

December 2012

CHRISTIAN
Missions
IN MANY LANDS INC.



60 Years in India

CMML Celebrates 40 Years
in Wall, New Jersey

Abandoned by Most
Loved by God

Teaching English
in Indonesia



Thinking It Through

WILLIAM YUILLE

He was Manifested

In this last month of the year many will celebrate Christmas in some way, but many also will give little thought to what happened in Bethlehem, and many will fail to understand the significance of that event. It is therefore appropriate that we remind ourselves of the explanation given by John for the first coming of the Lord Jesus.

“To take away our sins” (1 John 3:5)

On the Day of Atonement the high priest slew a goat, took its blood into the Most Holy and sprinkled it upon the Mercy Seat. This illustrates what the Bible refers to as propitiation—the appeasement of an offended God’s wrath. We are exposed to the righteous judgment of a holy God because we have sinned. He demands satisfaction in the form of an acceptable sacrifice and the goat was a symbol of that.

But a second goat was taken by the high priest. “Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat *shall bear upon him all their iniquities* to an uninhabited land...”¹ This illustrates another aspect of the work of Christ: substitution. He not only satisfied God’s requirements, but He took our sins upon Himself and bore them all away. Like John Bunyan’s pilgrim, we had a heavy burden of sin upon our shoulders. However, this burden has been transferred from us to Christ so that our guilt became His and our sin became His.

The result of His intervention is that God promises the believer, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”² That is not a function of the memory such that He cannot remember them; it is an action of the will in that He refuses to bring them to mind. Our sins have been cast “behind your back”³ and “into the depths of the sea,”⁴ He has removed them “as far as the east is from the west”⁵ because the Lord Jesus “bore our sins in His own body on the tree.”⁶ My sins are gone!

“That He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)

The “works of the devil” in this verse aren’t things which the devil personally does but things which people do that are devilish in nature. The verse begins by affirming that “he who sins is of the devil.” However, the Lord Jesus was manifested to put an end to sin in the life of the believer and in that sense destroys the works of the devil. The next verse tells us the result: “Whoever has been born of God does not sin...”

He is not suggesting that the Christian never does anything sinful. That would be a contradiction of our experience and of John’s teaching earlier in this letter such as when he says, “If anyone sins...”⁷ However, in that verse, he uses the aorist tense [past tense] and refers to isolated incidents in the life of the Christian; here, in 1 John 3:8, he uses the present tense and refers to what is characteristic and ongoing. The English Standard Version translates it as, “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil... No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.”

When Nehemiah was asked to stop the work and talk with the enemies of God’s people, he said, “I cannot come down.”⁸ There was nothing to prevent him physically dropping his tools and climbing down from the wall, but it would have been altogether inappropriate since he had other priorities which he could not abandon. The child of God cannot keep on sinning in a deliberate, willful, habitual way, not because it is physically impossible but because it is incongruous with being a Christian and contradicts the very purpose for which the Lord Jesus was manifested—not only that He might put away our sins but that He might put an end to the works of the devil in our lives! ■

¹ Leviticus 16:21-22; ² Hebrews 10:17; ³ Isaiah 38:17; ⁴ Micah 7:19; ⁵ Psalm 103:12; ⁶ 1 Peter 2:24; ⁷ 1 John 2:1; ⁸ Nehemiah 6:3

60 YEARS IN INDIA

A Lifetime of Service for the Lord

by Ben Peters and John Locklear

It was September 30, 1952, and I [Ben Peters] had been invited by a Christian friend to attend a college students' conference, where I was listening to a powerful presentation of the Gospel for the first time. Although I had been a member of a "mainline" denomination since childhood, I had never heard the Gospel as clearly as I was hearing it that day. The message was on the parable of the prodigal son and I remember feeling the deep conviction that I was a hopeless sinner needing to be reconciled to the Father. So, when the speaker asked for a response from those who wanted to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, I raised my hand.

As I reflect over the last 60 years of my life since that glorious day, I am mindful of several things. First, in God's plan and purpose He preserved my life at birth. Second, in salvation I became His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Last, and most humbling, God chooses the foolish and weak, the despised and insignificant, so that no flesh might glory in His presence.

In other words, "Christ is all, and in all." (Colossians 3:11)



Ben & Helen
on their
wedding day



Ben & Helen
on their
50th wedding
anniversary

GOD'S SUPERINTENDENCE

I was born in a small village in south-central India, the oldest surviving sibling of 14 children born to my parents (my elder brother died at birth and, subsequent to my birth, three more of my siblings died). As you might expect, the family's meager income was stretched to the limit by its sheer size and, as the oldest son, I was expected to do what I could to help meet the family's needs.

I attended school until the age of 16 when I passed my general exams. This qualification allowed me to work as a language teacher in a primary school teaching my native tongue, Kannada. However, I greatly desired to continue my education so I began to attend an English night school run by a Catholic priest.

In God's gracious plan to draw me to Himself, one of my classmates offered to help me improve my English by reading the Bible to me, and another friend invited me to the college students' conference previously mentioned above. Both these young men were used by God to bring me to faith and both

were members of local Brethren assemblies. After my salvation I immediately started to attend one of the assemblies, where I began to learn and grow quickly as the Word of God was taught with great depth and spiritual understanding.

GOD'S CALL AND PREPARATION

Over the next two years I would often retreat from working and studying and go into a cornfield near my home to pray. It was during these times of seeking God's will for my life that I received a very strong call to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. I talked with the elders at my home assembly about the desire that God had placed in my heart, and they encouraged me to attend Bible college to become better rooted in God's Word and prepared for ministry. As a result of their counsel, I stepped out in faith, resigned my job, and enrolled in a Bible college in Los Angeles.

Like millions of others living in poverty, I had become accus-

tomed to surviving, but God was starting to teach me the discipline of abiding and resting in a life of faith. As a full-time student I had no means of paying for my tuition or living expenses, but God used a family in Los Angeles to sponsor me throughout my three years of college. This act of Christian fellowship had a profound effect on me and became one of the future motivating factors in starting the ministries that God was preparing me for.

Upon my return home from Bible college, I immediately put my training to use and started to evangelize three villages that were within a five-mile radius of one another. I organized evening Gospel meetings and took my bicycle to the different villages throughout the week. I began the meetings by singing songs until the villagers arrived and then I would give the Gospel message. The Spirit of God moved mightily in the year and a half that I labored there, resulting in many villagers coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I baptized many of these villagers in a nearby river.

The success of these Gospel meetings allowed for the establishment of three new assemblies. However, I sensed God clearly directing me to leave this work in the hands of other qualified brothers and return to the Bible college from which I had graduated to work as a New Testament lecturer.

I was about to discover why God was directing me back there!

GOD'S PROVISION AND GROWTH

When I returned to work at the Bible college I resumed my fellowship at the local assembly where Helen's family attended (I saw Helen when I previously attended but never met her because it was not appropriate for boys and girls to casually socialize in Indian culture). Helen's father had gone to be with the Lord about a year and a half earlier, and the elders of the assembly approached me, on behalf of Helen's family, with a proposal of marriage. Helen and I were married three weeks later, on May 25, 1961.

Now newly married, I continued my education, earning a Graduate of Theology in 1961 and a Bachelor of Divinity in 1967, while serving as a registrar and lecturer at different Bible colleges until 1973. God also blessed us during these early years with four daughters and would later multiply our joy with two sons. Although we struggled, it was in seeking God

through difficult times that allowed us to mature in our faith and prepared us for the challenges that we would face in future ministry.

GOD'S LEADING

In January 1974 the Lord provided an opportunity for me to study at Faith Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and earn my Master of Theology degree. As my graduation drew near, Helen and I felt God leading us back to India to start a work among the poor and needy. Our vision was to reach our countrymen with the good news of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ and make them disciples so they could, in turn, reach their own communities.

I had never forgotten the family in Los Angeles that sponsored my Bible-college education and we wanted to provide a similar opportunity for others.



Orphanage in the late 1970s



Orphanage in the late 2000s

ORPHANAGE WORK

In March 1976 we returned to India and two months later the Lord led us to start an orphanage by taking three needy children into our home. God blessed our efforts over the succeeding years, enabling us to purchase land and construct an orphanage building for the growing number of children.



Boys and girls in their dormitories

Approximately 15 years after its founding, the orphanage was bursting at the seams with 185 children. Many children were brought to us under appalling circumstances and we were not willing to turn them away. One case that still haunts me was that of a mother who threw her two children in a well and then jumped in after them, hoping to commit suicide. The children were rescued and brought to our orphanage but the mother perished.

By the grace of God, since 1976, we have helped over 3,000 children, many from

similar tragic circumstances. We have also had the opportunity to lead many of these children to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and see them reach others for Christ in their communities.

EVANGELISM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSEMBLIES

At the same time that we established the orphanage, I took up the village evangelism and church planting that yielded so much fruit a decade and a half earlier. Often we would learn of a need for fresh drinking water in a particular village, so we would provide that village with a bore well. After we provided for their physical needs in this way, many of the villagers were open to



Gospel meeting



Assembly established through evangelism

hearing the Gospel. In the districts where people responded to the Gospel, we were able to establish 15 new assemblies.

Today, our state is still the most unreached and spiritually hardened in all of south India, and with the growth of religious militants and their close political alliances within our state, the open-air village evangelism that I used to conduct in these districts is practically impossible. Those who seek to obey the Great Commission by preaching the Gospel in these rural areas are subject to violent intimidation, arrest for "forced" or "coerced" conversions, and, ultimately, martyrdom.

It gives me great joy to know that one of the young men raised in our orphanage (Daniel) has answered God's call to serve in one of these difficult areas. He is now the leading elder in one of the assemblies that we established so many years ago.

SCHOOLS

In 1984 God provided the opportunity to purchase an existing school, which we named Bensons. At the time, the school had been in operation for two years with only 50 students, but since then it has grown to its current strength of over 1,500 students.



Bensons English Medium School in the late 2000s

Because the school is located in a slum, the majority of our students are the children of rickshaw drivers, vegetable salesmen, and shepherds. We have gone to great lengths to improve the academic standards for these underprivileged children, hoping that they will break free of the silent, but still very real, caste system. God has honored our efforts and, for the past ten years, every tenth-grade student who has sat for his/her State Board Examinations has received a passing mark. Not one failure in ten years!

Moreover, Bensons has not only achieved excellence in its academics but also has become a "city on a hill" to its students and faculty. Due to its high academic standard, the school has become very attractive to many middle-class families and those with political influence. This provides us with a unique

opportunity to share our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with a broad spectrum of people from different social classes and religious backgrounds. Although the government does not allow us to teach the "Christian religion" to our students, we are permitted to have a "moral science" class, which allows us to present ethical and moral instructions from a Christian perspective.

Ironically, our moral science class is taught by a dynamic local pastor, who was once an Islamic "mullah" that came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel. He also leads a daily devotion for our faculty, who are predominately Hindu.

GOD'S GLORY

Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city the watchman wakes in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

Over the years, when I became anxious about whom God would raise up to carry on the work after me, I would be comforted by Psalm 127. The Psalmist advises his readers to rest in God and promises children as an inheritance and blessing later in life.

God has brought these verses to pass in my life by calling four of my six children to serve in India. First, in the mid-1990s, my eldest daughter came from the States, with her family, to serve as the principal of Bensons school for five years. Then, in the early 2000s, my two sons came from the States to manage all the previously mentioned projects. They were then followed by my second daughter and her family in 2005, and they have since started a school for the mentally and physically-challenged children of our city.

I have labored in God's house these 60 years but I see that He is now raising up other laborers and watchmen to ensure the Light of His glorious Gospel never ceases to shine forth from the city which He is sustaining.

In other words, "God is all in all." ■



Ben Peters is commended from the assemblies in Baltimore, Maryland.

John Locklear, Ben Peter's son-in-law, is commended by Calvary Gospel Chapel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Christian Missions in Many Lands

Saturday - March 2, 2013

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

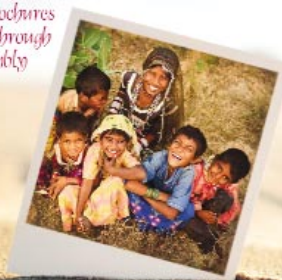
Continental breakfast at 8:30 am
A catered sit-down lunch will be served

Sheraton Hotel, Eatontown, NJ

Cost: \$30.00 per person
no charge for children 12 and under

Childrens Programs and Nursery Provided
For Ages 12 and Under

Information brochures
are available through
your assembly



FOCUS ON India

Speakers: Abraham Thomas, Steve Rusk and Shalu T. Ninan

RSVP required
by February 15, 2013

CHRISTIAN
Missions
IN MANY LANDS INC.

732-449-8880
www.cmml.us/India



Bensons school group photo in the late 2000s



10th grade students preparing for the state board exams



Serving Those Who Serve

CMML Celebrates 40 Years in Wall, NJ

by Annie O'Connor



A joyous celebration, God's faithfulness was the center point of CMML's Open House held on Saturday, September 29. Approximately 250 adults and children enjoyed a time of fellowship, tours, games, and good food, and left with a sense of God's blessing on this ministry these past 40 years in Wall Township, New Jersey.

The Open House

Believers from many assemblies near and far were greeted by volunteers and staff at a welcome table providing extensive literature, upcoming conference materials, an informative DVD titled "CMML Serves," and fun giveaways. Artistically-created boards, full of old photographs and newspaper clippings, gave viewers a glimpse into CMML's extraordinary history.

Two large white tents assured participants that the cool day would not dampen their enthusiasm.

The intimate seating encouraged fellowship among old and new friends. Due to the laid-back schedule, people enjoyed a relaxing time in our beautiful surroundings and had the opportunity to meet current and former missionaries, CMML directors, representatives from a sister organization, MSC Canada, and many of our volunteers and staff members.

At midday, President Bob Dadd welcomed the gathering, gave thanks to God for His guidance and help, and expressed his gratitude for the many who partner with CMML's ministry. Without the Lord's clear presence and direction over the years, along with the support of the believers, CMML would not be where it is today.

Following his welcome, everyone enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch, cooked and served by volunteers. A large celebratory cake added to the festivities.

Throughout the day, tours of our facility gave attendees an insightful look into CMML's everyday workings. Several people said they were left with a sense of awe of our mighty God's provision and grace.

Some highlights of the day were the various games and activities including volleyball, a beanbag toss, and, the children's favorite, a bounce house. The young children particularly enjoyed the face painting and proudly showed off their artistic designs.

In addition to the enjoyed fellowship, those in attendance became better acquainted with CMML's ministry, facilities, operations, workers and goals. A warm thanks to the many who came out in support and to the volunteers who made this memorable day possible.



Clockwise from top: David and Andrea Uhrlass and family; Ruth and Tom Wilson and Alice Roberts; Marilou Rogers and Heather Zappella.

Learn about CMML

CMML's 40th Anniversary Open House provided a great opportunity to look back and count God's blessings on the ministry. "Serving Those Who Serve," CMML's guiding motto, rightly expresses the many years of supporting assembly missionary efforts around the world.

History

Originally founded in 1921, Christian Missions in Many Lands merged in 1971 with three other assembly-based missionary organizations—Voices from the Vineyard, The Fields, and The Julia Hasse Memorial Missionary Home—to form what is currently Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc. In 1972 the newly-established group moved to its present home in Wall Township, New Jersey.

CMML's purpose at the time of its founding, to facilitate communication between assembly-based missionaries abroad and the believers at home and to help missionaries with various practical needs, continues today in ever-widening ministries.

Forwarding Financial Gifts

A large part of CMML's ministry is to distribute funds from faithful saints in the United States and Canada to some 750 assembly-based workers throughout the world. These funds assist in their daily work for the Lord as well as various special projects and disaster relief programs. Distributed in full, 100 percent of all funds suggested for a missionary go to that worker. Only donations marked for operating expenses are used for such, and we thank the Lord for the believers and assemblies who remember the work in this way.

Publications and Media

Did you know that CMML receives approximately 500 letters and emails a month? From these letters and other communication with missionaries, the CMML staff reports up-to-date information via our website, Facebook page and magazine. The ever-expanding CMML website (www.CMML.us) features breaking missionary news, profiles and prayer requests written directly by the missionaries, an easy-to-use online donations page, and a listing of who is currently staying at the CMML Missionary Guest Home and who is on furlough. In addition, an extensive list of short-term missions opportunities, conference information, pictures of the facilities and detailed information about CMML and its history can be found. The CMML Facebook page is the place to get up-to-the-second news items, prayer needs and information. Available free-of-charge within the US and Canada, *Missions* magazine, released 11 times a year, includes insightful articles and letters written by missionaries, reports on CMML events, introductions to new missionaries, prayer needs, and more.

Published yearly, the *Missionary Prayer Handbook* provides detailed contact and ministry information about each CMML and MSC missionary. Divided into 31 days, the *Handbook* encourages the saints to pray daily for the missionaries. Available for a minimal cost, it can be ordered online, by mail or phone.

Conferences

Missions-related conferences provide a concentrated look at missionary work. Topic-based conferences such as "Focus on China" and "Shining the Light in Africa," both held in 2012, give a focused view on missions. Geared towards young people, other conferences such as "What's Next" (junior and senior high), "26 Below" (senior high through age 26) and "Reaching Higher" (ages 20-35), encourage excitement for missions among the next generation. With an ever-growing conference roster, CMML seeks to inform and encourage saints around the world.

Missionary Guest Home

Once an opulent private home and then a Catholic convent, the CMML building is situated on 17 beautiful acres. While in the area, missionaries can stay free-of-charge in CMML's guestrooms. With two family apartments, three large suites and five smaller bedrooms, a maximum of 36 people can be accommodated. Kitchens, laundry facilities, and a fully stocked pantry are also at their disposal.



Clockwise from left: Albert Chow; Bob and Dorcas Cameron and Rosemary Drost; Peter Zappella and Phil Parsons.

Clothing Center

Rivalling a midsize store, the CMML Clothing Center allows missionaries to “shop” without a cash register. New and almost new clothing, donated from believers and assemblies all over the country, stock this facility. The Clothing Center, maintained by several committed volunteers, has a large clothing selection for men, ladies and children, as well as shoes and accessories for all three.

A Future of Service

Under the Lord’s guidance, CMML continues to serve assembly-based missions. Goals for the future include an extended conference schedule to encourage missions and inspire involvement. Consistently updated and improved, the website and other media venues continue to facilitate better communication.

With deepest thanks to our Lord, and with the innumerable prayers and immense support from the saints, we are ever grateful for the past 40 years in Wall Township, New Jersey, and trust the Lord for many more years of service to Him and His workers. ■

Annie O'Connor is CMML's Missions magazine Editor.

CMML Trivia

How well do you know CMML? Here are some fun facts and trivia.

- The first guests were Willi and Bea Gyger, refocused missionaries to French Guiana (Day 24). The Gygers were also the last guests to stay at the former guest home in Union City, New Jersey.
- Over the years CMML has accommodated more than 1,000 overnight missionary guests.
- CMML missionaries serve in more than 70 countries around the world.
- The Atlantic Ocean, with its beautiful beaches, is only a few miles away.
- New York City is approximately a 90-minute drive and Philadelphia 60 minutes.
- An average of 747 commended workers are served each month.
- The clothing center has 50 clothing racks, 34 cabinets, and three different departments.
- Currently, CMML has 11 directors, nine staff members, and approximately 10 regular volunteers.



Clockwise from left: Steve Owsinski and Joey Cagliostro; Parker Brooks and Shannon MacArthur; Audrey and Jackson Parsons; Group playing volleyball. **Below (from top):** A few CMML and MSC directors; Fiona Wilks, far left, giving a tour; Festivities on the CMML grounds.



PHOTOS BY SARAH PARSONS, PHILIP PARSONS, AND ALLAN WILKS.

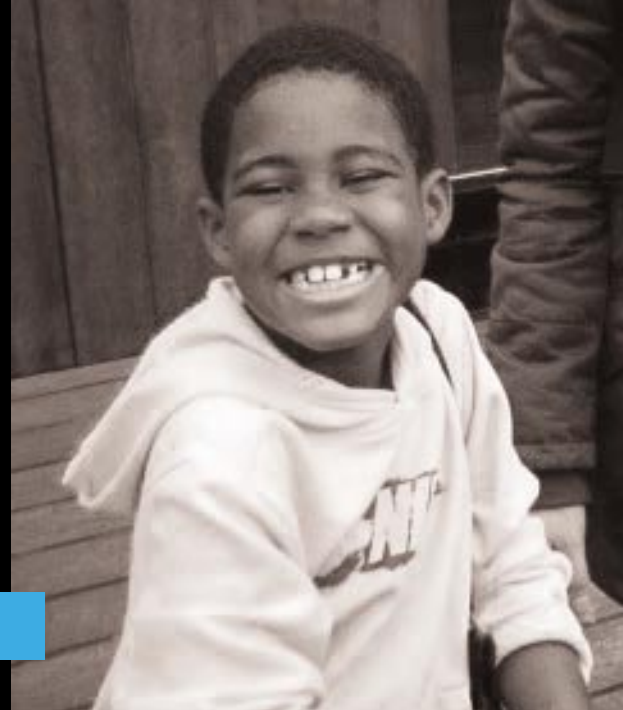
Abandoned

by Most,

LOVED

by God

One Child's Transformed Life



by Peter Cerqueira

Located in one of the worst urban areas of western Europe, Sintra International School is a Christian school in Portugal that serves low-income immigrant families from impoverished nations in Africa, South America and Eastern Europe. This school functions on the basis of faith for its survival and development. Students' families pay what they can and sometimes nothing at all. The students receive quality, Christian education that exposes them to the freeing Gospel and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. Classes are conducted entirely in English—giving students a chance for a future in the European workforce.

Meet **DUKA**

Duka [name changed] is a young African boy who attends our school. Whenever he is close to me, he can't help but hold onto me in some way—he'll either slip his little hand into mine, or wrap his arm around my waist, or simply lean his face against my arm. Duka does not know his father. His biological father exists somewhere in Africa, and his mother's current partner works somewhere in northern Europe.

From what we understand, Duka is considered an "accident" by his mother. She is currently trying to contact relatives in far-away places to see if any will take the boy. In his early years, Duka was practically abandoned. While living with distant relatives, he was allowed to run wild in the fields and jungles of his homeland. Nobody wanted responsibility for him. When he was finally sent to Portugal to be with his mother, he had very little notion of how to live with others in a community.

When he first arrived in Portugal, Duka was put in one of the worst public school systems in the nation. After enrolling him

at our school for a symbolic fee, I visited his former school to pick up his records. It was lunchtime and I had to pass through the cafeteria to get to the offices. The entire elementary school was pouring into the cafeteria with their teachers. All the students were African and all the teachers were Portuguese. I held back tears as I watched in dismay at the awful way the teachers treated the students. I began to understand Duka's behavior at our school.

A demonstration of **CHRISTIAN LOVE**

When Duka arrived at our school, we couldn't keep him still. He *literally* climbed up the walls, crawled under the desks, hit other students, tried to hit the teacher, vandalized our equipment, destroyed our materials, said incredibly nasty things to everybody around him and refused to do his work. Recess and lunchtime were nightmares as he did everything (that his young 7-year-old mind knew how) to distract people and make sure everybody knew he was too intolerable to be friends with.

His teacher couldn't handle him anymore and kept putting him in the hallway. But he just made a mess there too—tearing things up and yelling. I finally told his teacher that I would keep him in the office with me and the secretary until he learned to behave properly in class.

When he arrived in the office with his teacher, he began to act up again, thrashing about and making noises. I approached him and squatted down to get to his eyelevel. "Duka," I said with a smile on my face, "I know what you really want."

He stopped, looked at me and said, "What?"

I replied, "Kid, you just want love."

He stared at me like I was the craziest man in the world. The teacher, red in the face, looked on with interest. "So," I continued, "Every time you act up, I'm gonna catch you, hug you and hold you until I think you've had enough love to calm down." He scowled but the scowl turned into a smile that he tried to hide. He sat at a table in the office while I went to work at my desk. It wasn't long before he started to misbehave. I got out of my chair, walked over to him, squatted down and gave him a big hug. At first he resisted, but after a few seconds I felt his little arms wrap around me. He hugged me back. Our secretarial volunteer smiled. I could see her trying to hold back tears.

A *miraculous* CHANGE

It has been a long journey for Duka and he is nowhere near the end of it. He came into our third-grade class not knowing how to read or even the alphabet. He didn't know how to count, much less how to do any math. We were forced to put him back a grade. Today, he is beginning to read minimally well, is good at math, and speaks English almost as well as any American child his age. He is a gentleman, opening the door for teachers, saying please, excuse me, and thank you.

When Duka arrived, he had never heard of Moses and knew nothing of Jesus. Today, he is always the first to volunteer at prayer time. He loves to pray, and he loves to end with "Jesus'

name." Even in our chapel services, he will be one of the few who doesn't mind praying in front of everyone. One of Duka's favorite classes is Bible. He and his mother now go to church.

Duka enjoys several friendships and there is one Brazilian student, one of our volunteers' sons, whom Duka calls his brother.

Pray for STRENGTH and WISDOM

This is an abbreviated story of just one of our students. The transformations we see do not happen overnight. The students' behavior takes its toll on our staff, and we are constantly asking the Father for strength and wisdom.

Pray for us to maintain a heavenly perspective. Pray for continued strength and Christlike love. Pray for more workers—as we are tremendously understaffed—who will love these children because, for some of them, nobody else will. ■

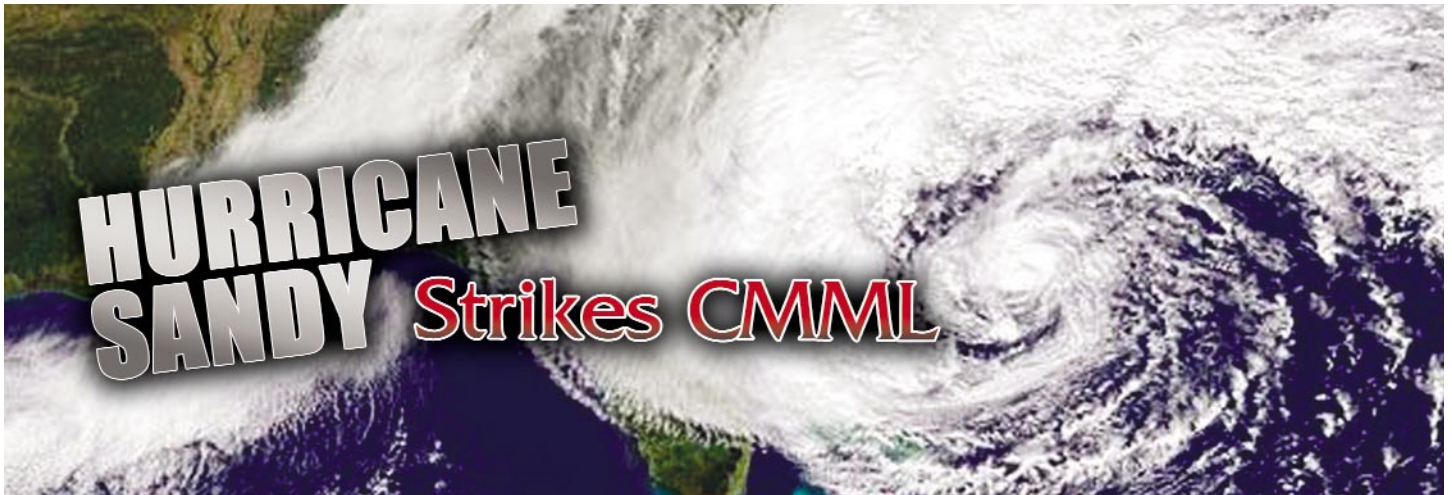


Peter Cerqueira was commended in 2011 by the assembly in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

**"Then they brought little children to Him...and He took them up in His arms...and blessed them."
(Mark 10:13,16)**



Clockwise from top left: Duka and a friend; Duka and classmates on a school field trip; Duka; Duka and fellow students in class; Peter Cerqueira and Duka.



by Tom Turner

Sandy, the hurricane that devastated the northeast, made landfall along the New Jersey coast on Monday, October 29. CMML, located in Sandy's track approximately three miles from the ocean, experienced torrential rain and extremely high wind gusts that plunged the missionary guest home and office into total darkness. No heat or electricity made it impossible to continue serving our missionaries since the computers, phones, email and Internet were down. Our staff had no power in their homes and they were unable to get to the office due to the thousands of downed trees and power lines blocking roads for miles in every direction. The limited availability of food and gasoline presented a major challenge.

We thank the Lord that He spared the building, which only suffered the loss of some roof shingles and leaking windows. However, the grounds sustained damage with more than 20 trees uprooted. Three missionary families were in residence prior to the storm, but, due to the weather advisories, two left CMML before Sandy's impact. The third remained during the storm and left the Thursday after. In addition, Phil and Mary Parsons, and Russ Click, Building Maintenance, remained on duty at the guest home despite the lack of heat. A small portable generator was used to pump water from our well.

One week later, the office was still without power. Five local brothers came on Sunday afternoon, November 4, with two portable generators. After they worked for several hours, electricity and heat were brought online allowing the office to reopen Monday morning. With our computer systems operational, we could begin processing funds for the Lord's servants overseas and answer their emails. On Monday afternoon, the power company restored power to the complete building.

Sandy hit at a busy, critical time. We were in the midst of forwarding the monthly funds to missionaries, producing the December issue of *Missions* magazine, preparing the *Missionary Prayer Handbook* to go to the printer and completing final plans for CMML's Annual Missionary Conference scheduled for November 10.

Our missionaries rely on the Lord and His people to help provide for their needs. They trust CMML to receive and forward funds to them in a timely manner. While we have had previous power failures, they never lasted this long. This storm revealed a critical need for CMML to purchase and install an automatic generator to allow the office to remain open during times of emergency. Please join us in praying for the Lord's wisdom as we move forward to accomplish this goal. ■



Russ Click with fallen tree.



PHOTO CREDIT: PHILIP PARSONS