

Missions

REENTRY

Helping Missionaries
Return from the Field

FIEL Bible Institute
Equipping Faithful
Servants

Short-Term Missions
**Long-Term
Results**

NY 26 Below
Youth Retreat
Report





Thinking It Through

MARK KOLCHIN

“The Gift that Keeps on Giving”

I was amazed when I heard a friend relay an incident that took place years ago at a Bible conference. During a break, he unobtrusively handed a gift to someone as a means of encouragement. His intention was not to impress nor influence but simply to be a blessing to a fellow believer. It was money from his wallet, a well-worn bill that he gave as he felt led by the Lord. After the conference, a different brother approached him in a similar way and discreetly handed him money. To his utter surprise, when he looked at the bill he could see by markings on it that it was the same one he had given away earlier! The timeless adage certainly applied, “What goes around, comes around!” The Bible says: “Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days” (in this case, hours). The incident, as remarkable as it seems, occurs more often than we think. It reinforces the biblical principle that no one can out-give the Lord. God has a way of balancing the ledger sheet.

When Paul addressed the Corinthian assembly about giving, one key principle he emphasized was that God is able to make all grace abound toward them, so when they met the material needs of others, He would meet their needs as well (2 Corinthians 9:8). God is able to do many things in the life of the believer (Ephesians 3:20–21; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 2:17–18; 7:25; Jude 24), and here is another: He gives us the grace to give. When we do, we are exhorted to do it liberally (Romans 12:8) and with a cheerful heart (2 Corinthians 9:7), hoping for nothing in return (Luke 6:35). When we put Him first in our finances, we can be sure that He will take care of our needs in the process—a concept that goes against our natural thinking. It highlights the principle of the first fruits. In an actual harvest, the first fruits are often the best. In Old Testament times, they would be the most difficult to give to the Lord. But it was an act

of worship and faith. When we give Him our “first fruits” on the first day of the week, we are expressing our confidence that He will follow through with additional “crops” as a supply for our needs. It testifies of our faith in Him, a faith that He honors (Proverbs 3:9–10). The widow of Zarephath learned this valuable lesson when she helped meet the needs of Elijah. As a destitute widow with a son to provide for, she had very little to give, yet she gave to God’s work; and the cruse that she utilized did not run dry (1 Kings 17). The same held true for the lad who provided the fish and loaves. Through the Lord’s touch, his gift provided for the needs of a multitude with much left over (Mark 6:32–44).

So, what does this mean for us today? As much as it did for believers all through the ages. Despite difficult

economic times whether nationally or personally, giving to the Lord’s work and His workers should always be a priority. As promised, God can provide for us as we provide for others, even as He did for Elijah during a time of famine. We should follow the example of the poverty-stricken Macedonian saints who first gave themselves to the Lord and then to others (2 Corinthians 8:1–5). Our attitude about giving actually reflects our commitment to Christ and substantiates to a degree that we are not tied to our purse strings or guided by greed, as Gehazi (2 Kings 5), Simon (Acts 8) and many false teachers were (Jude 16). The Lord’s work and workers need your gifts to move ahead as they serve the Lord by faith. Maybe you can be that source of blessing to them. Consider God’s challenge which is as relevant today as it was in Malachi’s day: “Prove me herewith says the Lord and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10) If you do, don’t be surprised if you find a blessing coming back to you. ■

“Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.”

Ecclesiastes 11:1

Mark Kolchin is a full-time worker based in New Jersey.

Vol. 46, No. 3. 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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FIEL Bible Institute Online Training

BY BILL LOUDON

EQUIPPING FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF OUR FAITHFUL LORD

Amid thundering applause, 52 students and their wives lined up in a more or less orderly fashion in a crowded, steamy campground meeting hall a few hours from Bogotá, Colombia. There, they received diplomas commemorating their successful completion of the Faithful Elder program, organized by the FIEL (Faithful) Bible Institute. We celebrated the institute's first year of online classes. We also celebrated the Lord's faithfulness to us as students and teachers, all serving as leaders in our local churches.

After the program began in February 2016 with the Discipleship class and moved on to Bible Study Methods, Evangelism, The Healthy Church and other classes, we concluded the year with Biblical Counseling. The Faithful Elder program was only open to men who are active leaders in their churches, but their wives participated in this final class, reflecting the reality that much of the counseling that takes place in our churches is done by husband and wife teams. The camp session, held in mid-November 2016, was the conclusion of the Biblical Counseling class, culminating in graduation ceremonies for the whole Faithful Elder program.

Green screens and glowing monitors

Cellphone cameras have certainly improved dramatically in recent years. However, our media-savvy culture requires that the video lessons we produce have high production standards. So, Christian Ramirez (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 24) became our video guy, and we learned how to film using green screens to produce professional lessons. Bill Loudon became the sound guy, matching our sound quality to our video quality. Several individuals and groups in the U.S. provided funds to purchase DSLR cameras, lights, a green screen, sound-recording equipment, and other items.

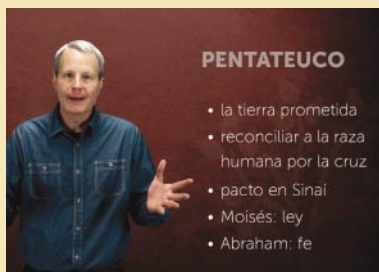
In addition to Christian and Bill, our teachers for 2016 included missionary Mike Dubberly (MPH Day 23) and



Top: Wrap-up session small group; **Left (clockwise from top left):** Carlos, a graduating student, and his wife, Gladys; Mario, a graduating student, and his wife, Nadia; In-person wrap-up session.

Colombian workers Carlos Avila and Gilberto Vanegas. In September 2016, Jim Fleming (MPH Day 30) from Emmaus Correspondence School came to film a course on Acts that we will use for our next program, Faithful Servant, in 2017.

The online course format is flexible for the students as well as the teachers. The filming staff sets up a makeshift studio in one of our churches, and then an hour later the featured teacher arrives for a day of filming. At a typical recording session, Consuelo Avila, who has contributed in innumerable ways to the success of Faithful Elder, and her son Samuel, are present to provide logistical support. After filming the day's lessons, the video and audio files enter the postproduction stage where Christian, Bill and others spend long hours editing the lessons on their computers, adding titles and graphics to increase their educational effectiveness. Bill's brother-in-law, Ron Letkeman, a professional graphics artist living in Canada, designed logos, graphics, video templates, and workflow methods.



Effective online education requires more than just watching cool videos. So, we use the Moodle learning platform to host the virtual classes. An integrated system for creating personalized learning environments for students, Moodle has worked flawlessly. Its depth and complexity permit us to implement a variety of online activities for our students, individually or in groups, to help meet our educational objectives.

In addition to videos, a course like Discipleship includes quizzes for instant self-evaluation, online discussion forums, question and answer lessons, homework assignments, small group workshops, and live conversations with the teacher via Skype. Each course concludes with a wrap-up session, where everyone meets together on a Saturday morning, so we can at least shake hands in person and spend time together.



Each course concludes with a wrap-up session, where everyone meets together on a Saturday morning, so we can at least shake hands in person and spend time together.

Why we did all this

More than once, in the wee hours of the morning, approaching burnout, we asked ourselves, "Why are we doing this?" But we never really had any doubt about the answer—just about whether we would survive the experience! Repeatedly, the Lord showed His faithfulness. The camp session, which closed out our 2016 activities, allowed us to get a glimpse of just how much the leaders of our assemblies appreciated what we created for them. It gave us a tremendous sense of satisfaction that all this work paid off in fruit that will be reaped for years to come.

Planning for the Faithful Elder program began three years ago with the decision to replace the Bible school's traditional classroom-based education model, used since its inception in the mid-1990s. The leaders of the Bible school, as well as many of the church leaders here in Bogotá, had observed with concern that the old model was no longer working effectively. Christian and Bill, the school's two full-time teachers and administrators, spent long hours interviewing the leaders of the Bogotá assemblies to find out what strategies might allow our teachers to reach the potential students that we believe is our mission to reach, namely, leaders and all those active in local church ministries in our Bogotá assemblies. Our target audience needs to be able to avoid ever-increasing commute times to classroom locations. Around the world, particularly in the densely populated capitals of developing nations, traffic congestion is a growing problem. It is not reasonable to expect someone who is trying to juggle long work hours, a healthy family life, and active church ministry, to spend three hours or more getting to and from a three-hour class, often getting home after 11 p.m. on public transportation to neighborhoods that can be dangerous at such hours. Making the most of everyone's limited time is critical, so our classes are geared for practical ministry training, rather than intellectual stimulation. They focus on the particular needs of our churches, according to the realities of our church models and ministry contexts. The students need to be able to put into practice what they learn immediately, helping them to build relationships and be better prepared to serve in their churches. The courses must require a reasonable amount of time for the students to complete, which, for our purposes, we set at a maximum of six hours per week. Greater time demands would lead to students either not being able to keep up or upsetting the delicate balance of a healthy lifestyle.

It was clear from the outset that online technologies would allow us to create virtual classrooms where the students would use their computers in the comfort and safety of their own homes to study efficiently. Having internet access is no

Above (from top): Bill teaching a video lesson in front of the green screen and as it appears in the edited video; Bible institute website homepage screen.

longer an obstacle in the larger cities of developing nations. We also realized that it would be necessary to develop new courses using our own teachers. The courses must be completely in Spanish. Also, they must be appropriately paced, highly interactive, and provide adequate evaluation of the students' progress and the courses' effectiveness. If we had required traditional subjects as taught by seminaries and other Bible institutes, we might have been able to make use of other options already available. However, after looking into various possibilities, we could not find any existing materials suited to our needs. Since the Lord has graciously provided among our churches an abundance of talent, gifting and experience as well as the time and financial resources for this project, we felt He was giving us the green light to develop our own courses.

Lessons learned

Perhaps the biggest lesson we learned is that we believe now more than ever that this approach to ministry formation is the one we need to continue pursuing. However, we require much fine-tuning to take full advantage of this kind of program. We need to make sure that the number of students enrolled in a given course is appropriate to the content of the course and that the teachers have more live contact with each student. We need to give ourselves enough time to develop the videos and high-quality educational activities each course needs to make the most of the time our students carve out of their busy schedules. Finally, we need to focus more on team building, so that we can get the help we need for such a daunting endeavor.

Faithful Servant

Faithful Elder was designed to be a one-year pilot program. Later on, we will recycle it and run it again as needed. Now that Faithful Elder is "in the can" and successfully implemented, in 2017 we are turning to our new project, Faithful Servant. This will be a recurring, three-year foundations of ministry program, designed for everyone who serves in their churches in any capacity. It will include courses on practical ministry and provide Biblical and doctrinal foundations. After Faithful Servant, we hope to develop a program called Faithful Teacher and then possibly Faithful Counsellor.

We are looking for help in video editing in Spanish and for course mentors who can lead groups of students as they complete their online courses in Spanish. We will use a crowdfunding model to develop each new course, not starting production until all the resources are available. While we rely on funding from North America for producing new courses, we charge

the students enough to cover operating expenses. The cost is affordable, while helping them to appreciate the value of their studies. This also gives the churches in Colombia the chance to invest in their people, and we have a fund to help in cases of financial hardship. Please pray for us as we strive "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12) ■



Bill and Angela Loudon were commended in 2008 by Westminster Bible Chapel, Westminster, California.

Photos by Christian Ramirez



From top (and left): Graduation dinner for the Faithful Elder program; Christian Ramirez and Bill Loudon, administrators of FIEL Bible Institute; Consuelo Avila and Christian filming Bible pages turning; Faithful Elder graduation ceremony.

REENTRY

Helpful Information for Missionaries Returning from the Field

BY JONATHAN WARD

Returning to one's home country after years of service on the field can produce a big mix of emotions, ranging from excitement and anticipation to apprehension, guilt and sadness. How does it feel for a missionary to return and try to make themselves at home in a place that no longer feels like home? What are some of the challenges? How can missionaries be helped with making the transition?

Feeling like an extraterrestrial

"Home" may feel quite different from how you remember it, and simply "picking up where you left off" is impossible. Not only has your home culture changed, but so have you. Everything seems like a crazier "rat race" than before. The pressure to perform, be on time, produce visible results, accumulate belongings and wealth, and conform to certain cultural standards, may make you feel like you've landed from another planet. If you have children returning with you, they will feel out of touch with peers and may be met with derision if they do things as they've always done, like wearing flip-flops in December.

A significant portion of reentry stress (sometimes called "reverse culture shock") is linked to one's expectations, which can be high: "It will be great to reconnect with friends"; "I can't wait to have the freedom to just be myself again"; "I'm looking forward to being in a context where I can receive as much as I give."

In reality, coming "home" may produce a sense of disillusionment, isolation and loneliness, coupled with moments of feeling misunderstood, depressed and irritated due to a different perception of how your home culture functions. How can you mitigate some of these reactions? The key is to leave well, reenter well, and understand the challenges of reentry.

Leave well

Leaving the field poorly will compound the stress of reentry, so a useful way of engaging with the leaving process is to build a RAFT: a helpful acronym that stands for Reconciliation, Affirmation, Farewells, and Thinking ahead.

Reconciliation

Relationships among missionaries and with nationals are not always easy. An important part of leaving well involves resolving any unfinished business you may have, such as a coworker that said something hurtful, or something you had promised to do for someone but never got around to doing it.

When leaving, we may think that relational tensions will just disappear, but we carry them with us and they can interfere with new relationships. Instead of leaving with negative feelings on either side, forgiving and asking for forgiveness will be the best option by far.

Being humble enough to admit our mistakes is hard, but it may have a lasting effect on those we have been trying to reach for the sake of the Gospel. Forgiving is also difficult, but it is vital in order to leave with a clean slate, free from the emotional baggage of unresolved issues. It will also help you move to the next stage of building your RAFT.

Affirmation

Relationships matter, and acknowledging their positive impact is important. Who has been important to you during your time of service? Perhaps it's a national leader that gave the right help at the right time, or a coworker that lifted you up when you were down. Perhaps it's someone who helped you with the language and culture. How will you affirm them? By thanking them in person, giving them a gift, or writing them a note? Expressing thanks is an important part of closure. It also helps us be aware of what we have gained. And what better way to leave than to let those we have served hear us say "Thank you."

Farewells

Farewells are especially important in certain cultures and are often marked by special events, ceremonies and parties. You may wish you could leave quietly without too much fuss, but it's important to allow communities, people and ministries to say their goodbyes to you.

Naturally, saying goodbye to people is essential, but saying goodbye to favorite places, possessions and pets can be important too. This is particularly true for children, who need to process the sense of loss they feel as they leave what has

been home for so long.

For children, the leaving process needs to be gradual rather than sudden. In the weeks leading up to departure, time needs to be scheduled to enable them to make intentional visits to favorite places and activities, knowing that "this time" or "the next time we come here" is for the specific purpose of saying goodbye.

Think ahead

In addition to reconciling, affirming and saying your farewells, you also need to be thinking, praying and planning for the next step. Naturally, you will make plans about where to live and what work to do, but there are other things to consider.

Remember, you are returning to a context that once felt like home but which has changed more than you realize. Try to imagine realistically what it will be like to return and settle in your home culture so that your expectations match reality. What do you anticipate being some of the benefits and challenges once you return? What external support structures will you have to help you get settled and adjust? What internal resources do you have for coping with the difficulties you may find?

Also, just as you probably brought items from your home country to the field to remind you of home, what will you take back to remind you of your years on the field?

What is especially difficult is having to leave the field in a way that was neither planned nor chosen. It may be due to health issues, political turmoil, team conflict or expulsion. Feelings of confusion, guilt, failure, resentment, discouragement and grief may ensue. In some cases, such as an evacuation, the departure may be traumatic, leading to feelings of anxiety and depression. Whatever the case, the sense of loss needs to be acknowledged, debriefed and processed in order to better manage one's present reality. When facing the aftermath of emotional trauma, the help of a professional counselor is strongly recommended.

Reentry programs designed for returning missionary families offered by organizations such as Barnabas International (Barnabas.org), Mission Training International (MTI.org) and Missionary Health Institute (MissionaryHealth.ca) are recommended. For children and teens, camps and retreats for Third Culture Kids can be a great way to connect with people who understand the TCK experience. Organizations like Mu Kappa International (MuKappa.org) and Canadian MK Network (CanadianMK.net) can be helpful resources.

Reenter well

Having built and implemented your RAFT, you will leave the field and discover to what extent your expectations match reality. Whether we are conscious of them or not, we all have expectations. They form the basis for making assessments and anticipating what lies ahead.

Sometimes your expectations are based on what was true three, five or 10 years ago. However, much has changed in that time, including you, your family, your friends, your home assembly and your culture.



You. Before you left to go to the field, you functioned according to a set of beliefs, values, customs, expectations and principles that you had developed within the confines and influence of your home culture. Attitudes and behaviors

relating to relationships, money, possessions, time, language and humor were governed largely by what you believed to be appropriate and “right.” After years on the field, how you function in many of those areas will have changed, sometimes profoundly.

Your friends and family. You used to belong to a circle of friends, you knew where you fit, and they listened to you and confided in you. Since you’ve gone, new people have joined the group, and your friends now have other pursuits. How will you feel upon returning? Initially you may feel somewhat marginal, no longer able to understand the contextual humor, and apt to misinterpret and be misinterpreted.

Your home assembly. It seemed so mission-minded when you left, but people no longer appear to be so interested when your attempts to talk about your experience are met with polite interest, only to be diverted, after a few minutes, toward more “exciting” topics such as the latest success of the local baseball team or the recent trends in electronic gadgets and fashion.

Your culture. Western cultures are changing so rapidly that even those living in them can hardly keep up. After living overseas for several years, you are returning to a culture that is significantly different from the one you left. Something as simple as entering a large store to make a purchase can feel overwhelming.

Understand the challenges of reentry

You may experience some common internal responses such as frustration, disillusionment, and criticism.

Frustration. Things are different, and some of those differences can be frustrating. For example, on the field you may have been closer as a family because there was little or no TV, slow internet, and you home-schooled your children. Back in your home culture, there is a myriad of church activities, school activities and sporting events that will cause family members to lead separate lives and crowd out family time.

Disillusionment. You return feeling enthused about

what God has been doing, yet people at home can sometimes seem insular and uninterested.

Criticism. When disappointed by people’s apparent indifference, it is tempting to judge and become critical. It is also hard to avoid making comparisons between what you have experienced on the field and what you see back home, including the differences in culture, values and lifestyle. Leaving these feelings unchecked will expose you to bitterness and rejection toward your own culture, impeding your adjustment and isolating you when your greatest need is to reconnect and reintegrate.

Suggestions for a smoother transition

Understanding the process, seeking support, getting helpful information, and embracing the next phase will all facilitate a good transition.

Understand your losses and process your grief. Loss incurs grief, so give yourself permission, time and opportunity to grieve what you have left behind, whether it's people, projects or places.

Don't struggle alone. You don't have to pretend to be strong and happy when it isn't really the case. Transitions can be tough. Find someone who understands missionaries and the process of transition, and who can act as a mentor to help you adapt to life back home.

Read about how to manage major ministry transitions. One of the best books on the topic is *Pastors in Transition: Navigating the Turbulence of Change*, by Glenn C. Taylor (Word Alive Press). Despite the title's focus on pastors,

it provides many helpful insights for missionaries also.

Embrace new seasons of life as opportunities rather than impediments. Your involvement in ministry will be different in kind, intensity and focus. In some ways it may seem mundane in comparison. However, remember that each path and type of service is pleasing to God and that you don't need to be on the front line to serve Him in ways that are significant and meaningful. There are new good works prepared beforehand that are waiting to be discovered (Ephesians 2:10), so keep reaching out to people as you did on the field while remaining aware of the need to contextualize your approach. ■



Jonathan and Rachel Ward were commended in 1999 by Hilltop Chapel, Toronto, Ontario.

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Home with the Lord

Anne Gammon-Crapp

1925 – 2016 • Missionary to Angola and South Africa



Anne Gammon-Crapp (nee Humenuk) was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in December 1925 to Russian parents. She was faithfully taught the Gospel by her parents and church leaders and, at age 13, she put her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. After completing high school, having felt led to serve the Lord on the mission field, she spent three years at Toronto Bible College. Her preparation also included a practical nursing course and office administration.

In 1950, at age 25, she left Canada by herself, sailing to Portugal to learn Portuguese and then continued to Angola. Some of her activities included helping to establish schools in the villages when churches were planted, running a domestic school for girls on the mission station, working with leprosy patients at the leper camp and helping to teach in the already established schools for Africans.

In 1954 she met Walter Gammon, son of Leonard and Lillian Gammon who were also missionaries to Angola. They were married in January 1955 at Catota Mission Station and were blessed with five children. Mom's focus adjusted to the work of wife and mother, and one of the most difficult things for her was having to send her children to school far away, where she would not see us for months at a time. She prayed earnestly that God would provide a way for her to have her young children with her. The ongoing war escalated in Angola, making it impossible for missionaries to safely stay and certainly impossible for children to make the long journey to Sakeji School in Zambia. So, in 1968, we moved to South Africa. This was an answer to her prayers: we were able to walk safely to and from the local school each day, and Mom was always there to hug us and give us a cup of tea when we returned home.

In Fish Hoek, South Africa, where we settled from 1968 onward, Mom continued to run home Bible studies for unchurched women. She was the chairlady for the Christian Women's Club in Fish Hoek. She organized, led and chaired women's outreaches from our chapel, worked closely with Dad (Walter) in the prison ministry and Emmaus correspondence ministry, and continually provided hospitality to many in our

home. She was a great cook and our sports teams loved her special cakes. Most of all, she spent much time praying with us and for us and was one with Dad in serving the Lord together.

She was burdened for people to know the Lord and His saving grace. In later years, she introduced "heart pins" to all she met—these pins were decorated with colored stones, each color representing an aspect of the Gospel.

After Dad passed away in 1995, she remained in South Africa for five years but found it to be increasingly unsafe and difficult to get around since she had never learned to drive. In 2000 she returned to Canada where health care and public transportation were easily accessible. In Peterborough, Ontario, Mom continued to accept speaking appointments, encouraging women to serve the Lord. She mentored young women who felt called to the mission field, helping them to be fully prepared for the day-to-day realities of service to the Lord.

In 2007, at age 81, Mom met and married Morgan Crapp, and they spent 10 wonderful years of retirement together. Mom survived breast cancer in 2009 and remained active and courageous for seven more years. In June 2016, she was diagnosed with bone cancer. She was a testimony to the peace of God as she bravely accepted the reality of this diagnosis. Just two weeks later, in her 91st year, she was promoted to glory to be with her Savior forever!

We remember her as a faithful, praying mother, devoted wife, praying and proud grandmother and faithful servant of her Lord. A plaque in her home depicted her priorities: "Only one Life, 'twill soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last."

Her favorite Psalm, was Psalm 91: "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him will I trust.'"

She will be greatly missed by her second husband, Morgan Crapp, her children, David, Carol, Barbara, Joanie (South Africa) and Dorothy (Canada) and our spouses, and her 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

DOROTHY KERR, DAUGHTER

SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES

COMPILED BY BRIAN KRAMER

There are a number of opportunities to serve the Lord through short-term missions trips. Here are just a few current needs for your consideration. Visit CMML.us/involved/opportunities for more information about these and other ways to serve. This list of more than 40 different opportunities is updated frequently by CMML's Short-term Service Coordinator Brian Kramer (bjkramer@cmml.us).

Summer

Ireland—Evangelism

May 19 – June 6, 2017

A cross-cultural missions adventure that doesn't require learning another language.

Contact: Ron Hampton

Website: ETeams.ca/Ireland-2017

Ireland—Evangelism, Practical Help

June – August 2017

Individuals or groups welcome anytime this summer to help with practical and evangelistic work.

Contact: Ireland Outreach (contact@irelandoutreach.org)

Website: IrelandOutreach.org

Bolivia—Construction

May 2017

Building a small apartment and classrooms for Sion Church, working with Enoel Suarez.

Contact: John Aldom (aldom.john@yahoo.com)

School Year

Colombia—Education / Counseling

El Camino Academy has an opening for a psychologist as well as several teaching positions.

Contact: Mark Rogers (mark.rogers@eca.educ.co)

Website: ECA.edu.co

Philippines—Education (Various)

Faith Academy of Manila has many teaching and support position openings.

Contact: Evangeline Tirona (recruitment@faith.edu.ph)

Website: Faith.edu.ph

Philippines—Administration / Education

Faith International Academy of Mindanao needs teachers, a principal, and a business manager, among other openings.

Contact: Carrie Bowers (recruiting@fia.edu.ph)

Website: FIA.edu.ph

Poland—Teaching English

Wroclaw Language School needs native English speakers willing to commit to two years of teaching English and sharing the Gospel.

Contact: Pat & Cindy Hughes

(patandcindyhughes@hotmail.com)

Website: WSJ.edu.pl

Zambia—Education (Various)

Amano School needs teachers, house parents, technical workers, a kitchen manager, and a youth worker.

Contact: Frank Wittmann

(administrative.director@amanocs.org)

Website: AmanoCS.org

Zambia—Education / Dorm Parents

Sakeji School needs teachers and a mature couple with youth work experience to help in the boys' dorm.

Contact: Mark Ronald (headmaster@sakeji.com)

Website: Sakeji.com



Visit CMML.us/involved/opportunities to view these and many more short- and long-term opportunities around the world.

Short-Term Missions

LONG-TERM RESULTS

BY RON HAMPTON



“Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.” (Acts 13:15) So instructed the rulers of the synagogue in Pisidia Antioch as Paul and Barnabas joined them. What Paul then shared with them was the most encouraging news they could ever hear: the Gospel.

Short-term missions produce long-term results! Really? Our impressions can sometimes be the opposite. Too often we hear the often-valid criticisms of short-term cross-cultural missions: whether it's the judgments that short-term missions are merely spiritualized sightseeing tours, examples of how not to wisely spend the Lord's resource, or that they are more about the good of the short-term worker than the people they go to help. While there are unfortunately many examples of this, I want to speak up about how short-term missions have absolutely produced long-term results. I want to literally “let the results speak for themselves.”

The results speak for themselves

In 1984, my wife and I left a family furniture business in Canada for Ireland, not to be missionaries but to help missionaries with a practical work project on a short-term basis. We planned to go, do what we believed the Lord wanted us to do, then return and resume our lives. That short-term experience changed us and our lives.

For the past 33 years we have been serving the Lord as commended workers with much of our time and energy devoted to missions in Canada, Ireland and elsewhere. Was our experience unique? Not even close. Many people who are currently listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*—who are commended and living their lives committed to missions—had some initial short-term experience.

The following testimonies are shared by a few who served the Lord short-term with eTeams. There are many others who have served with eTeams, or who have served with other ministries, who have equally encouraging stories of how God worked in and through their lives to produce long-term results.

In 2009, **Rachel** left Canada to participate for three weeks on the eTeams Ireland team. She returned home and a year or so later left her job as a journalist and was commended by the Hopedale Bible Chapel, Oakville, Ontario, to be a cross-cultural missionary in downtown Toronto with MoveIn, a ministry that reaches out to immigrants and refugees. Rachel is currently working to establish this ministry in Germany.



Above from top: 2016 Ireland team with the Burnetts in Newcastle West, Ireland; Sean & Vera O'Byrne (center) who led eTeams to Belize the last three years and have recently been commended to serve in Brazil full-time. Tim Hood (on the left) leads eTeams to several countries.

Right: Rachel teaching a memory verse at an open-air kids' club in Ireland.

My experience with eTeams in Ireland was a rich time of evangelism. I felt that the Spirit was at work among us as we knocked on doors and led kids' clubs in many neighborhoods. A unity was present on our team that I knew was unique. I was also blessed to meet the many full-time workers serving in Ireland and inspired by their dedication to taking the Gospel to this country. It was a formative time for me as the Lord was preparing me to enter into full-time service in local missions.

Heidi Kopp (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 13) first served with eTeams in Ireland in 2008 following her first year as a student at Emmaus Bible College. She then returned to Ireland after each school year until she graduated. She also served on our Ghana team in 2012. After working on staff at Emmaus Bible College, Heidi was commended to serve in Ireland in 2015.

Being on a short-term mission trip, I was able to see the "on-the-ground" work that missionaries do. I saw that they're real people who are gifted in different ways and need encouragement like anyone else. It was so eye-opening and, for the first time in my life, instead of idolizing the work of a missionary as only for the elite, I actually considered it for myself.

It is such a good thing to step into someone else's world. I remember how humbling it was to arrive in Ireland. I realized that I was the one with the accent, and I was the one who needed to have things explained—I was the minority. Up until that point, I thought I really had a grasp on other cultures, but it was very different to actually be in another one.



Craig Fritchey, CMML's security and conference coordinator, shared that "short-term missions trips played a key role in getting me where I am today."

Volunteers who help provide leadership to our missions program include CMML Short-term Opportunities Coordinator **Brian Kramer**, from Minnesota, and **Dr. Jerry Maniate**, an MSC Canada director. Both had their vision for world missions broadened by two cross-cultural missions experiences with eTeams.

Not all the long-term results reside in other countries. Many are commended workers at home. Most of the long-term results reside in the lives and the service of those who returned to their neighborhoods and livelihoods as well as their home assemblies and its ministries.

There are also all the long-term results in countries abroad where people have received a witness of the Gospel, have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and have even seen assemblies started, all because of the witness of short-term missionaries.

Participate in short-term missions

Are you encouraged? There are many other stories, much more to share about how God is using short-term missions to produce long-term results.

I encourage you to embrace effective short-term missions as a strategy to see believers in our assemblies disciplined as followers of the Lord Jesus, trained up to be the witnesses He has called them to be, and gain a vision for the world our God so loved. ■

Ron Hampton leads eTeams and is a regional representative for MSC Canada.



Top right: Heidi (left) with Holly Dobson (center), leading an all-women eTeam group in 2016.

Above from top: Mike Dillione (center) was a short-term eTeam member in January 2015. In January 2016 Mike and his wife, Melinda, and their children moved to Jamaica as full-time missionaries.

26 Below

BY TOM TURNER

As 185 high school, college and career-age young people head down the mountain from CMML's 26 Below Winter Retreat, four words resonate in their hearts and minds: "Don't Waste Your Life!" Micah Tuttle (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 26) used God's Word and his personal journey with Christ to challenge listeners to answer the question, "Do you really want God—or only what God can give you?"

Citing Daniel's faithfulness to God while in Babylon, Micah reminded the group that Satan has turned everything upside down in this world. He brainwashes you until gradually you are sucked into his system. You may get what you *think* you want, but you give up what you had: the blessings of God. With God's help, you can protect your mind and win the battle. As Micah said, "I live in 'Babylon' (the USA) but I'm not from this place. I'm heading to the celestial city and I have an eternal perspective."

Micah quoted missionary Bert Elliot who told him, "What's worth a lot, costs a lot." God has something special for each of you to do for Him. It may cost you to surrender your life to God. You may need to wrestle with Him in prayer. But if you live a life of risks for Jesus, He will bless you more than you can imagine. As Micah closed the last session in prayer, he pleaded with God that the lives of these precious young people will not be wasted.

Three breakout sessions rounded out the program including "Missions in Niger: There & Back Again" with Tyler Vecchio; "Leading Bible Studies" with Ben Kerns; and "Maintaining Your Testimony in a Secular World" with Dan Crawford.

There were many opportunities to make new friends around the meal tables, participating in winter sports and games, or just relaxing in the lodge around the fire. You can view photos and a video from the weekend on our Facebook page.

This was the 12th year for CMML's 26 Below Retreat (New York). More than 1,500 young people have attended and been challenged through God's Word. Some were saved; others serve on the foreign field or in their home assemblies; and many live for the Lord in their employment and at home. Only eternity will reveal how God has blessed this effort. Please pray for CMML's ongoing conference ministry to young people. ■

Tom Turner,
CMML vice president, publishing

