



COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Africa Calebs and U.S. Africa Team

This US-based team is made up of hardworking, dedicated, passionate people willing to be used by God to expand CBSI in Africa. For more info, [email us!](#)



Paul and Debbie Annett: Calebs to Rwanda

The Annetts have been married 38 years and have a daughter, son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Paul and Debbie have lived in Minneapolis, Minn., since 1981.

Both Paul and Debbie grew up in religious homes and attended church on a regular basis, but became followers of Jesus through Bible study and fellowship with believers. They have been involved in Community Bible Study since 2003. They came to realize that becoming disciples of Jesus is a lifelong journey, with the finish line coming when believers leave this earth and go to live with our heavenly Father...

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Dick Augustine: Caleb to Ethiopia

I had the privilege and great blessing of being born into and raised in a Christian home where church was the norm for our family. As a result, I heard the message of Jesus Christ from the earliest age, and I personally accepted Him as Lord and Savior at the age of 10, while at summer camp. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God gave me the wisdom and discernment to be able to make a mature recommitment to Him in my young-adult years.

I have had the further blessing of three wonderful children and four grandchildren who are the joy of my life. My wife, Mary Lou, is a faithful and loving partner in all that we do.

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Jason and Lisa Bye: Calebs to Burkina Faso

Information about Jason and Lisa coming soon.



David and Patti Henderson: Calebs to Zambia

Patti grew up in a “religious” home, but never understood the reality of a relationship with Jesus Christ until she was in high school. The words of 1 John 4:9 spoke to her heart: “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.” David did not encounter the true Jesus until college, where he played football. Through his athletic endeavors, God opened his eyes and heart to the truth of Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

Their marriage of 33 years has been a journey together, even with the bumps and detours into the heart of Jesus. As a business owner, David strives to maintain God’s principles with his employees, vendors and customers. One of his greatest joys is teaching Sunday school, which he has actively done for 28 years...

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Melisa Jensen: Africa Regional Coordinator and C&Y Admin Supervisor

God sought an intimate relationship with me for many years. Not until my late 20s did I finally surrender and give my life to Jesus. Since then, God has blessed me with a loving husband and daughter, a wonderful church home, and an enormous amount of grace and mercy that has changed my life. He continues to mold me into the person He wants me to become.

As He has guided me through life’s challenges, He has given me opportunities to trust Him while growing my faith and equipping me with what I need—and opportunities to serve Him through ministry leadership, teaching children, and outreach and missions work locally and abroad...

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Rich and Jeanne Larson: Calebs to Rwanda

Jeanne and Rich were high-school sweethearts; they married and have three sons. Now they have two daughters-in-law and two wonderful grandchildren in their lives. They worked together in creating and growing a business in which they worked together for many years.

Jeanne’s spiritual journey started early. She grew up in a loving Christian home and committed her life to Christ at age six. Looking back, Jeanne sees she was an inactive believer well into her 30s. After being urged by friends, she became involved in Bible Study Fellowship and her in-depth walk with the Lord began in earnest...

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Arvid and Janet Liebe: Calebs to Zimbabwe

Traveling to explore missions around the world has been a life-long interest for Arvid and Janet Liebe. Throughout their married life (since 1983), they have visited many countries and appreciated the richness and variety of various cultures. Observing how God is working in many lands is an encouragement to their faith! Visiting Mutambara Mission in Zimbabwe has caught their passion since 2007.

Mutambara Mission was established over 100 years ago with a primary and secondary school, a church, 120 bed hospital and a farm. Initially, the Liebes assisted with building a new eye clinic before realizing the farm also needed an increase of support.

In response to trusting relationships being built, leaders are praying about establishing Community Bible Study International (CBSI) curriculum for studying the Word of God. CBSI has been presented to many pastors and trainings for class leaders and teachers are expected in the future.



Dave and Gretchen Mills: Calebs to Tanzania

How did an engineer turned advertising executive and a botanist end up spending the summer in Tanzania? Dave and Gretchen met in college in the '60s and pursued life in New York City for four years before settling in Southern California to raise a family. It was there that the Word of God became real to them. A friend encouraged Gretchen to attend an in-depth Bible study. At first, it was an intellectual pursuit. But when the truth of God and the Spirit convinced both of them that Jesus is The Way, they were baptized in Lake Arrowhead.

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John and Diana Nally: Calebs to Burundi

John is retired from a career in the food industry and with a non-medical health care company. Diana is a retired "stay at home" mom.

In 1999 a friend in their area initiated a prayer group to start a Community Bible Study class. That prayer group developed into a class within one year. Diana was called to serve as ATD of that class for seven years and has been an Area Director since 2007. John has been in a CBS men's Core Group since 2011, and a supporter of CBS ministry since 2000.

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Gene and Frances Shackelford: Ambassadors to Mozambique

Gene and Frances have been involved with CBSI in Mozambique since the ministry began there in 2000. Since the opening of those initial classes in the capital city of Maputo, the ministry has spread to 200 classes in five other provinces in the country. Two other provinces will be added in 2010. CBSI has had a major impact in the very rural ("bush") areas where ancestral worship (paganism) is the major religion. The Mozambican CBSI leadership has taken an active role in shaping the content and format of lesson structure in response to the needs of the various groups from educated literate classes in urban areas to barely literate groups in the bush. It has been a great investment of our retirement years to have had the joy of witnessing firsthand the life-changing power of the light of the Word of God in dark areas.



Tony Vertin: Ambassador to Ethiopia

Tony Vertin has been a business entrepreneur since the early 1970s. He is from Ely, Minn., and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Carlson School of Business at University of Minnesota. Tony and his wife, Jean, have eight children and 20 grandchildren. He credits God for his family, his business successes and for seeing him through any hardships he has experienced. He is a firm believer that the Bible is the Word of God, and the greatest book ever, to be read as often as possible. Tony has been an active participant in his Community Bible Study class since 2003 and began to take on some local leadership responsibilities in 2009. He has recently become involved with CBSI's work in Ethiopia and visited Ethiopia for the first time in December 2012.



Dennis and Kathy Wilson: Calebs to West Africa

Brought up in a traditional church, Dennis Wilson began his journey with God 53 years ago at a Youth for Christ Rally, and just a few years later he met his wife, Kathy.

They were married young—Kathy was 19 years old, and Dennis was barely 21. Soon two beautiful boys were added to their family, but tensions grew as they struggled to make ends meet in those early years.

One day Kathy sat down with her two small boys and cried out to God for help. Shortly after she gave her life over to the Lord, she was introduced to CBS.

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