

Tell

*of His glory
among the
nations, His
wonderful
deeds among
all peoples!*

PSALM 96:3

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*"Now to Him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to His power that is
at work within us, to Him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*
Ephesians 3:20-21

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" . . . Seeing God work through him to plant seeds of salvation by sharing the Gospel."

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.



This line from the old, well-loved hymn tells of the most basic calling we have as Christians. We are to "tell the story." Jesus, Himself, was a storyteller. The parable was His most frequently employed method of sharing truths about Himself and His kingdom. A good story draws you in. The story of salvation, through Jesus Christ, is the greatest story ever told; it draws you in and begs for a personal response.

In this issue of *Connections*, we're going to share some stories. Stories of how some first heard His story and responded by following Jesus as their Savior. Stories of those who have joined Him in becoming storytellers, reaching the lost who need to hear the good story. And stories of those opening the book for those in their community by serving them, offering a cup of cool water, and a glimpse into His unfolding story.

“Even if someone doesn’t go into full-time missions, Colonial offers great short trips. I’ve talked with college students and adults who have come back completely changed. People outside of this country truly have to rely on God to meet their needs.”

—ED WILSON



What Does it Take?

Thomas the Train gets to stay. That, a set of bed sheets and a stuffed sea turtle. Everything else that Ed and Amy own has just been unceremoniously shoved into a storage unit.

“We’re taking some of his things with us,” Amy laughed, “We’re trying to keep everything as consistent for him as possible . . . while the rest of us live in complete turmoil.”

“Him” is Caleb, their sunny-haired three-year-old plopped next to Ed, the toddler’s chocolate brown eyes glued downward as he meticulously tears apart a turkey-and-cheese-on-wheat. His intense concentration, broken only by a reach for his soda, added another layer of warmth and even comedy to our conversation.

Ed and Amy Wilson have been organizing their departure for several years now; their commitment to full-time missions work has beckoned them to the depths of Mexico City, an impoverished community ripe for children’s ministry. They’ve recently completed several seminary courses and are prepping for another year of linguistic training at the university in Mexico. Nearly every waking minute over the last twelve months has been spent sharing their vision and garnering support. Grueling, yet thrilling and enlivening.

But Ed and Amy are just like us—“ordinary” folks. In fact, until recently, Ed was a data manager for Pharmaceutical Product Development while Amy spent her days teaching second grade at Partnership Elementary. No doubt they made weekly visits to Harris Teeter and caught a weekend matinee at Crossroads, enjoying a daily rhythm much like any other American. So how did they end up here, and what does it take? The journey began in the fall of 2002 when Ed first stepped on a plane to El Salvador. One short-term mission trip with Colonial’s team had him convinced.

“The orphans there would just surround you, pulling at your clothes and wrapping themselves in your arms,” Ed recalled. “They just want to be loved, to know they have value, and for someone to take interest in them.”

But Amy was still content at home, never even vacationing much farther than New England. God tugged on her heart when she joined Ed on an ensuing mission trip. She even remembers the very moment in 2004 that she and Ed acquiesced to God’s full-time call.

Jolting along on a bus toward their return flight to America, Ed and Amy locked eyes across the plastic seats. “I looked at Ed and said, ‘I don’t think I can leave these kids!’” Amy remembered. “How do you feel about doing this full-time?”

That was the trigger for which God (and Ed) had waited. Not long after, the couple teamed with Pioneer Ministries, an international organization that allowed a strong concentration on children’s ministries. After further research, Mexico City surfaced on Ed and Amy’s radar; the city’s streets housed thousands of homeless children, starting at age three.

“Age three!” Amy emphasized. “I can’t imagine Caleb out on the street or sleeping under a bridge at night.”

But even once the “big” decisions had been made, Ed and Amy didn’t get to construct their own timetable. Caleb popped into their lives midstream, and naturally, nobody wants to say goodbye to the family’s first grandchild.

In addition, God dictated the sluggish rate at which support appeared. Full days at work were followed by long nights of seminary classes. Many weekends yielded hours of travel as Ed and Amy shared their vision across the state.

“God would remind me again and again, ‘It’s my timing, not yours. Just wait,’” recalled Amy.

Preparations certainly involved a physical and mental aspect—from seminary classes to church-wide presentations. But the greatest voyage for Ed and Amy has been a spiritual one. For example, Amy recalled a particular moment of anxiety during which the phone abruptly rang. The caller, a distant acquaintance, expressed a sudden desire to support the Wilson’s ministry.

“Just when we were feeling like this is never going to work, God would give us the exact encouragement we needed, and He would build our faith,” Amy shared.

What are they most excited about?

“Finally getting there!” said Amy (they hope to depart the week after Easter). “Seeing God’s plans realized and watching that first time that someone responds to the gospel.”

Amy and Ed yearn to fuel a change in Mexico City’s young population. While churches of Mexico cater to adults, children and teens comprise the majority of their congregations. These young adults have few mentors and even fewer havens for direction and safety. The Wilsons’ dream of opening an activity center which offers not only tutoring and games but also a VBS-like atmosphere fertile for the Gospel.

What will they miss the most?

“The food,” Ed laughed. “Or maybe the conveniences of American life. We can’t run the dishwasher, do a load of laundry and run to the grocery store all before lunch.”

Amy paused. “Colonial—and our network of friends from our ABF,” she replied. “But fortunately, we can get Pastor Davey online!” Praise the Lord for technology (and for Pastor Davey).

By this point in our conversation, the lunch crowd had begun to dissipate at Panera, and Caleb—who had finished his Baked Lays—was getting antsy. As I wrapped up my computer, Ed offered one last thought.

“Even if someone doesn’t go into full-time missions, Colonial offers great short trips,” he said. “I’ve talked with college students and adults who have come back completely changed. People outside of this country truly have to rely on God to meet their needs.”

So, at the end of the day, what does it take to embrace missions—at any age? Only a willing heart.



Written by Cherith Mangum

“Cherith, a blissful newlywed, and Kevin, her husband, live in Raleigh with their black lab.”

“One verse, John 3:16, and a bit of courage, that’s all you need to lead someone to Christ.”

—JOHN GLASS



Wayne Knowles, Colonial’s Elder Board Chairman, conducted the interview for this story when he visited John Glass in Switzerland. Wayne and his wife, Phyllis, joined John for his church’s one year anniversary celebration last November. They have been friends with John for over 20 years.



When God Writes Your Story

Once upon a time, not so long ago, a young man became restless with his studies. So, one day he decided to leave the university and see more of the world. His travels soon landed him in Greece where he lounged by the sea and got a tan. To his amazement, the “good life” soon became old, so he flew to Israel hoping to fill a void in his life that was becoming undeniable. In Israel, he took an early-morning tour of Jerusalem and found himself in the tomb of Jesus, wondering at the chills that ran down his spine in reaction to the place. Finally his journey led him on a rambling bus trip to New Delhi, India. After spending six weeks on a bus with other young people who were consumed with a lifestyle of drugs and self-fulfillment, the young man felt more aimless, empty and lost than ever. But that was about to change!

In New Delhi, the young man’s story took on a new twist. One day, after purchasing a plane ticket to return to his parents’ home in Geneva, Switzerland, he had a *chance* encounter with a Dutch missionary. After a two-hour conversation, a warm Coke, and a shared Bible verse, the young man knew that God had found him. He bowed in prayer, acknowledged that he was a sinner and asked Jesus Christ to come into his life to be his Lord and Savior.

That’s the story of how John Glass began his new life in Christ more than thirty years ago. John’s history is exciting and, if you had an opportunity to hear him speak when he visited Colonial as the keynote speaker for the Global Outreach Celebration in February, you know that God has continued to write an intriguing story in his life.

While the story of his journey to faith may be more eventful than some, John remembers it in very simple terms. “I am the result of cold-turkey evangelism. One verse, John 3:16, and a bit of courage, that’s all you need to lead someone to Christ,” says John.

Not long after his conversion, John returned to school at the University of Syracuse in New York. When he arrived at school, he knew that he needed to meet other Christians, so he picked up the phone and asked the operator where he could find some! She gave him the name of several campus student groups. Soon he got involved with Campus Crusade for Christ and began leading other aimless college students to Jesus. After graduation, John was encouraged to join the staff of Crusade, but didn’t have peace that God was leading him in that direction.

So, he became a flight attendant and soon met the woman who would become his wife. In today’s economic climate, you might be encouraged to learn that God sometimes uses layoffs to lead you in a new direction. That’s what happened to John when he was laid off by Pan Am. He took that opportunity to move to California to live with his brother. There he attended

Grace Church and first heard John MacArthur preach. While in California, John realized that the Lord was leading him to prepare for the ministry, so he decided to attend Talbot Seminary where he received his Masters of Divinity.

After completing his studies, John felt called to missions in Europe where he had been raised. He specifically wanted to return to Geneva, Switzerland where he had spent the first fifteen years of his life. At the time, 1986, there were no opportunities to go to Switzerland, so John and his wife, Meg, were sent to France. Over the next ten years they worked to bring a church in Paris to a point of independence. “I had the privilege of leading a man to the Lord, mentoring him, and now he is the pastor of that church,” remembers John.

After that, “The Lord opened a door to come to Geneva to pastor an existing church,” says John. Working in Geneva over the last twelve years, John has witnessed first-hand the post-Christian culture of Geneva. John says, “The average citizen has no clue of the (religious) heritage of Geneva.”

John Calvin, one of the fathers of the Reformation, lived in Geneva for almost thirty years. During his ministry there, he was able to lead many of Geneva’s citizens to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Today John Glass, an expert on the life and ministry of John Calvin, leads visitors on Reformation tours that introduce them to the great spiritual heritage of the city.

Over the last year, God has led John and his family to their most exciting ministry challenge to date, beginning a new chapter in the story of John’s life. In November of 2007, a community of believers in Geneva felt led to plant a new church and asked John to be their pastor. The Evangelical Church of Geneva, also known as Grace Church Geneva, recently celebrated its one year anniversary. “It was scary; I’d never started a church,” says John.

Wayne Knowles, Colonial’s Elder Board Chairman, and his wife, Phyllis, had the opportunity to celebrate the milestone with the members of Grace Church Geneva. Wayne preached to a congregation of 250 last November when the church gathered to remember their first year.

From the beginning, “it was clear that this is what we should do,” says John. God provided a location in a local hotel and the church regularly has more than 125 gathered for Sunday worship. People are coming to know the Lord through this new church. In fact, the morning of the anniversary service, “we led someone to the Lord,” says John.

John and his wife, Meg, have three children: John William, Kimberly and James.



Written by Angela Clendenin

Angela is staff writer and editor for Colonial. She and her husband Gary have three children: Hannah, Martha and Sam.

Opening the Book by Serving

Cary Farrell has witnessed first hand the difference teamwork can make in serving God.

“After participating in a few mission trips with my older daughters, I saw the difference in the trips where the kids knew each other well and had worked together over the course of years and trips where hardly any knew the other until arriving on the field. The teams that knew each other spent the week ministering in a powerful way and the groups that didn’t know each other spent most of the week working on relationship issues. Statistics show that most missionaries leave the mission field due to an inability to get along with the other missionaries.”

Farrell has been leading a group of sixth-grade girls each month to serve at a local ministry, With Love From Jesus (WLFJ). WLFJ is an evangelical outreach that serves the needy in the greater Raleigh area by providing for their physical and spiritual needs. WLFJ is located in a former grocery store in Raleigh, and in keeping with the design, allows people to shop for whatever they may need. All who participate also receive the Gospel message.

“WLFJ is a great ministry to get the girls started serving in their community and learning to work together. I have a vision of these girls learning to serve locally together to prepare them to serve on short-term mission trips together,” says Farrell.

One Saturday a month, the girls, their Sunday school leaders, and any family members who want to help, arrive at WLFJ around noon, when the shopping day is over. They re-stock the shelves with food and clothing. One group may be bagging up potatoes; another may be hanging clothes from newly arrived donations. They clean and they prepare WLFJ for the next shopping day.

“We have a great group of girls that work like busy bees the whole two hours we are there. They never complain. They seem to have a vision of how their time at WLFJ is making a difference—more people are shown the love of Jesus. The girls have shared with us how good they feel after serving here. We also become very grateful

“I have a vision of these girls learning to serve locally together to prepare them to serve on short term mission trips together.”

—CARY FARRELL

for what we have when we see how little others have,” Farrell observes.

Farrell believes that middle school is a crucial time to serve, because the tendency is for teens to become inwardly focused and forget that others have needs. Her guiding verse is Matthew 25:40, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” She often reminds the girls that they are ultimately serving God through their efforts on behalf of others.

“Middle school is a hard time in life—teens tend to think the world revolves around them. Serving others helps them realize that they are not alone in this world. We all like to know that we are needed in our world. When teens have no responsibilities they become bored and feel useless. Teens are capable of a lot more than we give them credit for. They look for opportunities to prove that too. Working alongside the girls, we can cheer them on and train them to be the next generation of servants for Christ.”



Written by Kelley Reep

Kelley is a freelance writer. She and her husband Mark have three children: Casey, John and Joanna.

With Love from Jesus Ministries serves Raleigh and the greater Wake County area.

Their mission is to provide for the physical needs of the poor in our area by providing free clothing, food and household items. Before shoppers at WLFJ shop in the store, they are presented with the Gospel, as part of the WLFJ desire to meet the spiritual needs of those whom they serve. The ministry depends on donations. Donations of non-perishable food items are especially needed in the spring months. You may take your donations for WLFJ to their store at 421 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh.

Here are a few members of the WLFJ Service Team. Pictured: (Clockwise from the upper left) Tiffany Farrell, Libby Fowler, Deanna Hall, Sarah McGrath, Megan Pennington, Caroline Wintermute and Melissa Pennington.

Equipping Leaders

"Putting native pastors on the ground, in their countries, in their cultures."

—SAM WINCHESTER

"To see hungry, hungry people that want to know truth that are released from the bondage of doctrinal lies — it thrills me like nothing else."

—PASTOR BRAD HARBAUGH

The mission of Shepherds Theological Seminary is to equip servant-leaders for life. What most people are unaware of is the extent to which this mission spreads. Here's a hint: it goes far beyond the borders of the Carolinas. Shepherds Theological Seminary is helping to equip servant-leaders in Croatia and Kenya as well.

The foundation for Shepherds' ministry in Croatia was paved about six years before the seminary even came into existence. Nearly eleven years ago, Dr. John Millheim, who is currently a professor of Historical Theology and the Shepherds' Director of Foreign Teaching Sites and Distance Learning, was asked by a missionary friend in Germany if he would travel to Croatia to help start a seminary. The only seminary in the area was charismatic; so Croatian pastors recognized the need for a sound, evangelical seminary at which to teach the next generation of Christian leaders. Dr. Millheim went, and for the next month, he helped outline the seminary's courses and doctrinal statement. He also helped establish a meeting place. Thus, the Theological Biblical Academy (TBA) in Krapina, Croatia, was born.

Fast forward to Shepherds Convocation in January 2003 when a partnership between Theological Biblical Academy and Shepherds was announced. For Shepherds, the partnership meant that they would send short-term professors, books, and class materials to Croatia. For students at TBA, it offered a chance to be equipped with a strong, biblical education that would prepare them to pastor and lead in their own countries.

Currently students at TBA can earn a Bachelor's of Theological Studies, a sixty-hour degree that they can receive only by taking classes taught by adjunct professors of Shepherds. For most students, it takes two to three years to receive their degrees. After they do, they're ready to plant churches.

When graduates choose where to plant their churches, "location is key," said Dr. Millheim. While Croatia is a predominately Roman Catholic country, "many of them are starting churches in places where there are no churches, not even Roman Catholic ones," he said. This opens up a lot of opportunities for reaching people who have a desire to worship, but have no place to do so. "One time, when I preached over there, ninety percent of the audience was Catholic," said Dr. Millheim. "There wasn't a Catholic church available, but the people were still hungry spiritually."

Croatia isn't Shepherds' only overseas focus. There are also professors who go to Kenya to offer the same type of program that students in Croatia are receiving. In Kenya, the seminary is called the Winchester Academy of Theological Studies. Winchester Academy is part of *Build the Village*, a ministry led by Colonial missionaries Damon and Randa Davenport. Build the Village, located in the bush between Lake Victoria and Nairobi, focuses on building a village around a community church. While keeping the church as the community's focal

point, other parts of the community are developed, such as schools, a health care facility, an orphanage, a library, and the seminary for native pastors and laymen.

Three years ago Brad Harbaugh, Colonial's Pastor of Single and Adult Ministries, taught a course on the Life of Christ at Winchester Academy for the first time.

"The first year the course was taught in a mud sheep barn with bamboo trees pounded into dirt with rough boards nailed to the bamboo for seating. The course was translated into Swahili by a pastor named John," said Brad. "Pastors came from all across Kenya, traveling hundreds of miles for days with only the clothes on their backs." For these pastors, transportation mainly consisted of walking down the road while looking for a vehicle going in their direction. When one came by, they'd catch a ride as far as that vehicle was going, get back out on the road on foot, and then walk until they caught another ride. Seventy-five people attended the week-long Life of Christ course, fifty pastors and twenty-five women.

Not all of the students that attend classes and conferences at Winchester Academy are trying to get a degree. Some of them, such as missionaries already on the field, just want to benefit from the teaching.

Brad says one of the interesting things about Kenya is that ninety-five percent of the population considers itself Christian. "The church in Kenya is two miles wide and an inch deep doctrinally. Our ministry in Kenya is rescuing a generation of Kenyans from being tossed about by every wind of doctrine. We are helping to rescue the Christian community of Kenya."

Helping with this rescue effort is what keeps Brad going back to Kenya. "To see hungry, hungry people that want to know truth that are released from the bondage of doctrinal lies—it thrills me like nothing else." He has already been three times and plans to go back in early 2010.

Since the start of Shepherds' outreach programs, a total of twenty students in Kenya and Croatia have graduated with their Bachelor's of Theological Studies. All of these were either church-planters or wives of church-planters who wanted to help support their husbands in the field.

As Shepherds continues to grow, the outreach program will continue to grow and develop. "We've invested this energy because it's the right thing to do for missions work," said Dr. Sam Winchester, another Shepherds' faculty member who is highly involved in the seminary's overseas presence. "We are putting native pastors on the ground, in their countries, in their cultures." Shepherds is equipping servant-leaders for life, locally and around the globe.



Written by Amber Rockwell

Amber Rockwell graduated from Elon University in 2006 with an English degree in Creative Writing. Although she loves journalism, especially covering human interest stories, one day she hopes to publish fiction for teenage girls.



Our Families, Flocking Together

Just want to be a sheep. Baa, baa, baa, baa!” So goes the children’s song that plays on the analogy used by the psalmist and Jesus referring to the Lord’s followers as sheep. If you follow the Good Shepherd, you’re a sheep. Sheep group together in flocks. Sheep *need* flocks for safety, direction and companionship—things just don’t go so well for sheep that are not part of a flock. Just ask any wolf.

To help keep the wolves at bay and, more importantly, to help all of our Colonial sheep more easily find their way into a caring group, FLOCKS are coming to Colonial! *For Life, Outreach, Community & Kindred Spirits—FLOCKS.*

By now, you have probably heard from your FLOCKS leader when he called to invite you to your FLOCKS’ first official meeting, a potluck luncheon. On five Sundays from the end of March through April, Colonial will be launching its new FLOCKS community groups. Every member and regular attender, and their families, have been assigned to FLOCKS based on where they live. The purpose is simple says FLOCKS Assimilator Mary Solis, “to connect families to ministry and to each other.”

Finding your niche and forming friendships in a church the size of Colonial can seem daunting. What FLOCKS are intended to do is to provide you with natural opportunities for connection with the people who attend Colonial and who live near you. When you know that there are five families in your neighborhood who go to Colonial, finding a walking partner or a family that can carpool to next week’s student event becomes easier. “Many of those connections are happening already,” says Mary. “FLOCKS will just help broaden those opportunities.”

So, how do they work?

Each FLOCKS group will be led by a Colonial Deacon who has been trained and provided with tons of information about all that Colonial offers. There are seventy-two FLOCKS made up of as many as forty households each. “Many people are plugged in and know their way around Colonial, but for those who may have questions about all the ministry opportunities available, the Deacon will serve as a conduit of information to get them pointed in the right direction,” says Mary. “Or maybe a family member is hospitalized or experiencing some other major life event, the Deacon can make sure that the people who can best support that family are notified.”

FLOCKS will create a community where members can encourage one another to be a part of what God has called

“I think it is a wonderful opportunity for more folks to get together, meet each other and develop relationships with people who live close to them”

—MIKE NAGY

them to as part of the Colonial family.

Because FLOCKS members are grouped geographically, the opportunities for outreach to friends and neighbors should be easier. Imagine a few members of a FLOCKS group inviting their neighborhood to attend Christmas Sweet or the Global Outreach Celebration. If the whole neighborhood is going to be there, wouldn’t you want to come along? How would that change your neighborhood?

“I think it is a wonderful opportunity for more folks to get together, meet each other and develop relationships with people who live close to them,” says Mike Nagy, Colonial Deacon and FLOCKS Leader. “As I have contacted people, I have been amazed at how many people have responded enthusiastically when I have asked if I might pray with them regarding something they are experiencing in their lives.” Deacon and FLOCKS Leader, Sam Iraggi agrees, “it’s a great opportunity for us to begin to connect as a church.”

Pastor Stephen Davey echoes their enthusiasm, “I’m excited to be leading the deacons in this new ministry that will connect the Family together and help even more relationships and connections take place. I’ve already heard testimonies of people who lived in a neighborhood with other Colonial families and never knew they attended the same church. Hearing their excitement has made all this effort worthwhile . . . and we’re just getting started!”



Written by Angela Clendenin

Angela is staff writer and editor for Colonial. She and her husband Gary have three children: Hannah, Martha and Sam.

Colonial’s Deacon Corporate Officers: (from left to right) Dave Waters, Duane Tester, Elmer Dixon and Lloyd Solis.

“...as Christians, we need to be available and willing to engage the family who just moved in. It was that kind of outreach that got us ready for the visitors from Colonial.”

—DAVID NIZEN



The Far Corners of Your Street

Meeting the Lord Jesus was no laughing matter for David and Vicki Nizen, especially after their childhood religious experience left them both seeking more. Bar mitzvahed at thirteen, David soon stepped away from his Jewish roots. Vicki stopped attending Catholic Church in seventh grade. The two became husband and wife before either was twenty-one.

“We enjoyed career and material success. Life was good,” says David. “We were a happy, hard-working young couple,” echoes Vicki, “but there was still emptiness, and it grew as we began having children.” The hole in the Nizen household would soon be seeded and watered. But the harvest would wait for its season.

“We were *sprinkled* on in our neighborhood,” says David. Several Christian families provided nourishment, reaching out and inviting them to events. “One couple was praying over our house every day,” says Vicki. “Another neighbor came over one day and prayed for me. It blew me a way that someone would pray for me!”

Yearning to fill the void, David and Vicki ventured into Colonial on Memorial Day 2001. Having torn off the inside flap of a Communiqué, they were visited by a team led by Pastor David Williams. Explaining that Heaven is a free gift, they asked the couple, “If you died today, would you go to Heaven?” Vicki was bothered that she didn’t know for sure. David made clear that he didn’t accept gifts from strangers. Undaunted, the team pressed on. A few more penetrating questions, some verses from Scripture, and soon the Nizen’s had Pastor Williams right where *he* wanted *them*.

“That night when they asked if I wanted to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior, I replied yes,” says Vicki. “I knew it was time. From then on, when David traveled, I would pray for him, terrified that if something happened, he would not be in Heaven.” It wasn’t long before David would be broken enough to join his wife. “Later that year I had to fire four friends,” says David. “That night I began thinking about my blessings including my wife, our two children, and my job. Sitting alone on the verge of weeping, I realized that my greatest blessing was Christ’s death on the cross for my sins.”

“I was baptized at Colonial on Easter Sunday 2002 with my husband,” says Vicki. “Now our children are growing in the Lord too.” “The neighbors were the nourishment,” David chimes in matter-of-factly. “They were praying for us for seven years! I don’t think we would have made a commitment without that. It shows how, as Christians, we need to be available, willing to engage the family who just moved in. It was that kind of outreach that got us ready for the visitors from Colonial.”

When the Global Outreach Celebration rolls around,

David and Vicki see the same banners in the corridors of Colonial that we do. Yet the words “Global Outreach” represent more than an annual celebration. *Global* means: to the far corners of your street. *Outreach* means: stretching a healing hand over the hedges. They will tell you that kingdom-building occurs when doctrine goes from paper to pavement; and the most fertile soil can be masked by the broken-hearted smiles of the happy couple next door.



Written by Ben LaCorte

Ben and his wife, Brenda, live in Cary with their children: John-Paul, Layla and Layton. Studying at Shepherd’s Theological Seminary, Ben enjoys preaching, teaching and writing.

“I’d like to **know how** to share with my neighbor or co-worker, but I just don’t know where **to start.**”

If you’ve ever had that thought, you’re not alone. Many of us know our unsaved family and friends need to hear the gospel, but we just don’t know how to begin.

Colonial Outreach Ministries offers Everyday Evangelism (EV2), a training course designed to equip you to share your faith naturally and with confidence. EV2 pairs each trainee with an experienced trainer and includes both classroom instruction and real-world experience sharing your faith.

EV2 training materials have been developed by Evangelism Explosion International. A key principle of EE is multiplication which recognizes that evangelism is most effective when those who have been won to the Lord learn to share their faith and can then lead others to the Lord.

The course format includes a one-day seminar followed by a seven-week course that meets one evening during the week. The next session will begin in the fall. Specific dates and times will be listed in the Communiqué and at colonial.outreach.org.

faces

GOD'S PEOPLE, OUR FAMILY

Sarah and Joanne Lott



At the eleven o'clock service, Sarah Lott serves a distinct part of the community with her unique ministry. Tucked away in the booth beneath the balcony, she translates the songs and sermon for Spanish-speaking families. *"It's a big responsibility and I try to be ready with Pastor Stephen's outline,"* she says,

but *"I know the Holy Spirit will do the rest of the work."* Sarah's husband Mark works for Wisdom for the Heart and her 11-year-old daughter Joanne helps him package the sermon recordings sold at the Colonial bookstore each Sunday.

Shawn Wood



Evangelism Explosion (EE) and Quest Men's Bible Study are the ministries in which Shawn Wood is involved. Shawn and his wife, Penny, decided to sign up for EE after a church dinner during which a mission team showed slides of their trip to Ukraine. His favorite aspect of EE Shawn says, *"is seeing God work through [him] to plant seeds of salvation by sharing the Gospel."* Shawn is Director

of Engineering for an environmental engineering company. He and his wife have one son, who is also named Shawn.

Duane Tester



Although Duane Tester serves Colonial as a deacon, the secretary of the deacon board, an EE associate trainer, and a leader in Colonial Corners, his passion for ministry extends beyond Cary's borders. Inspired by his experience on last year's Denver mission trip, Duane will be heading back to Denver this summer to lead a local team of students from Providence Bible Church in Denver. He

enjoys, *"seeing the students bond together and grow deeper in their faith."* Duane lives in Cary with his wife Laurie, daughters Carson and Katie, and son Stephen.

Laura Reak



Laura Reak works from home as an English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor, teaching students ranging from four-year-olds to adults. At church, she teaches the adult ESL class that meets on Friday mornings and helps lead a group of AWANA Truth and Trainings girls. Laura says, *"Bible Quiz is one of my favorite activities to organize for AWANA, because the clubbers learn the verses*

so well that they will always have them available to comfort them, keep them from sin, and attack the enemy." Laura lives in Cary with her husband Andy and children, Kate and Nate.

■ Compiled by Brittany Darst and Sarah Stockslager



C O L O N I A L B A P T I S T C H U R C H