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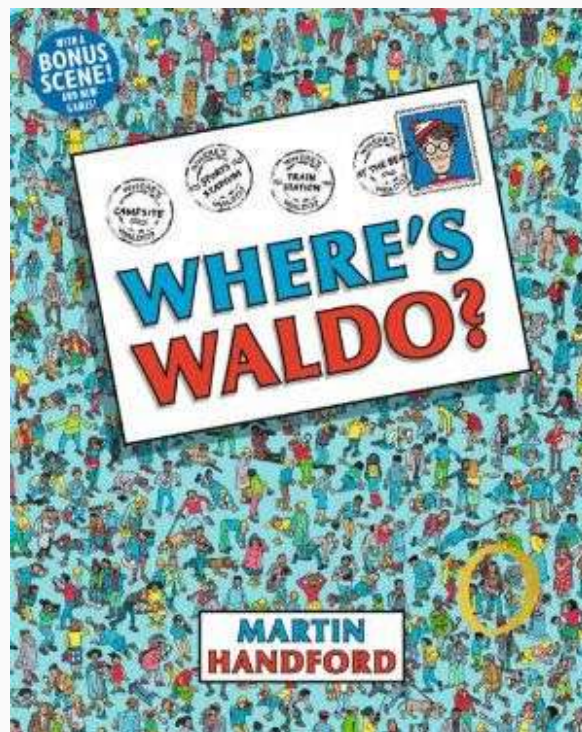
## WHERE'S WENDEL? SUMMER 2024

1 message

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PM

## WHERE'S WENDEL? SUMMER 2024



Many of you remember these fun books that were used to develop children's observation skills by looking for "Waldo" in varied and busy places.

Tim and I have been referred to as "Waldo" on occasion, even from our own children! In spite of *Find My iPhone*, *Life 360*, itineraries and calendars, often we aren't aware of where the other person is.

Our daughter, Olivia just returned for her junior year of college. She has her friends and knows her way around campus, but there are freshmen who are struggling to be found and seen in a sea of unfamiliar faces.

Its easy to go through life not noticing, unless, we are specifically looking. Then you can't un-notice!

These last six months have been a lot of travelling to places where we have

seen God in the lives of people! People and places we wouldn't normally have noticed without the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*I wonder where YOU are seeing God these days and WHOM is God allowing you to see?*



## **GOD SIGHTINGS!**

### **Suriname**

*On the last day of Ramadan in this country made up of Javanese, Hindustani, Chinese and Afro-American people, we were invited by some new believers to the home of their relatives. I had given a Biblical Storytelling workshop and "happened" to have the story of the Good Shepherd with me. I asked if I could share it. One of the closing questions is, "I wonder if you have ever heard the voice of the Good Shepherd". The 70-year-old head of this Muslim household immediately spoke up and said,*

*"No. But I would like to".*

**We saw the Good Shepherd going out and finding this lost sheep! We pray that soon he will hear His voice.**

### **French Guiana**

*After the war in Vietnam the Hmong People were displaced from their home in Laos. The majority waited in refugee camps in Thailand until they could be "processed" to other countries. Many families, like the Olympian gymnast, Sunisa "Suni" Lee or our boss (pictured below) Bao Her, settled in the US. Others went to a small, French territory in South America (French Guiana) and were placed in inhospitable land.*

*However, years prior, a missionary had brought the Gospel over the mountains to their village in Laos and these people loved the Lord! God blessed them and multiplied them (I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Gen 22:17). Now many years later, they may not be as numerous as God's promise was to Abraham, but they certainly are scattered, and a blessing to wherever they have gone. Actually, in their country, they are the primary producers of fruits and vegetables (such as the exotic dragon fruit!) and, nestled in this beautiful country are churches and people who love the Lord and are sharing the Gospel.*

**We saw the God of Promise who had a plan for this country in bringing His people to proclaim His name.**

### **Colombia**

*"Everything that's important in our lives, happens around the campfire...except our spiritual life. Now we see how we can bring His Story into this core piece of our lives as well.*

*In June we had the privilege of meeting with two different indigenous groups of believers in Colombia, the Nasa and the Misak peoples. Although they are in the "eye of the storm" with the continual guerilla fighting surrounding them, their deepest longing is to bring peace to their families, communities and country through Jesus. Through Biblical Storying they were able to see how they can replace the traditional stories that are normally spoken around the campfire with the one True Story of a God that is incarnational with us and brings peace.*

**We saw the True Storyteller transforming traditional stories of fear, into Stories of peace.**

## Southern Cone

*We have been rejoicing with our colleagues and their stories of people whom God sees and brings to Himself. In countries where society or the government has tried to snuff out, discredit or bring fear along with the truth of God's love, we are seeing people come to the Lord, find peace and living water! We pray for many more that God is showing us!*

**We see "El Roi" the God who sees!**

## Latin America

*In the past few years we have said "goodbye" to 7 ministry households for retirement (average length of service is 35 years), BUT we say "hello" to 7 new households to Latin America!*

*As i write, two new families are in the air right now on their way to Costa Rica for language school and on to Paraguay, another family to join them next year and four new families to Mexico! We thank God!*

*We also see God calling out and preparing Latins to go to His harvest fields around the world! What a joy to be involved in that partnership!*

**We see the God of the Harvest who continues to send workers to His fields.**



## Our Family

*So far we can still find our kids in the "Midwest" of the USA.*

*Minnesota: Timothy, Liz and darling baby, Elise are working and studying in the Twin Cities as Timothy pursues his degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner.*

*Michigan: Kira graduated from medical school in May and matched in an*

*Ob/Gyn residency program outside of Detroit. Nathanael "commutes" each week to Ohio State where he continues his degree in aerospace.*

*Illinois: Elijah graduated from IIT in May in computer science and is working for Grainger downtown Chicago. He and his girlfriend, Briar continue to be very involved in their community from school while she finishes up her degree in civil engineering.*

*Ohio: Olivia is in her junior year of nursing at Cedarville University. She loves welcoming the new international and missionary kid students from around the world.*

**We are thankful that although we can't see our kids all the time, we know that God does see them and is growing them into more and more of His image and likeness.**

### **Our Schedule**

*We continue to travel! God has given us many opportunities to come alongside and spend intentional time with our US and Latin-American colleagues. Pray (and look for us!) in the various places we will be in the next few months.*

*1) Currently in Uruguay (our place of residence) where we will speak at a pastors' and family retreat, a workshop in Argentina (Melanie), encourage our team in their ministry, and connect with our Uruguayan friends going through difficult life challenges and in need of seeing God pursuing and loving them. Join us in prayer as a new Alpha course begins in September.*

*2) Central America: September and October: Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama for regional Latin American conferences, connecting with our teams and national partners, visiting our new workers and speaking at different engagements.*

*3) Cuba: November: we will be visiting Cuba with Alliance Mission leadership in preparation for a Strategic Review in April 2025.*

*4) Greece: December: Global Leadership Conference held every three years.*



*We want to thank you so much for partnering with us in our ministry!*

*If you are just joining us, we serve as the Regional Leadership Couple for the Church Planting arm of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Latin America. Our role involves administration, leadership and shepherding of our colleagues, partnerships with many national churches, and vision casting and mission mobilization of Latin American believers to places around the world.*

*The support for our work is the combination of general gifts given to the Great Commission Fund (pool) and specific gifts to our ministry account. Both types of giving are equally important and strategic, but without prayer, it would be in vain.*

Currently however, we are experiencing a \$1550.00 monthly short fall to our support account.

Many of you are familiar with the Biblical Storytelling methodology that Melanie uses. The below little wooden characters are used to "tell" the Old and New Testament stories in an interactive "Montessori" way.



We would love to see new financial and prayer supporters represented by these little figurines. We are looking for **14 new people** to partner with us in the following way or in anyway that you choose!

- 5 figurines @ \$150    \$150    \$150    \$150    \$150
- 5 figurines @ \$100    \$100    \$100    \$100    \$100
- 4 figurines @ \$75    \$75    \$75    \$75

May each of these wooden figurines represent not just increased monthly giving and prayer towards our ministry, but stories that God will continue to write on individual hearts.

Thank you so much,  
Tim, Melanie Wendel and family

**General Giving to the Great Commission Fund**

**Specific Giving to Tim and Melanie Wendel**

