

Missions Update

From bulletin: April 25, 2021

MISSIONS FOCUS: Tim & Tessa Fortescue, Global Gates

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

Tim took a Sabbatical and returned to ministry in February 2021. He sent us a couple of updates and some of his messages are included in this brief focus!

Thanksgiving 2020:

Dear BACBC - I hope that you are doing ok with all the craziness of 2020. As Thanksgiving approaches, I wanted to reach out to let you know that our Family is grateful for you and thankful for your partnership with us. Without generous partners like you, our ministry would be much more challenging. Thank you so much for your partnership with us! (this was the complete handwritten note sent to us)

Christmas 2020: (partial letter)

Dear Bay Area Chinese Bible Church,
We hope that you're doing well and hanging in there as 2020 comes to a close. What a year...While initially Tim was disappointed that his sabbatical seemed to be perfectly timed with a global pandemic, as the sabbatical comes to a close, he's grateful for the many silver linings that have appeared. He's grateful for having more time to walk, go on retreat, and spend time in prayer and meditation. He's grateful that this time in history as well as a slower life pace has helped him gain more perspective and clarity. He's grateful for the opportunity to rest, reflect and reset, as well as for opportunities to engage in activities that are life-giving and sustaining. We've appreciated less time in cars, more times in consistent family prayer and song in the mornings and evenings, and a slower life pace. We are grateful that Kai and Safa have acclimated well to distance learning and overall have found ways to stay interested and engaged in learning and playing together. We are grateful for more time connecting with neighbors and that we can meet online with our church community.

April 2021: (partial letter)

Dear BACBC,

....In faith and love, we invite you to pray with us during the month of Ramadan(April 12-May 12) when Muslims around the world fast, pray, reflect

and come together as a community. For followers of Jesus, this is a special time to bless, reach out to, and care for our Muslim neighbors and friends - to be the hands and feet of Christ. Ramadan is a wonderful time to humbly share about how you've experienced Christ at work in your own life. Many of our Afghan friends are curious to hear about this Jesus we entrust ourselves to and attempt to follow. Many often believe 'American pop culture" and "Christian" are synonymous. Whether it is prayer that leads you to love your Muslim neighbor or love of your neighbor that leads you to pray for them, we hope during the month of Ramadan you will draw close to Christ and that His love will well up in you and overflow to your neighbors. In gratitude, Tim and Tessa

The complete letters from the Fortescue family are included below:

Want to read more? visit bacbc.org/missions

*Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries,
countries and people locally and globally!*

Merry Christmas from the Fortescues

Dear Bay Area Chinese Bible Church,

We hope that you're doing well and hanging in there as 2020 comes to a close. What a year...We were so eager for the season of Advent to begin--the daily reminder of Emmanuel, God (who suffers) with us, the Prince of Peace--has sustained and strengthened us in this challenging time. When we wrote to you in July, we were 4 months into the pandemic and our family was sheltering in place. Since that time we've collectively survived record-breaking wildfires, a painfully divisive and incredibly stressful presidential election, COVID-19 restrictions and heartbreak, an ongoing struggle for racial justice and equity, (and all of the unique, ongoing, painful--and at times hopeful fallout of each of those events). Although there does seem to be some light at the end of the tunnel, as a state we are once again sheltering in place and for the first time, like many of you, we will celebrate Christmas at home with just our immediate family. We hope and pray that vaccines will be quickly and equitably distributed around the world so the kids can return to school, we can visit extended family, Tess can see clients in person again, folks can return to work safely and we can all get back to the very mammalian need of seeing, touching and holding beloved family and friends.



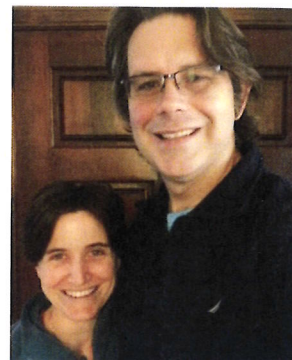
While initially Tim was disappointed that his sabbatical seemed to be perfectly timed with a global pandemic, as the sabbatical comes to a close, he's grateful for the many silver linings that have appeared. He's grateful for having more time to walk, go on retreat, and spend time in prayer and meditation. He's grateful for the team that has come alongside him to encourage and challenge him during his sabbatical. He's grateful that this time in history as well as a slower life pace has helped him gain more perspective and clarity. He's grateful for the opportunity to rest, reflect and reset, as well as for opportunities to engage in activities that are life-giving and sustaining.

Looking ahead, Tim is excited about the variety of ministry options with Global Gates. As a result of his time to reflect he's feeling greater clarity around his values and goals around work and ministry. He looks forward to reconnecting with the Afghan ministry and assisting the Afghan church in the Bay Area. Additionally, during the sabbatical he was able to spend more time working on his life coaching skills, an interest he's pursued for the last three years, and he's almost at the point of being certified as a life coach. He's excited about using these skills in ministry, particularly with Afghans, students, and those seeking to deepen their connection with God and live a life that is more aligned to their faith. He also looks forward to offering his gifts for developing partnerships and mobilization to help Global Gates continue to be a growing and thriving organization.

In retrospect, Tessa has been very thankful for the strange timing of Tim's sabbatical. She appreciates the way he's spearheaded the older kids' distance learning so she can supervise Lucy and Jules. With two curious 3 year-olds we quickly discovered the need for the "school room" door to be closed and locked...after which, one attending adult has the option to supervise the twins outside of the school room, or to enter the school room (and quickly close the door) and supervise and assist the older two with distance learning...However one cannot do both! She's also thankful she can still go out for runs during the pandemic, for library books and curb-side pick up, for K-pop albums which have kept our family dancing, for our Afghan neighbors who continually bring us food and humble us in their demonstration of

hospitality and generosity, as well as for the two days a week she is able to leave the house and see clients (via zoom) in the office.

Kai, who zoomed into 3rd grade this fall, is thankful that he can facetime with friends, for chocolate milk, Disney's *Zombies I and II* movie soundtracks, and for family dance parties. He's appreciated *Captain Underpants*, *Calvin and Hobbes* as well as *Zita the Spacegirl* books. Safa, who's in 1st grade, has relied heavily on her excellent imagination, mom's dresses for dressing up, Kai's books, and Lucy and Jules for playing along. She's enjoyed facetime with her friends as well as playing with fairy dolls. She too appreciates Disney soundtracks and the BTS song *Dynamite* (which our family has probably danced to over 400 times). Lucy is thankful for comic books, dancing, and our two rabbits. Jules appreciates dresses with sequins, dance parties, and snuggling. They both love having the older kids home.



We are all grateful for the extended times that we've had together (and that we all mostly enjoy them!) We've appreciated less time in cars, more times of consistent family prayer and song in the mornings and evenings, and a slower life pace. We're grateful that Kai and Safa have acclimated well to distance learning and overall have found ways to stay interested and engaged in learning and playing together. We're grateful for more time connecting with neighbors and that we can meet online with our church community.

Finally, we're so grateful for you, our partners. Your prayers encourage and sustain us. Thank you for your prayers particularly during this sabbatical time.

Music has been such a lifeline for our family as we've been stuck at home, and the lyrics to *The Next Right Thing* from the Frozen 2 soundtrack at times have felt divinely inspired. So we leave you with these words from Princess Anna, which have taken on a whole meaning in 2020...

*"I won't look too far ahead, It's too much for me to take,
But break it down to this next breath, this next step, this next choice is one that I can make.
So I'll walk through this night, stumbling blindly toward the light, and do the next right thing...
And, with it done, what comes then? When it's clear that everything will never be the same again...
Then I'll make the choice... to hear that voice...and do the next right thing..."*

With love and enough light for the next step,

Tim and Tessa

Prayer Requests

- ★ Pray for Afghan Christians and local churches; that they would be and share the love of Christ with Muslim brothers and sisters
- ★ Pray for wisdom for our family and particularly Tim as his sabbatical time comes to a close
- ★ Pray for the pastor of the local Afghan church and his wife; for wisdom, love, and partnerships
- ★ Pray for healing, humility, understanding and reconciliation for our nation

P.S. As our ministry grows, we have general needs that come up each year that aren't included in our ministry budget. One example of this is a backpack and school supply distribution that the Afghan church in the Bay Area will do later this summer. If you'd like to donate, you can send a check to Global Gates, 236 W. 72nd St, NY, NY 10023, and write our specific ministry account number TF/52000 in the memo line of your check. You can also give online by going to www.globalgates.info/donate and select our account TF/52000 from the dropdown menu.



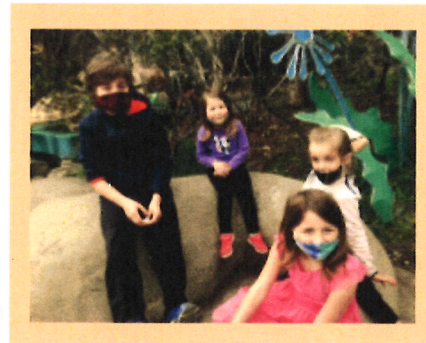
April 2021

Dear **BACBC,**

I hope this letter finds you well. As our two older children excitedly returned to school this week (in a Hybrid set-up) we're feeling some hope and optimism about the months ahead as well as a bit of light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Tessa is fully vaccinated as are our elderly relatives. While we still have a long way to go as a country, it is encouraging to see COVID numbers decreasing and vaccinations on the rise. The possibility of visiting family and friends this summer feels amazing.

I'm back at work with Global Gates following my sabbatical and I feel refreshed and excited about networking with a variety of people, organizations, and churches interested in working with Muslims as well as Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in California. I have enjoyed reconnecting and partnering with the local Afghan pastor and his wife and ministry partner (whom I've shared about in previous newsletters--he and I originally connected through a mutual friend in Afghanistan.) I am also excited about working with our executive director David Garrison in creating an organizational development and fund-raising plan for Global Gates.

As a small token of my gratitude for your prayer during my sabbatical, I'm enclosing a *30 Days of Prayer* booklet that was written by Global Gates staff this year. In faith and love, we invite you to pray through it with us during the upcoming month of Ramadan when Muslims around the world fast, pray, reflect and come together as a community. For followers of Jesus, this is a special time to bless, reach out to, and care for our Muslim neighbors and friends--to be the hands and feet of Christ. Ramadan is also a wonderful time to humbly share about how you've experienced Christ at work in your own life. Many of our Afghan friends are curious to hear about this Jesus we entrust ourselves to and attempt to follow, as unfortunately many often believe "American pop culture" and "Christian" are synonymous. Whether it is prayer that leads you to love your Muslim neighbor or love of your neighbor that leads you to pray for them, we hope during the month of Ramadan you will draw close to Christ and that His love will well up in you and overflow to your neighbors.



In gratitude,

Tim and Tessa



While the Fortescue family were on Sabbatical, we received other reports from Global Gates organizations. Here are some highlights:

September 2020: Your gifts help us reach the ends of the earth through global gateway cities. At the site of the Freedom Monument over the World Trade Center, one Global Gate colleague heard a man visiting his son, as the father traced the names of those who had died in the 9/11 attack, "There it is," he said, "She's the one." He explained to his young son that the name inscribed on the monument's base was the woman who had filled in for him that day after he had called in sick. "She took my place that day. I'm alive, because she took my place."

That's the message we share with all who will hear, "Jesus took our place. Because of Him, we are alive today."

October 2020: (newsletter after this page)

...God brought us here so we could be the guides to lead other to His salvation. Thank you for doing your part to help these "nations" of lost peoples find the God who brought them to our global gateway cities. Thank you for your generous support!

November 2020:

Global Gates missionaries (Mark & Emma) serve among the world's least-reached peoples. With their children, they live in a Muslim neighborhood where they boldly share the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. Recently, Hamid, a Muslim friend, shared that his son suffered from terrible tumors on his foot and leg. Medical treatments had proven ineffective and doctors warned that the son might lose his leg. Mark gently shared from Scripture how Jesus loved children and with the father's permission, Mark prayed for this son in Jesus' name. A few days later, Hamid exclaimed to Mark, "It's improving. It's totally different!" Pictures confirmed that the tumors were 20% smaller than before – it was the first time any improvement had been seen. We pray that God will continue his work in Hamid and his son's life and draw this family to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

We have so much to be thankful for. First on our list is that "our names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life!" Thank you for co-laboring with us to record the names of as many as possible from among the world's least-reached peoples into the Lamb's Book of Life!



October 2020

Finding Pathways to the Nations

Dear Ministry Partner,

Have you looked around? When you go to the grocery store or to work, do you observe your new neighbors? Do you see women in flowing, colorful silks, perhaps with their heads or faces covered mysteriously? Do you see men in turbans, or hear them speaking other languages?

That is reality in Houston, like it may well be in your city. Twelve young adults – all in their 20s and 30s – have come to be interns of Pathways Texas. From Virginia Beach and Las Vegas, from Dallas and Houston, they have come to rent apartments and have access to their chosen people. Some live where they can drink chai with Indian Hindus. Others are near their Bangladeshi, Afghan, or Pakistani neighbors, and some are engaging Indonesians and Turks. A married couple live where they can develop friendships with Chinese Buddhists. It is just like moving to the “mission field,” living where you can build relational bridges to people who need the gospel.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings the interns learn how to share the good news of Jesus across the cultural and religious divides. Over the course of a nine-month journey they will learn some language skills, host Bible studies with their people groups, and join God in his work. During the evenings and weekends, they go out with their coach who models the skills they desire to acquire.

Does your city need an internship? Build a pathway from Jesus to the unreached neighbors in your city.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ...”

Grateful for you,

Tom Hearon

Global Gates' Director of Pathways Texas

For more information about Pathways Texas, visit globalgates.info/pathwaystx.

Quotes from the Field

"How long ago did God give this book to Moses? There's no way he could have known this then if God hadn't told him. Some Muslims believe the Bible has been corrupted, but I don't believe that, and this is proof that it hasn't been. I believe this book is from God, and I believe every word in it."

- **Kamil, a Syrian Muslim man to a Global Gates missionary*

"People where I'm from don't know this message (story of Christ's birth) ... in India, the people there teach that Mary [Jesus's mother] was a prostitute ... and the Christians give people money to convert to Christianity."

- *A Punjabi Sikh man to a Global Gates missionary*

"I just did relief work in a beautiful way. I distributed relief to a total of 60 Hindu-background believers. All of them had been flooded. The food we have distributed will feed a family of four people for two weeks. I also ordered 100 Bibles and 100 New Testaments."

- **SU, a field partner in Bangladesh to a Global Gates missionary*

**Names changed for security reasons.*

For more info, please contact Global Gates Network info@globalgates.info, 917-243-4979.

Follow us on social media
[@globalgatesinfo](https://www.instagram.com/globalgatesinfo).





Benevolence/COVID-19 The coronavirus pandemic has ravaged our world, bringing many communities to their knees. Racial tensions, polarizing politics, riots, and catastrophic storms have exacerbated an already raging season of devastation throughout the United States. But God is at work, and by his grace Global Gates' missionaries continue to spread the love and hope of Jesus Christ to broken, hurting, lost, and unreached people in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. This would not be possible without the sacrificial financial support of God's people, especially those who made special contributions to our COVID-19 Relief Fund. We are so grateful for you and thankful for your generous partnership in this vital work. Your generosity fuels the mission, and because of your gifts Global Gates' missionaries have been able to touch hundreds of lives during this global health crisis. So, if you are able, we ask that you please send a special gift to our **Benevolence/COVID-19 Relief Fund**. This would help our missionaries meet the needs of unreached peoples and give more opportunities to share how God has been generous to us through Christ. Donations can be made at tinyurl.com/Give2Bless.

UPGs in North America Page Global Gates wants to help equip you, your local church, community group, family, and friends to engage in what God is doing to reach the nations in your city. We offer a variety of FREE resources to contribute to this. For example, we provide information via our UPG Priority Matrix, infographics, and UPG profiles that can inform, educate, and be used for prayer, research, and mobilizing the people of God to take the gospel to their unreached neighbors. You can access these items at globalgates.info/upg.

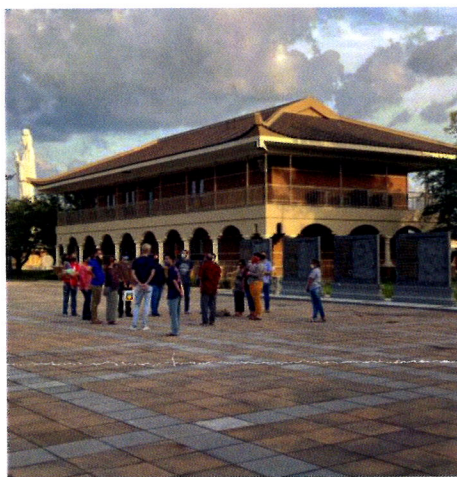
What is God calling you to do?

C.T. Studd, an English missionary to China, India, and the Congo, wrote,

*"Only one life,
will soon be past,
Only what is done for Christ
will last."*

We often get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life, and sometimes it can be easy to escape with bingeing on Netflix. Some folks might fill their free time with other leisure activities or hobbies that are not necessarily bad things. It's good to step back from the rigors of life to rest and relax. But if that's what consumes our time, then we miss out on something better – an opportunity to make an eternal impact on the lives of others.

Global Gates invites you to explore the opportunities we offer to join us in the harvest fields among the world's least reached peoples. Visit tinyurl.com/Work4GG to learn more. *All workers raise their own financial support.*



Global Gates Needs A Gateway Hub Leader for Los Angeles, California

Los Angeles is the second largest city in the US with a population of 3.9 million residents. But LA also is a sprawling metropolis with 13 million inhabitants in the Greater LA area. It's home to immigrants from more than 140 countries, speaking 224 different languages. The situation calls for a hub leader to mobilize and lead workers to engage UPGs with the gospel, create a climate in the Christian community that contributes to prayer, ministry, evangelism, church multiplication, training, and leadership development to bring these least reached peoples to faith, multiplication, and growth in Christ. For a job description, go to tinyurl.com/LAHubLeader.

December 2020

It is hard to imagine a world without Christmas. For many millions of immigrants God has brought to North America, this is a distant reality.

Global Gates missionaries have immersed themselves in non-Christian immigrant neighborhoods and are taking this opportunity to share with their Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh neighbors the reason for the season.

What a year it has been! In the midst of these challenging times, Global Gates missionaries are seeing remarkable responses to the Gospel.

Musa was a fundamentalist Muslim from North Africa whose radical activities landed him in a US prison. After his release, he met Jacob and Ashraf, two GG missionaries who gave him an Arabic Bible. "This is a special thing you have done for me," Musa said, "You have given me a second chance." Musa has now invited Jesus into his life as his Lord and Savior. "Since I have invited Jesus into my life, he says, "I have never known such peace."

January 2021:

Our GG Arab team leader's report: In nine days, over 3,600 Arabs in Metro New York have watched our birth of Jesus video on Facebook!"

Your gifts through GG are making it possible for the Arab Muslim community in North America to hear the message of Jesus!

Quotes from the field:

"Pray for me this month. My job is slow. That is why I am upset. Anyway, thanks for everything. God bless you and your family." (Bengali Muslim man to a GG missionary)

"More than anything, I want to reach my own people with the gospel." (Punjabi man, a believer with a Sikh background to a GG missionary)

"The more and more I hear about Jesus, the more and more I fall in love with him. I bought myself a Bible. It was my birthday present to myself." (a West African Muslim to a GG missionary)

More Stories:

As 2020 fades, we're finding that God is using the calamities of that troubled year to awaken thousands of lost souls to their need for a Savior. Our NYC West Africa team reported 60-100 new conversations a day on their Facebook page.

A Turkish Muslim in New Jersey was baptized. She threw away an amulet she'd relied upon for years to protect her from evil spirits, declaring, "Jesus is my protector now!"

GG missionaries in NYC meet the pandemic with relief aid and the love of Jesus Christ. As a result, our Bengali outreach team has delivered Bibles to 1,500 homes and shared the gospel with 3,000 individuals.

One GG missionary who moved to India to learn the language of her Hindu people group is reporting even new house churches among them.

A Somali believer who was discipled by one of our missionaries returned to his homeland to share the gospel. Though he suffered for his faith, he said, "God is with me, giving me the words to speak to, amaze and quiet the Islamic scholars."