

“Great,” wrote Debbie, a *Missions Catalyst* reader, in response to our [July Resource Reviews](#). “Now you’ve got me ordering (and reading) a bazillion great books to motivate me, my family [and] my church for missions! And it was such a comfortable life ...yesterday!”

“But seriously, Marti, you do a superb job!” She explained, “This newsletter has done more than any of the other stuff that comes to my inbox in helping me and my family find our purpose in God’s never ending story of salvation. Thanks to your work, my family and I are engaging 17 visiting Chinese scholars and their families for meals and social events to gain a platform for sharing Christ, and in August we will be Friendship Family to two Muslim students coming to Florida State U for the fall. We have essentially adopted a young Chinese student who is now living in Atlanta.

“You have SO changed the focus of our family’s ministry from local to global! We are much, much more intentional about seeking out the internationals in our area introducing ourselves when we visit the hospital has, oddly enough become a rich source of new friendships. Amazing. If anyone had told me that our lives would be guided in this direction 10 years ago I would have laughed. Well, I still laugh. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

Working behind-the-scenes in world missions as I do, I sometimes wonder how much of a difference I really make. Notes like Debbie’s help keep me going. It’s great to see what God is doing in people’s lives and to know that they have been equipped or inspired by the work I do as it’s empowered by God, carried out in collaboration with others, and supported by your prayers and assistance.

Crisis Management, People Group Prayer, and the Pioneers Explore Ring

Though I’ve been a writer/editor for more than 20 years now, these days my words don’t get out on paper, not often anyway. Mostly I curate and work on content for electronic newsletters, websites, and social media. Almost everything I write gets published, usually immediately, and there’s more feedback then there was in the days of paper.

But sometimes projects come along that are quite different. Right now I’m working on an informational document for churches on how Pioneers deals with

crisis management issues. Last week I edited prayer material about a people group in India, the kind of project that was once my bread and butter. I’ve also been helping design a [museum-like display about world missions](#) that will grace the lobby of a new building on the campus of Pioneers USA in Orlando. It’s a huge project and we’ve still got a lot to do to see it to completion. Will you pray about this?

Meanwhile, Chris is doing some writing, too. Check out his [blog on chaplaincy](#) at ChrisWade.org.

Stay or Go?

In our April letter I asked you to pray about chaplain residency opportunities Chris was pursuing at two South Carolina hospitals, but neither worked out. By July another opportunity had opened in North Carolina. As that door closed, Chris applied for a similar position that suddenly appeared in Georgia, then a somewhat different one which would have taken us back to Oregon. Those doors closed, too.

Each time we had long conversations: Was this the one? What would it be like? Would we like the new city? What would the move mean for our calendar and our finances? The questions and ambiguity made for such a stressful six months that we finally reached the point that both of us—Chris who more readily embraces change and I who tend to resist it—agreed we need to be 100% here in Columbia until we’re 100% gone. I’m keeping my writing projects rolling, taking a class, accepting speaking engagements, and making travel plans. Chris is trying to pick up extra nights on-call at the hospital when he can, spending time with the hospital staff, and pursuing personal and professional development goals. We’re both reaching out to new neighbors and seeing friendships start to deepen. Basically we’re acting like this is home.

Meanwhile, Chris is still applying for full-time chaplain positions in various places and in another month or two will probably start to apply for hospital residencies again. If the right thing comes along, we could still move. Eventually, we certainly will. Thanks for praying for us as we watch and wait.



Prayer Points

1. Please pray for us as we watch and wait for Chris's next job and the changes it may bring. Ask the Lord to open the doors!
2. Pray for Marti's writing projects, especially the Pioneers "Explore Ring" for the HQ lobby, and that God may be glorified through them. Thanks.
3. Will you pray for the Perspectives classes Marti will be teaching this fall? If you live in or near one of these places, maybe I'll see you there.

Johnson City, TN (October 3)

Miami, FL (October 8)

Fort Collins, CO (October 9)

Littleton, CO (October 10)

What about you?
How can we pray for you?
[Let us know!](#)

Bookshelf

For some helpful perspectives on walking with God when those around you have a very different agenda, pick up or download Larry Osborne's book on Daniel (and contemporary American culture), [Thriving in Babylon](#). Great stuff.

You might also appreciate [The Insanity of God](#), the story of one man's journey to discover what keeps persecuted Christians going.

I took some time this summer to re-read Mark Buchannan's [The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath](#). So helpful for counteracting busyness.

I also re-read Madeleine L'Engle's [A Circle of Quiet](#), a book I've circled back to many times over the decades. Do you have any like that?

Never read [Through Her Eyes](#), the book I wrote about daily life for missionary women? Any desire to do so? (Maybe not!) But now would be a good time to ask me to send you a copy—for free if you're willing to rate and/or review it on Amazon. [Read why](#).

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