

CrossWay International

June 2017

Seeing the Mission Field through Different Eyes

We hope you enjoy this portrayal of seeing the mission field from various perspectives. Each one below reminds us of the important task of seeing others come to know the Lord through faith in Christ alone who saves us by His grace for all eternity.

Seeing the Mission Field Through the Eyes of a Boy

For the first part of this trip to Kenya, I was joined by Carey and Lisa Kinsolving. These longtime friends have been producing a curriculum for Children's Ministry, including a video documentary titled "Mission Explorers: Kenya". The idea is to inspire kids to take a fresh look at missions, by allowing them to see missions through the eyes of someone their own age. The Kinsolvings weren't alone. They brought 12-year-old Jesse Patete and his mother with them. Jesse's job was to play the role of a field reporter for a news organization called kidstalkaboutgod.org. As we went about our ministry trip, he would observe and report, do interviews and mingle with the kids and even the adults. Everywhere we went, he was our "embedded field reporter".

One of the first stops was to the community and school in Maganjo, Kenya, which is about a 2-hour drive from Nairobi. Just before I was scheduled to speak in an assembly to the school body of over 400 kids, I showed Jesse how to do the Paper-Folding Illustration of the Gospel. After showing it to him once and then letting him have a couple of practice runs, he said he was ready to stand by me, shoulder-to-shoulder, and help me demonstrate it in the school assembly. He did a great job and the kids were amazed. Most of these kids there said they had never heard the message of salvation by grace before, and more than half of these kids responded to the invitation, trusting in Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins.

After this, we headed off to a second community, Gachiro, where we had given 4 goats to some widows back in May of 2016. Most of them trusted in the Lord for their salvation on that previous visit in 2016, so this was just a follow up visit to check up on them. This also gave me another opportunity to preach and let Jesse assist me with the Paper-Folding Illustration. And he was more than up to the task. This time he did not just demonstrate by folding the paper, but he also did the introductions of each of the 5 phases of this illustration. He was growing quickly in his experience and boldness in sharing the Gospel.

But Jesse wasn't finished in this learning process as an embedded reporter. The last event of this day was spent in the Kakimi Community with 30 widows. This was a new location for us, and once again it was an opportunity for me to preach and to have Jesse next to me. This time, as we went through the Paper-Folding Illustration, he did all of the explanations as well, so the only part left for me was quoting the corresponding Bible verses. This was amazing!

And it gets even better. After his time with us, he and the filming team left us and moved on to the Mount Kenya area where I heard that he continued to speak at events, doing the Paper-Folding Illustration by himself. With as quickly as he caught on, I wouldn't be at all surprised to see Jesse on the mission field in Kenya someday soon. Since he is only 12, he may have to wait a few years to move overseas permanently, ... unless his parents are ready to move to Kenya, ... sort of like what happened to our family. You never know!





Dean and Jesse explain the gospel in Kenya through the Paper-Folding Illustration, translated by Moses Gatura



Jesse interviews Dean as a Field Reporter for KidsTalkAboutGod.org



4 widows are happy to receive milk-goats from CrossWay

Seeing the Mission Field through the Eyes of a Detective

Since I am blind and many TV shows don't make sense to me, I've enjoyed listening to old-time radio shows. Some of you may be old enough to remember the old police series Dragnet, which started on the radio back in 1949 and then made it into television in the fifties. Just for fun, I've adapted that format for the next part of our report. For those of you familiar with the series, I hope you can hear the voices and music in your head. Everyone else can just play along



....“The story you are about to hear is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. ♪♪ Dum ... dum dum dum ... duuuum! ♪♪♪ This is the documented drama of an actual event investigated by the missionaries who unrelentingly stand watch to seek and secure the lost of the world. You will travel step-by-step alongside them through an actual case from the official mission files... from beginning to end, from condemnation to salvation. This is a story of your missionary agents in action.

It was May 18, 2017 a hot and sultry day in Masaya, Nicaragua. The team consisted of Francisco Caldera, our Field Director for this country, Kevin Aguilar, the Assistant Field Director and me, Dean, the head of CrossWay International. You are joining us just as we head back from a long day on patrol.

It was 6:00 P.M. I was glad to get back to the hotel room and cool off. Francisco was at home recuperating from some health issues. Kevin had put in a full day, so he dropped me off and headed home. So I opened a can of tuna fish, worked on some emails and reports, and was ready to shut things down for the night.

At 8:37 P.M. I heard a knock on my door. It was Johni Gaitan, a junior coworker with our department, and he told me, “My 17-year-old cousin, Amelia, is here and she would like to talk to you.” So I welcomed her and Johni into my room. After talking to her for a time, the crime became evident -- she was lost and trusting in her good works to get her to heaven! ♪♪ Dum Dum Dum Dum... duuuum! ♪♪♪

At that point with Johni looking on, I pulled out one of our best investigative tools, The Paper-Folding Illustration (www.gocrossway.org/paper). When I unfolded

the last portion, which revealed the cross as the only way to heaven, she seemed vague in her answer and understanding of salvation by grace.

Seeing that there was more explanation required, I pulled out another investigative tool, the Wallet and the Hat Trick (www.gocrossway.org/wallet). Again, she was unclear in her understanding of how a person can attain entrance into heaven someday. Satan had done a strong work in her life, “blinding her mind to the light of the Gospel” (2 Cor. 4:4). Her confusion was evident and the interrogation went on.

I decided to move on to the next investigative tool I have often employed, the Gift Cube (www.gocrossway.org/gift-cube). Each of these tools has its own strengths and weaknesses. The strength of the Gift Cube is that it has a built-in test that helps to determine if the person truly understands the true gift of God received by faith in Christ alone. She failed the test, choosing the graphic that represented “works as the basis for her salvation”.

But I wasn't ready to give up on her yet. I pulled out one more tool, 3 Things God Cannot Do, which is based on John 3:16 (www.gocrossway.org/3things). This time her mind seemed to grasp the amazing grace of God and the gift of salvation that comes through faith alone, in Christ alone, apart from her good works!

When I asked her what Jesus meant when He said on the cross, “It is finished”, she answered correctly with, “He paid for our sins”. So I asked her, “If Jesus paid for our sins, how many are left for us to pay for?” She answered correctly, “Zero.” And I reminded her that the only thing God asks us to do to have this full forgiveness of sin, was to believe in Christ. At that point, a light seemed to go off in her head and she readily admitted she understood the gospel, and we then had the assurance that she had trusted in Christ. Since then, Johni has checked up on her and she is doing fine and no longer under the delusion of the greatest criminal of all time, Satan.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven for God using us to solve this crime of unbelief in Amelia's heart. Thank you for your prayers and support that allows us to represent you and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Praise

Prayer

- ☛ Praise the Lord for the clear report on Jazmina's (Francisco's wife in Nicaragua) cancer, and that she is now responding well to the treatment on her kidneys which were damaged by the chemotherapy.
- ☛ Praise the Lord for a new coworker in Kenya, Moses Gatura, who is a veterinarian who will oversee the milk-goat ministry to the widows.
- ☛ Praise the Lord for the many who have come to faith in Christ this past year so far.

- ☛ Pray for a safe and fruitful visit to Nicaragua by a team from Faith Community Church this July 18 - 25.
- ☛ Pray for the school we hope to start in September in Nicaragua, and that it will reach many of the youth.
- ☛ Pray for Dean, Gary, and Bruce who are lining up more mission trips and/or speaking opportunities for 2017.
- ☛ Please continue to pray for the serious health issues of Francisco and Jazmina (Nicaragua).



Seeing the Mission Field through the Eyes of God

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." - Jesus (Matthew 9:35-38)

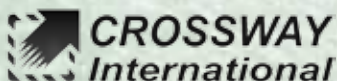
"Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age." - Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)

"But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Jesus (Acts 1:8)

As the scripture says, "Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved." But how can they call to him for help if they have not believed? And how can they believe if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out? As the scripture says, "How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news!" (Romans 10:13-15)

As for you, my son, be strong through the grace that is ours in union with Christ Jesus. Take the teachings that you heard me proclaim in the presence of many witnesses, and entrust them to reliable people, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Proclaim his glory to the nations, his mighty deeds to all peoples. (Psalm 96:3)



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