery etc.)

# Leading a Missions Team: An Interview with Kyle Birkenfeld

**Danny & Ulana Chapman**

## **What was your first experience with missions?**

In 2001, my first trip was to Nicaragua to visit the orphanage there with Pastor Rich. It was the second Nicaragua trip Calvary Chapel Warwick took.

## **Did you ever think you'd be leading a mission trip? No!**

## **And how did that change?**

This opportunity came up because Rich wanted to go on a different mission trip and wasn't going to be able to do both of them. So I volunteered at that point —It was on my heart. My wife Beth also had it on her heart to lead up a team and go back down there again.

## **How do you feel God prepared you to lead the mission trip to Nicaragua in January?**

First, He gave us the desire and then, He just led us step by step. Because there's so much that is unknown on a missions trip, because each one has it's own dynamics, it really is a step by step process of trusting in the Lord.

## **Did you have any stumbling blocks with work trying to find the time to go down there?**

I did not, but that is one of the challenges for the team in general. The time off and the financial cost are very worrisome things for people on the team. It always looks like it's not going to be able to happen. Because I've been through it times before, it helps me when I'm wondering if this trip could really happen. The experience of other trips helps me to put my trust in the Lord and know that He would provide everything in the end.

## **How was leading a team different from being a part of a team?**

When you're part of a team I think you focus on what God is going to do with you personally. You look for change in yourself to see what He's doing in you. This time we really



had to concentrate on the team and as a result got to watch what God is doing in them. I think I was able to see changes more in other people, rather than in myself. Even though I know God did a lot of changes in me also.

## **What were some of the difficulties?**

The biggest challenge was leading it, having never done that before, and the responsibility that comes with that role. You're responsible for a whole team, you're taking them into another country, you need to get them back home safely. One of the biggest challenges in leading was to make sure that the team members have a positive experience. For a lot of them it was their first missions trip. Keeping everybody focused on what God would have us do was another challenge.

## **What was the most rewarding part of the trip?**

The biggest reward was watching God work through the whole trip, both in people and in Leon and Tiffany. Watching them be blessed and the fellowship between the team and them really stood out for me. It was just such a blessing and a reward to see that. I feel that we've strengthened the bond between our church and Leon and Tiffany greatly on the trip.

## **Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share?**

Serving with my wife drew us closer. With her helping me lead the team, we had to work together for the Lord to accomplish what He wanted.



Again, just to watch the people serving God and blessing other people was just a blessing for us. There was one thing that really stuck out. We were back in one of the colonies that we had previously been in before. We put on a festival and when we were all done, a bunch of the kids were asking, "When are you coming

*Continues on page 4*

back? When are you coming back? “ that just really just touched me, they want us here, they want us to come back. Beth asked Leon when they’d be coming back to answer the kids, and Leon said, “I don’t know, when are you coming back?” It just leaves that big open door there!

### What comes next?

My heart would be to lead another trip to Leon and Tiffany’s if it’s God’s will to continue this. I think it is good for our church to have other people in addition to our pastor leading trips. This opens up more doors, more trips, and increases missions opportunities in our church.

## A Reflection...

Beth Birkenfeld

**“We cannot imagine what God will do, in us, through us, working side by side with others and individually, when we commit ourselves to His service with unhindered hearts. Every moment of a mission trip can remind us of this, as it draws us away from our normal routines to focus on living for Him. Might we always remember, as we return home to our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and communities, that He is the same God, and will continue to empower us as we walk in faith and choose to live for Him.”**

*“Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”*

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

## The Bookshelf

The following is a list of thought-provoking books I recommend on the subject of missions. Note: I have chosen books that will stretch our thoughts and ideas of what missions is. All books should be read in light of the first one on the list. – Steve Hunter

### ***The Bible***

We’re talking the whole thing here – not just Matthew 28 and Acts 1! While every verse may not directly relate to missions, the Bible’s theme of God redeeming His people who stray, decidedly informs our view of missions.

### ***Operation World: When We Pray God Works***

An amazing resource of facts and insights into every country and many of the major people groups of the world, this book is laid out with a missions related prayer for every day of the year.

### ***Ministering Cross-Culturally***, Lingenfelter and Mayers

This book highlights the importance of understanding our own cultural biases as key to understanding the personal and corporate cultures of others.

### ***Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God’s Mission in the Bible*** by Arthur F. Glasser

The major premise of this book is that “The Whole Bible is a Missionary Book”, and argues against lines of thought which presume that the New Testament has superseded the Old Testament.

### ***Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s or Ours?*** by Roland Allen

Written in the early 1900s, this book is relevant today as many people are taking a fresh look at how the church fulfills its role in the Great Commission.

### ***Let the Nations be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*** by John Piper

A few sentences from page 11 say it all: “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t...It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.”

### ***Revolution in World Missions***, by K.P. Yohannan

The author recounts his life and journey, while making a strong case for the Native Missionary Movement and challenging the way westerners view and practice the Great Commission.

### ***Perspectives: On the World Christian Movement***

This collection of articles covers just about every aspect of missions and brings up issues that confront Christians living in a multicultural world. Contributors include many respected missions scholars.

The opinions stated in this publication do not necessarily express the stated position of Calvary Chapel. Send comments, concerns or questions for the editor to dchapman02@mac.com. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Danny & Ulana Chapman, Editors.

# Mission: Impossible?

Carolyn Mariorenzi



A few weeks ago, I went out with a friend to a busy local restaurant. Over fish and chips, we caught up and shared what's been happening in our lives. We chatted happily over our meal about our children, husbands and faith. As my friend was sharing, I briefly thought about how cool it was to have her in my life, and what a blessing it is to share with her what God is teaching me.

Then my friend said, "You know, it's been much easier for me to share Jesus with the people I work with than it is to be a godly witness in my own home, lately."

I smiled and nodded in agreement with her statement. She touched upon the very issue that's been weighing heavily on me. I questioned myself: Am I being a godly example for my family? Do I open my mouth with wisdom as the woman described in Proverbs 31:26? Is the teaching of kindness on my tongue? And in that moment in the restaurant, I was convicted. I'm not being the Missionary in my own family that I am to others. I'm not encouraging my family as easily as I do my friends.

The challenges of dealing of with unbelieving family members are shared by all of us. We all have loved ones we desperately long to see praying the prayer of salvation. I can honestly say there've been times, especially lately, when my daily walk has been almost too much to bear. I cry out to God that I can't take anymore, that I am at my end. Sometimes, crying hard into my pillow, I feel I just want to sleep until all my trials go away.

Then, gracefully, softly, the Holy Spirit speaks to me and I start to calm down. He soothes my troubled heart by reminding me that I am exactly where my Father wants me to be. My home is my mission field. I am to remain here to "be a light" (Matthew 5:16) so that the people in my family can see my changed life and give glory to God. In order to accomplish this, I need to stay connected to Jesus, daily go to Him in prayer, meditate on his word, and even fast at times. I need to allow God to change me, so that my life can witness to those around me. I cannot change others, but I can allow God to change **me**.

I am comforted to know that God sees every struggle, every tear I shed, and forgives every breakdown and fit of rage. The Lord is faithful to lead me to the very scripture I need during these times. Recently, I have been reading about Abraham and his unwavering faith in God. In my situation I need to trust in God as he did. I can't see the bigger picture, but my God **can**. If I trust, abide, and wait, I know I'll see His working in the situation.

In Romans 4:20-21, Paul says of Abraham: "No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised." I am convinced that God will do as He promises.

God has promised to never leave me nor forsake me. He's promised to never give me more than I can bear. He promises that He will forgive my sins and remember them no more. Now, my job is to be obedient to His word, and daily give my trials to Him. Today, as I take another day to God in prayer, I ask Him for help and ask Him to work in me.

**Today it's Mission: Possible!**

**"When we have a crisis of encounter, we should find it irresistible to tell the world how great He is."**

**Matthew Ellison, sixteen:fifteen**

Special thanks to Joe Silva for all our quotes on missions!

# A Nicaragua Journal

Tom Vigil

## Saturday

We spent the night in Managua, Nicaragua's largest city of 1.4 million people. Our agenda for the day was to travel to Nueva Guinea a four hour bus ride. We were expecting an old school bus for this adventure, however, a new large Mercedes tour bus complete with TV monitors pulled up! We arrived in Nueva Guinea and were dropped off at the church grounds – a fenced off two acre property across the street from the neighborhood park. We ate lunch and then relaxed the rest of the day.



## Monday

We didn't have any plans for the day so we decided to go to the park across the street to play with the local kids. It wasn't long before we got involved in an intense soccer game. These kids were good and barefoot. Even though there was a language barrier, we were able to communicate a little bit. I quickly became friends with Absalom, Tino and Rio. After the soccer game, Kyle and I were asked to play baseball with some teenagers. That was a lot of fun and it wasn't long before all the kids were calling me Tomas and the little kids called me Tomasita.

## Tuesday

Today we put on a festival at the park across the street. We had face painting, picture taking (kids love pictures), potato sack racing (I was in charge of that), crafts, and a game called "knock the cans down" with a tennis ball. After each game we would pass out candy. Kids really love candy! All the candy creates lots of trash, so I started to speak spanglish and conned the kids to pick up trash. The idea was to have them pick up their candy wrappers, however, a little boy started to pick up arms full of dead palm tree leaves and dead plants for candy! Later at night, we had church. The church was filled mostly with kids. The kids really love to sing and clap their hands loud and nonstop for every worship song.



## Wednesday

The church built a little building for a Bible college and a library. To help the pastor with the ongoing work for this building Kyle, Carlos and I were involved in a unique job. They needed us to dig an 8 ft long, 3 ft wide and 11 ft deep hole for a septic tank. The dirt was actually clay, and we had shovels and picks. We worked about 3 hours that day and got a lot accomplished. We were also working with a 55 yr old Nicaraguan named Victor who outworked us without gloves and who rarely rested. We rested a lot and had gloves (I still got a blister).

## Thursday

Today consisted of more digging. At night we walked to town to pass out little brochures about Jesus and then get ice cream. It is about a 15-20 minute walk to town and the streets are not paved. Every little house has chickens and banana trees. Some houses have pigs tied to their fences. There are some cars but most people get around by walking or by horse. As we were walking around town I heard a few kids yell "Tomas." They were some of the teenagers I played soccer and baseball with the first day.

## Friday

The church bought 2 little jungle monkeys a while ago and they have a large cage in the backyard. After breakfast, Kyle and I fed the monkeys fruit and gave some cola to one of the monkeys. The monkey grabbed the plastic bottle and chugged half of it. Today we took about 20 kids down to the river to play. The river was clean, warm, not deep and about 3 miles away. Kyle played the role of John the Baptist and baptized me. The kids were having a great time. They were splashing each other and screaming. The adults were doing the same thing, even the ladies who were with us and were fully clothed got in for some fun.



## Sunday

We decided to rent 2 trucks to take us up to a small mountain village about an hour away so we could have another festival. The trucks that took us and all of our tables, crafts and games were old Russian military trucks. We all stood up in the back of the truck, which had a large canvas top to cover our heads. A few of the guys had to stand on the back of the truck and hang on (a common way to travel). We hit a couple of rainstorms on the way and got a little wet. We also hit a couple of bumps and almost lost Kyle. The festival went well, the kids took home pictures of themselves (there are no cameras in the village).

## Monday

We headed back to Managua to hit the marketplace for a few hours before we hit the swimming pool. It's summer over there but it was little cool. The weather was sunny with an average of 80-85. I didn't complain. All in all, this was a nice trip. It was humbling to see the poverty there but I learned a lot. We were safe at all times and I hope we helped the community there.

## Site Seeing by Joe Silva

**“Missions and Worship. The Great Commission will be over and done with once we reach heaven, but Worship goes into eternity. This is a journal of our pursuit of them both.”**

– Anthony and Irene Chapman

Our featured site for this edition of ChapelNEWS is **ResoNations.org**, where you can follow Anthony and Irene as they pursue missions and worship in Israel. At ResoNations you can keep up with the latest goings on in their lives, hearts and minds by way of their blog (web log) and monthly newsletters; see photos; download MP3s of their music or a pilot of the radio show they hope to make a reality someday. You can also find contact info there (including email and snail mail), and ways that you can help support them in fulfilling the Great Commission.

**“ResoNations is about God’s heart for the Nations resonating in our hearts, and about the hearts of His people around the globe resonating together in worship of Him.”**



# - Treasurer's Corner -

by Norman LeBlanc, C.P.A.



At Calvary Warwick, we support a number of different missions. Like all our financial decisions this is the result of team interaction and input. The current missions we support are:

C o m p a s s i o n International, For Zion's Sake, Gospel for Asia, Horizon International, Lord of the Harvest, Shepherd's Staff, The Bible League, and Calvary Chapel Nicaragua. These are the same missions we pray aloud for on Sunday mornings and keep additional information available on the back table.

"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Ever wonder how missions and missionaries obtain their support? Have you ever wondered what their needs are? Before we can answer these questions we must realize that not all missions are the same. The biggest difference is the length of each mission.

However, regardless of length, it takes a special person of real faith to serve in any of these capacities.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt. 9:37-38)

Short-term missions tend to be a month or less in length, and are usually composed of a group of believers volunteering to visit and assist an established missionary. They usually pay for travel and other minor expenses themselves, or receive help from close friends and family. Food and housing are provided by the established missionary they are staying with.

Then there are mid-term missions that usually last 1-2 years. Mid-term missionaries need much more support. In addition to travel expenses, they must also cover living expenses while in the mission field plus lingering needs from home. Their support usually comes from a core group of close believers, from their church, and sometimes from professional organizations.

Long-term missions can last most of a person's lifetime. These missionaries start a new life of full-time service to

God, which also creates a need for the greatest amount of support. In addition to providing for themselves, they often establish ministries such as schools and orphanages. In making the mission field their permanent home, they usually start families of their own. Their needs are much greater than what can be provided for by themselves or close friends. Usually they must rely on large groups of Christians and professional organizations, which have the resources to help support them long-term.

Missionaries badly need more than just financial support. They need our communications as a reminder that they are not alone – that they have people who care about them no matter where they are. They need our visits and short-term mission trips to help with outreach, repairs, and large projects. Most importantly, they need our prayers for strength and opportunity.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (Ephesians 6:19-20).

## Congratulations to Ricky & Amy!

