

"Inward" or "Outward"

Trying to "test" Jesus, one of the Pharisees asked him, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew, in the 22nd chapter, lays out the foundation for our lives. If you notice, Jesus never said that we are to "Love ourselves." However, knowing that we are so good at doing so, He said to love others that same way. We, as individuals, are not in this picture. It is God and others.

The mission statement of Northside is "Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World." I do not believe that God would continue to lay this on my heart simply for me to think about but rather, because He wants me to share it with you. John 13:34-35 says that the world will know that we are Christ's disciples by the way we love one another. How many orphans are in the world? Who is taking care of them? Are You? What about widows? We need to get our focus where it needs to be. No more can we neglect the fact that Jesus has told us to love God and others. We cannot drive by the hurting and forget about the poor. We cannot dodge the pain that our co-workers are feeling and carry on with our business. I once heard someone say, "Discipleship is messy." It is! Getting involved in the lives of people is difficult: it's challenging, time consuming and sometimes it might even be draining. But, it is so important!

Please don't miss my point. God does not care if we have a TV or if we have fancy shoes. But the problem comes when those things become our focus in life. What are you going to do about it? I encourage you to love God, love others, and serve the world. Think "outwardly" and not "inwardly." We will be blessed beyond our wildest imaginations once we can get this right. I pray that God would challenge you and that you will obey. Be blessed!

In Christ,



Tommy Corrao
Missions Pastor

Mission Quote

"You will not find a healthy church that does not have a focus on global outreach."

- Randy Gariss,
Sr. Pastor at College Heights Christian Church

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In addition to my role with "TEAM," I will also be returning part-time to Cornerstone Counseling Foundation in Chiang Mai, offering counseling services to missionaries and their families. This is an exciting and vibrant part of my ministry in Asia, and I am thrilled for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic team.

Finally, please join me in thanking God for the blessings of these past months: a renewed heart, delightful connections with family and friends, the opportunity to mentor young women interested in a career of missions, and a deeper understanding of what it means to love and be loved by the Father. In less than 5 months, I have been in 30 cities, borrowed 10 cars, slept in 38 different beds, and traveled a dizzying amount of mileage--all of this without illness or accident. Praise Him for this gift of protection!

With Love,

Pam Davis
The Evangelical Alliance Mission - "TEAM," Thailand



Missions update from Pam Davis with The Evangelical Alliance Mission - "TEAM." P3



International time zones and monthly prayer calendar... P5



Missions update from David & Sheela Lall with Central India Harvest International. P6



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"Inward" or "Outward"

Is God teaching you something right now? As for me, I know He is. Over the past few weeks, and even months, there has been this constant theme that has been playing over and over in my mind: Do I think "inwardly" or "outwardly"? Am I living my life in a way that focuses on me or on God and others? When something like this consistently resides in my mind and my heart, I know it is God teaching me. The hardest part is answering the question, "What am I going to do about it?"

As I look at our culture and our lifestyle, I see that we are "inward" thinkers. We are more concerned about what that latest gadget is that I can buy for MYSELF, or what will make ME happier and the list goes on. Our eyes are glued on to the big screen TV's as we enter Costco or Sam's Club. When we see those new shoes in a catalogue, we sprint to the mall. But here's the sad thing: when we see a homeless person, we turn our heads. When we drive passed someone stranded along the side of the road, we look the other way. Is this how God wants us to live our lives? Was Christ more concerned about pleasing Himself or others? We are missing out on a huge blessing because our eyes are zeroed in on ourselves. In order to truly find happiness and contentment, we must focus on God and others.

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2709 E. Nees Ave | Clovis | CA 93611
559.323.9675
Senior Pastor - David N. Rutherford
www.northsidechurch.com

Missions Pastor
Tommy Corrao
tommy@northsidechurch.com
559.323.9675 ext.30

Asst. Missions Pastor
Sean Wilson
sean@northsidechurch.com
559.323.9675 ext.37

The Mission Field

The List of Our Missionaries:

Nonato & Tanya Silva
Brazil Church Partnership
Country: Brazil

Don & Amy Rogers
Empowering Lives
International - ELI
Country: Africa

Larry & Judy Niemeyer
Harvest Heralds
Country: Africa

Dr. Yoon Kwon & Kook Chae
Korea Christian Gospel
Mission
Country: South Korea

Chris & Carol McKinney
Philippine Christian Mission
Country: Philippines

David & Sheela Lall
Harvest International
Country: India

Joe & Rosie Nix
Ninos de Baja
Country: Mexico

Pam Davis
The Evangelical Alliance
Mission - TEAM
Country: Thailand



Short-Term Trips

Where We Are Going...

Who: Missions staff and 2 others (team of 4)

When: Feb. 24th- March 7th

Where: South Korea and the Philippines

What: The purpose of this trip is to visit our missionaries and to see the ministry they are doing. We have never visited Chris and Carole McKinney in the Philippines. We want to have a true partnership with our missionaries and part of that means we need to visit them and care for them on the field. Our team is going to get a hands on report of the work. An important part of this trip will also be to bring encouragement and prayers. Please join us in prayer as we travel but more importantly for the Chae's and McKinney's; that they would be refreshed and encouraged.

Did You Know?



QUICK FACTS : Brazil

- Brazil is the largest and most populous country in South America.
- Brazil is the only Portuguese speaking nation in the Americas and comprises the majority of the world's Portuguese speakers.
- Brazilians are predominantly Roman Catholic, making Brazil the largest majority Catholic nation in the world.
- Football (Soccer in the US) is their most popular sport.
- Sao Paulo is the largest city in Brazil with a population of 10,990,000.
- The majority of the Amazon Rainforest is located in Northern Brazil.
- Brazil is known for the amazing BBQ's, they love their grilled meats.
- Their currency is called Real (pronounced hey-al).



Pam Davis
The Evangelical Alliance
Mission - "TEAM"
Thailand



Dear Friends,

I had forgotten. After spending the past five years in Thailand without a "home assignment," I had simply forgotten what it means to be a part of a thriving American church, how it feels to be nurtured by those who are committed to my ministry, and the profound personal cost of choosing to live my life apart from my family.

For the past four and a half months, I have had the grand pleasure of re-connecting with my family and my ministry partners all over the U.S. These have been days of both gladness and grief. Gladness--as I've laughed, listened and shared with long-time supporters whom I've not seen in years. Grief--as I've recognized in a new way that my choice to live overseas has impacted my family in irrevocable ways, and that I can never regain the years spent away. Did it really take me 19 years away to understand this? Gladness--as I've seen God supply financial needs for my ministry that seemed insurmountable several months ago. Grief--as I've contemplated what it means to be single and childless at this stage in my life. And gladness--as God has given me the sweet pleasure of meeting and mentoring young women interested in a life of overseas missions.

I have loved being in the U.S. for these months. I arrived in June-- physically, spiritually, and emotionally depleted. I didn't really want to talk about Thailand, much less think of going back. But in the past several months, as I have been with so many of you, I have felt cherished, nurtured, and delighted in, and so I am changed. I am grateful for what I see as the joys of this home assignment: worshipping in a vibrant church, enjoying dear friends and being enjoyed in return, and receiving some fabulously unexpected gifts (like a trip to Hawaii!). My heart is restored, and I feel excited to return to Thailand. Please join me in thanking the Father for granting me a heart that is not only willing to return, but now wanting to return.

As I return to Thailand, I will be taking on a new role within TEAM that will allow me to serve and care for more missionaries throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. Pray especially as I begin this new role as Regional Member Care Coordinator that I will lead wisely and humbly, and with deep compassion. I also sense that I will need an administrative assistant to help me do this job well, so please pray that the Father will help me identify just the right person for this task of organizing--a task that is clearly beyond my own abilities!



Special moments with my two youngest nieces, Molly and Zoe.



God's glory as seen in the Hawaiian landscape refreshed me more than I ever imagined.

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Monthly Prayer Guide



Fresno, California
February 1st



Maranhao, Brazil
February 1st



India
February 2nd



Japan
February 2nd



Kenya
February 1st

JANUARY

1. Harvest International- Lalls
2. Empowering Lives International- Rogers
3. Korea Christian Gospel Mission- Chaes
4. People of North Korea: Accept Christ
5. NCC Pastoral Staff
6. Pray for more Missionaries to rise up (Mt. 9:37-38)
7. Pam Davis- TEAM
8. Persecuted Christians
9. All Short-Term Missions Teams for 2009
10. Harvest Heralds- Niemeyers
11. Philippine Christian Mission- McKinneys
12. William Jessup University
13. Monthly Missions Meeting
14. Brazil- Silvas
15. Niños de Baja- Nixs
16. People would Live for Christ and not for Self
17. Hope International University
18. NCC's Missions Ministry
19. Philippine Christian Mission- McKinneys
20. International's in our Community
21. Harvest Heralds- Niemeyers
22. Pam Davis- TEAM
23. Niños de Baja- Nix's
24. Empowering Lives International- Rogers
25. NCC's Missions Staff (Tommy Corrao & Sean Wilson)
26. Korea Christian Gospel Mission- Chaes
27. Impact in our Community
28. Harvest International- Lalls
29. Ozark Christian College
30. Good Relationships with Missionaries
31. Psalm 67

FEBRUARY

1. Harvest Heralds- Niemeyers
2. NCC's Missions Ministry
3. Brazil- Silvas
4. Empowering Lives International- Rogers
5. Niños de Baja- Nixs
6. Korea Christian Gospel Mission- Chaes
7. God's Guidance for Missions Ministry
8. Harvest International- Lalls
9. Ozark Christian College
10. God's Love to be Shown in the World
11. Pam Davis- TEAM
12. Philippine Christian Mission- McKinneys
13. Pray for Muslims to Accept Christ
14. Empowering Lives International- Rogers
15. Jesus made known in India
16. William Jessup University
17. Pray for Hindu's to Accept Christ
18. Hope International University
19. People would be Ready for Christ's Coming
20. Harvest International- Lalls
21. Pam Davis- TEAM
22. Philippine Christian Mission- McKinneys
23. Harvest Heralds- Niemeyers
24. Pray for Team going to Korea/Philippines (Ministry visit/encouragement)
25. Brazil- Silvas
26. Korea Christian Gospel Mission- Chaes
27. Pray for more long-term Missionaries (Mt. 9:37-38)
28. Niños de Baja- Nixs

MARCH

1. Pray for Buddhists to Accept Christ
2. Pray for missionaries in Korea/Philippines
3. Ozark Christian College
4. Internationals in our Community
5. Niños de Baja- Nixs
6. Hope International University
7. Pray for Team returning from Korea/Philippines
8. Philippine Christian Mission- McKinneys
9. Pam Davis- TEAM
10. Korea Christian Gospel Mission- Chaes
11. Harvest International- Lalls
12. Brazil- Silvas
13. God's direction in NCCs Missions Dept.
14. Pray for more Missionaries (Mt. 9:37-38)
15. Harvest Heralds- Niemeyers
16. Empowering Lives International- Rogers
17. Harvest International- Lalls
18. Hebrews 13:3 (Persecuted Christians)
19. Pray for those preparing to be long-term missionaries
20. Korea Christian Gospel Mission- Chaes
21. Psalm 96
22. Brazil- Silvas
23. Niños de Baja- Nixs
24. Pray for an understanding of God's heart for the Nations
25. Pastor David Rutherford
26. Pam Davis- TEAM
27. NCC's Missions Ministry
28. Empowering Lives International- Rogers
29. William Jessup University
30. Philippine Christian Mission- McKinneys
31. Thank God for sending Jesus!

Inspirational Mission Quotes

“If every Christian is already considered a missionary, then all can stay put where they are, and nobody needs to get up and go anywhere to preach the gospel. But if our only concern is to witness where we are, how will people in unevangelized areas ever hear the gospel? The present uneven distribution of Christians and opportunities to hear the gospel of Christ will continue on unchanged.”

- C. Gordon Olson

“A missionary is a prepared disciple whom God sends into the world with His resources to make disciples for the kingdom.”

- Ada Lum



Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ!

We report back with heavy yet hopeful hearts. At present, Christians are facing great religious persecution in India. It seems as though the hunt is on and Christians are the target. This opposition comes to us from some militant/extremist groups that are located in various parts of our country. Many of you have heard about the horrifying events that took place in Orissa last August. Around 200 Christian worship centers, along with numerous households, were charred to the ground, more than 1,150 believers have been killed; their remnants are still being recovered as their bodies were brutally chopped up and recklessly tossed away in plastic bags. Many believers are still trying to find shelter in the jungles since they have lost their homes.

Even in the midst of all this chaos and bloodshed, the government claims that the situation is under control! They are only concerned about the upcoming elections and the vote of the majority. How much worse can this situation get? Christians have been targeted from all angles. We are personally faced with false charges against the property that we own. David has had to spend every ounce of his energy, time, and money on such futile court cases dealing with people that want to destroy God's work, our ministry, and unity by threatening, pressurizing, and persecuting us in this way.

Although we face a giant enemy and the fight is tough, we experience God's awesome protection, power, and guidance upon us each and every day. At times, these pressures do take a toll on our energy, health, finances, faith and so on. But, we stand strong in Christ and He helps us persevere. Even in this time God has used us to further His Kingdom, to provide awareness and encouragement to those that need it. The Lord's work continues to grow! We appreciate your love, support, and prayers especially in this time. Some of you have sent special gifts, as you observe our condition, to sustain and support us in this situation. You have been wonderful partners and we always thank God for you. We literally are unable to do our work here in India without our support. Please continue to pray for us and our ministry. Pray for our persecutors that God would take a hold of their hearts. Even in this existing state of our country we see that God is good! We praise Him for who He is and what He has done. May His name be praised forever and ever, Amen.

You are in our hearts and prayers. May God bless you.

David & Sheela Lall

Upcoming Short-Term Trips

Where We Are Going In 2009



Where: Mexico
When: April 3rd - 10th
Age: Youth - Adult
Ministry: VBS/Sports/Construction

Where: Kenya, Africa
When: April 21st - May 3rd (tentative)
Age: 18 and up
Ministry: VBS/Teaching

Where: Malawi, Africa
When: July 20th - August 3rd (tentative)
Age: 15 and up
Ministry: Outreach

Where: Brazil, South America
When: August 31st - September 13th
Age: 18 and up
Ministry: Hosting a retreat with our partner church

Please be in prayer over these upcoming trips:

- 1) That God would stir a passion for lost people within those who join these teams.
- 2) That those who go would have their eyes opened to the realities of the world.
- 3) That God would raise up more “harvesters, for the harvest is plentiful.”

Want more information? Tommy Corrao at 323-9675 ex.30
tommy@northsidechurch.com



“God’s focus is on reaching people, not on attaining the greatest efficiency in the process. The ‘most bang for the buck’ is not God’s ultimate standard of judgment on how to carry out our missionary obligation.”

- Moreau, Corwin, and McGee
(Introducing World Missions)

