



GATEWAY MISSIONS



March/April 2016

God of All Comfort

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (ESV)

Spiritual Vertigo

Have you ever experienced spiritual vertigo? We have all heard the term used to reference the physical sensation of feeling off balance or temporarily losing our sense of direction, (such as in plane flights or deep sea diving) when up seems down and down seems up. Ever have a day when you feel dizzy and the room seems to be spinning? Welcome to the world of vertigo. It can be the same in our spiritual lives. During times of stress, crisis or confusion, (health issues, sudden changes in routine, fatigue, death of loved ones, divorce, etc.) we can begin to doubt our spiritual compass. Any one or a combination of things can catapult us into spiritual vertigo causing disorientation and apprehension. Our first instinct is to take over the controls of our lives because our feelings don't match up with our faith. I remember one scuba diving experience when there was an unusually deep dive in unfamiliar water. Normally we would do a 30 to 40 foot dive, but this day we were going down 90 feet. I knew going deeper meant I would need to stay in close proximity to the dive master. For me it was uncharted territory and I recognized that I would be stretched beyond my training. Going that deep meant we would have to stop during our ascent to decompress. That deep dive caused me to experience some heightened anxiety, which resulted in the depletion of my air supply by the time we reached our scheduled time of decompression. My first inclination, (which was dangerous and wrong) was to ditch my gear and ascend to the surface as fast as possible. It was not natural to stay 40 feet underwater without being able to breathe. However, the dive master motioned for me to breathe off his air supply and all was well.

In the above scripture, **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**, the apostle Paul wrote to believers to remind and encourage us not to lose our spiritual balance during times of affliction and anxiety. In fact, it is God who is pouring into us mercies and comfort. Why? Of course the answer is, so that we can show mercy and comfort to others when they go through their times of crisis and despair.

Jane Ann and I have experienced this sense of spiritual vertigo in our own lives. The last five years have been remarkable and God has been faithful to our call to missions. He has opened doors and given us favor on every front. However, it has not been without tests and trials. We have lost several close family members and our sense of loss, accompanied with minor health issues, seems to have had a cumulative effect. That is true for every one of us. We believe the path to spiritual stability is to keep moving forward

and to go deeper by staying anchored to Jesus, our Dive Master. Also it is vital to develop and nurture strong friendships with Godly people who care for our souls. Finally, at the top of our list is to get some physical rest in order to stay refreshed. Thank you for allowing us to be transparent with you. We have a sure and steadfast hope (Jesus) as an anchor for the soul... (Hebrews 6:19) and We are more than conquerors through Christ who loves and strengthens us. (Romans 8:37)

Chengdu, China



April 23 I will be traveling with a team to Chengdu, China where we will equip and train pastors and church leaders. My last trip to Hohhot, China in 2014 is one of my fondest memories. The participants listened attentively and responded to every teaching. Their passion and devotion remain unmatched. Imagine 1.388 billion people desperately needing to hear the Gospel in China, the most populous nation in the world! The three main religions are Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism and only 7.8% are professing Christians. Training the pastors and church leaders in China is a must. I remember how unprepared we were for the fall of the Soviet Empire. We must not delay our mission to lift up the hands of the Church patriots in Communist China.

Mbeya, Tanzania

In May our team will return to Mbeya, Tanzania. We were last there in 2014 and anticipate going back to see firsthand the new things God has done from seeds that we planted. I am in contact with the pastoral leaders who are organizing all the conference details. They are overjoyed about our coming and are working together in unity to prepare for the meetings. Pastors from all over the city, representing many churches, will attend. We are expecting the Holy Spirit to do amazing things!



Running the race the race to win,

Gary and Jane Ann Casey

Jane Ann and I want to thank you for your friendship, prayers and support of Gateway Missions. Some of you have stood with us going as far back as our first missions launch in 1998. THANK YOU! Having said that, we sincerely need your financial help today. God has been so gracious to bless this ministry and allow us to serve pastors throughout the world. We know that by partnering together with you, a great harvest of souls is being produced for His Kingdom. To God be the Glory!

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. All funds are used for designated projects and for the total ministry of Gateway Missions.

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