

Missions

A Time of Transition
in **Poland**

COVID-19 Aid
Blesses Affected
Communities

Refocused Missionaries
Consider the Future

Christmas around
the World



THINKING IT THROUGH

BY ALLAN WILKS

The Greatest Miracle

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)

The Christmas season is my favorite time of year. I love snowy weather, warm family gatherings, special meals, church Christmas pageants, and carols. But, when we strip away all of the festivities and traditions—when we look to the center of its meaning—we discover something astonishing, and everything else that entices us about Christmas pales into insignificance.

Indeed, at the center, we find the greatest miracle that God ever performed: the incarnation. When Matthew wrote the words of Matthew 1:18, Jesus had already lived His life on earth, died, rose from the dead, and departed to His Father in heaven. During His life, He profoundly impacted Israel. But, in this verse, Matthew implies that the significance of Jesus's life stems from the singular event he so elegantly describes.

We might expand on his formulation this way: God the Holy Spirit miraculously fertilized a human egg in Mary's body, and so, God the Son became incarnate—that is, took on human form.

A fertilized egg is far too small to see with the eye, yet the Bible teaches that this microscopic fertilized egg was God Almighty (John 1:1), the Author of Life (Acts 3:15), and the One by, through, and for Whom all things were created (Colossians 1:16). In that instant, the Creator became His tiniest creation. In *Miracles*, C. S. Lewis writes, "If the thing [the incarnation] happened, it was the central event in the history of the earth—the very thing that the whole story has been about."¹

Nothing is more amazing, preposterous, awesome, or difficult to believe. As soon as we try to think seriously about this miracle, our minds turn inside out. How can it be possible? How can the infinite become finite? How can God, Who is omniscient, become subject to learning (Luke 2:52)? How can He, Who is omnipotent, be subject to tiredness, weakness, and punishment? How can He, Who is omnipresent,

be constrained by geography (Psalm 139:7)? The more we reflect, the more we shake our heads in amazement.

In *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer writes:

The mystery of the incarnation is unfathomable. We cannot explain it; we can only formulate it. Perhaps it has never been formulated better than in the words of the Athanasian Creed. "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man . . . perfect God, and perfect man . . . Who although He be God and man: yet He is not two, but one Christ; one, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the manhood into God." Our minds cannot get beyond this. What we see in the manger is, in Charles Wesley's words, "Our God contracted to a span; incomprehensibly made man." Incomprehensibly. We shall be wise to remember this, to shun speculation and contentedly to adore.²

People claim to have many problems with Christianity: the problem of evil, the problem of the sinner, the problem of miracles, the problem of the resurrection. But the greatest problem is the incarnation. It is in a different category. If one accepts it as truth, then the other problems disappear or become acceptable. But to reject it is to reject the essence of Christianity.

Indeed, the incarnation demands a response. One cannot be agnostic about it or ignore it. To do so is to reject it. If God Almighty became a human like me, then He must have done so purposefully. The apostle Paul says: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Ultimately, I love the Christmas season because it reminds me of my fabulous spiritual wealth, which God procured when He turned the universe inside out in one momentous instant. ■

Allan Wilks, CMML vice president, technology.

¹C. S. Lewis, *Miracles* (New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1978), 108. ²J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 50.

Vol. 49, No. 11. Christian Missions in Many Lands (ISSN 0744-4052) is published eleven times a year by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., Belmar, New Jersey. Periodical postage paid at Belmar, New Jersey, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send United States address changes to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Send Canadian address changes to MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2. MSC Canada publication agreement Number 40026478. All correspondence, including address changes, gifts for missionary work, and for expenses should be sent by Canadian readers to MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2 and by United States readers to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Copyright © CMML. All rights reserved.

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“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR”

Missionaries Support Communities Affected by COVID-19

BY PHILIP C. PARSONS



While not new, infectious diseases threaten and disrupt human populations worldwide. From Legionnaires', AIDS, and Ebola to the current COVID-19 pandemic, history is made as leaders enact strategies to slow the spread and specialists work to find effective treatments and vaccines.

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization was formally notified of a cluster of “viral pneumonia” cases. Today, more than 53 million cases of the COVID-19 virus have been reported. The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacts everyone. Some countries are more extraordinarily affected than others, suffering from record infection and death rates

and functioning under strict protocols. In these countries, many missionaries with CMML minister to people whose employment abruptly ended due to the strict lockdowns. Loss of income results in families living without basic necessities. The Lord’s people responded, and CMML created a special fund so that our workers, requesting help, might assist families in need.

In times of crisis, Christ’s second great commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” becomes all the more critical (Matthew 22:39). The following accounts tell how your gifts brought relief amid a worldwide pandemic.



The Samuels distribute food to believers in nearby villages.

VINOJI & JOYCE SAMUEL – MALAWI

Malawi is a Central African country with a population of 19 million. Many of the people live on less than \$2 per day. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, Malawi was not exempt from its affects. The government ordered a lockdown, but the high court reversed the order, saying that more people would die from hunger than the disease if the lockdown went into effect. Nonetheless, people were afraid of the COVID-19 virus.

Through funds from CMML, the Lord provided for a food distribution to 13 assemblies, reaching about 500 people. Every person, including children, received five pounds of maize and three pounds of beans. So a family of four received more than 30 pounds of food.

Through this outreach, we showed our love and care for believers during this difficult time. The assistance encouraged the believers because they realized that people around the globe are concerned about and praying for them. Although the practical assistance was limited, considering the great needs, it was a step in the right direction. Many village chiefs are members of local churches, so the outreach helped reach entire communities with the Gospel.

One believer said, “In Malawi, each and every year, we face food shortages. This year, believers from CMML helped us with maize and beans. . . . Since this pandemic, many things are not moving well in Malawi. People are sleeping without food, sometimes eating once per day. This is a harsh reality. This food distribution helped many families, and we are so thankful.” As the Lord provides, we hope to distribute more food to help other hungry Malawians.



From top: Teachers at Lyncrest Christian Academy received financial gifts for food; Jerry leads a Bible study with construction workers, who are grateful to receive resources.

JERRY UY – PHILIPPINES

On March 16, the government locked down Luzon island, home to Manila and half of the Philippines’s population. The government planned to end the lockdown on April 13 but, instead, enforced it until July 15. In August, the Philippines declared another modified enhanced community quarantine that stopped all public transportation, resulting in a no-work-no-pay situation once again. Thus, the Philippines is enduring one of the fiercest and longest lockdowns in the world.

While driving around Antipolo, where I live, I saw people raising signs that read, “We need food, not money!” One student in my Bible study drove with me around Antipolo and nearby areas to distribute hot porridge with chicken and turmeric. Women with children lined up on the curbs to receive food while wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

The COVID-19 outreach assistance fund through CMML came just in time. Alex, who teaches at a local Christian school, suffered a brain stroke and received treatment but could not leave the hospital without the needed funds. His sister and six other teachers at Lyncrest Christian Academy all received money for daily food needs since they are not allowed to return to their provinces. An elder at Floodway Chapel, who is a physics professor, was on no-work-no-pay status since his school closed, and he also received assistance.

The 16 construction workers involved in building the house-church project received canned food and bread for their families, housing, and rice for every meal. They had to remain in the housing during and after the first lockdown. Every Saturday, we held a Bible study with them. An elder at Hillcrest Christian Chapel, whose father died during the pandemic, received funds for the cremation.



From top: Vicente, a Lacandon believer, unloads a trailer of food; A group of Lacandon believers prepare to deliver the food.

PETER & JAIMIE TERRELL – MEXICO

Due to our experience of living among Indigenous peoples in Mexico, our lifelong pursuit is ministering to their health needs through alternative medicine. Earlier this year, José, the husband of a believer in our home meeting, tested positive for COVID-19 and struggled to breathe. With our medical equipment, our daughters and a doctor who supports our ministry rushed to help him. During the 16 hours he suffered, José was cognitive and listened as we told him more about Jesus before he passed away. We trust he is with the Lord.

In the following weeks, friends, pastors, and other believers died from COVID-19. Some in José’s family also tested positive for the virus, and we helped them using an alternative-medicine technique. By the Lord’s grace, they recovered.

Our hearts go out to Rosi, a pastor’s wife, who lost her husband to COVID-19, tested positive for it herself, and was separated from her children while she was in quarantine. Our daughter, Renee, used a technique to normalize the cytokine storm and post-COVID-19 chronic fatigue. Soon, Rosi began feeling better.

When the pandemic closed roads and interrupted tourism, the Lacandon, an Indigenous group in the Chiapas jungle, experienced a food shortage. Over the years, the Lacandon became dependent on tourism for their income and stopped planting crops as a food source. Generous donations enabled us to distribute food among the Lacandon. We delivered four tons of corn, rice, oats, and beans, and we will distribute more. We bought seeds for them and encourage them to plant crops to help with food security. We praise God for your prayers and help.



TOM & CAROL CLARK – PERU

On Sunday, March 15, most Peruvians heard about China’s struggle with a mysterious virus, and a few cases were reported in Lima. But no one was prepared for the president’s announcement that the country would shut down that night. President Martín Vizcarra allowed two days of grace for people to return home from wherever they happened to be at the time, if they had the means to do so.

Quickly, cities and towns became uncharacteristically quiet—the only movement on the streets was from law enforcement personnel. With martial law in effect, officials permitted only those with valid circulation permits to leave their homes. The lockdown immediately affected those who live hand to mouth. In the first week, their diet changed, and they scrambled to find daily meals. For the middle class, whose pantries contained a stock of supplies, the initial impact was less critical. Now, as the country reopens, those who source their income informally have bounced back quickly, and the middle class suffers more since their income source remains limited.

At first, our efforts centered on distributing staple groceries to families who, otherwise, would put their children to bed hungry. In our neighborhood, that meant reaching 30 to 40 households on a biweekly basis. We also distributed funds to 12 assemblies in northern Peru so they could run their own relief projects. We helped with individual cases, too, which involved health care and funeral expenses for some believers whom COVID-19 directly affected. In each case, gospel tracts and literature accompanied the gifts, and we pray that the seeds will find fertile soil in hearts that are grateful for the relief. The recipients’ reactions were mixed, as usual, but we know God’s Word can work in their hearts.



Struggling families receive essentials, groceries, and tracts.



DANIEL ROGERS & LLOYD ROGERS – ECUADOR

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached the Ecuadorian jungle, we became very concerned. Because of the weak medical infrastructure and lack of basic sanitation, we feared that entire villages would suffer at the same time. Our concern was correct. By April, we heard of village after village becoming contaminated, and we stood helpless while many of our brothers and sisters in Christ suffered. Only a few died from the virus, but almost all endured the symptoms.

In an effort to prevent further contamination, the government prohibited access to the jungle, placing the area under quarantine, so we could not visit. We heard sporadic news and updates from the jungle, most of which reported that entire families were too sick to garden, hunt, or fish for their food. What could we do?

After much prayer for wisdom, the Lord led us to prepare and send food and toiletry bundles into the jungle through government-sanctioned humanitarian flights. In just two weeks’ time, we assembled, bagged, shipped, and distributed more than 1,500 bundles throughout the jungle. Many donors contributed to this practical assistance.

The believers are grateful for the help in their hour of need, and they thank the Lord for all who were involved in this amazing effort. Being a part of His kind, serving hand is a humbling joy. ■



From top: Care packages support families in an Achuar village; Elderly believers in a Quichua village accept food and toiletry bundles.

Philip C. Parsons coordinates CMML’s assembly relations and missionary care.

ONCE A MISSIONARY, ALWAYS A MISSIONARY

Considering the Future of Lives Lived for Christ



BY ROXANA ERICSSON

As another new year quickly approaches, we reflect on the time gone by and our futures. It's always a mystery what God has in store for us. Looking back, we see the Lord's loving, powerful hand taking, guiding, sustaining, and enabling us, and that gentle hand has not stopped. It makes us wonder, does our service for the Lord stop?

THE QUESTION

Remember the movie *White Christmas*? Whenever Eric and I watch it, the central character's song moves us: "What can you do with a general when he stops being a general?" As we watch it, I see tears filling Eric's eyes, and I know he is thinking, *what do you do with a missionary who is no longer doing his much-loved missionary work?*

It's the same question my parents asked as they advanced in age. They were no longer able to crank up the car and drive to people's homes in the village, teach meaningful lessons from God's Word to the hungry and thirsty, and sing with them the sweet old story of Jesus. However, they never lost their joy in serving Jesus. They lived as the old song goes: "The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows." How thankful we are for their model of faithfulness to the Lord—with love and joy. It taught us how to live life at their age.

Now, Eric and I look across the room into one another's eyes and remember the years, while serving in Mexico in the company of God's wonderful children, when we barely had time to sit and contemplate His greatness and goodness. Eric's hand trembles, his ears perk up trying to catch sounds he barely



visiting and asking questions. "Tell us your story," they say, so we do. They are amazed that our ever-present God has intervened in each and every time and place of our lives.

Our most joy-filled experiences include teaching, preaching, traveling to far-off places, and interacting with people who serve God with so little but with such love and graciousness. Having God was and is more than enough. Now, via the internet, we encourage younger missions workers. Our song and prayer for them is to remain strong in the Lord, trust Him fully each day, and obey and serve Him.

CHRIST'S ENCOURAGEMENT

Several years ago, we saw a movie of a boy running a grueling race. As he neared the end, he fell. The onlookers groaned loudly. His father, watching from the sideline, cheered him on: "Get up and keep running!" As the boy struggled, the father pushed his way through the crowd until he reached the trail. The father began running alongside his son, whispering, "You can do it! You can! Keep going." He touched the boy's shoulder until finally, together, they crossed the finish line.

We wept as we watched this scene, for we see ourselves in that race, straining in the final stretch. If we keep our eyes on Jesus, we see Him standing there with the banner waving and His bright, welcoming smile. Were we always aware that He was running alongside us, sometimes carrying us straight to the finish line? Probably not. But we remember His whispers of encouragement along the way. He is with us. He is with you.

He is with us.
He is with you.

THE ANSWER

So we return to the question: What do you do with a missionary when he or she is no longer a missionary? We never stop being a missionary! We continue to run, encountering people along the trail who need Jesus's love, help, and encouragement. We run, walk, or crawl with them; we carry them if need be. The calling and longing to continue helping others into the kingdom remains the same. Places may change, but God does not. Wherever He places you or us, the purpose is clear: even a cup of water given in God's name is giving to Him (Matthew 10:42; Mark 9:41).

It's easy to feel fear as we step into an unknown future, but as Elisabeth Elliot said, "Sometimes, when we are called to obey, the fear does not subside. . . . One must choose to do it afraid." Let's press on together! ■

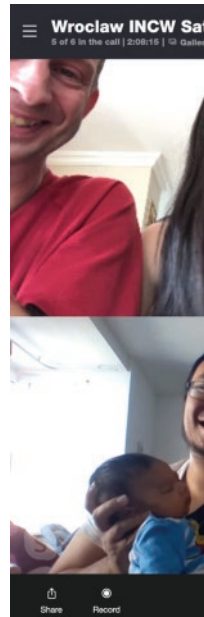
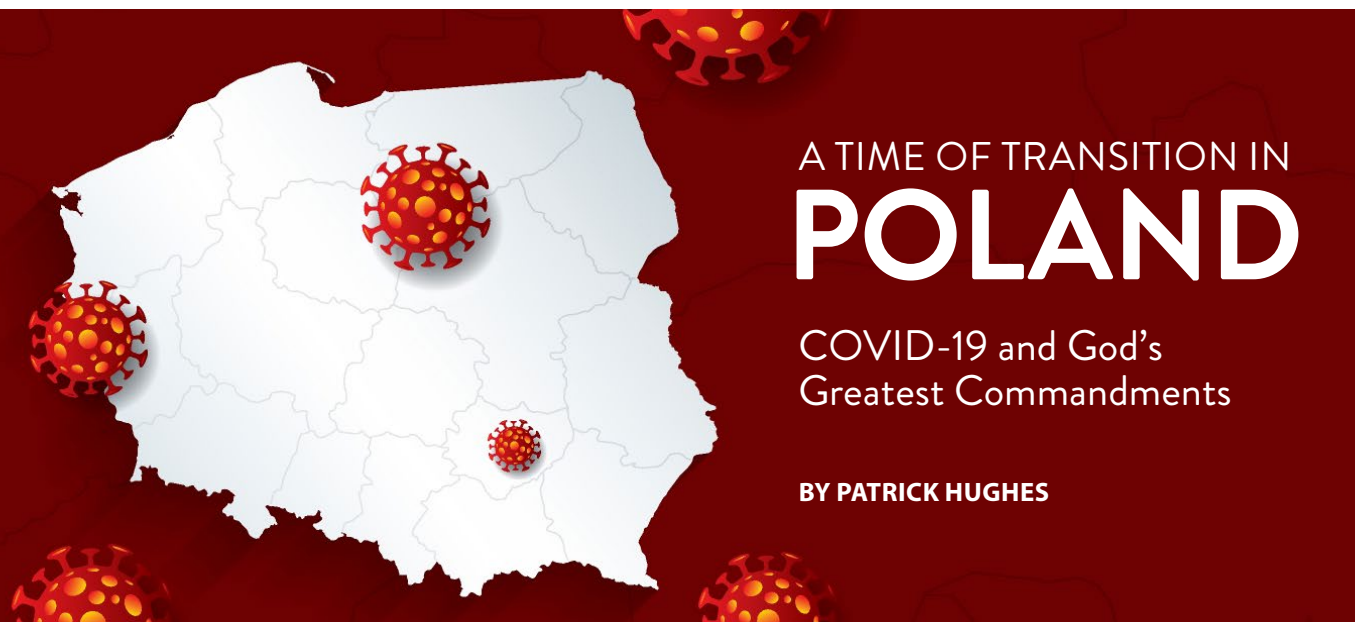


Roxana and Eric Ericsson are commended from Westside Bible Chapel in Hillsboro, Oregon.

hears, and his speech hesitates as though he is looking for the right word. He picks up the accordion and begins to play some of the old hymns we used to sing and teach to our students—precious remembrances. Messages from former students and friends delight us as they describe their lives and service for the Lord. They thank us for walking them through difficult years and encouraging them to press on for the Lord, grow in their love for Jesus, and share that love with each person they meet. That warms our hearts!

CHANGING ROLES

Now, our children look to us as an example for life in the years to come. They ask for counsel or for our perspective on how to live for Jesus in this difficult world. Friends come to our door,



In my early years as a young Christian at university, I chose Matthew 22:35–40 as my life verse because it crystallizes God’s law into two commandments: to love God with all you are and to love your neighbor as yourself. The intervening years challenged me with the breadth and depth of applying those verses to my life, and the current pandemic continues to do so.

In *Missions* magazine, recent articles and “Connections” updates testify to the resourcefulness of missionaries around the world during COVID-19. This is the account of how my wife, Cindy, and I seek to live out Matthew 22:35–40 in Wrocław, Poland, within our new reality.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

In March, the staff meeting at Wrocław Language School began like most others, but it ended with the school director announcing that the government was closing schools for two weeks due to the virus. As the two weeks expanded to the rest of the school year, we needed to move our classes online.

Like many schools, we chose Zoom, the video conferencing platform, for online classes. For computer natives (those born after 1980), such a transition was fairly smooth, but for computer immigrants (those born prior to 1980, like our staff), the learning curve was steep.

Having used online platforms for teaching in the past, I knew we were in for a heavier workload than usual: creating, posting, grading, and returning assignments; incorporating group and pair work into lessons; engaging students across cyberspace—every aspect of teaching is compounded online. In my English class, students who are teachers by profession found they no longer had time to teach and to attend class.

Fortunately, most of the former students in our weekly investigative Bible discussion were already working or studying in

the tech field, so they found the transition to online discussions much smoother. Our ability to discuss the truth of God’s Word was not compromised. The same proved true for the young moms in the Bible study Cindy started: they discover truth as they continue the study online.

However, our church’s online transition proved to be bumpy and time-consuming. The main challenge was envisioning what the service would look like and, then, choosing the appropriate online platform. Again, some of the ministry leaders were tech-savvy, so their knowledge helped with these decisions. This tech team bore the increased responsibility well, and all the leaders bonded more as we walked through the decision-making process together.

We found technology to be a double-edged sword, particularly at our international church. For example, while technology enabled regular attendees like Billy, who returned to Ireland due to the pandemic, to worship with us, it enabled others to join their home churches’ online services rather than ours. Losing many regulars diminished our breadth of fellowship. But we discovered that, online, we can mingle with more people at once than we can in person.

One couple in the church had to rework their May wedding plans into an online ceremony. Yet the limitations did not restrict God’s Word. The groom shared that the gospel message given via Zoom impacted the bride’s grandfather and aunt, both



Map graphic: ©iStockPhoto.com/ferhat tekdemir



The Lord, Who multiplied loaves and fish, is well able to bless despite these limitations.

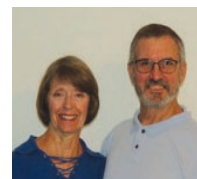
could stop the coronavirus, yet doesn't, is the very sovereignty that sustains the soul in it. And not only sustains, but sees to it that everything, bitter and sweet, works together for our good—the good of those who love God and are called in Christ (Romans 8:28–30).²

LOVING OURSELVES

We can easily overlook that the two greatest commandments include loving self. The pandemic puts us in the awkward position of needing to be cautious around those to whom we minister, so we might find ourselves having less face-to-face contact with believers and unbelievers. Yet the Lord, Who multiplied loaves and fish, is well able to bless despite these limitations.

While we strive to compensate for such restrictions, we must remember that who we are is not solely based on what we do. The pandemic offers us the opportunity to more deeply understand that, although our service may be the expression of our love for Him, it is not the basis of His love for us.

Uncertainty, danger, and continued lifestyle restrictions loom on the horizon. Yet these limitations force us to reexamine how we maintain our relationships with others, with God, and ourselves. In light of the greatest commandments, may God help us to know Him and ourselves better so that we might more effectively love those to whom we minister. ■



Patrick and Cindy Hughes are commended from Bethany Chapel in Wheaton, Illinois.

unbelievers, and at the family luncheon, the couple had an opportunity to further explain the Gospel to the grandfather.

LOVING GOD

People across the globe are dying of a virus that shows few signs of diminishing. Oxford University professor and author John Lennox points out, “Many are asking where God is—that is, if He is there at all. Is He in inaccessible self-quarantine?”¹ If we, as Christ's followers, struggle to make sense of God amid a situation beyond our control, those to whom we minister can perceive that uncertainty. As the saying goes, “If there is a mist in the pulpit, there will be a fog in the pew.” The pandemic, then, provides us the opportunity to deepen our own understanding of God's sovereignty.

John Piper helps address this issue in *Coronavirus and Christ*: “We will not be so naive as to equate human suffering with divine unrighteousness. Or to conclude that God has ceased to be holy or good when He governs His world. . . . The same sovereignty that



Top: Patrick and Cindy's international Bible study continues online, enabling the group to welcome its youngest member.

Left (L–R): While a workshop on sermon preparation met in person before the COVID-19 pandemic, it finished online; At Wrocław Language School, the staff meets for online-teaching development; Adhering to safety guidelines, the Hughes socialize outside with friends.

¹ John C. Lennox, *Where Is God in a Coronavirus World?* (Epsom, UK: The Good Book Company, 2020), 11. ² John Piper, *Coronavirus and Christ* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020), 35, 50. Kindle file.

Ask a Missionary?

Life on the mission field is often very different from what friends and family at home experience—especially around Christmas. To learn about Christmas traditions around the world, we asked our missionaries to share what the special holiday looks like for them and the culture they serve in.

QUESTION: How does the culture you serve in celebrate Christmas, and how do you find ways to share the Gospel through those traditions?

BRAZIL

Jeanne Lipsi

In Brazil, Christmas celebrations are similar to those in the US. As the seasons are inverted, it is summertime in Brazil, and it's funny to see Santa in shorts. Families get together for Ceia de Natal, a meal late on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, many people have barbecues outside, or a special meal, and exchange presents. For me, this season is a great opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas in public schools. It's nice to drop by with a calendar or a small gift to give to acquaintances, neighbors, or friends and share about God's love. Our chapel has a special program for children and adults, so it's a great time to have people visit the chapel.



BOLIVIA

Mark & Carol Mattix

Bolivia is a traditionally Catholic country, so at Christmas, nativity scenes are on display. Some people invite neighbors over for a party. First, they worship a large baby doll, representing baby Jesus, under a Christmas tree; then, they cover the doll with a cloth and celebrate. On Christmas Eve, families serve a meal at midnight and wait for the Christ child. People set off fireworks from their patios. December 25 is a day to rest and visit friends. Gifts are not very common, except for a new set of clothes and something on January 6 for Día de Reyes. We, and many other evangelical churches, have a Christmas program with a play and a choir.



JAMAICA

Mike & Melinda Dilione

In Jamaica, Christmas is a special and exciting time. One defining tradition is the Gran Market. It is held in most towns on Christmas Eve and continues into the early morning hours on Christmas Day. Gran Market attracts massive crowds, buyers and sellers alike, for last-minute holiday shopping. It also involves food, music, and impromptu dancing. Jamaicans celebrate Christmas with church and carol services and traditional Christmas foods, which play an integral part in the celebration. Must-have foods and drinks include Christmas fruit cake, sorrel drink, Christmas ham, curried goat, fried fish, and gungo peas and rice. We share the Gospel through these traditions by exercising our passion for hospitality. Since we minister among college students who are often far from home, we celebrate the Christmas traditions alongside them and the college's staff. Many Jamaicans identify with Christianity, but it can become more cultural than truly living the Word of God. We trust the Lord has and will use our family to love, in life-changing ways, those we interact with throughout the Christmas season.



AUSTRIA

Michael & Martina Potts

One of the ways Austria celebrates Christmas begins with the Advent season. Traditional, festive Advent markets are everywhere, offering food, drinks, handmade gifts, and activities like caroling. Christmas is celebrated in the evening on December 24. The *Christkindl* (the baby Jesus)—whom nobody has ever seen, but who is depicted as a small angel—comes secretly to decorate the Christmas tree and place presents under it. The gospel choir we are involved in sings Christ-centered songs at Christmas markets and Advent events. In Martina's classes with refugees, she talks about the Christmas story as part of the Austrian culture. Some of Michael's younger piano students ask a burning question when they enter our house at Christmas: "Who brings the presents to your house—Santa Claus or Christkindl?" This is a good opportunity to tell the kids that we celebrate the birthday of Jesus and that all good gifts come from God.



IRELAND

Jim & Kathy

We serve among the Travellers of Ireland. Christmas is much simpler for them. They do not use many decorations, and they give only a few presents to their immediate family. In the last 10 years, we have made it more special for them by putting on a special Christmas program at the Traveller school and passing out hundreds of Christmas shoeboxes that we put together for them. We tell the Christmas story from Luke 2 to as many of them as possible.

PARAGUAY

Robin Wagar

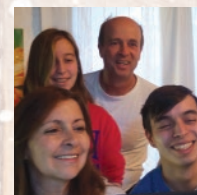
In Paraguay, gift-giving is not a Christmas custom; children receive gifts on January 6, the Day of the Magi. Throughout the Christmas season, many celebrations are aimed at children. Christmas Day is traditionally a religious holiday, with the worship of baby Jesus front and center. The wise men and shepherds are also venerated. Because of the religious emphasis, people are fairly responsive to listening to the biblical account of Christ's miraculous birth and the truth of His salvation. The difficulty is explaining that worshipping and praying to baby Jesus does no good since He is no longer a baby but the risen Lord. In my experience, the most effective way to share the Gospel is to get the attention of groups through music, storytelling, or skits and connect with the individuals as much as possible.



URUGUAY

Dirk & Milca Hinnenthal

Uruguayans have a big barbecue meal outside (it is summer here and very warm). At midnight, they throw firecrackers. It is a season of long days, and many people are outdoors, so we can reach them amid their transparent lifestyle. One way is through simple surveys that point to spiritual truths. People are open-minded and will respond. Whether or not they feel conviction, they will not readily share, but maybe they will on New Year's Eve when the activities are the same.



ASK YOUR QUESTIONS! Visit [CMML.us/askamissionary](https://www.cmml.us/askamissionary) to submit your question—it might be selected for a future issue!