

# MISSIONS

## Fili Comes Inside for Christmas

Fili, our orphaned red duiker, lost one of her horns. She recovered well, but it bled quite a bit. We decided to bring her inside for a few days to keep her out of reach of insects and a greater risk of infection. She makes a decent houseguest, as she is mostly timid and polite. However, she can be easily spooked and will jump very high, knocking over anything in her path, if you bring a large bouquet of greenery inside to serve as a Christmas tree. Thankfully, she didn't hurt herself and eventually decided that the greenery made a good snack.



## A Replacement for Kim Brown:

International Ministries (IM) is pleased to announce the endorsement of Alise and Mark Juanes from Sunnyvale, California, to missionary service in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The couple will work through longtime IM partners Integrated Ministries for the Ethnic Minorities Foundation (IMEM) and the Thailand Karen Baptist Convention. They will serve at the House of Love and House of Blessing, both established



by IM missionary and Kim Brown more than two decades ago in Chiang Mai, where she continues to serve as director of IMEM. The Juaneses' ministry focus will be on the discipleship and spiritual development of children and staff, administrative responsibilities and community development. The House of Love is a home for tribal women and children, including women who have been sold into prostitution, AIDS orphans and children removed from their homes by Thailand's social welfare department because of abuse. The House of Blessing provides a safe day care for children who live in slums to come during the day. It prepares children to enter Thai schools and also works to strengthen their families. "I am excited that Mark and Alise have been endorsed to begin the process that will lead to service in Thailand," says Leslie Turley, IM area director for Southeast Asia. "They began the journey several years ago as they felt the call of the Holy Spirit. God has been in evidence in their preparation for working with marginalized and at-risk children. Their skills, gifts and experiences will truly be assets." Alise Juanes is a 2006 graduate of San Jose State University with a master's degree in kinesiology. She is an experienced teacher in a Christian school and an athletic trainer. "I believe that my medical and rehabilitation knowledge will be useful in assisting with the ministry," she says. "I hope to use my teaching experience with the children and staff. I look forward to mentoring, discipling and modeling a healthy family unit." After completing his master's degree in Theological Studies at Vanguard University in 2011, Mark Juanes served as pastor of administration at Crosswalk Community Church. Acts 1:8 leads Mark in his work: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Mark comments, "This verse speaks to me as both a promise and a command . . . it is for the disciples and for all believers . . . it's for the church throughout history and for each of us on

Alise and Mark Juanes were introduced to IM's Vocational Development program through the Rev. Dr. Tim Brown, executive minister of their ABCUSA region, Growing Healthy Churches. "On behalf of our regional family, we are thrilled with the endorsement of Alise and Mark as ministry partners with IM," says Brown. "They are a wonderful couple with a deep desire to see the kingdom of God expand and the marginalized of the world cared for and loved. They will make a fabulous addition to IM's work in Thailand."

Alise and Mark Juanes will be moving to Thailand with their three children, Sydney (age eight), Gavin (age six) and Kolin (age three). They currently attend Crosswalk Community Church in their hometown of Sunnyvale.

**Dear Mission Partner,**

For American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), equipping disciples entails supporting and enabling highly motivated Christian disciple-makers who are delivering the Good News of Jesus Christ and producing life-saving and life-giving change in individuals and congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico. The theme for the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2018 is "Equipping Disciples," informed by this biblical text: *"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:11-13, NRSV).

ABHMS works to broaden our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus in word and deed for the 21st century, and to nurture discipleship by expanding our network of highly motivated change-agents who share the Good News and impact the world with God's love. In this way, we encourage authentic Christian discipleship in which the fullness of the Gospel—in its personal and social implications—are manifested in individuals living Jesus' message, involved in their communities and carrying out God's call in their lives.

As you contribute to AFC, you enable ABHMS to provide high-quality Christian resources and encouragement to our network of disciple-makers, thereby improving their effectiveness in equipping other Christians. Our Equipping Disciples team facilitates virtual communities and networks of American Baptists engaged in discipleship for mutual support and enrichment.

Additional resources offered by the team support church transformation, evangelism, Workshops for Church Life and Leadership, the Discipleship & Christian Education Guide and The Christian Citizen magazine. Discipleship materials are available from Judson Press, ABHMS' publishing ministry, on topics ranging from Christian living, Christian education, church leadership and Bible study to preaching, pastoral ministry and Baptist heritage.

Please give generously to the America for Christ Offering 2018.

With gratitude for your generosity,

*Dr. Jeffrey Haggray*

Executive Director, ABHMS  
American Baptist Churches  
USA

**Coming Soon:  
March 1-31 You  
have an  
opportunity to  
give to America  
for Christ.**

The graphic features a green wavy top section with the text "AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2018" in white and yellow. Below this is a row of three small photos: a group of people in a meeting, a person speaking at a podium, and a group of people in a classroom setting. To the right of the photos is the text "CULTIVATING LEADERS", "EQUIPPING DISCIPLES", and "HEALING COMMUNITIES" in yellow, followed by "Ephesians 4:11-13" in a light blue font.

Dear Friends,

The changing of the calendar year marks a renewed focus for our ministry in Congo. After a difficult first year (for specifics you are welcome to write and ask), we spent some time in the States meeting with our home staff at International Ministries and reflecting on our experiences in Congo. We also took advantage of this time to gain more skills that we hope will help us live well in our unique and isolated circumstances.

We arrived back in Kikongo on December 19th with a clearer understanding of our ministry roles moving forward. We have had a hard time being assertive and saying no, but living in a village with so many needs requires strategic decisions, some of which are to turn opportunities down or to say no to various requests. Kyle will be focusing on teaching one class at a time at UNIBAC (Baptist University of Congo), starting with a general psychology course. Katrina will be continuing to aid UNIBAC's financial staff with bookkeeping and basic accounting on top of heading up the homeschooling of our kids. We will also try to travel more to Kinshasa where we are able to meet with the President and Board of UNIBAC. This is a necessary step for us to strengthen our relationships. Building these relationships is made difficult by distance, especially given the cost of travel and housing in Congo. You can be in prayer about how exactly to meet this need.

UNIBAC's Board of Directors is planning to meet this March. This will be a pivotal meeting for the board as it is their first visit to Kikongo since the creation of the University. We have been asked to send our thoughts and ideas regarding the operation of UNIBAC. To fulfill this request, we will be setting aside some time to further reflect on our experiences over the past year and provide some feedback. Even after a year living and working in Kikongo, there are cultural differences and limitations on the University and how it can function in such isolation that we don't fully grasp. This makes it difficult for us to think through some of the roadblocks the University is facing.

This academic year is the third year of operation for UNIBAC, which has three year degree programs. All of the third year students have final projects and internships to complete, making it a busy season with a lot of logistical complexity for the administration. We are looking forward to learning more about the educational requirements in Congo as we observe UNIBAC's first class of students graduate! Pray for the finalization of the University's accreditation as this is a vital part of granting diplomas in Congo.

As for our family, we arrived back in Kikongo and were warmly greeted by many visitors. We have also taken time to go for walks and greet people in the village. Our walks double as a time of language acquisition. Somehow, we were able to madly unpack our bags, put the house back in order after it sat vacant, and relax as a family for Christmas.

The kids are all glad to be back in Kikongo where they spend most of their time playing with friends outside. Most of our animals made it fine during our absence. Unfortunately, our cat went missing while we were gone, but the monkey, antelope, crocodiles, and various fish were well taken care of and healthy upon our return.

We hope you have had a restful holiday season and wish you a joyful 2018!

Kyle and Katrina Williams



"My Grandparents absolutely hate Christians," Jenny\* shared, a not-yet-Christian from Malaysia, right after leading us through bible study\*\*.

"My cousin, who studied in the states, became a Christian while here, and after he became a Christian he told his parents...they freaked out, and then told my grandparents who freaked out too," Jenny continued to share.

Despite the real persecution back home, Jenny has continued to seek Jesus. She has not only faithfully attended ICF bible studies and events twice a week, but has also consistently been seeking Jesus through other campus ministry bible studies.

Last month, Jenny was invited by another seeker to lead bible study\*\*. With only slight hesitation, Jenny agreed. This past week, Haruko\* from Japan and Emily\* from China, both seekers themselves, met with Jenny to help train her. Jenny led bible study last Thursday and knocked it out of the park. She not only asked some deep questions, but also shared openly and vulnerably.

Sometimes it is hard to see how Jesus is moving in students. Giving Jenny the opportunity to facilitate bible study, allowed Jenny to display the ways that Jesus is moving within her.

Please join me in praying for Jenny. Pray that Jenny would choose Jesus as her Lord and Savior, despite the personal cost. Pray also, that if it be God's will, that both Jenny and her cousin would be able to share Jesus with the rest of their family.

Longing for more,  
Fredrick Kruse

Kalea turns  
2 years old!



**INTERVARSITY**  
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP at U of O