

Missions

South Korea

Seeing God Work
in the Nation's Story

Nicaragua
A Family Celebrates
10 Years

Missionary Orientation
Program
Practical Training
for New Workers

Northeast 26 Below
14 Years of Encouragement



Thinking It Through

BY SAMUEL E. ROBINSON (1925 – 2013)

Brethren, Pray for Us

What is your role in God's biblical plan for missions? We all have a mandate from our risen Savior to be a part of the spread of the Gospel to every creature. It's not an option, but a command. We cannot all be in the forefront of the effort, whether it is at home or on the mission field, but we all have a role to fulfill.

We do not have to look far today to see firsthand examples of logistical problems inherent in maintaining and providing support for those who are on the front lines. There is so much more to be done behind the scene of action. So it is with the work of the Lord. What can we do? There is one service in which we all can get involved—prayer!

We often hear the expression "prayer changes things." Do we believe it or is it only a nice sounding cliché? Some even go so far as to suggest that there is no need for prayer because "God will accomplish His will whether we pray or not." But remember our Lord told (commanded) us to pray. We are reminded by James that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."¹ Then he goes on to press home his point by reminding us of Elijah and what resulted when he prayed earnestly.

In the offices of CMML and MSC, each month we see hundreds of letters from missionaries. So many of them quote the request of the apostle Paul, "Brethren, pray for us."²

In Paul's letters we see so many more requests for prayer. "Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified . . . and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men."³

"Praying . . . that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ."⁴

"Strive together with me in prayers to God for me, that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, that I may come to you with joy by the will of God."⁵

"For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayer."⁶

"You also helping together in prayer for us."⁷ The apostle needed the prayers of the Lord's people and so do the missionaries today in the 21st century. Methods and circumstances have changed since the first century, but the need is unchanged. Many missionaries are facing danger, discouragement, and other obstacles to the Gospel. They need our prayers and they need to know we are praying. Write and tell them!

Anthony Norris Groves was the first of thousands of men and women from the assemblies who went to virtually every part of the world to carry the Gospel. He labored in Iraq for a number of years and later in India. He attributed the difficulty and failure of the early days of missionary work in India partly to the diminishing interest on the part of the assemblies at home.

Hudson Taylor once said "that the most consecrated band of missionaries in China found in an apathetic church at home a more serious barrier to progress than in the concentrated power of the enemy in his own stronghold."⁸

Years ago, an artist was asked to paint a picture of a decaying church. Instead of putting on the canvas an old, tottering ruin, he painted a stately edifice of modern grandeur. Within the grand entrance was a plate of elaborate design for the offerings of the worshippers. But (and here the artist's conception of a decaying church appeared) above the plate, suspended from a nail, hung a box bearing the words "For Foreign Missions," and right over the slot intended for contributions was a huge cobweb!

There is a very close affinity between the spiritual condition of assemblies and their involvement in God's biblical plan of missions. We want to see growth and expansion at home and on the mission field. We all need to get involved. We can all start by praying without ceasing individually and collectively. Pray for someone in the forefront of the battle—then let them know. Pray, as though the work of the Lord depends on it—it does! "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"⁹ ■

Originally published in Missions September 2003. Written by Samuel Robinson, a longtime CMML president, now home with the Lord.

¹ James 5:16; ² 1 Thessalonians 5:25; ³ 2 Thessalonians 3:1–2; ⁴ Colossians 4:3; ⁵ Romans 15:30–32; ⁶ Philippians 1:19; ⁷ 2 Corinthians 1:11; ⁸ Pulleng, Alec. *Go Ye Therefore: Missionary Service in a Changing World*. Wall, NJ: Christian Missions in Many Lands, 1984.; ⁹ Scriven, Joseph M. "What a Friend we have in Jesus," 1855.

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NICARAGUA

Celebrating 10 YEARS in the Field

BY MITCH & LORI PARENT



In August 2018, we completed 10 years of being in Nicaragua. It has not always been easy, and we have learned a great deal about spiritual warfare. But we have seen the hand of the Lord work in amazing ways. The hand that was in control at the beginning is still in control today. We serve an amazing God, and Deuteronomy 31:8 still rings true for us.

THE BEGINNING

Back in the spring of 2007, we put our house up for sale and set a price and a date. The real estate market was poor, and there was very little interest over the first few months. Two weeks before the deadline, we received an offer and got the price we asked for. The house sold, and plans went into high gear for the move to Nicaragua. The Lord had confirmed the mission.

Our arrival

The process of getting the paperwork required to apply for residency in Nicaragua was complicated, involving original documents, certified translations, and signatures from lawyers and government officials in Canada and the Nicaraguan embassy in the United States. When we arrived at the airport in Detroit and presented our tickets, we were flagged. Policy dictated that we could not fly to Nicaragua on one-way tickets. We pulled out the two-inch-thick pack of documents and handed it to the agent and said, "We are applying for residency; does this help?" After making a call, the agent returned and stated that everything was in order. The Lord had paved the way.

We flew into Managua, Nicaragua, on August 20, 2008. Unknown to us, that same evening, a man named Eduardo attended a meeting at the assembly hall in Jinotepe for the first time.

A month later, on September 20, he professed to be saved. The Lord provided the encouragement.

Settling in

Soon after we arrived in Nicaragua, and after lots of running around with Mark Bachert (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 18), our paperwork was submitted to the Ministry of Immigration. We were in Nicaragua on a three-month tourist visa, which we renewed that November for another three months. On February 3, 2009, we received a visit at our home from immigration officials. They came checking on us to see what we were doing in Nicaragua. The day before, on February 2, we had gone to Managua and received our residency cards. The Lord was in control.

THE PRESENT

Since coming to Jinotepe and starting our ministry in Nicaragua, we have experienced much activity. If we were to look back and count the numbers, however, we would likely be a little discouraged. Every home has received at least one gospel text and an invitation to a series of gospel meetings. More than 500,000 tracts have been distributed and 20,000 calendars gifted. Hundreds have heard the Gospel preached, more than 50 profess to be saved, and a few dozen have been baptized. Despite all of that, we are only 16 in fellowship.

The Lord never said it would be easy. But He did say that He would be with us always, even until the ends of the world (Matthew 28:20). There have been times of worry and times of discouragement and times of difficulties. But never, in these 10 years, have we been abandoned by the Lord we serve. He is faithful.

Words from Lori

I cannot believe that it has been 10 years since we moved to Nicaragua. When we moved, we had three young girls (ages 11, nine, and seven) who were happy to go on a new adventure. Now we have three young ladies who have grown into loving servants of the Lord.

All three have been a very big part of the work here in Jinotepe for quite a while, each in her own way. Tamar has become a good student of the Word and loves doing Bible studies one on one. Mischa is a peacemaker, and her peers are comfortable talking with her, sharing their concerns, or asking for advice. Kearta is a roamer and can see what needs to be done and does it without being asked.

These last 10 years have been a blessing for our family, for which I am extremely thankful. Things will be different in the years to come as our family is coming to a point of change. The girls are trying to figure out where the Lord will guide them. Our prayer is that they submit themselves to Him and to His calling. We commend the three of them into His almighty hands.

Words from Tamar

Every year provides another lesson and more experiences that lead to growth. I have had the opportunity to teach at a Christian school and teach Sunday school. I enjoy working with the children and watching them change under the truths of the Word of God.

I also have had the great opportunity to study art online. It is my passion and my talent. I have been able to use this to produce materials for the work here.

My goal is to continue providing resources such as tract design and Sunday school materials. I look forward to whatever the next years bring.

Words from Mischa

I cannot believe that I have spent more than half of my life in Nicaragua. During this time, although it has not been easy, we have experienced a lot of blessings. The work with the children has really expanded in the last two years.

When I returned from Canada in August 2017, I volunteered in the first-grade class at Carazo Christian Academy and taught art class to first through sixth grades. I am also helping to teach Sunday school to the youngest children. In the last few months, I have started helping Megan Sona with the NicaChild visits in our area. I have taken up sewing and have been making clothes for my sisters and for some of the Sunday school teen girls.

Words from Kearta

In the last 10 years, I have discovered many eye-opening and amazing things through Bible study. I have learned that not all is as it seems in this world.

There is never a dull moment in my life. There have been

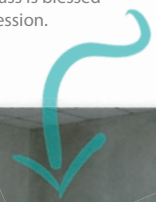


Young kids smile excitedly after receiving Bibles as a reward for memorizing the books of the Bible.

The Jinotepe Sunday school class is blessed with more than 65 kids each session.



Lori helps young children do a craft during a church conference.





Day camp is a special time for kids to have fun and learn from the Bible.

First-year students at the discipleship training program eagerly dig into God's Word.

some hard times and experiences that have driven me to tears. I have learned a lot from my mistakes, and it has helped mold me into who I am.

I enjoy helping in the work, going to town to run errands, or doing whatever needs to be done. It is always a fast-paced adventure.

I think about all that God has done these past 10 years, and I cannot imagine having lived the years anywhere else.

A new opportunity

Now that the girls are grown up, Mitch feels free to take on some new ministry opportunities that take him away from home. In September, he went to Honduras for a week to help in a discipleship training program that has been running for more than 25 years. Many of the Honduran workers in Nicaragua went through this two-year training as teenagers or young adults.

What an encouragement it is to see how the Gospel has prospered in the northern part of Honduras. There are more than 300 assemblies, and you can't drive five minutes down the highway without seeing another and another and another.

Mitch has committed to teach two one-week sessions for 2019, with one in March and another in September. We value your prayers for this long-standing work that has been a blessing for the ministry in Central America.

Prayer requests

Please pray for the following brothers and sisters in fellowship along with our family: Eduardo, Marvin, Brayan, Miguel, Omar, Flor Maria, Juana, Flor Marina, Juana, Lisseth, and Gema.

Also, please remember their families in prayer. Some have parents, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters who are not saved. Most of the family members would have heard the Gospel at one time or another.

René is baptized, and we pray that he will soon ask for fellowship. Ervin and Dania have both professed to be saved and are interested in baptism.



Please pray for the contacts who are coming to meeting on a regular basis and have shown interest. There are adults, teenagers, and children. Two teenage girls professed to be saved a couple of weeks ago, and we value your prayers for each of them. We trust that their experience was genuine and pray that their faith would be strengthened.

THE FUTURE

What is going to happen next? We don't know. But one thing we know for sure is that, as the Lord has prepared us for where we are today, He is preparing us for where we will be tomorrow. We know that He has guided us to where we are now and that He will guide us to where we ought to be in the future.

A big thank you to everyone who has prayed for us and supported us as we labor for our Lord in this beautiful country of Nicaragua. ■



Mitch and Lori Parent were commended by Englehart Gospel Hall in Englehart, Ontario, in 2008.



SOUTH KOREA, Past and Present

Seeing God Work in the Nation's Story

BY TIM & YOLLY STAFFORD



South Korea's formal name is the Republic of Korea, but it is affectionately referred to as the "Land of the Morning Calm." Korea, in its earliest days, was a country whose people were divided into tribal clans and were united only during brief periods of its history, and even today, the people remain tragically divided.¹ Much of the early division was due, in part at least, to the rugged geography of Korea, with its steep mountain ridges that made travel difficult and hampered regular contact with distant communities via means of roads, bridges, and waterways. The present-day division, which cuts the Korean peninsula in half at the 38th parallel, is not the result of naturally occurring obstacles but rather of an artificially imposed, man-made structure known as the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Sadly, much of Korea's long history has been marked by bloody wars with fighting from inside its borders and from outside. The country has been involved in many conflicts with its regional neighbors, including China, Japan, Mongolia, and Russia.² In spite of the relentless military incursions from countries outside Korea's borders and the political turmoil from within its borders, the resiliency of its people, along with God's grace, have preserved the country and kept it strong and, perhaps now, even stronger than ever before.

EARLY CULTURAL RELIGIONS

Korea's early religions of shamanism, animism, Buddhism, and Confucianism have undoubtedly had a significant influence on

Korea.³ Confucianism, for example, may have prepared Korea to receive and embrace the Gospel, in some ways, as Confucianism highly prizes education.⁴ Christian missionaries used this as a door to reach the people with the Gospel by opening schools and teaching women and children how to read and write.

Korean people are, by practice, very religious people and give themselves wholeheartedly to the religion of their choice.⁵ Religion itself seems to be a contributing factor that further divides this common people into a seemingly endless variety of religious camps. However, there is a "toleration" of these differences in the larger society, yet it is more likely the result of conforming to the social order established upon Confucian and Buddhist tenets than a spirit of toleration. The strict Confucian order is so deeply ingrained in the fabric of Korean society that the people own it as their native culture.

Shamanism and animism can live side by side with one another as neither contradicts the other. Both are rife with superstitious beliefs that are used to control the people through fear and intimidation.⁶

Blending of religions is not uncommon in the world, and this form of syncretism was in play in Korea throughout its developmental history.⁷ When a new religion was in its ascendancy, the old was not completely discarded but, rather, assimilated into the new, making the new neither fish nor fowl. Still, many of the present-day shamans claim Buddhism as their religion while others might claim Confucianism or ancestral worship as their religion.⁸

THE DAWN OF THE GOSPEL

The earliest recorded introduction of Christianity into Korea came via the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) in the later years of the 18th century via books that were brought into Korea from China. Protestant missionaries brought the Gospel to Korea approximately 100 years after the RCC had introduced Christianity and, more specifically, the idea of monotheism, a concept previously unknown to Korea.⁹ The Gospel flourished seemingly uninhibited until the Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910.^{10, 11}

Following the Japanese colonization of Korea, the Gospel once again spread freely without much opposition from the government. While North Korea began suppressing religious freedom during this period and continues to do so, Christianity is widespread in South Korea today. The Gospel truly is unfettered and every mainstream denomination of Christianity is seemingly thriving. It would appear that all is well, but appearances can be deceiving.¹² That is not to say that there are not reasons for joy and thanksgiving, for there are many to be sure. The Gospel is preached, and Christ is believed in, and the local Church is growing. In the city of Seoul alone, there are thousands of churches. However, work remains to be done here in South Korea.

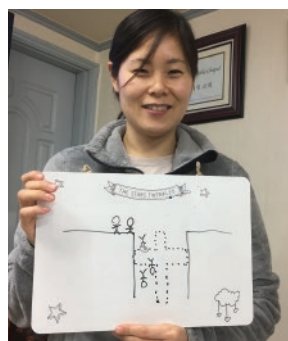
THE OLD AND THE CHURCH

Although the Gospel has fully taken root in South Korea, the old religions of Confucianism, Buddhism, and shamanism have not been fully rooted out. There is no question that Christ has been preached and the message has been fruitful. He has impacted South Korea and significantly influenced its culture, but there are still vestiges of the country's past that inhibit the full blessing of the Gospel; Confucianism, Buddhism, and shamanism seem to have crept into the church unawares (Jude 4). Confucianism is antithetical to biblical teaching on the church in that it teaches hierarchical schemes of rank and position. These ideas encourage some to think of themselves as better than others and to expect to be honored by those that are deemed of a lower order (Philippians 2:3). Buddhism, on the other hand, asserts that there are many ways to God while Christ teaches that He, and He alone, is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father but by Him (John 14:6). Shamanism teaches that there are many gods and man must learn to appease them to gain their favor while the Bible teaches that we are saved by grace through faith and that God, who is One, has been appeased by the work of Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9; Mark 12:29; Romans 3:25). The work that must, and will, continue in Korea, as the Lord permits, is the purging out of the old leaven and looking solely to Christ as our all in all (1 Corinthians 5:7; Colossians 3:11).



Opposite page: In early Korea, the rugged terrain divided the people. **Above (L-R):** Korea's first religions influence the country's culture, including its art and landmarks; Hundreds visit South Korea's shrines every year. **Below (from top):** South Korea's ancient way of life can still be witnessed today in things like this river barge; IBC and the Noryangjin assembly join together from time to time for fellowship and meetings.





From top (L-R): The Staffords spend time fellowshiping with their IBC family inside and outside the church; As a result of the Staffords' ministry, people are being saved and baptized each year; IBC ministers to foreign nationals and English-speaking nationals, including international couples like this young family; IBC's ELL group learns English in creative ways; One such creative exercise involves drawing the meaning of new words; IBC and Noryangjin elders enjoy Korea's beautiful landscape while visiting an ancient palace with Randy and Sylvia Amos.



A NEW MINISTRY

Itaewon Bible Chapel (IBC) is blessed to have a part in ministering to the Korean people and standing against the influence of the old religions on the church. Along with reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ, IBC aims to preach and teach the Word of God according to the light that God has given.

In response to the Lord's leading, we planted a church in Itaewon, a small enclave in Seoul, South Korea. Although still in fellowship with the local Korean church community, we function autonomously under the headship of Christ. This work is directed primarily toward foreign nationals living and working in Seoul. Inclusive of that group are internationally married couples (Koreans married to individuals of other nationalities), members of the US military, foreign workers, and also local nationals. IBC has had believers in fellowship from all over the world, including Africa, Brazil, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Panama, Philippines, and the USA.

The idea of establishing an English-speaking meeting in South Korea came out of our experience in bringing non-native Koreans into the Korean assembly at Noryangjin and in the difficulties the language barrier presented. Although we were welcome and great efforts were made to accommodate us, it became increasingly obvious that the language barrier would inhibit the free exercise of the priesthood. We would remain on the outside looking in, rather than be an integral part of the fellowship of believers. In consultation with the elders from Noryangjin and our home assembly, we sought the Lord's leading and believed the Lord desired us to start a separate English-speaking meeting that would function autonomously under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. IBC is the only English-speaking assembly in South Korea. Our first meeting was held in January 2015, and the Lord has continued to faithfully provide and care for us.

A GROWING WORK

We are always looking for ways to enhance the learning experience of those at IBC and the local community of churches in Seoul. To realize this vision, we invite, as we are able, brothers and their families from the USA and surrounding areas to come to South Korea and share with us what the Lord lays on their hearts. Our first visitors, Ken and Joyce Hardisty (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 9), came from the Philippines to help in reaching out to the local Filipino community through several home Bible studies and visits to some of the local Korean assemblies. Keith and Naomi Keyser (commended US workers) came and helped with the establishment of IBC in its first couple of months, while it was still a home meeting, and then were exceedingly gracious and returned to continue to help building us up in God's Word. Randy and Sylvia Amos (commended US



workers) also kindly accepted an invitation to come and work with us for a few weeks and held a mini-conference at the Noryangjin assembly, which visitors from as far away as the Philippines came to attend. We also had a very special visit from Jim and Lisa Cagliostro (Fifth Avenue Chapel, New Jersey), whom we were able to host for a few days, and they were kind enough to share from the Word of God with us.

One of the ways we are building up believers is by conducting English-language learner (ELL) Bible studies. This work is a ministry to help those in fellowship at IBC learn English and also an outreach to encourage the unsaved outside the church who are interested in learning English to come and hear the

good news of Jesus Christ. Please consider putting IBC on your prayer list so that the church may continue to grow and be used mightily for the Lord. Our specific prayer requests include seeking the Lord's leading to procure a larger building that accommodates our increasing numbers, asking for the Lord's wisdom regarding a curriculum for our ELL program, and developing a fuller Sunday school program for youth. ■



Tim and Yolly Stafford were commended from Boulevard Bible Chapel in Pembroke Pines, Florida, in 2011.

¹ Kim, J. *A History of Korea: From "Land of the Morning Calm" to States in Conflict*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2012. ebookcentral-proquest-com.contentproxy.phoenix.edu/lib/apolloblib/detail.action?docID=1031819#. ² Kim, *A History*. ³ Yu, K. K. "Korea's Confucian Culture of Learning as a Gateway to Christianity: Protestant Missions in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries." *Studies in World Christianity* 22, no. 1 (2016): 37-56, doi:10.3366/swc.2016.0136. ⁴ Yu, "Korea's Confucian Culture." ⁵ Baker, D. L. *Korean Spirituality*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2008. books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=RCBe9w9C2UkC&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=Korean+SpiritualSpi&ots=WvX-pBushh&sig=mJOH_-CzX8NCd-3vChBsMIPd0wl. ⁶ Baker, *Korean Spirituality*. ⁷ Walraven, B. "National Pantheon, Regional Deities, Personal Spirits? Mushindo, Söngsu, and the Nature of Korean Shamanism." *Asian Ethnology* (2009): 55-80, academia.edu/download/34714888/NationalPantheon.pdf. ⁸ Baker, *Korean Spirituality*. ⁹ Baker, D. L. "The Impact of Christianity on Modern Korea: An Overview." *Acta Koreana* 19, no. 1 (2016): 45-67, doi:10.18399/acta.2016.19.1.002. ¹⁰ Baker, "The Impact." ¹¹ Kim, *A History*. ¹² Baker, "The Impact."



May 31 - June 7, 2019



MOP

Missionary Orientation Program

Helping prepare those considering missions to be effective on the mission field.

Held at Greenwood Hills Camp & Conference Center • Fayetteville, PA

MOP provides essential training for cross-cultural life and ministry to anyone called to serve God around the world.

Taught by missionaries and CMML and MSC team members, MOP helps prospective missionaries think through various spiritual, practical, and personal issues that cross-cultural workers face.

For more information, including seminar topics and registration forms, speak to your assembly elders and contact CMML or MSC.

CMML
www.CMML.us
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MISSIONARY ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Providing Practical Training for New Workers

PHILIP C. PARSONS

In the early 1990s, a few missionary families served by MSC and CMML departed the field seemingly prematurely. MSC and CMML felt it was important to find out the reason for their sudden return and spent some time with these missionary families learning about what they experienced on the field.

Each missionary reported that they felt called by God, affirmed by their commending assembly, spent time researching the field of service, and communicated often with those on the field. Each was excited and challenged by thoughts of serving the Lord in a cross-cultural setting, working with other missionaries and nationals with the goal of sharing Christ.

What we learned from these families was that they lacked practical training to deal with the transition to a foreign field. This new information formed the foundation of what is now a collaborative venture known as the Missionary Orientation Program (MOP).

What is MOP?

MOP is a one-week intensive course that is available to any adult, single or married, who is interested in missions. A participant's interest in missions may span from beginning to explore the idea of cross-cultural service to being ready to depart for the field.

When was the first MOP?

The first MOP session convened in September 1992 at the Christian Missions in Many Lands facility in Wall Township, New Jersey. To the great delight of the organizers, 22 men and women participated. The instructional team included Ken Fleming, former missionary to South Africa, and Patrick Long, former missionary to Colombia, as well as others. Personnel from CMML and MSC also taught about some of the practical matters missionaries face. T. Earnest Wilson, pioneer missionary to Angola, led devotional studies and validated instruction with

his missionary experience. We are thrilled that five of the first MOP participants are still actively serving on the mission field: Carolyn Oates (Austria), Karl Peterson (South Africa), Enoel and Leisa Suarez (Bolivia), and Mark Swaim (Poland).

What is MOP's goal?

It is nearly impossible to present all the information that benefits someone considering a cross-cultural ministry. Such important topics as "A Biblical Foundation for Missions," "Spiritual Warfare," and "Interpersonal Relationships" were included right from the beginning. Over time, it became apparent that some topics needed to be included while other topics were dropped. To help make sound decisions about which topics to be taught, a mission statement was developed a few years ago. It reads, "The Missionary Orientation Program (MOP) exists to equip Christian mission workers to thrive in their initial adaptation to the field and sensitize them to crucial issues of living and making disciples in a cross-cultural environment." The initial adaptation is generally accepted as 18 to 24 months. Therefore, the content for the weeklong MOP session focuses on skills and knowledge needed for workers to adapt to a cross-cultural ministry during their first couple years of service.

What are some topics taught at MOP?

Nearly every year, the MOP teachers meet at CMML to plan for the next MOP session. During the planning meetings the entire program is reviewed and changes are made so that MOP remains dynamic and relevant. Foundational instruction includes topics such as "Mission Strategy" and "Relating to Cultures." From there, topics shift to equipping workers in areas such as "Communicating the Gospel Cross-Culturally," "Missionary Lifestyle," and "Servant Leadership." Then there are the practical classes like "Risk Management," "Interpersonal Relationships,"

and "Resilience." Other topics that enhance the program include "Top Ten Mistakes Missionaries Make," "Educational Options for Children," and "Final Preparation." In total, 24 different subjects are taught.

What can I expect from MOP?

The training provided by MOP is intense. Participants can expect to be challenged and stretched beyond their comfort zone, yet they will also be better equipped to handle the many changes they will face in cross-cultural ministries. The content is delivered using a variety of teaching techniques including lecture, small group activities, videos, and role playing. Every session concludes with a time for reflection and application. Missionaries on furlough are often invited to come to MOP, and their presence and participation enhances the instructional content. Each day begins with devotions and prayer time followed by seminars that extend into the evening. During meals, participants are encouraged to discuss things they have learned in the seminars.

What have others said about MOP?

It is not unusual to hear sentiments like "MOP gave me a support group that only God could create" or "MOP helped me to clarify what missions could mean for me."

Others have expressed, "I wish MOP was in existence before we went abroad!"

Another said, "This is good for any serious Christian who wants to serve the Lord. Even if you don't serve overseas, the principles you learn at MOP can be applied to any local ministry the Lord may have for you and give you insight to missions around the world."

We are thankful that the Lord has used this training week to be a blessing to our MOP students. To our knowledge, all those who have attended MOP feel it was beneficial to them. In fact, there have been a few who have attended MOP multiple times to glean as much as they can from the teaching.

Why should I attend MOP?

MOP gives those who feel called to overseas missions a sense of what they need to think about before setting out. It will provide enough information for new workers to succeed, flourish, and thrive in their initial months on the field.

MOP is for anyone who has an interest in missions. For some, MOP confirms how the Lord has been leading, while for others, MOP reveals a need for further train-

ing or consideration. For many, a week focused on missions has clarified their call, stimulated interest in reaching the lost, drawn them closer to God, and more fully revealed His will for them.



MOP Class of 1993

Is MOP helpful for church elders?

It's not unusual for assembly elders to attend MOP. Whether commending someone for the first time or simply wanting to improve their understanding of missions, elders who have attended MOP state that it has better prepared them to guide those in their assembly who are interested in missions.

When is the next MOP?

MOP 2019 is planned for May 31 to June 7 at Greenwood Hills Camp and Conference Center in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania. Please visit CMML.us or MSCCanada.org for more information on MOP, including the registration form and elder recommendation form.

To date, 608 people have participated in MOP. Some are currently on the field using what they learned. Please pray for the MOP instructors Phil and Marilyn Barnes, Paul and Carol Bramsen, Joel and Amy Hernandez, and Phil and Mary Parsons. We are excited to meet and train the MOP class of 2019. ■

Philip Parsons oversees assembly relations and missionary care for CMML.



MOP Class of 2001



MOP Class of 2018

Home with the Lord

Maryen Baisley

May 23, 1926 – December 26, 2018 • Missionary to the DR Congo and Uganda

Maryen Baisley was born in Wayerton, New Brunswick, to Alexander and Letitia Baisley. As a child, she attended the one-room, country schoolhouse in Wayerton. As a teenager, during World War II, she left home to join the Canadian Armed Forces, and at that time, she responded to the Gospel and trusted in the Lord Jesus. After the war, she attended Emmaus Bible School, which had recently begun in Toronto. Ineligible for a diploma because she hadn't graduated from high school, she applied herself to complete her high school studies while a student at Emmaus. When Emmaus moved to Chicago, she moved also and worked in the office for some years. While working there, she became qualified as a certified public accountant and subsequently worked for Sears in Chicago.

In 1958, her local church commended her to service in Africa, and in 1960, after some time in Belgium, she arrived in Nyankunde in Belgian Congo (later called Zaire and now DR Congo). She was responsible for the financial side of the multiple ministries at the large mission station in Nyankunde. She had a great interest in and love for the young people there and influenced their lives. On hearing of Maryen's death, several of them sent messages about what she meant to them. Among those notes was the following: "She is Maryen Baisley for Canadians but *Shangazi* (meaning aunt in Kiswahili) for Congolese. She is called *Shangazi* because she deserved the respect of everyone in Nyankunde, Congo, where she made herself a home until she painfully moved to Kabale, Uganda, in 2002 because of war. *Shangazi* was not only an aunt because of her age but mainly because she devoted her time and life to educate youth spiritually and socially as a brother would do for his nephews and nieces in Congolese culture. Her door was open to youth and friends throughout the day until late hours. Every Sunday, she welcomed junior youth into her home and senior youth in afternoons. Her fruits are spread across the world."

In 1982, she took the only furlough of her long years of service and worked at Emmaus in Chicago for nine months and visited family in Canada. In 2002, serious civil war escalated in DR Congo, resulting in horrendous slaughter, destruction of property, and displacement of tens of thousands of refugees. Nyankunde was virtually destroyed, and the local people were either killed or displaced. Steve Wolcott writes, "When the mission community and others evacuated Zaire in 1996 and again during unrest in 2002, Aunt Maryen chose to stay on and could not be convinced otherwise until Nyankunde was overrun by militia, when she joined the rest of the community in fleeing south by foot to Oicha. She wore her kitchen apron, in which she had hidden her secret stash of money. With this she assisted others along the way, buying food and other necessities. I arranged for and went with a mission plane to Lolwa to pick her up, along with several others. She sent someone else to take her place and continued for another week walking toward safety with the group, all the while meeting urgent needs from the pocket of her apron." This account illustrates the courage and determination that characterized Maryen, as well as her love for the people among whom she served.

In Uganda, she was given UN approval to visit in the refugee camps when she chose and continued to support the work of bringing the Gospel to Congolese refugees, who now have more than 20 assemblies.

Maryen's health began to deteriorate, and she returned to Canada in 2013. She continued to make friends and have an impact on their lives while maintaining contact with the people around the world whom and with whom she served. In November 2018, her condition noticeably worsened until she found herself in the presence of the Lord Jesus. ■



William Yuille

NORTHEAST

26 Below

CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR 14 YEARS

BY TOM TURNER

Fourteen years ago CMML launched its first 26 Below conference at Camp-of-the-Woods in New York's Adirondack Mountains. Our speaker was a 20-year-old young man named Nathan Bramsen. (We shortened his name to Nate.) What an exciting weekend it was! God used this young brother in a mighty way as he clearly presented the Gospel and challenged the high school, college, and career young people to walk with the Lord.

This year, Nate presented the 26 Below messages for his seventh time. Making this year extra special, Priyanka, his bride of one year, attended with him. More than 200 young people welcomed him, many with hugs and thankful hearts for the way the Lord has used Nate's ministry to touch their lives over the years. This year's theme, "Christ or Culture: Which Will You Choose?" contained powerful messages from God's Word. Please pray that the Lord will continue to work in the hearts of many who were challenged in their spiritual walks.

In addition to Nate's ministry, three breakout seminars included "Everyday Discipleship" with Ben Thomas, "Creation: Fact or Fiction?" with Bruce Newsham (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 3), and "Mental Health and Christianity" with Lisa Leibowitz.

About 15 years ago Sam Robinson (now home with the Lord) and I, along with the other CMML directors, prayed about whether the Lord might lead CMML to reach young people with a four-fold message: to personally walk with the Lord, to get into the Word on their own, to participate in their local assembly, and to possibly serve the Lord on the mission field. The Lord has answered that prayer many times over. We also prayed that 26 Below would be used by the Lord in other parts of the country. The Lord answered with Midwest 26 Below, now in its fourth year, and perhaps future conferences in other parts of the country. We value your prayers for this ministry and for our brother Nate Bramsen who has been used mightily by the Lord around the world since that first 26 Below 14 years ago. ■

Tom Turner is CMML's Vice President, Publishing.



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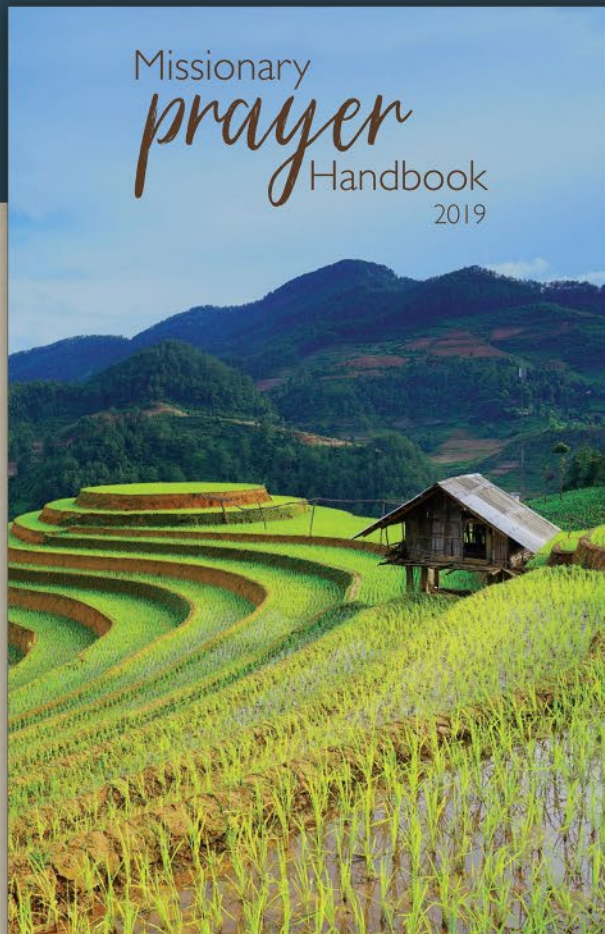
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