President's Desk

Leadership Testamonials



e are blessed at ACSI to be a part of a global family full of godly men and women with amazing testimonies. Here are two stories of ACSI leaders who bring glory to God among the nations.

Daniel Neuhaus grew up a missionary kid in an undeveloped region of Frenchspeaking Africa. He faced many

challenges there, including watching his oldest brother and sister die from tainted immunizations. At 18, Daniel left Africa to return for good to Europe, where he earned his degree and met and married Sonia.

His parents, still working in the Central African Republic as Bible translators, asked him to visit. Sonia worried they would try to talk him into returning to Africa, but he assured her he wouldn't dream of agreeing.

Daniel's parents never broached the topic—but God did. Daniel found himself in a wrestling match with his Creator. "You know how much I know about this continent," Daniel said. "That's why I can't go back." God replied, "That's exactly why I want you to go back."

Daniel is a living testimony to 1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

When Daniel told Sonia about the encounter, she agreed to pray about a move. Six months later, she heard from the Lord that this was His will. They moved to Africa and had their first child, who was diagnosed with autism. Daniel sank into a deep depression. The Enemy whispered in his ear, "I told you not to come back here. Now your firstborn is cursed."

Daniel persevered, and he and Sonia had two more children. Sonia had a difficult fourth pregnancy, and the doctor told her the baby would die without advanced medical care. They returned to France, facing an uncertain future with no job and four children to support. Daniel sank into depression again. He questioned God: "After everything I've done for You, now this?" Daniel started volunteering at the local Christian school so his kids could enroll there. The school leaders could see he had a special anointing. Soon, leaders at ACSI Europe heard about this rising leader and invited Daniel to join the ACSI staff part-time. Today, he's one of our top leaders, directing ACSI's work in French-speaking Europe and Africa.

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Brazilian **Mauro Meister** is a seminarian, scholar, apologist, and president of a 1,000-student graduate school. He came to Christian schooling by an uncommon route: a modern-day Inquisition.

The denomination with which Mauro's graduate school is affiliated began heading down a liberal path, and he and six other professors disagreed. The denomination heads heard that these men believed in the inerrancy of Scripture and told them to recant that tenet of their faith or lose their jobs.

Six professors recanted; they had to feed their families. As the seventh met with the tribunal, he told them he wanted to ask a question. They were flabbergasted at his audacity—that kind of thing doesn't happen in this culture—and said he didn't have the right. He became so fed up that he refused to recant. When he told his six colleagues he hadn't signed, they all revoked their signatures, losing their jobs. Mauro ended up at a Christian school, where he fell in love with Christian education.

Meanwhile, pastors throughout Brazil heard about the debacle and were outraged. They voted out the board that had fired the professors, and the new board rehired the men. Mauro is now head of the graduate school and volunteers his time as the head of ACSI Brazil.

Orthodox Christianity is under attack in Brazil. Recently, Mauro's school came under attack because of its Creationist science curriculum. In Brazil, the prevailing belief is that only fools believe those "myths." The press interviewed Mauro, and his intelligent, biblical defense blew them away. The story made the front page of the newspaper.

We work with heroic people. I consider it an honor to be involved in a global movement alongside men and women like these. I hope you do, too.

Damel J. Egeler

Dan Egeler, EdD President ACSI