



ALUMNI PRAYER REQUESTS:

- The BGC Scholarship Program will soon be selecting our 2012-13 scholars. Please pray that God would give those involved wisdom and discernment and prepare the hearts of those who would come in the fall.

- Please continue to lift up Lance (PFMC, 2005) in Bulgaria. His family was forced to leave Bulgaria when their visa applications were rejected. Pray for continued wisdom as they seek to return to their ministries in Bulgaria. Pray for coming transitions for their entire team.

- Please pray for a 2003 pre-field scholar who has recently arrived in Asia. Pray for his language studies and that he would have opportunities to reach out to those around him.

- Lift up Daniel (FM, 1991/1995) and Gayna Salinas in their adoption proceedings. Pray for them also as they discern how God would have them serve in their next ministry assignments.

- Pray for one of the translators working with Ben & Mandy Pehrson (PFMC, 1998) in Papua New Guinea. Dominic, a key leader on the translation team, may be forced to leave translation work because of some recent legal struggles. Pray for provision and wisdom.

BREAKING THE YOKE: SCHOLARS FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

According to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, there are 2.5 million people in forced labor as a result of human trafficking. Awareness of this critical issue has been growing, with more and more ministries devoted to serving victims of human trafficking all over the world. Several of our BGC Scholars are actively contending against this great injustice. We have noted two of their stories below.

—Diane Garvin, BGC Scholarship Program Coordinator



A Story of Hope: Lisa DePalma and Marchelle

I recall my first encounters with Marchelle on the street, soon after moving to Cape Town, South Africa in 2005 – every part of her body language screamed “don’t you dare come near me.” Marchelle’s life was one marked by deep struggle and pain, beginning with seeing her mother killed by her father as a young child, and continuing through harmful relationships, prostitution and drug addiction. She came to stay with us in the House of Hope for a time, and I don’t think I will ever forget the first time I saw her smile. The relationship was a challenging one, and there were several times over the years where she was out of contact with us for months at a time, and we wondered if she was still alive. And so when I got the news in October 2011 that she had died, it came as a shock and yet, we had all feared it had been coming for quite some time. I had recorded my last visit with her, several months before, in my journal, excerpted below, knowing that what I had experienced had been a gift.

June 13, 2010: *I am so grateful that the Lord gave me the opportunity to visit Marchelle. Leading up to the visit, thinking about her brought tears and sadness... Partly the fear of her dying, and seeing her dying, and not knowing how or wanting to face that. And yet I knew I needed to go to her.*

When I found her bed, she looked so small, almost skeletal, and tired and worn. There was a tenderness in our interaction that is difficult to explain. It was as if all of our defenses and masks were down and we were able to really see each other and relate to one another from the core of our beings, without a lot of layers in-between, as can so often be the case in human interactions. And we were both so genuinely glad to see each other and be together for that hour.

Before I got around to bringing up faith, she began to speak about it, saying that she thinks she is close to giving God a chance with her life. She knows her life is important and that God has kept her alive for a reason. She acknowledged that God has blessed her and sent people to her, and that while she wants to give up control to God, there are doubts that rise up in her mind. So we spoke about that a bit – about there often being doubts present, even mixed with faith, and that we can bring all of that to God.

I reminded her that her life matters and that it has impacted many people and that it still does. We talked about other things – people she knows, her health, her family, her thoughts about the future, and before I knew it, the visiting hour was nearly over. When I told her I needed to leave soon, she said that I could pray for her before I go. It was so special the way she said it, with such a soft heart. I walked away amazed and in awe of the work of God in her, in me, in that time, and treasuring this precious gift of a visit with Marchelle. I left feeling deeply humbled and like the encounter had changed me somehow. I also felt like I had visited a dear friend and for that, I am deeply, deeply grateful.

—Lisa DePalma, 2001 Urban Scholar
Now serving in South Africa



Human Trafficking in Mozambique: A Report

Julietta became an orphan at a very young age. She was left to the care of a neighbor rather than being sent to an orphanage or a relative. He decided she would be much more valuable to him if she went to work, so he forced her to sell herself on the streets. She was nine years old.

Most countries and international organizations recognize that any child forced into prostitution by someone other than an immediate family member is a victim of human trafficking, a slave being made to do despicable things. Many times victims of human trafficking are sold into slavery and moved across international borders. But in Mozambique, one of the world’s poorest nations, **victims are often just children who are burdens on their communities.**

I work in Mozambique with [Free The Girls](#). We work alongside safe houses who serve women like Julietta who have been rescued from slavery by providing legal and safe jobs. We also provide opportunities for women around the world join the fight against human trafficking.

—David Van Dam, Bennett Scholar

News and Events

- Dr. Scott Moreau of the Inter-cultural Studies department recently spoke to our group of Next Steps participants about missions in the 21st century.
- We’ve posted some great pictures from our summer Brazilian BBQ on our Facebook page. Come on over and check them out! We’d love to hear from you, too—please post updates or questions to our Facebook page!
- Wheaton’s [21st Annual Theology Conference](#) will take place on April 12-13. This year, the topic is “Bonhoeffer, Christ, and Culture.”