

# From the 510



**CRI** Children's Relief International

*Taking the light of Christ to the poor*

Alan & Melody Pieratt

**WORLDVENTURE**

Here's a little news from Melody & I ...

**TRAVEL TIME ...** We will be off to Africa later in June (Melody and I) to visit Malawi, the DR Congo, and a refugee camp in Uganda. These are first-time meetings. We are very much looking forward to seeing our new partners face to face.



### IN THE OFFICE ...

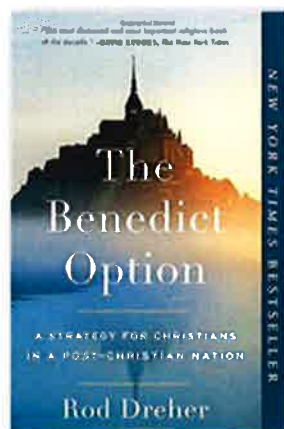
Kara LeTourneau is joining us as a short-term team developer. She has two degrees from Gordon Conwell seminary. Our work depends on teams. When she starts later this summer she is likely to feel like she has been launched out of a cannon.



Lindsey Henderson just graduated from Pepperdine University and will work in child sponsorships. Lindsey comes at a great time as both of our sponsorship developers are taking on other responsibilities this fall.

We now have 18 women and 4 men in our office. In missions today, single men are as rare as hen's teeth. No one seems to know why. We are thankful for all those of the fairer gender who are with us.

As our trainer for interns and staff members, I read a lot of books. I've been asked to share reviews of some of the best. I would enjoy doing that, so let's start with Rod Dreher's "The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation." The author argues that traditional Christians are becoming a minority in America. We are becoming, he says, exiles in our own country, foreigners in a foreign land.



Some churches are offering classes on the Old Testament prophet Daniel and how he survived and thrived in exile. I didn't find Dreher's solutions particularly helpful, but as an analysis of our country today, it's a good, if also depressing, read.

### HERE AT HOME ...

In April, Jason walked the stage at Western Seminary in Portland to receive his PhD. It's been a long time coming but I think it will prove to be well worth it. I call him "coach" now as he is over all our staff.

On May 6th, we said hello to our #11 grand child. Ben & Kristen had a boy. He'll receive a ton of attention from his two older brothers and sister. There is quite the spread now with our oldest at 15 and the youngest at just a few weeks.



Melody is up and running again after double jaw surgery. It corrected an extreme off-bite that was growing worse, and eliminated her sleep apnea. A post-op X-ray reveals 22 tiny titanium screws in her cranium. The recovery is not over until the braces come off to create the perfect bite once and for all. Maybe by the end of the year? She also has a new look with a strong jaw line which we hope you will get to see personally some time soon.

I will close with the most important word in this letter - you. Because of you, Melody and I, and all of us at Children's Relief International, are able to take the light of Christ to the poor of our time. Thank you so much.

*Alan & Melody*

MINISTRY NEWS ...



We have raised another church in the Deep Forest village of Pandragottupalem!



Pastor Marku and his family.



The G Brothers write:  
We had a joyous dedication including a delicious meal for pastor Marku and the rest of our Deep Forest pastors. Pastor Marku was persecuted when he first came to this village. But now with an impressive building he expects to see more men, women and young people come to know Christ. Please pray for pastor Marku, his family and this congregation.