

# Passing the Baton

By **SUE PATT**

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Dear Reader,


I hope you do not feel it presumptive of me to begin this way. I have served as a member of Frontier Ventures for more than 40 years, aware of the impact of *Mission Frontiers* through conversations with church leaders, field workers, agency leaders, and students of mission from dozens of different countries around the world. I know our readers come from many demographics, and I feel some acquaintance with you through my own long tenure in mission.

In our last issue, Rick Wood nodded to our presumed interim editor, Darrell Dorr, as Rick wrote his last column as editor. Happily, Rick continues to be involved with *Mission Frontiers* in a variety of roles but has earned the deep breath afforded to him by stepping away from the role of editor. Darrell, however, needs his own deep breath as he heals from the effects of long COVID. Please join me in prayer for his healing. I praise God for a talented and dedicated team of people working behind the words in each article, in each issue of *Mission Frontiers*. So almost by accident, I picked up the honor of introducing you to this issue.

I travelled to the Telos center in Washington state in early July 2023 for the gathering of eclectic leaders, each passionate about the glory of God being made known to all the families of the earth. Each leader brought with him or her their own unique investment of life experience to bring to bear on the question, “What will it take to see movements to Jesus among the 300 largest frontier people groups (FPGs)?” These are unreached people groups with no known movements to Christ, each consisting of more than 1 million people. I sat with brothers and sisters in Christ to listen, pray, and consider this one compelling question from many different angles. It was a rare and precious gift to participate in this gathering in person.

Now I invite you to come along with me by reading through the articles assembled and contributed by some of the very leaders I mentioned above. Not all the topics are included in this issue for a variety of reasons, but you will get a sense of the things we discussed during those long, intense, and thought-provoking days together. There are no easy answers. We cannot expect to create a recipe for completing the task of world evangelization simply because we gather to talk about it. Likewise, we cannot hope to see the task completed without investing serious thought, prayer, and discernment to the many changing factors at play in the world today, looking for opportunities that only God can reveal, as we ask him to lead us. That is the spirit in which the gathering was bathed. It’s one of hope, anticipation, optimism, and persistent gazing into the face of our heavenly father, the giver of life.

To be sure, the progress of the gospel over the past 50 years is astounding! We are witnessing remarkable growth because of the focus on unreached peoples fueled by prayer. Now considering the challenges facing kingdom advance in the 300 largest FPGs, we have great reason to hope that, fueled by prayer, even greater progress of the gospel will be realized, not for our measures of “success” but for the glory of the Lamb alone. May it be!

Perhaps you will find new inspiration in an element of your connection to the mission enterprise, however God has positioned you. Thank you for your passion for God’s glory being made known to all the families of the earth. We all rub shoulders at the throne of grace, asking God to bring his kingdom. 



EDITORIAL