



Was I Doing Enough?

How a simple question eventually led me to the TBM board

by Bruce Hale

It was a cool, clear morning in the spring of 2009. I was sitting on a south-facing deck with a spacious view of the Colorado foothills, enjoying a cup of hot coffee with a good friend as we dug deep into conversation. We had grown up together following Christ and now were leading good lives with our wives and children, obeying Scripture's direction to lead them in the way they should go. We were doing a good job by anyone's judgment. However, that morning something was eating at me: Was I doing enough? Was there more I could do to lead and to honor the Lord?

Was there more I could contribute to the building of His Kingdom?

During my growing up years, I have no memory of a missionary visiting our church. After high school I followed the encouragement of others, got a secular education, and followed the path expected of me. My relationship with Christ was well-rooted and unquestionable, and it was in the small-town church I had started attending where I met my bride. We started our life together in Christ and raised our family under the direction of the Lord. But it wasn't until that cool mountain morning that I began being drawn to change the direction and priorities of our everyday life.

It was a long three years before the Lord would open the next door for my family and me. During that time we changed churches and began attending one that supported several missionaries, with strong missions involvement and regular missionary speakers. I took advantage of this and invited them to my home for a meal and a time of greater fellowship and discussion. I started seeing the work of the Lord in a way I had not noticed before. These men and women were giving their

lives to the work of the Lord, making it their sole purpose to contribute to the building of His Kingdom. After those three years of growth, the Lord allowed us to attend Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wyoming in 2013.

The next three years were like having a glorious feast after a long journey. Five times a day there would be wonderful lessons, lectures, and teaching consumed in a way that left you always wanting more. The missions weeks (three each year at that time) were a wonderful time of rubbing elbows with and hearing stories from so many of the Lord's servants. Meals were shared and relationships were built.

One of those relationships was with TBM Director Ron Thompson and later Chuck Mathias, not to mention countless other TBM missionaries who came from and

visited the school and LaGrange, where TBM headquarters had recently moved. Each of these missionaries and their families were a blessing to my family and me, as we would mutually encourage and pray for one another.

Today God has brought me to join Tentmakers Bible Mission as a member of their board after walking alongside them at FSB and in LaGrange for the last 13 years. I have a strong connection to the mission, the missionaries, and to the need to plant churches. I personally know or am close with well over half of TBM's missionaries and strive to build relationships with all of them. My goal is to use the coming years to develop those relationships and see what needs I can fill in the encouraging and equipping of the workers in TBM's ministry.



A Team...More than Twenty Years in the Making

Five TBM families now serve together in Tarapoto, Peru

Throughout the New Testament we see teamwork. Jesus modeled it by choosing to work alongside a team of disciples. And Paul, often thought of as a lone pioneer, intentionally invested in co-workers and partners. Eight of his thirteen letters mention others with him.

Tentmakers Bible Mission now has five missionary families serving in and around Tarapoto. This is a first for us. Missionary life is often isolated, one family laboring alone. Tarapoto is something different: a team. And how that team came together is the story of faithful, patient work through one family and one church.

More than twenty years ago, Delwin and Techy Fowler arrived in Tarapoto and planted Comunidad Bíblica de Tarapoto. Two decades later, that church plant has become a church that plants.

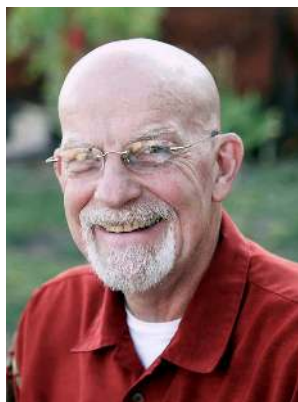
Josh and Charity Griggs focus beyond the city into the jungle, reaching tribal communities and training

indigenous pastors. Lenin and Amber Rivedenyra work with CBT with a desire to reach surrounding villages. Marcos and Allison Fowler and Lucas and Taylor Fowler both arrived recently and are settling into their future church-planting roles. Five families, five different but related trajectories. Each one autonomous, but none alone.

Marcos and Lucas are Delwin and Techy's sons. They grew up inside this work, watched the slow years and the setbacks, and came back to continue and grow what their

parents started. Between the four younger couples there are now seven young children on the ground. A third generation is already there.

Twenty years of patient labor did not simply produce a church. It produced the next generation of those who would build it. One plants, another waters, and God gives the increase. Five families in Tarapoto are living that out.



By Faith: Remembering Bill Bagley

For nearly four decades Bill Bagley served as a church planter across the West, much of that time as a TBM missionary. Bill has recently gone home to be with the Lord, and we want to pause to remember his life.

In the summer of 1988, Bill brought his family to Utah County with a simple conviction: that the people of Utah needed to hear the true gospel and be taught the Word of God plainly. He had grown up in Michigan, trained at Grand Rapids School of the Bible, and pastored in Michigan and Illinois. But God was leading him west, to a place where Bible-teaching churches were few. Bill and Gloria went anyway, stepping out in faith.

Fellowship Bible Church launched that summer with a

Bible study at the Lion's Club in Pleasant Grove. The congregation eventually purchased land in Lindon, Utah, and by 1994 they were worshipping there. In June of 1997, having raised up leaders and called its first full-time pastor, Fellowship Bible Church graduated from TBM as a self-sustaining church. It continues to this day.

His final work took him to the Bear Lake Valley, where he served at The Village Church in Garden City and then partnered with his son Bill Jr., also a TBM missionary, to plant Hope Bible Church in Montpelier, Idaho. It was a fitting close: a father and son planting a church together.

We give thanks for the life of Bill Bagley, and we hold Gloria and their family in prayer.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)