

## Seeking God's People in Scotland

While many young people dream of going to the beach for spring break, Catie Thomas chose to go to Scotland. Thomas joined a mission team going to Scotland to work with groups in government housing (called schemes in Scotland). Once there, she and her team ended up working with a church in Edinburgh.

This journey changed her view of what it meant to be mission minded. She learned to look at how other believers live for



Christ in their everyday lives. The church uses discipleship to bring others into the church. "In all actuality, they really don't invite people to church until they have shared the gospel with them and formed a deep-rooted relationship with them. New Christians are paired with a mature (in terms of faith) believer who meets with them weekly to disciple them. For these people, discipleship is about asking the hard questions, learning the bible and growing as a Christian. Experienced Christians meet with younger believers and discuss what they believe. The conversations are centered on Godly things. Anything else is not considered discipleship."

Returning to the United States, Catie was struck by how little she did to support missionaries to show them love and encouragement. The trip changed her thinking. Currently a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Catie thinks about how she can better disciple others. "Challenge those you are discipling and be intentional in the way you teach, reproof, correct, and train (2 Timothy 3:16) those whom God has placed in your life. Finally, look at every experience as a missional experience. Whether you are personally serving or observing others as they serve, let God teach you more about His character and how He wants you to actively participate in the mission He has called his children to live out."

Sharing the stories of our people serving God nearby and out in the world

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## Touching Down half a world away

Madagascar lies on the Indian Ocean, an island nation off of the east coast of Africa. The natives speak either French or Malagasy. Leah and Andrew Snipes recently arrived on this tiny nation sent by the International Mission Board to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ where few have heard it.



Each day marks a new adventure. They are learning a new language and a new culture, discovering new foods and new friends.

They remain upbeat as they deal with power outages, sharing their home with a lizard or two and getting acquainted with some of the local lemurs.

From their Facebook page, *Snipes Family Journey*, they describe one day. "Today has been a super adventure! Andrew practiced driving the manual truck on the busy street, we picked up supplies for the team that comes next week to dig wells in some villages, we rode with 5 Malagasy on a motor taxi and got pulled over by the police, we blew a fuse in our kitchen and now the fridge isn't working, at a restaurant we got an English menu (most are in French) and we found another lizard in our room." Each day brings new challenges and new chances to spread the gospel. Pray for them as they go forth following God's lead far from home.



## Finding Calm after the Storm

Tami Weske went to Augusta, Georgia from March 9-15 as a Volunteer Chaplain with the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team. She was paired with another female Chaplain, and they went out each day to visit homeowners for whom Samaritan's Purse teams were doing cleanup work following the ice storm in late February.

“Many of these homeowners were Christians, but had serious issues in their lives that we were able to listen to and pray for with them. We would make sure they were happy with the work that had been done (or ensure them that they were on the list if the team had not yet been there) and just take time to talk and pray with them, sharing the gospel when appropriate.” Weske notes that she has long been the person that people call on in a crisis. A few years ago God showed her that He wanted her to use her past experience of helping others in crisis in ministry. She went to her first disaster relief training with the North Carolina Baptist Men in 2011. She is now trained in Admin, Assessments, Recovery, and as a volunteer Chaplain for the North Carolina Baptist Men, as well as a volunteer Chaplain for the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team (with whom she went to Georgia).



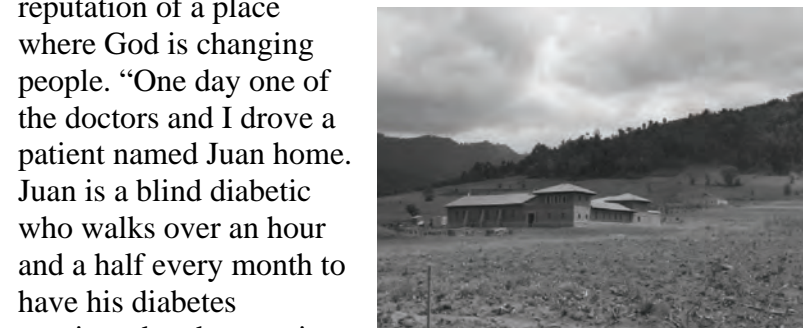
“All of the people we spoke with could not express enough gratitude for the work that Samaritan's Purse was doing to help them in cleaning up their storm damage. They had a difficult time believing that people would come volunteer to work free of charge to do what would have cost them thousands of dollars had they hired it done. They were very grateful to the Chaplains who would come and allow them to pour out their pain without any judgment, but only love.”

## Going To Guatemala

Central America is far away from the world Katy Huffman grew up in but she felt led to do short term missions after graduating from Campbell University in December. Dr. Rogers connected her with Roger and Vicki Grossmann, missionaries in Guatemala. Huffman shares “I've always had a desire to return to Guatemala since my first trip several years ago and everything fell into place for me to serve beginning March 1st.”



Roger and Vicki Grossmann are working to reach the indigenous Quiche people. They have started a clinic and retreat/training center in the village of Chirijquiac, Cantel to reach the surrounding 13 Quiche villages and are in the process of opening a Baptist children's home in Quetzaltenango. Katy helped with the construction of the Good Shepherd Center and the children's home, worked with VBS and women's ministry in a Quiche village. She also assisted at a mobile clinic doing triage, checking blood sugars, and filling prescriptions. God is also working through the clinic and it has earned a reputation of a place where God is changing people. “One day one of the doctors and I drove a patient named Juan home. Juan is a blind diabetic who walks over an hour and a half every month to have his diabetes monitored and to receive more medication. When Juan was three years old he lost sight in one eye from a genetic disease. A few weeks later while playing soccer he was kicked in the head and it



detached the retina from his good eye. He was completely blind at age 29. He had six children and could no longer work. His wife began working in the fields to support their family. Juan learned to read and write Braille. He is a Christian and now travels all around preaching about God's love.

I have witnessed people in substantial poverty and unimaginable hardships truly exemplify that through it all, Christ is enough. Their love for the Lord shines through them as they work tirelessly day after day, and the way they serve and glorify Him in all that they do despite the persecution and suffering is truly beautiful.”

## **Meeting Needs in the Dominican Republic**

It's not exactly a Caribbean paradise. Sharing the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, the Dominican Republic has tremendous natural beauty and the economy of a third world nation.

Several times a year, Central United Methodist Church sends medical Mission Teams to the Dominican Republic. Doctors and Nurses provide needed medical treatment, perform surgery and minister to individuals in the poverty stricken Dominican Republic.

Cheryl Cribb, a surgical nurse, has been going for six years. During this trip, the team performed hysterectomies and hernia repairs as well as different kinds of surgeries that the people needed. Unlike American Hospitals, the public hospitals in this country don't have many supplies. Patients have to bring their own bed sheets. They have to bring their own food. The team takes everything they use: surgical packs, medicines and other supplies. Everything they use during that week has either been donated or bought by people that go on that trip.

Cribb says. “It's amazing to see how God works there. The people that come are desperate because they can't afford to have surgery. For several years we didn't have a gynecologist to go with us. We have had women that have been waiting for years to remove fibroids that keep growing because there is no way to stop it without surgery. We have a church here in town that has donated bibles written in Spanish. We have been able to give those to the patients. Every patient that has surgery got a new testament in Spanish that they could read. They would even have family members that would say “can I have one too?” They are so appreciative and so thankful. Some of our surgeons have prayer with them.”

They are people just like we are. They love God. They love each other. They don't have much but they are happy with what they have. If anyone ever gets the chance to go, I don't think they would regret it even if they only went one time. Every year I think next year I'm going to take a break but by the time next year gets here, I am always ready to go back.”

