

CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2015

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We've mapped out where our Expeditions missions trips have taken Chi Alpha this year.

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A commitment to send missions teams to Taiwan began with a single step and divine connections.

GO Into All The World

BY CRAIG WOODHAM

Go and make disciples of all nations. This is at the heart of Chi Alpha's mission both in the U.S. and around the world. In the context of global missions, we are great at "going." A growing number of our graduates are giving a year and even a lifetime. But most of our "going" happens within short-term missions teams. As I write this, local Chi Alpha ministries have sent 208 (and counting) missions teams already in 2015, another record-breaking year.



Going Global!

2011
67
teams consisting of 729 participants went to 35 countries

2012
93
teams consisting of 1,107 participants went to 39 countries

2013
135
teams consisting of 1,339 participants went to 43 countries

2014
179
teams consisting of 1,612 participants went to 63 countries

2015
208
teams consisting of 1,941 participants went to 56 countries



EDITORIAL

BY E. SCOTT MARTIN

You have heard me say it, but the secular university is the most strategic mission field in the world. What makes the university so strategic is that it is the fulcrum of societal and cultural evolution. The students on the university will transform the world. And this is why campus ministry is so vital; it has global changing potential! For many years we would quote Chi Alpha's mission statement, but I believe in many cases it was quoted more theoretically and speculatively than with the ardent conviction that this would be the veritable outcome of our ministry. We need to do all we can to ensure that our Chi Alpha students are transforming the world, but doing so for Christ and His glory.

When I hear our student mission mottos, *every student goes, every student gives, every student prays, every student welcomes and give a year and pray about a lifetime*, my heart jumps. I believe our Chi Alpha students will be global transformers for the Kingdom of God! Students in Christ's mission are core to who we are in Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. We are very blessed to have Craig and April Woodham at the helm of leadership of Chi Alpha Expeditions. With their team in action, we are seeing an increase in Expeditions teams going to the nations, and an increase in student and group involvement.

To be in Chi Alpha ministry is to be involved in missions and to raise up a generation of young men and women who are committed to Christ's cause around the globe. We are in the job of transformation.

E. SCOTT MARTIN is the seventh national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. He previously served as the Student Mission Director for 18 years. He has served as a Chi Alpha minister since May 1986, where he pioneered Chi Alpha campus ministry on The University of Arizona. He and his family along with two great teams of "give a year" Chi Alpha volunteers also pioneered Chi Alpha in Central Eurasia.

CORRECTION: The feature article in the spring issue of Chi Alpha Connection incorrectly stated Steve Lehmann was a college student at the University of Louisville. Steve was a college and career pastor at a local church and a Chi Alpha volunteer at the university.



CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

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GO

Into All The World

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 >

But our end goal isn't just to send short-term teams, it's to make disciples of all nations. That doesn't happen in two weeks. That's why our short-term missions teams must be a part of a big picture strategy. When they are, they can absolutely cultivate long-term fruit.

In 2008, my wife, one-year-old son, and I gave a year in Bangkok, Thailand, working with a career missionary and a local Thai church to establish campus ministry at a nearby university. Our Chi Alpha group at the University of Alabama also committed to send summer teams for five years.

When we arrived, there was no ongoing outreach to students. About a month after we got there, a team of our students and recent graduates from Alabama came. Because of the age and energy of this team, they were able to gather and connect with dozens of students during those two short weeks. To be sure, the missionary and Thai church were the backbone of the long-term strategy, but our short-term team was a tremendous catalyst for the launch of that student ministry. What started from scratch became a group of around 30 students within six months. Several gave their lives to Christ in that time while others experienced a warm exposure to Christ.

As a movement that is becoming increasingly global, I believe that we can maximize the fruitfulness of our short-term missions teams if we let these three things inform our strategy:

- 1. Connect with our AG World Missionary partners:** We are fortunate to be part of such an expansive missions movement within the Assemblies of God fellowship. This partnership affords us a wide range of opportunities, support, and accountability. Also, the National Chi Alpha staff is consistently dialoguing with regional and area leaders within AGWM, gaining awareness of existing missions opportunities as well as dreaming about how Chi Alpha Campus Ministries can help establish new ones.
- 2. Make a five-year commitment:** While the five-year timeline is flexible, an extended commitment to the same area, people group, or missionary shouldn't be. There is a traction and momentum that happens when we send our students to the same ministry. We're communicating to our students and the missionaries we serve, that we want to be a part of building something, not just doing something. Building requires planning, foundation, and follow through. Additionally, I also believe a five-year commitment will increase the likelihood our students will give a year and pray about a lifetime and they will do so more effectively.



- 3. Invest in Campus Ministry:** My good friend, Ronnie Hoover, whose ministry at the University of Arkansas spent ten years planting Chi Alpha ministries across the nation of Bolivia, says, "Chi Alpha students are uniquely equipped and qualified to reach and disciple university students." If we are going to leverage our resources to strategically advance God's Kingdom around the world, we have to make university student ministry a priority. No one can reach university students like university students. That doesn't mean that we never do anything else, but what could happen if Chi Alpha missionaries had a deliberate strategy to plant university student ministry around the world?

So, as we continue to go into all the world, let us do so with a Spirit empowered, kingdom building strategy.



CRAIG WOODHAM is the Director of Chi Alpha Expeditions. He and his wife April are passionate about encouraging and mobilizing students for God's global mission. They have two children, Tyler and Abby.

2015 CHI ALPHA REGISTERED EXPEDITIONS

CANADA & USA 66

EUROPE

THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 200 EXPEDITIONS MISSIONS TRIPS THIS YEAR. PLEASE KEEP THESE TEAMS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS THEY TRAVEL AND SPREAD GOD'S LOVE AROUND THE WORLD THIS SUMMER!

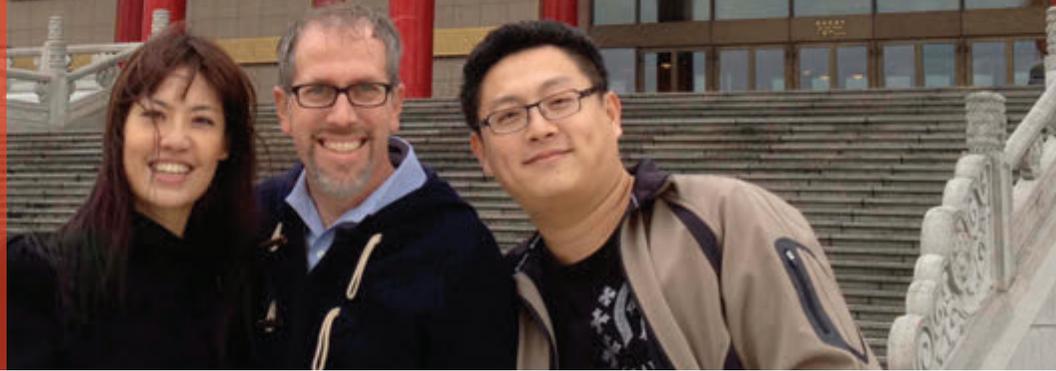
LATIN AMERICA 43



A Trek from Texas to Taiwan:



A famous Chinese proverb is quoted outside my son's elementary school Chinese immersion classroom, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."



This summer, our seven-member Longhorn XA team from the University of Texas at Austin will mark year two of our five-year commitment made at The World Missions Summit 3 (TWMS3) to serve Assemblies of God World Missionaries in Taiwan. But our trek to Taiwan began with a single step more than twenty-five years ago—a dream in God's heart to see His Kingdom advance among Taiwanese university students!

In 1990, I ate breakfast with a beloved missionary, Howard Kenyon, who was preparing for Chinese language school in Taiwan. I dreaded his inevitable question, which exposed a current reality, "Do you know any Taiwanese students?" Seven hundred Taiwanese students represented UT's most populous nationality that year, so I sheepishly admitted that I didn't. I was dismayed, but prayed with determination, "Lord, You need to do something."

A few months later, AGWM missionary Brent N., chatted in the elevator with Ching-An, who became our first Taiwanese friend. Ching-An introduced us to one of her friends, who made the way for us to welcome 175 new Taiwanese students that Fall! We went from zero Taiwanese friends to

having more than 50 deep relationships in a few months. Since then, Longhorn XA has maintained generations of new Taiwanese friendships every year!

In early December 2012, I officiated two dear friends' wedding in Tokyo, Japan. Being so close, I couldn't resist visiting Longhorn XA alumni in Taiwan. As the plane descended into Taoyuan Int'l Airport, I wept and thought, "I'm finally here." What a beautiful three days of seeing alumni spanning two decades!

Ronnie Hoover issued a challenge later that month at TWMS3, calling fellow campus missionaries and Chi Alpha groups to send Expeditions teams with a five-year commitment like his group does with Bolivia. Longhorn XA was ready, ripe and raced to nab the Taiwan material off a table as a declaration of our five-year commitment to this land! In the waning hours of TWMS3 among the throng of 4,000 plus participants, God intersected my path with long-time friends and missionaries Ty and Cina Sylva. The Sylvas catapulted our desire to serve Taiwan with a real relationship connection to our amazing AGWM missionary, Shannell Keck!

That breakfast moment in 1990 with Howard provoked us to love and perform good works. Longhorn XA friends have without exaggeration impacted a couple thousand Taiwanese students with the love of Jesus—while never even leaving Austin, Texas! **So you see, long before we were in Taiwan, Taiwan was in us!**

Without diminishing other nations' needs, I must conclude with an appeal to echo the cry for more laborers in Taiwan! Much like Howard asked me many years ago, "Will you and your spiritual community consider tangible ways to expand the Kingdom of God in Taiwan?" Even if your trek doesn't originate from Texas, come trek to Taiwan with us!



KELLY BROWN has been a Chi Alpha campus missionary at the University of Texas at Austin for 27 years. Kelly and Patricia were married in 2003 and

have two amazing sons, Sammy (8) and Noah (4). Kelly loves spending time with family, watching Longhorn sports, fishing, and eating Patricia's homemade pasta or a good steak. He's praying about a lifetime of campus ministry.

Something Bigger

At the end of May, more than 30 nations were present at the annual All Nations conference, where international students came to Christ and were filled with the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Paloma, a student from Brazil, shared this testimony after the conference: "The moment we arrived at the hotel for All Nations I felt something different. God's presence was already so strong that I knew He had prepared something special. All weekend I felt different. Everything I thought I was not good at, or the things that I never felt comfortable doing, God showed me that it's not about what I can or cannot do. It is about what He can do through me when I allow Him to lead my life and I am willing to obey Him. Also, it was really inspiring for me to worship God with people from many different countries, cultures, languages and backgrounds.

"As an international student, becoming a Christian in a place far away from home was very scary because I knew that eventually I will have to go back to my country, where I don't have Christian friends, where I didn't have a Christian life. But being with people from all over the world gave me a new

perspective on being a Christian. God taught me that being a Christian is not only about being a member of an awesome group at my University, but it is about being a part of something bigger. It is about being a member of a bigger family, and I don't need to be afraid. God has been changing my life and my heart even before All Nations, but at All Nations I felt God's presence as I had never felt. I never felt so happy and loved before. He gave me a purpose. He gave me strength and the desire to be even closer to Him and to serve Him."

All Nations has been an annual international student conference for 23 years as part of XAi, or Chi Alpha internationals. According to the Institute of International Education, 886,052 international students studied at colleges and universities in the United States during the 2013-2014 academic year. This record high number is an opportunity for Chi Alpha students and staff to welcome every international student into the United States and into a relationship with Jesus Christ.



CHI ALPHA NAMES ADVANCEMENT ADVISORY GROUP CHAIRMEN

Please join us in welcoming Tory and Jenny McJunkin as they serve in volunteer leadership as the co-chairmen of the National Chi Alpha Advancement Advisory Group. Last fall, E. Scott and Crystal Martin extended the invitation to Tory and Jenny to join Chi Alpha's advancement efforts and expand our reach to reconcile more students to Christ. After much prayer, they responded, "We are excited about this opportunity and, like you, believe it will have a lasting and powerful impact on Chi Alpha's future. We're in."

Tory and Jenny are active members of their local church and have a shared passion for missions, leadership, and discipleship. Jenny was a Chi Alpha campus missionary for eight years and directed the ministry at the University of Wyoming. Tory is a physician who co-founded a medical practice eight years ago, which has grown to be one of the largest pain management practices in the country. His practice spans four states and has more than twenty sites. Tory and Jenny have four children, Josiah, Grace, Judah and Lincoln, and a fifth little one who will arrive this summer. Jenny enjoys homeschooling their children and together they live in Paradise Valley, Arizona, just outside of Phoenix. Their passion to advance the Kingdom is evident in everything they do and we are thrilled to welcome them to the National Chi Alpha Advancement Team.

Welcome, Tory and Jenny!

The General Council of
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