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**VOICE + HANDS, TOGETHER** 

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## //HEARING CHALLENGE OPENS OPPORTUNITIES TO REFOCUS//

I was driving not too long ago, listening to the radio when I noticed that the singer's words were muffled. I was miffed. How could something so unclear be broadcast on air? My passenger (my wife) informed me that the music was perfectly clear. That's when I realized the problem was mine.

The ENT doctor I visited soon after told me that if I had come to him right away, antibiotics could have precluded the hearing loss in my right ear. Unfortunately, I never noticed the viral infection that had caused the problem. Thus, I was presented with a new reality—life with a hearing aid. Not two, just one of those behind-the-ear thingamajigs with a plastic filament that goes over your ear and pokes into the canal. Welcome to a stop along the pathway of aging!

Actually, I've found out that hearing aids aren't so bad. They're practically invisible so no one notices (saving one's vanity!). They can connect to your phone, so you freely get involved in technological training (whether you want to or not).

Of course one also has to learn to respect the swimming pool and the shower; electronic devices don't take well to water! And, being rather small, they have a sneaky way of hiding from time to time. They affect your awareness of others, especially in situations with background conversations in people-filled settings such as churches and restaurants. But I found one big plus. If I want to ignore someone or avoid unwanted advice, I simply position the person on my bad-ear side ... relief!

On a more serious note, my transition to needing hearing support has had the unexpected effect of helping me focus on multiple aspects of hearing. I've marveled at how God created such a wondrous instrument as the ear so I can interact with the world. I've come to truly appreciate the fact that I can hear at all. What a marvelous gift!

Adjusting to this minor handicap, I've found myself paying more attention to the world around me. In fact, as I have to work a bit harder at what once came naturally, I no longer take it for granted.



The Lord has used this new reality to get my attention to hearing at a spiritual level. The Holy Spirit within me seems to be saying, "Please pay more attention to me so I can help you pay more attention to others. I have work for you to do." I know I'm being called to attend more to what God is transmitting to me about the people around me so I can better be the hands and feet (and ears) of Jesus.

Scripture has come alive, like when Peter says, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). This is a deeper kind

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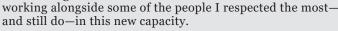
# **//OLIVER DOSSMANN: A STORY THAT'S GONE FULL CIRCLE//**

by Harold Goerzen

Life has gone full circle for Oliver Dossmann who was a teenager when his parents, Daniel and Françoise, joined

Reach Beyond to serve as French radio programmers in 1983. Now 53 years old, Oliver is again vitally involved in the mission as he joined the board of trustees in 2022.

"I love serving on the board," Oliver said in an email interview. "Everyone calls it a 'full circle' as I went from a young MK, loving everything about the mission and the people in it, to now serving as a board member and



"When Ron Cline emailed me last year and asked me if I would consider being a candidate for the board, I was very excited," Oliver related. "There was no way I could say no! It's an honor to serve in that capacity."

While conceding that the mission has gone through many changes in recent years, he said the "essence remains the same. The means/ways to do ministry have changed, but not the focus to reach the world for Christ. Seeing RB's offspring ministries such as Radio HCJB, Inspiracom and SonSet Solutions now flourishing on their own is a testament to the values and dedication of the people within the RB family."

Oliver became a believer in France when he was about 10 years old through the influence of his parents who came to Christ in 1973 after a long quest for truth and meaning of life. Their search led them to yoga and Eastern mysticism, including visits to India.

Reading the Bible, however, Daniel became convinced of its truth, and Françoise recalls that "when I was crying to God the Creator, I had an encounter with Jesus in my heart." She subsequently discerned that "if I can feel Jesus' presence in my heart, He is alive, and if He is alive, He is God. If He is God, the Bible is the truth."

The Dossmanns eventually moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to study at a Bible school. Later living at Amboise, France, they first heard about a missions opportunity in Ecuador via their pastor's wife who was acquainted with Tom and Lois Fulghum, Reach Beyond retirees now living in Arizona.

Feeling compelled by God to serve in Ecuador, the Dossmanns

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### //OLIVER DOSSMANN//

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began a year of Spanish language studies in 1983 at Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, TX.

"While my parents were learning Spanish, I learned English," Oliver said. "I was 13 years old, and I fell in love with the U.S. and knew I would want to come back to the U.S. for college after high school. We also had the opportunity to travel with the

Oliver on the day he was baptized at English Fellowship Church in Quito.

Allens and the Clines on numerous occasions for conferences. Those were always wonderful times."

Oliver described his teenage years in Quito as "amazing. I loved everything—the people, the mountains and especially HCJB. The Dossmanns also attended English Fellowship Church for the evening service where Oliver was baptized at the age of 14.

"HCJB had a huge impact on my life, especially the wonderful people who served there and included me in ministry," Oliver continued. "I always felt like the missionaries involved me in ministry instead of thinking of me as 'just a kid.' That changed my life and set a tone that put me on a trajectory to want to be involved in missions."

The staff put Oliver to work in various areas of ministry—everything from running sound for events to being a PACS operator, managing the English-language tapes library, and helping in engineering, TV and construction.

"I also built LED maps showing where HCJB had listeners," Oliver explained. "I built one for the English Language Service, and then everyone else wanted one, including one at the international headquarters in Colorado Springs."

Oliver recalls that when he was working on a computer program to keep track of listeners, "Glen Volkhardt called me one day and said, 'I have an office for you. I think you're going to like it. It's in the White House on the main floor with Ron Cline, Ben Cummings, Jim Allen and Scott Higgins.' How many kids can say that they had an office in the White House with those great men I admired so much? To thank them later I made one of my LED

maps for the hallway."

"I never really wanted to get into broadcasting," Oliver shared. "I was more interested in the technical side of things, computers and management." Learning all he could about the mission, he pored through the annual reports, attended every meeting he was allowed to attend, talked to the leaders whenever possible, and learned



Running sound at the Larson Center

to know the missionaries on a first-name basis.

Each day at the end of classes at Alliance Academy International, Oliver said he "headed straight across the street to HCJB. One highlight I remember was talking the Alliance Academy administrators into letting me do a weeklong 'work study' in Pifo. It was a great time at the transmitter site—mostly working outdoors on the antennas."

He also has fond memories of spending a week with his parents visiting Rachel Saint in the jungle Waorani village of Toñanpare. "We made several trips to the jungle, flying with Mission Aviation Fellowship, and those were wonderful trips," Oliver related.

After graduating from high school, Oliver wrestled about which direction to go. "My dad was a musician, and I would hear music

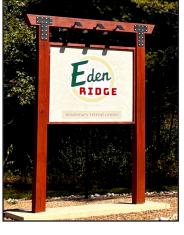
(that I make up) in my head all the time. Could I become a musician? Maybe," Oliver related. "I love the outdoors and mountains in particular. Could I become a nature guide or work as a park ranger in a national park? Maybe. I love aerospace. Could I become an engineer and work on rockets? Maybe. I love business. Could I build a business into a big company and become wealthy? Maybe."

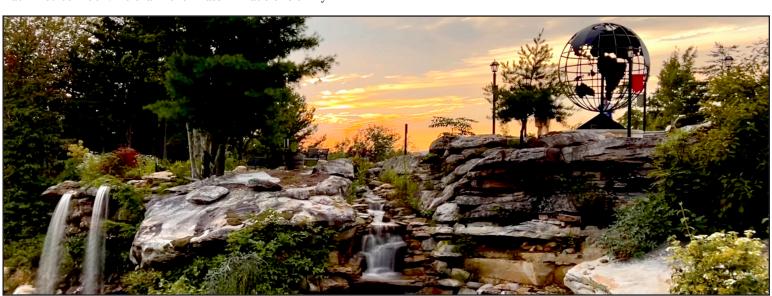
He finally settled on Union University in Jackson, TN. "A series of decisions had brought me to that point," he recalled. "Honestly, I'd never heard of Union before seeing an ad for it in a magazine. I was looking for a Christian university I could afford and offered computer science as a field of study. Union fit the bill."

Little did Oliver know that his decision to attend Union would be life-changing in more ways than one. "That's where I met my wife, Rachel," he related. "But even before then, my career path was set in motion as the

result of a friendship with a young lady named Ashley."

"Ashley and her boyfriend, Chris, were close friends," Oliver said. "One day Ashley, being quite inquisitive, asked me, 'If money were no issue, what would be your ideal career? What would you love to do?' It took a few minutes to formulate my thoughts before I replied, 'I want to do something for missionaries.'





A large metal globe is prominently displayed on the grounds at EdenRidge.

"Then I added, 'From a business standpoint, I would love to run something.' My studies had shifted into business, and I was working on my master's degree in business administration (MBA). I loved all things business, including management, marketing, finance, etc. 'Third, I continued, I love nature!' I had recently completed a bicycle trip with two friends from Colorado to Alaska and thrived on the outdoors. 'Finally, fourth, I said, 'I love to travel, and I love to meet people from around the world.

Almost instantly, Ashley blurted out, "You should build a retreat center for missionaries!"

"In what I now realize was a split-second decision, I responded, 'That's it!

That's what I want to do!' It was a God moment. I still remember that conversation with Chris and Ashley like it was yesterday, and it changed the trajectory of my life."

It wasn't long before Oliver, together with Chris and Ashley, founded a nonprofit called Mission to Missionaries (MTM). It was around this time that Oliver and Rachel were married in 2000. They have four children, two boys ages 17 and 15 and two girls ages 14 and 12. Rachel joined in the vision to start the retreat center, but transforming that vision into reality was a huge challenge as funds were scarce.

"We realized that it was difficult, if not impossible, to raise money for something that didn't exist," Oliver admitted. "We were often told, 'That's a great project, God bless you,' but given no money."

That all changed while Oliver was on vacation with his parents in the Bahamas. After 17 years in Quito, his parents were then living in the West African country of Côte d'Ivoire where they helped at SIM's local Christian FM radio station, *Fréquence Vie* (Frequency Life). But at the end of 2004 a civil war forced them to leave the country. They later returned to their home country of France where they continued to produce radio programs for HCJB.

"My dad and I were walking on the beach at dusk," Oliver



Interior of the Kindness Cabin at EdenRidge



recalled. "The funding issue for the retreat center project came up in our discussion, and we started talking about an idea. My dad was a composer and an accomplished classical guitarist, and my mom played the recorder beautifully. They often played together in churches as part of their missionary presentations, and people often asked if they had any recordings of their music. Unfortunately, the answer was always, 'No, we don't.'

"That's what triggered an idea in our minds as we continued to walk on the beach. We deliberated, 'What if we recorded our music, sold CDs and saved the proceeds for the missionary retreat center project?' In what I now realize was a split-second decision, I remember thinking, 'This is brilliant, it will work, let's do it!"

With Daniel and Francoise's musical expertise and Oliver's experience in computers and audio recording, it became a true "family project," Oliver said. "Within two years we had produced two albums and sold 15,000 CDs. The proceeds, totaling \$150,000, made it possible for us to acquire 130 acres of beautiful land in eastern Tennessee in 2006, and we named our retreat center EdenRidge." Throughout the years the Dossmanns released 13 instrumental albums that are available through Epanoui Productions, a ministry of MTM.

While the land purchase was complete, it took "a few more years to save more money and build the infrastructure," Oliver continued. "We started construction of the first cabin in 2011 and it opened in 2012. We now have six cabins, our new Welcome Center and World Missions Park, and we're now getting ready to go back to building more cabins.

Meanwhile, Oliver's parents made one final move, relocating to Fairfield Glade, TN, nearby the retreat center in East Tennessee to help with his ministry while continuing to reach out to French-speaking people worldwide.

"We have room to grow, and we have five more cabins planned plus a lodge," Oliver added. "Those new facilities will increase our capacity from 1,500 missionary guests per year to more than 5,000. Our master plan has 35 cabins and several additional main buildings." Rachel, who has quietly served behind the scenes as the ministry grew, has taken on the role of construction manager at EdenRidge.

Oliver said he's encouraged with the favorable response from missionaries—accounting for 80 percent of the guests—who can

### //IN MEMORIAM//

#### **ROGER STUBBE (1938-2023)**

It didn't matter whether it was tweaking a transmitter, leading a Spanish-language Bible study, serving on a church board or

encouraging his family, Roger Stubbe was always prepared to do the job and do it well. Roger died of an illness on Oct. 18, just three days after moving to St. Paul, MN, to be closer to his family. He was 84 years old.

"Roger Stubbe was known as Mr. Steady Eddy," said retiree Ron Cline. "You could always count on him. If he said he would do it, it got done, and it was done right. He had a quest for new information and gathered and



shared what he learned. He was a great help in the World by 2000 commitment. He also had a love for the Lord that was dynamic and obvious. He could talk like a theologian and pray like a true friend. He loved his family and was totally involved in the church."

Roger Glen Stubbe was born to Enno and Ella Stubbe in Luverne, MN, on Dec. 11, 1938. His family moved to a farm near George, IA, when he was 3 years old. He took his grade school education at a country school near their farm.

His family attended Hope Reformed Church near George, committing his life to Christ at an early age. Soon after graduating from the George High School, he went to a Reformed Church summer youth camp where he met Joyce Rozendaal from Sully, IA.

Roger always had an interest in electronics and radio. He listened to shortwave radio, and obtained an amateur radio license when he was 16. After finishing high school, he went on to study electrical engineering at Iowa State College in Ames. By his second year, Joyce had entered Central College at Pella, IA, and their relationship began to grow. They were married just before Roger began his final year at Iowa State.

After graduation, the Stubbes moved to Cedar Rapids where Roger had taken a job with Collins Radio Company (now Rockwell Collins), a manufacturer of military and industrial communications equipment. During his two years there, their first daughter, Sandra, was born.

From there they moved to Waseca, MN, where Roger took a job with the E.F. Johnson Co. (now EF Johnson Technologies), another electronics firm. It was in Waseca that their second daughter Laura was born. Shortly after birth, she was diagnosed with Down's syndrome.

"What seemed at first to be a curse turned out to be a blessing as it brought us into a new and more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ," Joyce said.

Through the strong missions emphasis of the Evangelical Free Church that they attended in Waseca, God prompted both Roger and Joyce independently about getting involved in missions. Because of Roger's interest in electronics and radio, they sensed God's leading to serve with Radio HCJB in Quito where Roger could put his engineering knowledge to work.

In January 1965 they left for Costa Rica where they studied Spanish for eight months. Then they went to Ecuador where Roger used his skills to support and grow the worldwide radio ministry. Later he continued using his gifts and talents to do consulting work with Christian broadcasters around the world.

"My biggest recollection of Roger was his consistency," said retiree Jim Allen. "He was always the same person and gracious to everyone. I greatly appreciated his faithfulness to the work of HCJB and to his ministry at Iñaquito Evangelical Church. As an elder there he seemed to be always involved in some part of the work. I considered him a friend and an esteemed colleague."

After serving in Ecuador for 30 years, the Stubbes moved to Colorado Springs where they worked at the Ministry Service Center for some 18 years followed by two years in Iowa—a total 50 years with the mission.

During the last 9½ years of Roger's life, the couple lived in Pella, IA, where their daughter Laurie had lived at the Christian Opportunity Center for many years. They had just moved to St. Paul to be closer to their daughter and son-in-law, Sandy and Dan Varberg, when Roger passed away three days later.

"Roger loved his radios and was extensively involved in local and national amateur radio clubs," Joyce added. "He loved reading, keeping up on current events and crossword puzzles. He will be missed greatly by his immediate and extended family as well as his church family."

In addition to his wife, Roger is missed by his daughter Sandy, three grandsons and one great-grandson. Laurie died on March 28, 2023, at the age of 60. A memorial service for Roger was held on Friday, Oct. 27, at Jurrens Funeral Home in George, IA.

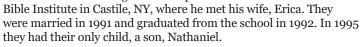
#### PAUL SIMONE (1948-2023)

Remembered for his passion to reach the nations for Christ, Paul Simone succumbed to esophageal cancer on Oct. 18, 2023, at his home in Indiana, his wife, Erica, at his side. He was 75 years old.

Paul was born on Sept. 24, 1948, to Louis and Alda Simone in Manhattan, NY. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1965 when he was 17 years old.

As Paul grew older, his greatest passion was to share Christ with others, having committed his life to Jesus who radically transformed his life when he was still a young man.

One of the most impactful times in Paul's life was attending Elohim Baptist



Following graduation, Paul became pastor of Farmersville Center Community Church in Franklinville, NY, and served there for nearly three years. While working as a security guard at Houghton College, Paul earned an associate degree in occupational studies for computers and electronic systems technology at Alfred State College in May 2001.

Paul and Erica began missionary service in 2004, joining SonSet Solutions (then called the HCJB Global Technology Center) in Elkhart, IN.

"As a member of the Broadcast Solutions Team, the Lord used Paul to facilitate the start of many community Christian radio stations in areas of the world that had limited access to God's Word," said SonSet Solutions President David Russell. "He faithfully provided ongoing technical support for those broadcast ministries.

"Following retirement, Paul became our church liaison," Russell added. "He developed many of the relationships we enjoy today with pastors in the Michiana area. Paul also devoted time to coaching missionary workers involved in personal ministry partnership development to help them achieve full financial support. He was an encourager who sought the success of others."

Paul loved riding his bicycle, having logged 6,000 miles on a cross-country trip in his 30s. He continued to enjoy riding his bicycle throughout the years, choosing vacation destinations with his wife based on the biking trails in the vicinity. His next favorite enjoyment was eating ice cream.

A memorial service was held at First Baptist Church of Goshen, IN, on Sunday, Nov. 5. The family has requested that donations be made to SonSet Solutions where the Simones served for 19 years.

#### LOIS NEELY ROBERTS (1925-2023)

Canadian author Lois Neely, who wrote the highly acclaimed book, Come Up to This Mountain: The Miracle of Clarence W.

Jones & HCJB published in 1980, died on Monday, Nov. 20, after suffering a fall and a series of illnesses. She was 98 years old.

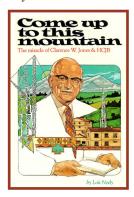
Born to Joseph and Bessie Street on June 8, 1925, in Toronto, Lois had a passion to reach the world for Christ, using her natural skills as a writer to communicate the gospel ever since she was a teenager. Growing up in a Christian home, Lois attended church and Sunday school regularly. Her father was a leader in the Brethren assemblies.



Joseph would take Lois and her sister Joy into the city prison on Sunday afternoons where they sang and he preached, explained Lois' daughter Susan Baker. "My last drive with Mom included a short stop at the 'mega jail' (Central East Correctional Centre) in Lindsay, ON, the town where she spent her final four years of life," she said. "In her last months, all Mom wanted to do on outings was drive to the jail, sit outside in the car and pray for the inmates, especially the women."

Lois also gained a heart for missions during World War II when her brother and brother-in-law went off to war. As Susan put it, "Her brother wrote home, 'Dad, these men need spiritual food and encouragement. Can you write them some letters?' With this, 'Christian Commandos' was born. Regularly, her father sent out letters to the Christian servicemen with help from Lois who was still a teenager."

When these servicemen showed up in Toronto, Lois' family welcomed them to their home for a Sunday dinner and visit. This is where Lois met her husband, Weston Neely, who was with the Royal Canadian Air Force.



Lois and Wes were married after the war in 1945, and they had four children, John, Keith, Susan and Timothy. Wes planned to become a pastor and helped Lois' older brother plant a church in Windsor, ON. He also took courses at Emmaus Bible Institute, but unable to finish his pastoral studies, he went to work for his father-in-law, owner of J.H. Street & Co.

Lois, a graduate of Jarvis Collegiate Institute, a high school in Toronto, had hoped to pursue medicine, but chose

marriage instead. Lois gained an interest in elder care when she and Wes moved to the farming community of Markham, ON. She asked her family doctor why there wasn't better healthcare available for the community's senior citizens.

"He challenged Mom to start a nursing home herself, so with the support of the Brethren assemblies, Mom and Dad started taking seniors into our own home on the Main Street of Markham," explained Susan. Before a building was constructed, the Neelys started taking seniors into their old nine-bedroom farmhouse, providing both physical and spiritual care. In 1970 when the new 42-bed building was completed (later expanding to 75 beds), Lois became full-time director of Markhaven Home for the Aged, lauded as one of the best care centers in Ontario.

A favorite uncle of Lois saw her hidden writing ability and encouraged her to pursue it. A family member loaned her the money, and she registered for a correspondence course with Famous Writers School. Assignments involved writing articles for magazines, submitting them for publication.

Her first article was published by the Canadian magazine

*Chatelaine,* and it was a subject she knew well: "How to Choose a Nursing Home." She had nearly 20 articles published in *Reader's Digest* before focusing on writing books.

"Christian missionary biographies seemed to be her passion," Susan said. "She wanted to spread God's Word. The 'investigative journalist' in her was always looking for the most effective ways to share the gospel and how to encourage national believers to share their newfound faith. She was impressed with the hardships these missionaries faced and always tried to present the human side of these 'super heroes."

One of her first books was *Come Up to This Mountain* that came as a result of her numerous connections with HCJB. She often heard presentations by Clarence and Katherine Jones (along with Marj and Abe Van der Puy, Gene and Ruth Jordan, and Joe and Betty Springer) at places such as Park of the Palms, the Brethren Bible conference in Keystone Heights, FL. The conference was close to the Joneses' stateside home in Florida where Lois often stayed while writing the biography.

This led to Lois' taking several mission trips to Ecuador to see the ministry firsthand and seek information as an investigative journalist. On one such trip she traveled down the Zapallo Grande River with former Reach Beyond missionary Dr. Ron Guderian, a clinical pathologist who discovered that river blindness existed in South America. He later found a treatment for the disabling and sometimes fatal disease.

Her other Christian biographies include Torches of Joy (John Dekker and the Dani of Irian Jaya), Fire in His Bones (Oswald Smith, founder of Peoples Church in Toronto), The Gift Goes On (Paul Smith, Peoples Church), God's Fire on Ice and Arctic Ablaze (Kayy Gordon, missionary to Canada's Inuit), Through Deep Waters to Higher Ground (Rosalind & Jonathan Goforth, missionaries to China from Knox Presbyterian Church in Toronto) and The Harpist: A Soulful Journey (Eduard Klassen). She also wrote a book assigned by World Vision that took at least a year to research, The Unreached Peoples of Canada.

Lois' determination to follow her passions and leave a lasting legacy continued to grow. Here are some of the many voluntary positions she took on after retiring:

- Chair, Toronto Mayor's Committee on Aging
- Secretary, Prison Fellowship Canada
- Executive member, Ontario Councils of Aging
- Chair, Greater Toronto Homes for the Aged Association
- Volunteer, World Vision and Medical Eye Mission
- Member, Toronto Transit Commission's advisory committee for accessible transit
- Representative, provincial and national committees for the 1999 UN International Year of Older Persons

Lois was also honored with the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal for her contribution to the field of aging.

In December 2009 at the age of 84, Lois married Dr. Paul Roberts, then 86, whom she'd known from her school days through Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Roberts was a Canadian physician who envisioned and helped establish Reach Beyond's Rimmer Memorial Hospital (later renamed Hospital Vozandes-Quito) in 1955. Roberts died on Nov. 22, 2020, at the age of 97.

At the request of her family, Lois wrote her story in 2020, publishing two editions of *String of Pearls* for her 15 grandchildren and 22

great-grandchildren. She was also active at William Place Retirement Residence where she lived, serving on councils, leading Sunday-morning worship services and continuing her writing.

"Lois served and advocated for seniors for over 60 years in a variety of roles from nursing home founder and administrator to writer, activist and advocate who served on multiple boards and committees," granddaughter Lisl concluded. "As a writer and journalist, Lois spent most of her time telling other people's stories and working tirelessly on their behalf."



#### CARL WILHELM (1941-2023)

Known for his passion for missions, outstanding administrative work and vision casting, Carl Wilhelm died in Georgia on May



8, 2023, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 82.

Carl Lewis Wilhelm was born to Cecil and Viola Wilhelm on April 18, 1941, in rural Ontario where he grew up on a farm. He gave his life to Christ as a young child during vacation Bible school, and when he was a teenager he began serving in the church. That's where he met Sherri whom he married on May 8, 1965.

Carl graduated from business college and worked as an accountant in Toronto for about five years. Following God's prompting to serve in foreign missions, he and Sherri attended Ontario Bible College. During this time he helped

Sherri attended Ontario Bible College. During this time he helped out in accounting at the mission's Canadian office in Toronto for three years.

Upon graduation in 1968, the Wilhelms immediately left for Ecuador, serving as missionaries with Reach Beyond for a total of 12 years. Carl initially held the position as business manager, later administrating the mission's two hospitals before becoming director of the Healthcare Division. He also served as personnel director and assistant North American director in Miami, FL (1974-1977).

"He was a man who loved the Lord and served Him well," said Reach Beyond retiree Doug Peters, living in Orlando, FL. "I was privileged to serve with him in ministry in Ecuador."

In 1980 the family moved to Stone Mountain, GA, when Carl had been recruited to a leadership position with the Presbyterian Church in America's Mission to the World (MTW). Throughout the years his leadership responsibilities grew to include providing oversight and guidance to a large number of missionaries worldwide.

He was known for his ability to ask good questions, challenging others to think bigger, mediating broken relationships, developing partnerships, coming alongside those who were hurting, and promoting evangelism. Twice he served as interim coordinator (chief executive officer) during his 15-year tenure with MTW.

Upon arriving in Georgia the family joined Perimeter Church where Carl served as an elder almost from the start. In 1995 he joined Perimeter's staff as global outreach director. He had a God-given ability to "dream dreams" for the church, challenging the congregation and its leaders to have a worldwide vision for missions.

Carl always modeled passing the baton to younger leaders, so at age 60 he stepped down from leadership to serve in several other areas at Perimeter. He especially loved his years in the Shepherding Department, ministering to leaders and church members until the advance of Parkinson's disease prompted him to "retire" in 2015. Even then he continued to head the church's Parkinson's support group while discipling and mentoring believers, conducting weddings, leading marital counseling and praying for many.

Carl is missed by his wife, Sherri; their four children, Heidi, Andrea, Gregory and Roger; and nine grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Perimeter Church on May 24 with pastors Randy Schlicting and Randy Pope officiating.

His favorite Bible verse was Acts 20:24: "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" (NIV).

### //DOSSMANN//

continued from page 3

stay at the center at a minimal charge.

"Our guests love their stays at EdenRidge, and many come back as regularly as they can. That's the ultimate reward for us, to hear our guests' feedback and positive comments," Oliver related. "A typical stay is four to five days. There are intentionally no programs. We're a place where missionaries can spend time with each other and with God ... without the normal demands on traveling missionaries. No speaking. No raising funds. No traveling. The three key words that we use in all our marketing are rest, play and explore with nearby amenities available such as golf, lakes, hiking and a resort."

Oliver added that there are few retreat centers in North America that focus on missionaries. "EdenRidge is full nearly year-round. We also have a partner in Colorado called Shekinah Ranch, and we're a founding member of the Retreat Alliance (retreatalliance.com) that just launched this fall as a collaboration of like-minded retreat ministries."

A major blow came in 2018 when Daniel succumbed to a long illness. "My dad and I were very close," Oliver said. "He left behind a huge legacy in my life, EdenRidge, and those who knew him." Françoise recently wrote a book about their lives called *Searching and Finding: The Way, the Truth and the Life*. She is working on an expanded French version of the book and continues to translate Christian materials into French. Françoise is also part of a widows' group that meets monthly and enjoys meeting guests at EdenRidge—sometimes getting reacquainted with old friends.

Oliver said he's thrilled with how the ministry has turned out. "In some ways it's different than what I imagined, and it was definitely more work than I could have imagined, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. God brought the right people at the right time, and He brought the resources to make it happen. Today EdenRidge has over 60 staff and volunteers, all working together to make it as best as we possibly can for our guests."

What advice does Oliver have for MKs or retirees who are looking for an opportunity to serve? "Be sensitive to God's 'nudges' and opportunities that He brings before you," he urged. "Don't pay attention to those who doubt God's calling on your life. I had a few of those—people who told me a retreat center for missionaries wasn't needed and would cost too much to develop.

"Life probably won't look like you imagine as a young child/MK, but it can be extremely meaningful if you follow God's guidance and leading. As for retirees, some of our best people today are retired missionaries who want to stay active and involved in missions, and they see EdenRidge as a place where they can effectively serve," Oliver concluded.

For more information visit www.edenridge.org.



Artist's conception of a future cabin at EdenRidge

### //NOTES FROM ALUMNI//

**BRAD & NAOMI QUIST, GRAND RAPIDS, MI:** We officially retired from Reach Beyond in September after having served as missionaries for 28 years on two continents, requiring us to learn two languages. Although we were thriving in ministry, Brad's aging parents and the pull of a growing number of grandchildren prompted us to return to Michigan to be closer to family.

Our first connection with Reach Beyond was in 1986 as Brad did a rotation as a fourth-year medical student at Hospital Vozandes-

Shell, soon after the hospital was inaugurated. At that time we sensed God's prompting to return one day as full-time missionaries. It was almost 10 years to the day that Brad returned to Shell, this time as a family physician, together with Naomi and our children, Nathan and



Rachel (then 6 and 4 years old). As our children grew up, we moved to Quito so they could attend Alliance Academy International.

In May 2011 we left Ecuador to prepare for another opportunity. After five months of Russian language training at Columbia International University in South Carolina, we arrived in Central Asia in January 2012. Brad served as director of a nongovernmental organization that grew and expanded to become a family medicine clinic. It opened in June 2016 upon which Brad stepped down from leadership of the organization to focus on this new ministry. The outreach had a goal of expanding into other provinces of that country as well as into every one of the five Central Asian countries. Earlier this year a second clinic opened as other medical personnel from abroad are being attracted to this ministry. God has blessed the small beginnings, and it's exciting to see how He will lead in the future.

**PAUL & SHARI SALZMAN, EL PASO, TX:** The big project at KVER in El Paso is almost finished. This has included months of work building a new studio and installing new equipment and rewiring all three studios. There was lots of work at nights and on the weekends. We're thankful for each person who helped Paul with the project and grateful to God that it's nearly complete.

**DUANE & CHERI BIRKEY, COLORADO SPRINGS:** Cheri began her first term as a member of the Reach Beyond board that met Nov. 13-14. Our daughter Nicole has two jobs that she enjoys, having graduated from Taylor University last spring. She's doing sound on a Ukraine documentary that some friends from Taylor University are producing. The project runs through December. In September she started working part time at the ENT Center for the Arts in Colorado Springs. She is doing tech—everything from sound to lights—for the complex that houses four theaters. Duane continues to work on a wide variety of projects and asks for prayer for wisdom, direction and creativity to do each task well.

SCOTT & JEANELLE HIGGINS, SAN MARCOS, CA: On the last day of September Scott reported that he had arrived "in one piece" after three flight segments carrying him to Juba, the capital of South Sudan. He was resting on the weekend, staving off a possible cold, and looked forward to meeting students and teaching classes. After two weeks of teaching, Scott said he was amazed at what the Lord is doing in the lives of new believers.

STEVE & SARAH WATTS, FLOWERY BRANCH, GA: We led a group from our church in Georgia to Cairo, Egypt, in early October. Our purpose was two-fold: to visit and encourage a couple supported by our church in the ministry of training others in evangelism from a variety of nations; to visit longtime co-workers serving with AFCI who recently had to flee to Cairo from Khartoum,

Sudan. We hoped to be able to carry donated money and gifts to these two couples in thanks for their hospitality and to meet some pressing needs.

EARL & CATHERINE HARTWIG, NORTH WILKESBORO,

**NC:** We had a full summer, filling our hearts with joy for God's many blessings. We spent time with our daughter, Daniella, and her family while they were on home ministry assignment from Papua New Guinea. All our children and grandchildren along with Catherine's mom joined us for a family holiday. Catherine made a trip back to Arizona to help her mom and to visit a special aunt who was dealing with cancer. She passed away soon after the visit. Earl traveled to Florida for a solar power installation at the ECHO Global Farm in Fort Myers. Earl said it was a good learning experience. Each time he does one of these projects, he comes away with valuable knowledge of solar system design and installation. He also helps out at SonSet Solutions and I-TEC in various endeavors. Our children helped us buy a piece of property in North Carolina. It's raw land, but we plan to parcel it out so that each of them has a place to settle if we decide to develop it. It's been a huge learning curve to figure out all sorts of interesting things about U.S.: building codes, permits, what is allowed and what isn't. We're living in our fifth wheel RV which is now connected to all utilities. We've been working on installing a garage (a metal building that we ordered) and then a small house. The garage will serve as Earl's shop and has small spaces for a laundry room, bathroom and storage. This will enable our children and friends to come camp on the property and have a few conveniences available to them.

**ROBBYN BOOKER, COLORADO SPRINGS:** I continue to report the prayer needs from Spain, Morocco, Mbingo Baptist

Hospital in Cameroon and other ongoing projects in Africa. I'm praising God that one of the two rental rooms in my house has been rented. I continue to wait on the Lord to provide someone for the second available room. I'm grateful to get through a few health issues—struggling with double vision, getting a total knee replacement, and having extensive oral surgery. Thankfully the surgery and healing have gone well. I'm looking forward to a better level of health, but



recently I began to experience some serious hearing issues while singing with my church's praise team. After waiting some time to get into an ENT, hearing tests showed a 50-percent loss of hearing in my left ear. I'll soon have some scans to determine the cause of the problem. Pray for God's healing. I can't sing, and even listening to music is unpleasant.

JOHN & SHARON GOWAN, QUITO: In September we were in California with Sharon's sister and dad, Joan and Doug. While there we helped with their medical issues, daily needs and projects that Joan has been unable to do since her cancer diagnosis. We enjoyed the change of pace and routine while engaging more indepth with family challenges by being with them. In October we returned to Quito as John focused on all of the details regarding the completion of Radio HCJB's new studio building that was inaugurated on Saturday, Oct. 28. Reach Beyond provided the five-story building as a legacy-a strong recognition of the now-Ecuadorian entity's unwavering commitment to maintain the original vision to impact lives by Heralding Christ Jesus' Blessings via broadcasting and other media in the most effective and innovative ways possible. The new building replaced the mission's guesthouse on Vozandes Street. As John was settling into his new office, he realized how this marks a momentous occasion of celebration and thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do through this pioneer media ministry. This was mixed with no small amount of nostalgia for those of us who've had a part in it for a longer time, harboring fond memories of "the compound" through the years. John asked donors to help fund the equipping of the new video studio with an up-to-date lighting system, and all

the funds came in. We can only imagine the productions to come out of the new studios in years to come as Radio HCJB remains committed to touching lives around the world through media and drawing people to Christ and the hope that is found in Him.

ANDREW & VAL STEELE, TIVERTON, DEVON, UK: We moved to Tiverton upon retiring in 2022. We initially served in

the English Language Service in Quito from 1981 to 1983, then at the U.K. office in Bradford. Moving to a smaller town after 38 years in Bradford has provided all the expected challenges plus a few more that we hadn't anticipated. We are enjoying settling into a lively local church in Tiverton. It has been great to start getting to know people and to catch glimpses of ways in which we can contribute. We



recently began coordinating a Bible study and home group.

Andrew has taken on a small job at his brother's firm of accountants, providing bookkeeping support a few days a month. He's also a regular member of a community "Repair Café" where people can bring items that might have a further life when repaired. Vacuum cleaners, irons and electric kettles seem to be on the agenda most times.

After leaving Quito in 1994 Andrew worked with the International Communication Training Institute (ICTI) supporting church media projects. Besides focusing on journalism skills, Andrew and his colleagues developed the highly regarded Training of Trainers course and were awarded the Certificate in Training. The course was delivered in many African countries, the Middle East, India, Southeast Asia and Quito.

Andrew worked alongside a number of Reach Beyond colleagues, serving on the board of Reach Beyond-UK Board member for a number of years. Andrew's ministry activities came to an abrupt end with the arrival of COVID-19. "I was expecting to spend the last 18 months before I retired handing over various projects to colleagues and friends around Africa and the Middle East," Andrew said. "However, COVID brought all the travel plans to a sudden halt ... but we were able to complete most things remotely." Instead, Andrew worked with the UK's National Health Service as a vaccinator. In the 18 months before retiring, he delivered about 5,000 doses of vaccine alongside a team of colleagues who worked equally hard. Andrew is currently on the Feba-Radio board in the UK.

Our daughter, Ruth, was born at Hospital Vozandes-Quito in 1983. She is now a meteorologist and lives just 30 minutes from our Devon home. Our son, Ewan, works for Amazon, based in northern England. He is married with two children.

FRANÇOISE DOSSMANN, FAIRFIELD GLADE, TN: I recently finished writing a book on my life. It's in English, but now I'm writing the French version, adding a few chapters related to my French-speaking friends and ministries that aren't in the English version. I have enjoyed two different conferences at The Cove this fall with speakers Joe Stowell and Erwin Lutzer. I enjoy reading good Christian books and listening to encouraging messages as it's now been five years since Daniel went to be with the Lord. I'm thankful for the many contacts I have, starting with Oliver and his family who live close by. I'm also part of a widows' group that meets monthly, and occasionally we do some extra activities together. I enjoy meeting the people who come to EdenRidge, sometimes with the pleasure of getting reacquainted with old friends.

**DICK & PAT JACQUIN, ORANGE CITY, FL:** We've moved into our "new and last home," a trilevel unit in a senior living

community. We've been enjoying it immensely. Since our move we traveled with their kids, Becca and Christian, to Spain where they visited former associates and wonderful friends. In October Dick and our son, David, went to Quito for the dedication of the new Radio HCJB building. Pat couldn't go because her health is affected by the altitude, but she was glad for her "boys" to attend the event. We both continue to be involved in God's kingdom work as we have the opportunity to mentor several next-generation missionaries.

**DAVID & SHARON KEALY, BANNING, CA:** In September we traveled to Sumba Island to minister with a partner ministry, Mercy Indonesia, to share with staff, doing teaching and training, dedicating projects that our ministry, Reaching People Far from God, had helped to fund. Some examples include fresh water projects for several orphanages, a church makeover program, a radio news service and supporting pastors during COVID-19.

BETTY VAN ENGEN, PEMBROKE PINES, FL: As summer approached I made good progress in establishing my rented apartment so now it seems more like "home" as I'm able to locate, more easily, the things I need for daily living. One of my goals has been to spend time with family so I enjoy being just 20 minutes from my sister's house so we can visit often. I also enjoy family get-togethers on special occasions. I'm grateful to God for giving me new friends in my community with whom I enjoy Christian fellowship as well as new relationships at a women's Bible study in my church that is just seven minutes away. Another blessing has been the weeklong visits of friends from Ecuador and later a former missionary co-worker who came from Illinois. We enjoyed refreshing our friendships and rehearsing God's blessings together. I thank God for His faithfulness in providing good health, meeting of all my needs and making progress towards accomplishing my goals in this new phase of my life.

**ANNETTE LIEVAART, TENWEK, KENYA:** I returned to Tenwek more than two months ago following my home ministry

assignment, and the key word has been "busy"! I'm thankful for safe travels back after being away for eight months. A new class of critical care nurses began soon after I settled in, and I'm finishing up their eightweek respiratory course in the program that continues for a



full year. Then I hope to guide them through their clinical time. I get to see my former students now at work in the ICUs and enjoy working with them, watching them put into practice what they've learned. This year I agreed to take a turn as the Tenwek station coordinator—a new responsibility that causes me to wonder if I'm right for the job. There are 23 family units at the station, and various things need to be done to maintain harmony. I've been involved in some of the things before, but I wasn't the one responsible to manage them. Pray as I learn this new role. Besides teaching, I'm also working at the hospital where great wisdom is needed by the teams to best serve each patient. Hospital bills are covered by the public or private insurance, the patients or their families. Careful consideration must be given to each case as to what can be prescribed, depending on the ability to pay.

LEE & MICHELLE SONIUS, ROCK HILL, SC: We have been serving with SIM and Trans World Radio in recent years after ministering with Reach Beyond in Liberia, Ivory Coast and Ghana as director of the mission's Sub-Saharan Africa Region. While Michelle continues her role as deputy director for SIM in Western and Southern Africa, Lee's role with TWR has meant a lot of travel for him across West Africa. Now he has accepted a new assignment as president of African Bible Colleges, starting in January. The ministry has campuses in three countries: Liberia, Malawi and Uganda. These colleges seek to give Africans a quality Christian education with the potential of making an impact for Christ across the continent. Each school offers a radio major, and all the schools own and operate their own on-campus radio stations.

**DAVE & SUE JOHNSON, MILLIKEN, CO:** Teaching the Strategic Thinking course at Eastern Baptist Seminary on the outskirts of Santiago took Dave to Cuba for the fourth time this

year. He's excited to see the vision and planning based on biblical principles that are generated by this course. COVID brought about a change in the culture of the office of Development Associates International (DAI) when we had to adapt to working from home. That resulted in the decision to downsize office space and move



to a smaller location downtown. COVID was also the reason DAI had to cancel its global conference for the previous four years, so we're thankful that that we could all meet in Sri Lanka in October where the joy and fellowship was deep and palpable. Our primary focus was a time of spiritual renewal and growth led by DAI's future president who hasn't yet been formally announced. It was a time of renewal and looking ahead to DAI's next phase of ministry.

Sue also enjoyed attending the event in Sri Lanka, especially meeting so many of Dave's co-workers and spending time with his Latin American team. Sue was able to meet in person a lady from Burkino Faso whom she's been helping with her American English comprehension via Zoom. Since Sue is retired from teaching, she enjoys keeping up with household chores, working with flowers in the yard, and reading. She's able to assist our daughter Heather when she needs help with the kids on weekends. Sue flew to Maryland to be with our daughter Michelle and their boys while our son-in-law Patrick was at a pastors' retreat. Our son, Luke, visited a couple of days while she was there. We enjoyed spending Thanksgiving in Nebraska at the home of our daughter Sarah and her husband, Ben. Heather and her family, her boyfriend, Shane, and his two boys were all able to join us. We had a wonderful time, especially being able to see our great-grandson, AJ, who is 9 months old.

ROGER & CAREY BASICK, CHICAGO: Roger visited Ireland recently, accompanied by our daughter, Riley, and her boyfriend, Tommy. Riley felt it was important to introduce Tommy to some of our many friends/family whom we love and to show him many of the places that we hold dear. What she didn't know was that there was a surprise in store for her as during the trip when Tommy proposed. As Roger put it, "We're thankful that Riley said yes"! In October Roger was in West Africa to meet with the Reach Beyond team as together we attended the Africa by Radio conference, joining with believers who are using radio and electronic media to share the gospel across Africa. Roger was blessed to be part of the in-person board meetings for Family.ie (formerly known as Focus on the Family Ireland) in October. He's thankful for the impact of this ministry on that country that was so affected by four strict lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking a toll on marriages, families and individuals' mental health.

PAVEL & KLARA STEIGER, CZECHIA: In November Pavel experienced several days of various pains and symptoms that sent him to the emergency room more than once, resulting in antibiotics being prescribed and X-rays being taken. On the third visit to the ER, the attending doctor consulted with a cardiologist, and the entire surgical team was mobilized. Pavel ended up getting two stents. It was difficult to determine if the primary cause was the lungs or the heart—maybe the combination of both—but doctors said the heart damage was minimal and should not limit him in any way. For now, he has to take it easy which means focusing on his writing and translation work that doesn't require physical exertion. We're grateful to God for His protection and providence, for modern medical care and for medicines available, but more importantly, for the fact that our greatest physician is God Himself!

GLENN & BONNIE LAFITTE, MISSION, TX: We're praising God for the Aug. 1 appointment of Emi Amaya de Ibarra as president of Inspiracom. She has worked with the organization in various capacities for the past 25 years. Glenn was chairman of the search committee. We are asking prayer for the project to replace the 1,200-foot tower of Inspiracom's flagship radio station, KVMV-FM, that went on the air in 1972 in Pharr, TX. Glenn teaches at Dallas International University, wrapping up his fifth fall semester. His current students are all incoming freshmen, and we enjoyed hosting a gathering with them in our on-campus apartment which we maintain to avoid excessive travel between our two areas of service. We praise God for the opportunities to celebrate the birthdays of our grandchildren, Grey Elizabeth, 5, the daughter of Justin and Glenna; and Christopher Glenn, 2, the son of Jared and Mandy. Grey has a brother and sister, Logan and Georgia, and Christopher has a big sister, Audrey. Another big praise is for the publication of the Rabinal Achi Hymnal. This is the people group among whom Bonnie spent her first 12 years in Guatemala with her family.

AMERICO & KATHY SAAVEDRA, CAROL STREAM, IL: One of this year's highlights was being a part of Mission Aboard, the initiative in Peru to inspire and mobilize a new generation of prospective missionaries whom God is raising up throughout Latin America. The April outreach had 34 participants from different parts of Peru as well as Germany and Brazil. After a full five days of exploring, learning, relating and serving with Mission Aboard, participants went home with a renewed sense of call and commitment to serve in a variety of local and global mission endeavors.

In October we went to Quito for the inauguration of Radio HCJB's new broadcast facilities. Américo had the opportunity to reflect on God's goodness throughout the years while doing three radio program interviews. During one of those interviews, the moderator asked him to share his "persecution experience" that occurred in 1976—an event that could have ended his missionary career. When the interviews were aired, the audience response was overwhelming, but one message really touched our hearts—a voicemail which read, "That's him ... the very one that led me to Christ!" Apparently this man is now a television program producer in Quito and wants to use Américo's story on his next project. He wants to go a step further by visiting and collecting subsequent stories from the very people who were touched by the power of the gospel through this event. Certainly this story is "to be continued."

So, serving in Peru and Ecuador recently, we've been thinking about God's wisdom in putting us in Illinois. We're grateful for the many opportunities we have to make friends in our neighborhood, to be involved with Hispanic pastors in the Chicago area and be active in a local church. We also enjoy hosting friends and family, providing a regular weekend "home away from home" for our two grandchildren, Levi and Josie, who attend Wheaton College. We feel that these are exciting days to be alive!



MIRIAM GEBB, SHELL, ECUADOR: After retiring and spending some time in the U.S., I recently returned to Shell to serve as a volunteer chaplain in the hospital. While stateside, my brother was in a Veteran Affairs Hospital and then passed away. His memorial service was on Sept. 10, just days before I traveled to Ecuador on Sept. 14. I'm living in a duplex behind the hospital and find this to be a good situation. I plan to spend six months a year in Ecuador and six months in the U.S.

### //SCOTT HIGGINS//

#### continued from front page

of hearing, a hearing in my spirit, directed by the Holy Spirit toward the emptiness in my fellow human beings all around me.

I'm using my current situation as a path to refocus my hearing toward the unspoken cries for help which only a knowledge and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord can fulfill. No longer can I merely interact in my social comfort zone.

It is those who, heretofore, I merely passed by that the Holy Spirit is showing to me. It's like the movie, "The Sixth Sense," where the young boy says, "I see dead people." Now that my senses have been awakened, I see the lost all around me—dead in sin. Rather than merely going on my way, I'm now being called to action. Time is short.

I must be willing to initiate new relationships, giving both of my time and even my privacy. I must show the same kind of love and acceptance toward sinners that Jesus displayed. I have to be open about my personal relationship with Jesus Christ and be willing to demonstrate my dependence on God through persevering prayer.

As Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves" (NLT). The year 2024 is going to be a great one. Join me in a new style of "hearing" with the boldness to relate to the lost living all around us.

Scott Higgins Director of Alumni Relations

### //FROM THE EDITOR//

I had to chuckle and then re-examine my life after reading this post in Facebook recently: "We often hear, 'Life is short, better enjoy it.' We need to be saying, 'Eternity is long, better prepare for it."

As Christmas approaches, we're often in a frenetic mode, making plans with little time: Buying gifts, putting up a Christmas tree and decorations, making travel plans, sending out greeting cards, baking traditional breads and cookies, going Christmas caroling, attending



or participating in Christmas pageants or special concerts, cleaning the house, watching seasonal movies, making annual donations, etc.

I was also thinking of all the planning that went into our 25th wedding anniversary celebration here in Penticton, BC, Canada, on July 1. Everything from arranging housing for our out-of-town guests to ordering the food to helping organize the music.

Putting together an e-newsletter like this also takes a lot planning: choosing and interviewing an alumnus to highlight in the publication, collecting alumni updates with help from Trish Allen and Betty Shumate, writing and assigning articles, editing all the text and photos, sending out the stories for proofing and fact-checking, laying it out, and finally distributing it via email with the help of Duane Birkey.

In all the busyness of the season, it's so easy to take our eyes off *"Jesus the author and finisher of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2).

As we make last-minute Christmas preparations, what are we doing to prepare for eternity? Living in a retirement community, I'm acutely aware of the brevity of life as one of the residents here passes away nearly every month.

Here some ways we can prepare for eternity:

- Getting to know God, building a relationship with Him through quality Bible study and prayer.
- Becoming more like Christ, obeying the commands in His Word and striving to emulate Him.
- Practicing serving, being helpful and kind, putting others first.
- Sharing life's purpose to those around us, being ready to present God's amazing gospel message.

This year, let's make a concerted effort like never before to keep Jesus as the reason for the season.

-Harold Goerzen

#### ATTENTION ALUMNI!

If you know a Reach Beyond alumnus who would like to subscribe to this newsletter, or if you'd like to submit an item for the "Notes from Alumni" section, please email Trish Allen at atrishllen@gmail.com. Be sure to include a brief summary of what you've been doing since leaving the mission. Thanks!

