

A close-up photograph of a nurse in blue scrubs smiling warmly at a young child in a pink shirt. The nurse has a white star sticker on her cheek. They are in a pharmacy or medical supply room, with shelves of various bottles and containers in the background. The child is looking up at the nurse with a curious expression.

How Perspectives Changed My Perspective

By REBECCA L. MEYER, PHD, MSNED, BSN, RN

Rebecca Meyer has been a nurse for more than 35 years. In the hospital setting, she worked in the PICU/CVICU and as an educator, charge nurse, and manager. Becoming a full-time professor in 2010, her clinical focus shifted to community development and academic service learning. She trains students to serve cross-culturally and is the curriculum coordinator and co-author of *Christian Global Health in Perspective*, part of Health for All Nations.

How Do I Serve “Over There”?

I didn't go to college right after high school. When I did, I had no clue what to do with my life. I just knew I needed to start fresh with all the general education courses, and then, hopefully, the Lord would lead me in the right direction. I had a vague notion about serving overseas, maybe with the Peace Corps, but I had no idea how to get “over there” and didn't know about cross-cultural missions opportunities. The Lord was faithful and led me into the nursing field. At first, I worked with adults and resisted working with children since I thought it would be too hard. I can relate to Jonah, running from what the Lord wanted me to do. I finally gave in to the Lord's prompting and found my niche in pediatric intensive care, caring for the sickest and most vulnerable littles. It was exactly where he wanted me to be, working there for more than 20 years. I got married, had children, and still felt a tug on my heart to serve “over there,” but I still didn't know how.

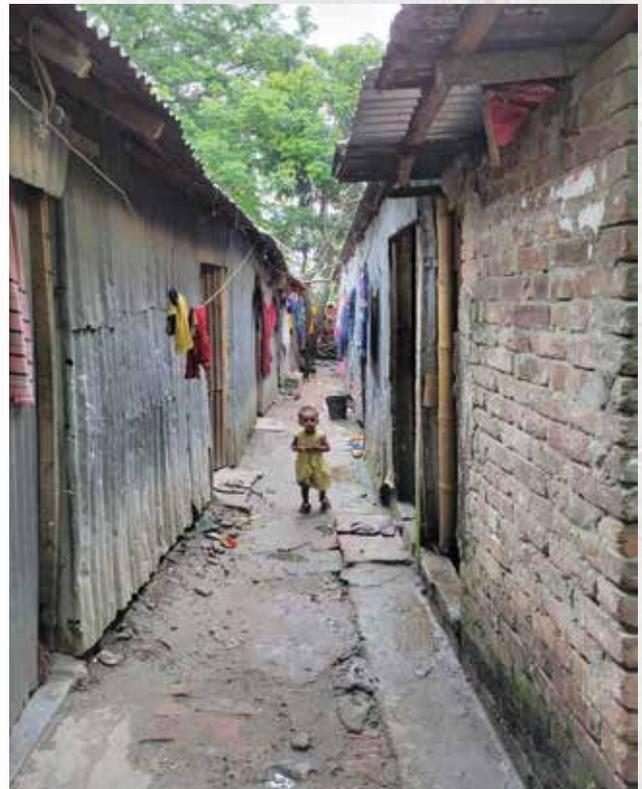
For so long, I searched for meaning in my life. Realizing that I can glorify him in everything I say and do was an important idea for me to understand.

The routine of life and raising three children took over. I served in various ways in my church and community. Sometimes, I functioned as the camp nurse for hundreds of kids in places like Ensenada. I still felt like there were more ways to serve the Lord using my discipline. But I didn't know what or where to look. Eventually, I realized the Lord was calling me to teach. Of course, he had a plan and purpose all along. He led me to teach full-time at a faith-based university that sends hundreds of students to serve overseas every year. Students who want to participate in overseas service are trained to share the gospel and show the love of the Lord to everyone they meet. I also discovered that even though this was a faith-based school, most students are not believers. The Lord brought me to a different mission field than I had imagined.

Paradigm Shift

This same university offered faculty the option of taking the Perspectives course. This was the first time I'd heard of the course. Being new to the organization, I decided to take it. I was amazed as I started reading the workbook, completing the lessons, and referring to the reader. I had been a Christian for a long time, yet had no idea the Bible told the story of missions from Genesis through Revelation. *Why had I never heard this idea before?*

Talk about a paradigm shift in my way of thinking about the Word. Statements like “We are blessed to be a blessing” and “Missions exist because worship doesn't” changed my perspective on my part of God's story. I had never thought of being blessed so that I in turn could bless others. I wrestled with the idea that missions exists because worship doesn't. As a long-time member of my church's worship team, this was a brand-new way of thinking.



Another turning point for me in the course was a discussion centered on why God created us. I did not realize that we were created to glorify him. I somehow missed this important part of the Word. Reading Psalm 96 and learning that believers are to declare his glory among *the nations* was a new way of thinking for me. Many friends would say they love Psalm 46:10, only quoting the, “Be still and know that I am God...” (NIV) portion. That phrase is even found on posters and bookmarks. I was in the same boat. Yet, I didn’t know the rest of the verse: “I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” No matter what, the Lord will be exalted. For so long, I searched for meaning in my life. Realizing that I can glorify him in everything I say and do was an important idea for me to understand.

One week, our Perspectives facilitator showed a video of the missionaries who died in Ecuador. Not having grown up in a Christian home, this was the first time I heard their story. We had an exciting discussion afterward about “counting the cost” and whether it was worth it for them to go. We found out their families went back and continue to this day to serve in that area. That was a turning point for me. The Lord used that situation to bring more people into his kingdom. I started reading biographies of missionaries like William Carey, Hudson Taylor, and Lottie Moon, to name a few. I read more about redemptive analogies and numerous books by Don Richardson such as *The Peace Child* and *Eternity in Their Hearts*.

Missions and His Kingdom

As a nurse, I wanted to learn more about healthcare missions, so I read books such as Greg Seager’s *When Healthcare Hurts*. I attended mission conferences such as Urbana and the Global Missions Health Conference to learn more about mission opportunities. Suddenly, the Lord provided connections and opportunities beyond my imagination.

I found a place to serve overseas and share the gospel while teaching. Because the Lord led me to a faith-based university, I started training with and leading students on service-learning opportunities while

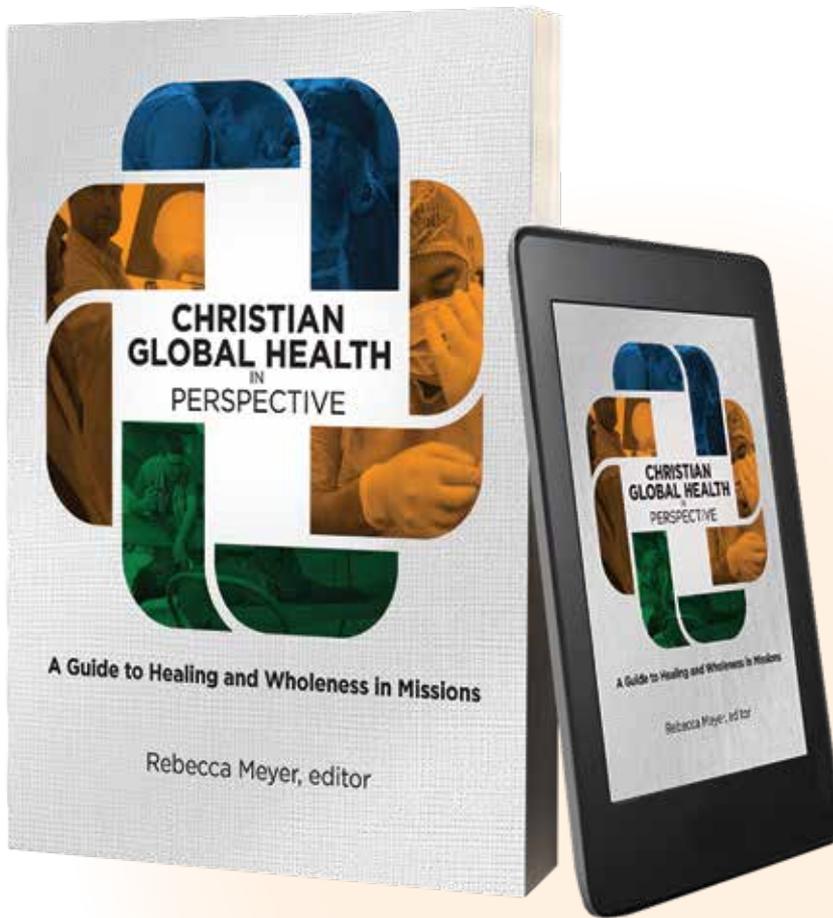
taking the Perspectives course. These experiences reminded me that the Lord wants his Word to be shared with all peoples. The notion is expressed in one of my favorite Bible verses, “There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (Rev 7:9, NIV). What a wonderful picture of heaven!



Conclusion

Through the Perspectives course, I realized that the Lord uses us no matter where we are, whether “in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV). As a professor, I have taken students overseas and partnered with long-term workers. I’ve been blessed to share the gospel with the unreached in the slums of South Asia, the hill country in Southeast Asia, and the cities of Europe. I also have been blessed to be a sender for those serving long-term. I finally understand my place in God’s story and how to use my discipline and the Word to love everyone, no matter where the Lord has me. MF

Healing the Nations. Restoring Shalom.



Christian Global Health in Perspective fills a critical gap in the healthcare missions ecosystem. The course combines theologically sound missiology with responsible and sustainable medical practice. It provides a unique and well-curated biblical and historical perspective while also leading participants to thoughtfully consider future models and paradigms.



DOUG LINDBERG MD
FAAF Director, CMDA Center
for Advancing Healthcare Missions

The world is grappling with complex health challenges and disparities, forcing us to confront many pressing questions. How do Christians understand and practice healthcare? What is the biblical view of health and healing? This workbook unravels these queries, offering deep insights into the Christian approach to global health issues.

Christian Global Health in Perspective delves into the biblical foundations of health, historical perspectives of Christian medical missions, and strategies for integrating faith with modern healthcare. Health is wholeness in body, mind, and spirit. The authors, seasoned experts in theology and medicine, guide readers

through an exploration of how the church can innovatively respond to current global health concerns.

This resource is essential for healthcare professionals, church leaders, development workers, and anyone interested in the intersection of faith and health. Reading this book may result in a paradigm shift for some who view remission of disease as the sole focus for healing, when from a biblical perspective, wholeness and shalom form the basis for promoting health. *Christian Global Health* invites you to join this transformative mission, where faith and healthcare converge for global well-being.