

*Taking the light of Christ  
to the difficult places  
of the world.*

Alan & Melody Pieratt



**CRI**

**WORLDVENTURE**

Into Fall 2017

## It is a wonderful thing when it happens.

Last week we finished our 90 Day Staff meeting. We had four candidates look at us for service. This week we had a fifth application. This is unprecedented growth for us. Was the timing by accident?

In his book on the life of Paul, Sholem Asch recounts how Peter was a key to the Gentiles coming to Christ. For Peter, the issue was whether they had to obey the Jewish laws on clean and unclean food. In Acts 10, Peter experienced a thrice repeated vision in which a sheet came down from heaven full of unclean animals. A voice commanded: "Rise Peter, kill and eat."

At that very moment Peter heard a knock at his door. Three messengers from a Roman Centurion in Caesarea asked him to come and teach them about the Messiah.



*Our 90 Day Staff Meeting concluded with a "Friends of CRI BBQ" attended by 75 adults and 52 kids. Between the pulled-pork sliders, doodling with crayons on brown paper table covers and two bounce houses, we decided the evening was a success.*

How could the messengers' knock have occurred simultaneously with Peter's vision? Their departure on the two day journey to Peter's house had to be timed precisely. It is not hard to image a movie version of this story in which a guardian angel is placing obstacles in the way of the messengers, or speeding them along, so that the timing of their arrival is exact. Such knowledge and control over human affairs is high and mysterious.

For me, the arrival of these five applications represents something similar. Last month we discovered a staff member was involved in a moral failure that had been going on for sometime. Almost immediately after we removed him from our organization, these five applicants arrived. It is not often that I perceive a displays God's hand at work behind the world, but it is a wonderful thing when it happens.

### On a personal note ...

My knee replacement rehab has been more difficult than I expected, both mentally and physically. But now at seven weeks, I'm closer to normal. A good thing, as soon I will become the nurse rather than the patient. Before the year's end, Melody will be wearing braces and admitted for jaw surgery. Her facial geometry has shifted and her teeth no longer touch except with her very back molars. The surgery will correct the bite and also hopefully remedy her sleep apnea. We are thankful for God's gift of modern medicine.