

Missions

PERU

Two Visits,
Countless
Blessings

FRANCE

A Growing Assembly
Offers Their Thanks

Plus...Meet the
MSC TEAM



Thinking It Through

ALLAN WILKS

Joy

“Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...” (Hebrews 12:2)

What could possibly have motivated the Son of God to endure a Roman cross, to despise utter shame? What joy was set before Him that He was willing to experience at Calvary the nadir of physical and emotional pain?

Maybe there is a clue in Revelation 5:12 where we read of His worthiness being sung to Him by millions of heavenly beings. Perhaps His joy looked forward to power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, or blessing. Surely any one of these would be sufficient motivation for one of us to endure at least some pain.

In John’s vision, Christ is represented by a Lamb and so this glorious choral event suggests that He has become worthy of all of these things because of His supreme sacrifice on the cross. But if we look closer, we can see that the Lord already possessed all of these characteristics before He ever came to the earth. It’s as if the choir is saying “Your sacrifice magnificently confirms what we always knew about You.”

Paul tells the Colossians, “In Him all things hold together.” Can we even conceive of the power and might it takes to continuously hold the entire universe in existence? He also tells them that “all things were created through Him.” This is wealth unimaginable, and makes Psalm 50:10 a vast understatement: “For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.” No, His eyes did not gaze on power or might or wealth when He hung on the cross; He already had those.

Perhaps it was honor or glory? In the commissioning of Isaiah he sees the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up (Isaiah 6). Then what follows is a vision of honor and glory to the Lord that shook Isaiah to his core. But John tells us in John 12:41 that Isaiah was seeing the glory of Christ. Long before the cross the seraphim were shouting to one another of Christ, “The whole earth is full of His glory.” No, His eyes did not gaze on honor or glory when He hung on the cross; He already had those.

Was it the acquisition of wisdom that Jesus gazed on? Again in Colossians, speaking of the eternal Christ, Paul says of Him, “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Without realizing it, when David spoke about the Creator, he

spoke about Christ. In Psalm 139:6 he says, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.” No, His eyes did not gaze on wisdom when He hung on the cross; He already had that.

Finally, the creatures in Revelation 5 said the Lamb was worthy of blessing, or we might say worship. But Christ has always had worship, long before the cross. We are told in Joshua 5:14, “Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped” when he met a preincarnate form of Christ. No, His eyes did not gaze on worship when He hung on the cross; He already had that.

What then was the joy that was set before Him? What was He gazing on in His agony of death? What was sustaining Him through those bleak hours? The answer is astonishing: it was us. It was His people, His lost sheep, His wayward children that He envisioned.

What did He see in us? We know that there is nothing lovely about us, especially in comparison to the One we have been describing. Was it the joy of seeing our repentance (Luke 15:7)? Was it the joy of making us like Himself (2 Corinthians 3:18)? Was it the joy of the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7)?

Perhaps all of these. But in the end we have to stand in mute amazement at such a love, from the One who has everything, toward those who have nothing: a love both profound and inexplicable.

Frederick Lehman wrote of the vast love that underlays Christ’s joy:

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

Lord, flood my soul with your love, every day. Overwhelm all that is bitter in me with the sweetness of the joy you take in me. ■

Allan Wilks, CMML vice president, technology.

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COVER PHOTO: Philip Parsons—A home in Ricardo Palma along the Huallaga River, Peru



CMML Visits Ministries in Three Unique Regions



BY PHILIP PARSONS

What comes to mind when you think of Peru? Many might recall the ancient relic site Machu Picchu, or the renowned wonders of the Inca Empire, or the sun and surf of the Pacific Ocean. Still others are fascinated by the Amazon rainforest. Peru truly is a beautiful country with a rich history. However, its vibrant people need the Lord. Many are still unreached or lack sound biblical teaching.

Geography

Peru is the fourth most populated country in South America with three distinct geographic zones. Except for purposeful irrigation, the narrow coastal region is desolate and barren. The Andean Highlands contain some of the world's highest mountains. Contrast this with the mountainous jungle region that is a mix of vast river basins and tropical rainforests.

The assembly work

Charles Bright, from the assemblies in the United Kingdom, is credited for launching the assembly work in Peru in 1893. Tract distribution and selling Bibles were among some of the strategic methods he used to evangelize and plant assemblies. In 1937, Joseph and Jeannette Hocking, commended U.S. missionaries, joined the growing work. Today, many of our assembly missionaries serving in Peru cite not only the Hockings but also Herbert "Bert" and Colleen Elliot, Gordon and Florence Wakefield, and William and Anita Clark (*Missionary Prayer*

Handbook Day 27) as having a significant impact in bringing them to Peru. Approximately 30 missionaries commended from the U.S., Canada and the U.K. serve within the three geographic regions.

Our visit

Recently, my wife, Mary, and I visited many of these servants in Peru. Three one-hour flights and three longer but comfortable bus trips took us throughout the different regions. In addition to visiting many ministry locations, we were also blessed to join many missionaries at a workers' retreat.

Desert coastal region

Our first stop was Lima, Peru's capital city, which is home to nearly a third of the country's 31 million people. Peter and Marta Hocking (MPH Day 26) have been serving in Peru for more than 50 years. Segadores, an organization Peter began, is committed to train and mobilize nationals for the work. A pressing need is to reach 17 remote tribal villages in the north bordering Brazil. Of these 17 people groups, 10 are uncontacted. Strategic prayer has begun that these uncontacted people groups will come out of their villages and communicate with those who have been taught, rather than attempting to go in and risk death. Joel Clark (MPH Day 25) lives in Lima and works closely with the Covida assembly in leadership development. He has a thriving home Bible study ministry and engages in

Desert Coastal Region

Bible teaching in Peru and other Spanish-speaking countries. He helps in some of the assemblies established by the Wakefields.

A five-hour bus trip south along the desert coast brought us to Ica where Becky Hulshizer (MPH Day 26) has served since 1998. Among many joys, nothing surpasses Becky's enthusiasm when it comes to working with children at the Bible camp, a short drive from Ica (see *Missions* September/October 2016 pages 8 and 9).

Northwest of Lima lies the coastal city of Trujillo and home to Pablo and Sarah Cenepo-Torres (MPH Day 25) and Pam Zarak (MPH Day 27). The love and care shown to Pablo as a young boy by the Elliots inspired him to perpetuate their work. Pablo and Sarah are busy with the assembly work in Trujillo, the Elliot Christian School (named in honor of Bert's brother Jim Elliot) and the orphanage, Hogar de Esperanza. Newly appointed missionaries Leon and Clara Vining (MPH Day 27) will take on administrative duties at the orphanage in early 2017. Pam Zarak has been in Peru more than 25 years serving the needs of women and children with weekly Bible studies and Awana. Pam also mentors four Peruvian women who live in her home by teaching them life skills while helping their spiritual development.

A short four-hour bus ride north of Trujillo, Tom and Carol Clark (MPH Day 26) make their home in Chiclayo. They are involved in a vast array of ministries and have seen many changes in the 32 years of service. Currently, their primary involvement is Strong Tower Christian School (see *Missions* January 2017 pages 10 and 11) and Morningstar, a children's home. Tina Howell, Laura Messerly and Crystal Rudy (all MPH Day 26) are key teachers at the school and have contributed greatly with the youth at the assembly in Pueblo Nuevo.

Jungle region

Micah and Amy Tuttle and family (MPH Day 26) have been in Peru for 16 years. Hearing reports by the Elliots inspired the Tuttles to come alongside and help. Their home in Tarapoto borders the jungle and nearby rivers. Micah frequently visits 30 assemblies started by the Elliots along the river. Children's meetings, visitation and door-to-door evangelism and open-air gospel preaching keeps Micah busy. A new Bible training school began in Tarapoto this year. Jesse and Janel Mattix (MPH Day 26) were invited to help with this training institute and moved into a home close to the school. They came with previous experience in a Bible training institute in Bolivia. The school began with eight students including two from Colombia. Both families are actively involved in the assembly in Tarapoto.



Clockwise from top left: Joel Clark and sisters from the Covida assembly; Mary, Becky and a woman she mentors; Ica; Pablo with a gifted student.

Jungle Region



Top (L-R): Boy playing in Ricardo Palma village; Assembly meeting in Tarapoto; **Middle (L-R):** Tuttle family with friends in Ricardo Palma village; Boys in Ricardo Palma; **Bottom:** People washing clothes in the river.

Mountain region

A short flight from Lima brought us to the city of Cajamarca, nestled in the cooler Andes Mountains and home to Whily and Nicole Cacho-Hansen (MPH Day 25). Last year, the Cacho-Hansens took up temporary residence in Tarapoto to help launch the new Bible institute. Now, they are back in Cajamarca to resume work in the assembly and evangelism and to teach the Bible in rural areas. Whily continues to help the Bible training institute in Tarapoto. Nicole is due with a second child in March 2017.

Retreat

For the second consecutive year, nearly all the missionaries in Peru gathered together for a time of spiritual enrichment and fellowship just outside of Trujillo. The three-day retreat provided quiet moments for reflection, fellowship and prayer for the varied ministries happening throughout Peru.

The retreat brought us in contact with the Lichy family (MPH Day 26). Jedidiah first came to Peru in 2007, met his wife, Shaomi, and together have made their home a center of ministry. Jed is a handyman and his skills are opening doors in the community. The assembly is small but two families have committed to join in the work. Shaomi is a nurse and currently completing her government obligations in San Felipe. John and Janette Hocking (MPH Day 30) make periodic trips to Peru and minister to businessmen and the unchurched while putting his construction skills to good use.

Prayer needs

The lack of sound biblically trained leaders is a critical problem in Peru. Pray that the start of the Bible institute and the initiative to hold intensive Bible training weekends in remote locations will strengthen the assembly work. Pray that more men and women will sense the need for training.

The orphanage ministry of Morningstar and Hogar de Esperanza provide love and care for abandoned and neglected children. Pray for the administration and staff of these ministries.

Strong Tower Christian School needs a high school principal. More workers are needed to bring the love of God to the 17 unreached people groups in the north. Let's thank the Lord that the work in Peru, although needy, is thriving and is faithfully being carried on by men and women who came behind those who began a good work!

Philip Parsons, assembly relations and missionary care.

Mountain Region



Top (L-R): Cacho-Hansen family with a friend; Cajamarca; **Middle (L-R):** Mountains in Cajamarca; Phil and Mary with a vicuña; **Bottom:** Woman crushing garlic at Granja Procon.

Retreat

Right & below: Peru retreat group 2016.



Visiting Our Missionaries Gave us a New Viewpoint

BY QUINCY HOWARD

Visiting Tarapoto, Peru, was something my wife, Linda, and I talked about since our assembly, Northgate Gospel Chapel, commended Jesse and Janel Mattix and family (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 26) to the work of the Lord there in May 2015. Jesse and Janel went with a vision of starting a Bible institute after an earlier visit with Micah and Amy Tuttle (MPH Day 26). The couples spent many hours completing the infrastructure for the institute, including their homes (the lower half of the Tuttle's home contains most of the institute's facilities). After much prayer, and arranging teachers from several countries including Peru and Bolivia, the institute welcomed students for their first day of class on March 8, 2016.

So off to Peru we went in September. Our primary purpose was to spend time with the Mattix family as well as to see the Bible institute that we had supported and prayed for as an assembly. We picked late September so we could be there for the first graduation ceremony.

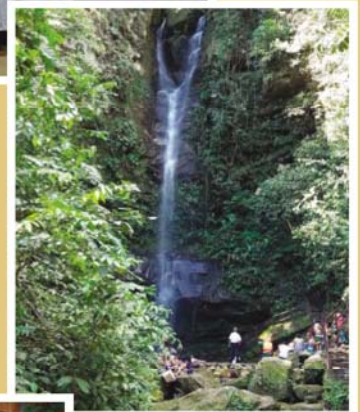
On October 1, 2016, eight students (six from Peru and two from Colombia) celebrated the completion of the seven-month program at the IBEM Selva¹ Bible Institute. The program consisted of 18 one- to two-week study modules including theology (three modules), personal evangelism, history of the Church, and book studies such as Romans.

A vital part of the program is the integration of biblical studies with active ministry work. The students participated in children's clubs and evangelistic outreaches in the Tarapoto area as well as in villages along the Huallaga River during three river trips. The two couples were assisted by Whily and Nikki Cacho (MPH Day 25) and Dhaly Alday (a Peruvian national commended worker).

One of the students, Alex Pacherras, summarized his experience saying, "My eyes were opened to missionary work; to serve where God puts me in the ministry."

Lord willing, the institute will start its second year in March 2017. Please pray that the Lord will provide students as well as staff for the coming school year. Aaron Campbell (also from Northgate Chapel) will help with the men and Dhaly will help again with the ladies.

Our trip was unforgettable! We came home with a much better appreciation of the Lord's work in Tarapoto, the people of Peru, and the challenges of living and serving the Lord in a foreign country. This trip will help us and our assembly better sup-



Clockwise from top: The graduating students with Jesse Mattix (far left) and Micah Tuttle (far right); Ahuashiyacu Falls; Quincy and Linda Howard (far right) with the Mattix family outside their home; The graduating students with Dhaly Alday (far right).

port our missionaries and to pray more intelligently for them.

I will end with a challenge to all the commending assemblies—visit your missionaries! Go see where they live and how they live. Go see their work and their challenges firsthand. Spend time in their homes, visit their assemblies, and meet the people they work with. Bring back what you have seen and heard in order to help your assembly better partner with, and pray for, your missionaries. ■

¹ IBEM Selva is the jungle (selva) arm of the Instituto Bíblico de Entrenamiento Misionero (Missionary Bible Training Institute) of Peru.

Quincy and Linda Howard attend Northgate Gospel Chapel in Seattle, Washington, where Quincy is an elder and Linda is involved in various women's ministries.

Home with the Lord

Grace Lily Croudace

Missionary to Zambia • October 20, 1933—September 19, 2016



Grace Lily Croudace was born in Balovale (now Zambezi), Zambia, to missionary parents Wallace and Ruth Logan. She trusted Christ at her mother's knee when she was five years old and was baptized at Sakeji School where she did her primary education. She completed secondary school in South Africa, then qualified as a teacher at the University of Cape Town.

In 1958 Grace was commended by the Caldwell assembly (New Jersey) to Chavuma, where, with her two sisters Eleanor and Viola, they opened the first girls' boarding school in the province.

In 1972 she married David Croudace and moved to Zambezi where, together as volunteers, they taught the Bible to 1,500 secondary school students. God used this outreach for the salvation of many, and today you can find numerous former students serving the Lord in assemblies all over Zambia. Grace also assisted in pioneering girls' camps on the banks of the Zambezi river where many trusted Christ.

She loved to show hospitality, cheerfully welcoming all who visited and offering them a meal. People from more than 40 nationalities were entertained and heard the Gospel in their home, and as a result some trusted Christ as their Savior.

Her motto in life was, "(After Christ), others first," which she daily exemplified. Strangers she met were touched by her warm smile and genuine interest and concern for them. These qualities created many opportunities to reach people with Christ's love. Her personal touch was unique to each individual, and the love she exuded captured their attention while she pointed them to the Savior. Her positive attitude, quiet sense of humor, and ability to laugh at herself kept her very young at heart.

She had a special love for widows and orphans and for years helped almost 200 of them. However, she always spent time checking to ensure that they were "widows indeed" as per 1 Timothy 5:5, 9-10. Whenever a widow came to the house, Grace would stop everything in order to spend time listening to her and to give encouragement from the Word.

With David, she spent many years pioneering and planting assemblies on the west bank of the Zambezi and was a special encouragement to the women, many of whom gave up their lucrative lifestyles of beer brewing when they turned to Christ.

She always encouraged them to memorize God's promises to provide for His people. Later, she did the same in Malawi and Mozambique. More recently, spending six months each year in South Africa, she continued to seek the lost for Christ.

Her desire over 58 years of service was always to bring people to the Lord she loved so they would enjoy heaven with her. In fact, the very morning she started having mini strokes she spent time speaking to a man about his need of the Savior.

She has encouraged young and old, widows, orphans, people with marital problems and many others to find their way back to God from the dark paths of sin and then to go on to live for Christ and for eternity.

Here are just a few testimonies, from those who were blessed through her life:

"She has lived up to her name as a very gracious lady."

"She was an inspiration... the perfect definition of a godly woman."

"The kind of person you loved to be with."

"What was deep inside her always seemed to spill out and bless everyone around her."

"The fragrance of the Lord Jesus always wafted around her so sweetly."

"She made it her practice to look for something to be thankful for in every discouraging situation."

"What a godly legacy she has left us: a gracious spirit, deep love and compassion for others, godly wisdom and a sweet sense of humor."

"What a treasure she was to so many of us."

"Grandma will always be remembered as very Christlike. A great inspiration especially to me."

"I count it an incredible privilege to have met her."

"She was a spiritual mother and grandmother to many around the world. We, along with them, "rise up and call her blessed."

On September 19 she quietly slipped away into the arms of the Savior she loved and served so faithfully. She fought a good fight; she finished her course; she has gone to her reward.

She was buried at Chavuma Mission on September 22, 2016.

David Croudace

Thank You from France

A Growing Assembly Grateful for a Practical Gift

BY PAUL HOWLAND

Editor's note: The following is a letter sent by the elders of a French assembly, which the Lord used Paul and Faith Howland to start years ago. Recently, they built a new building and American believers blessed them with new chairs. It is wonderful to witness the body of Christ working together in such a practical way.

Eglise Protestante Evangélique de Moulins

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to sincerely thank you for your generous gift. We were very happy when our brother Paul told us that American Christians wanted to offer 150 new chairs. The chairs are now in place. We are now in accordance with the safety regulation.

Thank you for your prayers, thank you for your encouragement, and thank you for your gift.

We pray now that in this place thousands of people will hear the message of the Gospel and discover Jesus Christ. Pray also that this place will be a place of edification and brotherly communion for all the Christians of the church.

Sincerely in Christ,

The elders



The birth of this work

The Lord led us to Moulins sur Allier, in the heart of France, 33 years ago to pioneer a new work. Faith and I spent 17 years pointing people to Christ, but only a few received Him as Lord and Savior. Open-air market work, a Christian library, neighborhood Bible clubs, distribution of gospel literature and even a Christian bookstore were some of our tools. But most of the work was one-on-one soul winning. Being bold paid off as we focused on meeting people in the privacy of their homes and told them why we had come. As the "little flock" grew, we taught them what the Master said to His disciples right from the start, "Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." The new Christians caught on fast and continue to this day, leading others to Christ.

The little New Testament-style assembly attracted other

young believers to join us. Coming from as far as Normandy and Grenoble, they were willing disciples. It was a joy to name deacons and then elders as we worked ourselves out of leadership 16 years ago. More new deacons and elders have been named and added to the leadership by the first ones.

New meeting place

It was with tremendous joy that I attended the inauguration of the new chapel building, built entirely by gifts of the local believers. It is located on a main artery with the city of Moulins on one side, and the city of Avermes on the other. The city officials came, as did the local priest and news media. Almost all of the new chairs, donated by believers in America, were filled and there were a good number standing.

Pray for the future

When the Lord wins, the Enemy of our souls is not happy. Pray with us for continued unity in following God's Word for faith and practice as a New Testament church. There is a long tradition of replacement theology in France. And "every wind of doctrine" is always blowing, challenging biblical teaching and practice. But, isn't that typical everywhere? I am so glad that we can say like Paul, "I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32) ■



Paul Howland was commended in 1981 by Buttonwoods Bible Chapel, Warwick, Rhode Island.

May We Introduce

Jim Gleason
Missionary to Tanzania



The events of 9/11 impacted many people. As a nine year old, I questioned the fate of all those who died. A couple weeks later while running an errand for an assembly workday with my dad, I asked him about them. As we discussed it, I realized I wasn't prepared to die. In the parking lot of the local Home Depot, I asked Christ to forgive my sins and to be my Savior. I was baptized a couple years later.

My family heritage greatly inspired my sense of calling to the mission field. I grew up listening to the story of my great-uncle Jim Elliot, a missionary who was martyred in Ecuador in 1956. In addition, my great-uncle and great-aunt Bert and Colleen Elliot, who were missionaries in Peru for 62 years, encouraged me in my love for the Lord, my Christian walk and my heart for missions. I visited them in Peru where I observed them in action and spent time with them in our home while they were on furlough.

A major influence on my life is my immediate family. My parents are in full-time ministry at Grace Bible Fellowship, Portland, Oregon, from where I am commended, and have taught me by word and example the importance of serving the Lord. My participation in the ministry at Grace and at

Eagle Fern Camp has fueled my heart for missions.

Because I have a heart for missions, I decided to learn as much as I could. As mentioned, I took a short-term trip to Peru with a team from my assembly. I attended the "Perspective on the Christian World Movement" class and the Missionary Orientation Program offered by CMML and MSC Canada. My foundation in Scripture came from the teaching in our home, in my home assembly and Ecola Bible School.

A major part of my training for the mission field has been my employment for the past five years. I worked for a metal fabrication company where my job included helping to maintain the machines, vehicles, buildings, and landscaping. This is a major part of what I will do in Tanzania.

I visited Tanzania two years ago with Dick Clark, who introduced me to Dale and Chris Hamilton. They have an extensive community health evangelism ministry to the islands of southern Lake Victoria. To do this they have a float plane, several boats, clinics on the islands and buildings on their main base that need to be maintained. This will be my focus along with discipling men. My plan is to go for two years and then reevaluate the Lord's direction for my life. ■



Meet the MSC Canada Team

MSC is privileged to serve the Lord's servants around the world. We know, and greatly appreciate, that many *Missions* readers faithfully pray for us (especially on "Day 31" where we are listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*). We humbly ask you to continue to uphold us in prayer.



Marilyn Barnes, WorkerCare

Marilyn serves in MSC's WorkerCare program by connecting with workers in the field and offering support for the many challenges they face in difficult circumstances.



Edith Masuello, Secretary

Edith is usually the first voice you'll hear if you call MSC and the first face you'll see if you stop by our office. She also handles mailings, maintains our contact database, and compiles the content for our weekly *Mission Prayer Items* email list.



Phil Barnes, Executive Director

With the board's guidance, Phil provides leadership and direction to the work of MSC. Phil connects with workers around the world remotely and in person. He is a member of the executive management committee.



Kevin Shantz, Financial Director

Kevin oversees all of the financial aspects of MSC as well as the ongoing development of our internal database system. He is the treasurer and secretary on the board of directors and is a member of the executive management committee.



Sandra Barnett, Administrator

Sandra looks after MSC's day-to-day administrative operations, including bookkeeping and overseeing the daily financial activities of the office, and serves as MSC's liaison with mission workers by phone and email.



Gerrit Van Essen, ACCTS Coordinator

Gerrit heads up ACCTS by coordinating shipments and volunteers and managing the warehouse at 101 Amber Street.



Jerry Bolton, Communications Director

Jerry is responsible for managing the voice and direction of MSC's social media, email campaigns, graphic design, website content, photography, videography, and print media. He also dabbles in IT.



Ted Windle, Short-Term Team Coordinator

Ted serves as a resource to outgoing short-term teams. He also is the director of TeamWorkers.



Savitri Manickam, Administrative Assistant

Savitri processes the daily donations received online and by mail. She also manages all of the preauthorized donation plans as well as handling many other office tasks.

Volunteers

MSC has many faithful volunteers who sacrificially serve the Lord. There are too many people to list, but here are a few who have leadership roles or volunteer on a regular basis.

ACCTS Warehouse & Shipping

Tom Browning
Ed Miller
Bill Millard

ACCTS Medical Support Team

Desmond and Elizabeth Norris
Ken and Kathy McFarland
David and Muriel Clarke

Admin & Communication

Keri Halladay
Ruth Adams
Naomi Yuille

Board of Directors

MSC is blessed with leaders who seek to serve the Lord in every decision they make. Please remember our leadership in prayer.



Russell Sutherland, President

A network engineer, Russ oversees the executive management committee and is a member of the audit committee. Russ frequently attends the European Christian Workers' Conference and visits many workers in Europe.



Jerry Maniate

An oncologist specializing in medical education, Jerry has served as an MSC director for the past four years.



Vladimir Paserin, Vice President

A scientist who works near Montreal, Vlad has a special interest in the Lord's work in Eastern Europe, especially his native Slovakia.



Stefan Parent

A teacher, Stef has been a director for the last four years. He is very involved reaching the large Chinese community in northeast Toronto. His brother Mitch and family serve in Nicaragua.



Stephen Adams

A longtime director, Steve has a special interest in the Caribbean and Central America, having grown up in a missionary family in Cuba. He is a member of the executive management committee.



Viji Roberts

Commended to full-time service in his local church, Viji serves on the audit committee. He helps with MSC's involvement in India, having made several trips there on its behalf.



Rod Joyce

Rod works for IBM and has served as an MSC director for a long time. He is a member of the audit and executive management committees.

Regional Representatives

These diligent volunteers serve in their part of the country as a resource to inform local churches and prospective workers about MSC and connect them to it.



Paul DeJager
(Atlantic Canada)



Ron Hampton
(The Prairies)



Harold Summers
(British Columbia)



Margery Lipsi

Missionary to Brazil • May 11, 1919—August 12, 2016

On August 12, 2016, at 9:10 p.m. my mother Margery Riecke Lipsi was ushered into her eternal home. She was born in Marlboro, Massachusetts, on May 11, 1919, and at the age of 14 she accepted the free gift of salvation and gave her life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Her sister Louise, nine years older, was a great influence in her life. Aunt Louise came to know the Lord a year before my mother's conversion and felt the call to be a missionary to China. On Christmas Eve, when mom made her decision to follow Christ, she also felt a desire to serve the Lord in a foreign field.

My father, Dominic Lipsi, was her first serious boyfriend since he also felt the call to be a missionary. They were married in November 1943 and commended to the Lord's work in Brazil in 1946. On November 17, 1947, my father sailed to Brazil and soon after my mother came by plane with my sister Louise, age three, and my brother David, age one.

Their first eight months were spent under the leadership of older missionaries in the city of São Paulo where they learned the Portuguese language. Their desire was to start a work where there was no evangelical church, and in a marvelous way the Lord led them to a little town. My father was of Italian descent and picked up the language easily. He heard that in this region there were many Italians who had immigrated to Brazil during World War II, so they moved to the little town of Sousas on the outskirts of Campinas about an hour from São Paulo. My two brothers, Jonathan and Timothy (in memoriam), and I were born there. My parents rented a house where they started the work.

In the beginning they suffered much opposition, especially from the Catholic priest. One morning they woke up to find that their car had been pushed into the river. However, within a short time they won the friendship and respect of the townspeople and soon started to have meetings in their home. Not

long after that the chapel building was built (where my mother was a member until she passed away). Together they started two other assemblies in the city of Campinas, in the district of Vila Mimosa and another in Taquaral.

Mom gave embroidery classes to the town children and ladies as a tool to reach them with the Gospel and also invite them to the chapel. Later on, when Acampamento Biblico Betel was started, she gave swimming classes. In her youth she attended Philadelphia School of the Bible in the evenings (since she had to work during the day) but also took the time to do a lifeguard course, which proved to be very useful as she taught many people to swim in the camp pool. At the chapel in Sousas and at camp she organized many Bible clubs and even picked up many of the children. A person of great determination, she learned to drive and got her driver's license at age 50. For many years she taught classes on a volunteer basis in the Sousas and Campinas schools, transmitting her passion for the Word of God.

In spite of her many activities she was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She fully enjoyed life and one of her greatest characteristics was her happy smile and positive attitude, even while she passed through difficulties and hardships. Her love for the Lord was evident to all, and she always shared her faith with others. In October 2009 she was in the hospital for one month to have a tumor in her intestines removed. During this time she led to the Lord a young woman with breast cancer and who would soon pass into eternity with Him.

Mom was very loved and respected by many people especially during her last 17 months, which she spent at Fenix Assisted Living Home. In her 97 years she pointed many people to Christ and built a legacy of faith in the Lord that will be carried on to subsequent generations.

Jeanne Lipsi