

# The Mess & Mystery of Missions

Global Missions Health Conference - 2023

Dr. Jeff & Elizabeth Perry

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**Priority[15] is an annual  
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to unreached people groups**



# Kawaja Bye-Bye

The Mess & Mystery of Missions



Dr. J Alan Perry

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not delay in engaging in this incredible

— Benjamin W. Roberts, MD  
Surgeon, Tenwek Mission Hospital, Kenya

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— Chris Katsekpor,  
Former Regional Leader - Africa with Pioneers

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#### The author:

Perry, MD, MPH&TM and his wife Elizabeth Perry,  
have been with Pioneers since 2008, and served in  
for eight years, where they helped open a 40-bed  
r women and children in South Sudan. Jeff is  
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southeastern Colorado, where he practices full-scope  
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contacted at

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# Scan Here!









-FRM

My  
parents  
are  
my  
parents





**Divine retribution?**

**Divine reward?**





**What is the Mess?**



# What is the Mess?

**Suffering**

**Trials**

**Lack of order**

**Persecutions**

**Change of plans**

**Temptations**



# Why is it important to talk about the Mess?

- So we are *not surprised by it*
- So we do *not react as Satan wants* (pride or despair)
- So we *know we are not alone*
- So we *know the purpose of the Mess*



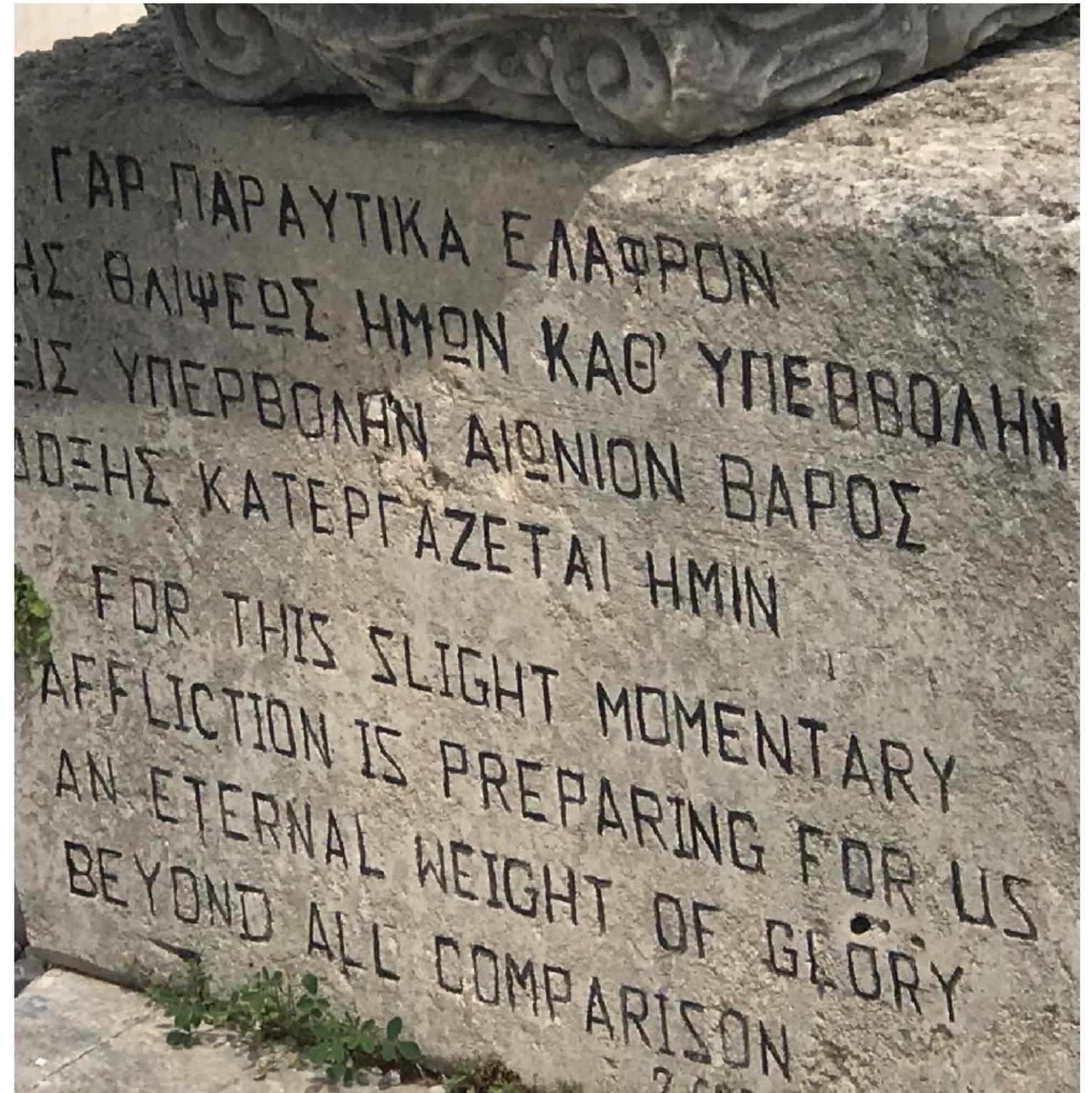
# What causes the Mess?

- The world system
- Satan / demons
- The flesh
  - Unbelievers
  - Other believers
  - ME



# What is the purpose Of the Mess?

- To change us, break us, renew
- To glorify God
- To move us from self-dependence to dependence on God...and others
- It is Jesus' "Theology of Mission"



# What is the Mystery?

1. *Christ*
2. *Christ in you, the hope of glory*
3. *Christ in YOU (plural), the Church... BELONGING*



# How do we *move forward* in the Mess & Mystery of Missions?

- **Expect**
- **Embrace**
- **Engage**



# So what...?

## Take-home points

- Mess happens
- Ministry changes
- Language learning is messy...  
but central to loving
- Outcomes are not our goal
- Sometimes partings happen



**Catastrophe  
(big messes)  
can deepen  
ministry**



**Don't ditch the Church.**



# Keep the Mystery as the priority

- Daily time with Him
- Regular times of rest
- Prioritize relationships with your team and the Church





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